

# The Sustainable Development Goal 6 Global Acceleration Framework



United  
Nations



UN WATER

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*“Our world as we know it and the future we want are at risk. Despite considerable efforts these past four years, we are not on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. We must dramatically step up the pace of implementation as we enter a decisive decade for people and the planet. We must connect the dots across all that we do – as individuals, civic groups, corporations, municipalities and Member States of the United Nations – and truly embrace the principles of inclusion and sustainability.”*

António Guterres,  
United Nations Secretary-General<sup>1</sup>

## Purpose

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The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 Global Acceleration Framework aims to deliver fast results at an increased scale as part of the Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by 2030<sup>2</sup>. The international community will catalyse broad stakeholder action by dramatically improving its support to countries to achieve SDG 6 on water and sanitation through four action pillars:

- 1) Engage – swift responses to country requests through leveraged expertise and mobilization,
- 2) Align – coordinated approaches across sectors

and actors through unified strategies and initiatives,

- 3) Accelerate – unlocked bottlenecks through five accelerators, and
- 4) Account – strengthened accountability through joint review and learning.

## Promise

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By committing to the Framework, the UN system and its multi-stakeholder partners, driven by country demand and coordinating through UN-Water<sup>3</sup>, will unify the international community's support to countries to rapidly accelerate towards national targets for SDG 6. In doing so, the Framework will contribute to progress across the 2030 Agenda and other relevant global targets<sup>4</sup>: in particular, poverty reduction, food security, health, gender equality, peace, sustainability and climate resilience of communities, ecosystems and production systems.

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<sup>1</sup> Independent Group of Scientists appointed by the Secretary-General (2019), *Global Sustainable Development Report 2019: The Future is Now – Science for Achieving Sustainable Development*: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24797GSDR\\_report\\_2019.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24797GSDR_report_2019.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> The Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by 2030 was launched by Heads of State and Government at the SDG Summit in September 2019 in order to step up progress towards the SDGs and put the world on track to realize their targets by 2030. More information in the political declaration of the SDG Summit 2019: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/4>

<sup>3</sup> This paper is developed by UN-Water, which coordinates the United Nations' work on water and sanitation and aims to galvanize action across its over 30 (United Nations) Members and many other international Partners.

<sup>4</sup> The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework contributes to realizing the human rights to water and sanitation. It builds on ongoing processes, including awareness raising through the Water Action Decade 2018-2028, as well as the United Nations Secretary-General's global call to action for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in all health care facilities and the Agenda for Humanity. The Framework will also support implementation of other global commitments, such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement and others. The Framework will utilize the high-level events in 2021 and 2023 (the mid-term comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028) combined with strengthened system-wide collaboration at the country level to accelerate and showcase progress on SDG 6 and ultimately across the 2030 Agenda.



Sewage poured into a river. Photo by Trey Ratcliff

## Problem

SDG 6 – *to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all* – is alarmingly off track<sup>5</sup>. At the current rate of progress, the world will not reach the SDG 6 targets by 2030. Rates of progress dating back to 2000 show we have achieved on average 1% annual progress on expanding access to basic water supply and sanitation – however, at least 3% annual increases are needed just to ensure everyone has basic services by 2030, when SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2 are measured on the proportion of population using safely managed services.

Of course, SDG 6 goes beyond provision of water supply, sanitation and hygiene services to include targets on water scarcity, water pollution, biodiversity and ecosystem protection, disaster risk reduction, leveraging water for peace, and water management that reflect the ever growing global pressures on our most precious and finite resource.

The water and sanitation crisis is getting worse. Put simply, there are two areas of threat:

- 1. Water demand and withdrawals are increasing due to population growth, socio-economic development, urbanization and land-use change, inefficient use in water-using sectors and changing consumption patterns; and,

<sup>5</sup> United Nations (2018), *SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation*: <https://www.unwater.org/publications/highlights-sdg-6-synthesis-report-2018-on-water-and-sanitation-2/>



- 2. Water sources and associated ecosystems are being degraded because of unsustainable use, increased pollution and climate change, while an increasing frequency/severity of floods and droughts poses additional threats.

