



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*



## UNDP SUPPORT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT **GOAL 6**

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION

United Nations Development Programme

# **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### *A path towards global prosperity, human well-being and a healthy planet*

The world has achieved remarkable gains in human development over the past two decades. Extreme poverty has significantly reduced, access to primary education and health outcomes has improved, and substantial inroads have been made in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. The pursuit of the eight Millennium Development Goals has contributed to this progress and enabled people across the world to improve their lives and future prospects. Yet, despite these significant gains, extreme poverty remains a key challenge, with more than 700 million people globally living on less than US\$ 1.90 PPP (purchasing power parity) per day. Inequalities are either high or widening, especially within countries. Unemployment and vulnerable employment levels are high in many countries, particularly among youth. Unsustainable consumption and production are pushing ecosystems beyond their limits—undermining their ability to provide services vital to life, development, and their own regeneration. Shocks associated with macroeconomic instability, disasters linked to natural hazards, environmental degradation, and socio-political unrest impact negatively on the lives of millions. In many cases, these shocks hold back, if not reverse, progress already achieved in meeting national and internally agreed development goals. Preserving the gains that have been made and addressing the current development challenges the world faces cannot be solved by tinkering at the margins.

There is an imperative today to foster sustainable development. A vision for what this encapsulates is laid out in the new sustainable development agenda that aims to end poverty, promote prosperity and people's well-being while protecting the environment by 2030. As the UN's Development arm, UNDP has a key role to play in supporting countries to make this vision a reality—putting societies on a sustainable development pathway, managing risk and enhancing resilience, and advancing prosperity and wellbeing.

Building on its core strengths—a large country network in more than 170 countries and territories, a principal coordination role within the UN Development System, and the proven ability in supporting efforts to reduce poverty, inequality and exclusion, and protect vital ecosystems—UNDP has outlined a vision in its Strategic Plan 2014-17 focused on making the next big breakthrough in development: to help countries achieve the simultaneous eradication of poverty and significant reduction of inequalities and exclusion. While ambitious, this vision is within reach and significant inroads can be made in eradicating poverty, reducing inequalities and exclusion, and safeguarding the environment.

In line with this vision, UNDP has worked with the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) in developing a strategy for effective and coherent implementation support of the new sustainable development agenda under the acronym 'MAPS' (Mainstreaming, Acceleration, and Policy Support). The *Mainstreaming* component of MAPS aims to generate awareness amongst all relevant actors and help governments land the agenda at national and local levels; and ultimately to mainstream the agenda into their national plans, strategies and budgets. The *Acceleration* component focuses on helping governments accelerate progress on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets, by providing tools that will help identify critical constraints to faster progress and focus on those development objectives that are more relevant to the country context. The *Policy Support* component aims to provide coordinated and pooled policy support to countries working to meet their SDG targets. In this regard, UNDP offers an integrated package of policy support services that align with its programming priorities. These services, as outlined in the prospectus, cover a wide range of areas: poverty reduction, inclusive growth and productive employment, gender equality and the empowerment of women, HIV and health, access to water and sanitation, climate change adaptation, access to sustainable energy, sustainable management of terrestrial ecosystems, oceans governance, and promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies.

Well-equipped with this integrated package of policy support services, UNDP stands ready to support country partners to effectively implement the new development agenda and make long-term economic prosperity, human and environmental well-being a reality.



## SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION

### *Why does this matter?*

**Water is at the core of sustainable development and its three dimensions.**<sup>1</sup> Water resources, and the range of services they provide, underpin poverty reduction, economic growth and environmental sustainability. Access to water and sanitation facilities matters to every aspect of human dignity: from food and energy security to human and environmental health, water contributes to improvements in social well-being and inclusive growth, affecting the livelihoods of billions.

