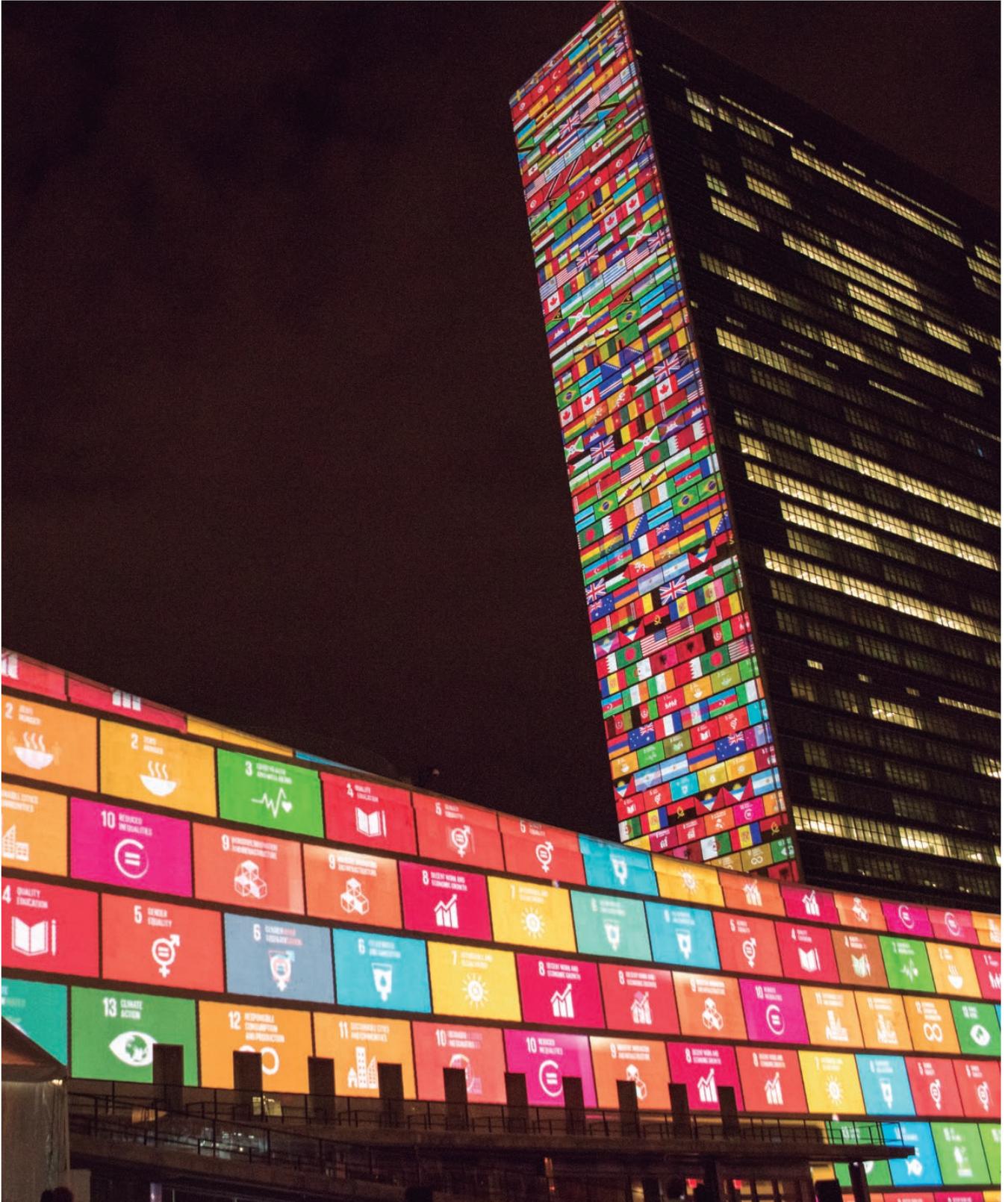


ANNUAL
REPORT
2018



Projections on Sustainable Development Goals and 70th Anniversary of the United Nations. UN Photo/Cia Pak

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About UN-Water

UN-Water coordinates the work of the United Nations on water and sanitation. It was formally established in 2003, building on a long history of collaboration within the United Nations. UN-Water comprises the United Nations bodies that have a focus on, or interest in, water-related issues as Members and other international organizations as Partners.

The main purpose of UN-Water is to complement and add value to existing programmes and projects by facilitating synergies and joint efforts, so as to maximize United Nations family-wide coordinated action and coherence and to reduce overlapping and duplication. In so doing, UN-Water seeks to increase the effectiveness of support provided to Member States in their efforts towards achieving international agreements on water. This is done along the following three main lines of work:

- Informing policy processes and addressing emerging issues;
- Supporting monitoring and reporting on water and sanitation; and
- Building knowledge and inspiring people to take action.

At the end of 2018, UN-Water had 32 Members and 41 Partners.

www.unwater.org



Mr. Gilbert F. Hounbo, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development and Chair of UN-Water

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The world is not on track to meet the targets set for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 on water and sanitation. Billions still lack safe water, sanitation and handwashing facilities. Water pollution is worsening and over 80 per cent of countries have insufficient finance to meet national water, sanitation and hygiene targets. Although the trends sound discouraging, there are also immense opportunities to advance water and sanitation objectives when countries know the challenges and then plan and act in their own national contexts. These are a few of the key messages reflected in the UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation. Representing a joint position of the United Nations family, the Synthesis Report 2018 informed the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) which undertook an in-depth thematic review of progress on SDG 6 in July 2018.

We were happy to receive positive feedback from the international community about the Synthesis Report 2018. In many ways, the Report was a natural progression after UN-Water's coordinated technical input back in 2014, which contributed to a holistic and ambitious SDG for water and sanitation as part

of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The negotiated Ministerial Declaration of the HLPF not only welcomed the Synthesis Report 2018, it reiterated the urgent messages that the report aimed to convey. This is UN-Water at its very best: bringing the United Nations family together around the most current data to produce a common analysis that provides policy-relevant advice to countries.

The Synthesis Report 2018 illustrated how water and sanitation are linked to other SDGs addressing global issues related to health, gender equality and energy access. Linkages were also explored through the World Water Day and World Toilet Day campaigns on nature-based solutions. Wetlands are an obvious nature-based solution for water pollution and flooding, and they are central to integrated water resources management approaches. With 70 per cent of our natural wetlands lost over the last century, both campaigns drew attention to this critical challenge.

2018 was also a year for reflection while setting the direction for UN-Water's future. The UN-Water External Review provided us with timely guidance on enhancing our visibility, strengthening our governance, and

facilitating coordination of United Nations entities and programmes. UN-Water's technical advice to Member States for addressing global water challenges helped inform the negotiations leading to upcoming UN high-level meetings on water in 2021 and 2023, which will build the momentum needed to achieve SDG 6. The launch of the Water Action Decade on World Water Day 2018 also marked the beginning of 10 years of increased focus on water and sanitation issues.

This was my first full year as UN-Water Chair. I've been impressed by the commitment of all our Members and Partners to deliver as one. I thank everyone who has contributed to this collective effort.

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SPOTLIGHT

on 2018

The world is not on track to meet Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 on water and sanitation. This was the central message emerging from the UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation and it was the main message delivered to the international community at the High-level Political Forum in July. This was the first time countries reviewed the status of SDG 6 implementation and, while the fact the world is not on track is sobering, there are many solutions and successful approaches upon which to build. There is also increasing recognition that water and sanitation underpin all SDGs. Without water and sanitation, gender equality will remain elusive, poverty will not be eliminated, and life on land will be compromised. The Synthesis Report built on data gathered by the SDG 6 custodian agencies – these agencies are the foundation of the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6. In 2018, the Integrated Monitoring Initiative ended its first phase which focused on methodological refinement and global reporting.