Lack of progress on SDG 6 is undermining global health (and our ability to combat and prevent pandemics), prosperity, women's empowerment and gender equality, education and food security, damaging our ecosystems and compromising the entire 2030 Agenda, as well as the achievement of the Paris Agreement and post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Sustainable water management, and delivery of water supply and sanitation services, underpins wider efforts to end hunger and poverty, advance sustainable development, and sustain peace and stability. Humanitarian crises that require water and sanitation responses are more frequent, affecting more people and lasting longer. Lack of safe water and sanitation negatively impacts nutrition, particularly that of children, impacting their physical and cognitive growth.

There are several bottlenecks impeding greater progress. Policy and institutional fragmentation between levels, actors and sectors means that decisions taken in other sectors (e.g. agriculture, energy, health, environment) often do not consider the associated impacts on water availability and water quality, and that issues do not receive the necessary political attention. Funding gaps and fragmentation impede progress across levels, while data and information too often are not available or not shared between sectors and across borders to

effectively inform decision-making. Meanwhile, gaps in institutional and human capacity, especially at the level of local governments and water and sanitation providers, slows implementation of SDG 6 along with outdated infrastructure and governance models.

## Solutions

The water and sanitation crisis can be solved. Various countries have proved that dramatic gains can be achieved in just a few years<sup>6</sup>. Actions to accelerate progress towards the SDG 6 targets can yield immediate benefits to the most vulnerable people and deliver cost savings and economic opportunities in other sectors. For example, in rural areas, for every US\$ 1 invested in basic drinking water, an average of nearly US\$ 7 is returned in saved medical costs and increased productivity<sup>7</sup>. Moreover, some of the solutions are inexpensive, effective and can be quickly deployed.

Rapid and more integrated action is now needed. As identified in the *SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation*, this requires increased political will, scaling up of existing technologies and partnerships, development of capacities in countries including of young people, as well as optimization and mobilization of financial resources. Ultimately, the acceleration of SDG 6 implementation supports many – if not all – other SDGs, particularly on health, education, food, gender equality, energy and climate change, thanks to its interlinkages with other goals which create numerous co-benefits<sup>8</sup>.

6 Examples of rapid improvement include India's massive investment in sanitation, driven by political will at the highest level, and Thailand eliminating open defecation.

7 Hutton, G (2015), *Benefits and Costs of the Water Sanitation and Hygiene Targets for the Post-2015 Development Agenda*. World Bank. [https://www.copenhagenconsensus.com/sites/default/files/water\\_sanitation\\_assessment\\_-\\_hutton.pdf](https://www.copenhagenconsensus.com/sites/default/files/water_sanitation_assessment_-_hutton.pdf)

8 UN-Water (2016), *Water and Sanitation Interlinkages across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. <https://www.unwater.org/publications/water-sanitation-interlinkages-across-2030-agenda-sustainable-development/>

As identified in the *2019 Global Sustainable Development Report: 'The Future Is Now: Science for Achieving Sustainable Development'*, scientific evidence is a prerequisite for designing and implementing transformations to sustainable development<sup>9</sup>. This requires Member States to work with the scientific community (e.g. research consortiums, universities, centres), to accurately assess water externalities – in particular those that affect the global environmental commons – and change patterns of use through pricing, transfers, regulation and other instruments; to enhance the current levels of access to knowledge and disaggregated data, as well as scientific capacity and good-quality higher education in low- and middle-income countries and countries in special development situations; to invite universities, policymakers and research funders to scale up research, guided by the 2030 Agenda, in sustainability science and other disciplines, with simultaneous strengthening of the science-policy-society interface.

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**“Opportunities, such as engaging women to build skills for maintenance of water provision systems with water operators, must be expanded.”**

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Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are a key accelerator and strategic enabler for the sustainable management of water and sanitation and driving progress towards SDG 6. Innovative ICT solutions can improve accessibility to clean water, provide the necessary tools to assess and monitor water resources, and meet the growing water demands from around the world. There are four major areas in water management where ICTs can make marked progress: mapping of water resources and weather forecasting;

setting up early warning systems to manage water risks and demands; improving water distribution networks; and monitoring irrigation in agriculture and land scaping<sup>10</sup>.

## Guiding principles

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A set of cross-cutting fundamental principles underpin all aspects of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework:

- **Prioritizing the vulnerable** – It is critical to reach the billions of people left behind without basic services, who already suffer most from water scarcity, disasters/ crises and pollution, especially forcibly displaced people and others living in fragile countries, rural areas and disadvantaged periurban communities.
- **Inclusivity** – Exclusion and horizontal inequalities among groups and within geographical areas can increase the risk of violent conflicts and need to be addressed. Inclusive management of water resources, bringing various groups together, can contribute to resilient and peaceful societies. Dialogue and grievance mechanisms and participatory planning tools at community and municipal levels can enhance trust in and legitimacy of governments.
- **Conflict sensitivity** – Water can be a source of conflict. All activities need to be conflict-sensitive and risk-informed, informed by a conflict and risk analysis.

