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Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC

# Portfolio 2021

## Global Programme Water



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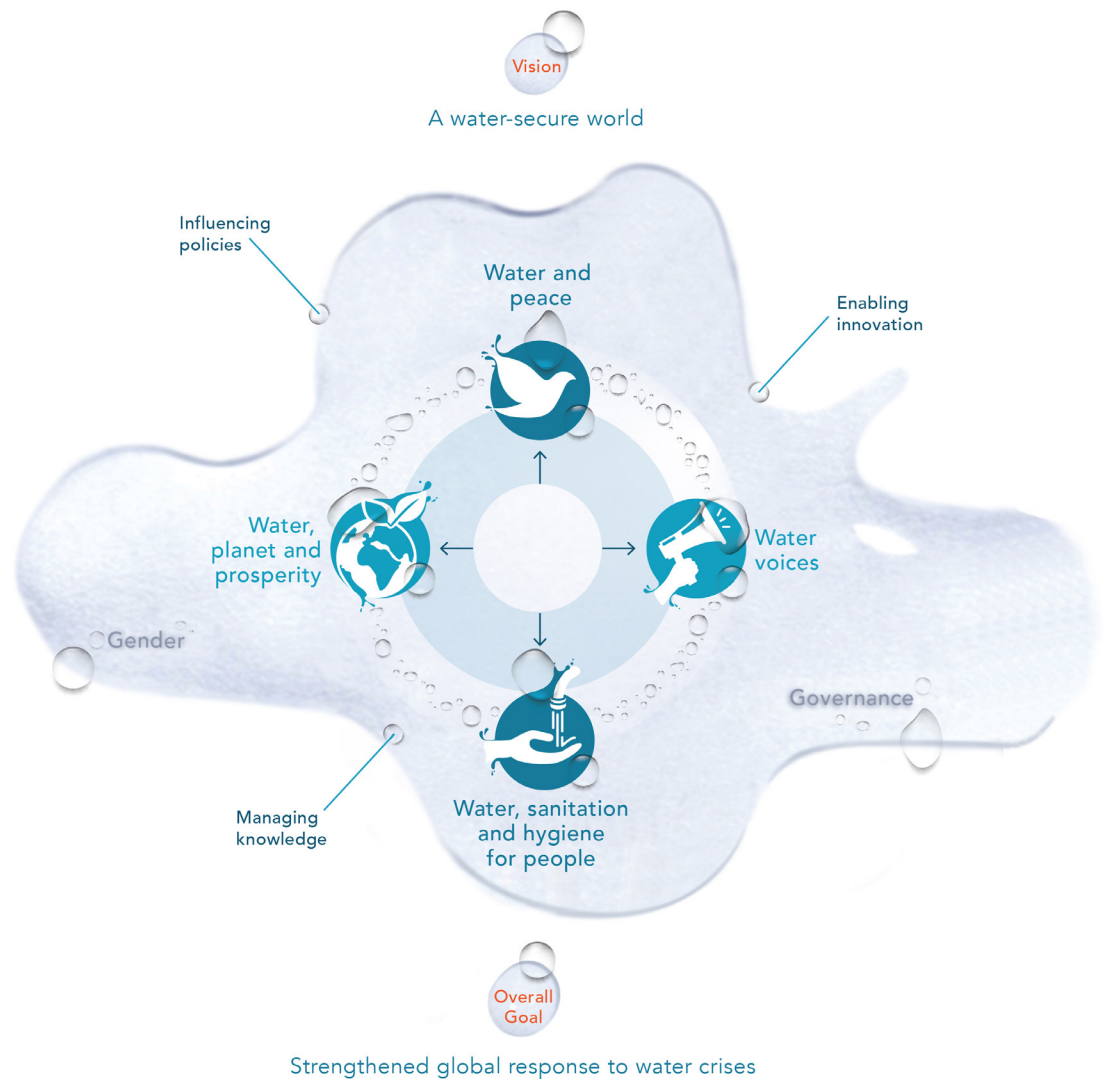
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# About the Global Programme Water (GPW)



## Our commitment

### Overall goal

The GPW 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 GPW contributes to the acceleration of universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene, advocates for the responsible use of water resources, promotes water 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 influences 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 our position as a trusted partner and coalition builder.



## Priorities and objectives for 2021–2024

The GPW 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 GPW 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.

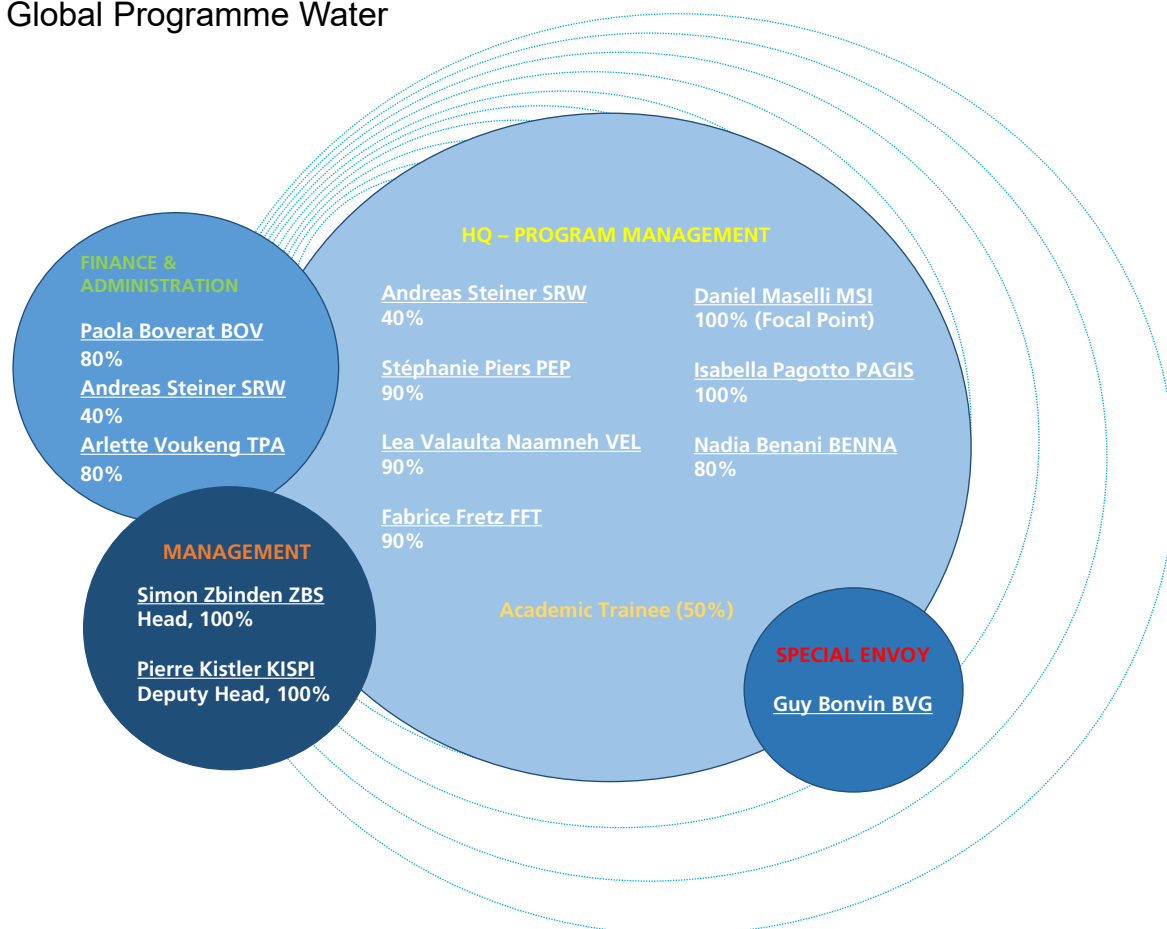
More information on the GPW programme framework 2021–2024:

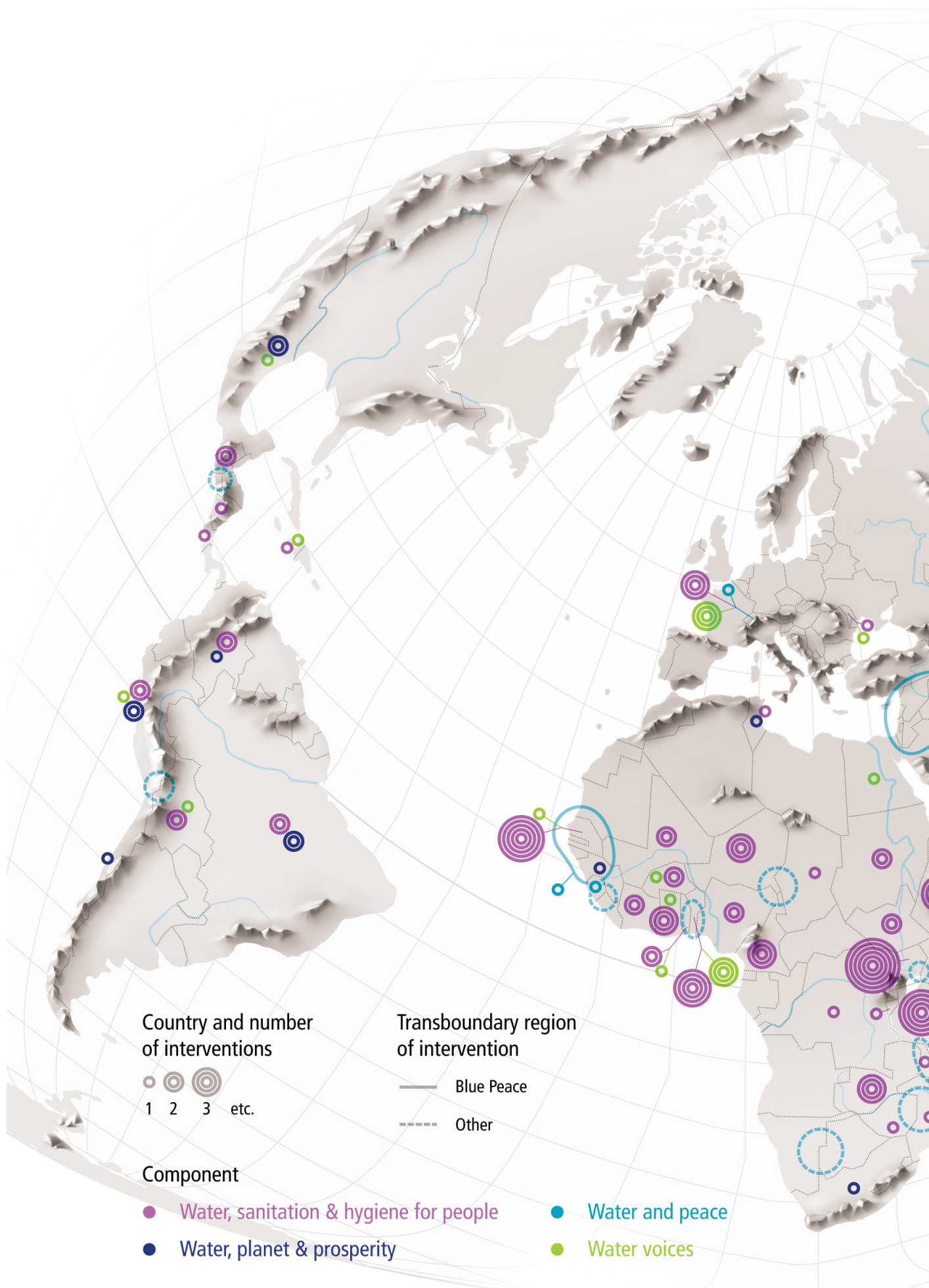


## About this portfolio

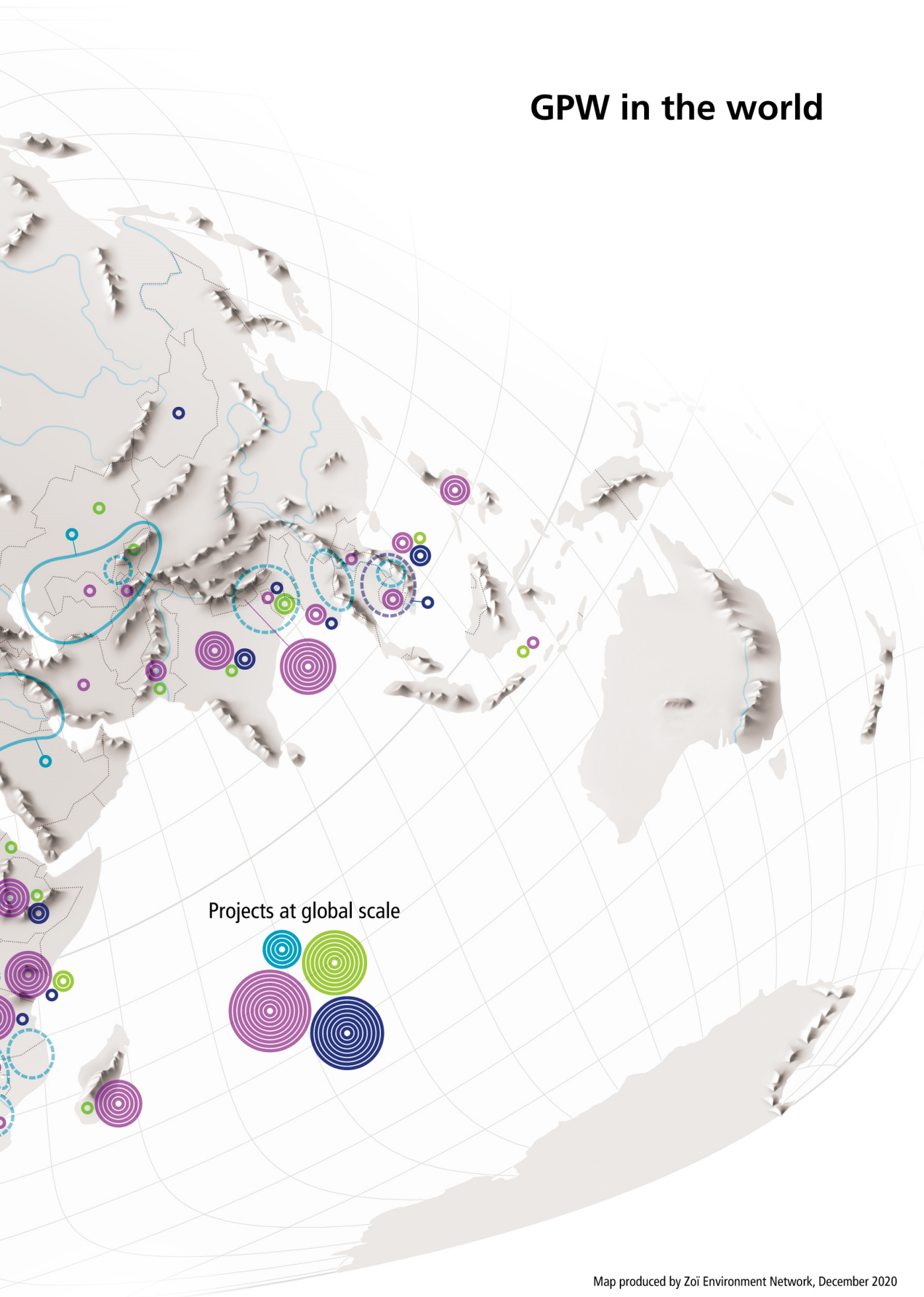
This portfolio presents the current (as of 2021) initiatives supported by the SDC's Global Programme Water. You will find the different factsheets of the projects organised according to our four strategic components.

