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Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC

# Portfolio 2023

## Section Water



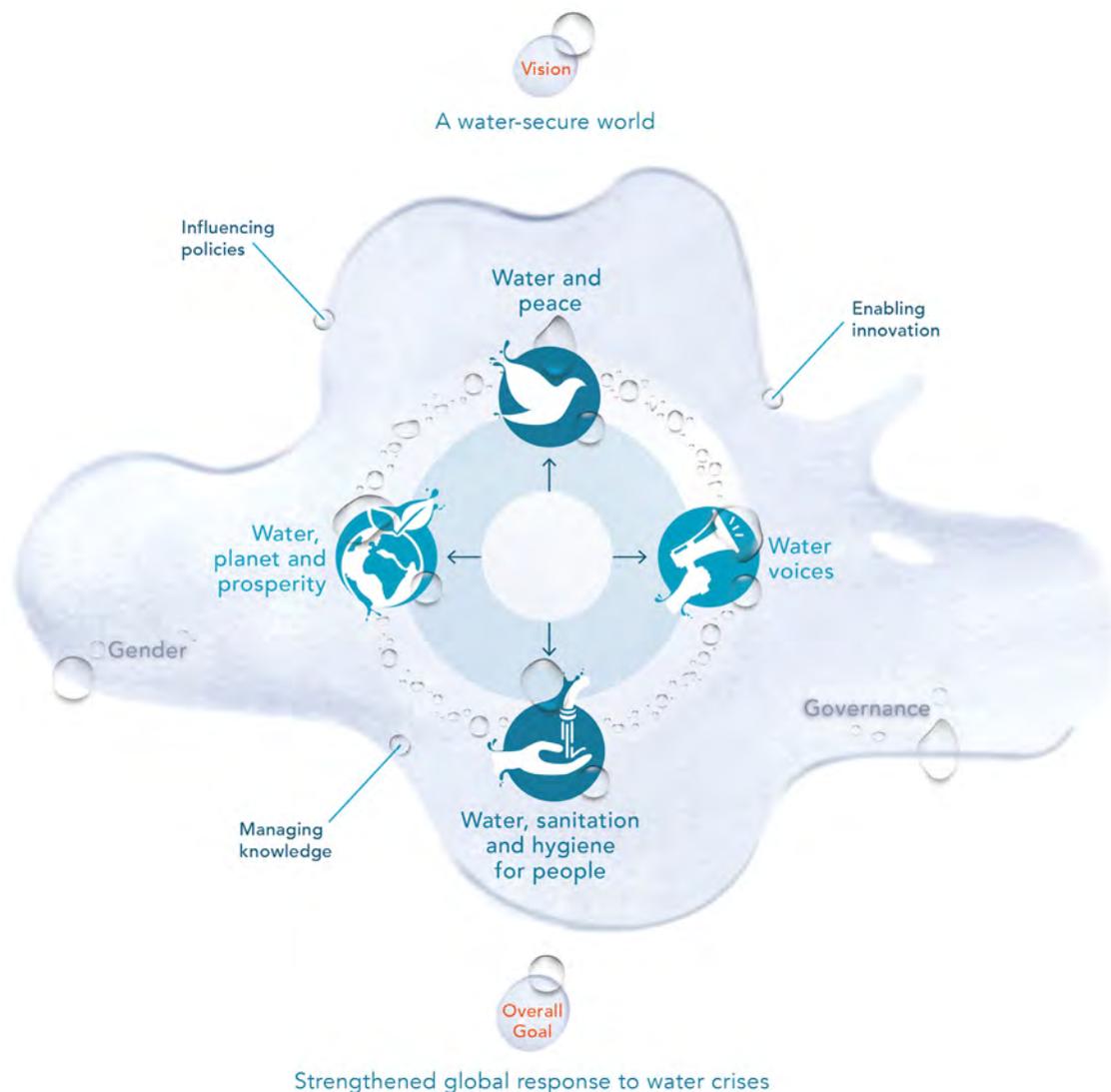
*Drawing by Kalonji*

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# About the Thematic Section Water (SW)



## Our commitment

### Overall goal

The SW has the overall goal to support inclusive systemic changes towards a water-secure world where people have the capacity to safeguard sustainable access to adequate quantities of acceptable quality water in order to sustain livelihoods, human well-being, and socio-economic development; to ensure protection against waterborne diseases and water-related disasters; and to preserve ecosystems in a climate of peace and political stability.

### Theory of change

If the SW contributes to the acceleration of universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene, advocates for the responsible use of water resources, promotes wa-

ter as an instrument of peace and cooperation, and supports the voices of those who raise awareness about the need for a global and inclusive governance of water, then it will influence water-related policies and their implementation, leading to a more water-secure world, because water will be valued as a cornerstone to the successful delivery of the 2030 Agenda through building and promoting credible and innovative ways of managing water resources inclusively and transparently, including new models of partnership, financing, governance informed by data and knowledge management. This would be underpinned by the mobilisation of agents of change and Swiss expertise, the capacity development of partners, and the SW's position as a trusted partner and coalition builder.

## Priorities and objectives for 2021–2024

The SW has the overall goal to support inclusive systems. The SW programme framework 2021–2024 contributes to Switzerland's International Cooperation Strategy 2021–2024 by transforming systems towards a water-secure world. It contributes to (i) human development through universal access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) that also engages with social enterprises and promotes effective, sustainable financing of water-related investments, (ii) economic development through ensuring sustainable access to water for economic activities, (iii) environment protection through responsible use of water resources and (iv) peace and governance through collective management of transboundary resources with a special focus on supporting the participation of women and young people.

The SW programme framework 2021–24 is articulated around these four strategic components. Collectively, the components are designed to be mutually reinforcing to reach their specific objectives. Gender equality and good governance principles are key criteria, concerns and objectives in the achievement of all outcomes.

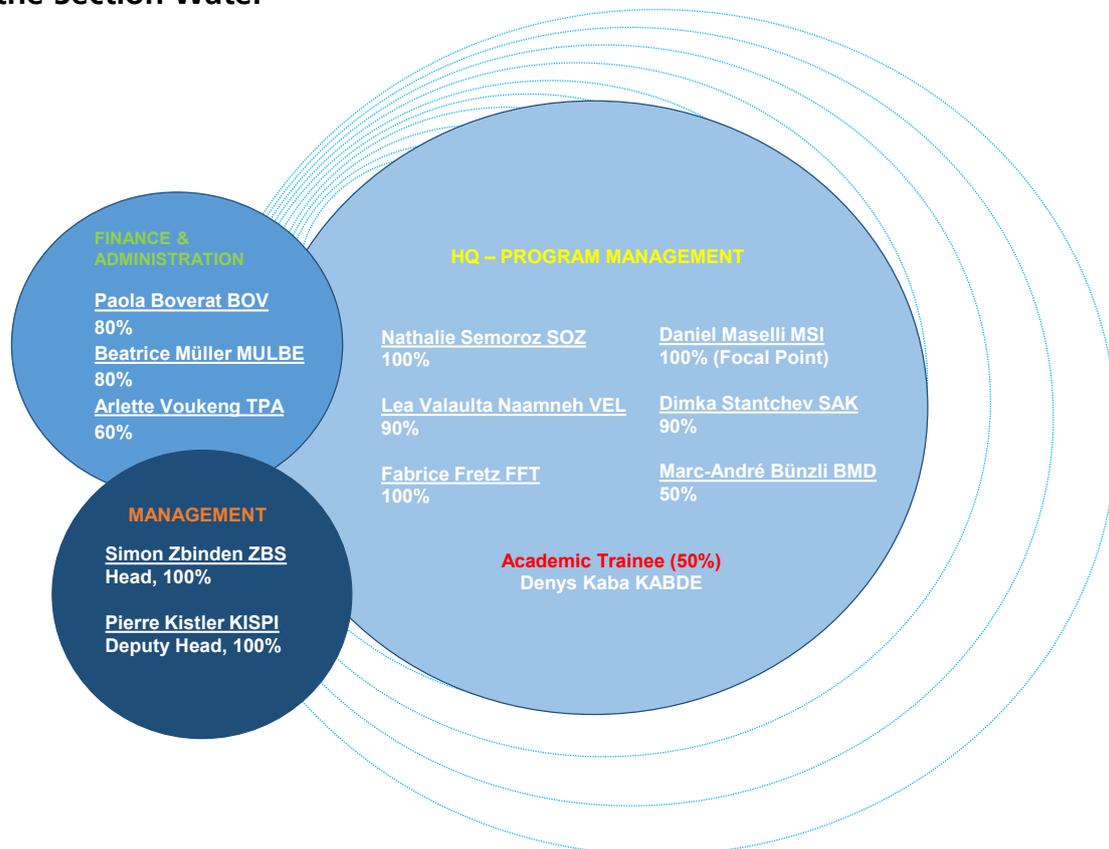
More information on the SW programme framework 2021–2024:



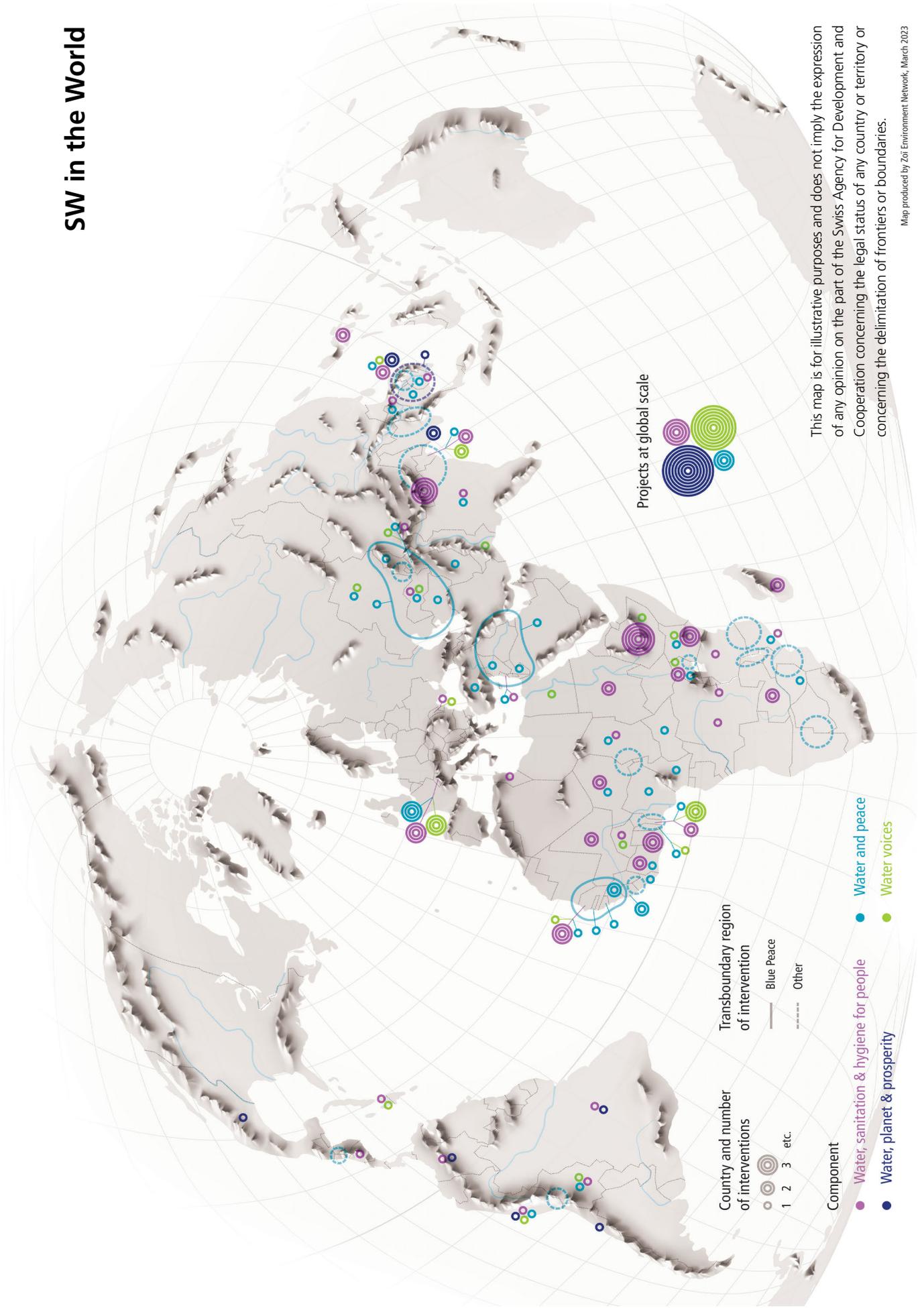
## About this portfolio

This portfolio presents the current initiatives supported by the SDC's Section Water. You will find the different factsheets of the projects organised according to our four strategic components.

## Team of the Section Water



# SW in the World



# Water, Sanitation & Hygiene for People

Progress towards universal access to affordable water, sanitation and hygiene services (WASH) of good quality is accelerated, using a human rights based approach, and taking into consideration the sustainable management of water resources.

- Global Water Partnership (GWP)
- Sanitation and Hygiene Fund (SHF)
- Water, Behaviour Change and Environmental Sanitation (WABES)
- WHO Guidelines on Sanitation & Health
- Swiss Water and Sanitation NGO Consortium
- Sustainable and innovative rural water, sanitation and hygiene (SIRWASH)
- City to City Partnership Lugano - Hawassa

Water, sanitation and hygiene for people



# Towards effective Global Water Governance and implementing coherent action



**Region**  
Global

## Partners

Over 3,000 partner organisations in over 180 countries

## Background information

By 2030, over 40% of the world's population will be living in severely water-stressed river basins. There is an urgent need to deal with these problems at an appropriate level and with the right partners.

## Project objectives

Reaching a water-secure world, where water resources are managed sustainably and in an equitable way, with a particular focus on advancing water governance.

## Beneficiaries

Ultimate target groups: populations that suffer from current mismanagement of water, in particular those living in water-stressed areas.

Direct target groups: national governments, regional economic development bodies, river basin organisations, private sector, and community-based organisations.

## Costs & Duration

Total: CHF 36'000'000  
SDC: CHF 2,400,000  
2021–2025

## Contact

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The demand for enhancing water governance is set to increase in the coming decades as more than half of the global population will live in water-scarce areas. Billions of lives are at risk because water resources are managed poorly in many parts of the world. Multi-stakeholder networks like the Global Water Partnership (GWP) play an increasingly important role in global water governance and in moderating dialogue and perspectives between different interest groups. These networks are crucial to translate the agenda 2030 on water into action, provide knowledge and promote key concepts.

## The network

While many development partners lend financing and technical expertise to support governments and other actors, few have the capacity or credibility to activate the breadth of stakeholders needed at the basin, country, and regional levels to work towards long-term solutions. With its unique network of over 3,000 Partner organisations in over 180 countries, GWP will mobilise key players and learn from new experiences to create and maintain momentum for coordinated action. The network is open to all organisations involved in water resources management: developed and developing country government institutions, agencies of the United Nations, bi- and multi-lateral development banks, professional associations, research institutions, non-governmental organisations, and the private sector.