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<sup>9</sup> In the report, the UN Secretary-General stresses that, “*Science is our great ally in the efforts to achieve the Goals.*”

<sup>10</sup> ITU (2010), ICT as an Enabler for Smart Water Management. [https://www.itu.int/dms\\_pub/itu-t/oth/23/01/T23010000100003PDFE.pdf](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-t/oth/23/01/T23010000100003PDFE.pdf)



Women gather at a women's centre in Kuma Garadayat, Darfur, which has been developed in the areas of education, sanitation, health, community development, and the empowerment of women. UN Photo/Albert González Farran

- **Unleashing female and youth potential and reaching gender equality** – Effective planning, implementation and monitoring of water and sanitation depends on engaging with the whole of society, especially the involvement of women and young people and the integration of gender equality considerations. Opportunities, such as engaging women to build skills for maintenance of water provision systems with water operators, must be expanded.
- **Planning for resilience/sustainability** – Adaptability is essential in a rapidly transforming world. Climate change, population growth, migration, urbanization and deforestation all impact water ecosystems and the water resources they supply both in terms of quantity and quality. Tapping into the potential of new best practices, such as climate-resilient approaches and nature-based solutions,

as well as their better promotion and increased implementation, is critical for ensuring effective water management and adaptation. The Framework will contribute to strengthening linkages between environmental, development and humanitarian approaches to contribute to SDG gains and sustaining peace in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

- **Making scientific evidence a prerequisite** – Science is a must for designing and implementing transformations to sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda must serve as a shared compass to rapidly mobilize and harness the extensive knowledge available. Many low- and middle-income countries need to design and pursue development that breaks the model of Western-style dependence on economic growth at environmental costs.

# Action pillars

The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework action pillars (see figure 1): Engage, Align, Accelerate and Account represent the broad entry points for coordinated action.

## Engage

The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework will enable a better engagement with all stakeholders within a country, including target communities. Through the Framework, the international community will mobilize

a coordinated response to countries and enable the participation of all sectors of society to generate an unstoppable movement pushing for required transformations.

Six core actions will guide the work:

- **Respond efficiently and effectively to country and regional requests** – Leverage UN’s convening power to connect available expertise to the country and regional levels. Scale up support to countries from the entities within the UN system and other multi-stakeholder partners, including in response to country requests channelled through Regional Coordination Mechanisms and UN Resident Coordinators to UN-Water<sup>1</sup>.

