

A POST-2015 GLOBAL GOAL FOR WATER

DRINKING WATER,
SANITATION
AND HYGIENE



WATER RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT



A
WATER-SECURE
WORLD
FOR ALL



RESILIENCE TO WATER-
RELATED DISASTERS



WASTEWATER
MANAGEMENT AND
WATER QUALITY

THE SDG ON WATER SHOULD BE SUPPORTED BY A SET OF 4 MUTUALLY REINFORCING TARGETS

01

Achieve universal access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene.

In 2010 the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution recognizing safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right and this was reaffirmed in the Rio+20 outcome document. And yet, at least 780 million people still lack access to an improved water source and many more use water that is dangerous to health. 2.5 billion people live without improved sanitation and 1.1 billion of them still practice open defecation. There are significant disparities and inequalities in access, with women being disproportionately affected.

02

Manage water resources sustainably at the basin level and allocate them in a transparent and inclusive way that allows for the maximization of the derived benefits; increase water productivity for growth while protecting ecosystems.

Access to WASH, food and energy production, disaster risk reduction, economic development, and healthy ecosystems rely on the availability and sustainable management of water resources. However, the demand on water resources and the competition among user groups will increase drastically. By 2030, feeding a world population of 8 billion people will require 14% more water for irrigation, the demands on water for energy production will more than double and higher rates of urbanization will increase demand for water for domestic and industrial use with consequent higher production of wastewater. Due to unsustainable human activities, ecosystems and their services are degrading rapidly. All this has disproportionately negative effects on the poor and on women. These challenges are exacerbated by the additional level of complexity considering that there are more than 260 major trans-boundary rivers and lakes.

GOAL A WATER-SECURE¹ WORLD FOR ALL



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

WATER TARGETS

Achieve universal access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene

- No one practices open defecation
- Universal access to basic drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for households, schools and health facilities
- Halve the proportion of population without access at home to safely managed drinking water and sanitation services
- Inequalities in access are progressively eliminated



WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Manage water resources sustainably and increase water productivity while protecting ecosystems

- Freshwater with drawals are brought in line with available water resources
- Water resources are managed at the basin level
- Water resources and the derived benefits are allocated in a transparent and participatory way.
- Water efficiency is increased in support of sustainable and equitable growth
- Ecosystems (water) requirements are respected and their services ensured
- Effective cooperation arrangements are in place in all transboundary basins



WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT AND WATER QUALITY

Manage all wastewater to protect water resources and ecosystem; increase recycling and reuse

- Wastewater production is prevented/reduced
- Wastewater and sludges are adequately collected, treated and safely reused
- Wastewater which cannot be reused/recycled is discharged after adequate treatment



RESILIENCE TO WATER-RELATED DISASTERS

Increase resilience to water-related disasters

- Mortality and economic losses from water related disasters are reduced
- Building resilience of poor and marginalized people to the impacts of water-related disasters is prioritized
- Integrated disaster risk management, including structural and non-structural approaches, is applied
- Risk analysis are elaborated and early warning systems for communities at most risk to water-related disasters are in place

FIELDS OF MEASUREMENTS

INTERLINKAGES

Water-Health target:	Reduce cases of water and sanitation related diseases
Water-Energy target:	Increase productive use of water for energy generation while respecting requirements of ecosystems
Water-Food security target:	Increase water productivity and water efficiency in agriculture
Water-Energy-Food target:	Increase safe recovery and reuse of nutrients and energy from wastewater and sludges

¹ «Water secure» referring to human security and vital needs: health; safe, sufficient and affordable drinking water; adequate sanitation; hygiene; protecting ecosystems; water for food security, energy and economic growth; resilience to water-related disasters; and safe wastewater management and reuse

03

Manage all wastewater to protect water resources and ecosystems and to make better use of wastewater as a resource.

Globally, about 80% of wastewater from human settlements and industrial sources are discharged into the environment without any treatment with detrimental effects on human health, economies and the ecosystems. The people affected the most by the discharge of untreated wastewater are the most vulnerable, poor and marginalized people. Wastewater is also an underutilized resource and reuse/recycling can ensure both an effective environmental and health protection as well as recovery of water, nutrients and energy.

04

Reduce mortality and economic losses from floods, droughts and other water-related disasters.

Climate change is anticipated to increase the spatial and temporal variability of water availability, as well as the frequency and magnitude of extreme events such as floods and droughts. This will threaten human well-being, economic activities and put further strain on ecosystems. Water-related disasters are the most economically and socially destructive of all natural disasters. Also in this case, women are the most vulnerable making up the majority of fatalities of natural disasters.

LINKS OF THE WATER SECTOR WITH OTHER SECTORS

Water issues are closely linked to other sectors and cross cutting issues such as poverty alleviation, food security, health, energy, environment, education, sustainable consumption and production, gender, equity issues, etc. However, **it would be inappropriate and risky to look at water merely as a transversal topic.**

All water issues are basically connected through the hydrological cycle and the complex interrelations between the various water-related needs require an integrated approach which is best catalyzed by keeping these aspects together in a dedicated Goal on Water in the post-2015 agenda. If all water-related targets would be divided and just included in other SDGs, the existing tendency that each sector is just fighting for a maximum water share will be enforced and the risk for conflicts would increase.

The important linkages to other sectors can best be taken into consideration by formulating interlinkage-targets under an SDG on Water and including water-related targets under other SDGs.

UNIVERSALITY OF WATER CHALLENGES

Due to the interconnections it creates, water is a global issue. However, since the situation and challenges in each country are different, countries will focus on different issues to achieve the overarching goal and targets. The lack of access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene is most serious in the lower income areas of the developing countries. On the other hand, sustainable management of the limited water resources and especially the proper wastewater management to control the polluting impact of increasing wastewater production are universal challenges for all countries.

The amount of water being utilized for the production of goods and services consumed by the society as well as the impact of wastewater discharged into the environment as a result of this production is an issue which is especially relevant for higher income countries (water footprint concept).

KEY MESSAGES

Water is a limited, non-substitutable primary resource essential for social well-being, economic development and maintenance of ecosystem services. It is at the core of the three dimensions of sustainable development – social, economic and environmental:

- Safe drinking water and adequate sanitation is a human right and together with practicing good hygiene a prerequisite for healthy human living and productivity
- Water challenges for a sustainable world go beyond access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene
- Water resources management is key for ensuring food and energy security and sustaining ecosystems; it is also a key instrument for climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Management of water resources and the polluting impact of wastewater is a universal challenge for all countries
- Stability and peace increasingly depend on effective management of the limited freshwater resources and their benefits
- **Water cannot be looked at merely as a transversal topic; water needs to have its own integrated approach which calls for a dedicated Post-2015 SDG on Water**

IMPRINT

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