## Strategy 2020-2025

GWP's new strategy, Mobilising for a Water Secure World, will prioritise opportunities where key global or regional policy frameworks bring leadership focus, progress measurement, development partner action, and potential for financing.

Specifically, it will aim for two overarching targets across the GWP Network:

- Support the advancement of the water-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 60 countries and 20 transboundary basins with a combined population of over 4 billion people.
- Influence €10 billion in water-related investments from government and private sources.

Through its 2020–2025 Strategy, GWP will specifically target the following anchor areas:  
Water solutions for the Sustainable Development Goals: GWP will reduce fragmentation and increase

effectiveness by supporting coordinated planning and implementation with a range of actors. They will support countries to establish national Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) status assessments and use progress against SDG 6.5 as an entry point to prioritise and formulate responses to broader water challenges.

Climate resilience through water: GWP will support countries to access financing for climate adaptation by providing project preparation services such as feasibility studies, stakeholder outreach, and gender sensitisation. The focus will be on ensuring that water-specific insights are embedded and delivered towards national climate-related commitments, including Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans.

Enhance transboundary cooperation: GWP will advance transboundary cooperation by supporting investment planning, mobilising finance, strengthening institutions, and developing mechanisms for benefit sharing. Acting as neutral conveners, they will work across sectors and borders as facilitators of regional dialogues to establish trust and identify entry points for cooperation and solutions to complex transboundary water issues.

## Transversal themes

The topics of governance, gender and youth are considered through all the anchor areas. The aim of GWP's gender-focused activities is to support women's leadership and advance gender equality in and through IWRM, by providing tailored support to targeted individuals, organisations, and mandated institutions. In so doing, GWP aims to unlock barriers and bottlenecks to meaningful progress on gender equality in water resources management.

Moreover, GWP is a prominent advocate for recognising the contributions that youth make to facilitate the inter-generational exchange that lies at the heart of sustainable development. In line with SDC's and SW's strategic vision, GWP will enable the amplification of voices and agents of change acting towards an urgent prioritisation of the global water crisis in national, regional and international agendas within and beyond the water community.

Additional information:  
[www.gwp.org](http://www.gwp.org)



# Collaboration to accelerate national sanitation and hygiene improvements

## Region

Global, with a focus on Eastern & Western Africa, South and Southeast Asia



## Partners

The United Nations Sanitation & Hygiene Fund

## Background information

The Sanitation and Hygiene Fund (SHF) is dedicated to achieving universal access to sanitation, hygiene, and menstrual health through market-based approaches. SHF works with low- to-middle-income countries (LMICs) to build robust sanitation economies and menstrual hygiene. In doing so, the SHF aims to: 1. increase the volume of investments in the sanitation economy; and 2. realise the full value of national sanitation economies; delivering inclusive and sustainable goods, services and jobs.

## Beneficiaries

Individuals without access to sanitation and hygiene, marginalised groups, women, entrepreneurs.

## Costs & Duration

CHF 16,000,000  
2023–2026

## Contact

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The UN's Sanitation & Hygiene Fund (SHF) - the only UN fund of its kind - catalyses investment in off-grid sanitation economies and menstrual hygiene marketplaces. We do this by working in partnership with low and lower middle-income countries, development partners, development financing institutions and the private sector to tackle barriers to inclusive growth and accelerate sustainable markets.

## Context & Objectives

Access to safe, affordable and reliable sanitation services is a basic human right, yet it is not extended to over 4 billion people. Likewise, access to affordable menstrual products of choice should not be out of reach for over 500 million women and girls. Traditional grant-based funding is woefully low and potential investors do not have the assurance that social impact and financial return can co-exist.

Over the last decade, governments and their development partners have been successful in creating demand for these basic products and services.

However, too many households are replacing open defecation with unimproved sanitation, or limited services that are shared with other households, which are insufficient to interrupt disease transmission and improve community health.

Inclusive climate and gender-smart market-led initiatives are a central part of the solution. The demand for high-quality products that are accessible, safe - and profitable - is constantly growing, and multiple enterprises are shifting their focus to the base of the pyramid in low and middle-income countries.

In Nigeria, for example, the sanitation and menstrual hygiene market potential is valued at US\$ 14.2 billion; in Kenya, US\$ 3.1 billion; and in Uganda, US\$ 3.4 billion. Sanitation, with its potential for growth, can be a sound, long-term investment that creates prosperity.

In emerging markets, small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) create 7 out of 10 formal economy jobs, positioning sanitation and menstrual hygiene economies as potential leaders in women's empowerment and job creation.

Yet, the number of sizable SMEs that have reached reasonable scale remains limited, and many have hit the wall without realising their potential. This situation requires solutions to unlock viable pathways to access desperately needed capital.

Given the limited availability of official development assistance, we believe that innovative financing should be employed to leverage investments, and foster national sanitation economies - the marketplace of products, services, and renewable resource flows - creating a self-sustaining, climate-friendly, and gender-centred cycle of employment, growth, and human development.

To tackle these gaps, SHF activates vibrant sanitation economies in countries with a high burden and low financial means to respond. We maximise impact by prioritising contexts that are likely to provide sanitation economy opportunities to investors at an acceptable level of risk. We support governments to remove ecosystem barriers, identify and catalyse funding towards market-based sanitation solutions by using grant funding to de-risk investments.



Additional information:  
[www.shfund.org](http://www.shfund.org)



# Sustainable Solutions to Research, Knowledge and Professionalisation

Region  
Global



Equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities and services is a human right and a crucial stepping-stone towards better health, economic development and poverty reduction.

Partners  
Eawag

## Background information

At least 700 million people lack access to improved sources of drinking water and 2.5 billion do not use an improved sanitation facility. Disparities are high, with access being much lower in rural areas and in sub-Saharan Africa.

## Project objectives

Generation and validation of new knowledge through applied research by addressing improved sustainable access to safe water, improved access to environmental sanitation, and providing expert knowledge and capacity building.

## Beneficiaries

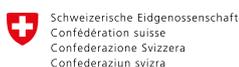
- Experts (practitioners), decision makers, and policy-makers at local and national levels, and with international development agencies
- Local stakeholder groups
- Universities and students
- Local communities

## Costs & Duration

Total: CHF 7,725,261  
SDC: CHF 3,237,730  
2022–2026

## Contact

Section Water  
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Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

The four-year WABES project supports the applied research and capacity development projects of three applied research departments at the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag).

## Research Objectives

The project addresses the improvement of access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), especially for the rural poor and marginalised urban populations. WABES will generate and validate new knowledge on concepts and technologies by addressing improved sustainable access to safe water; improved access to environmental sanitation, and providing expert knowledge and capacity building for the WASH sector.

Eawag maintains a large network with more than 40 partner organisations in developing countries and works towards increasing their research capacity and professional expertise in the field of water supply and environmental sanitation.

## Flagship research products

Building upon the achievements of the past research, this proposal will achieve three main outcomes with a great potential for high impact worldwide:

**Outcome 1:** Improved sustainable access to safe water for the marginalised and rural poor

This outcome will be achieved through:

- Assessing technical and management solutions for safe water in rural, urban and household settings, and evaluating their impact.
- Developing and expanding the geostatistical modelling tool of the Groundwater Assessment Platform (GAP) to test its effectiveness in modelling geogenic and anthropogenic contaminants in groundwater.

**Outcome 2:** Improved access to environmental sanitation considering concepts of resource recovery and circular economy for the marginalised and poor

This outcome will be achieved through:

- Developing guidelines for dewatering of faecal sludge in dense urban areas in developing cities.
- Validating planning and programming solutions for small towns with a focus on faecal sludge management tools.

- Developing and validating solutions and guidelines for “zero-waste management” using integrated approaches with a focus on waste recycling solutions for schools, which can also support planning for zero waste villages.

**Outcome 3:** Expert knowledge & built capacity of students and practitioners in selected domains of the WASH sector

This outcome will be achieved through:

- Developing innovative educational methods to enhance environmental engineering and WASH education across the globe. This initiative builds on Eawag’s past experiences with Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and will include the production and testing of embedded eLearning components into curricula of universities and training centres in low- and middle-income countries.
- Developing and evaluating a toolbox of behaviour change techniques that can promote effective habit development and psychological ownership related to water, sanitation, and hygiene behaviours.



Using the Volaser with the smartphone app in a septic tank in Lusaka, Zambia. © Eawag

Additional information:

[www.eawag.ch](http://www.eawag.ch)  
[www.sandec.ch](http://www.sandec.ch)



# Enabling health-protective sanitation

## Implementation of the WHO Guidelines on Sanitation and Health and Sanitation Safety Planning (SSP)

**Region**  
Global



**Partners**

Multilateral organisations, NGOs, Ministries of Health, Ministries for Sanitation, Municipalities

**Background information**

Sanitation investments as currently implemented have limited impact on health. Greater health sector engagement, targeted investment to highest risks and tailored interventions to break transmission are needed to transform health outcomes.

**Project objectives**

1. WHO Sanitation and Health guidelines and SSP are disseminated and implemented among those responsible for national and international sanitation programmes.
2. Up-to-date learning material and supporting technical documents for the guidelines and SSP available to support country-level implementation.

**Beneficiaries**

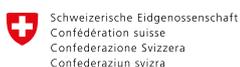
Multilateral organisations, NGOs, Ministries of Health, Ministries for Sanitation, Municipalities

**Costs & Duration**

CHF1,000,000  
2020–2023

**Contact**

SectionWater  
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Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

WHO produced evidence-based global guidelines on how to maximise health benefits from sanitation investment and supports capacity development for their implementation. WHO’s approach to translating the guidelines on sanitation and health and SSP into policy and practice within Member States is two-fold:

- 1) Implementation working through the three levels of WHO (i.e. headquarters, regional and country level) to gain political commitments for action and apply proof-of-concept through pilot implementation.
- 2) Partnerships with large funding and implementing organisations (e.g. development banks, UN organisation, international NGOs and bilateral partners) to achieve implementation at scale.

To support implementation, countries and partners also need additional in-depth learning material and technical information on specific topics that are tailored for specific audiences (e.g. regulators and service providers) and in a variety of formats (online, face-to-face, video, in-depth and short). WHO will develop and freely disseminate materials and work in partnership to maximise uptake and use to accelerate achievement of SDGs 6.2 and 6.3.

**Context**

Globally, inadequate water and sanitation has been conservatively estimated to cause nearly 1.4 million preventable deaths annually. Globally the world needs to quadruple progress to meet our SDG promise on sanitation and transform sanitation for better health, environments, economies and societies. Safely managed sanitation (SMS) was adopted as SDG indicator 6.2 because burden of disease estimates show that significant reductions in disease are only seen when whole communities’ excreta is safely contained, conveyed, treated and disposed, or safely used. However, comprehensive evidence reviews undertaken for the WHO guidelines on sanitation and health show that while sanitation investments are routinely justified on the basis of improving health, interventions often have little impact primarily because they are failing to identify and interrupt key transmission pathways along the sanitation chain. These findings point to the need for a stronger and more systematic public health approach to sanitation, and widespread capacity development.

**Key results and insights from previous phases**

- Rigorous WHO quality assurance processes for evidence review are key to strengthening the guidelines’ credibility and uptake with end-users.
- Implementation of SSP through targeted subnational support is an effective route to contextualised national policy dialogue and change.

- Establishing global training expertise and supporting sustained capacity-building with partners and national training institutions is needed to embed SMS in national systems and institutions.
- Using global, regional and online conferences and events is effective at catalysing global uptake where direct project support is not possible.
- Strategic partnerships with organisations that have large country programmes are critical for quality SMS implementation at scale.
- The evidence review for the guidelines revealed that many studies lacked sufficient detail on the implementation of the intervention. Greater implementation learning is needed to further strengthen future editions of the guidelines.

**Lines of action 2020-2023**

- 1.1. Sensitise and engage funding and implementing partners to incorporate guidelines and SSP in at least 50 countries
- 1.2. Incorporate guidelines recommendations and SSP in regional mechanisms following gap analyses
- 1.3. Conduct national-level analysis with at least 10 countries to prioritise activities to align with guidelines
- 1.4. Implement SSP at local administrative level in at least 10 countries and share findings to inform national-level actions
- 2.1. Develop online and face-to-face learning materials for partner capacity building (OpenWHO course, SSP Learning Hub)
- 2.2. Publish more in-depth guidance on sub-topics – e.g. regulatory mandates, guidance on setting national standards for wastewater and sludge treatment, sanitary inspection forms, pathogen factsheets, climate resilience, estimation of sanitation workforce and guidance on protection of workers.
- 2.3. Synthesise learning from implementation by WHO and strategic partners to inform updates to WHO guidelines and SSP in Phase2.



The UN Secretary-General and Prime Minister of India look on as WHO Deputy Director-General announces the launch of the WHO Guidelines on Sanitation and Health, 1 Oct 2018.

# Swiss Water and Sanitation NGO Consortium



## Region

12 countries and three regions: Francophone Africa (Burkina Faso, Benin, Madagascar, Mali, Niger), East Africa (Ethiopia, Sudan) and Asia (Cambodia, Nepal, India, Myanmar).

## Partners

Swiss Water and Sanitation NGO Consortium: Terre des Hommes, Swissaid, Helvetas, Solidar Suisse, Fastenopfer, HEKS-EPER, Caritas, Swiss Red Cross.

## Background information

Despite considerable progress accomplished globally in the last 20 years with regards to access to water and sanitation, it remains a major challenge to reach the Sustainable Development Goal and universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) by 2030.

## Project objectives

The Consortium aims to improve sustainable access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, hygiene, to trigger innovation and knowledge-sharing and to engage in advocacy and policy influencing.

## Beneficiaries

Households in rural areas and small towns, patients of health centres, pupils, farmers, local associations and governments.

## Costs & Duration

Total: CHF 15,563,897  
SDC: CHF 9,560,000  
2020–2023

## Contact

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Reaching universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene remains a major challenge, despite considerable progress accomplished globally in the last 20 years. With 2.2 billion people around the world with no safely-managed drinking water and 4.2 billion without safely managed sanitation services, increased collaboration and coordination amongst the actors involved in water and sanitation issues is needed. For this purpose, the Swiss Water & Sanitation NGO Consortium (SWSC) was created in 2011 to improve water and sanitation coverage, to trigger innovation and knowledge sharing, and since 2014, to engage in advocacy and policy influencing.

## Eight Swiss NGOs working together

The eight organisations - Caritas, Fastenopfer, HEKS-EPER, Helvetas, Solidar, Swissaid, Swiss Red Cross and Terre des hommes target their know-how and resources to the most vulnerable population groups with the aim to make a significant difference in their living conditions by improving sustainable access to drinking water supply, sanitation and water for family farming. They focus their activities in 12 countries in the three regions of francophone Africa, East Africa and Asia.

## Achieved Results and expected outputs of the planned phase

In the first and second phase, the consortium mainstreamed innovations, facilitated knowledge-sharing and joined forces to advocate and influence policies. The water and sanitation coverage was considerably increased and approximately 836,000 people in communities, 167,000 school pupils, 1.3 million health centre patients and 37,000 small-scale farmers were provided access to water, sanitation and hygiene.