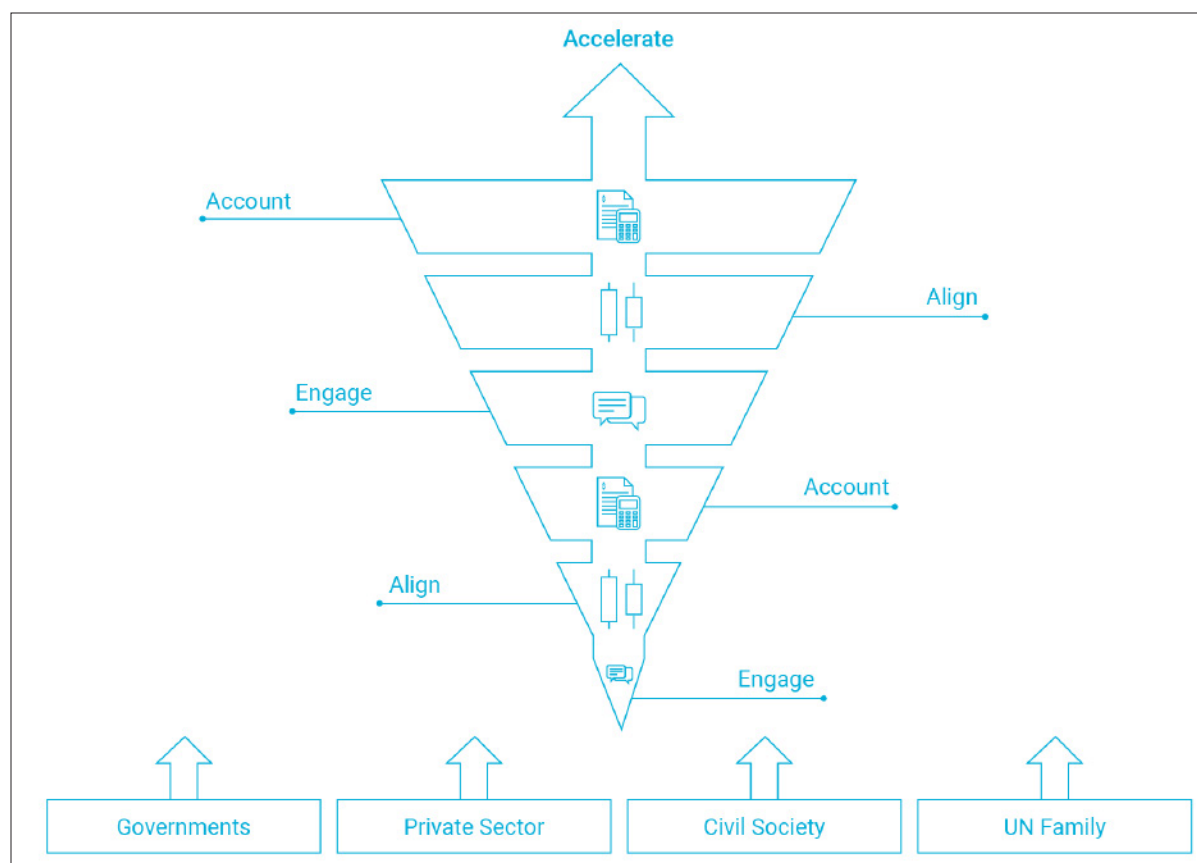


Figure 1: Visualizing the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework action pillars



- **Unify external backing around government-led plans** – Sustained progress on SDG 6 ultimately rests on governments being meaningfully and efficiently supported through providing coherent and aligned technical assistance and resources, often within the context of a joint sector review for water and sanitation.
- **Engage with local authorities, civil society, particularly excluded groups and geographical areas** – We need to keep a people-centred approach, leave no one behind and focus on those furthest behind first. Local authorities are key to delivering SDG 6 and they are the interface for most people. The Framework will take a community-centric approach, building on UN's collective ability to channel communities' voices.
- **Build and empower a multi-stakeholder movement** – Through advocacy, good communication, direct support and leading by example, it is envisaged that the UN system will catalyse broad stakeholder action, individually and collectively, locally and globally, to address the water and sanitation crisis.
- **Finetune existing international frameworks** – This will facilitate effective implementation and achievement of fundamental goals, such as the reduction of poverty and gender inequality, alongside additional dedicated institutional, analytical and operational frameworks.
- **Establish/scale up powerful partnerships at the global, regional and river, lake and aquifer basin levels** – Partnerships will aim to generate and sustain political will, to mobilize public and private entities across

different sectors for cooperation, foster innovation and reform, prevent conflicts and promote effective, sustainable and peaceful management of water resources.

## Align

The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework will reduce fragmentation through aligning operational and financial strategies, policies and approaches in support of countries.

Three core actions will guide the work:

- **Adapt our ways of working to become more effective and efficient** – Entities within the UN system and multi-stakeholder partners will continue to improve their ways of working and coordinate action to pursue efficiencies in response to demands from countries and partners. Given the interdependence of the SDGs, increased alignment will improve efficiency and effectiveness by harnessing synergies between different SDGs.
- **Commit to sustainability by supporting whole systems approaches** – Water and sanitation services and resource management require holistic improvements to institutions, planning, financing, implementation and oversight, all supported by competent human resources. In this context, the Framework will reduce policy and institutional fragmentation between levels, actors, and sectors, including harmonization of mandates of institutions.
- **Raise the ambition** – Strong political will and commitment at all levels are required. This means decision makers at the highest levels must raise the ambition for inclusive and sustainable water and sanitation

11 UN-Water, working in close collaboration with the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO), has shared an offer with UN Country Teams and Resident Coordinators to access UN-Water expertise, with the intention of strengthening the implementation of the UN reform. The offer is being piloted in 2020.

solutions in order to support national development priorities, in turn promoting action within national, regional and global policies that cascade down to the sub-national and local levels. This includes scaling up support and action from all relevant actors and stakeholders, including in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

## Accelerate

The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework will enable entities within the UN system and multi-stakeholder partners to dramatically improve their support to countries by acting together to support country progress. Five accelerators will guide the work (see figure 2).