## Team of the Global Programme Water





# GPW in the world



Map produced by Zoï Environment Network, December 2020

# 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)
- Development of a global framework for SDG 6 monitoring (GEMI, JMP, GLAAS)
- HydroHub - the Global Hydrometry Support Facility of WMO
- Young Water Fellowship Programme
- Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN)
- Sanitation & Water for All (SWA)

## Water, sanitation and hygiene for people





# Towards effective Global Water Governance and implementing coherent action



## Region

Global

## Partners

Over 3,000 partners 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. The need to deal with these problems at an appropriate level and with the right partners is even more crucial.

## 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

Total: CHF 36,000,000  
SDC: CHF 2,400,000

## Duration

2021–2025

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

## The network

While many development partners lend their financing and technical experience 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. A key focus will be to ensure that water-specific insights will be put 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, GWP partner organisations 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 doing so, 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 intergenerational exchange that lies at the heart of sustainable development. In line with SDC's and GWP's strategic vision, GWP will enable gathering voices and agents of change acting towards an urgent prioritisation of addressing 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

## Partner

WSSCC

## Background information

- To accelerate progress towards SDG target 6.2, achieving adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, focusing on the most vulnerable and marginalised communities.
- To promote Menstrual Health and Hygiene to empower girls to take control of their health, by improving policies and standards for schools, and making knowledge, services and materials available.
- To improve knowledge and skills of individuals and agencies working in sanitation and hygiene.

## Project objectives

Individuals without access to sanitation and hygiene, marginalised groups, sector professionals.

## Costs

CHF 12,000,000

## Duration

2018–2021

WSSCC is a global, UN-hosted multi-stakeholder membership and partnership organisation that works with poor people, organisations, governments, and local entrepreneurs to improve sanitation and hygiene at scale. Our vision is a world in which everyone, everywhere can practice safe sanitation and hygiene with dignity. We contribute by enabling all people and especially women, girls and those living in vulnerable situations to practice the right to sanitation and hygiene throughout their lives with dignity and safety.

Globally 673 million people still defecate in the open and over 2 billion live without access to basic sanitation services. When a community gains access to sanitation – decent toilets and clean water, when people use water and soap for washing hands – life improves by every measure. When girls have access to gender-separated toilets and facilities for managing their menstruation in privacy and with dignity, school enrolment rates go up and drop-out rates go down. When mothers and children are less exposed to faecal pathogens, their nutritional status improves, and stunting rates of young children go decrease.

WSSCC works at global, national and sub-national levels through advocacy, learning and strategic partnerships on increasing national capacity, leveraging domestic resources and mobilising civil society towards scaling-up and accelerating progress towards SDG target 6.2. WSSCC's work links directly to SDGs on gender equality, health, education, urbanisation and climate change.

WSSCC currently works in 12 focus countries through designated Executing Agencies and National Coordinators that implement grant funding. WSSCC's flagship initiative, the Global Sanitation Fund, was established a decade ago, and by the end of 2019 has enabled:

- 28 million people to live in open defecation free environments
- 20 million people to gain access to an improved sanitation facility, and
- 28 million people to have access to a handwashing facility.

However, with only a decade left to achieve the SDGs and in spite of impressive results achieved, WSSCC is acutely aware that SDG 6.2 is significantly off-track. At this rate, it will take another century to reach the SDG for safely managed sanitation.

To deliver at the scale required to achieve sanitation and hygiene and leave no one behind, WSSCC's Steering Committee made on 4 May 2020 the landmark decision to evolve WSSCC into the Sanitation and Hygiene Fund.

The Sanitation and Hygiene Fund will offer a 21st century transformative development model to create impact at scale, at inspired by best practices of GAVI and the Global Fund. It will build on WSSCC's work which has already reached millions of people around the world with essential and often life-saving interventions in sanitation, hygiene and menstrual health, and it will greatly increase its ambition and impact. It will combine a focus on concrete, fundable demand with an emphasis on achieving measurable, live-saving impact, efficiently channeling money to where it can do the most good.

The Fund will provide increased and catalytic funding to eligible countries in support of their national and household efforts to provide toilet and hygiene facilities for millions of families, to ensure sanitation and hygiene in schools and health care facilities, to support menstrual health management, and foster innovative solutions.



The Fund aims to fill a gap in the international response to the sanitation, hygiene and menstrual health crisis and to give sanitation, hygiene and menstrual health a mechanism to take its response to a new level.

As WSSCC evolves, focus will remain on those left behind and least able to respond. This extends primarily to low-income countries with the highest sanitation and hygiene burden, and populations often described as marginalised and hardest to reach therein.

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



# Water, Behavior Change and Environmental Sanitation (WABES): Sustainable Solutions to Research, Knowledge and Professionalisation



**Region**  
Global

**Partner**  
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 and 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

Total: CHF 4,140,534  
SDC: CHF 2,600,000

## Duration

2018–2021

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.

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 of 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 our past research, this initiative 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 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 & increased 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 centers 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 behaviors



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

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**  
CHF 1,000,000

**Duration**  
2020–2023

WHO's approach to translating guidelines 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.

In addition, countries and partners need more in-depth learning material and technical information on subtopics to support implementation tailored for specific audiences in a variety of formats (online, face to face, in-depth and short) . WHO will develop materials and make them freely available to maximise distribution and use.

## Context

Globally, inadequate water and sanitation has been conservatively estimated to cause nearly two million preventable deaths annually. Safely managed sanitation was proposed as the SDG indicator because burden of disease estimates show that significant reductions in diarrhoea 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, in fact 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, working with the disease programmes that ultimately rely on long-term improvements in sanitation to sustain disease control.

## Key results and insights from previous phases

- Rigorous WHO quality assurance processes for evidence review are key to strengthening 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 expertise by involving all trainers in the development and delivery of training and sustained national capacity building (as opposed to a single training) is needed to support implementation.

- Using global, regional and online conferences and events is effective at catalysing global uptake where direct project support is not possible.
- Strategic partnerships with organisation with strong country programmes and capacity for scaling are critical for quality implementation at scale.
- Demand for SSP exists for scenarios where there is no reuse aspect, which was in part the impetus for the broader WHO Guidelines on Sanitation and Health.
- 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 for follow up and review 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
- 2.2. Publish more in-depth guidance on sub-topics – e.g. guidance on setting national standards for wastewater and sludge treatment, sanitary inspection forms, pathogen factsheets, 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 Phase 2.



Photo caption: 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 in 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 regard 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

Total: CHF 15,563,897  
SDC: CHF 9,560,000

## Duration

2020–2023

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 between the actors involved in water and sanitation issues is needed. For this purpose, the Swiss Water & Sanitation NGO Consortium (SWSC) has been 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 of making 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 three regions: 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: approximately 836,000 people in communities, 167,000 school pupils, 1.3 million health centre patients and 37,000 small-scale farmers were provided with access to water, sanitation and hygiene.

This phase will allow to further provide 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. It will put particular emphasis in strengthening the monitoring capacity of the Swiss NGOs in order to have the SDG 6 goal implemented and monitored. Furthermore, a particular emphasis 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 create new practices or technologies. Smartphone-based applications will be tested to monitor the hygiene status in schools and health care facilities.



## Thematic Focus on Blue Schools and Health Care Facilities

The third phase will allow to further scale up the two most 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 on the importance of good sanitation and hygiene practices. A Blue School is a healthy and environmental-friendly school, where activities go beyond WASH, include 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 placed 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.



Additional information:  
[waterconsortium.ch/](http://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 from rural areas – are still without an adequate source of drinking water and suffer the absence of safe facilities for excreta disposal and (hand and menstrual) hygiene.

## Project objectives

To improve the 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

SDC Budget: CHF 5,578,500  
Total Budget: CHF 16,505,360

## Duration

2020–2024

The Sustainable and Innovative Rural Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (SIRWASH) initiative improves the 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 from rural areas – are still without an adequate source of drinking water and suffer 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. During 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 Internacional** – Implementer in Peru and Colombia to connect markets to rural WASH communities.



Additional information:

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



# Development of a global framework for SDG 6 monitoring



**Region**  
Global

## Partners

WHO, UNICEF, UNEP, UN-Habitat, FAO, UNESCO, UNECE and WMO, operating under the umbrella of UN-Water

## Background information

With the 2030 Agenda, the water sector has the opportunity to build a coherent monitoring framework that covers the whole water cycle. This will contribute to improved integrated water resources management.

## Project objectives

UN-Water with other custodian agencies will facilitate and support countries with their SDG6 monitoring mechanisms, thereby enabling them to collect and analyse high quality data in an integrated manner. This is in order to address the challenges associated with sustainable water and sanitation and build national ownership.

## Beneficiaries

Policy- and decision-makers, and the general public

## Costs

Total: CHF 25,800,000  
SDC: CHF 7,550,000

## Duration

2019–2022

The establishment of SDG 6 (Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all) reflects the increased attention given to water and sanitation issues in the global political agenda. The 2030 Agenda recognises that social development and economic prosperity depend on the sustainable management of freshwater resources and ecosystems, which highlights the integrated nature of SDGs.

SDG 6 includes eight separate targets that aim to address the entire water cycle. These targets are global in nature and universally applicable, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development, and respecting national policies and priorities. Each government has the primary responsibility for following up on and reviewing progress towards the SDGs and their targets at national, regional and global levels. It is important to encourage Member States to establish high quality, accessible, timely and reliable disag-

The aim of the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 is to establish and manage a coherent monitoring framework for water and sanitation to inform progress towards the 2030 Agenda, and to contribute to country progress through well-informed decision-making in the water sector.

The UN Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 brings together eight United Nations agencies and comprises the following monitoring programmes:

**JMP.** The Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene tracks progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (targets 6.1 and 6.2) and was established in 1990.

**GEMI.** Integrated Monitoring of Water and Sanitation-related SDG targets tracks progress on wastewater, water quality, water resources management and water-related ecosystems (targets 6.3–6.6), and was established in 2014.

**GLAAS.** UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water tracks finance, capacity and the enabling environment (targets 6.a and 6.b) and was established in 2008.

Having now a global integrated baseline, the next step of the initiative will focus on building national ownership. While methodological refinement and global reporting will remain

important, emphasis is placed on building capacity at the national level to measure, report on and make use of national information. More specifically, the outcomes of the second phase are the following:

- Countries are able to collect, analyse and report data on all SDG 6 global indicators.
- Policy- and decision-makers at all levels draw upon the interdependencies between the SDG 6 targets and maximise the benefits of water and sanitation monitoring data in a holistic manner.



In order to deliver these outcomes, a differentiated outreach strategy is under preparation targeting key audiences at national, regional and international levels with the aim to:

- raise awareness of the importance of SDG 6 indicators, including the interlinkages between them, and the possible uses of related data and analysis for decision-making
- raise awareness of the importance of intersectoral collaboration and coordination in data collection, analysis and use
- communicate the availability of technical support and capacity-building from the Initiative members to support countries in data collection, monitoring and reporting on SDG global indicators.

Additional information:

[www.sdg6monitoring.org/](http://www.sdg6monitoring.org/)

JMP: <https://washdata.org/>

GLAAS: [www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/glaas](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/glaas)

GEMI: [www.unwater.org/gemi](http://www.unwater.org/gemi)





# WMO HydroHub – the Global Hydrometry Support Facility



**Region**  
Global

**Partner**  
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 hydro-meteorological 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

CHF 2,755,000, plus contributions from partners

## Duration

2016–2021

Reliable hydrometeorological observations and forecasts are critical to implement better water resources management practices and policies. 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.

Many countries are unable to provide accurate, timely, and coherent information and forecasts that meet user needs. This increases societal vulnerability to natural hazards and inhibits socioeconomic growth, translating into **water insecurity** with measurable adverse impacts on communities, their livelihoods and ecosystems.

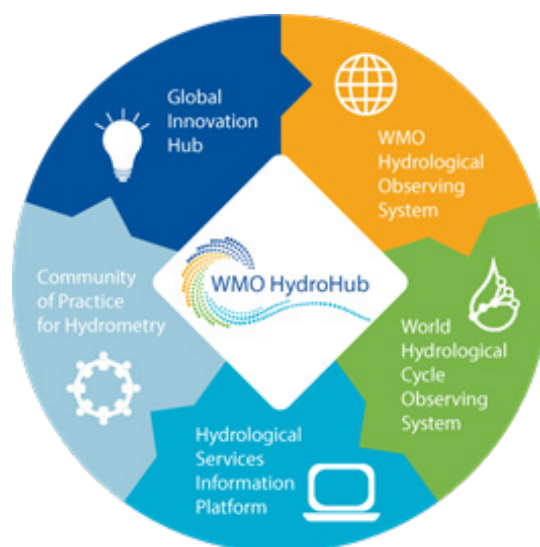
Poor data management can contribute to conflicts and inequitable access. The challenge is to provide hydrological information on a regular, sustainable and transparent basis to meet the growing need for development planning across a wide range of economic sectors, to secure life and property, and to foster water cooperation. A **data revolution** is needed to underpin the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Suitable investments to strengthen national capacity to provide hydrological information services should **be driven and guided by the demand of users. Recent technological advances open up new perspectives through non-traditional, people-centered approaches**, which are at the core of the Innovative Monitoring and Modelling (iMoMo) initiative. The iMoMo initiative has been part of SDC's business incubation programme since 2012, and has contributed to significant policy advances at national and global level.