This phase will enable the Consortium to provide further access to water, sanitation and hygiene with a strong focus on institutions (schools and health care facilities) to approximately 60,000 school pupils, 350,000 health centre patients and 81,000 people in communities. Key local actors are mobilised and trained to effectively plan, implement, monitor and maintain those services. This phase puts particular emphasis on strengthening the monitoring capacity of Swiss NGOs in order for SDG 6 to be implemented and coherently reported. Furthermore, a particular focus will be placed on policy influencing and advocacy by sharing knowledge and expertise on how to increase sustainable WASH services in institutions of the SWSC partners and the water sector in general.

Last but not least, innovation will be strengthened, innovative ideas tested, and experiences documented to ideally promising approaches (Blue Schools and WASH in Health Care Facilities) by building the evidence of success regarding effectiveness, efficiency, and scalability.

Blue Schools raise the awareness of the target population of the importance of good sanitation and hygiene practices. A Blue School is a healthy and environmental-friendly school, where activities go beyond WASH, including menstrual hygiene, school gardens, waste management and practical environmental education - thus, addressing all SDG 6 targets.

Concerning WASH in HCF, the SWSC has worked on this issue since its creation in 2011.

Thanks to project results and advocacy efforts during the second phase, SWSC organisations have already contributed to establishing a WASH in HCF-task team in Bangladesh and to setting standards, monitoring and developing the capacities of health workers in Nepal and Mali. During phase 3, a strong focus will be put on the evidence-building and documentation of the approaches' efficiency, effectiveness and success. In particular, the quality of services and sustainability will be key criteria by monitoring functionality of water supply schemes, water quality at point of use and proper hand-washing with soap as well as governance indicators.



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Additional information:  
[www.waterconsortium.ch](http://www.waterconsortium.ch)



# Sustainable and Innovative Rural Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (SIRWASH)



## Region

Latin America & Caribbean (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Haiti, Peru) and two countries from Africa and Central Asia

## Partners

Inter-American Development Bank, Young Water Solutions, Sistema B

## Background information

Millions of people – particularly in rural areas – are still without an adequate source of drinking water and suffer from the absence of safe facilities for excreta disposal and (hand and menstrual) hygiene.

## Project objectives

To improve enabling policy, innovation and knowledge environments and to foster the necessary capacities to deliver sustainable quality water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services to rural communities with a particular focus on vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

## Beneficiaries

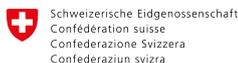
Poor and vulnerable people from rural and dispersed communities in targeted countries.

## Costs & Duration

Total: CHF 16,505,360  
SDC: CHF 5,578,500  
2020–2024

## Contact

Section Water  
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Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

The Sustainable and Innovative Rural Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (SIRWASH) initiative improves enabling policy, innovation and knowledge environments and fosters the required capacities to provide sustainable quality water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services to rural communities – in particular poor households and vulnerable people – in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Haiti and Peru. It builds on Switzerland's experience of over 20 years in strengthening rural WASH systems in Peru and Colombia.

Despite significant progress in improving the provision of WASH services in the past two decades, millions of people – particularly in rural areas – are still without an adequate source of drinking water and suffer from the absence of safe facilities for excreta disposal and (hand and menstrual) hygiene. Moreover, in light of COVID-19 and mixed progress of the Agenda 2030, many Latin American countries are struggling to ensure access to WASH to the most vulnerable households, which is critical to prevent and mitigate the spread of pandemics. Based on its experiences in closing the gap of rural WASH in Latin America, SDC is well positioned to contribute to this endeavour. SIRWASH will enhance the framework in which rural WASH services operate by increasing the capacities of sector entities, promoting innovative technological, social and financial solutions, strengthening institutions and further positioning rural WASH in the political agendas at national, regional and global levels.

The overall goal of SIRWASH is to improve enabling policy, innovation and knowledge environments and to foster the necessary capacities to deliver sustainable quality water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services to rural communities with a particular focus on vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

Phase 1 of the project has three outcomes:

1. Authorities from local to global levels develop, promote and apply improved rural WASH policies: Institutional policy dialogue is mainstreamed, pushing for increased political leadership as well as adapted public policies and legislation on integrated rural WASH at local/national levels.
2. Local to national WASH institutions are strengthened and rural WASH actors improve their capacities, expertise and networks: Institutional set-up and management capacities of public actors are strengthened to provide sustainable rural WASH services, valuing human capital and fostering training, accountability, coordination and knowledge

management through existing and new partnerships including the private sector. Locally adapted technical and social capacities of rural WASH experts (particularly women) are systematically strengthened to improve decentralised rural WASH services and management.

3. Implementers of rural WASH services develop, adopt and apply financial, technological and social innovations: Technological innovations are boosted and partnerships with the private sector are enhanced ensuring financial affordability and sustainability of rural WASH services.

SIRWASH builds on the experience of SDC's programmes in rural WASH in general and on its successful implementation of the SABA (Comprehensive Basic Sanitation Model) programme in South America (Peru, Colombia) in particular. Over the past 20 years, SABA has proven to be a successful model for sustainable management of WASH in rural areas, incorporating institutional, financial, technical, environmental and social components into national policies.

SIRWASH embeds a multi-stakeholder approach for the entire programme. The main implementing partners include:

1. Inter-American Development Bank – Global and regional implementer to foster capacities and create an enabling environment for rural WASH.
2. Young Water Solutions – Regional and local implementer to support youth-led start-ups in Latin American and Caribbean countries.
3. Sistema B International – Implementer in Peru and Colombia to connect markets for rural WASH communities.



© Javier Subieta, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation

Additional information:  
[www.iadb.org/en/project/RG-T3712](http://www.iadb.org/en/project/RG-T3712)  
[www.youngwatersolutions.org/](http://www.youngwatersolutions.org/)



# Municipal and academic twinning partnerships the water service providers and the universities of the cities of Lugano (Switzerland) and Hawassa (Ethiopia)



University of Applied Sciences and Arts  
of Southern Switzerland

**SUPSI**

**Region**  
Ethiopia



## Partners

Municipal twinning: Aziende Industriali di Lugano (AIL) SA with Hawassa Water Utility  
Academic twinning: Scuola universitaria professionale della Svizzera italiana (SUPSI, Mendrisio) with University of Hawassa

## Background information

Public water service institutions collaborate to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 6 in the City of Hawassa by promoting peer learning, knowledge and technology exchange, and capacity-building.

## Project objectives

To improve enabling policy, innovation and knowledge environments and to foster the necessary capacities to deliver sustainable quality water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services to rural communities with a particular focus on vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

## Beneficiaries

Direct target group: Municipality of Hawassa through its local water utility and the University of Hawassa

Indirect target group: about 10,000 people who reside in Hawassa, especially vulnerable men and women

## Costs & Duration

SDC: CHF 500,000  
2022–2026 (Single phase)

## Contact

Section Water  
water@eda.admin.ch

This contribution supports an innovative Swiss-Ethiopian municipal twinning partnership between Aziende Industriali di Lugano (AIL) SA in Lugano and Hawassa Water Utility. It aims at enhancing capacity at the sub-national level to better manage access to drinking water in good quantity and quality in underserved communities according to Sustainable Development Goals 6.1 and 6.3. The partnership will be accompanied by a research and capacity-building/ training component through innovative academic partnerships.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, only 27% of the population have access to safely managed drinking water services (and only 11% in Ethiopia). Inspired by the successful example of the municipal water partnership between Lausanne (Switzerland) and Nouakchott (Mauritania), Aziende Industriali di Lugano (AIL) SA (Switzerland) and Hawassa Water Utility (Ethiopia) plan for a similar collaboration. It comes with a “double twinning approach” as it will be enhanced by an additional academic twinning linking the University of Hawassa with the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI).

In the context of growing urbanisation, the role of municipalities is becoming more important. This partnership will capitalise on synergies with existing Swiss and global platforms where municipalities address related issues such as climate change, water and energy supply for urbanisation, population growth or migration under the framework of Agenda 2030.

## Objectives

Public water service institutions collaborate to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 6 in the City of Hawassa by promoting peer learning, knowledge and technology exchange, and capacity-building.

## Expected results

- Peer-learning and exchange between Lugano-Hawassa and the existing partnership Lausanne-Nouakchott;
- Water professionals of Hawassa benefit from continuous education on water and hygiene (CAS WASH); 10,000 people have access to potable water (SDG 6.1).

Lessons learned by Swiss actors from previous partnerships and projects in Hawassa:

- There is a need for targeted and gender-aware training in the water supply sector at all levels of operations;
- There is an opportunity to create synergies between projects through joint staff training; the project will be based on the experiences drawn from a similar partnership between the cities of Lausanne and Nouakchott supported by the Solidarit'Eau Suisse (SES) platform.

This new twinning partnership will contribute to strengthening the SES platform and possibly mobilise more municipalities.

## Coordination with other partners:

Solidarit'Eau Suisse Platform, SAED, other projects in the region (Green-it!; Saed), United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) -Municipal Finance Programme / Localised Blue Peace, Geneva Cities Hub

## Additional information:

### AIL & Solidarity:

[www.ail.ch/privati/acqua.html](http://www.ail.ch/privati/acqua.html)  
[www.ail.ch/privati/acqua/informazioni/centesimo-di-solidarieta.html](http://www.ail.ch/privati/acqua/informazioni/centesimo-di-solidarieta.html)



### SUPSI:

[www.supsi.ch/development-cooperation\\_en](http://www.supsi.ch/development-cooperation_en)



### SES:

[www.solidariteausuisse.ch](http://www.solidariteausuisse.ch)



# Water, Planet & Prosperity

A more responsible use of water resources based on the development and the realisation of innovative water-related economic models and approaches, embracing the principles of a circular economy, contributes to transformative change for inclusive growth and adaption to climate change, particularly for those left behind, while preserving water quality, quantity and other natural assets.

- Water Pollution Programme: World Water Quality Alliance (WWQA)
- Water Pollution Programme: Small-Medium-Large: Water Stewardships with SMEs in the Greater Mekong (WWF)
- Water Pollution Programme: Tackling Water Pollution in the Textile and Apparel Value Chain
- Promoting Water Stewardship 2030
- Earth Security Partnerships
- Core Contribution to IUCN
- El Agua nos Une: Water stewardship and evidence-based decisions
- HydroHub - the Global Hydrometry Support Facility of WMO

## Water, planet and prosperity

Water effectiveness and stewardship are promoted as guiding concepts in global policies and processes.



Technological solutions and sustainable economic models help preserve water and reduce pollution.

## Boosting collective action for improved water quality management

# Tackling the global freshwater quality crisis

### Region

Global



### Partners

UNEP; 50+ partner organisations (UN-Water Members and Partners, research institutions, space agencies, public and private sector entities, civil society)

### Background information

The WWQA represents a voluntary and flexible global Expert, Practitioners and Policy Network. It advocates the central role of freshwater quality in achieving prosperity and sustainability, and explores and communicates water quality risks in global, regional, national and local contexts and points towards solutions for maintaining and restoring ecosystem and human health and wellbeing.

### Project objectives

To provide Governments and other stakeholders with:

- globally, regionally and locally relevant evidence-based assessments, scenarios, solutions and services on water quality issues, and
- analyses and advice on persistent and emerging water quality issues of socio-environmental concern, to foster policy action.

### Beneficiaries

Governments and relevant stakeholders

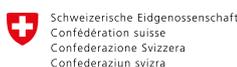
### Costs & Duration

Total: USD 6,969,000  
SDC: USD 1,818,000  
2019–2023

### Contact

Section Water

water@eda.admin.ch



Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

The World Water Quality Alliance (WWQA) brings diverse disciplines together to translate science on water quality into action. It constitutes a voluntary and flexible global expert, practitioner and policy network, with a shared motivation to assist the global community in addressing key water quality issues of socio-political and environmental concern. It provides evidence-based assessments, sets agendas and action for emerging water quality and nexus issues and explores pathways and examples of scalable solutions and innovation regarding water quality.

### The World Water Quality Alliance (WWQA)

Clean water is essential for nature and humans alike. However, surface and groundwaters are subject to enormous pressures – estimates indicate that up to one-third of all rivers in developing countries may already be affected by severe pollution and high salinity levels. With the growing concern about the worsening global freshwater crisis, the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-3) Resolution 3/10 on Addressing water pollution to protect and restore water related ecosystems called for strengthening water quality monitoring capacities in developing countries, better data collection, water monitoring and technologies to recycle and reuse wastewater among other things.

The resolution also called for a World Water Quality Assessment to be developed in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. As a direct response, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) called for expressions of interest to collaborate on the development of the assessment. During the inception phase of the Assessment, UNEP convened around 50 organisations (UN-Water members and partners, research institutes, public and private sector entities, civil society), that in addition to engaging in the assessment, also expressed interest to work with UNEP in co-designing agendas and action around emerging water issues. This marks the emergence of the WWQA, which brings together a wide range of expertise in fields of water quality science, technology innovation, governance and diplomacy to seek solutions.

The goals of the WWQA are to:

- Advocate the central role of freshwater quality in achieving prosperity and sustainability;
- Support water quality assessments at all scales;
- Explore and communicate water quality risks in global, regional national and local contexts;
- Provide guidance for maintaining and restoring water quality as well as fostering ecosystem and human health and well-being; and



- Serve countries throughout the lifetime of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with end-to-end information services.

The Alliance will provide a baseline assessment of global water quality and will build on this for a continuous overview of global water quality and its drivers. In “Use Cases” the Alliance will zoom into national and system scales to bridge the gap from data to application.

In 2016, UNEP published “A Snapshot of the World’s Water Quality: Towards a Global Assessment”, revealing the lack of monitoring data particularly in developing countries, rendering the sole reliance on measured data impossible. The global water quality assessment thus mobilises Alliance expertise and partnership to employ a data fusion approach combining in situ monitoring, modelling and remote sensing including satellite observations. It will further illustrate in case studies the causal chain and feedback dynamics between drivers and impacts. The major components for the global water quality Assessment are:

- Baseline Assessment of worldwide water quality in surface and groundwater bodies;
- Scenario Analysis of future pathways of water quality in freshwater systems and its compartments; and
- Mitigation Options, i.e. information on how to protect and/or restore water quality.

The WWQA will also develop evidence-based products to inform improved global, regional and local water management. At the country and system scale “Use Cases” it works with partners on the ground, facilitating a bottom-up approach to co-designing and developing products for mid to long term use and operationalisation. The diverse background of the Alliance Members and its open membership ensures the work of the Alliance will be useful for a wide spectrum stakeholders.