The UN General Assembly has adopted **“Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”** as one of 17 sustainable development goals for the 2030 development agenda.<sup>2</sup> The urgency of addressing water issues is also testified to by concerns expressed by the international business community: **water crises** took the top spot relating to impact in the World Economic Forum’s 10<sup>th</sup> global risk report.<sup>3</sup>

**The achievement of the MDG drinking-water target<sup>4</sup> demonstrates that setting international goals and targets can drive change.** Estimates show that aid to the water sector has risen since 2001.<sup>5</sup> Yet significant obstacles remain to realizing the human right to safe drinking-water and sanitation. Today, 800 million people are without access to an improved water source and as many as 1.8 billion people globally use a source of drinking water that is faecally contaminated; in sub-Saharan Africa, women and girls spend 40 billion hours a year collecting water (up to 6 hours every day)<sup>6</sup> – the equivalent of a year’s worth of labour by the entire workforce in France.<sup>7</sup>

Currently, **2.5 billion people lack adequate sanitation** facilities and over 1 billion practice open defecation, costing the world US\$260 billion annually. On current trends, without significant policy change and investment, around 1.4 billion people are projected to be without access to sanitation in 2050.<sup>8</sup> Significant investment is needed and the benefits exceed the cost by between three to six times.<sup>9</sup> The WHO estimates losses due to inadequate water and sanitation services in developing countries at US\$260 billion a year, 1.5 percent of global GDP – or up to 10 percent of GDP for some very poor countries.<sup>10</sup>

Poor sanitation has **significant impacts on the safety, well-being and educational prospects of women.** Convenient access to water and sanitation facilities increases privacy and reduces risk to women and girls of sexual harassment/assault while gathering water.<sup>11</sup> Recent data shows that, in 2011, only 45% of schools in least developed and low-income countries had adequate sanitation facilities.<sup>12</sup> Girls’ lack of access to a clean, safe toilet, especially during menstruation, perpetuates risk, shame and fear. This has long-term impacts on women’s health, education, livelihoods and safety but it also impacts the economy, as failing to provide for the sanitation needs of women ultimately risks excluding half of the potential workforce.<sup>13</sup>

Economic losses due to water-related hazards have risen greatly in the past two decades. Since 1992, **floods, droughts and storms have affected 4.2 billion people** (95 percent of all people affected by all disasters) **and caused US\$1.3 trillion of damage** (63 percent of all





damage).<sup>14</sup> Africa, for example, loses between 5 percent and 25 percent to droughts and floods and perhaps a further 5 percent to the probable future impacts of climate change.<sup>15</sup>