The overall goal of the project is **to help expand a reliable and sustainable basis of hydro-meteorological data and information to support informed decision- and policy-making in water management and conflict resolution at global, transboundary, national and local levels.** The establishment of the WMO HydroHub (Global Hydrometry Support Facility), as well as the upscaling of existing and new iMoMo activities aim to achieve the following objectives:

- The HydroHub enhances and sustains efficient and innovative hydrological monitoring systems around the world, and facilitates free and open data sharing;
- The HydroHub fosters the use of hydrometeorological data for evidence-based policy and decision-making in support of Integrated Water Resources Management and Disaster Risk Reduction, especially in transboundary settings;
- The HydroHub facilitates the modernisation and improvement of operational hydrology through uptake of innovative hydrometric technologies and services by National Meteorological and Hydrological Services;
- Local beneficiaries are engaged in innovative monitoring and modelling of hydromet data through a crowd-sensed approach to enhance the coverage and availability of hydromet data in six countries at transboundary, national, sub-catchment or local community levels.

To help achieve these objectives, the WMO HydroHub brings together the components depicted below under one single operational structure.



Additional information:  
[hydrohub.wmo.int](http://hydrohub.wmo.int)  
[www.imomohub.org](http://www.imomohub.org)





# Young Water Fellowship Programme



## Region

Global

## Partner

Young Water Solutions

## Background information

The YWF Programme builds the capacities of young water entrepreneurs, and provides technical as well as financial support to implement their ideas. It also engages with stakeholders and decision-makers to exchange knowledge and create an enabling environment for young people in the water sector.

## Project objectives

Young people are empowered and largely recognised as agents of change in the water sector, contributing to sustainable water resources management and universal access to safe and affordable water and sanitation services in vulnerable communities.

## Beneficiaries

Young people (age 18-30) from low- and middle-income countries. Marginalised and poor people who benefit from improved services provided by the start-ups in communities.

## Costs

CHF 650,000

## Duration

2018–2021

Young people represent around half of the world's population, living mostly in developing countries. Their aspirations and achievements will obviously shape the future. Whereas young people are often primary victims of water-related challenges, they are not yet an integral part of efforts to develop adequate solutions. The Young Water Fellowship (YWF) Programme aims to tap into the innovative and disruptive potential of young people in order to address the most pressing water, sanitation and water resources management challenges in vulnerable communities.

Structural barriers in the water sector such as donors' and policy-makers' distrust, cultural bias and administrative procedures generate constraints and lock the potential of many young people to develop adequate responses to water-related challenges and drive change within their communities and countries. However, it is essential to involve all stakeholders, including young people, to find equitable ways to share limited water resources among many competing demands.

Considering the untapped innovative potential of young people and the large youth unemployment rate in developing countries, SDC supports the YWF Programme implemented by the international non-governmental organisation Young Water Solutions. This programme aims to attract young people to the water sector, builds their capacities to develop context-specific start-ups, which respond to the local water-related challenges, and provides seed-funding for the initial stages of their businesses.

Through two global editions, one regional edition in East Africa and two national editions in Senegal and Ivory Coast, young people from low- and middle-income countries (LAMICs) will have the possibility to increase their knowledge about challenges and potential solutions in the areas of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) as well as the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation (HRWS). They also acquire specific skills in business development and management. Once the business idea has been developed, the young entrepreneurs receive continuous coaching from experts to implement their start-ups and gain access to funding. The long-term objective of this programme is to generate employment opportunities for young people in LAMICs, reduce poverty and improve the water and sanitation conditions in vulnerable communities, by supporting the piloting and launch of 49 youth-led water and sanitation social businesses. The lessons learned and concrete results obtained from the start-ups are used for knowledge exchange with relevant stakeholders engaged in the water sector and the social entrepreneurship ecosystem



and nourish the policy dialogue at various levels, aiming to unlock the multiple barriers that young people face in the water sector.

This is mainly achieved by organising "stakeholder meetings" that bring together entrepreneurs, policy makers, incubators, investors and other key organisations to discuss how to improve the enabling ecosystem for water entrepreneurship, in particular in Senegal and Ivory Coast.

## Key outputs of the planned phase

- Global awareness campaign and call for applications for entrepreneurial water and sanitation initiatives that attract young people to the water sector;
- Provision of trainings and capacity-building measures for young entrepreneurs in social business, IWRM, WASH and HRWS;
- Establishment of a seed-funding mechanism for financing start-ups;
- Ongoing coaching and mentorship mechanism for young entrepreneurs;
- Creation of synergies and knowledge exchange with organisations of the entrepreneurial ecosystem and other stakeholders in the water sector;
- Improved policies and programmes for young people in the water sector;
- Increased participation of young leadership in decision-making processes.

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



# Rural Water Supply Network



## Region

Global

## Partner

Skat Foundation

## Background information

The Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN) grew out of a meeting held in Kenya in 1992 where a need to create a global network of water hand pump experts was strongly voiced.

It has since become the reference network for rural water worldwide.

## Project objectives

The main purpose of the RWSN is to support efforts to help rural people have access to sustainable and reliable water supplies worldwide.

## Beneficiaries

Direct beneficiaries are foremost water professionals in the field of water supply and WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene).

## Costs

GPW contribution of 250,000 CHF per year

## Duration

2021–2023

The Rural Water Supply Network's (RWSN) vision is of a world in which all rural people have access to sustainable and reliable water supplies, which can be effectively managed to provide sufficient, affordable and safe water within a reasonable distance of the home. However, the provision of water services in rural areas is particular, with a multitude of service providers reaching from self-supply and community services to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and public or private sector provision - many of them working in isolation due to the remote nature of rural areas. Moreover, in rural areas, supply chains are more difficult to establish and maintain and the cash economy is less present, which poses additional challenges for sustainable service provision. Hence, particular efforts including innovation is needed to ensure that rural water services are sustained, expand and further improve over time. The RWSN is a global network of rural water supply professionals and organisations committed to improving their knowledge, competence and professionalism, to fulfil RWSN's vision of sustainable rural water services for all.

The RWSN is the global network for rural water supply professionals, with over 10,000 members in more than 150 countries. It plays a leading role in developing, documenting and scaling up efforts in many countries. It is, and remains, the only global network dedicated to the rural water services. The RWSN has shown vision and leadership in developing and evolving its themes to address key challenges in the rural water sector, thereby making the voice of rural water practitioners and communities heard in the global development landscape.

Since rural water supply is generally considered as being part of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector, the RWSN collaborates with sanitation and hygiene partners and programmes where value can be added. However, rural water supply is also part of the broader agendas addressing the challenges related to water supply in general, water resources and its management, climate change resilience, decentralisation, economic development, and good governance. The RWSN provides a common, trusted platform for ideas, experience and guidance to be shared. While it cannot improve rural water services directly, the network provides a meeting and collaboration space that stimulates new partnerships between water users, service providers, governments, private sector and international development partners.

The GPW provides a critical contribution to the RWSN by covering up to 40% of the annual costs of the Secretariat. It is a member of the Steering Committee and follows the various work topics i.e. self-supply, sustainable groundwater development, leave no one behind (LNOB), sustainable services and mapping & monitoring.



Additional information:

<https://rural-water-supply.net/en/>



# Contribution to Sanitation and Water for All (SWA)



## Region

Global

## Partners

69 countries, 83 CSOs, 19 research centres, 17 private companies.

## Background information

Access to water, sanitation and hygiene are interconnected and essential for achieving other development goals; yet there is an alarming lack of political prioritization and attention in policies and strategies, as well as resource allocations, to promote and provide resilient water, sanitation and hygiene systems.

## Project objectives

1. Build and sustain the political will to eliminate inequalities in water, sanitation and hygiene
2. Champion multi-stakeholder approaches towards achieving universal access to services
3. Rally stakeholders to strengthen system performance and attract new investments.

## Beneficiaries

Countries and organisations, Ministers responsible for finance and for water, sanitation and hygiene engaging in transformational changes needed to achieve their national sustainable development goal's targets on water.

The hardest to reach and most vulnerable individuals, communities, countries and regions by putting also women and girls at the centre.

## Costs

Total: CHF 22,526,000

SDC: CHF 1,500,000

## Duration

2020–2022

This one-time contribution to the global partnership Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) hosted by UNICEF aims at strengthening the capacities of populations around the world to enjoy their rights to water and sanitation.

SWA's work focuses on encouraging and motivating governments and other partners to increase political prioritisation of water, sanitation and hygiene; ensure adequate financing; and build better governance structures and institutions to achieve SDG6 by the year 2030.

Through several instruments such as the holding of high-level meetings, the implementation of a Mutual Accountability Mechanism, knowledge exchange and learning activities, the SWA partnership presents a unique approach with governments in the driving seat working hand in hand with other stakeholders towards a common goal.

Established in 2010, SWA has 69 countries, over 20 external support agencies, more than 80 civil societies organisations, 19 research centres, and 17 private companies among its partners. It is led by a Steering Committee, supported by a Secretariat. While UNICEF in New York hosts the core of the Secretariat, other strategic Secretariat positions are hosted by partners around the world, including by the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), End Water Poverty, Fresh Water Network (FANSA), and the Inter-American Development Bank.

Achieving SWA's mission requires that the partnership be functional and effective at national level in partner countries. To support this, SWA relies on Focal Points. Every SWA country partner has one Focal Point for each constituency represented in that country. The Focal Points coordinate all SWA partners within their constituency to ensure their engagement in SWA multi-stakeholder activities. They collaborate with other Focal Points nationally, regionally and globally.

The overall goal of SWA's intervention is to ensure sanitation, water and hygiene for all, everywhere through the following objectives:

### 1. Increase political prioritisation for equal access to sanitation, hygiene and water and promote the use of evidence in decision-making.

SWA uses its unique platform, which brings together ministers responsible for finance, water, sanitation and hygiene to determine and agree the transformational changes their countries should take to achieve their national and global targets. SWA uses its mobilisation capital and networks of

partners to bring a concerted voice to ministers in the region to enable them to prioritise the sector by mobilising resources and increasing visibility of WASH at the political level.

### 2. Promote multi-stakeholder, government-led platforms for national sector strengthening, planning and follow-up of the SDGs through peer-to-peer learning and sharing.

SWA uses its multi-constituency approach to promote and strengthen the development of national level multi-stakeholder platforms involving governments, civil society, private sector, research and learning agencies and development agencies. SWA provides insights on how to organise and strengthen such platforms including for undertaking multi-stakeholder sector reviews.

### 3. Increase resources and advocate for more coordinated and transparent financing of water and sanitation systems.

SWA partners are expected to collaborate in the making of commitments for the Mutual Accountability Mechanism, to be presented and reported on at High-level Meetings. SWA works with the Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) to ensure countries in the region contribute to timely data; SWA also supports countries to ensure the results of the surveys contribute to decision making at country level.



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



# 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
- Water Pollution Programme: The Responsible Antibiotics Manufacturing Platform (RAMP)
- Promoting Water Stewardship 2030
- Earth Security Partnerships
- Core Contribution to IUCN

## 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.



# World Water Quality Alliance (WWQA)



## Region

Global

## Partners

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

## Background information

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

## Project objectives

To provide 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

SDC budget US\$ 1,818,000  
Total budget US\$ 6,969,000

## Duration

2019–2023

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.

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 organizations (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 for the 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 a means to foster ecosystem and human health and well-being;
- 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 between the data and its 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 of the global water quality assessment are:

1. Baseline Assessment of worldwide water quality in surface and groundwater bodies;
2. Scenario Analysis of future pathways of water quality in freshwater systems and its compartments; and
3. 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 that the work of the Alliance will be useful for a wide spectrum of 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 cornerstone for UNEP to delivery on water related issues in the 2030 Agenda. UNEP, as the convenor 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)





# Small-Medium-Large: Water Stewardships with SMEs in the Greater Mekong



## Region

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

## Partner

WWF

## 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

US\$ 3,621,000 (total)  
US\$ 1,810,000 (SDC)

## Duration

2019–2022

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 by tackling the water challenges together with other stakeholders to green the industry, reduce water pollution, achieve water efficiency, and restore ecological systems.

## 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, specifically aimed 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 improve their water practices while increasing their long-term profits, 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 'the knowledge of the impact', 'internal action', 'national collective action', and 'influencing regional governance' (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.

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.

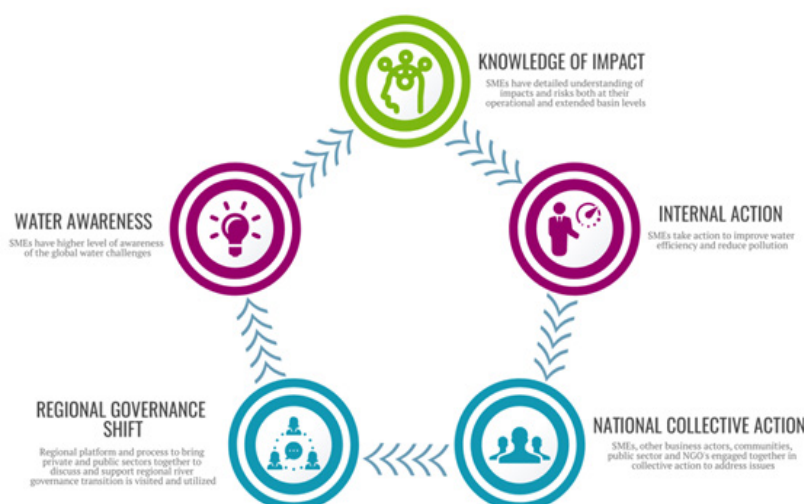
## Outcomes

The anticipated outcomes of the project relate to better governance, greener investments and sustainable production. Through the involvement of 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:

[www.wwf.org.mm/en/project\\_\\_sml\\_\\_greater\\_mekong/](http://www.wwf.org.mm/en/project__sml__greater_mekong/)



# 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 International.

## Background information

This project aims to tackle the 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 improved 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

GBP 1,653,842 (SDC)  
GBP 3,307,074 (total)

## Duration

2019–2022

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, through 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 to leverage support for better policies, regulation and investments across the Ethiopian apparel sector, and leadership and support from MNCs 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 well-being 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 of manufacturers who buy materials from local SMEs (cotton growers, ginners and textile makers) and then sell finished products to global brands and markets. Improved water management practices in Industrial Parks will help mitigate water risks and improve performance of connected businesses that serve, and often surround, the parks.