WWQA services shall constitute concrete end-to-end support to the implementation of the UN-Water SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework launched in July 2020 and include an enabling platform to engage in capacity-development. The WWQA is a corner stone for UNEP to deliver on water-related issues in the 2030 Agenda. UNEP, as the convener of the WWQA, hosts the Alliance Coordination Unit at its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

Additional information:

[www.communities.unep.org/display/WWQA](http://www.communities.unep.org/display/WWQA)





# Water Stewardships with SMEs in the Greater Mekong



**Region**

The Greater Mekong region (Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia, China, Lao PDR and Thailand)

**Partners**

WWF

Free flowing rivers with good water quality are essential to sustain livelihoods, food security and biodiversity. Industrial pollution causes social-economic and ecological losses, impacting vulnerable riparian communities. This project involves SMEs in a water stewardship approach at a regional scale, to achieve large impacts tackling the water challenges together with other stakeholders to green the industry, reduce water pollution, achieve water efficiency, and restore ecological systems.

In the longer run, this approach will be scaled-up throughout the region. To that end, a regional multi-stakeholder platform will be established building upon the concrete experiences that will be developed. These shall demonstrate that water stewardships provide an essential platform for constructive dialogue between government, private sector and civil society to foster implementation of effective environmental measures, in particular by SMEs, leading to positive results in reducing water pollution, achieving water efficiency and conserving ecological systems.

**Background information**

The degradation of river quality and flows of the Mekong and Ayeyarwady Rivers lead to enormous losses in economic prosperity, agricultural productivity, food security, people's well-being, regional stability and freshwater biodiversity.

**Project objectives**

The project promotes and supports the sustainable management of water as a shared resource and mitigating water risks through collective actions by SMEs and relevant stakeholders. It improves SMEs' water and energy practices by providing them with a better understanding of the needs, opportunities and risks derived from water scarcity and pollution.

**Beneficiaries**

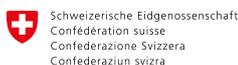
SMEs, business associations, local communities and CSOs

**Costs & Duration**

Total: USD 3,584,365  
SDC: USD 1,781,586  
2019–2023

**Contact**

Section Water  
water@eda.admin.ch



Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

**Vision**

The project aims to support the regional development objective of creating an economically prosperous, socially equitable and environmentally sound Greater Mekong region, and to work towards maintaining and improving river basin health.

**Theory of change**

A water stewardship approach will be promoted; it specifically aims at involving and stimulating SMEs in Myanmar and Vietnam to improve their environmental performance and sustainability. Thereby, SMEs will improve their understanding of water related risks, find opportunities to improving their water practices while increasing their long-term profit, and get opportunities for collective action to address shared water risks by taking part in water governance. The project will lead SMEs and other stakeholders on a journey from 'water awareness' to 'knowledge of impact', 'internal action', 'national collective action', and 'regional governance shift' (Figure 1). Women will play a key role as important actors in both SMEs and communities. The project will also help SMEs to change by mobilising technological support and access to new, green financing mechanisms.

**Outcomes**

The anticipated outcomes of the project relate to better governance, greener investments and sustainable production. With an outreach to 400 SMEs in five countries, the four planned outcomes to be achieved by 2022 are:

1. A regional structure is in place to allow the private sector, in particular SMEs, and other stakeholders, to participate in river management and governance.
2. Targeted SMEs in two focal countries apply practices and technologies to improve water and energy efficiency and reduce polluted water discharges.
3. The business case for green financing is demonstrated with the banking sector providing funds for water and energy investments to SMEs.
4. Collective actions amongst SMEs, CSOs and public sector lead to improved national policies/ regulations and enforcement to provide the enabling environment for continued sustainable actions by SMEs.

Additional information:



## Boosting collective action for improved water quality management

# Tackling Water Pollution in the Textile and Apparel Value Chain



### Region

Global and African Region (Ethiopia)

### Partners

Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS), Aid by Trade Foundation, CDP, Solidaridad, and Water Witness

### Background information

This project aims to tackle interconnected water challenges – pollution, scarcity, governance, access – that stakeholders involved in, and living adjacent to, textile and apparel production may contribute to or face.

### Project objectives

Environmentally sustainable economic growth and enhanced livelihoods through improved water performance by actors in textile and apparel value chains.

### Beneficiaries

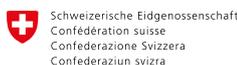
Communities; SMEs (cotton growers, ginners, dyeing and garment production sites); Industrial Parks; Catchment Stakeholder Groups; Regulators & Policy Makers; MNCs & Investors

### Costs & Duration

Total: GBP 3,307,074  
SDC: GBP 1,653,842  
2019–2023

### Contact

Section Water  
water@eda.admin.ch



Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

The project will equip the Ethiopian apparel sector with the skills to assess and tackle the water-related challenges they face, and contribute to solutions, via the application of the “AWS Standard”. It will work across the full value chain of the apparel sector – cotton growers, textile producers and garment manufacturers – to generate replicable action and learnings on the benefits of water stewardship. This will enable stakeholders to leverage support for better policies, regulation and investments across the Ethiopian apparel sector, and leadership and support from multinational corporations for suppliers serving their supply chains to tackle water-related challenges faced by SMEs, by engaging with sector initiatives, standards systems, multinational corporations and global apparel sector investors.

The textile and apparel sectors rely on complex and diversified value chains involving many actors. Water plays a critical role, with large quantities of water and wastewater used and discharged at every level of production. High water use creates dependencies, risks and challenges for the sector, public authorities, communities and ecosystems. Water stewardship enables water users to work together to identify and achieve common goals for sustainable water management and shared water security. The Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) Standard is the globally endorsed, best practice approach to applying water stewardship. The project will connect evidence generated through action research on applying the AWS Standard in Ethiopia’s cotton, textiles and apparel sector with global actors across the full value chain – from small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Ethiopia, to multinational corporations (MNCs) and global investors.

### Objectives

The project will generate knowledge and learning, innovation and replicable action to help scale the adoption of good water stewardship globally, leveraging:

- Improvement in policies, regulation and investment across the Ethiopian cotton and apparel sectors
- Leadership from the global apparel sector to address water challenges faced by SMEs serving international supply chains

A key output of the project will be to share knowledge and learning on the interoperability between the AWS Standard and a range of textile and apparel sector standards. This will include the BCI-aligned standards for cotton growers developed by Aid by Trade Foundation. This will make application of the AWS Standard simpler for producers and encourage MNCs, brands and investors to incentivise water stewardship through their procurement and investment activities.

### Anticipated project benefits

Communities and public sector offices in Ethiopia (and beyond) will benefit from improvements to local water quality, water governance and enforcement of regulation. This will result in improved livelihoods through sustainable economic growth, and improved wellbeing through reduced water-related health and socio-economic impacts.

SMEs applying water stewardship practices will benefit from investment and procurement opportunities linked to the recognition of improved pollution control systems and other water-related management techniques.

Industrial Parks play a pivotal role in the apparel and textile sectors by serving as the home to manufacturers who buy materials from local SMEs (cotton growers, ginners and textile makers) and then sell the finished products to global brands and markets. Improved water management practices in Industrial Parks will help to mitigate water risks and improve performance of satellite businesses that serve, and often surround, the Parks.

Catchment stakeholder groups will be engaged in the development of a multistakeholder-endorsed water stewardship plan, involving site and catchment scale collective actions. This ensures that businesses act within their own fence lines while also engaging with water users in the wider catchment.

Regulators and policy makers will benefit from data, dialogues and consensus through water stewardship networks – strengthening catchment and national-scale water governance mechanisms.

MNCs and brands will benefit from a deeper understanding of their suppliers’ sites’ water use and dependencies, as well as the catchment-level risks. This knowledge will provide a route to targeting procurement in a context-appropriate way, helping to mitigate potential risks of interrupted supply, financial impacts, reputational issues and social license to operate.

Sustainability standards and sector initiatives will be complemented and strengthened through learnings from this project. Water serves as an input to every commodity and product globally. Each sector has its own standards and guidance, however these are often limited when it comes to water.

Investors will benefit from the insights generated from CDP’s Water Security Questionnaire, highlighting the material risks water pollution poses to their investments within the textiles and apparel sector.

Additional information:  
[www.a4ws.org](http://www.a4ws.org)



# Transformative public, private and citizen action to accelerate achievement of SDG6

**Region**  
Global



**Partners**

Alliance for Water Stewardship(AWS, Water Witness International (WWI), CDP Water Security Programme

**Background information**

Increased competition among different water users and lack of governance frameworks results in overuse and pollution of surface water and over-abstraction of groundwater, which in turn creates public health risks.

**Project objectives**

Establish credible water stewardship as a globally adopted practice, expected norm and more effective approach to support the achievement of SDG6 targets and water security for all.

**Beneficiaries**

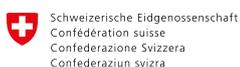
All major water users: Citizens (incl. women and young people), academic sector, civil society. Countries/governments at national and sub-national level (policymakers and public authorities). Private sector (global and domestic incl. SMEs).

**Costs & Duration**

Total: CHF 8,373,000  
SDC: CHF 3,676,000  
2021–2024

**Contact**

Section Water  
water@eda.admin.ch



Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

Water is a key resource with competing uses and users. Addressing shared water challenges therefore needs to be collectively managed and implemented, from basin to global levels. Water stewardship fosters responsible, sustainable and equitable management of freshwater resources, with a particular focus on participation of the private sector. It is a multi-stakeholder approach that contributes to reaching SDG6 targets and water security for all.

The scale and immediacy of the global water crisis, and its significance for social justice and economic progress are striking, and are exacerbated by a warming planet, rapidly escalating demand and difficult governance challenges. Water security has a profound impact on human dignity, health and opportunities for education and economic empowerment. In response to these risks and opportunities, the programme aims to see water stewardship become a truly transformative movement, spearheaded by leading organisations, governments and businesses. Three strategic partners implement individual programmes of work throughout phase II, leveraging respective expertise and audiences (investors and policy makers for CDP, corporations as large water users for AWS across four priority industrial sectors – agriculture, food and beverage, ICT and textiles, and civil society for WWI) while building on complementarities and developing joint communication and advocacy. Feedback loops are supported between the local and global levels.

AWS, CDP and WWI aim to align their voices behind a powerful call for change, and equip stakeholders with the knowledge needed to trigger both change in behaviour (adoption of water stewardship) and change in systems (to enable water stewardship through policy, transparent communications, processes, and regulations), while tracking evidence to support learning and scaling. As a result, more and more companies, communities, and governments will implement explicit strategies that minimise freshwater abstraction and reduce the discharge of untreated wastewater into the environment. In doing so, they will respect the needs of the local society and economy, thereby increasing water security for local communities at the benefit of the most vulnerable people comprising leading businesses, NGOs, public sector agencies and academic institutes. The members unite behind the AWS mission, to “promote the responsible use of freshwater that is socially and economically beneficial and environmentally sustainable”. The AWS Standard is the only globally applicable framework for major water users to understand their water use and impacts, and to work collaboratively and transparently

for sustainable water management within a catchment context. The AWS Standard is consistently recognised as global best practice in water stewardship.

**CDP Water Security Programme**

CDP has 20 years of expertise catalysing action on climate, water and deforestation amongst the world’s largest financial institutions and companies. It uses its voluntary reporting mechanism to create new norms, change behaviour and support the establishment of new standards and policies globally. The data CDP collects helps influential decision-makers to reduce risk, capitalise on opportunities and drive action towards a more sustainable world by helping to measure, track, manage and take action towards achieving the SDGs.

**Water Witness International**

Water Witness International leads action, research and advocacy for a fair water future for all people. It combines detailed on-the-ground research with a strong advocacy mechanism. Operating primarily as a watchdog institution, it works with partners to investigate the impacts of the European consumption and global supply chains on water security in developing countries (mainly East Africa). WWI aims to enable communities to secure their water rights, and to demand action and accountability from those responsible for pollution control, flood and drought management, water and sanitation services, as well as conflict resolution.

Additional information:

AWS:  
[www.a4ws.org](http://www.a4ws.org)



CDP:  
[www.cdp.net/en/water](http://www.cdp.net/en/water)



WWI:  
[www.waterwitness.org](http://www.waterwitness.org)



# Contribution to Earth Security



**Region**  
Global

**Partners**  
Earth Security Partnerships

## Background information

As pressures on water, food, energy and climate change become more inter-connected, cutting through the complexity with clear messages and strategic direction will be key for leaders in government and the private sector to work together on shared priorities.

## Project objectives

To mobilise the finance sector to support and collaborate on transboundary and inter-sectorial approaches to water and nature-based solutions, through the development of innovative financing mechanisms and cross-sector cooperation.

## Beneficiaries

Decision-makers in the private sector, government and civil society can collaborate on innovative approaches to finance nature-based solutions.

## Costs & Duration

Total: CHF 3,500,000  
SDC: CHF 1,750,000  
2021–2025

## Contact

Section Water  
water@eda.admin.ch

This programme aims at catalysing new financial mechanisms and partnerships, including with the Swiss finance sector, which promote the water-related ecosystem services of forests as a 'climate solution'. It mobilises cross-sector innovation to leverage the value of ecosystem services in developing countries rich in natural ecosystems for the benefit of society. While global in scope, the programme focuses on low and lower-middle income countries where water-productive forests are located. It leverages Swiss know-how across the Federal Administration and contribute to the climate mainstreaming goal of the Dispatch 2021-24.

The SDC's Global Water Programme Framework 2021-2024 recognises water is the primary substance through which societies will experience the effects of climate change, including droughts, floods and rising temperatures. It also recognises that «investors have shown little interest to include water in key long-term investments for climate change adaptation and mitigation». As the overarching Swiss Development Policy for 2021-2024 also includes a strategic focus on mainstreaming climate change across programmes, there is a need to sharpen the profile of water outcomes as part of the climate and nature agendas, through practical mechanisms that engage the finance sector to contribute to these outcomes.

## Objective

To mobilise the finance sector to support transboundary and inter-sectorial approaches to water, through the development of innovative financing mechanisms and partnerships that focus on forests as a 'nature-based climate solution' that is vital to the water cycle.

## Expected Results:

- Innovative global knowledge products with practical proposals and recommendations that are informed by stakeholders from government, private sector, NGOs and scientific experts.
- A public-private financing partnership at country level to mobilise cooperation around an innovative finance blueprint (year 2) and at global level to create a capacity-building platform for low and lower-middle income countries (year 3)
- A country partnership case study to be used for wide dissemination, capacity-building and informing replication across other countries (year 3)

## Target Groups:

Governments, including at sub-national level of low and lower-middle income countries, regional organisations, private finance sector, NGO's

## Medium-Term Results:

1. An understanding of how to value nature-based solutions for water in low and lower-middle income countries and innovative finance proposals created to enable financial decision-makers to collaborate in the financing of forests as 'nature-based climate solution' that is vital to the water cycle of these countries.
2. Public-private finance cooperation catalysed in a low and lower-middle income country as well as for a global capacity-building platform, to illustrate how private investors, NGOs, DFIs/ donors and foundations can support the hydrological value of forests at country levels. The goal is to enable the finance sector to advance global investments in forests from a water perspective and not just carbon.
3. Knowledge and engagement of finance decision-makers mobilised: Mainstream finance decision-makers and other finance-related stakeholders that are not exposed to these agendas are engaged to understand and support proposals and partnerships and begin to consider investing in forests for their hydrological value.