Given the status of SDG 6 progress, the launch of the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Sustainable Development', 2018-2028 on World Water Day was well-timed. A central aim of the

Decade is to build the political will and momentum needed to make real progress on all the SDG 6 targets. With World Water Day and World Toilet Day, the Water Action Decade adds to a powerful set of advocacy tools that build awareness and inspire action.

While the fact the world is not on track is sobering, there are many solutions and successful approaches upon which to build.

UN-Water's THREE LINES OF WORK



Inform policy processes
and address emerging
issues



Support monitoring and
reporting on water
and sanitation



Build knowledge
and inspire action

An in-depth external review prompted UN-Water to reflect on its main purpose: to complement and add value to existing programmes and projects by facilitating synergies and joint actions. This reflection also took up the United Nations' wide-ranging reforms that were approved by the United Nations General Assembly in 2018, which aim to avoid systemic duplication while achieving greater coherence with the goal of supporting countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As the inter-agency coordinating mechanism for water and sanitation, UN-Water continued to leverage its Members' and Partners' input to deliver on its three lines of work to 1) inform policy processes and address emerging issues, 2) support monitoring and reporting on water and sanitation, and 3) build knowledge and inspire action.



United Nations General Assembly in 2018. Miroslav Lajčák, President of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, delivers closing remarks to the high-level event to launch the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development 2018–2028". To his left is Sonia Elliott, Chief of the Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch of the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management. UN Photo/Loey Felipe

HIGHLIGHTED ACHIEVEMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED IN 2018

HIGHLIGHTED ACHIEVEMENTS

- The **UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation**, which provided the status of SDG 6 and recommendations for accelerated progress, was produced by UN-Water for the review of SDG 6 at the High-level Political Forum in July 2018 and represented a joint position of the United Nations. The successful production, dissemination and communication of the report was made possible through collaborative work across the UN-Water family, ultimately informing policy processes at the highest level.
- Through the **technical advice concept note on Addressing Global Water Challenges and Accelerating Progress on SDG 6 at the Country Level**, UN-Water was able to inform the negotiations of the General Assembly resolution on the midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Sustainable Development', 2018-2028. The resolution, which calls for two high-level UN meetings in 2021 and 2023, provides UN-Water and the wider water and sanitation community with important opportunities to accelerate progress on SDG 6 during the coming years.
- **Informing, engaging and inspiring action on the theme of nature-based solutions**, through the launch of the World Water Development Report 2018 during the World Water Forum in Brazil as well as the World Water Day and World Toilet Day campaigns.

- **Supporting the planning, launching and implementation of the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Sustainable Development', 2018-2028**, including through developing the UN Secretary-General's Action Plan and the launch of the Water Action Decade on 22 March, World Water Day, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.
 - **Innovating in response to the UN reform process**, including by initiating strategy development for how UN-Water can add value at the country level by supporting the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system and the new generation of UN Country Teams, as well as by leveraging technology to increase the impact of UN-Water's activities, for example through the Public Dialogue for the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 and the development of the SD G 6 Data Portal to be launched in 2019.
-

LESSONS LEARNED

- When **delivering clear messages with one voice**, UN-Water is able to influence policy processes at the highest level. This was proven through the impact of the UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation as well as the technical advice concept note on Addressing Global Water Challenges and Accelerating Progress on SDG 6 at the Country Level.
- The need for **integration of water and sanitation across the 2030 Agenda** to harness synergies and manage trade-offs was a key message of the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018. This lesson is informing UN-Water's activities going forward, by emphasizing the need to build coalitions and strengthen engagements with key sectors outside of the water and sanitation community and vice versa.
- The benefits of **proactively informing policy processes and addressing emerging issues**. This was demonstrated already by UN-Water's technical advice published in 2014 that successfully informed the conception of SDG 6 and once again in 2018 through the activities initiated at the UN-Water retreat, including the development of the technical advice concept note on Addressing Global Water Challenges and Accelerating Progress on SDG 6 at the Country Level.

INFORMING POLICY PROCESSES AND ADDRESSING EMERGING ISSUES

We face complex challenges to ensure that everyone has access to sustainably-managed water and sanitation services and that we reach the SDG 6 targets. We need partnerships, collaboration and robust policies to tackle the complexity of those challenges while helping to create a healthy, sustainable and prosperous world. By supporting global policy dialogues and connecting to related Sustainable Development Goals, UN-Water aims to actively inform a robust intergovernmental discussion on water and sanitation with stakeholders and key partners.

Participating in global processes

HLPF 2018

The High-level Political Forum (HLPF) is the United Nations' intergovernmental platform on sustainable development and where countries gather for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.



Water for Sustainable Development 2018–2028. Secretary-General António Guterres (on screens) makes remarks during the high-level event to launch the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development 2018–2028”. The launch coincides with the observance of World Water Day (22 March). UN Photo/Manuel Elias

In 2018, HLPF met from 9 – 18 July and undertook an in-depth thematic review of SDG 6. This review represented a unique opportunity for Member States, the United Nations system and other stakeholders to gather for a discussion on the global status of SDG 6 implementation. Understanding the importance of this dialogue, UN-Water produced the first [SDG 6 Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation](#) to build on the latest data available for the 11 SDG 6 global indicators. Published under United Nations copyright, the report represented a joint position of the United Nations family.

The UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation shows that the world is currently off-track to solve the global water crisis. Today, 2.1 billion people lack safely-managed drinking-water, 4.5 billion lack access to safely-managed sanitation, water governance structures remain weak and water-related ecosystems continue to decline.

Preparing for HLPF 2018

A central objective of the Synthesis Report 2018 was informing the discussions among Member States during the HLPF's



Global Progress on Water and Sanitation – 2018 High Level Political Forum Side event, July 2018

in-depth review. It was therefore critical that countries had access to the Synthesis Report prior to the July session. This access was partly facilitated by a workshop co-hosted by the Permanent Missions of Finland and Lebanon along with UN-Water on 2 May in New York. Starting with a briefing for Permanent Representatives, the workshop participants engaged in interactive sessions on the global baseline status of SDG 6 targets and trends at the global and regional levels. Two countries – Ecuador and Jamaica – shared the status of SDG 6 monitoring and implementation in their countries, followed by

a panel exploring interlinkages and how water connects across the 2030 Agenda. Concluding with a working lunch discussion on what countries and stakeholders were planning for the HLPF session in July, the participants were informed about the [Public Dialogue](#) on the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 to gather input from a wide audience.