**Catchment stakeholder groups** will be engaged in the development of a multi-stakeholder-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' 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)







# The Responsible Antibiotics Manufacturing Platform (RAMP)



## Region

India and globally

## Partners

Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), GlaxoSmithKline, Centrient Pharmaceuticals, Novartis/Sandoz, Shawview Consulting, AMR Industry Alliance

## Background information

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is among the worst health threats the world needs to address. It is increasingly linked to antibiotics emitted from manufacturing. Close to production plants, the concentration of antibiotics in the water can be higher than levels found in the blood of patients undergoing treatment.

## Project objectives

To contribute to the fight against AMR by enabling synergies and harmonisation between the leading public and private stakeholders and strategies for sustainability in antibiotics manufacturing.

## Beneficiaries

Communities, Industrial Parks, Catchment Stakeholder Groups, Regulators & Policy Makers, MNCs & Investors

## Costs

SDC: USD 200,000. Total  
Inception phase: USD 400,000

## Duration

Inception Phase: 2020–2021

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) kills and threatens the lives of millions of people. The World Health Organization listed AMR as one of the top 10 threats to human health in 2019. There are many drivers of AMR, including the irresponsible, untargeted use of human and veterinary medicine and emissions of antibiotics from manufacturing. There is growing awareness of the contribution of pharma manufacturing to the spread of AMR. Emissions of active pharmaceuticals from manufacturing are the immediate responsibility of the supplying industry. Access to antibiotics, manufactured in a manner that does not release antibiotics to the environment, is a key objective in the fight against AMR. Achieving this requires commitments from both supply and demand side of the pharmaceutical market, as well as efficient technical solutions to prevent the spread of antibiotics and antibiotic resistance genes from production facilities to water and the environment. The Responsible Antibiotics Manufacturing Platform, (RAMP) was launched in February 2020 to change the standards of the industry. Producing medication that is safe and sustainable, today and tomorrow, must be a competitive advantage.

## Vision

RAMP is a collaboration platform with the vision that by 2030, the release of antibiotics to the environment from manufacturing is minimised, and broader sustainability gains have been achieved in partnership with industry, governments, international agencies, and other stakeholders. Through a collaboration of pioneers we want to trigger incentives and ensure access to antibiotics that are manufactured in a manner that does not cause antimicrobial resistance or harm the environment.

## Long-term objectives

The key objective of the platform is to contribute to the fight against AMR by enabling synergies and harmonisation between the leading public and private stakeholders and strategies for sustainability in antibiotics manufacturing by:

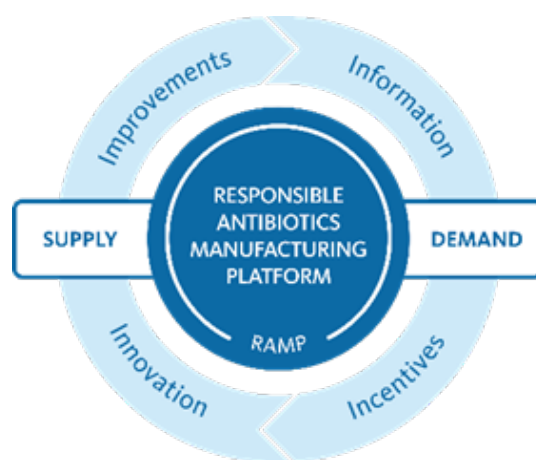
1. Showcasing the technical feasibility of reducing emissions from antibiotics production
2. Developing verification schemes that transfer the relevant information between supply and demand side, addressing both confidentiality and transparency
3. Showcasing the feasibility of incentivising the emission reductions

4. Developing a holistic resource and cost-efficiency approach for sustainable antibiotic manufacturing, beyond the current end-of-the-pipe focus on effluents.

## Inception phase 2020

The focus of the inception phase will be on conceptual development, accessing and analysing existing data, fundraising, and remote stakeholder engagement, while taking into account and adapting to the impacts of Covid-19. All activities aim to build the foundation for full-scale implementation of RAMP from 2021 and onwards. The objectives of the inception phase are:

- To develop concepts, work plans, and intervention plans for the various work streams;
- To broaden the platform with additional companies and donors contributing funding;
- To strengthen the related stakeholder networks and dialogue with procurers and regulators.



Additional information:  
[www.siw.org/what-we-do/ramp](http://www.siw.org/what-we-do/ramp)



# Multi-Stakeholder Action for achieving SDG 6



**Region**  
Global

## Partners

Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS). Water Resources Group 2030 (WRG2030). United Nations Global Compact / CEO Water Mandate (Pacific Institute). WEF Water Initiative.

## Background information

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

## Project objectives

Water resources are managed sustainably, in particular by responsible private sector stakeholders, through collective accountability and bottom-up efforts by all water users.

## Beneficiaries

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

## Costs

CHF 5,450,000

## Duration

2018–2021 (phase 1)

As water is a key resource for competing users, sustainable water management needs to be addressed in partnership with all, from the basin to the global level. In essence, Water Stewardship fosters responsible private engagement in water and thus contributes to reaching the targets of SDG 6.

This Water Stewardship programme promotes and institutionalises multi-stakeholder water dialogue by supporting several public-private-civil society partnership initiatives.

The Water Stewardship programme is implemented by four strategic partners. Each partner has its own niche and function in influencing change within the private sector and governments in their regulatory function. The programme allows for feedback loops between the local and the global level, and vice versa.

## Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS)

AWS is a global membership-based collaboration 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 a 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.

## Water Resources Group 2030 (WRG 2030)

WRG 2030 is a public-private-civil society partnership that helps government water officials and other water sector specialists accelerate reforms to ensure sustainable water resource management for the long-term development and economic growth of their country.

WRG 2030 is hosted by the Water Global Practice with the participation of the International Finance Corporation (World Bank Group), with strong linkages to the WEF and its meetings (including its meeting in Davos and regional meetings). At the global and local levels, WRG 2030 works with a diverse set of partners from the private and public sector that represent various multi-stakeholder perspectives, aiming to interface with a wide variety of critical water programmes and initiatives. At the heart of the WRG 2030 are over 10 – 15 national Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs).

## United Nations Global Compact / CEO Water Mandate (Pacific Institute)

The CEO Water Mandate is a special initiative of the UN Secretary-General and the UN Global Compact, implemented in

partnership with the Pacific Institute. The CEO Water Mandate mobilises a critical mass of business leaders to address global water challenges through corporate water stewardship, in partnership with the United Nations, governments, civil society organisations, and other stakeholders. Endorsers of the CEO Water Mandate recognise that they can identify and reduce critical water risks to their businesses, seize water-related opportunities, and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals. The CEO Water Mandate offers a unique platform to share best and emerging practices and to forge multi-stakeholder partnerships to address challenges related to water scarcity, water quality, water governance, and access to water and sanitation.

## World Economic Forum (WEF) Water Initiative

The primary goal of the Global Water Initiative is to re-energise the global dialogue around water security through innovative approaches and new champions. The new WEF Water Strategy focuses on new technologies and innovation for water with non-traditional actors from the technology sector to identify new models and approaches, as well as related opportunities and risks (e.g. for developing countries). In assembling a new group of thought leaders from across the public and private sectors and civil society, the Global Water Initiative will explore how new technologies and applications can accelerate progress and transform the global water and sanitation agenda.

Additional information:

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



[www.2030wrg.org/](http://www.2030wrg.org/)



[www.ceowatermandate.org/](http://www.ceowatermandate.org/)



[www.weforum.org/projects/global-water-initiative](http://www.weforum.org/projects/global-water-initiative)



The CEO Water Mandate

# Collaboration with Earth Security Partnerships

## A global programme driving private sector partnerships for SDGs and climate resilience



**Region**  
Global

**Partner**  
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 catalyse innovations in business and finance mechanisms that incentivise cooperation between different sectors and countries on water and inter-related themes of climate adaptation, ecosystem resilience and pro-poor development.

### Beneficiaries

High-level decision-makers in the private sector, government and civil society; network of global stakeholders

### Costs

CHF 1,560,000

### Duration

2018–2021

Earth Security Partnerships (ESP) is a global platform providing the strategic foresight and facilitated collaborations to drive forward private sector partnerships for resilience and sustainable development. ESP provides the intelligence and develops opportunities for investors, companies and governments to form innovative partnerships that build the resilience of countries and regions.

ESP's goals:

- **Engage the private sector** with a set of evidence-based priorities that drive impact opportunities in developing countries.
- **Support developing countries** to develop clear priorities and innovative models of private sector collaboration.
- **Facilitate innovative partnerships** that help mainstream and accelerate the scaling up of high-impact business and finance mechanisms.

ESP's approach:

**Strategic foresight:** ESP uses a rigorous data-driven, SDG-based framework, which complements the research routinely carried out by governments, industry and financial institutions on sustainability, economic and political risks. This framework presents an integrated and visual assessment of a country's sustainability challenges and vulnerabilities and highlights specific opportunities where public-private partnerships can have an impact. The tool is used to engage senior decision-makers across business, government, and global development, to increase awareness and advocacy of converging resource pressures, create a more strategic understanding of priorities in the midst of complexity, and encourage better mutual understanding and collaboration between these sectors around impact opportunities.

**Innovative private sector partnerships:** ESP collaborates with partners at global and local levels that share a vision to mobilise private sector investment towards scaling up resilience models. ESP develops the strategic global analysis that businesses and investors need to align with countries' SDG and resilience goals. ESP creates partnerships with leading business and finance networks and platforms to catalyse innovative business and finance models. Current and prospective partners include the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN), the Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC), among others.

### Partnership Plan 2019 – 2021

Specific activities include:

- **Global Analysis:** The analysis, shared through an annual impact intelligence report, flags the inter-related global resilience gaps where investment must be mobilised. It features innovative business and finance models that advance adaptation and resilience goals and proposes promising private sector partnerships with potential for impact.
- **Engagement & Collaboration:** ESP provides a clearing house to broker partnerships, engaging a group of private sector champions and partners such as UNCDF. The process co-convenes a quarterly meeting of business and finance leaders to forge new partnerships and initiatives that support resilience models. ESP engages with country-based investor networks in selected vulnerable regions to build their capacity to adopt sustainable private sector blueprints and partnerships.
- **Outreach:** ESP promotes learning across the private sector to embed resilience as a key feature of sustainable business and finance and accelerate the scale-up of impactful models. It mainstreams new evidence and knowledge to orient investment portfolios in support of climate resilience through targeted outreach and communication efforts.

### Key outputs of the planned phase:

- \* Annual global impact intelligence publications
- \* Engagement of private sector leaders through strategic quarterly convenings
- \* Global financing partnerships to scale up impactful business and finance models
- \* Communication and dissemination events with network partners and targeted media outreach



Additional information:  
<https://earthsecuritygroup.com>





# International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

## Joining forces of conservation and development cooperation for societal transformation



**Region**  
Global

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

### Background information

SDC through GPW and GPCCE 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

GPW's core funding is not earmarked to any specific project of IUCN but contributes to the implementation of the 4-year program approved at the IUCN World Nature Conservation Congress.

### Beneficiaries

Direct beneficiaries are IUCN staff and members implementing the 4-year program.

### Costs

CHF 6,300,000 shared between GPW and GPCCE

**Duration**  
2018–2021

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 - mankind needs to change its development trajectory in order to avoid a global collapse. 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.

With over 1,300 member organisations and more than 15,000 volunteer experts, IUCN is an important battles to preserve ecosystems such as wetlands and their crucial services as well as endangered species that are facing the threat of irrevocable extinction.

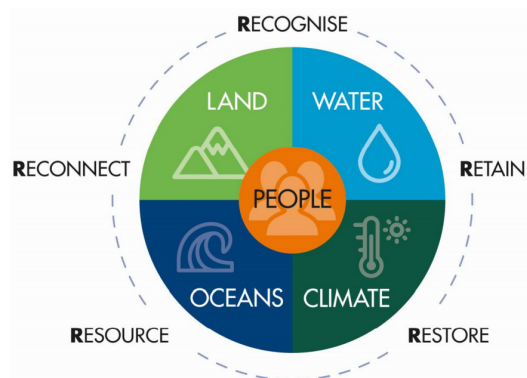
SDC thus recognises the paramount role of IUCN both as a normative body for nature conservation and for safeguarding species and ecosystems for the wellbeing of future generations. It therefore continues to support IUCN with the following three priority action areas for the period 2017-2021:

- Valuing and conserving nature enhances IUCN's heartland work on biodiversity conservation, emphasising both 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.

For SDC, IUCN is a relevant key actor in the field of environmental protection. It has the ability to convene diverse stakeholders, provide the latest science, formulate objective recommendations and gather valuable on-the-ground expertise. All this drives IUCN's mission of informing and empowering conservation efforts worldwide.

The new **Nature 2030 IUCN Programme**, for the first time, sets its ambition in a decadal timeframe 2021–2030 and is a call to mobilise the entire Union. Through its new 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:** and promote a shared understanding of the interconnected challenges the world is facing, the urgency and timelines involved, what can be done about it and the role each actor can play, including governments, non-governmental organisations, academia, indigenous peoples, communities, the private sector, women and youth. But also recognising the incredible nature we have, and the champions at all levels working endlessly to protect and restore it! **Retain:** the importance of safeguarding, maintaining and sustainably using the world's biodiversity and natural and cultural heritage, in key biodiversity areas and other intact areas. **Restore:** the condition of species and ecosystems, and the full suite of benefits that nature provides to people which have already been lost or degraded, capitalising on the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration. **Resource:** the movement by funding and investing in nature and the people working to conserve it, through finance, capacity development and knowledge, to support humanity and the planet through both conventional and innovative sources. **Reconnect:** people to nature to build a culture of conservation that aligns not just people with the planet, but through nature with other individuals, communities and their own heritage.