Coordination / Synergies: Multilateral Financial Institutions/ Development Finance Institutions, United Nations Capital Development Fund, UBS Optimus Foundation, HSBC Sustainable Finance Centre, NGOs, UN-REDD+, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Climate Disclosure Project, Blue Peace Initiative

Additional information:  
[www.earthsecurity.org](http://www.earthsecurity.org)





# Joining forces of conservation and development cooperation for societal transformation

**Region**  
Global



**Partners**  
International Union for the Conservation of Nature IUCN

### Background information

SDC through SW and SDE has been granting core contributions to IUCN since 1997. The Core Contribution 2018 – 2021 aims at highlighting IUCN's comparative advantage and development relevance. With this contribution SDC also helps IUCN to maintain and restore healthy ecosystems with contributions towards the Agenda 2030 in particular SDG6 (water), SDG13 (climate change), SDG14&15 (biodiversity), and SDG2 (food security)

### Project objectives

SDC's core funding is not earmarked to any specific project of IUCN but contributes to the implementation of the 4-year programme approved at the IUCN World Nature Conservation Congress held in Marseille in September 2021.

### Beneficiaries

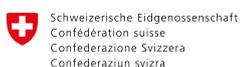
Direct beneficiaries are IUCN staff and members involved in implementing the Nature 2030 Programme 2021-2024.

### Costs & Duration

CHF 6,300,000 shared between Section Water and Section Climate, DRR and Environment 2022–2024

### Contact

Section Water  
water@eda.admin.ch



Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

IUCN provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge, tools and projects that enable societies, economies and nature to thrive together. These include data, assessments and analysis, trusted standards, neutral convening fora, and capacity-building resources. SDC has been contributing to IUCN since 1997 in support of these goals, combined with the new IUCN slogan **United for life and livelihoods.**

### No nature – no life

As a matter of fact, nature is essential to sustaining human life on Earth. This means that humanity's future is inextricably connected to a healthy environment and to intact natural resources. As our planet is losing biodiversity at an unprecedented rate – primarily due to humankind's extractive and destructive use of nature – many highly developed societies need to change their development trajectory in order to avoid a global collapse.

Climate change – a looming threat to development In the last two decades, new records of hottest years have been witnessed repeatedly. This global warming has negative impacts particularly on sensitive ecosystems such as high mountains with their glaciers, drylands with their scarce vegetation cover and oceans with their coral reefs. The harming effects of global warming are increasingly being felt by many people all over the world. This makes the protection of ecosystems as safe havens and the preservation of species as important genetic pools all the more important.

### IUCN's strength and outreach

With over 1,400 member organisations, more than 15,000 volunteer experts and over 900 staff, IUCN is an important global actor to preserve ecosystems such as wetlands with their crucial ecosystem services as well as endangered species that are facing the threat of irrevocable extinction.

SDC thus recognises the paramount role of IUCN both as a normative body for nature conservation and for safeguarding species and ecosystems for the well-being of future generations. It therefore continues to support IUCN in the following three priority action areas for the period 2022-2024:

- Valuing and conserving nature, enhances IUCN's heartland work on biodiversity conservation, emphasizing both the tangible and intangible values of nature.
- Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources consolidates IUCN's

work on people-nature relations, rights and responsibilities, and the political economy of nature.

- Deploying nature-based solutions to societal challenges expands IUCN's work on nature's contribution to tackling problems of sustainable development, particularly in climate change, food security and social and economic development.



Through the Nature 2030 IUCN Programme IUCN will deliver concrete and tangible positive impacts to People, Land, Water, Oceans and Climate using the following five pathways to transformative change: Recognise that people and planet face unprecedented challenges, the urgency with which we must act, what we must do, and the role everyone can play. We also recognise that conservation works, that nature is wonderful, and that many are already working to protect and restore it. Retain the world's biodiversity, and natural and cultural heritage, in key biodiversity areas and other places where diversity and traditional knowledge flourish. Restore species populations, ecosystems and the benefits that nature provides to people, capitalising on the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration. Resource the movement by mobilising investment in nature and the people working to conserve it through finance, capacity development and generating knowledge. Reconnect people, societies and economies to nature, and rebuild connections between fragmented habitats.

Additional information:  
[www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)



# Water stewardship and evidence-based decisions



## Region

Latin America: Colombia, Peru, Mexico and Brazil

## Partners

**Colombia:** National Institute of Environmental Studies, Ministry of Environment, National Business Association, Centre of Science Technology, Water fund BioCuenca.

**Peru:** National Water Authority, CARE- SABA VIDA, National Association of Industries, Foreign Trade Corporation of Peru, Drinking Water and Sewer Service of Lima.

**Mexico:** National Water Commission, Life Cycle Analysis Center, Mexican Business Council for Foreign Trade.

**Brazil:** National Water Agency, Getulio Vargas Foundation, National Industry Confederation.

**International:** UN Global Compact, GIZ, Pacific Alliance: Business Council and Green Growth Technical Group.

## Background information

Latin America faces concerns regarding water stress, flooding, increasing water demand, and low levels of wastewater treatment (less than 50% of wastewater is treated). Evidence-based decisions and cooperation among public, private and civil society sectors are needed to tackle these challenges. Thus, the private sector is becoming more aware of their water risks and citizens are engaging in decreasing their environmental impacts.

Based on Switzerland's decade-long experience in private sector engagement and empowerment of public institutions, El Agua Nos Une programme focuses on strengthening evidence-based decisions for better water governance in four Latin American countries. It envisions systemic change towards corporate water use efficiency and pollution mitigation, mobilizing stakeholders and investments in ecosystem preservation and thereby contributing to a more equitable society and responsible water use.

## Context

Water use has increased six-fold over the past century and continues to increase by about 1% per year. Besides, between 80% and 90% of wastewater worldwide is discharged to the environment without any form of treatment. The Disclosure Insight Action (CDP) Global Water Report 2019 showed that less than 50% of the companies surveyed measure and monitor discharges from their production process and only 12% of these companies have set goals related to pollution reduction. In a globalised economy, water management challenges are increasingly associated with the accelerated production and consumption of goods and services. Thus, SDC has identified a niche of work to facilitate knowledge on water footprint evaluation and reduction, focusing on practical results. This initiative fosters partnerships with public and private sector partners to improve decision-making, based on technical information and systemic monitoring.

## Beneficiaries

Local communities, public institutions, business associations, companies, water practitioners and citizens.

## Costs & Duration

Total: CHF4,000,000  
SDC: CHF6,000,000  
2021–2026

## Contact

Section Water  
water@eda.admin.ch

## Outcomes

- Public policy implementation is strengthened.
  - Contribution to the institutional water monitoring systems in Colombia (National Water Study) and Peru.
  - Public policy instruments encourage Corporate Water Stewardship.
- Scaling up of Corporate Water Stewardship (CWS) and participation of civil society.
  - CWS is recognised and applied by the private sector with a value-chain and circular economy approach.
  - Civil society leads reflections and actions on sustainable lifestyles and responsible consumption
- Multi-actors alliances facilitate the conservation of natural infrastructure and the improvement of livelihoods.
  - Investment models in natural infrastructure are consolidated and expand their territorial coverage.
  - Livelihoods of the local population are improved and diversified.
- Knowledge is shared and applied by the Latin American Community of Practice.
  - A Community of Practice on water management is expanded and strengthened.
  - Different actors in Latin America contribute to decision-making and this has wider international outreach.

## Cross-cutting themes

 Governance and policy dialogue

 Innovation

 Gender equity and youth participation

## Intervention Strategy

### Local level:

- Business partners commit to assessing and reducing their water impacts and engage in collective actions.
- Conservation of natural infrastructure with community leadership.
- Participation and exercise of institutional competencies.

### National level:

- Business associations promote scaling up.
- Natural infrastructure investment models inspire and learn from other regions.

### International level:

- Structured exchange promotes change, with emblematic examples, through leaders in each sector, mostly in Latin America.
- Technical advice, by demand, to Ecuador and Panamá.





# WMO HydroHub – the Global Hydrometry Support Facility



**Region**  
Global

**Partners**  
WMO

## Background information

Today, data on water remain scarce, fragmented and difficult to access and interpret. This hampers effective decision-making for integrated water resources management (IWRM), translating into water insecurity.

## Project objectives

To help expand a reliable and sustainable basis of hydrometeorological data and information services in support of informed decision- and policy-making in water management at global, transboundary, national and local levels.

## Beneficiaries

National hydromet services and local water users.

## Costs & Duration

Total: CHF 4,724,000  
SDC: CHF 2,400,000  
2021–2026

## Contact

Section Water  
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Reliable hydrometeorological observations and forecasts are critical to implement better water resources management practices and policies, and reduce water insecurity. The Global Hydrometry Support Facility (WMO HydroHub) makes its wide range of expertise – from science to technology and services – available as tailored services to WMO member states to support end-users’ access to hydrometeorological data and services from various economic sectors. These connections help increase the availability of hydrometeorological data – catalysed by innovative technologies and approaches – to foster evidence-based policy- and decision-making in water resources management.

As countries across the world increasingly experience water scarcity, the need for water data has become essential. Indeed, rising demand for freshwater, coupled with increased volatility in global climate patterns, means that robust and timely information to support decisions about the allocation and management of water resources is more valuable than ever. Yet data on water remains scarce, fragmented, and frequently difficult to access and interpret. Around two thirds of hydrological observation networks in developing countries are reported to be in poor or declining condition.

This is what prompted SDC to support the launch of WMO’s Global Hydrometry Support Facility (or HydroHub) in 2016. The objectives were to build operational systems and capacity in hydrometry and water monitoring, expand the base of hydrological data and exchange capabilities, and facilitate free and open data sharing.

SDC has decided to continue its support in the coming years as part of a second phase (2021-2026), with a view to attracting and engaging with additional donors, and integrating some activities into broader development projects. The aim remains to ensure the availability of quality-assured hydrological data over areas of the world where such data are currently lacking, thereby helping to accelerate the delivery of the 2030 Agenda.

More specifically, Phase II of the WMO HydroHub aims to enhance the capacities of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in sustainable operation and effective delivery of hydrological monitoring services for disaster risk reduction, social and economic development and environmental protection. This is done through the implementation of a portfolio of ten activities including trainings and learning exchanges, calls for innovation, workshops, and ministerial roundtables.

The project has three main expected outcomes:

1. Increased Capacity: Improved technical expertise of NMHS staff will allow for sustainably operated hydrometeorological monitoring systems with enhanced data management and improved national and international data sharing.
2. Operationalised Innovation: NMHSs will continuously develop and innovate their hydrometric approaches and technologies in collaboration with academia and the private sector.
3. Optimised Engagements and Investments: NMHSs catalyse development opportunities and impact for the overall hydromet community through strengthened internal and external engagements that offer greater visibility, knowledge-sharing and communication.

The project has had many significant achievements over the past five years:

- The design and dissemination of a Global Hydrology Survey that captured key information on governmental and non-governmental organisations responsible for operational hydrology within countries, to identify capacity gaps at the regional and national levels.
- The establishment of a partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to conduct country-wide needs and capabilities assessments of NMHSs and other relevant organisations in Costa Rica and Panama.
- Two Calls for Innovation to foster the operational uptake of innovative approaches and technologies by NMHSs in a way that makes their operations more cost-effective and sustainable. These led to project implementation in Belize, Bhutan, the Indian Himalayan region and Tanzania.
- The WMO Hydrological Observing System (WHOS) was implemented in the La Plata and Arctic basins, and is being implemented in the Dominican Republic, which already led to 13 countries freely exchanging and using hydromet data across their borders. The implementation of WHOS was supported by the National Research Council of Italy (CNR).
- The development of a distance learning course on hydrological data sharing to close the knowledge gap on basic ICT and readily available data exchange standards, and contribute to the advancement of interoperable hydrological data exchange among NMHSs worldwide.

Additional information:  
<https://hydrohub.wmo.int/en/home>



# Water and Peace

The paradigm of perceiving water as a source of tensions and conflicts has shifted towards promoting water as an instrument for peace and cooperation (Blue Peace) from the community to the global level, aiming for more peaceful, inclusive, cohesive and sustainable societies for present and future generations.

- Blue Peace Global: Geneva Water Hub
- The Blue Peace Index
- Blue Peace Middle East 2.0
- Blue Peace Central Asia 2.0
- Blue Peace Financing
- Water Diplomacy: Building River Dialogue and Governance (BRIDGE)
- Water Diplomacy: Support to the UNECE Water Convention activities





# Geneva Water Hub – a Global Centre on water and peace



**Region**  
Global

**Partners**

University of Geneva, UN actors and global actors from civil society, academia, river basin organisations, and the private sector.

**Background information**

The Hub will help scale up the Blue Peace approach to the global level, promoting dialogue between political, socio-economic and thematic actors.

**Project objectives**

Develop a hub of competence in hydro-politics to better understand and prevent water-related tensions between competing uses and between political entities.

**Beneficiaries**

Political, UN, academic, civil society and private sector actors that can influence the water, security and peace theme and implement concrete solutions at all levels.

**Costs & Duration**

Total: CHF 10,745,250  
SDC: CHF 7,518,950  
2020–2023

**Contact**

Section Water  
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Water insecurity is increasingly a cause of social and political instability threatening peace and security at all levels. The Geneva Water Hub (GWH) is a global centre working towards the prevention and solving of water-related tensions and conflicts and the promotion of stability through water cooperation. The GWH produces innovative knowledge and supports scientific networking for various actors to be used in decision-making processes. It also offers a space for dialogue and a global observatory for water and peace.

Sustainable water resources management is a global challenge of the 21st century, and is increasingly linked to insecurity at local, regional and global scale. This is illustrated by growing tensions around large dams, mining operations and various disputes over land and water.

Despite the complexity of the challenges, water can become a theme for collaboration and can be transformed from a source of potential crisis into an instrument of peace. It is with this positive vision that Switzerland is engaged in global water issues in partnership with UN organisations, bilateral partners and NGOs, to help prevent water conflicts at an early stage and to promote water as an instrument of peace and cooperation.

Geneva forms the most active centre of multilateral diplomacy worldwide, and has become a recognised global center of expertise in several areas that are highly relevant to hydro-politics and global water governance. In response to the wish expressed by many partners to federate the expertise available in Geneva, Switzerland is supporting, together with the University of Geneva, the functioning of this global centre as a hub of competence in hydro-politics and hydro-diplomacy, to promote water cooperation and good governance.

The Geneva Water Hub aims at developing the hydro-politics agenda to help prevent water conflicts at intersectoral and transboundary levels at an early stage and to promote water as an instrument of peace and cooperation. It leverages resources available in international Geneva to develop the hydro-politics agenda. It also offers a hydro-diplomacy platform providing facilitation, conciliation and mediation services.