July 2018 – SDG 6 at the HLPF

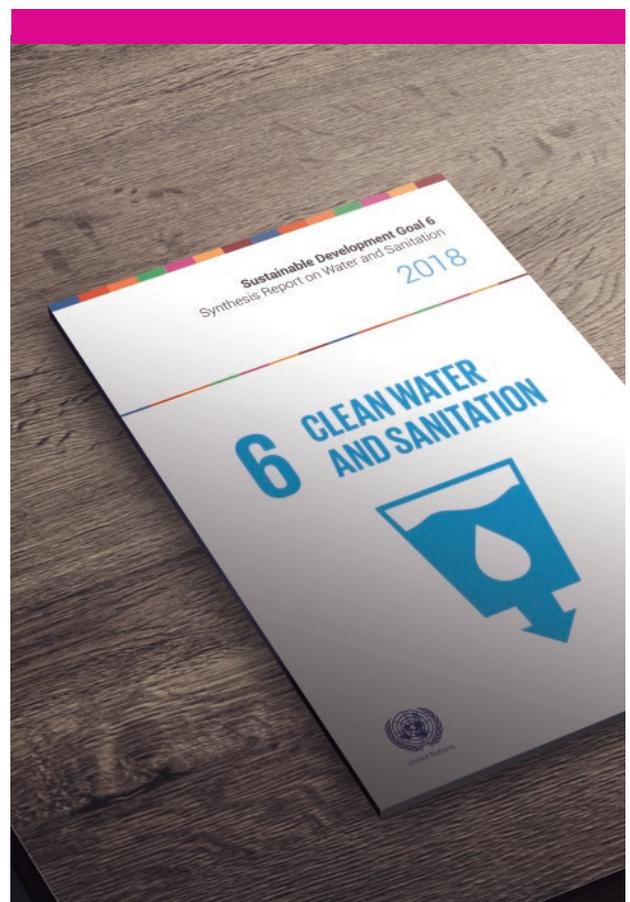
The HLPF is an intense two-week meeting comprised of formal sessions, hundreds of side events, receptions held in and around the United Nations Headquarters, ministerial meetings, intergovernmental negotiations and technical workshops. Hundreds of water and sanitation advocates and experts came to New York to participate in the SDG 6 in-depth review. To help keep the water community informed, UN-Water published a calendar of all water and sanitation-related events on the website to serve as an information clearing house leading up to and during HLPF.

During the formal review of SDG 6 on 9 July, the main messages of the Synthesis Report were shared with delegates during a keynote to set the stage for discussion. In addition, delegates received a hard copy of the report along with the executive summary. The UN-Water Vice-Chair moderated the discussion where many countries shared their positive experience of moving towards more sustainable water management. The holistic set of SDG 6 targets was welcomed as ambitious yet necessary.

Directly after the in-depth review, UN-Water hosted a side event featuring an in-depth

presentation of the Synthesis Report and a panel discussion where participants engaged on topics such as financing, partnerships, inequalities, governance and interdependencies – all through the lens of implementing the 2030 Agenda and leaving no one behind. Given the limited time during the in-depth review, the side event gave a space for open exchange of experience and ideas.

The messages from the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation helped inform the ministerial declaration on SDG 6 negotiated during the HLPF.



UN-Water's SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation



Women Collecting Fish at Sunset in Dili District, Timor-Leste. UN Photo/Martine Perret

Global Recommendations – Global Panels

Consisting of 11 Heads of State, the High Level Panel on Water was convened in 2016 by the World Bank Group and the United Nations to provide leadership while promoting an inclusive and collaborative approach to managing water resources globally. In March, the Panel issued its [final report](#) “Making Every Drop Count” which set forth targeted and detailed recommendations to the international community. The Panel made a specific recommendation to “strengthen the capacities of UN-Water to discharge its function as the UN’s coordination mechanism for all agencies working on the implementation of SDG 6 and other water-related SDGs.” Echoing recommendations made in 2017 by the High-Level Panel on Water and Peace, the Panel also suggested that the international community establish an annual or biannual global water conference at the highest level to strengthen the United Nations system’s coordination and to support Member States on water matters. Following up on these recommendations and in light

of feedback from the UN-Water External Review, UN-Water developed a [technical advice concept note on Addressing Global Water Challenges and Accelerating Progress on SDG 6 at the Country Level](#), which was presented to Member States and stakeholders on 8 October at the United Nations Headquarters.

On 28 November the United Nations General Assembly’s Second Committee adopted by consensus the [resolution on the “Midterm comprehensive](#)

[review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, ‘Water for Sustainable Development’, 2018-2028”](#).

The resolution calls for two UN high-level meetings on water and sanitation: a one-day meeting to promote the implementation of the water-related Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda in New York in 2021, and the UN Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, ‘Water for



Members of the Secretary-General’s High-level Panel on Water handover the outcome document to Secretary-General António Guterres. Pictured left to right: Rafael Pacchiano Alamán, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico; Lise Gregoire Van Haaren, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Netherlands; Gustavo Meza-Cuadra Velásquez, Permanent Representative of Peru, and Jagdish Dharamchand Koonjul, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mauritius. UN Photo/ Eskinder Debebe

ENGAGING IN GLOBAL WATER EVENTS

High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028 – Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 20 – 21 June

Member States, relevant UN bodies, the specialized agencies, the Regional Commissions and other organizations of the UN system, as well as other relevant partners including the private sector discussed ways the Decade can support implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UN-Water presented the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation at the conference.

8th World Water Forum – Brasilia, Brazil, 18 – 23 March

Over 10,000 participants attended the 8th World Water Forum where 172 countries were represented. The Forum gathers the international community to promote awareness, build political commitment and trigger action on critical water issues at all levels. UN-Water launched the 2018 World Water Development Report and celebrated World Water Day at the Forum. It also hosted a session on global monitoring and reporting of SDG 6.



Autumn Peltier, 13-year-old water advocate from the Anishinaabe tribe of Canada, addresses the event to launch the International Decade for Action titled "Water for Sustainable Development 2018–2028". The launch coincides with the observance of World Water Day (22 March). United Nations, New York. UN Photo/Manuel Elias

Sustainable Development', 2018-2028 in New York from 22 to 24 March 2023. UN-Water's technical advice provided input to the resolution and its elements were incorporated into the two mandated meetings.

The resolution mandates UN-Water to support the United Nations Secretary-General in assessing progress in the implementation of the first half of the Decade as well as to support and organize the activities of the Decade at the global, regional and country levels. It mentions the UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation and the United Nations World Water Development Report 2018, as well as the United Nations Secretary-General's Plan: Water Action Decade 2018-2028, prepared by UN-Water.



Participants during the opening of the 2018 Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum. United Nations, New York. UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

Addressing emerging issues and connecting to the SDGs

#YouthPower. water for now and for the future - connecting to SDG 4 (quality education) and SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth)

Youth have the most to gain from a more sustainable water future, however, their voices are often missing from decision-making forums. In 2018, UN-Water actively engaged with youth at various points including the 2018 ECOSOC Youth Forum on 30 – 31 January in New York. It is the largest annual meeting focusing on youth development and engagement, and the only United Nations forum that brings young people and Member State officials together. Participants review SDG progress while defining ways to include young people in their realisation. The Youth Forum annually reviews the same SDGs as are taken up during the HLPF, and so in 2018 SDG 6 was in focus with UN-Water coordinating the water and sanitation breakout group. UN-Water sponsored a youth representative from the World Youth Parliament for Water and along with UNICEF led a discussion on how youth can contribute to

achieving the SDG 6 targets in their own countries.

During the HLPF, UN-Water collaborated with the Water Youth Network, World Youth Parliament for Water, and UNESCO-IHP on a side event on Ensuring Intergenerational Policy Dialogues for Achieving SDG 6, which included a panel discussion on how to facilitate the inclusion of youth in political and decision-making processes surrounding SDG 6.

During the 7th Africa Water Week Conference in October, UN-Water co-sponsored the event “Promoting Youth Engagement in Water Governance through Youth-Led Research and Innovation” which was co-convened by UNESCO-IHP and the International Science Council (ISC) Regional Office for Africa. Eight young researchers and innovators from

the Africa Region participated in the event as speakers. The session provided a platform for the young researchers and innovators to present youth-led research and innovation with special focus on improving the good governance of water in Africa. It featured high-level participants who engaged in lively discussions with the panellists. The main recommendations of the session were adopted as the Youth Declaration of the 7th Africa Water Week and were presented by one of the moderators during the closing ceremony of the Conference. The Youth Declaration calls for the strengthening of water education in Africa, improved representation and participation of youth in decision-making processes and increased support for the use of youth-led research and innovation products in the governance of the water sector.