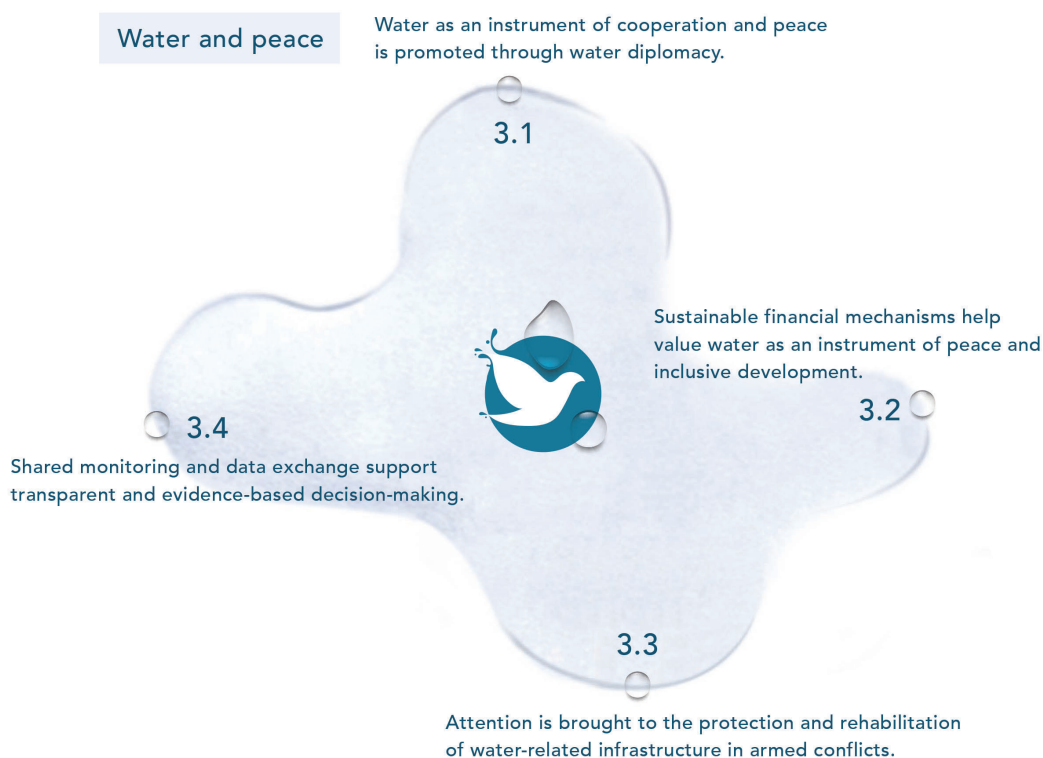
Additional information:  
[www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)



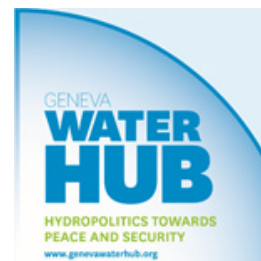
# Water and Peace

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 Programme Overview
- Blue Peace Middle East: Regional Mechanism
- Blue Peace Middle East: Improving Shared Water Management in the Tigris Basin (Iraq, Turkey)
- Blue Peace Middle East: Yarmouk Futures
- Blue Peace Middle East: Cewas Middle East
- Blue Peace Middle East: Media Lab
- Blue Peace Central Asia
- Water Diplomacy: Building River Dialogue and Governance (BRIDGE)
- Water Diplomacy: Support to the UNECE Water Convention activities
- Water Diplomacy: Governance of Groundwater Resources in Transboundary Aquifers (GGRETA)
- Water Diplomacy and Conflict Prevention: Contribution to the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe OSCE



# 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

CHF 7,620,500, plus contributions from partners

## Duration

2020–2023

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 GHLPWP;
- 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.

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



# The Blue Peace Index



**Region**  
Global

**Partner**  
The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)

**Background information**  
The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), 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**  
CHF 765,000

**Duration**  
2019–2023

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 Intelligence Unit (EIU) to develop a Blue Peace Index to examine how countries around the world are managing their trans-boundary 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 re-consider 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 on sub-national, national and international levels. The SDC has engaged with the EIU 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 trans-boundary 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 EIU, 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.



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





# Blue Peace Middle East Programme



## Region

Middle East

## Partners

Turkish Water Institute (SUEN), Water-related ministries, Ce-was, University of East Anglia (UEA), Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), Media in Conflict and Transformation (MICT), Media Academy Iraq, Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management (INWRDAM).

## Background information

The Middle East is the most water-scarce region in the world. This scarcity increasingly affects all aspects of life in the region, fuelling conflicts and impacting the sustainable development agenda.

## Project objectives

To enhance regional water cooperation, strengthening the basis for peace in the region.

## Beneficiaries

Regional and local water institutions and ultimately water users who will benefit from strengthened water cooperation, greater access to clean water and regional stability.

## Costs

CHF 4,400,000

## Duration

2019–2021

Regional cooperation over water resources is more important today than ever in the water-scarce Middle East. The Blue Peace Middle East Initiative is the first regional platform to facilitate dialogue and exchange to improve water governance, and ultimately foster sustainable development and peace in the region.

The Middle East is the most water-scarce region in the world. By 2025 the region's renewable freshwater supply will have dropped to below a third of 1970 levels. Moreover, practically all rivers and aquifers straddle two or more countries – all of which claim their part. Other important challenges include the need for more sustainable water use, access to more reliable water services, and improved water governance for national and transboundary surface and groundwater resources.

However, in large parts of the Middle East, conflict or post-conflict conditions stand in the way of sustainable development. Water, and water scarcity, also play a role in many of these conflicts. In order to reduce the risk of water conflict in the region, there is a need for closer cooperation over water with a focus on benefit sharing, productive knowledge exchange and progressive policies and solutions.

The Blue Peace Middle East Initiative – a partnership between the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Mumbai-based Strategic Foresight Group (SFG) – was set up in 2011 to work towards regional recognition of water resources as a potential source of socioeconomic development and peace. Through a combination of political and technical dialogues, which were supported by concrete data collection, knowledge exchange and capacity-building projects, the Blue Peace programme was the first – and to date only – effort in the region to foster regional exchange, understanding and conflict prevention.

Despite the increasing complexity of conflicts in the region, the Blue Peace Community, which is made up of around 200 scholars, practitioners and media professionals, has developed a shared political vision, and created a space for political and technical dialogues on water cooperation.

In 2018, Blue Peace community decided to take this vision to the next level by transferring the management of the Blue Peace from SFG to a regional network of water institutes and stakeholders. As a result, the Blue Peace Initiative is today governed by collective leadership with representatives from Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Turkey and, to a limited degree, Syria. The Turkish Water Institute (SUEN) in Istanbul functions as the initiative's Coordination Office.

The project's overall goal is for water users, and particularly the most vulnerable populations, to have fair and sustainab-

le access to water resources thanks to closer regional water cooperation, which in turn strengthens the basis for peace in the region.

## Planned outcomes:

- The newly established and regional structure of the Blue Peace Middle East Initiative supports peace building, dialogue and collaboration activities among the countries, water institutions, decision-makers and experts in the region.
- Transboundary water resources management in the Tigris Basin is improved through multilevel dialogue (Blue Peace Iraq-Turkey track), joint monitoring and data sharing.
- In the transboundary Yarmouk Basin, conditions for more equitable and sustainable use of the Yarmouk River are put in place.
- A thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem enables the initiation, development and implementation of innovative entrepreneurial solutions to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for the region.
- Objective, in-depth reporting on water issues in Middle Eastern media contributes to water cooperation and sustainable management in the region.

Additional information:

[www.bluepeacemiddleeast.org](http://www.bluepeacemiddleeast.org)



# Regional Platform for Water Cooperation



## Region

Middle East

## Partners

Turkish Water Institute (SUEN)

## Background information

The Blue Peace Middle East Initiative contributes to peace-building by stimulating political and technical dialogues about water and supporting concrete regional projects, data-sharing and capacity-building activities in Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Turkey and, to a limited extent, Syria. The initiative is regionally owned since 2019.

## Beneficiaries

Regional and local water institutions, public organisations, agricultural units and water users

## Costs

CHF 520,000

## Duration

2019–2021

In the Middle East, the dire situation of water resources demands stronger regional exchange and cooperation than ever before. Blue Peace Middle East Initiative is the only regional platform engaging six countries around water issues.

Since January 2019, the initiative is led by collective leadership representatives from Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iran, and, to a more limited degree, Syria. The Turkish Water Institute (SUEN) has been designated by concerned parties to function as the Coordination Office for the Blue Peace in the Middle East Initiative for 3 years (2019-2021). The aim of this project is to support the new structure of the Blue Peace Initiative, including the work of the Coordination Office, the Management Committee and the creation of a regional Policy Advisory Committee. Moreover, the regional network of water institutes and representatives will work jointly on the theme of water-use efficiency in agriculture in order to strengthen food security in the region by stimulating the knowledge exchange and capacity-building, and enhancing dialogue among countries.

The initiative's new three-tier structure comprises the following bodies:

- The top-tier Policy Advisory Committee is made up of influential regional political leaders and chaired by HRH Prince Hassan bin Talal of Jordan
- The second-tier Managing Committee works with support institutions to identify thematic areas of concern (TAC) and set priorities in the field of water resources management.
- On the third tier, the Coordination Office supports the Managing Committee in facilitating planned activities.

The Blue Peace Middle East Initiative was initially established in 2011 as part of a partnership between the Mumbai-based Strategic Foresight Group, the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) and the Swedish Development Cooperation (SIDA).

Under this new structure, the Blue Peace Initiative continues to develop peace-building and collaboration activities in the region and to create spaces for dialogue between countries, water institutions, decision-makers and experts.

The TAC will be studied by nominated national experts depending on the theme (National Focal Points) and by Managing Committee Members. A regional working group will disseminate information on technologies and best practices for optimal agricultural water-use efficiency.



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



# Improving Shared Water Management in the Tigris Basin (Iraq, Turkey)



## Region

Iraq / Middle East

## Partners

Ministry of Water Resources (Government of Iraq); Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources (Kurdish Regional Government); OTT Hydromet

## Project objectives

- Strengthen Iraq's hydrological monitoring capacities in the triple-border region.
- Contribute to transboundary data harmonisation and sharing between Iraq and Turkey.

## Beneficiaries

Iraqi government experts tasked with network operation, hydrological analysis and reporting; Iraqi and Turkish representatives in the joint monitoring initiative. In the long-term, the project will benefit the general population in the Tigris region.

## Costs

CHF 510,000

## Duration

2019–2021

The Tigris River is an important lifeline for the Western Asia region. However, worsening water scarcity in the region have resulted in growing tensions over the river. In 2014, the 'Geneva Consensus' marked a breakthrough between Iraqi and Turkish representatives on the harmonisation and sharing of hydrological information. This project will strengthen Iraq's hydrological monitoring capacities in the triple-border region and facilitate information exchange with Turkey.

The Tigris River is the second-largest river in Western Asia and an important lifeline for its riparian countries Iraq, Syria and Turkey. Along its course, it is fed by numerous tributaries that rise in Zagros Mountains, making Iran part of its basin as well. The once-abundant waters of the Tigris and Euphrates – the two great rivers of Mesopotamia – have been impacted by the mounting pressure on the resource, especially since Turkey launched large dam projects for irrigation and hydropower generation as part of its Southeastern Anatolia Project (GAP).

Lack of data and mutually acceptable baseline information have proven an obstacle to dialogue. In 2014, an important breakthrough in building consensus between Iraqi and Turkish representatives on the harmonisation and sharing of hydrological information was achieved in the form of the so-called 'Geneva Consensus'. Building on this consensus, this initiative aims at strengthening Iraq's hydrological monitoring capacities. The process was facilitated by the Blue Peace Middle East Initiative, which promotes consensual collaborative solutions to foster sustainable water cooperation and strengthen the basis for peace in the region.

Iraq is currently suffering from a lack of properly functioning monitoring station at the triple border point (Turkey, Syria, Iraq) creating large gaps in the data records. It creates difficulties for the country to produce reliable inflow estimates on the Tigris River when entering Iraq, flowing from Turkey upstream, affecting its national water resources management and the transboundary dialogue.

The project will strengthen Iraq's capacity to collect, store, analyse and share hydrological data on the Tigris River and the wider basin. The specific focus lies on assessing cross-border flows in the triple-border region. Working jointly on these aspects will help to identify trends and impacts of ongoing and planned water management interventions, and to separate man-made impacts from broader climate-change effects. Reliable baseline information is also needed to prepare – and for Iraq to monitor – any future basin agreement between the riparian countries.



## Planned outcome

- Establish reliable monitoring of water discharge and quality of the Tigris River and its tributaries.
- Enhance data management infrastructure.
- Build capacities of Iraqi experts in related thematic areas.
- Prepare the ground for future data exchange between Iraq and Turkey

## Additional information:

Geneva Consensus on the Tigris River:

[www.strategicforesight.com/conference\\_pdf/47694Consensus%20On%20Tigris%20River\\_Revised%20Sep14.pdf](http://www.strategicforesight.com/conference_pdf/47694Consensus%20On%20Tigris%20River_Revised%20Sep14.pdf)



# Yarmouk Futures: generating capacity and knowledge for equitable and sustainable transboundary water arrangements



## Region

Jordan, Syria / Middle East

## Partners

University of East Anglia (UEA)  
Water Security Research Centre, Jordanian and Syrian water experts, Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST)

## Background information

Insufficient knowledge and capacities currently hamper equitable and sustainable water-sharing arrangements in the Yarmouk and wider Jordan River Basins.

