

Messages from Global Water Partnership for the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), July 2018

“The time to act is now: Sustainable management of water and sanitation for all underpins wider efforts to end poverty and advance sustainable development. Making progress on SDG 6 will enable and drive progress on all the other SDGs, from health to hunger and from gender equality to environmental protection and sustainable growth.”

(UN-Water Sustainable Development Goal 6 Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation, 2018)

Event: High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) at the United Nations, July 9-18, 2018

Significance: SDG 6 (“Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”) will be reviewed for the first time.

Request to the GWP Network: Circulate and promote the messages below to government entities that will be representing your countries at the HLPF (specifically at the SDG 6 review session on 9 July) or to those who have a say in contributing to the development of the interventions of those governments that will be made during the HLPF.

1. **From monitoring to action:** With the first baseline data for SDG 6, and SDG 6 Synthesis Report, presented at the HLPF, the focus moving forward will be on implementation.
2. The SDG 6 Synthesis Report notes that **“Putting integrated water resources management (IWRM) into practice will be the most comprehensive step that countries make towards achieving SDG 6.”** This extends to areas that water is strongly linked to such food, health, energy, jobs, poverty eradication, climate, education, ecosystems, etc.
3. Monitoring should not be left behind, however, because not only are there significant gaps in the reporting on SDG 6, but **for countries to realize the full potential of SDG 6, integrated monitoring of the goal needs to be improved in many countries.**
4. **Good water management is about governance:** policies, laws, financing, and institutions that are transparent, inclusive, and coordinated across sectors. That’s why GWP supports the application of an integrated approach to water resources management (IWRM).
5. Emerging from the 6.5.1 workshops that GWP held in 37 countries, the following messages, under the four IWRM components, emerged as **key priorities for the implementation of IWRM:**
 - *Enabling environment:* Incorporate IWRM elements into existing policy and governance mechanisms
 - *Institutions and participation:* Clarify and strengthen water sector coordination and strengthen the role of women in water-related institutions and decision-making processes
 - *Management instruments:* Incorporate SDG monitoring into national and sectoral statistical monitoring networks
 - *Financing:* Develop strategies for investment, coordination and access to finance for IWRM

GWP information on reverse...

GWP has a head start on engaging regions and countries and offers a repertoire of tools and experience to help with SDG 6 monitoring and implementation:

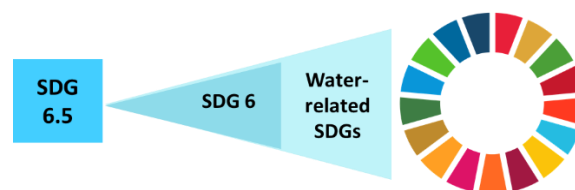
- SDG 17, which calls for “multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources”, is in perfect alignment with GWP’s 21-year global action network. The network uses its convening power and deep technical expertise to bring water users together to solve water problems.
- In the run-up to the adoption of the SDGs, the U.N. Secretary General called for the voices of local stakeholders to be heard at the global level. In response, GWP convened country-level consultations in 2013 and 2014, at which 2,200 participants from 40 countries gave their views on prioritising water. GWP also campaigned for a dedicated water goal that placed IWRM principles at the core of achieving water security. The inclusion of a specific SDG on water (SDG 6) and a related target (6.5.1) within the 2030 Agenda was celebrated by GWP as a major milestone.
- In 2017, UN Environment, the custodian agency of the SDG 6.5.1 indicator (which measures the degree of IWRM implementation), asked GWP to convene more than 30 workshops to collect country data. The output of these workshops form part of the baseline data included in UN-Water’s SDG 6 Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation, which is an input into the HLPF in July 2018. The workshops highlighted national priority areas for IWRM, which will now be used by GWP and its partners to develop interventions to advance SDG 6.
- The SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme (SDG6-SP) is a new and innovative initiative. It facilitates a focused and coordinated approach to the monitoring and implementation of SDG 6.5 on Integrated Water Resources Management, in order to realize this and other water-related targets and goals. The SDG6-SP achieves this by supporting the official SDG monitoring and reporting processes, and by helping countries design and implement responses that directly promote measurable progress. Coordinated by GWP in close collaboration with the UNEP-DHI Centre and Cap-Net UNDP, the SDG6-SP connects a blend of partners representing governments, civil society, and the private sector. In the spirit of SDG 17 on Partnerships for the Goals, the SDG6-SP leverages partners’ knowledge, expertise, resources, and networks to identify key needs and advance the SDGs in individual country contexts.

GWP mission: “to advance governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development” – which directly aligns with SDG target 6.5 - *Implement integrated water resources management.*

SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

SDG 6.5: By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

SDG 6.5.1: degree of integrated water resources management (IWRM) implementation



Water governance through an IWRM approach is the key entry point for progress on water-related SDGs.