Youth have the most to gain from a more sustainable water future.



INTRODUCING

⇒ *Faduma Ali* ⇒

UN-Water Intern

My experience with UN-Water was fantastic. I gained behind-the-scenes experience with high-level people from government, private and NGO sectors, as well as other UN workers, to understand the ways in which decisions are made, especially in the water sector. Water scarcity is a universal problem, one that can mean life and death for all species on Earth. UN-Water not only focuses on the aspects of water scarcity, but also on finding tangible solutions such as wastewater reuse and irrigation technology upgrades. These approaches offer a beacon of hope for many in water-stressed regions.

I was fortunate enough to assist in the promotion of youth engagement during my internship. I gave the highlights of the UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report at a side-event during the Science, Technology and Innovation Forum. During the High-level Political Forum, I was able to work with youth from around the world to collaborate on the only side event hosted by youth titled 'Ensuring Intergenerational Policy Dialogues for the Achievement of SDG 6'. I co-moderated the event and invited high-level panellists from Members States and other UN agencies.

Stockholm World Water Week was an exceptional experience and one of the most memorable parts of my internship. I represented UN-Water as the only youth speaker at the Water Action Decade side event in Stockholm. At the event, I highlighted the need for greater youth representation in water discussions.

Achieving climate neutrality: the role of water – connecting to SDG 13 (climate action)

Water is central to climate change adaptation and mitigation. Most climate change impacts are transmitted through the water cycle and most disasters are water-related. The importance of water for climate change adaptation is generally understood: water must be at the centre of our adaptation efforts. What is becoming increasingly evident is water's connection to mitigation. This connection has not been widely acknowledged. The SDGs, with dedicated goals for water and sanitation and climate, provide an excellent opportunity to identify and act on interconnections. To make these essential connections, UN-Water organised an event during the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which took place on December 3 – 14 in Katowice, Poland (see below Expert Group on Water and Climate Change). The panellists discussed technical and financial support to promote sustainable, resilient and low-carbon water resources



Hurricane Sandy passed to the west of Haiti on 25 October 2012, causing heavy rains and strong winds, flooding homes and overflowing rivers. A woman walks through a flooded market in Port-au-Prince. UN Photo/Logan Abassi

management. Participants agreed on the urgent need to emphasize the effects of water management on climate mitigation and carbon neutrality. It is also important to remember climate change mitigation measures affecting water management, which can be synergistic or present negative trade-offs.

Realizing SDG 6 in Small Island Developing States – connecting to the SAMOA Pathway (Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action)

Securing water and sanitation for all island populations is a growing challenge. With limited landmass, many SIDS do not have large watersheds, surface water-bodies or extensive groundwater supplies. Climate change and the variability it introduces is compounding the challenge since their dependency on rainwater makes them vulnerable to rainfall pattern change. Pressure on water supplies also comes from economic activities, such as growing demands of tourism, urbanization and rapid coastal area development. UN-Water is active in several SIDS through the Integrated Monitoring Initiative – the work in Jamaica was highlighted in the SIDS Times: [The Cowrie](#) (first edition 2018). The article demonstrated the importance of baseline data for SDG 6 and how by gathering this information sector fragmentation can be overcome.



Drought Threatens Famine in Somalia. Young girls line up at a feeding centre in Mogadishu. UN Photo/Tobin Jones

Progress overview

2018 was a landmark year for water and sanitation at the UN, during which UN-Water was able to provide input to several high-level processes and forums. Through the UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation and its associated activities, UN-Water channelled the collective voice of the UN system to provide the status on SDG 6 and make recommendations for accelerating progress to Member States. The ability of UN-Water to subsequently inform processes at the highest level for the resolution on the “Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, ‘Water for Sustainable Development’, 2018-2028”

illustrated the collective strength of UN-Water’s Members and Partners when speaking with one voice.

2018 also saw the further development of Analytical and Policy Briefs to be launched in 2019, including the Policy Brief on the Water Conventions, the Policy Brief on Water and Climate Change and the Analytical Brief on Unconventional Water Resources. With 2019 being a critical year for the review of the 2030 Agenda, including two editions of the High-level Political Forum in July and September – and with a particular focus on climate change with the UN Climate Summit – such work will ensure that UN-Water can continue being an influential, proactive voice in high-level political processes also in 2019.

SUPPORTING MONITORING AND REPORTING on water and sanitation

A key objective of UN-Water is providing coherent and reliable data and information on relevant water trends and management issues. UN-Water coordinates several initiatives, mechanisms and programmes that have been collecting information on various components of the water cycle primarily in the context of SDG 6.

Consolidating the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6

The WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP), the Integrated Monitoring of Water and Sanitation Related SDG Targets (GEMI) and the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water

(GLAAS) make up the Integrated Monitoring Initiative.

The work of JMP, GEMI and GLAAS was further aligned during 2018 in part by ensuring that all activities with common outreach focused on all of the SDG 6 targets.

During 2018, the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative produced SDG 6 indicator reports, started the development of the SDG 6 Data Portal, and provided the data that fed into the production of the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation. The production of the indicator reports was led by the respective custodian agencies following a joint workplan, and the reports were all launched jointly at the World Water Week in Stockholm in August. In addition, the Initiative undertook outreach activities and strategic planning for its phase 2. Covering the period from 2019 to 2022, phase 2 will be guided by a joint logical framework and budget covering all 11 global indicators.

Governing the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6

The 5th Steering Committee meeting took place face-to-face in January in Rome where lessons learned from the integrated baseline process and the findings of the external review were discussed. The Steering Committee also agreed on a process for developing a project document including a logical framework and budget for phase 2 of the Initiative. The meeting also included an open segment to which UN-Water Members, Partners and donors were invited to discuss and provide feedback on the Initiative's work. In addition to the eight GEMI agencies, 24 UN-Water Members and Partners attended. The 6th Steering Committee meeting was held in September (by web conference), where the Steering Committee discussed the project proposal, associated resources mobilisation, the management response to the external review and the SDG 6 Data Portal launch.

The Steering Committee approved the Strategic Advisory Group membership in March, comprising eight distinguished individuals with



Global workshop for integrated monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal 6 on water and sanitation, the Netherlands, November 2017. UN Photo/UN-Water

national, regional, international, academic, civil society and business perspectives, coming from various sectors and water and sanitation disciplines. Members were drawn from high-, middle- and low-income countries in all major regions, with a 50/50 gender balance. The first Strategic Advisory Group meeting was held in August back-to-back to the World Water Week in Stockholm – the meeting gave an in-depth introduction to the Initiative and participants agreed on work modalities and discussed the value of integration at different steps of water and sanitation monitoring and reporting.

The planning for phase 2 of the Integrated Monitoring Initiative was kicked-off with a face-to-face visioning retreat in June in Geneva. A working group was formed to develop the overall logical

framework and define a set of joint key performance indicators, which then was populated by individual custodian agencies. The plan for phase 2 was finalised during the final quarter of 2018.

At the country level, experiences with SDG 6 monitoring have been communicated online to share best practices, and the launch of both the indicator reports and the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation allowed for an increased engagement with Member States. The engagement with regional organisations was strengthened in the African region with participation in a regional validation meeting, and also in the Americas, where participation in two regional meetings initiated discussions on further engagement.