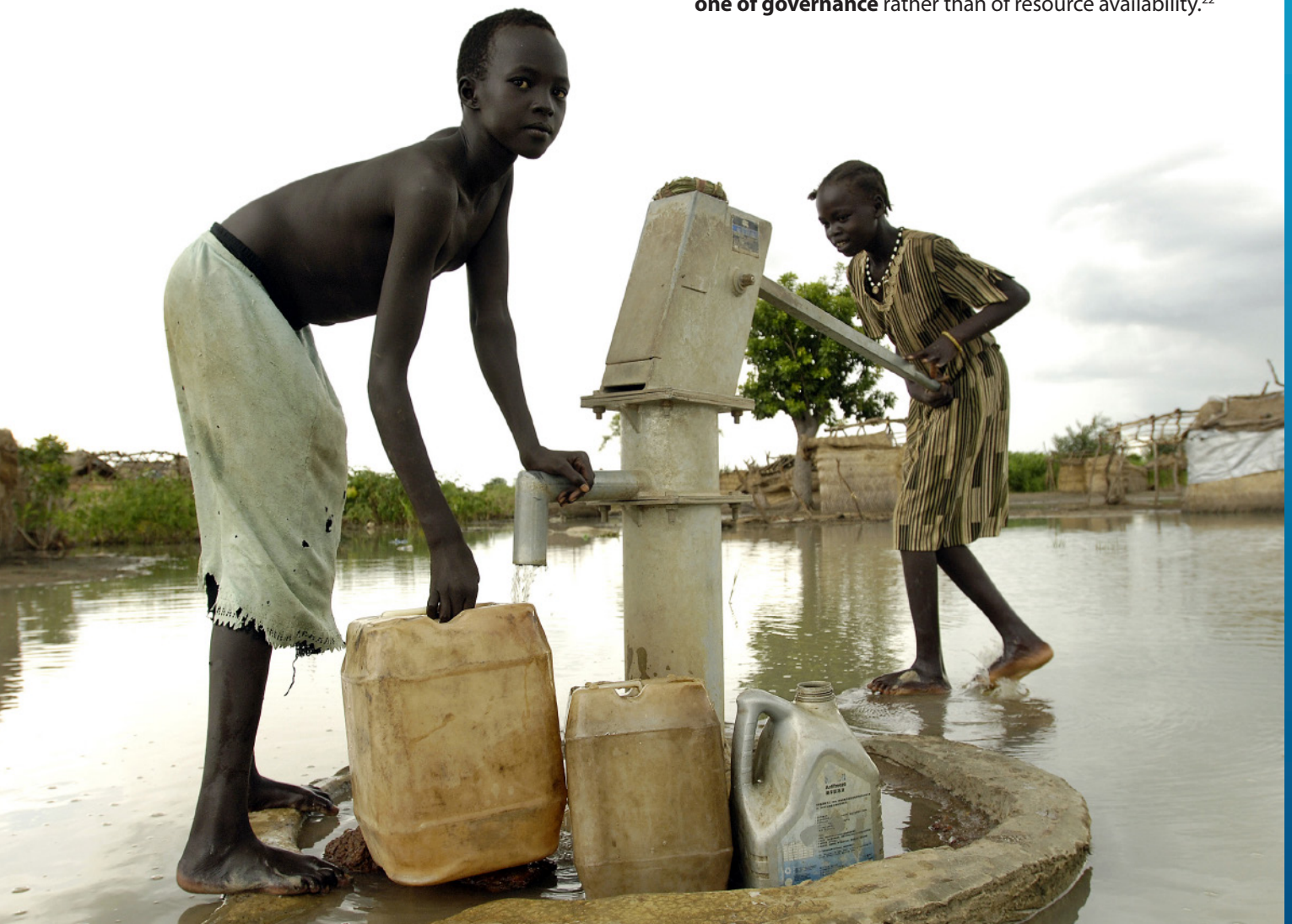
There is a pressing need to **improve global freshwater quality** by addressing water pollution and making better use of wastewater. It has been roughly estimated that about **80 percent of wastewater from human settlements and industrial sources worldwide is discharged directly untreated into water bodies.**<sup>16</sup>