## Project objectives

Generate the knowledge and capacity required to facilitate the emergence of law-based, equitable and sustainable transboundary water arrangements, with a focus on the Yarmouk tributary.

## Beneficiaries

Iraqi government experts tasked with network operation, hydrological analysis and reporting; Iraqi and Turkish representatives in the joint monitoring initiative.

In the long-term, the project will benefit the general population in the Tigris region.

## Costs

GBP 676,000

## Duration

2019–2021

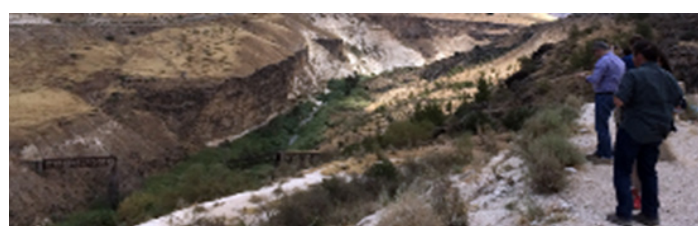
Water resources from the Yarmouk River basin are shared by Syria and Jordan, but the use of flows has been contested for a long time. Despite the difficulties, the circumstances may at the same time provide an opportunity to enable a more effective transboundary arrangement. Building on the outcomes of the Yarmouk Hydropolitical Baseline and the Yarmouk Vision (2017-2018), this current phase will concentrate on the generation of the knowledge and capacity required to facilitate the emergence of law-based, equitable and sustainable transboundary water arrangements with a focus on the Yarmouk tributary. Knowledge and capacity-building will be generated mainly through the establishment of the Centre for Water Cooperation and Diplomacy, at the Jordan University of Science and Technology.

An effective transboundary water resources management and hydro-diplomacy programming requires rigorous hydrological and political analysis. The current arrangement in the Yarmouk tributary is judged as wholly insufficient to arbitrate the tensions rising, due to the dual impact of the return of thousands of displaced farmers to the basin and the projected effects of climate change.

Targeting Jordanian and Syrian academics and members of civil society in addition to others from the ME region, the programme has three specific target outcomes:

- Generation of knowledge
- Development of common understanding
- Building of capacity.

The targets will be met through three sets of activities. Knowledge activities will ensure the scientific grounding of the programme by filling knowledge gaps through specific research projects, and integration of the work into education curricula in Jordan. Capacity-building activities will focus on technical, legal and negotiations training. Communications activities will reach the general public to create a much greater awareness of Yarmouk issues, through widespread and targeted dissemination of infographics and other communications tools, a documentary film, public lectures, and media pieces.



*The Yarmouk Futures team overlooking the Yarmouk River right before it enters the Jordan River.*

The centrepiece of the Yarmouk Futures Programme is the establishment of the Centre for Water Cooperation and Diplomacy, at the Jordan University of Science and Technology. The CWCD will host the bulk of the Knowledge activities, and all of the Capacity-building activities. During the life of the programme, the Centre will evolve from Yarmouk-focused and fully supported by the YF Programme, to regionally-focused and independent of the Programme.

The main goal of the Yarmouk Futures programme is to generate the knowledge and capacity required to facilitate the emergence of law-based, equitable and sustainable transboundary water arrangements, with a focus on the Yarmouk tributary. Transboundary water 'arrangements' are composed of the knowledge, capacity, institutions, and agreements that shape how riparian actors interact.

## Planned outcomes

- The knowledge and analysis required to facilitate the emergence of law-based, equitable and sustainable transboundary water arrangements is generated, disseminated, and consolidated amongst the key stakeholders;
- The institutional and technical capacity of key stakeholders to facilitate the emergence of law-based, equitable and sustainable transboundary water arrangements is created;
- The common understanding of relevant issues between key stakeholders required to facilitate the emergence of law-based, equitable and sustainable transboundary water arrangements is created (within noted operational parameters).

## Additional information:

[sites.uea.ac.uk/watersecurity/research/current-projects/yarmouk-basin-baseline-study](https://sites.uea.ac.uk/watersecurity/research/current-projects/yarmouk-basin-baseline-study)





# Cewas Middle East – Innovating Water and Sanitation Solutions



## Region

Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Palestinian Authority

## Partners

Cewas Middle East, BORDA, Rotary, Berytech, GIZ and many other local institutions

## Background information

The Middle East is facing an ongoing humanitarian crisis with millions of displaced persons, diminishing natural resources and mismanagement of water and waste as well as high youth unemployment across the region.

## Project objectives

Create and enhance a regional entrepreneurial ecosystem that enables the initiation and implementation of innovative solutions to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

## Beneficiaries

Direct: Entrepreneurial ecosystem actors (from finance, business and academia), local water and sanitation entrepreneurs, WASH practitioners

Indirect: communities benefiting from the innovative solutions

## Costs

CHF 1,665,788

## Duration

2019–2021

The Middle East is an increasingly water-scarce region. With the highest number of refugees per capita globally, it is also facing a rapidly changing economic and environmental landscape. In an effort to support innovation and sustainability around these challenges, cewas Middle East empowers young entrepreneurs initiating and implementing high-potential business ideas, enhances the entrepreneurship ecosystem and trains WASH practitioners to generate demand for more sustainable products and services.

No resource is more important than water. It directly affects peace and economic stability, and those linkages are highly visible in the Middle East, a region becoming more arid as climate change progresses. However, it is uncommon to think of the potential of the water sector regarding employment opportunities and the innovation economy. Water is dominated by the public sector and NGOs, with only marginal participation of the private sector.

In 2013, cewas Middle East was established to foster innovation and sustainability in the water and sanitation sector through the development and implementation of entrepreneurial approaches. cewas Middle East is a branch of the Swiss NGO cewas, which founded the world's first dedicated water and sanitation start-up incubator for young innovators in 2011. By offering year-long training programmes, cewas Middle East has supported over 60 start-ups across the region, and has developed a Sustainable Sanitation and Water Management (SSWM) curriculum to enhance knowledge among water and sanitation actors and generate demand in humanitarian and development markets.

During the current project phase 2019-2021, cewas Middle East continues to advance water and sanitation entrepreneurship on the following levels:

Based on its experience in specialised business development programmes, cewas Middle East has now established additional mechanisms through which start-ups can initiate high-potential ideas, develop their sustainable businesses and bring them to the market. Upon identification of new start-ups, established companies and organisations, cewas Middle East offers a year-long incubation programme as well as tailored business development trainings, individualised coaching, mentoring and access to finance. Cewas Middle East actively builds the community of entrepreneurs and facilitates professional network support through technical and business experts. By involving media experts, communication around role models and their change-making solutions supports awareness and demand creation.

To ensure entrepreneurs' efforts yield results, and to enhance the regional entrepreneurial ecosystem for SSWM, cewas Middle East works together with key stakeholders from the entrepreneurship sector, the financial sector and academia. Hereby, a particular focus is set on improving the following three ecosystem conditions: 1) Financial Support Systems, 2) Business Support Services & Intermediaries, 3) Young Talent Growth in SSWM.

SSWM Entrepreneurs highly depend on the capacity of the markets they operate in, which are mostly limited to NGOs and donors' efforts, or niche sectors of environmentally conscious consumers. Through short- and long-term trainings, innovation workshops and the provision of bilingual knowledge tools, cewas Middle East builds the capacities of practitioners and decision-makers to try to move from project-based to more sustainable water and sanitation interventions, considering market-based approaches that can mobilise environmental solutions adequately adapted to the cultural and local context, and supporting local economies.



Training for the Blue Peace Media Lab - October 2019-Lebanon

Additional information:

[www.cewasmiddleeast.org](http://www.cewasmiddleeast.org)

[www.cewas.org](http://www.cewas.org)

[www.facebook.com/cewasMiddleEast/](https://www.facebook.com/cewasMiddleEast/)

[www.linkedin.com/company/cewas-middle-east/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cewas-middle-east/)



# Blue Peace Media Lab



## Region

Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Iran, Syria

## Partners

MiCT, cewas, Media Academy Iraq

## Background information

Conflicts and poor governance have negatively affected water supply, sanitation, and water management in the Middle East over the past years.

## Project objectives

Media coverage, audience interest and attention around the various aspects of water in the Middle East contribute towards sustainable water cooperation and management in the region.

## Beneficiaries

Direct: trained journalists and communication professionals reporting on water topics in the Middle East

Indirect: decision makers, water sector stakeholder and the general public that are reached by the produced journalistic pieces on water solutions

## Costs

CHF 330,000

## Duration

2019–2021

Water and effective water management are both hard to find in the Middle East. Inaccurate and incomplete data, a lack of capacity in water monitoring and low awareness of water-related issues perpetuate the water crisis and drive conflicts in the region. To tackle these challenges, the Blue Peace Media Lab uses innovative approaches to sensitise media professionals to water-related challenges and foster constructive water reporting. The activities are bolstered by ongoing online communication, intended to encourage cross-border exchange. The project will increase awareness both among policy makers and water users, encouraging sustainability and result-oriented approaches to the crisis.

The Blue Peace Media Lab has been developed under the umbrella of the Blue Peace Initiative and aims to promote sustainability in water management and cooperation in the Middle East, with a particular focus on activities in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Iran and, to a more limited degree, Syria. The assumption is that successful joint management of scarce water resources will promote dialogue and lasting peace in the region. Only an informed public can constructively influence policy dialogue on water-related issues. This is why the role of media professionals and journalists is crucial to foster grounded knowledge and information-sharing in the region.

As it enters its second two-year phase, the project aims to continue to be a driver of the aforementioned knowledge-sharing by promoting exchange between journalists and water experts such as members of the Blue Peace Community, providing in-depth training to journalists on water-related reporting, creating incentives for opinion-leaders to immerse themselves in the topic and nurturing water experts' skills in liaising with media. The goal is to promote constructive coverage of water issues in the Middle East, thus exercising a positive, solution-oriented influence on water governance in the region and beyond.

## Planned outcomes

Recognising that water-related knowledge is still scarce and underdeveloped among both media professionals and the general public, a targeted capacity-building and exposure strategy has been developed. During six co-creation workshops, media professionals will be supported in identifying and implementing innovative reporting strategies, while consolidating their knowledge by introducing them to constructive solutions to a range of water-related issues. The workshops are designed to include not only sector-related training, but also a series of other opportunities for exposu-

re, including field visits, access to high-level gatherings, and other sector events.

The second outcome focuses on supervising and encouraging production and successful dissemination of water-related journalistic pieces, thus ensuring that comprehensive, well-rounded final products reach and inform the public.

Lastly, to produce compelling stories in a short timeframe, media professionals need a large and reliable network of colleagues, experts, sources and protagonists. In this way, journalists (or a group of journalists) can shed light on complex topics and possible solutions. The project fosters such a network in the water space in the form of the Blue Peace Media Community, which hosts a series of national events as well as a regional gathering. Besides media professionals, key stakeholders and decision makers will be brought into these events, creating ample opportunity for exchange and learning.



Additional information:  
[mict-international.org](http://mict-international.org)  
[cewas.org](http://cewas.org)  
[mediaacademy-iraq.org](http://mediaacademy-iraq.org)



# Strengthening the Regional Institutional Framework for IWRM in Central Asia



## Region

Central Asia

## Partners

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

## Background information

In 2014, the first Conference on IWRM with delegations from the five countries took place in Basel. A follow-up conference was held in Astana, Kazakhstan, in June 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 intergovernmental dialogue.

## Beneficiaries

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

## Costs

CHF 6,000,000

## Duration

2014–2022

In response to the explicit demand of the five Central Asian States, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation aims to facilitate transboundary water resources cooperation through the establishment of a High Level Dialogue Platform, the promotion of sustainable water practices in transboundary water basins as well as capacity-building of a new generation of water professionals. This line of action is consistent with Switzerland's "Blue Peace" approach and already implemented elsewhere at a regional and global level.

The transboundary basins of Central Asia cover an extensive area and are home to about 60 million inhabitants. The water shared by the five riparian countries is fundamental for both their people and the economy they depend upon. Unsustainable water use, insufficient transnational cooperation and opposing national interests have contributed to a climate of distrust among the countries in the region. The current centralised transboundary water cooperation framework proved to be inefficient. A dialogue to shift from a national administrative approach to a transboundary hydrographic water management basis is therefore necessary. In this regard, the Central Asian countries are increasingly aware of the cost of unsustainable water management as well as the effect of climate change and its impact on the environment and their societies. Switzerland, recognised as a credible and neutral actor, is as such well placed to provide concomitantly quality expertise and honest brokerage without a hidden agenda in order to facilitate dialogue on transboundary water cooperation.

Through two Swiss-supported high-level events bringing together for the first time representatives of Foreign and Water Ministries and Parliaments (Basel I Conference in November 2014 and Astana Conference within the World Expo in June 2017) and the deployment of a Swiss Special Envoy for Water in Central Asia, the five countries expressed the need for the establishment of an informal High Level Dialogue Platform in Central Asia to exchange on commonly-identified regional priorities, notably on:

- 1) transparent sharing of hydrometeorology data and joint use of forecast modelling among riparian countries to prevent water-related disasters and adapt to climate change;
- 2) investment in and joint management of transboundary water infrastructure ;
- and 3) adoption of water quality standards and monitoring, and water efficiency interventions.

In parallel to the High Level Dialogue Platform, a Programme of strategic actions at operational and regional level is being developed in order to facilitate an evidence-based dialogue

at the political level and to ensure effective and sustainable transboundary water management. To this end, authorities in selected water basins will adopt and replicate smart water practices based on the three priority areas listed above, which were jointly agreed upon during the Basel I conference.

The third pillar of intervention consists of strengthening the role of the next generation of professionals in the water sector, the so-called Water Champions, to influence and benefit from negotiated solutions in regional water management and cooperation. Their knowledge and skills will be enhanced by supporting a youth-lead regional youth network, and providing relevant and targeted support for capacity-building.



Additional information:

[www.eda.admin.ch/deza/en/home/countries/central-asia.html](http://www.eda.admin.ch/deza/en/home/countries/central-asia.html)





# Building River Dialogue and Governance (BRIDGE) – Phase 4



**Region**  
Global

**Partners**  
IUCN

## 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 co-operation.

## 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

CHF 5,370,000

## Duration

2019–2021

The support to this project is part of a broader programme bringing together complementary partnerships, with IUCN working on transboundary surface water, UNESCO-IHP focusing on transboundary groundwater, and the 1992 UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes providing a guiding global framework, all together building an integrated approach to transboundary waters management.