Monitoring SDG 6 indicators

To facilitate the implementation of the global indicator framework, the IAEG-SDGs categorises the indicators into three different tiers. The tier categorisation is based on their level of methodological development and the availability of data at the global level:

- Tier I indicators have established methodologies and data are regularly produced by a critical mass of countries.
- Tier II indicators have established methodologies but data are not regularly produced by countries.
- Tier III indicators have methodologies that are under development.

In 2018, two of the SDG 6 global indicators were upgraded from tier III to tier II, following a comprehensive revision of the respective methodology:

- Indicator 6.3.2 on ambient water quality
- Indicator 6.6.1 on water-related ecosystems

The revisions are based on pilot-testing and an expert review in 2016, as well as lessons learned from a global roll-out in 2017.

Furthermore, two of the SDG 6 global indicators were upgraded from tier II to tier I, following an increased data coverage:

- Indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary water cooperation: 153 Member States share

transboundary waters, and out of these, 107 reported on the indicator in 2017-2018.

- Indicator 6.6.1 on water-related ecosystems: Earth observation data on spatial extent of open waters are available for all 193 Member States, and in 2017-2018, 40 countries reported in-situ data on the indicator as well.

Overall for SDG 6, four of the SDG 6 global indicators are now classified as tier I, and the remaining seven indicators as tier II. This development represents a big step forward as it demonstrates that there are robust methodologies in place for the global monitoring of SDG 6.



Water sampling in Kenya / Georgina Smith

The SDG 6 Data Portal

The SDG 6 Data Portal was developed throughout the year, based on the collection of data on all relevant SDG global indicators and extensive user testing and software development. For example, a beta version of the data portal was shared at the World Water Week in Stockholm in August to gather feedback on the platform. Following a second custodian agency review and comprehensive target audience user testing, the Data Portal is due to be launched during summer 2019.

Enhancing capacity to collect, report and use sustainable water and sanitation related data

The work during 2018 focused on consolidating a network of focal points with governments and, by year end, focal points were confirmed for 91 countries. An online database for overall and indicator-specific technical focal points was also initiated and is due to be finalised in 2019. Examples of how countries

are implementing SDG 6 monitoring were continuously added to the website, including country posters from the global workshop, video interviews with focal points and links to national websites from 10 countries.

Throughout the year, collecting and validating data for the indicators continued through country missions and regional workshops as well as online support through helpdesks, webinars and e-learning tools. Data on SDG 6 indicators were submitted to the United Nations Statistics Division as well as published through agency data portals.

Of the 12 countries receiving seed grants in 2017, by year end 2018, seven countries had completed their work. As part of the seed grant activities, nine countries held national workshops, six countries established intersectoral monitoring teams and seven countries produced country reports. A review of the effectiveness of the seed grants will be carried out in 2019.

In May, partners of the Integrated Monitoring Initiative participated in a Validation Workshop, organised by the African

Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) in Kigali, Rwanda. The workshop convened AMCOW monitoring focal points to review data submitted by AMCOW Member States for the 2017 Africa Water and Sanitation Report. The Initiative also took part in two regional meetings in the Americas: one for Central America organised by the Global Water Partnership, FOCARD-APS (Foro Centro Americano y de Republica Dominicana de Agua Potable y Saneamiento) and CCAD (the Central American Commission on Environment and Development) in San Salvador in September, and one for Spanish/Portuguese-speaking countries on the continent organised by CODIA (Conferencia de Directores Iberoamericanos del Agua) in Antigua in November.



Farming for Development: Rice Fields in Indonesia.
UN Photo/Ray Witlin

UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation

In June, UN-Water released the first SDG 6 Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation to inform the HLPF thematic review. The Synthesis Report provided a global baseline status of SDG 6 targets and indicators and assessed how to enable and accelerate progress through integrated water resources management and eliminating inequalities. Connecting SDG 6 across the 2030 Agenda, the Report considered the three sustainable development pillars: water and society, water and the environment and water and the economy.

An online Public Dialogue on the content and main messages of the Synthesis Report was open May through September to increase transparency, credibility and accountability. This primarily took the form of three online forums, moderated for a month each, on the UN-Water website in addition to an online questionnaire which targeted various stakeholder groups for feedback. On process and structure, the Public Dialogue participants suggested more cases and boxes, a shorter text, and including more information on nationally tailored targets. Regarding data, suggestions included more extensive data disaggregation and harmonised data collection to reduce the national government burden. For content, the advice was to go beyond SDG 6, strengthen certain topic areas and to share more lessons and best practices. Overall the feedback was positive: it was "consistent", "covered all issues", "comprehensive" and a "great synthesis" and a fantastic starting point to discuss implementation of SDG 6. The results of the Public Dialogue will be taken into consideration during the next SDG 6 reporting cycle. Two webinars

were also organized for the national overall monitoring focal points on the lessons learned from the synthesis reporting, including country case studies, seeking to demonstrate the value of integrated monitoring and to encourage national level synthesis reporting.

Progress overview

The UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 had wide outreach during 2018, including through 60 monitoring and reporting presentations. This was largely thanks to the publication of indicator reports for the SDG 6 indicators led by the respective custodian agencies and the launch of the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018, including the online Public Dialogue. Thirty-six entities contributed to the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018, showing the high interest among UN-Water Members and Partners while also assuring that diverse perspectives were included in the report.

2018 also saw a big step forward for overall SDG 6 monitoring: four SDG 6 indicators were upgraded, resulting in four indicators now classified as tier I and the remaining seven indicators as tier II. At the country level, 61 countries nominated overall focal points for SDG 6 monitoring during 2018, which was also above the set target.

The year also included planning and preparation activities, including the strategic planning for phase 2 of the Integrated Monitoring Initiative covering the period from 2019 to 2022, as well as the development of the SDG 6 Data Portal to be launched in 2019. The Strategic Advisory Group, set up during 2018, will help guide the activities of the Integrated Monitoring Initiative during phase 2.

BUILDING KNOWLEDGE AND INSPIRING people to take action

"#WorldWaterDay is an occasion to highlight the importance of Jal Shakti and reaffirm our commitment towards water conservation. When water is conserved, our cities, villages, and hardworking farmers benefit tremendously."

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India tweets on the occasion of World Water Day 2018.

2018 was an important year for water and sanitation with major communication related opportunities for UN-Water in brand building, positioning and delivering as one. A strong focus was put on promoting and ensuring communications consistency in how UN-Water supports Member States in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 6 and in other international processes and reforms.

Supporting the International Decade for Action 'Water for Sustainable Development', 2018-2028

The United Nations have long been addressing the global crisis caused by unsafe water and sanitation and growing demands on the world's water resources to meet human, economic and environmental needs. In December 2017 Member States adopted United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/222 on an International Decade for Action on 'Water for Sustainable Development' 2018-2028. In response to the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Water

Action Decade will accelerate efforts towards meeting water-related challenges, including limited access to safe water and sanitation, increasing pressure on water resources and ecosystems, and an exacerbated risk of droughts and floods. The mandate for planning, organising and facilitating the implementation of the Decade at global, regional and country level is given to the Secretary-General with the support of UN-Water.

To prepare the launch of the [Water Action Decade](#) on 22 March, UN-Water developed an interactive website with a platform for engaging and allowing a wide global audience to participate in the Decade. At the end of 2018, the website featured 77 initiatives and 43 country activities and commitments that show how Member States and the United Nations family engage in advancing water-related sustainable development. To ensure consistency and deliver as one, UN-Water worked with the United Nations Department of Public Information to align the visual communications



Opening of Exhibit "Clean Water Here" on World Water Day Jagadish Vasudev, commonly known as Sadhguru, an Indian yogi and mystic, attends the opening of the exhibit "Clean Water Here" in connection with World Water Day (22 March) and the launch of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028". UN Photo/Eskinder Debe

materials and platforms.