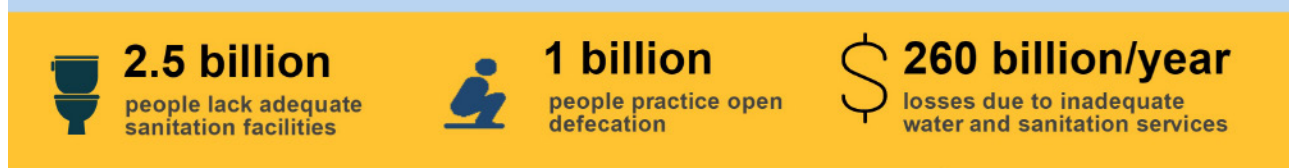
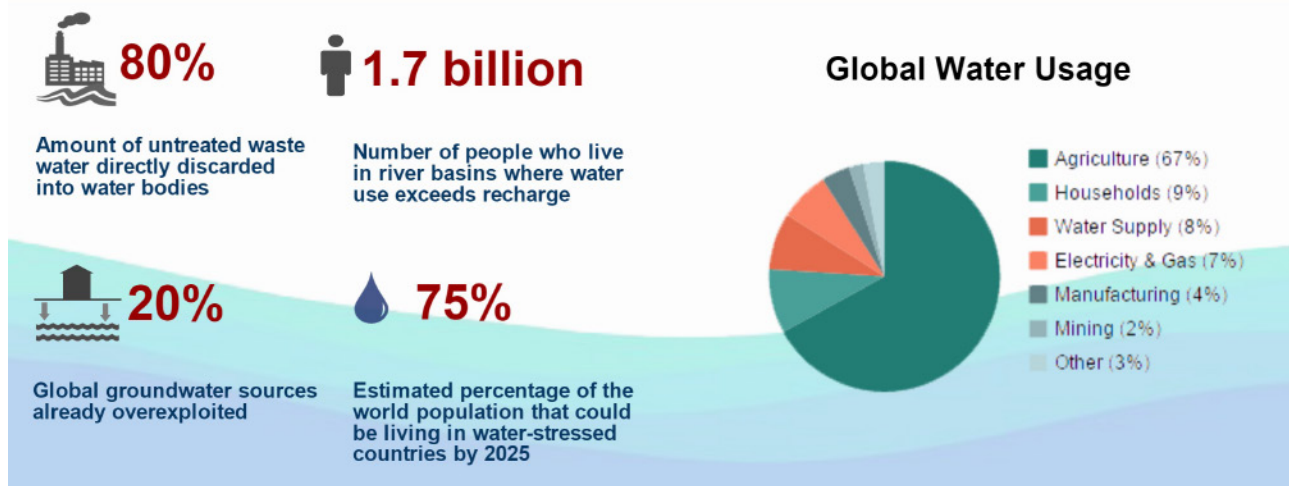
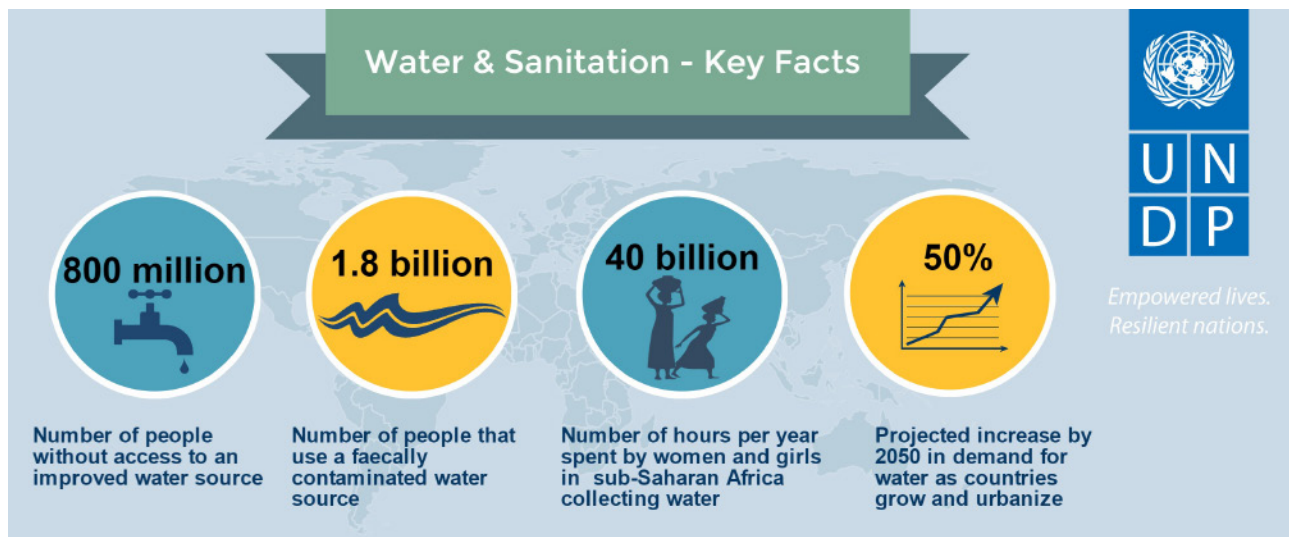
Over 1.7 billion people live in river basins where **water use exceeds recharge**, leading to the desiccation of rivers and depletion of groundwater. As countries develop and populations grow and urbanize, their demand for water is projected to increase by 55 percent by 2050.<sup>17</sup> Two thirds of the world's population could

be living in water-stressed countries by 2025 if current consumption patterns continue.<sup>18</sup> At the same time, climate change is anticipated to increase spatial and temporal water variability as well as extreme events such as floods and droughts, which are already on the rise. **Water insecurity is a US\$500 billion annual drag on global economic development** – excluding environmental and other non-monetized impacts.<sup>19</sup>