- **1. Financing: Optimize financing for water and sanitation** – Funding gaps impede progress, while existing funding from different sources is often uncoordinated among donors or sometimes even counterproductive. Improved targeting, better utilization of existing resources including harnessing of synergies between different SDGs, and mobilization of additional domestic and international funding for the water sector, together with innovative financing including blended finance and smart water and sanitation investments, is required to catalyse efficient service delivery and implementation. In addition, adequate funding allocations for the identification, implementation and monitoring of policies and actions towards inclusive water governance should be ensured.

*What success would look like:* Costed plans related to delivery of SDG 6 are fully funded.

- **2. Data and information:** Build trust through data generation, validation, standardization and information exchange

for decision-making and accountability

- Step changes are needed at all levels to generate data and optimize monitoring and assessment, to deepen disaggregation and analysis, especially for vulnerable, marginalized and disadvantaged groups. Sharing information transparently within and between sectors and across borders is essential to effectively inform decision-making processes, including by drawing on coherent data and information systems, innovation and multi-stakeholder engagement and through policy advice and technical assistance. Innovative approaches and tools have great potential to support water monitoring and data assessments.

*What success would look like:* High quality information on SDG 6 indicators is shared and easily accessible by any decision maker.

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**“This means decision makers at the highest levels must raise the ambition for inclusive and sustainable water and sanitation solutions in order to support national development priorities.”**

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- **3. Capacity development:** Focus on human capacity to deliver SDG 6 – Previous output-based approaches have not paid sufficient attention to education, training, attracting and retaining the skilled workforce needed to deliver water and sanitation-related services. Capacity development, monitoring and evaluation are essential for improving service levels, operating and maintaining technology, increasing job creation in the water sector, and monitoring performance, including at community level. Water education is necessary at all levels to develop a holistic understanding of the issues at stake, including



General Assembly opens seventy-third general debate. UN Photo/Manuel Elias.

for young people. Capacity development is required in engineering, scientific and technical disciplines, and also across all areas related to water and sanitation, including in policy, law, governance, finance, information technology, environment, gender, stakeholder participation and management. This includes strengthening the capacity of local governments and water and sanitation providers in water and sanitation service delivery.

*What success would look like:*

Skilled staff enhance sustainable implementation of SDG 6

- **4. Innovation:** Leverage and scale up innovative practices and technologies
  - If we are to reach the transformative progress needed to meet SDG 6, business-as-usual is no longer an option. Innovation in science, ICT, emerging technologies, ways of working, governance and business models can significantly improve water resources and sanitation development and

management. Sharing and disseminating research and innovation will provide an enabling environment for new, sustainable solutions to achieving SDG 6. Focus should be put on scaling up best practices and relevant innovations to countries, regions and globally, and on enabling innovative methods, accessible and disruptive technologies and sidelined ecological/traditional approaches to accelerate progress on water and sanitation and benefit those left behind. International standards should be leveraged to implement ICT solutions for sustainable water management and accelerate actions on SDG 6. UN entities have developed international standards that identify the standardization need for smart water management, set the requirement for water sensing and early warning systems and more and can also provide valuable guidance on leveraging disruptive technologies for smart water management.

*What success would look like:* Innovative practices and technologies for water and sanitation are leveraged at the country level.

- **5. Governance:** Make SDG 6 everyone's business through clear roles and strong institutions – Action on SDG 6 also depends on commitments and action in other SDG areas, particularly health, education, agriculture, social development, environment, energy, gender and climate. Currently, roles and responsibilities are fragmented and unclear, with significant gaps and overlaps in mandates at all levels. Efficient and accelerated action on SDG 6 requires all relevant actors to clarify and take ownership of their context specific roles, recognize interlinkages, forge cooperation, build on complementarities and ensure effective institutions, policy frameworks and enabling environments, including promotion of integrated water and sanitation solutions. Coordinated efforts for a wide application

of a nexus approach is needed in order to maximize synergies and minimize trade-offs across and within sectors. The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework will urgently raise the visibility and ambition of water and sanitation in sectors that impact upon SDG 6, acknowledging that progress on SDG 6 is fundamental to success in those sectors, while highlighting the cross-cutting role of the social, economic and environmental dimensions. This requires Member States to work with the scientific community (e.g. research consortiums, universities, centres), to accurately assess their needs – in particular those that affect the global environmental commons – and change patterns of use; to enhance the current levels of access to knowledge and disaggregated data, as well as scientific capacity and quality of higher education in low- and middle-income countries and countries in special development situations.