**BRIDGE supports the capacities of stakeholders from local to transboundary levels in countries sharing 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. BRIDGE is implemented in five regions through demonstration at basin-level, learning support, dialogue facilitation, leadership development, and the provision of advice and technical support.**

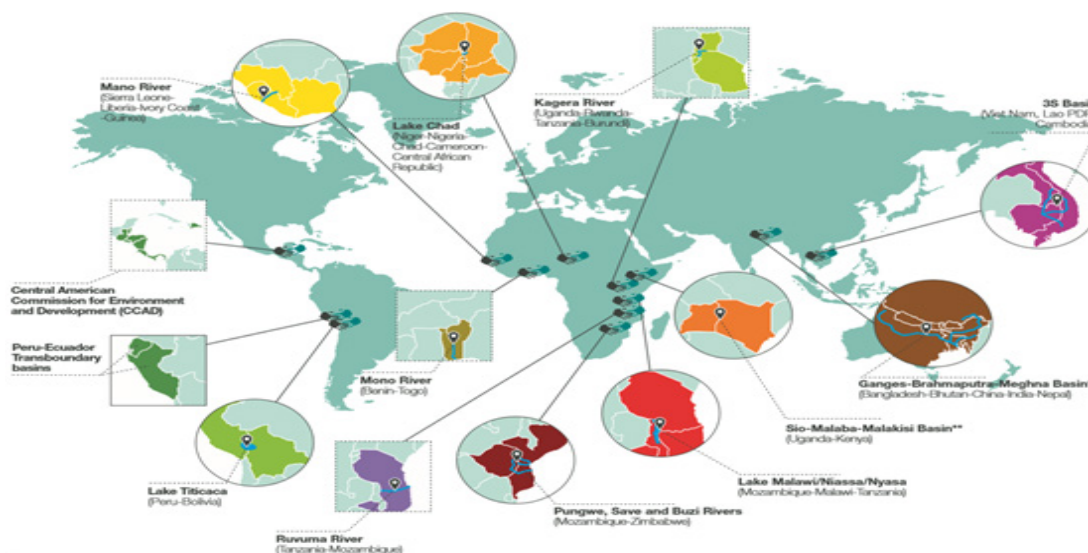
With over 40% of the world's population living in 275 transboundary basins, cooperation over water management is essential for people's well-being, political stability and the sustainability of ecosystems. Today, the complexities of sharing water among States require innovation relative to traditional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

The goal of BRIDGE is to improve secure and safe access to water, to reduce water-related conflicts, and to protect or restore water-related ecosystems in targeted transboundary basins, through sustainable management and governance of water resources. It uses water diplomacy 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 because clean, safe and reliable water is intrinsic to health, food security and economic opportunities. The costs of failing to manage water are often reflected in poverty, disease, loss of biodiversity, conflict and instability. The strategy of BRIDGE aims at catalysing sustainable water resources development, including progress on safe water supply and sanitation, sustainable watershed management and biodiversity conservation. The principle is to have demonstrations on the ground, combined with capacity and leadership development that are necessary to make cooperation a reality that catalyses change. BRIDGE uses capacity development and learning as a vehicle and leaders as agents of change. It also provides advice on demand to governments and stakeholders on water governance.

Based on these needs, phase 4 of BRIDGE operates in hot spots of five regions (Andes, Mesoamerica, East Asia, West and Central Africa, Southern Africa and Horn of Africa).

Additional information:  
[www.iucn.org/bridge](http://www.iucn.org/bridge)  
[waterlawandgovernance.org](http://waterlawandgovernance.org)  
[3sbasin.org](http://3sbasin.org)





# 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, 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.

## Budget

CHF 1,650,000

## Duration

2019–2021

The support to this UNESCO-IHP project is part of a broader programme bringing together complementary partnerships, with IUCN working on transboundary surface water, UNESCO-IHP focusing on transboundary groundwater, and the 1992 UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes providing a guiding global framework, all together building an integrated approach to transboundary waters management.

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 (Water Convention). This contribution will support the Programme of Work 2019 – 2021 of the 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 the only 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. In 2018, Senegal and Chad ratified the Convention and around 20 other countries have expressed their interest and intention to accede to the Convention.

## Intervention strategy and components

The 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 2019 – 2021 (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 if 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.

On the basis of the nexus methodology developed under the Convention in 2013-2015, nexus assessments based on intersectoral dialogues to enhance cooperation will be carried out in a number of basins, for example in the North-Western Sahara Aquifer System and in the Drina basin in South-Eastern Europe. The methodology will also be promoted for application by partners in other basins worldwide. A handbook will be developed, drawing from existing practices and supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation for both surface and groundwater.

### 3. Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins (pilot projects)

Cooperation in the development of vulnerability assessments, adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies and their implementation in transboundary basins will be promoted within projects implemented together with partners.

### 4. Facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation

The facilitation of dialogues and the exchange of lessons learned on sustainable financing models regarding water cooperation (e.g. institutions, data/information management systems, infrastructure) will be supported. This has culminated in a Global Workshop on Financing Water Cooperation in 2020 and publication on the challenges, approaches and lessons learned, will be published in 2021. Efforts to further increase cooperation with financial institutions will be made.

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



# Governance of Groundwater Resources in Transboundary Aquifers (GGRETA)



## Region

Central Asia, Southern Africa,  
Central America

## Partners

UNESCO-IHP (Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme), IUCN

## Background information

Two-fold approach: to inform decisions based on sound science, and to reach consensus on transboundary governance mechanisms.

## Project objectives

Strengthen regional stability, cooperation and peace through the establishment of cooperative frameworks for transboundary groundwater governance within River Basin Organisations (RBOs), Regional Commissions (RCs) and selected aquifers systems in Africa, Central America and Central Asia.

## Beneficiaries

Governments at local and national levels, regional organisations, major user groups, population.

## Costs

CHF 1,880,000 (SDC)  
CHF 1,000,000 (co-financing)

## Duration

2019–2021

The support to this UNESCO-IHP project is part of a broader programme bringing together complementary partnerships, with IUCN working on transboundary surface water, UNESCO-IHP focusing on transboundary groundwater, and the 1992 UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes providing a guiding global framework, altogether building an integrated approach to transboundary waters management.

Groundwater resources are being increasingly solicited, among others because they are perceived as the last resort to mitigate climate change impacts, growing water scarcity and surface water pollution. However, these groundwater resources are often less regulated and monitored, being less visible and more difficult to assess. Despite the numerous services they provide for people, the economy and the ecosystems they rely on, groundwater resource management at national and regional level lack data, information, and adequate governance. The GGRETA project aims to address these issues to ensure the protection and sustainable use of groundwater resources through enhanced transboundary groundwater governance.

The project will work on reforming / updating legal, policy and institutional arrangements, strengthening capacities and implementing collective measures at national and regional level to develop sustainable management and governance of transboundary aquifers and associated ecosystems in Africa, Central America and Central Asia. The project includes four interlinked outcomes:

1. Strengthened institutional and technical capacity on groundwater governance in River Basin Organisations and Regional Commissions, reinforced local stakeholders' participation and countries' cooperation of the selected aquifers systems.
2. Reinforced regional cooperation, partnerships, and networks, aiming at setting the basis for transboundary aquifers' regional strategies (special focus on Africa).
3. Improved evidence-base and decision-making for the protection and monitoring of the quality of transboundary groundwater resources.
4. Enhanced communication, public awareness, capacity and skills on transboundary aquifers and shared groundwater resources diplomacy.

Beyond the first focus on improved groundwater governance, the project will aim to achieve a better and more systemic integration of groundwater resources into the water accounting of river basins, countries and regions, as part of a

step-by-step approach to enable and foster a more holistic approach to transboundary water cooperation. This new approach is addressing the sustainability challenges related to transboundary groundwater resources that many river basins are facing. It will help open up new development perspectives and opportunities for coping with the looming threats of climate variability and change, with the need to balance surface water and groundwater water uses, preventing the risks of large-scale groundwater quality degradation, and contribute to the achievement of the SDG 6, in particular indicator 6.5.2 of the Agenda 2030.

The project will:

- replicate and upscale experiences and approaches applied in two transboundary aquifers (Stampriet in Africa, Ocotepeque-Citala in Central America) under the previous phase, to facilitate structured regional dialogue processes on groundwater resource governance regimes;
- catalyse multistate cooperation to balance conflicting water uses in transboundary surface/groundwater in the basins;
- involve young experts and youth associations and operate to include transboundary groundwater resources management and governance items in the educational programmes;
- Consider innovative processes to enhance transboundary aquifer investments.

The project is linked to, and works in collaboration with, major international networks and strategic partners in the field of transboundary aquifers. The project closely cooperates with organisations and institutions engaged with UNESCO in the global effort to improve transboundary groundwater management, in particular the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations World Water Assessment Programme (UN WWAP), as well as regional Organisations and Economic Commissions.

Additional information:

[www.unesco.org/water](http://www.unesco.org/water)



# Contribution to the OSCE



### Region

North America, Europe, Eastern Europe, Central Asia.

### Partners

Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

### Background information

With 57 participating States in North America, Europe and Asia, the OSCE is the world's largest regional security organisation. The OSCE works for stability, peace and democracy through political dialogue about shared values and through practical work for a lasting difference.

### Project objectives

The project aims to enhance cooperation over sustainable transboundary water resource management, contributing to comprehensive approach to security in the OSCE area.

### Beneficiaries

Professionals and government officials involved in water management and negotiations, River Basin Commissions, relevant international and regional organisations working on sustainable transboundary water management in the OSCE area

### Costs

Total: € 346'480  
GPW: CHF 92'000

### Duration

Total: 2020-2022  
Contribution: 2020-2021

Water diplomacy can lead to improved relations among countries and communities, enhance security and prosperity and protect the environment. Supporting cooperation in transboundary basins, provides opportunities for strengthening bilateral and regional cooperation to promote stability, security, sustainable development and peace.

In the OSCE area alone, there are more than 150 river and lake basins which are shared by two or more States. Given its mandate and its experience in promoting transboundary cooperation, the OSCE is well placed to foster water diplomacy. Building on the OSCE's previous work, the project Water Diplomacy and Conflict Prevention – Phase I will support the OSCE participating States in their efforts towards transboundary water cooperation.

This project aims to enhance water diplomacy in the OSCE area by promoting inclusivity and engagement of key stakeholders and facilitating dialogue and cooperation around management of shared water resources, contributing to the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security. This project aims to increase capacities of stakeholders and institutions in conflict resolution and water negotiations, to strengthen dialogue and cooperation around transboundary water bodies and to enhance knowledge of the role of transboundary water resource management in security. This will be achieved through a diverse set of activities, including capacity-building, promotion of best practices, raising awareness, network building and facilitation of dialogue. There will be special attention made to gender mainstreaming and gender equality in each activity.

These activities will be implemented in close collaboration with the OSCE Field Operations and international partners, such as the UNECE's Water Convention, UNESCO's International Centre for Water Cooperation hosted by Stockholm International Water Institute, the Geneva Water Hub, the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) and the River Basin Commissions in the OSCE area.

The beneficiaries of this project are water professionals and government officials involved in water management and negotiations, River Basin Commissions, relevant international and regional organisations and local communities impacted by sustainable transboundary water management.

The OCEEA's activities in water management are a part of the international effort to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with impli-

cations for overall economic and social prosperity and stability. This project directly addresses the interlinkages of Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) while indirectly contributing to the achievement of Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being), Goal 4 (Quality Education), Goal 5 (Gender Equality) and Goal 13 (Climate Action). This project will have the most impact on the target 6.5 and indicator 6.5.2 (Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation).



*OSCE Workshop on Water Diplomacy: Best Practices in Transboundary Water Cooperation in Strasbourg, 12-13 November 2019, Boat trip over the Rhine*

### The expected results are:

1. Key stakeholders working on transboundary water management in the OSCE area have the necessary knowledge, skills, tools and network to effectively participate in water negotiations and conflict prevention processes
2. Key institutions and water practitioners in the OSCE area effectively implement best practices in shared water resource management
3. Participating States and key stakeholders in the OSCE area have awareness of the importance of the role of water diplomacy and dialogue in transboundary water resource co-operation

### Additional information:

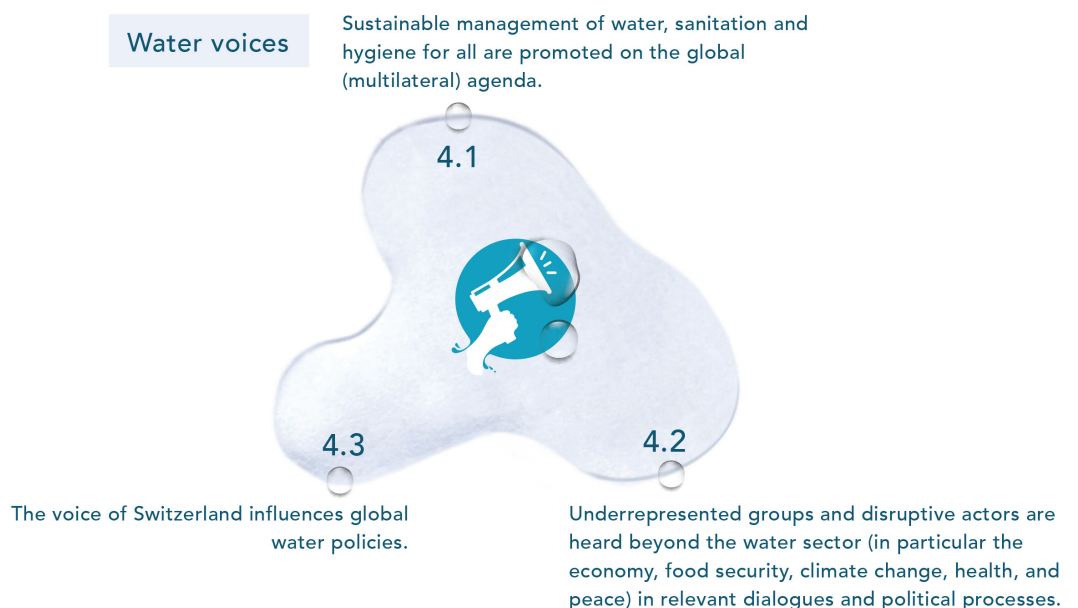
[www.osce.org/oceea/446359](http://www.osce.org/oceea/446359)  
or contact the Environmental Affairs Advisor,  
Sogol Jafarzadeh : [Sogol.Jafarzadeh@osce.org](mailto:Sogol.Jafarzadeh@osce.org)



# Water Voice

The GPW 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
- Sustainable Mountain Art (SMArt)
- Josh Water Jobs
- 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





# The Swiss Water Partnership



**Region**  
Global

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

**Background information**  
The SWP is a Swiss non-profit association founded in 2012, 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**  
CHF 870,000

**Duration**  
2019–2021

Switzerland's privileged situation as Europe's water tower, and the fact that around 80% of its water footprint is affecting 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.