The Water Action Decade was launched on 22 March, World Water Day, in an event organised by the President of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák. For the launch and for the World Water Day celebration in New York, the UN-Water

Chair opened an itinerant photo exhibition at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, featuring photos from around the world. The photo exhibition was later featured at the United Nations Headquarters in Nairobi, in UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris and in CBD's Headquarters in Montreal.



A Global Rally for Sanitation takes place in front of Palais des Nations during of the World Toilet Day (19 November).
UN Photo/Jean-Marc Ferré

Managing a knowledge hub on water and sanitation

In 2018, the traffic to the UN-Water website and the number of downloads increased with 45% and 100% respectively. This is partly due

to the overhaul that the website underwent in 2017 which increased search engine optimization and made it easier for users to find information. A more visible newsletter sign-up resulted in more than 3 000 new people registering to receive information. The collection of UN-Water Members' and Partners' news contributes to a knowledge hub that features a vast range of information and represents the extent of the UN-Water family. To improve the internal information flow a password protected extranet was also optimized for use by Members and Partners. The partnership with IISD continued throughout 2018 with IISD contributing to the reporting of the UN-Water Meetings and UN-Water Members and Partners proposing content to IISD's SDG Knowledge Hub through guest articles and news.

UN-Water's LinkedIn network of water professionals is also an integral part of UN-Water's aim to gather experts and encourage exchange. The network, which gives an opportunity for the 10 000 members to share information has a traffic of around 40 entries per month.

Informing, engaging and inspiring action

Building on Members', Partners' and other key stakeholders' efforts, UN-Water continued to strive to increase knowledge of water-related issues and inspire action by decision-makers and the public. The global campaigns, World Water Day on 22 March¹ and World Toilet Day on 19 November² were carried out on the theme of nature-based solutions.

The [UN World Water Development Report](#)³ was launched on the same theme during the World Water Day pivot event that was held during the World Water Forum in Brazil, which also provided an opportunity to invite stakeholders to celebrate 25 years of World Water Days. The digital part of the campaign was successful, with a 25% increase in both the number of website visits

and the maximum potential reach on social media largely due to the big celebrity support and the coordinated United Nations family approach. The traditional media coverage was vast with numerous articles and features in major media and newswires, and press briefings at United Nations Headquarters in New York and Geneva and in UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France.

World Toilet Day 2018 was aligned with World Water Day under the slogan "When nature calls". The maximum potential reach increased by 15%, and the online activity and authors also increased by 12% and 22%, respectively. The United Nations family continued playing a central role in driving messages and conversations. For the second time in a row, India was the most active country online followed by United States, United Kingdom, Spain and Nigeria. There is a clear tendency

from the public to move from organising face-to-face events to having conversations on social media. UN-Water, with UNICEF in the lead, assisted India and Singapore for the organisation of an event for the Permanent Missions in New York and an exhibition on sanitation campaigns in the United Nations Headquarters. In Geneva, Singapore engaged in the World Toilet Day rally at Place des Nations and in the event organised together with the Toilet Board Coalition and the SDG Lab. During the latter, the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation provided a context to the event, which also focussed on a financing discussion between private sector, governments and workers.

¹ World Water Day has been held annually and celebrated globally since 1993.

² In 2013, the General Assembly passed a resolution recognising World Toilet Day as an official UN international day (UN resolution A/67/L.75). As part of this resolution, UN-Water was tasked with facilitating 'the implementation of World Toilet Day in the context of Sanitation for All, in collaboration with Governments and relevant stakeholders'.

³ The World Water Development Report is a UN-Water flagship report, the production of which is coordinated by UNESCO.

António Guterres @antonioguterres

In an era of technological miracles, we can and must meet people's basic needs. More than half the global population lacks proper toilets and sanitation. Clean, hygienic facilities are essential to people's dignity, and to public health. bit.ly/1z3w5av #WorldToiletDay



1:23 a. m. · 19 nov. 2018 · TweetDeck

844 Retweets 1.8 K Me gusta

Narendra Modi @narendramodi

#WorldWaterDay is an occasion to highlight the importance of Jal Shakti and reaffirm our commitment towards water conservation.

When water is conserved, our cities, villages and hardworking farmers benefit tremendously.



1:00 82,5 mil reproducciones

7:21 PM · 21 Mar 2018

4,192 Retweets 14,679 Likes

1.1K 4.2K 15K

United Nations @UN

2.1 billion people lack access to safely-managed drinking water.

On Friday's #WorldWaterDay, see how protecting nature can help solve the world's water challenges: worldwaterday.org

Traducir Tweet



2:03 a. m. · 22 mar. 2019 · TweetDeck

676 Retweets 942 Me gusta

Britney Spears @britneyspears

Support the #CleanWaterHere2018 campaign to help give children access to safe drinking water. Everyone deserves @CleanWaterHere, so let's join together this @UN_Water #WorldWaterDay and help make a difference! bit.ly/2ilieem

Traducir Tweet



9:04 p. m. · 22 mar. 2018 · Twitter Web Client

1,2 K Retweets 4,7 K Me gusta

Strengthening the UN-Water corporate brand

Effective brands are not formed by what organisations say about themselves but what they do. In 2018 a series of flagship products enabled UN-Water to speak to key target audiences about the progress on SDG 6 and communicate the message that the world is not on track to achieve the Goal by 2030. This message permeated activities throughout the year, including the presentations of the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation in the HLPF preparatory process and during the HLPF itself in July, where the UN-Water Vice-Chair moderated the in-depth review of SDG 6. Thanks to the United Nations being the sole publisher of the report, which carried the United Nations emblem and copyrights, this conveyed a strong system-wide positioning and enabled a credible and relevant UN-Water brand. To reach a wider audience, the policy messages from the report were tailored and interpreted in a short audio-visual film that was also shown during the in-depth review. Throughout the year, blog articles, TV, radio and newspaper interviews with the UN-Water office bearers all carried the same message contributing to a strong brand and positioning. The UN-Water communications network, The Pipe, held regular virtual meetings throughout the year and also contributed to this positioning by using material developed for the communications around the findings from the report.

UN-Water participated in the 2018 World Water Week in Stockholm with a UN-Water Pavilion with nine Members and Partners and by organising and participating in numerous events. The annual UN-Water Stakeholder Dialogue had a focus on the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation

and, as a final step from the Public Dialogue that was organised around the report, the event enabled UN-Water to collect feedback from a variety of stakeholders. A session on SDG 6 monitoring was organised as well as a review and preview of the World Water Development Report and an event on the World Water Day campaign for 2019 on "Leaving no one behind". The digital development during the year saw an increase in followers of 32% from 188 000 to 250 000 followers.

Progress overview

2018 saw advancements in UN-Water's ability to build knowledge and inspire people to take action, including a 45% increase in UN-Water website traffic, a 100% increase in number of downloads and a 32% increase in number of followers. However, beyond what can be communicated in numbers, flagship products launched during 2018 enabled UN-Water to effectively communicate the critical message that the world is off-track to achieve SDG 6 and the urgency of accelerating progress. Through the interactive and innovative Public Dialogue following the publication of the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018, UN-Water further channelled its messages and collected valuable feedback from a variety of stakeholders.

Through the World Water Day and World Toilet Day, the UN system was able to collectively focus attention on nature-based solutions for water and sanitation. Following the launch of the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Sustainable Development', 2018-2028, UN-Water supported the UN Secretary-General with developing his Action Plan for the Decade. The Action Plan provides a strong foundation for UN-Water's continuous support to the Water Action Decade implementation going forward.