*What success would look like:* Efficient

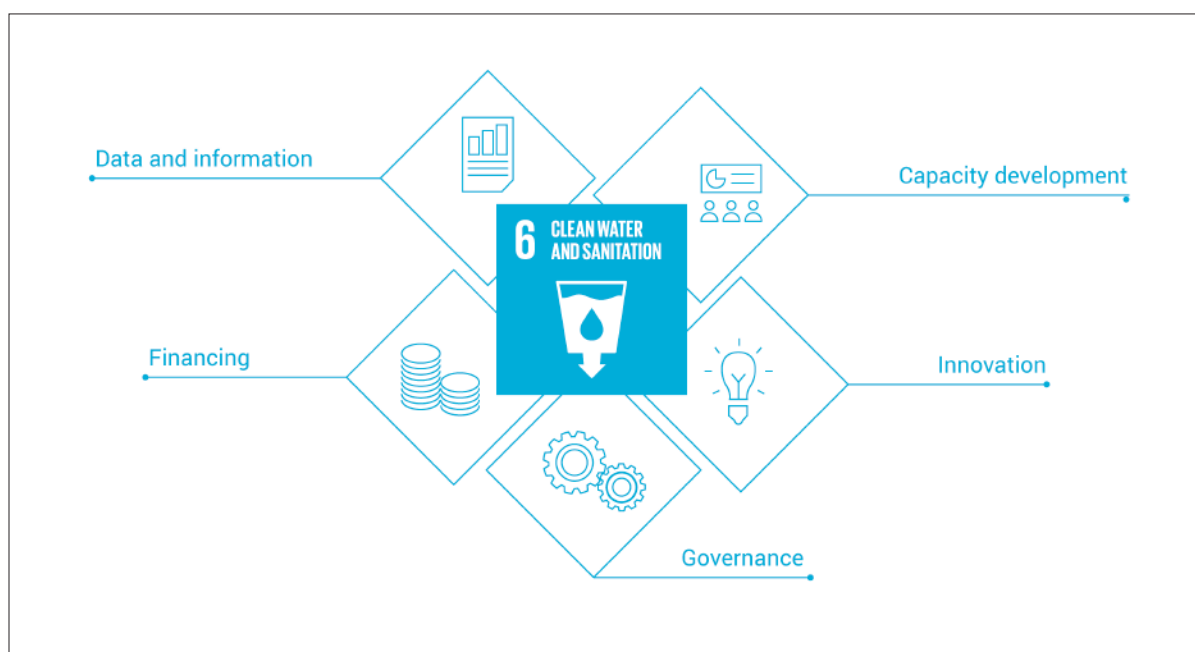


Figure 2: Visualizing the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework action pillars



mandates for SDG 6 delivery in all sectors are established, institutions are strengthened to deliver and intersectoral coordination mechanisms operate effectively.

## Account

The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework promotes shared accountability among all actors and to communities the people by reviewing progress and learning together. Progress towards the SDG 6 targets is regularly reviewed by the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6. By 2023, the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework will have brought about three major changes in ways of working:

- 1. Better coordination among the UN entities in their diverse global, regional, transboundary and in-country support to countries;
- 2. Streamlined support to countries as a result of better-aligned operational and financial policies and approaches; and
- 3. A purpose-driven collaboration among all stakeholders that is integrated into their organizational cultures, encompassing leadership at global, regional, and country levels.

The Framework will apply the following three accountability measures:

- **Nimble evidence-based implementation**
  - A planning and delivery culture that breaks engrained modes of working across actors, uses latest evidence on what works, learns quickly from failure and adapts to changing realities.

- **An SDG 6 Action Space** – The Action Space is a way to raise awareness and inspire a range of actions among all types of people and organizations, including the United Nations and countries. The Action Space will be fully integrated with the Decade of Action online resources and connected to the existing global campaigns for World Water Day, World Toilet Day, and the Water Action Decade 2018–2028, all of which have strong buy-in from youth organizations globally. UN-Water Meetings will be used to discuss and follow up on commitments and identify bottlenecks.