The Geneva Water Hub works towards four outcomes:

- Setting the agenda for water and peace: the water, peace and security nexus is firmly enshrined in the international development, humanitarian and peace agendas;
- Enabling the Global Observatory for water and peace: The Global Observatory for Water and Peace is effectively performing and following up of the Recommendations of the GHPWP;
- Shaping the legal framework on water in armed conflicts: The topic of water in and during armed conflicts is embedded in a conducive legal framework that is effectively being enforced;
- Driving the education and science on water and peace: Academia and practitioners drive compellingly and rigorously the education and scientific agenda on water and peace globally;

The Geneva Water Hub enables partnerships with international think tanks as well as with UN and non-UN institutions and agencies. The Geneva Water Hub is being gradually developed as a flexible, lean structure with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the University of Geneva and several global actors from civil society, academia, river basin organisations, and the private sector. The Geneva Water Hub is an affiliated centre of the University of Geneva.



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Additional information:  
[www.genevawaterhub.org](http://www.genevawaterhub.org)



# The Blue Peace Index

# Blue Peace



**Region**  
Global

**Partners**  
The Economist Impact

**Background information**  
The Economist Impact (EI), under The Economist Group, provides forecasting and advisory services through research and analysis.

**Project objectives**  
The Blue Peace Index highlights the value of basin-level cooperation for sustainable management of shared water resources between States and stakeholders, building around the aims of awareness-raising and policy advocacy, under the values of the Blue Peace.

**Beneficiaries**  
The programme will engage with a broader audience around the topic of shared water resources management, including policy-makers, young people, NGOs and the private sector.

**Costs & Duration**  
Total: USD 1,338,000  
SDC: USD 768,994  
2019–2023

**Contact**  
Section Water  
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Water has a central role in achieving the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but according to the World Bank, more than a billion people live in water-scarce regions, and as many as 3.5 billion people could be affected by water scarcity by 2025. As a growing number of people and states experience rising or even permanent water stress due to environmental, economic and social developments, increased competition over water can heighten tensions and even lead to open conflict within and between nations. The SDC has partnered with The Economist Impact (EI) to develop a Blue Peace Index to examine how countries around the world are managing their transboundary water resources and highlight challenges and available policy solutions, as well as to spur a public debate on the desirable goals and best practices for sustainable water management.

The heightened risks and political tensions over water resources, resulting from broad environmental, economic and societal changes, present not only challenges, but also opportunities to reconsider the approach to management of shared water resources. Water resources can in fact serve as a conduit for political stability and peace, if they are managed in a cooperative, sustainable and equitable manner. Nevertheless, understanding, designing and promoting mechanisms for collaborative and sustainable management of shared water resources is a complex task, as it requires consideration of numerous economic, environmental, social and political realities. It also relies on commitment and involvement of numerous stakeholders at subnational, national and international levels. The SDC has engaged with the EI to develop a Blue Peace Index as a part of a broader development of the Blue Peace movement. This movement will increase global awareness about the importance of transboundary water governance to broader international peace and prosperity.

The Blue Peace Index aims to explore the extent to which countries manage their shared water resources in a sustainable, equitable and collaborative manner at both national and basin level. In the 2019 edition, it covered 24 countries in 5 basins in five different regions, with a planned expansion of coverage in each yearly edition. The index framework is based on inputs from world-leading experts and is built around five pillars: (i) Policy and legal framework, (ii) Institutional arrangement and participation, (iii) Water management instruments, (iv) Infrastructure and financing

and (v) Cooperation context. Each yearly edition will be accompanied by a white paper including an analysis of the results and insights from experts, to be launched at the World Water Weeks in Stockholm in August. In this long-term engagement with the EI, the launch of the index will be followed up by a promotion campaign and a series of tailored case studies and thematic reports.

- Key outputs of the planned phase:
- An interactive consolidated Blue Peace Index benchmarking model with supporting evidence and indicator scores.
  - A Blue Peace Index white paper including an analysis of the results and insights from experts.
  - A centralised Blue Peace digital hub to serve as a one-stop-shop to host outputs and information about various stakeholders active in the Blue Peace initiative.
  - Yearly updates of the Blue Peace Index in different basins around the world.



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Additional information:  
[www.eiu.com/publicpolicy](http://www.eiu.com/publicpolicy)



## Blue Peace Middle East 2.0

**Region**  
Middle East



**Partners**

Water Diplomacy Center/ Jordan University of Science and Technology, Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management. Other actors active in transboundary water/ water diplomacy.

### Background information

The Blue Peace Middle East (BPME) Initiative was launched as hydro-diplomatic initiative by Switzerland and other partners in 2011. BPME 2.0 is based on the achievements of the first decade.

### Project objectives

Populations in the Middle East benefit from equitably shared and effectively managed common water resources thanks to climate resilient and sustainable regional water management as a basis for socio-economic development and stability.

### Beneficiaries

Direct: Influential policy makers capable of convincing leaders and governments of the importance of regional transboundary water management for sustainable development, prosperity, stability, and peace, as well as government employees in the water sector, academics, civil society groups, media representatives, youth and others.

Indirect: The populations threatened by conflict or water scarcity, with a dire need to access water and sanitation services.

In one of the most water-scarce regions of the world, transboundary cooperation is an imperative to overcome the multiple regionally-shared challenges to water security, which is a major obstacle to prosperity and a potential cause of conflicts. Switzerland's diplomatic initiative Blue Peace Middle East 2.0 aims to provide support at multiple levels, to promote water cooperation across borders, sectors and generations to foster peace, stability and sustainable socio-economic development in the Middle East.

The Middle East is one of the most water-scarce regions in the world. It has also suffered from a number of armed conflicts. The majority of the region's water resources are transboundary and shared between countries. The challenges that put additional strain on limited water resources are also shared by countries in the region: climate change, migration and weak institutions. In this context, regional cooperation and management of shared resources is an imperative for stability, prosperity and peacebuilding, as well as an opportunity for regional integration. The Blue Peace Middle East Initiative, the only forum where representatives from Turkey, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and to some extent Iran and Syria meet regularly to work together on solutions to the regional water crisis, combines peacebuilding and sustainable water management. Switzerland is currently the only regional actor promoting transboundary water cooperation through a concrete mechanism.

Blue Peace Middle East 2.0 is based on, and a continuation of, the achievements of the first decade of the initiative. This first phase led to the creation of (i) a regionally-owned Regional Mechanism (an informal dialogue platform for policy and technical exchanges),(ii) a Water Diplomacy Center and (iii) multiple elements which change the narrative around water management in the region, including increased capacities and awareness, and a better and more objective information basis through baseline studies. To achieve its overall objective, the Blue Peace Middle

### Costs & Duration

SDC: CHF 8,100,000  
Total: CHF 10,670,000  
2023–2026

### Contact

Section Water  
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East 2.0 initiative will focus on two pillars: (1) a policy pillar (Hydro-Diplomacy), based on the established Regional Mechanism, and (2) a capacity development pillar, with the aim of raising the awareness of regional policy and decision-makers, academics and other relevant stakeholders.

The Blue Peace Middle East 2.0 initiative is envisaged to cover a period of 12 years, phased in three intervention periods of four years each, with the intention of a gradual disengagement of SDC. Phase 1 (2023-26) will focus on the consolidation of the Regional Mechanism, so that the involved countries increasingly take on leadership roles in the Regional Mechanism. In addition, the recently established Water Diplomacy Centre (WDC) will be empowered and established as the future go-to centre for water diplomacy in the Middle East.

The first phase is organised along four outcomes:

Outcome 1:

Policy dialogue: Result-oriented transboundary "Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem" (WEFE) dialogue and cooperation among ME states fostered by a regionally-owned and recognised Regional Mechanism.

Outcome 2:

Awareness/ outreach/ capacity-building (youth and media): Greater public awareness of possible solutions to the region's water, energy, food and environmental challenges based on a new "Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem" (WEFE) narrative of shared benefits.

Outcome 3:

"Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem" (WEFE) Nexus Programme: Innovative approaches to WEFE challenges are developed, implemented and promoted.

Outcome 4:

Regional policy and decision-makers and other relevant stakeholders have the required awareness, information, and capacity to act in a timely and proactive manner in relation to water conflict challenge.



Ilisu Dam at Tigris River, Nov 2022

© André Wehrli

Additional information:  
[www.bluepeacemiddleeast.org](http://www.bluepeacemiddleeast.org)  
[www.thebluepeace.org](http://www.thebluepeace.org)



## Blue Peace Central Asia

# Strengthening Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Water Cooperation in Central Asia

Blue Peace  
Central Asia

Region  
Central Asia



### Partners

Five Central Asia countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), Afghanistan, and other development partners

### Background information

The Blue Peace Central Asia (BPCA) Initiative was launched as hydro-diplomatic initiative by Switzerland and other partners in 2017.

### Project objectives

Central Asia moves forward towards sustainable and equitable transboundary water management in a changing climate, whereby the people in the region benefit from water security, peace, stability and sustainable development through increased resilience and inter-governmental dialogue.

### Beneficiaries

Transboundary water management institutions, national and local authorities, environmental bodies, young water professionals, water users, overall population.

### Costs & Duration

CHF 6,000,000  
2017–2023

### Contact

Section Water  
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Water is at the heart of socio-economic development and stability in Central Asia. The Blue Peace Central Asia Initiative aims to facilitate transboundary water resources cooperation through evidence-based policy dialogue, the promotion of sustainable water practices at transboundary and sub-basin level, and support to a new generation of water professionals.

The Blue Peace Central Asia Initiative started in 2017 in response to the interest of Central Asian countries expressed at high-level conferences, such as the Basel Conference on Integrated Water Resources Management (2014) and the Almaty Scientific Conference (2016).

Water is key for food and energy security in the region. Nearly 80 percent of the 75 million residents of Central Asia share two major transboundary rivers, the Amu Darya and the Syr Darya, which together form the Aral Sea Basin. These two rivers feed the Aral Sea, which has shrunk by 90 percent over the past 50 years. They also provide the vast majority of water resources to this arid/semi-arid region. More than 90 percent of water resources are used for irrigated agriculture to generate approximately 30 percent of GDP and provide employment to more than 60 percent of the population of the region. Water is equally important for energy production, with hydropower accounting for nearly 30 percent of the total electricity consumed in Central Asia.

The current insufficient levels of cooperation in water management entail significant costs, estimated at USD 4.5 billion of economic losses a year for the region, and major risks for sustainable development. Climate change and population growth will put more strains on water resources.

The Blue Peace Central Asia Initiative aims to support Central Asia countries in establishing a system of shared benefits for water resources allocation (sanitation and drinking water, irrigation, energy, and environment) that accommodates the interests of upstream and downstream countries equitably and sustainably. The expected results are:

- Strengthened evidence-based policy dialogue through high-quality studies, based on the narrative of the benefits of cooperation.
- Communities of practice enhance cooperation in transboundary water management through:

- Knowledge exchange and facilitated dialogue on political and technical issues;
- Demonstration projects on water cooperation based on demand of riparian states and/or stakeholders;
- Exchange on water quality standards and monitoring, and water efficiency;
- Improved sharing of hydrometeorology data and joint use of forecast modelling;
- Enhanced capacity of young water professionals through scholarships and strengthened IWRM/ water diplomacy curricula in academic institutes to empower youth voices and increase networks' engagement in water and climate change dialogue at the regional and global levels.



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Additional information:  
[www.bluepeace-centralasia.ch](http://www.bluepeace-centralasia.ch)  
[www.thebluepeace.org](http://www.thebluepeace.org)



 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



# Blue Peace Financing

Region  
Global  
West Africa



Partners  
United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), river basin organisations, governments, local governments and other sustainable development partners

Background information  
The Blue Peace Financing initiative was launched by Switzerland and UNCDF in 2019 as a pilot initiative promoting access to public and private capital for non-sovereign entities by using water as an entry point.

Project objectives  
Enhance sustainable economic development and peaceful societies by creating new and additional ways to access financial capital at non-sovereign transboundary and municipal level based on joint multisectoral master-/investment plans

Beneficiaries  
Direct beneficiaries: transboundary water organisations and municipalities; private financial sector (global and domestic private sector); countries/governments, citizens, academic sector, civil society.  
End beneficiaries: people living in the target river basins and municipalities.

Costs & Duration  
CHF 14,600,000  
2019–2024

Contact  
Section Water  
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Blue Peace Financing promotes access to public and private capital for non-sovereign entities by using water as an entry point for multi-stakeholder cooperation frameworks, leading to more sustainable economies and peaceful societies.

Due to its transboundary and multisectoral nature, the sustainable management of water resources requires the creation of transboundary and multisectoral cooperation frameworks. Such policy, legal and institutional cooperation frameworks can help reduce conflicts and contribute to peace. Access to financial resources can be a strong incentive for such cooperation frameworks. But the current financial ecosystem rarely enables transboundary and multisectoral investments. The way financing currently approaches water and related investments is overly national and sectoral. Major providers of water-related services like basin organisations and local governments lack access to capital. Meanwhile, it is not only sovereign states but also local governments and basin organisations (e.g. River Basin Organisations) that are the main provider of water-related services and therefore accountable for the integrated and sustainable management of water resources. However, these entities are usually limited in their ability to successfully fulfill their mandate, including their access to financing. Promoting access to public and private capital for these non-sovereign entities while strengthening their institutional capacities is crucial.

Blue Peace Financing uses water as an entry point to create and strengthen transboundary and multisectoral cooperation frameworks and transform them into investment platforms through innovative financing mechanisms and instruments.

Expected results are:

- Additional capital is mobilised and directed towards river-basin and municipal portfolios or masterplans leading to an upgrade of livelihood assets;
- A pipeline of investment projects based on multi-sectoral negotiated masterplans or investment plans is established;
- Local communities have better and more affordable access to water-related services, such as drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, irrigation, energy, etc.
- The enabling environment for sustainable subnational finance, including blended finance, is enhanced;
- The legal and financial capacity of non-sovereign

entities to manage access to capital sustainably is strengthened (upgrade of creditworthiness);

- Innovative approaches to measure sustainable development and peace impact are analysed and identified;
- Ownership and legitimacy are increased through inclusive policy dialogue, involving populations, local governments, countries, regional institutions;
- Awareness is raised around the connection of municipalities to the source of water and river basin via innovative approaches of impact monitoring, reporting and communication.



© SDC Senegambia river

Additional information:  
[www.uncdf.org/mif/blue-peace-financing-initiative](http://www.uncdf.org/mif/blue-peace-financing-initiative)  
[www.thebluepeace.org](http://www.thebluepeace.org)



# Waters Governance Programme Phase 5



**Region**  
Global



**Partners**  
IUCN & UNECE

**Background information**

Transboundary water bodies create hydrological, social and economic inter-dependencies between societies. While incorporating a potential for competition and conflict, they also provide opportunities for cooperation.

**Project objectives**

Poverty alleviation, nature conservation, economic growth and peace are enhanced in target basins through sustainable management and governance of transboundary water resources

**Beneficiaries**

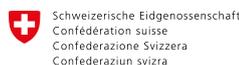
National government institutions and agencies, municipal and provincial level governments, basin organisations, local communities, businesses and civil society

**Costs & Duration**

Total: CHF 13,413,800  
SDC: CHF 9,950,000  
2022–2026

**Contact**

Section Water  
water@eda.admin.ch



Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC

This programme brings together complementary organisations: IUCN works on transboundary surface water through its project Building River Dialogue and Governance (BRIDGE), and the 1992 UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes provides a guiding global framework, together building an integrated approach to transboundary waters management.