GOVERNANCE

— AND —

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Documents

The UN-Water Strategy 2014–2020 and the UN-Water Work Programme 2018–2019 are the main documents that guided UN-Water's activities in 2018. All governance documents can be accessed at <http://www.unwater.org/about-unwater/governance/>

UN-Water External Review 2018

The External Review of UN-Water was carried out during 2017–2018 to assess current structures and capacities of UN-Water and to enable the coordination mechanism to better organise itself to meet upcoming expectations from Members, Partners and Member States. It made 10 recommendations to enhance the visibility of UN-Water within the international landscape,

strengthen UN-Water governance, and facilitate the coordination of UN entities and programmes.

The External Review was a timely way of providing UN-Water with necessary and up-to-date guidance on current opportunities and challenges. Through its [management response](#), UN-Water outlined activities responding to the 10 recommendations. This included an update of the UN-Water Terms of Reference to more accurately reflect current realities, in particular the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDG 6. The Terms of Reference were also restructured according to UN-Water's three main lines of work: informing policies, monitoring and reporting, and inspiring action.

Also in response to the External Review and in the context of similar recommendations of the High Level

Panel on Water and the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace, UN-Water prepared a technical advice on Addressing Global Water Challenges and Accelerating Progress on SDG 6 at the Country Level. The technical advice helped inform negotiations for establishing UN high-level meetings on water and sanitation, including a one-day high-level meeting to promote the implementation of the water-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda in 2021, and a UN conference on the midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the objectives of the Decade in 2023.

Other parts of the UN-Water management response include the development of an inventory of the collective work of the UN-Water 'family' in support of the 2030 Agenda and SDG 6, the initiation of the strategy development for how UN-Water can add value at the country level, as well as a refined strategy for how to increase engagement of non-UN stakeholders.

Annual meetings

The 28th Meeting took place on 1 and 2 February 2018 in Rome, Italy, hosted by IFAD. Main items under discussion

included the UN-Water External Review carried out in 2017 and 2018 and its recommendations and the preparation of the in-depth review of SDG 6 at the HLPF 2018, including the publication of the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 later in the year. Participants pursued the definition of the structure and content of the UN-Water Inventory of 'who does what'. A presentation by the Integrated Monitoring Initiative confirmed the launch of indicator-specific reports in the course of the year. The Task Forces on World Toilet Day 2018 and World Water Day 2019 were established.

The 29th Meeting took place on 24 and 25 August in Stockholm, Sweden. At this Meeting, CDP (formerly known as the Carbon Disclosure Project) became a Partner of UN-Water and Sanitation and Water for All a Partner with Special Status. Participants also discussed the Management Team's draft response to the External Review, including the establishment of the Task Force on Country Level Engagement in response to one of the External Review's recommendations. Further discussion items included the outcomes of the HLPF and the in-depth review of SDG 6,

and the United Nations reform process. Presentations included the outcomes of the High Level Panel on Water and the joint WHO/UNICEF global action plan on improving WASH in health care facilities in the context of the Secretary-General's related global call to action. The results of the 2018 World Water Day campaign were presented, followed by an update on the 2018 World Toilet Day campaign.

UN-Water Retreat

On 4-5 June in Montreux, Switzerland UN-Water held a two-day retreat to allow for in-depth exploration of pressing issues. Participants discussed what it means to "strengthen UN-Water" and how to most effectively support implementation of the 2030 agenda, particularly given the HLPF in-depth review of SDG 6. Agreement was reached on how to proceed with UN-Water's 'who does what' Inventory resulting in a task force to take forward the work. In addition, participants agreed on a response to the recommendations of the High-level Panel on Water and the UN-Water External Review regarding establishing United Nations meetings on water at the highest possible level.

UN-Water Joint Steering Group

The Joint Steering Group steers the operational management of UN-Water in-between UN-Water Meetings. In 2018, it reviewed applications for Partner status received during the year, the management of the UN-Water Inter-Agency Trust Fund, and the oversight of Expert Groups and Task Forces.

UN-Water Inter-Agency Trust Fund

The UN-Water Inter-Agency Trust Fund is administered by the United Nations Office for Project Services. The indicative financial status in 2018 is presented below as the total for targeted and core coordination activities:

Balance forward (2017):	USD 2,198,092
Income (2018):	
Netherlands:	USD 1,136,364
Germany:	USD 664,470
Sweden	USD 667,278
Switzerland:	USD 1,324,458
Interest (2018):	USD 25,232
Total income (2018):	USD 6,015,895
Total expenditure (2018):	USD 3,668,776
Balance (31 December 2018):	USD 2,347,119

The figures presented in this report may be subject to minor changes in the final certified financial report.

Progress overview

UN-Water's governance and financial operations during 2018 included two well-attended UN-Water Meetings, an additional UN-Water retreat, Joint Steering Group interactions and a new donor agreement with the Netherlands for core coordination and targeted activities. In particular, the UN-Water External Review 2018 guided UN-Water's governance-related activities, including through an updated Terms of Reference for UN-Water, a refined strategy for increasing engagement of non-UN stakeholders, and the initiation of the

strategy development for how UN-Water can add value at the country level.

UN-Water took advantage of its retreat in June 2018 to proactively discuss the establishment of United Nations meetings on water at the highest possible level, as suggested by the External Review and the High Level Panel on Water. The retreat also allowed for progress in the development of the UN-Water Inventory, with the Inventory report and web tool to be published in 2019.

ANNEX 1. Members and Partners

Members

(32 as of December 2018)

United Nations Secretariat

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

Programmes and funds

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

World Food Programme (WFP)

Regional Commissions

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC)

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)

Specialized agencies

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

The World Bank Group (WB)
 World Health Organization (WHO)
 World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Other entities

United Nations University (UNU)

United Nations related organizations

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
 International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Conventions

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
 Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
 Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Partners (41 as of December 2018)

AquaFed
 CDP
 Center for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST)
 Conservation International
 Gender and Water Alliance (GWA)
 Global Water Partnership (GWP)
 International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR)
 International Association for Water Law (AIDA)
 International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH)
 International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS)
 International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID)
 International Groundwater Centre (IGRAC)
 International Hydropower Association (IHA)
 IHE Delft Institute for Water Education
 International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)
 International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
 International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC)
 International Water Association (IWA)
 International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
 International Water Resources Association (IWRA)
 Mandate of the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Water*
 Mandate of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation*
 Public Services International (PSI)
 Ramsar Convention
 Sanitation and Water for All*
 Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future
 Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)
 United Nations Global Compact*
 United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
 Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC)*
 Water.org
 WaterAid
 WaterLex
 Women for Water Partnership (WfWP)
 World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
 World Council of Civil Engineers (WCCE)
 World Resources Institute (WRI)
 World Water Council (WWC)
 World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
 World Youth Parliament for Water (WYPW)

* Partner with Special Status

ANNEX 2. Expert Groups and Task Forces

Expert Groups

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development [UNEP]

With a focus on the 2030 Agenda, the Expert Group advises on the strategic scope of UN-Water's engagement in the 2030 Agenda and coordinates interventions among UN-Water's Members and Partners, including mobilising technical advice and acting as the SDG 6 point of contact for the United Nations Statistics Division, the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), the Statistical Commission and the United Nations Office of the Secretary-General. During 2018, the Expert Group participated in the 7th and 8th meetings of the IAEG-SDGs as well as provided input to the 2018 SDG Reports and Global Sustainable Development Report.