- **A high-level and multi-stakeholder moment**
  - This moment will be used to discuss water and sanitation-related issues and will be introduced on the margins of the High-level Political Forum or the SDG Action Forum, bringing together all actors to review progress, reflect, learn, and trigger increased and better directed action.

Overall coordination of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework will be by UN-Water, through heads of agency commitment.

# Examples of purpose-driven application of the Global Acceleration Framework for each SDG 6 target<sup>14</sup>

SDG 6 TARGET	EXAMPLES OF PURPOSE-DRIVEN COORDINATED ACTION PER ACCELERATOR
6.1	<p><b>Accelerator: Governance</b></p> <p><b>Example: Manage water quality.</b> By preventing pollution from unsafe sanitation (6.2), wastewater discharge (6.3) and agricultural runoff (6.4) and restoring natural systems that improve water quality (6.6)</p> <p><b>Example: Promote integrated water and sanitation solutions.</b> There is need to develop a spatial approach that goes beyond municipal boundaries and considers effective management of infrastructure systems with focus on integrated urban and territorial planning, proper land use management and legislation. This should include urban agglomerations and rural areas, and especially peri-urban areas that are not attached to traditional municipal infrastructure. Also essential are strong coordination mechanisms between national governments and local governments in water and sanitation infrastructure planning and development.</p> <p><b>Example: Manage water availability and water quality through:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) scientific basis for sound water management practice through analysis of (primarily stable) water isotopes; and</li> <li>(b) water pollution vulnerability maps, to guide conservation efforts.</li> </ul> <p><b>Accelerator: Capacity development</b></p> <p><b>Example: Strengthen the capacity of local governments and water and sanitation providers in water and sanitation service delivery.</b> Many developing countries have devolved responsibility for water and sanitation services to local governments. To take on this responsibility, local governments and water and sanitation providers need to strengthen their capacity and institutional arrangements in planning, financing, implementation, monitoring and support of water service providers. This should include negotiation capacity to establish partnerships that mobilize investment for water and sanitation infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Accelerator: Innovation</b></p> <p><b>Example: Reduce water loss and non-revenue water.</b> By scaling up innovative solutions that reduce and prevent water waste and optimize usage through decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation (8.3; proportion of informal employment in non agriculture employment, by sex).</p> <p><b>Example: Space technologies to improve water management and water resource sharing internationally.</b> Space technology and applications play an important role in addressing many water-related issues by observing and presenting clear visual information on surface water, ground water, snow and glacier cover, weather patterns, water and sanitation systems and many other aspects that can inform decision making, risk assessment and disaster response.</p>

<sup>14</sup> More detailed worked examples of concrete actions and commitments under the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework are currently being developed.

6.2	<p><b>Accelerator: Finance</b></p> <p><b>Example: Target public finance (6.a) to sanitation and hygiene services for the poorest</b> and mobilize market solutions to reach whole communities with safe services along the whole sanitation chain (6.3.1) to improve health (3.9) and prevent pollution (6.3.2). Hand hygiene is crucial to stopping the transmission of COVID-19 and protects against a range of other diseases, including common colds, flu, diarrhoea and pneumonia. With 3 billion people not having a handwashing facility with water and soap at home, there is an urgent need to scale up hand hygiene in homes, schools, health care facilities and public places in order to protect global health and to reduce the risk of future outbreaks.</p> <p><b>Example: Promote Public-Private-People Partnerships (PPPP) as a new water and sanitation infrastructure financing model</b> to encourage people's participation in issues such as land acquisition, investment in individual shares, in-kind contributions for water and sanitation infrastructure. Ministries of Water in over 50 countries have established national sanitation and hygiene improvement programmes using behaviour change campaigns that have empowered hundreds of millions of people to stop the practice of open defecation, invest their own resources in improved sanitation and adopt safe hygiene practices.</p> <p><b>Accelerator: Capacity development</b></p> <p><b>Example: Build back better from pandemics</b> such as COVID-19 through job programmes in water and sanitation-related roles and sectors as a form of recovering from the economic impact of the pandemics.</p>
6.3	<p><b>Accelerator: Innovation</b></p> <p><b>Example: Leverage innovation in wastewater treatment and safe reuse</b> to improve water and nutrient availability for agriculture (6.4), reduce ambient water pollution (6.3.2) and support cost recovery for WASH services (6.1, 6.2, 6.3.1).</p> <p><b>Accelerator: Data</b></p> <p><b>Example: Make data and information on water quality and its social, economic and ecological implications easily accessible.</b></p> <p>Local, national and regional water quality monitoring provide stakeholders at all levels with necessary decision support.</p> <p><b>Example: Radiation treatment of wastewater</b> for removal of organic pollutants, including dyes and endocrine disruptors.</p> <p><b>Example: Machine learning for a global water quality dataset</b> using all spectrums of Earth Observation data.</p>
6.4	<p><b>Accelerator: Data</b></p> <p><b>Example: Remote sensing for water productivity.</b> Agriculture is a key water user. A careful monitoring of water productivity in agriculture and exploring opportunities to increase it are required.</p> <p><b>Example: Fit for purpose water monitoring system.</b> Hydrological monitoring systems allow assessment of what is available to help manage distribution and demand</p> <p><b>Accelerator: Innovation</b></p> <p><b>Example: In-situ data for the verification of remote sensing data.</b> The training and testing of machine learning models can facilitate and improve the verification process which is essential in the use of remote sensing data. Other examples include water cycle databases and pollution vulnerability mapping.</p>