The Waters Governance Programme supports the capacities of stakeholders from local to transboundary levels in countries that share river or lake basins to design and implement effective water management arrangements. It works on a shared vision, benefit-sharing principles and transparent and coherent institutional frameworks. It is implemented in three regions through demonstration at basin-level, learning support, dialogue facilitation, leadership development, and the provision of advice and technical support.

With over 40% of the world’s population living in 275 transboundary basins, cooperation over water management is essential to people’s well-being, sustainable development, political stability and peace. Today, the complexities of sharing water among States require innovation relative to traditional approaches of water governance, calling for improved water diplomacy across multiple levels.

The goal of the Water Governance Programme is to improve secured and safe access to water in order to reduce water-related conflicts, and to protect or restore water-related ecosystems in target transboundary basins, through sustainable management and governance of water resources. It uses water di-

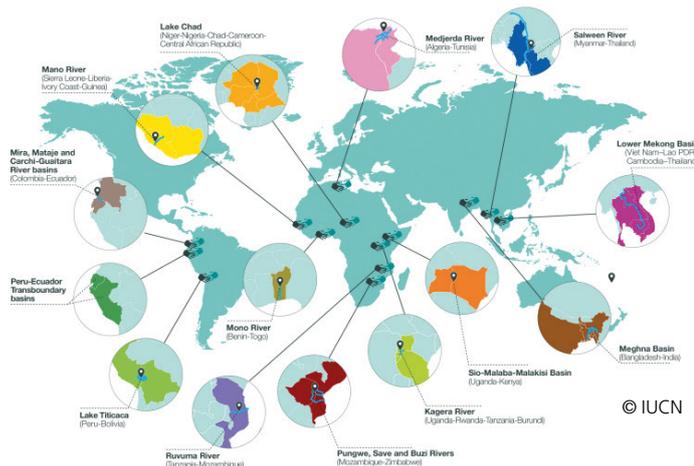
plomacy in order to increase the socio-economic, environmental and political benefits derived from water. Cooperation among countries in the management of transboundary waters is a building block of international security and regional stability. Likewise, water management is also a local activity as clean, safe and dependable water resources are a cornerstone for health, food security and economic opportunities. Failing to manage water often results in poverty, disease, loss of biodiversity, conflict and instability.

The strategy of the BRIDGE project aims at catalysing sustainable water resources development, including progress on safe water supply and sanitation, sustainable watershed management and biodiversity conservation. Its principle is to promote transboundary water cooperation globally through demonstrations on the ground, combined with capacity and leadership development that are necessary to make cooperation a reality that catalyses change. UNECE encourages the extension of the 1992 Water Convention in order to provide a legal framework for regional cooperation on shared water resources. UNECE also promotes an integrated and inter-sectoral approach to water management at all levels and facilitate funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development while playing a support role in monitoring, assessment and information-sharing in target transboundary basins.

Based on these needs, this programme’s 5th phase operates in hotspots identified in three regions (Latin America, Africa and Asia).

Additional information:  
[www.waterandnature.org/initiatives/bridge](http://www.waterandnature.org/initiatives/bridge)

**TRANSBOUNDARY WATER GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME**  
Areas of Work 2022-2026



© IUCN



# Support to water cooperation based on the Water Convention



Region  
Global

## Partners

GEF, IUCN, INBO, WWF, OSCE, World Bank, UNCDF, AfDB, ADB, IDB, UNESCO, UNFCCC, FAO, WMO, other UN Regional Commissions, and many more

## Background information

The intervention aims to promote transboundary water cooperation at both technical and political levels by touching upon different aspects of water management and use.

## Project objectives

Transboundary waters worldwide are managed in cooperation between riparian countries, thereby promoting sustainable development, peace and security.

## Beneficiaries

Water authorities, decision-makers from other sectors, experts and decision-makers at various levels, basin organisations, NGOs and international organisations.

## Costs & Duration

Total: USD 13,413,000  
SDC: USD 1,800,000  
2022–2025

## Contact

Section Water  
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The Swiss contribution will support sustainable development in transboundary basins by fostering transboundary water cooperation based on the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (also known as the Water Convention). This contribution will support the Programme of Work 2022 - 2024 of the Water Convention, in particular its pillars on capacity-building, development of policy guidance backed by pilot projects on the ground, and exchange of experience. As a result, it will strengthen the sustainable use of shared water resources globally, and promote water security, water diplomacy, respect for the rule of law and political stability.

The UNECE 1992 Water Convention is a global legal and intergovernmental framework for transboundary water cooperation. Since the 1990s, the Convention has fostered the development of transboundary agreements, the establishment of joint institutions and the strengthening of cooperation in the UNECE region. In March 2016, it turned into a global framework open for accession by all UN Member States. More than 70 non-UNECE countries have already participated in the Convention's activities, and several have started the national accession process. Chad and Senegal ratified the Convention in 2018. Ghana acceded in 2020, followed by Guinea-Bissau and Togo in 2021, and Cameroon in 2022. Around 20 other countries have expressed their interest in acceding to the Convention.

## Intervention strategy and components:

This contribution aims to promote cooperation on transboundary waters at both technical and political levels. It represents a core contribution to the work under the Convention; thus, most activities will be co-funded by other donors. While the contribution will support the entire programme of work 2022 - 2024 (as an institutional programmatic contribution), priority will be given to activities in the following areas:

1. Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention, and supporting the application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation. The Convention, its products and achievements, and transboundary water cooperation in general will be promoted by (a) increasing awareness of and political support for the Convention and transboundary water cooperation; (b) increasing accession to the Convention, and as appropriate to the

United Nations Watercourses Convention, thereby promoting synergies between the two conventions; (c) highlighting the broad range of benefits that can be generated by cooperation and cooperative solutions; (d) supporting countries in developing or revising agreements or arrangements in transboundary basins.

2. Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels.
3. On the basis of the nexus methodology developed under the Convention in 2013-2015, the application of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus approach will be supported in a number of basins. Strengthening water governance and the application of integrated water resources management at the national and transboundary levels, in particular intersectoral cooperation, will be fostered through National Policy Dialogues in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.
4. Supporting monitoring assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins.
5. Access to comparable information across a transboundary basin or aquifer is necessary to form a common basis for management of water resources, but this often faces significant challenges. Support will be provided to countries who wish to initiate or further develop joint or coordinated monitoring and assessment of transboundary surface waters and groundwaters, covering both water quantity and quality aspects, and improving exchange of information and data between riparian countries.
6. Facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation.
7. The facilitation of dialogues and the exchange of lessons learned on sustainable financing models on water cooperation (e.g. institutions, data/information management systems, infrastructure) will be supported. This will culminate in a Global Workshop on financing water cooperation from all sources in 2023. Efforts to further increase cooperation with financial institutions will be made.

Additional information:  
[www.unece.org/env/water](http://www.unece.org/env/water)



# Water Voice

The SW aims at raising awareness about the importance of water governance at all levels by providing a platform for voices and agents of change, with a particular focus on strengthening the voices of women and young people, to urgently prioritise the need to address the global water crisis in national, regional and international agendas within and beyond the water community.

- The Swiss Water Partnership
- RésEAU – SDC's thematic network on water
- International Secretariat for Water (ISW) – Solidarity Water Europe (SWE)
- Water Integrity Network (WIN)
- Global Water Security and Sanitation Partnership (GWSP)
- Support to UN-Water towards 2030

## Water voices

Sustainable management of water, sanitation and hygiene for all are promoted on the global (multilateral) agenda.



The voice of Switzerland influences global water policies.

Underrepresented groups and disruptive actors are heard beyond the water sector (in particular the economy, food security, climate change, health, and peace) in relevant dialogues and political processes.

# The Swiss Water Partnership



## Partners

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, Skat Consulting Ltd. (Secretariat), 70+ members

## Background information

The SWP is a Swiss non-profit association founded in 2012. It is an umbrella organisation for the main Swiss stakeholders working on global water challenges.

## Project objectives

Bring together and stimulate Swiss know-how and expertise to contribute to improving living conditions in developing and transition countries through enhanced water security

## Beneficiaries

Water decision & policy-makers, water users, academic sector, civil society, private sector, etc. both in Switzerland and abroad.

## Costs & Duration

Total: CHF 1,961,224  
SDC: CHF 1,000,000  
2022–2025

## Contact

Section Water  
water@eda.admin.ch

Switzerland’s privileged situation as Europe’s water tower, and the fact that around 80% of its water footprint affects other countries, require the country to take responsibility to support others in achieving water security for their population and ecosystems. The Swiss Water Partnership (SWP) was launched in 2012 based on the initiative of the SDC, with the aim of contributing to solving global water challenges and position Switzerland at the forefront of the international water scene. The scale and urgency of the global water challenges call for the development of multi-stakeholder partnerships, which have the potential to create a leveraging effect.

The Swiss Water Partnership is a multi-stakeholder platform bringing together Swiss organisations from the academic sector, civil society, the public and private sectors, including youth, to join forces and find innovative solutions for water challenges in developing and transition countries. As an umbrella organisation for Switzerland’s water stakeholders at the international level, the Swiss Water Partnership is a key complementary partner to SDC both in Switzerland and abroad, and carries the diversity of the Swiss voice. It aims at contributing to achieving the water-related SDG targets globally by:

- Leveraging partnerships: Facilitating partnerships among SWP members, in particular as a way to create synergies by putting together different actors with complementary know-how and expertise, to support Swiss actors to position themselves abroad, and potentially develop new partnerships & business opportunities ;
- Generating innovation: Stimulating the creation of innovative cross-sector solutions by and for its members, and promoting Swiss water innovations internationally ;
- Influencing policy and practice: Mobilising Swiss water actors to tackle global water issues, to participate in policy processes, particularly in relation to the monitoring and implementation of SDG 6, and promoting the operationalisation of the human rights to water and sanitation principles ;
- Managing knowledge: Positioning the platform as a dynamic learning platform, offering a space to learn from each other, exchange experience, develop new ideas and solutions building on the diversity of the SWP members’ skills and experience.

- SOLIDARITY - Supporting the less privileged in getting universal access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene and managing their water resources in an integrated and sustainable manner is at the core of SWP’s activities.
- INTEGRITY - Water projects need to be managed under the principles of transparency, accountability and participation of civil society, thereby ensuring ownership and sustainability.

## Guiding principles

The activities of the platform are guided by the following principles: Non-partisan // Evidence-based // Information transparency.

The statutes form a binding document for all members to ensure the respect of these values and principles.

## Specific Objectives

1. PLATFORM DEVELOPMENT  
A platform is only as dynamic and innovative as the sum of its members. The SWP therefore seeks to diversify its membership base, increasing the potential for disruptive dialogue, including non-traditional investment actors, youth, and private sector water users.
2. YOUTH FOR WATER  
Shaping tomorrow’s water future with today’s youth, the SWP works at attracting and connecting youth and young professionals to the water sector, with the aim of engaging Swiss and eventually international youth to influence water-related debates.
3. INNOVATIONS FOR SDG WATER  
Innovations enhancing the effectiveness of approaches to achieve water-related SDG targets are generated and/or tested, and shared through the SWP and its members.
4. STRONG SWISS VOICE  
The SWP contributes to increasing visibility and recognition of the Swiss know-how, solutions and research on water, through better coordination of Swiss stakeholders at the international level.



General Assembly SWP

©SDC

Additional information:  
[www.swisswaterpartnership.ch](http://www.swisswaterpartnership.ch)



## Shared values

The SWP members have agreed upon the following shared values:

# Stimulating exchange, learning, capacity building and capitalisation – promoting innovation

**Region**  
Global



**Partners**

Skat Consulting Ltd. as backstopper

**Background information**

The RésEAU is one of SDC’s thematic networks tasked with fostering exchange, learning, capacity-building and capitalisation related to water. It is part of the so-called ‘Cluster Green’ together with the Climate Change & Environment, the Agriculture & Food Security and the DRR networks.

**Project objectives**

As all other thematic networks the RésEAU’s primary objective is to stimulate topical exchange, mutual learning, and sharing of knowledge and experiences among SDC staff at headquarters and in the field as well as key partners.

**Beneficiaries**

Direct beneficiaries are SDC’s and partners’ staff active in the field of water and related thematic realms.

**Costs & Duration**

CHF 3,500,000  
2021–2026

**Contact**

Section Water  
water@eda.admin.ch

The RésEAU is – in line with the core mandate of all SDC thematic networks – a key instrument for knowledge management, capacity strengthening, strategic reflection, thematic expertise and advice, promotion of innovation and the exploration of new trends in the water domain. These are demanding tasks with high expectations given the increasing challenges related to the global water crisis. For this to be possible, a high degree of alertness, anticipation and flexibility is required to respond to opportunities and new challenges that are yet unknown.

The RésEAU was launched in 2009 and is institutionally hosted by the ‘Section Water’ (SW) in the Corporate Domain ‘Global Cooperation’, with a mandate to serve all units of SDC, and liaise with relevant actors and communities in Switzerland and abroad. Among many other tasks, the network provides access to the latest news, trends and knowledge in the water sector for all its registered members. Currently more than 500 people belong to the steadily growing and expanding network. These are either SDC staff or belong to SDC’s strategic and implementing partners or associates. The majority of RésEAU members are external to the Swiss Confederation and most members are based outside Switzerland.

As for all other SDC thematic networks, the RésEAU’s core functions are to:

- promote learning and pass on professional and methodological knowledge;
- provide thematic strategic and operational advice to SDC’s organisational units and implementing partners;
- capitalise on experiences, extract lessons learnt and formulate good practices; and
- support policy development.

In line with this mandate, the RésEAU is responsible for knowledge management, capacity building and strengthening, strategic reflection, promotion of innovation and exploration of new trends in the field of water – and to make available conducive ‘channels’ to support the SDC’s operations and strategic planning in integrating such expertise.

The RésEAU emphasises and promoted decentralised regional ‘Sub-RésEAUs’ in order to stimulate ownership and initiatives from the field and create value-added for operational activities of SDC and its

partners. Currently the following Sub-RésEAUs exist or are about to be launched (in alphabetic order): Africa, Eastern Europe-Central Asia (EECA), Latin America & Caribbean (LAC), Middle East-North Africa (MENA), and South and South-East Asia (SSEA).

Efforts are undertaken to implement three recently developed strategies meant to promote youth, gender, and social media. Another innovative feature developed by the RésEAU are the Trend Sheets under the Trend Observatory entrusted to adelphi (www.adelphi.de) as a mandate of SW. So far a Trend Sheet on digitalisation in water and another Trend Sheet on the link to the cryosphere in mountains have been developed.