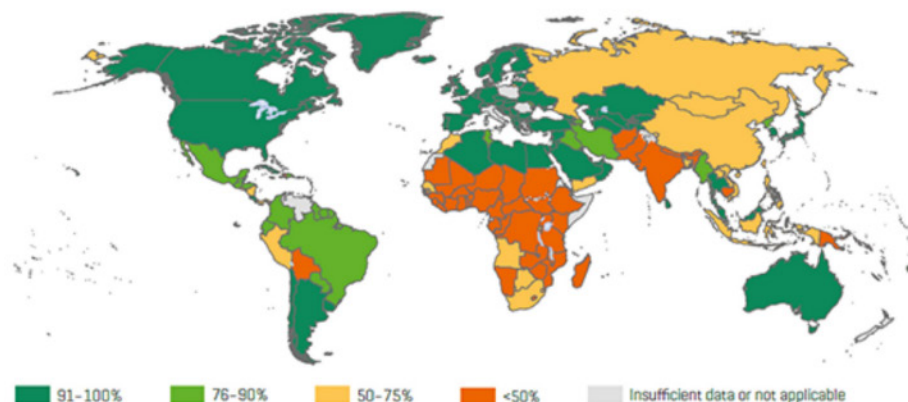
Examples of the **positive impact of water on economic growth and poverty reduction** include irrigation and hydropower as well as flood management. One study suggests that US\$1 of water and sewer infrastructure investment increases private output GDP in the long term by US\$6.35 and yields a further US\$2.62 output in other industries.<sup>20</sup> The value of ecosystem services and wetlands for human well-being has been estimated at several trillion US dollars.<sup>21</sup>

There is enough water to meet the world's growing needs, but not without dramatically changing the way water is used, managed and shared. **The global water crisis is one of governance** rather than of resource availability.<sup>22</sup>





Proportion of the global population using improved sanitation in 2012



Source: WHO 2014

**46**

Number of countries where less than half the population has access to an improved sanitation facility



## What do we offer?

UNDP helps countries achieve integrated, climate resilient, sustainable and equitable management of water resources through long-term and comprehensive partnerships and universal access to safe water supply and sanitation through improved water governance. UNDP's water programme is **strongly aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 6 on ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all** as well as the relevant dimensions of all the other goals. The active portfolio and pipeline of UNDP projects and programmes support the majority of the water related SDG targets. Through application of UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards and related Accountability Mechanism UNDP also ensures appropriate safeguards are in place across all of its programming to avoid, manage and mitigate potential harm to people and the environment, including water resources.

UNDP offers the following services to countries:

**We provide strategic water governance policy and technical advisory support** to low- and middle-income countries to advance socially equitable, environmentally sustainable and economically efficient management of water resources and water and sanitation services. This support is provided through the **UNDP Water Governance Facility** (WGF), established in collaboration with the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI). A knowledge hub for water governance, WGF coordinates several global water programmes and activities, including the Shared Waters Partnership (SWP), which seeks to prevent conflict by building trust and promoting cooperation through multi-stakeholder platforms and water diplomacy.

**We support capacity development in sustainable water management** through **Cap-Net**, another

major delivery mechanism. Cap-Net supports capacity development related to integrated water resources management, transboundary waters, water supply and sanitation, gender equality, water integrity and climate change adaptation through promoting South-South collaboration and the exchange of water reform experiences and good practices. Cap-Net, with its secretariat located in Rio de Janeiro and its 23 regional and country-level capacity development networks with about 1,000 member organizations in 120 countries, delivers training and education to water professionals in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. Partnering with more than 40 international organizations and global thematic networks ensures that the best available knowledge and state of the art capacity development delivery is joined in comprehensive packages of training programmes and accessible training manuals. Cap-Net is uniquely able to address capacity needs for implementation of the SDGs and develop capacities for monitoring and reporting on progress.

**We promote upstream work on accountability in water, sanitation and hygiene programming** to enhance the sustainability of interventions through the **UNDP GoAL WaSH** programme. The programme works in close coordination with governments and key development partners, including UNICEF, with special attention to fragile and post-conflict states. As a way to reduce corruption in the water service provision and water resources management, UNDP supports Water Integrity Capacity Development in North Africa and the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America.

**We foster strategic partnerships**, including with the private sector, to improve water supply and sanitation and to promote responsible water resources management.