6.5	<p><b>Accelerator: Governance</b></p> <p><b>Example: Prioritize adaptation and resilience.</b> Adaptability is essential in a rapidly transforming world. Climate change, population growth, migration, forced displacement and urbanization all impact water resources both in terms of quantity and quality. Cooperation should be improved across borders and sectors (6.5 and SDG 16 and 17) and linkages strengthened between development and humanitarian approaches to contribute to SDG gains and sustaining peace in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. This may include green works for water and soil restoration and conservation especially at community level for climate change adaptation and for local resource-based approaches in water works<sup>15</sup>. Additionally, a comprehensive policy framework for resilience is the Recommendation 205 on Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience<sup>16</sup>.</p> <p><b>Example: Open information for water management.</b> An understanding of the national landscape is essential when it comes to concrete actions. To better coordinate the multi-stakeholder cooperation within countries, innovative uses of technology for water management and initiatives for open data can be shared on a voluntary basis and foster knowledge exchange.</p> <p><b>Accelerator: Finance</b></p> <p><b>Example: Target finance and investment priorities towards cooperative projects</b> that establish mutual benefits to facilitate and support transboundary water cooperation within the IWRM framework.</p>
6.6	<p><b>Accelerator: Finance</b></p> <p><b>Example: Invest in rehabilitation of wetlands and ecohydrology approaches</b> to restore ecosystems services that provide retention and treatment of polluted water (6.2, 6.3) for productive use in drinking-water supply (6.1) and agriculture (6.4).</p>
6.a	<p><b>Accelerator: Finance</b></p> <p><b>Example: Utilize innovative financing</b> – including financing models for involving the private sector: public-private partnerships, guarantees, insurance, equity grants, tenor extensions, pooled financing, project preparation funds, hedging instruments, micro finance, credit ratings, tapping into pension funds and insurance companies, green bonds, technology transfer, circular economy and water stewardship.</p> <p><b>Example: Promote smart water and sanitation investments</b> – focus on financing the right type of water and sanitation infrastructure investments. Cash-strapped local governments, for example, should invest first in less expensive, retro-fitting of existing systems while at the same time improving the collection of municipal taxes that in the longer term will generate a viable revenue stream that they can use to refinance loans and debt instruments for future investments in new, more expensive infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Accelerator: Capacity development</b></p> <p><b>Example: Operational technical capability to exchange information</b> and create trust through joint trainings, monitoring and assessments.</p>

15 More information can be found here: [https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/employment-intensive-investment/publications/WCMS\\_719955/lang-en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/employment-intensive-investment/publications/WCMS_719955/lang-en/index.htm)

16 ILO (2017), *Recommendation 205 on Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience*. [https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_ILO\\_CODE:R205](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:R205)



6.b	<p><b><u>Accelerator: Capacity development</u></b>  <b>Example: Strengthen civil society engagement</b> – especially women and indigenous and tribal peoples in water management. Embrace transparency and accountability through the use of ICTs, open competition, citizen oversight and improved flow of information.</p> <p><b><u>Accelerator: Governance</u></b>  <b>Example: Automated exchange of capacity building and training material</b>, with interoperability between the portals.</p>
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