Drinking-Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) [UNICEF, WHO]

The Expert Group brings together the technical experience of United Nations and other relevant experts to support ongoing global initiatives – such as the Global Action Plan on WASH in health care facilities, WASH for Work, WASH in Schools, WASH in emergency settings – and to strengthen implementation and monitoring of activities in non-household settings. Following the call to action for WASH in health care facilities from the United Nations Secretary General on World Water Day 2018, WHO and UNICEF are leading the response and outlined key goals to promote and improve WASH in health care facilities, including communications with UN-Water Members and Partners.

Transboundary Waters [UNECE, UNESCO]

The UN-Water Expert Group on Transboundary Waters provides a platform to coordinate inputs to policy processes related to transboundary waters. The Group coordinates awareness-raising and outreach efforts supporting transboundary water cooperation and promotes coherence in activities by UN-Water Members and Partners in the area of transboundary waters. During 2018, an advanced draft of the UN-Water Policy Brief on the United Nations Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (Watercourses Convention, entered into force in 2014) and the Convention on the Protection of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) was developed to be published in 2019.

Water and Climate Change [UNECE, UNESCO, WMO]

The Expert Group strengthens United Nations system coordination of activities related to water and climate change to support Member States in assessing the impacts of climate change on water and to adopt strategies for meeting the challenges of climate change in terms of both adaptation and mitigation in the related water sub-sectors. In 2018, the Expert Group organized a side event at 24th UNFCCC Conference of the Parties on the role of water in achieving climate neutrality and provided input to the World Water Development Report 2020 on water and climate. The group is preparing an updated version of the policy brief on water and climate change to be launched at the HLPF in July 2019, where SDG 13 on climate action will

be reviewed. The Climate Summit in September 2019 under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly, the 25th UNFCCC Conference of the Parties, and the World Water Day in 2020, which focuses on water and climate, will provide additional opportunities to disseminate the policy brief messages.

Water Quality and Wastewater [UNEP]

This Expert Group brings together the United Nations and other relevant expertise on water quality and wastewater. It also provides the platform to share information on and convene interested parties to join the World Water Quality Assessment (mandated by the United Nations Environment Assembly). The inception phase took place in 2018 and included i) the calls for expression of interest; ii) a first teleconference of the Expert Group to introduce the concept, plans and timelines and plan collectively for the inception workshop in Geneva; and iii) an inception workshop hosted by WMO and UNEP.

Water Scarcity [FAO]

This Expert Group brings together the expertise on water scarcity and droughts. This Group is working closely with and in support to the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG), launched by FAO in 2017.

Task Forces

Country Level Engagement [UNDP, UNICEF]

The Task Force is requested to evaluate how UN-Water can add value to the country level in view of the United Nations reform process, also building on previous findings of the former UN-Water Task Force on Country-level Coordination. During 2018, the analysis of options was initiated. The country level engagement strategy will be further developed and finalised during 2019.

Inventory [Vice-Chair]

During 2018, the Task Force developed UN-Water's 'who does what' Inventory to facilitate collaboration and coordination among UN-Water Members and Partners. The [Inventory report](#) and web tool is due to be launched during 2019.

Regional Level Coordination [UNESCAP, UNESCWA]

The Task Force, including all the United Nations Regional Commissions, developed and finalised a concept note on how to coordinate UN-Water regional-level activities in all regions. Regional consultations on SDG 6 were undertaken in each of the five regions covered by the Regional Commissions. Building on the concept note and ensuring continued coordinated action at the regional level, the Task Force will function as an Expert Group starting in 2019.

SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 [UNESCO]

The Task Force produced the '[SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation](#)' reviewing the progress on SDG 6, the interlinkages to other SDGs, and identifying the areas where it is necessary to accelerate action to achieve SDG 6. The report was presented during the in-depth review of SDG 6 at the HLPF as well as in preparatory meetings to the HLPF. In addition, the Task Force collected feedback on the report through a "[Public Dialogue](#)" to further increase the transparency, credibility, accountability and, last but not least, the impact of the report (see section SDG 6 Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation 2018).

UN High-level Meetings on Water and Sanitation [UN DESA, WMO]

In response to recommendations made by the United Nations' and World Bank Group's High Level Panel on Water as well as the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace to establish United Nations meetings on water at the highest possible level, UN-Water set up a Task Force to explore the feasibility, format,

structure, periodicity, budgetary and operational aspects of possible UN high-level meetings on water and sanitation. The resulting [technical advice concept note](#) helped inform the negotiations of the resolution on the “Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, ‘Water for Sustainable Development’, 2018-2028”.

Unconventional Water Resources [UNU]

The Task Force is developing a global vision on unconventional water resources in order to trigger international and regional cooperation among Member States and to harness the potential of such water resources to address global, regional, and local water scarcity challenges. In 2018, a web-based platform for the global community of practice as a LinkedIn Group ‘Unconventional Water Resources’ was established, a session on ‘Looking beyond conventional water resources to address global water scarcity’ was organised at the World Water Week, and the outline and contents were developed for an analytical brief on the subject to be launched in 2019.

Water Action Decade Implementation [UN DESA, UNU]

The Task Force developed the Action Plan for the Water Action Decade, which was launched by the United Nations Secretary General during World Water Day 2018 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. To coordinate the implementation of the Decade, the Task Force is coordinating UN-Water Members and Partners around the Action Plan aiming to advance sustainable development and energise implementation of existing programmes and projects while mobilising action to achieve the 2030 Agenda. During 2018, the Task Force also organised a session at the World Water Week in Stockholm.

World Toilet Day 2018 [WSSCC]

World Toilet Day 2018 focused on the theme of nature-based solutions under the slogan ‘When nature calls’. Aligned with World Water Day on the same theme, the Task Force coordinated the campaign aimed at informing people about the sanitation and hygiene needs and creating awareness of nature’s role in managing sanitation challenges. It also informed policy advisors about the benefits of taking national and global action on promoting nature-based solutions for sanitation and hygiene.

World Water Day 2018 [CBD, UNEP, UNESCO]

The 2018 World Water Day campaign was centred on the topic of ‘Nature-based solutions for water’. Based on the campaign objectives, the Task Force carried out and participated in a set of activities to keep policy-makers engaged through events in strategic locations while ensuring people are informed and inspired to share their personal connection to water and nature. The Task force also encouraged further research among academia and the business community.

World Water Day and World Toilet Day 2019 [OHCHR, UNHCR]

The World Water Day and World Toilet Day 2019 Task Force coordinates the campaign on the theme of ‘Leaving no one behind’. SDG 6 calls for water for all by 2030. By definition, this means leaving no one behind. But today, billions of people are still living without safe water – their households, schools, workplaces, farms and factories struggling to survive and thrive. Inequalities are demonstrated through access to water and sanitation. Marginalized groups – women, children, refugees, indigenous peoples, disabled people and many others – are often overlooked, and sometimes face discrimination, as they try to access and manage the safe water they need.

ANNEX 3. Human Resources

Members of the UN-Water Joint Steering Group

Gilbert F. Houngbo, Chair, UN-Water

Joakim Harlin, Vice-Chair, UN-Water (until August 2018)

Olcay Ünver, Vice-Chair, UN-Water (from September 2018)

Juwang Zhu, Interim Secretary, UN-Water

Murray Burt, UNHCR (from August 2016)

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ANNEX 4. Acronyms

FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
GEMI	Integrated Monitoring of Water and Sanitation Related SDG Targets
GLAAS	Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water
HLPF	High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
IAEG-SDG	Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators
JMP	Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIWI	Stockholm International Water Institute
UN	United Nations
UN-DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNU	United Nations University
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WWDR	World Water Development Report



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