[www.hazu.swiss/deza/trend-observatory-on-water](http://www.hazu.swiss/deza/trend-observatory-on-water)

Additional information:  
[www.shareweb.ch/site/Water](http://www.shareweb.ch/site/Water)





# Committed to Civil Society and Young Water Leaders

**Region**  
Global



**Partners**

International Secretariat for Water (ISW) - Solidarity Water Europe (SWE)

**Background information**

ISW-SWE envisions a world where everyone has access to a safe, sustainable source of water and sanitation. To achieve this, an innovative, multi-stakeholder approach is crucial.

**Project objectives**

An active and empowered civil society and youth for water and sanitation induce changes in policy-making, and contribute to sustainable and peaceful water governance for the benefit of all, in particular the disadvantaged.

**Beneficiaries**

Citizens, Youth, Disadvantaged people, Civil society organisations, Institutional actors, Decision-makers (including private sector), Authorities at all levels.

**Costs & Duration**

CHF 1,900,000  
2019–2023

**Contact**

Section Water  
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The International Secretariat for Water (ISW) - Solidarity Water Europe (SWE) supports and empowers civil society and youth to be active, recognised and credible stakeholders in decision-making around water and sanitation. It is recognised for its holistic and participatory approach involving wide networks of partners, including numerous Swiss-based organisations. The SDC contribution aims to strengthen the strategic partnership with ISW-SWE in order to remain an efficient and innovative advocate for civil society and youth.

Citizens and young people are heavily and directly affected by the challenges our world is facing, and when it comes to the prospect of a peaceful and sustainable future, they have the most to lose. However, effective civil society involvement, including youth engagement, is challenging, because of the disbelief of decision-makers, and institutions being more comfortable doing «business-as-usual». As the time for action is pressing, it has never been more important to have a recognised and credible civil society - including youth - with a strong outreach.

The overall goal of ISW-SWE is the following: An active and empowered civil society and youth for water and sanitation induce changes in policy-making, and contribute to sustainable and peaceful water governance for the benefit of all, in particular the disadvantaged.

The water challenges our world is facing compel ISW-SWE to be engaged at all levels with a concerted effort from all stakeholders to converge to common objectives. Water must be put above all else, while the preservation of the resource is a shared duty – for water, actions exceeding the policies of a country need to be taken. In that regard, civil society and youth have a crucial role to play.

ISW-SWE outcomes for 2019-2023:

- Civil society and youth have increased their innovation capacity, knowledge and are empowered drivers of change.
- Local voices - including civil society and youth are recognised, credible and have a strong, disruptive outreach in the water sector and beyond.
- Relevant decision-makers are influenced to integrate a holistic approach for sustainable & peaceful water governance.
- The vulnerable and disadvantaged have improved their living conditions through water-related projects in their communities.

**ISW-SWE intervention approach**

To contribute to sustainable and peaceful water governance for the benefit of all, in particular the disadvantaged, ISW-SWE approaches rely on different strategies that adapt to the particular conditions in every region, in order to grasp the window of opportunity that allows the disruption of unsustainable policies and interventions.

ISW-SWE is empowering civil society and youth, with a particular attention to those having the potential to contribute to making a change, increasing the value of the most vulnerable people and influencing relevant decision-makers to integrate a holistic approach for sustainable and peaceful water governance. Through its interventions, ISW-SWE ensures the inclusion of people from diverse socio-economic groups to ensure a balanced representation and give those groups the opportunity to meet and exchange.

Central characteristics of ISW-SWE interventions are: collaboration, consultations and partnerships while working systematically with / through networks, coalitions and partners.

**Youth Movement for Water**

In the spirit of the youth movement for water, the ISW SWE youth strategy is based on strong and diverse partnerships, and is coordinated with those of other organisations actively engaging with young people in the water sector. ISW-SWE has strong collaborations with youth-led organisations and networks, which can involve providing operational or programmatic support, working together on activities or sharing information. ISW-SWE launched and supports the World Youth Parliament for Water (WYPW) and the European Youth Parliament for Water (EYPW). This movement of passionate young people from 80+ countries effects change at all levels: from local communities, where they implement concrete actions, to the UN General Assembly, where they advocate for youth participation.

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Additional information:  
[www.sie-isw.org](http://www.sie-isw.org)



# Promoting integrity and fighting corruption in the water sector



## Region

Global,  
Bangladesh, Benin, Kenya,  
Mexico

## Partners

Water Integrity Network, HEL-VETAS Swiss Intercooperation, Caritas Switzerland, cewas

## Background information

Water integrity and the fight against corruption allow for effective governance in the water sector. It is a prerequisite for the achievement of safe water and adequate sanitation for all.

## Project objectives

- Water integrity is on the agenda of the global water sector
- Right holders are empowered
- Water integrity is a common principle and practice for Swiss-based organisations (and their partners)

## Beneficiaries

Local communities and civil society, governments, partners of WIN (especially Swiss-based)

## Costs & Duration

Total: EUR 8,300,000  
SDC: EUR 920,000  
2020–2023

## Contact

Section Water  
water@eda.admin.ch

The Water Integrity Network (WIN) combines global advocacy, regional networks and local action in order to promote increased Transparency, Accountability, Participation and Anti-corruption (TAP-A) in the water sector. WIN's goal is for water integrity to become a common principle and practice in the water sector, empowering right holders to claim better water management and equitable and sustained access to water and sanitation while holding duties bearers accountable. SDC supports WIN to actively advocate for better water governance and corruption prevention, building on the lessons learned from the implementation of MCWIP with Swiss NGOs and their partners.

Only a well-functioning and corruption-free water sector will be able to overcome the enormous challenge of reaching universal access to water and sanitation services by 2030. Corruption in the water sector affects the ability to meet several other SDGs, undermining the realisation of the Sustainable Development Agenda.

Corruption can be found at every point along the water delivery chain: policy design, budget allocations, operations and billing systems. In developing countries, corruption is estimated to raise the price of a household connection to the water network by as much as 30%, which imposes a heavy burden on the poor.

WIN promotes integrity to fight corruption in the water sector. With SDC support, WIN raises awareness on integrity issues, develops stakeholder capacities, and supports practical action against malpractice. It promotes the use of tools to identify integrity risks and to improve governance in the water sector.

WIN supports different types of organizations and the use of integrity tools:

- **Governments and water sector institutions**  
To get a better understanding of integrity issues to inform policy-making, set integrity standards for the sector, and support collective action.
- **Water and sanitation service providers**  
To build trust and reduce specific integrity risks for their organization related to accounting, human resources, operations & maintenance.
- **CSOs, user associations, and communities**  
To get to the roots of recurring water system problems, work out mutual accountability processes, and strengthen project management.

- **Water stewardship initiatives and multi-stakeholder partnerships**

To increase sustainability and effectiveness of their action through transparency and accountability.

## Current project phase (2020-2023)

SDC continues to support WIN in phase 4 throughout the second part of its strategic cycle and into the following, which will be launched in 2023. The main objectives of WIN's programme are the following:

- Increase integrity and reduce corruption in the international water and sanitation sector:  
WIN aims to put water integrity on the agenda of the global water sector and embed the principles of TAP-A in water programmes, in close collaboration with its network partners and international, regional and national multi-sector actors.
- Improve integrity and reduce corruption in the water and sanitation sector in focus countries and regions:  
WIN aims to strengthen capacities of governments to oversee and manage quality water services with integrity, while supporting communities and civil society organisations advocacy to improve WASH policies and demand better services.
- Development and brokering of evidence, knowledge and expertise to advance, measure and mainstream integrity:  
WIN produces content, tools, methodologies and approaches aiming at increasing the capacity of sectoral actors to curb corruption in their context of intervention.
- Transparent and sustainable management of WIN: strengthening of the organisation's governance and financial processes, development of human resources.

Additional information:  
[www.waterintegritynetwork.net](http://www.waterintegritynetwork.net)





# Accelerating solutions to achieve SDG 6 by 2030



**Region**  
Global

**Partners**

World Bank Global Water Practice, Sweden/SIDA, The Netherlands/DGIS, Australia/DFAT, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, USAID, Swiss State Secretariat of Economic Affairs/SECO, Denmark, and Austria.

**Background information**

In many countries, most donor support for the water sector focuses on individual subsectors, and does not address the broader challenges of water as set out in SDG 6 to support households, agriculture, manufacturing, job creation, and the environment.

**Project objectives**

Solve complex water and sanitation challenges by helping governments achieve SDG 6 and other water-related SDGs through global knowledge and partnerships as well as country-level support that leverages WBG financial instruments.

**Beneficiaries**

Governments, citizens, academic sector, civil society, private sector.

**Costs & Duration**

SDC: USD 8,200,000  
Total: USD 160,000,000  
2022–2026

**Contact**

Section Water  
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**The Global Water Goal SDG 6 requires an integrated approach**

Water touches nearly every aspect of development. It drives economic growth, supports healthy ecosystems and is fundamental for life. However, this critical resource can harm as well as help. Water-related hazards such as floods, storms, and droughts are responsible for 9 out of 10 natural disasters. Climate change is expected to increase this risk and place even greater stress on scarce water supplies. In addition, increasing global water pollution from various sources is another challenge, which needs to be addressed. New challenges and new contexts require new responses. That is why the World Bank, together with its partners, has launched a new partnership for a water-secure world, the GWSP. Building on a nearly half-century of collaboration driven by the Water and Sanitation Program (WSP), the Water Partnership Program (WPP) and others, GWSP has consolidated the work and influence of those long-standing trust funds into one cohesive programme. The GWSP aims to provide action equal to the ambition articulated within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**A Global Trust Fund to Advance Knowledge and Building Capacity at Scale around SDG 6**

The Global Water Security and Sanitation Partnership (GWSP) of the World Bank Water Global Practice is a trust fund-based global partnership with the objective to address the water and sanitation challenge in an integrated manner, as set out in the global water goal (SDG 6). This support will advance innovative global knowledge production and exchange as well as build capacity through country-level support across regions with a focus on the population excluded the most from water investments and services (with a focus on women through a gender strategy and additional gender-related key performance indicators).

With its portfolio of water investments and water experts, the World Bank is uniquely positioned to lead these efforts, by developing and sharing global knowledge while also amplifying the impact of the World Bank Group financial instruments through technical assistance on the ground across regions.

The GWSP primarily focuses on advancing knowledge and building capacity. It supports client governments to achieve the water-related SDGs through the generation of innovative global knowledge and the provision of country-level support, while leveraging moting global dialogue and advocacy with key partners and clients to increase reach and impact. This partnership provides new opportunities to test and scale-up innovations,

build country capacity where needed and influence country demand and World Bank operations. It will focus on the following areas:

- Water Supply and Sanitation.
- Agricultural Water Management.

SDC will focus on the following priorities and objectives in its steering of the partnership:

- Strengthened focus on fragility, conflict and violence-affected contexts (WASH and climate change);
- Integration of Climate Change following the Dispatch 2021-2024, the latest IPCC reports in 2022 and according to the World Bank Climate Change Action Plan 2021 -2024; (incl. transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwater)
- Social Inclusion and Gender;
- Better alignment of funding and financing flows with water security, climate and broader policy objectives.

The GWSP’s influence on global World Bank lending translates into lending projects in Africa, Middle East & North Africa, Europe & Central Asia, South Asia, East Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Additional information:  
[www.worldbank.org/gwsp](http://www.worldbank.org/gwsp)



# SDC Contribution to UN-Water



**Region**  
Global



**Partners**

33 UN Agencies as members and 42 partners outside the UN

**Background information**

The next few years are critical for the success of the SDGs in general and of SDG 6 in particular. Unless progress on SDG 6 accelerates, the world will not reach the SDG 6 targets by 2030.

**Project objectives**

Consolidate the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework and continue strengthening the global water architecture to ensure the successful implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda.

**Beneficiaries**

33 UN Members and 42 global Partners (AquaFed, IUCN, GWP, WWF, WWC, IWMI, etc.) Policy- and decision-makers, and the public.

**Costs & Duration**

Total: CHF 37,000,000  
SDC: CHF 9,100,000  
2021–2025

**Contact**

Section Water  
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UN-Water was formally established in 2003 and is the United Nations inter-agency coordination mechanism for all freshwater-related matters. It includes 33 United Nations bodies which focus on, or have an interest in, water-related issues as Members, and 42 international organisations as Partners.

SDC's continued support to the UN-Water core coordination budget is strategic and aims to bring a more coordinated approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on water and sanitation. A prior support phase (of the same financial amount) has shown the importance of UN-Water's role both in ensuring that water remains a global strategic issue and in providing more effective multilateral coordination.

Following the 2020 United Nations Secretary-General's call for a Decade of Action, UN-Water has launched the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework as part of its 2030 Strategy. This aims to address water and sanitation challenges over a ten-year period with the necessary focus, urgency, effectiveness and coherence in order to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. This framework formulates four strategic activities to enable UN-Water to realise its full potential during the 2020-2030 period by:

1. Building on its core strengths: UN-Water plays a critical role in the monitoring and reporting on progress towards the SDG 6 targets, and in coordinating the United Nations international observance days (World Water Day and World Toilet Day), and the Water Action Decade 2018-2028. In addition, UN-Water is a key player in the coordination and technical support of the 2023 UN Water Conference, a critical milestone in achieving SDG 6 to which Switzerland has been very proactively committed.
2. Scaling its impact to regional and country levels: At the regional level, UN-Water aims to provide a permanent mechanism for information, knowledge and experience-sharing and the coordination of regional water-related activities pursued jointly by its Members and Partners. At the country level, UN-Water adds value to work on water and sanitation by providing insights, information and data, by facilitating access to expertise, technical assistance and support from Members and Partners, and by supporting communications, knowledge transfer and advocacy.
3. Accelerating progress through the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework: The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework focuses the attention and

mobilises action by Member States, United Nations entities and other stakeholders on five 'accelerators' to drive progress on water and sanitation issues: financing, data and information, capacity development, innovation and governance.

4. Ensuring agile, collectively owned and sustainable UN-Water operations: UN-Water will address the need to better mainstream its work in Members' organisations at all levels (global, regional and in-country offices/ teams). It will also ensure common approaches and a system-wide overview of the contributions that Members and Partners are expected to make in delivering agreed outputs.

**Global framework for SDG 6 monitoring**

The UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 brings together eight United Nations agencies and comprises several monitoring programmes. The aim of this initiative is to establish and manage a coherent monitoring framework for water and sanitation as well as to contribute to country progress through well-informed decision-making.

In 2018, UN-Water also launched the SDG 6 Data Portal as the flagship product of its Integrated Monitoring Initiative. The SDG 6 Data Portal presents robust analysis of the global indicators and increases the availability of high-quality data for evidence-based policymaking, regulation, planning, and investments at all levels.

The second phase of the initiative will focus on building countries' capacity to collect, analyse and report data on all SDG 6 indicators to allow policy and decision-makers at all levels to draw upon the interdependencies between the SDG 6 targets and maximise the benefits of water and sanitation monitoring data in a holistic manner.



© UN Water

Additional information:  
www.unwater.org  
www.sdg6monitoring.org  
JMP: www.washdata.org





Contact:

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www.sdc.ch / www.sdc-water.ch

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SDC's Section Water Programme  
Framework 2021-2024



Guidelines on Water



Blue Peace digital hub