## UNDP IN ACTION

UNDP has supported water governance reforms in over 60 countries in relation to both water resources management and water supply and sanitation, incorporating a human rights-based approach.

### *Water and Sanitation*

The UNDP Water Governance Facility has assisted Kenya in **strengthening a HRBA to anti-corruption in water** at the ministerial level and improved the coordination between the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) and the Ministry of Water and Irrigation. The project spread awareness among locals about their right to regular access to safe, accessible, sufficient and affordable water, but also about their responsibilities. The result of this is reflected through the complaints received at the KACC's complaint telephone line, a line especially allocated for water corruption issues.

The **Every Drop Matters private sector partnership between UNDP and the Coca-Cola Foundation**, working with communities in over 20 countries, has helped approximately 150,000 people to gain access to water and sanitation and 67,000 have been given the

tools, technologies and skills to cope with climate change. Within the 80 completed projects, the estimated yearly water savings resulting from improved distribution and on-farm efficiency activities is over 3 million cubic metres per year. The projects have reached out to and benefited over 16,000 people, with approximately 2,000 farmers and smallholders benefiting directly from training and the implementation of new technologies.

In Bangladesh, poorly maintained and unhygienic school latrines discourage many girls from attending. This has changed in 20 urban slum schools, where Every Drop Matters drilled wells, built separate toilets for girls and boys and installed running water and waste disposal units. The new facilities have dramatically raised attendance, especially of girls, from less than 70 percent to 98 percent.

In Liberia, the UNDP GoAL-WaSH programme supported the **establishment of the WASH compact** in 2011 and subsequently the development of regulatory agencies, National WSS Board and the WSS Commission. While achieving these results is an ongoing process, the Government of Liberia has shown a clear commitment to achieving them.





## Integrated Water Resources Management

UNDP has been involved as a GEF agency in 19 transboundary river (10), lake (7) and aquifer (2) projects and has cumulatively programmed US\$176 million in GEF International Waters funding towards river basin, lake and aquifer management programmes. In each of these shared water systems, we have successfully applied GEF's TDA/SAP methodology for issue prioritization, causal chain analysis and multi-country agreement on governance reforms and investments. To date, 1.5 billion people have benefited from Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) measures underway in 20 transboundary water systems.

UNDP has been involved in 14 GEF-funded Integrated Water Resources and Coastal Area Management projects and has cumulatively programmed US\$85 million in GEF International Waters funding towards these ICM/IWRM programmes. The Caribbean SIDS Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management (IWCAM) project probably represents one of the most advanced examples of integrating IWRM and ICM and provides numerous lessons and valuable experience to the world's other SIDS. Similar impacts have been delivered through the GEF-financed Pacific SIDS Integrated Water Resources Management project where pollution discharges were significantly reduced in seven countries (Nauru, Palau, RMI, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu), thereby decreasing impacts on river systems, ground water and coastal zones.

Cap-Net, along with its partners, has developed more than 20 training materials and three self-learning tutorials in four languages on various aspects of sustainable water management; more are being planned to promote the SDG on water and sanitation. To date, approximately 15,000 water professionals and practitioners have been trained and over 1,100 capacity developers have been trained in 26 global training-of-trainers' courses. On average, Cap-Net has an annual outreach to more than 2,000 participants in its face-to-face training programme, with over 10,000 professionals accessing Cap-Net materials. Cap-Net launched its Virtual Campus in 2014, providing a cross-cutting facilitation platform for all Cap-Net activities, affiliated networks and partners. Cap-Net is a partner in The Water Channel, hosting over 1,300 water videos and web-based water management seminars. A special programme on capacity development in the use of new technologies for improved water management and productivity (Cap-Tec) addresses capacity needs to maximize opportunities offered by information technology for sustainable water management and enhanced access to basic services.

## Agenda 2030 support

**UNDP leads the UN-Water SDG working group** that presented a comprehensive report with technical advice on a possible post-2015 global goal for water in January 2014. The report was very well received. All recommended goals, targets and indicators were picked up in the final report of the Open Working Group which was subsequently adopted by the UN General Assembly at the post-2015 high level summit in September 2015.



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