## Shared values

The SWP members have agreed upon the following shared values:

- **SOLIDARITY** - Supporting the less privileged in getting universal access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene and manage 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.



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



## RésEAU – SDC's thematic network on water

# 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 that has the task to foster 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 fields.

### Costs

CHF 3,500,000

### Duration

2021–2026

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 'Global Programme Water' (GPW) 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.

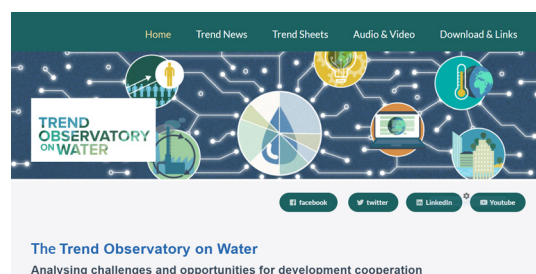
As for all other SDC thematic networks, the RésEAU's core functions are to:

- 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 promotes decentralised regional 'Sub-RésEAUs' in order to stimulate ownership and initiatives from the field and create added value 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](http://www.adelphi.de)) as a mandate of GPW. So far a Trend Sheet on digitalisation in water and another Trend Sheet on the link to the cryosphere in mountains have been developed (<https://hazu.swiss/4xMp8FdeD8Xsi1hp1oKm>).



Additional information:

RésEAU Shareweb: [www.shareweb.ch/site/Water](http://www.shareweb.ch/site/Water)



# Raising awareness about global challenges through the lens of art



## Region

Global

## Partners

Foundation for Sustainable Mountain Development FDDM

## Background information

SMART was launched in 2014, in the aftermath of the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development, by the Foundation for sustainable development in mountain regions (FDDM) - an official body of the Canton of Valais in Switzerland.

## Project objectives

Create stimulating art pieces that help engage artists with a variety of audiences - including in particular youth and decision-makers - in debates and reflections on key aspects of sustainable development and on global challenges related to mountain regions.

## Beneficiaries

Artists from the 'global South' and the public at large in their home countries as well as in visiting countries including Switzerland

## Costs

CHF 1,200,000 by SDC with matching funds from other partners

## Duration

2019-2024 (5 years, Phase 3)

The SMART program aims at raising awareness about global challenges of SDC's five so-called 'Global Programmes' i.e. Agriculture & Food Security, Climate Change & Environment, Health, Migration, and Water. Artists from different countries regularly spend a few months in a different context - including Switzerland - and create new perspectives on common issues. By sharing these with a wide public, new perceptions and insights are generated that help raise awareness and motivate people to take personal actions.

## Origin & intention

SDC decided to support the SMART program as an innovative way to address complex global issues through the lenses of artists and their respective artworks. In fact, changes in behaviour and consumption require empathy and art can act as a complementary pathway helping to create awareness, stimulate necessary debate, and generate action. By engaging artists with society at large - with a particular focus on mountains as an entry point and on youth as an important actor group - the implementation of Agenda 2030 can be enhanced.

## Partnerships

Through SMART, a wide range of institutions that are connected to the world of art both in Switzerland and in the 'global South', participate as co-sponsors and partners. In Switzerland, institutions supporting artists in residence in Valais (Association Art Bellwald, Foundation Château Mercier, Crochetan Theatre) or in Ticino (Verzasca Foto Festival) collaborate with renowned institutions abroad such as Centro de la Imagen (Peru), Rwanda Cinema Centre, Arts Council of Mongolia, Three Shadows Photography Art Centre (China), Ecole supérieure des arts visuels (Morocco) or Dar Al Mussawir (Lebanon).

## Products

Artists supported by SMART have already created a wealth of artistic products - mainly as photographs and videos that were shown in galleries, exhibitions and even global major events such as the Climate Change conferences in Paris in 2015 or Lima 2016, respectively. FDDM has in addition produced a portfolio and printed postcards of each artist. Between 2014 and 2019 more than 20 artists from 9 countries participated, over 50 exhibitions were organised and more than 20 publications produced.

## Outreach

The artists' works are exhibited in Switzerland. During their residence, they regularly participate in meetings with the public at large, artists and professionals. The local decision-makers and population are often exposed to new perceptions of the realities facing them.

When the artists return to their home country, their works and experiences are promoted in partnership with a local cultural organization thereby pursuing the debate with the local population at home.

The artworks of all associated artists are also shown in collective exhibitions in Switzerland and abroad, including at international events.



*"Art can start conversations; it can bring subjects into the public sphere, expose abuses and point towards new worlds. It touches people in a deeper and more affecting way than academic and political discourse and it moves us to tears, to laughter and to action."*

Excerpt from a speech by Deeyah Khan to the UN Human Rights Council, March 2014

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



# Connecting talents in the water community with career opportunities worldwide



## Region

Global

## Partners

Josh's Water Jobs

## Background information

Josh's Water Jobs (JWJ) is a platform which helps connect individuals around the world, especially young professionals, with opportunities to develop their career through open jobs, consultancies, internships and scholarships. The platform provides career opportunities curated from over 100 websites and other platforms to reduce the time individuals spend searching for career opportunities.

## Project objectives

The long-term vision of the JWJ platform would be to help to close both gender and human resources gap in the water and sanitation community.

## Beneficiaries

All job seekers especially young professionals and nationals from developing countries

## Costs

CHF 134,600

## Duration

2020–2021

Water is an essential component of national and local economies and is needed to create and maintain jobs across all sectors. Three out of four jobs that make up the entire global workforce are water-dependent. The skills, qualities and capacities of employed human resources are vital for the successful performance of the water sector and for the sustained use, adaptation and development of scientific and technological innovations. By connecting job seekers and employers and reinforcing their human resources capacity, Josh's Water Jobs is contributing to filling the gender and human resources gap in the water sector.

Josh's Water Jobs (JWJ) is a free, open-access, transparent and equitable platform that facilitates those seeking to start or enhance their careers. The platform provides organisations with a diverse, gender-balanced pool of talent from all corners of the planet (individuals from 180 countries visit per week on average).

The platform has been successful in becoming the "go-to" place to seek career opportunities in the international water and sanitation communities. With this contribution, the site will become more robust with the addition of new opportunities to enhance the user experience and provide additional resources and elements to have more impact on career development of water and sanitation professionals worldwide. The long-term objective of the platform will be to expand the breadth of jobs available by including more national level positions, especially in developing countries.

The primary objectives for 2020-2021 will be:

- To stabilise the consistency of the platform through additional financial and human resources;
- To add functionality to the platform
- To increase programming around career development
- To work through partners to increase the amount of opportunities in developing countries.

In order to attain these objectives, focused activities will take place such as the introduction of a database of professionals that will further connect water professionals with opportunities to both start and enhance their career development. JWJ will provide basic resources/guidance for CV development, communicating with employers, job interviews, networking, etc. In addition, the existing blog will be reinforced by weekly series which will display interviews of young professionals about their search experiences and experienced water professionals who will explain their career trajectory. A webinar series will also be developed around specific subjects related to career development, with a featured focus on issues related to gender.



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

### Key user statistics from the platform

**Gender-balanced**  
(46% female/54% male)

**Young professional-oriented**  
(61% aged 34 or younger)

**Developing country access**  
(>40% of all users)

**The most visited water jobs website in the world**  
(11,000 users/50,000 pageviews per week, 5,000,000+ total pageviews)

**One of the largest water-focused email digests:**  
~9,400 water professionals



# 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, Civil society organisations, Institutional actors, Decision-makers (including private sector), Authorities at all levels.

## Costs

CHF 1,900,000

## Duration

2019–2023

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 than right now 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 field 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 make 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 makes a point to gather people from diverse socio-economic groups to ensure a balanced representation and give the opportunity to those groups 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.

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
- Rights 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

EUR 920,000

## Duration

2020–2023

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 rights holders to claim better water management and equitable and sustained access to water and sanitation while holding duty 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

## Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the WIN strategy 2017-2022 "Engaging with Partners for Change"

Under its revised strategy, WIN generates impact by collaborating with and supporting organisations that can trigger measurable change within countries and leveraging the support of key players at global level.

The MTR allowed to take stock of achievements and challenges, and clearly indicated good performance, relevance and added value. As recommended, WIN improved the articulation of its programme, the definition of its result framework, and will continuously strengthen its network approach.

## Water Integrity Global Outlook 2021 (WIGO21)

On World Water Day 2016, WIN released the first Water Integrity Global Outlook. The publication is a high-level, internationally recognised report on the state of corruption in the water sector. It outlines good practices and includes examples of tools that make improvements achievable. Its key messages and recommendations are the basis of WIN's advocacy work (download link: [www.waterintegritynetwork.net/wigo](http://www.waterintegritynetwork.net/wigo)).

WIN is currently developing the second edition of its flagship publication, which will focus on specific integrity issues in urban WASH, and will be published in 2021.

## 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 the 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, UK/FCDO, Rockefeller Foundation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Swiss State Secretariat of Economic Affairs/SECO, and Norway.

## Background information

Most donor support for the water sector in many countries focuses on individual subsectors, and has not addressed the broader challenges of water as set out in SDG 6 for sustainable development to support households, agriculture, manufacturing, job creation, and the environment.

## Project objectives

Solve complex water and sanitation challenges by helping governments achieve Sustainable Development Goal 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

8–10 million USD

## Duration

2017–2021

The Global Water Goal SDG 6 requires an integrated approach to reflect a “Water writ large” agenda

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 new gender strategy).

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, with a particular focus on Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Haiti, Uganda, Vietnam and Pakistan. 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 World Bank Group financial instruments and promoting 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.

**The Foundation of GWSP’s Mission:** 5 priority themes have been identified where action is critically needed to achieve the SDGs for water:

Sustainability  
Institutions  
Financing  
Inclusion  
Resilience

Key outputs of the planned phase:

- Global Knowledge products and analytical tools,
- Technical Assistance and Capacity-building
- Leveraging knowledge and partnership at global and regional and country-level along the 5 priority themes in the areas of:
  1. Water Supply and Sanitation.
  2. Agricultural Water Management.
  3. Water Resources Management, Transboundary Water Co-operation.
  4. Water, Poverty and Economy.
  5. Hydropower and Dams.



GWSP influence on global World Bank lending translates into lending projects in Africa (25), Middle East & North Africa (9), Europe & Central Asia (20), South Asia (8), East Asia (8), and Latin America and the Caribbean (24).

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



# 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.)

## Costs

Total: CHF 11,364,000  
SDC: CHF 2,500,000

## Duration

2021–2025

The continued support of SDC to UN-Water core coordination budget is strategic to bring a more effective, integrated and coordinated approach to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda with regards to water and sanitation. It is equally important to achieving the full harmonisation of the monitoring landscape.

UN-Water was formally established in 2003, building on a long history of collaboration within the United Nations. UN-Water is comprised of 33 United Nations bodies that have a focus on, or interest in, water-related issues as Members and another 42 international organizations as Partners.

UN-Water is the United Nations inter-agency coordination mechanism for all freshwater-related matters, including sanitation, surface and groundwater resources, the interface between freshwater and seawater and water-related disasters. It is a joint, neutral platform to identify gaps and opportunities and to maximise system-wide coordinated action at the global, regional and country levels, and across the United Nations pillars.

SDC's prior phase of support (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 greater coordination at multilateral level. However, progress towards the targets of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 are alarmingly off-track, as well as other relevant global targets.

This is now a crucial moment for UN-Water as it has recently formulated its new 2030 strategy. It has been collectively developed through a consultative process including UN-Water Members, Partners and External Support Agencies. The UN-Water 2030 Strategy represents a collective way forward to address the water and sanitation challenges over a ten-year period with necessary focus, urgency, effectiveness and coherence. As a mean to attain these goals, the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, launched in 2020 as part of the Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, constitutes a central element of the 2030 Strategy.

UN-Water has developed four strategic activities to realise its full potential during the 2020-2030 period by:

1. Building on its core strengths: UN-Water plays a critical coordination role in the monitoring and reporting on progress towards the eight targets of SDG 6, and it coordinates the United Nations international observances World

Water Day and World Toilet Day, and the Water Action Decade 2018-2028 to raise the profile of water and sanitation.

2. Scaling its impact to regional and country levels: At the regional level, UN-Water will aim to provide a permanent mechanism for the exchange of regional information, knowledge and experience and the coordination of regional-level activities pursued jointly by UN-Water Members and Partners in the field of water and sanitation. UN-Water will add value to country-level work on water and sanitation by providing insights, information and data, by facilitating access to expertise, technical assistance and support from UN-Water Members and Partners, and by supporting country-level communications, knowledge transfer and advocacy on all water and sanitation-related issues.
3. Accelerating progress through the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework: The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework focuses the attention and mobilises action of Member States, United Nations entities and other stakeholders on five cross-cutting '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 for better internalising the work of UN-Water in Members' organizations at all levels (global, regional and in-country offices/teams). UN-Water will ensure common approaches and system-wide overview of the contributions that its Members and Partners are expected to make in delivering agreed outputs.



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





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**SDC's Global Programme Water  
Programme Framework 2021-2024**



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