



## FACT SHEET

# UN-Water integrated approaches

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### A. Mapping water and sanitation interlinkages across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

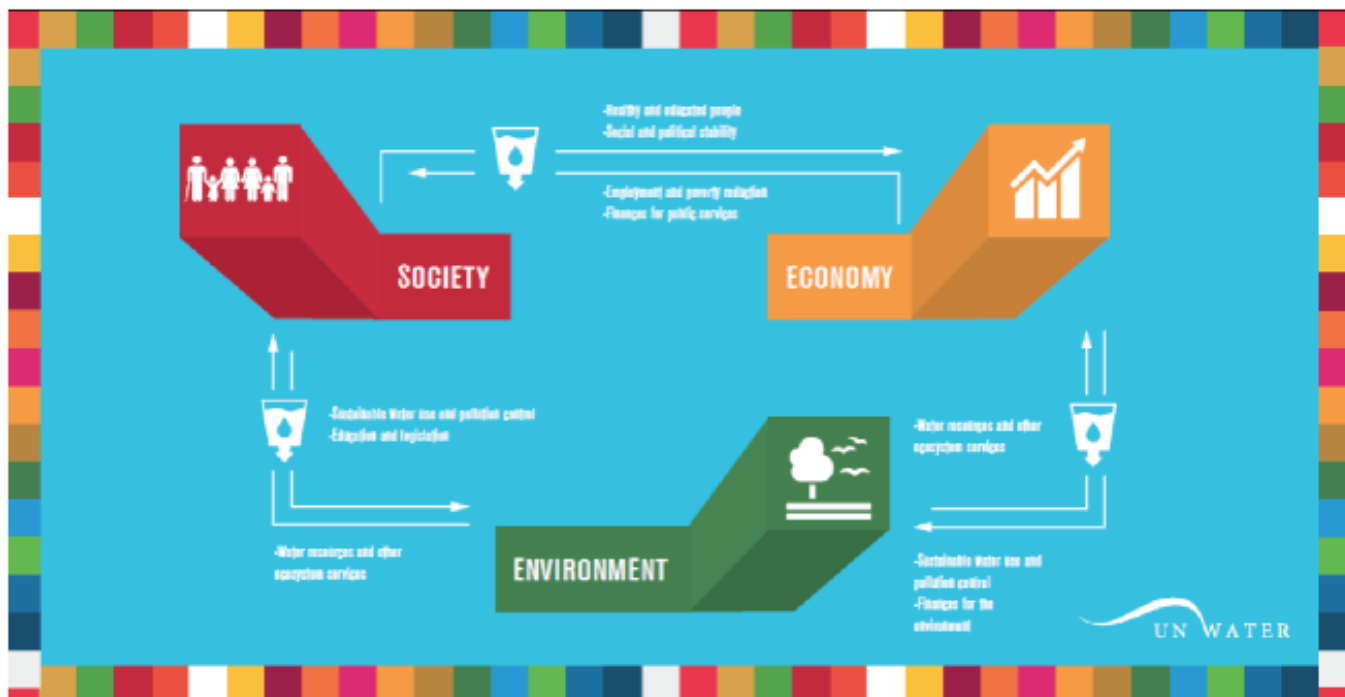
To help United Nations Member States take on an integrated approach to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN-Water<sup>1</sup> mapped out the water- and sanitation-related interlinkages across the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This work is captured in the analytical brief *Water and Sanitation Interlinkages Across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*<sup>2</sup>, which highlights the target-level relationships that are important to consider when developing implementation plans for SDG 6.

The UN-Water analysis concluded that most of the links between the SDG 6 targets and the other SDG targets are positive and mutually reinforcing. For example, by increasing access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, complemented by proper wastewater management, the risk of waterborne diseases and malnutrition will drop, with positive outcomes on education and the economy, which in turn contributes to the reduction of poverty and inequalities. Some interlinkages, however, were found to present potential conflicts. For example, to ensure energy for all and sustain economic growth it may be necessary to use more water and land, which likely will generate more pollution.

The UN-Water analysis also concluded that anticipating and understanding such potential conflicts, or trade-offs, allows for taking steps early on to ensure a just balance of available resources across the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

Collaboration and the mainstreaming of water- and sanitation-related reforms across sectors are essential to an integrated approach. The UN-Water analysis provides a starting point for further discussion and assessment at the regional and country levels to facilitate achieving the 2030 Agenda.

- 1 UN-Water is the entity that coordinates the work of the United Nations on water and sanitation. It comprises the United Nations bodies that focus on or have an interest in water- and sanitation-related issues as members and other international organizations as partners.
- 2 UN-Water, 2016. *Water and Sanitation Interlinkages across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, <http://www.unwater.org/publications/water-sanitation-interlinkages-across-2030-agenda-sustainable-development/>

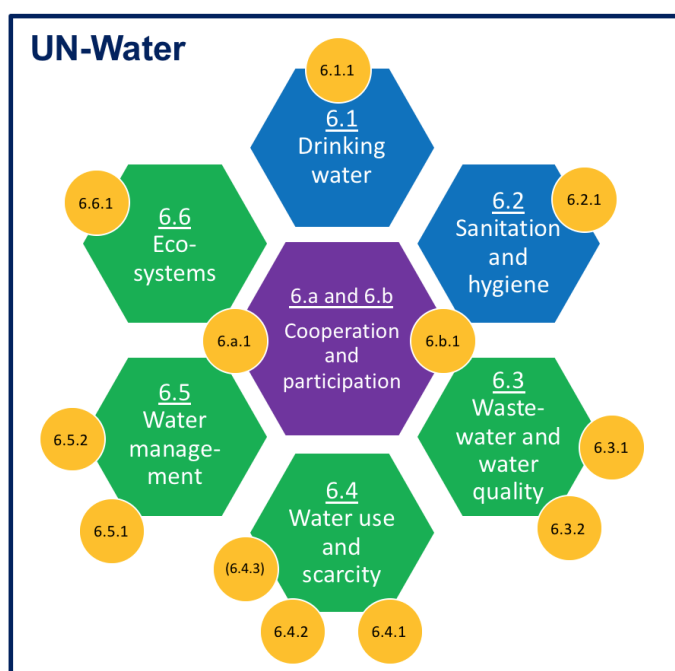


## B. Integrated monitoring initiative for SDG 6

Data are known as “the lifeblood of decision-making and the raw material for accountability” and credible and timely information on water and sanitation is vital to accomplish SDG 6. High-quality data help to prioritize where, when, by whom, and for whom, what action is needed. By comparing past and present data, it is possible to track progress over time towards commitments, such as the SDGs, to ensure accountability and to communicate further needs.

Water and sanitation monitoring and reporting involve a range of stakeholders across many sectors and levels of government. To enable a comprehensive assessment and analysis of the state of water resources and the impacts of different development paths, the monitoring effort brings the information together in support of an integrated management approach that contributes towards reducing institutional fragmentation. And bringing together and cross-analysing different data sets from across sectors contributes towards a greater understanding of the scope and nature of the interlinkages.

### Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6



6.1.1	Safely managed drinking water services (WHO, UNICEF)	WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP)
6.2.1	Safely managed sanitation and hygiene services (WHO, UNICEF)	
6.3.1	Wastewater safely treated** (WHO, UN-Habitat)	Integrated monitoring of water and sanitation related SDG targets (GEMI)
6.3.2	Good ambient water quality** (UNEP)	
6.4.1	Water use efficiency** (FAO)	
6.4.2	Level of water stress* (FAO)	
6.5.1	Integrated water resources management (UNEP)	
6.5.2	Transboundary basin area with water cooperation** (UNECE, UNESCO)	
6.6.1	Water-related ecosystems** (UNEP)	UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS)
6.a.1	Water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government coordinated spending plan (WHO, UNEP, OECD)	
6.b.1	Participation of local communities in water and sanitation management (WHO, UNEP, OECD)	



Another important tool developed by UN-Water is the Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6<sup>3</sup>, which was designed to help countries monitor their water and sanitation situations and to compile country data for reporting on global progress towards achieving SDG 6. Operating under the UN-Water umbrella and comprising the SDG 6 custodian agencies, the initiative's focus is to integrate and expand on monitoring efforts at the national, regional and global levels to ensure harmonized information for the whole water cycle.

UN-Water developed methodologies for monitoring the SDG 6 targets between 2014 and 2016, before the global indicators were agreed. Then, between August and October 2016, an external review and pilot tests were conducted, and the methodologies were readjusted in February 2017 to better assist countries in collecting data for establishing an integrated global baseline for SDG 6—in time for an in-depth review during the 2018 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

To learn more about the Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6, please visit its website: [www.sdg6monitoring.org](http://www.sdg6monitoring.org)

<sup>3</sup> See [www.sdg6monitoring.org](http://www.sdg6monitoring.org).

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