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**Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC**

Global Programme Water

Programme Framework 2021–24



Preface

Safe drinking water and sanitation is the foundation of a healthy, livable and dignified life. It is a matter of course to the well-off, yet out of reach for billions of people day after day. Their reality is one of a polluted environment where access to clean and safe water is difficult and uncertain. Water is one of the greatest challenges to humanity in the face of climate change. Solving the water crisis calls for bold multi-stakeholder action at local, national and global levels. As Europe's water tower, Switzerland has much to contribute to solving the global water crisis. Known as a responsible upstream neighbour and engaged for decades in providing access to water and sanitation, water resource management, and transboundary water cooperation, our country has the expertise, the hands-on experience and the spirit of innovation, inevitably required to develop new transformative solutions at the hands of local, national and global policymakers and disadvantaged communities alike.

The present programme framework outlines the commitment and engagement of the Global Programme Water (GPW) for 2021–24. Under its 'Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for People' component, the GPW will contribute to the universal access to this basic human right, particularly to the most vulnerable people. Through its 'Water, Planet and Prosperity' component, it will develop innovative water-related economic models and approaches based on the principles of a circular economy, thereby contributing to prevent water pollution and protect surface and ground water resources. Building on Switzerland's reputation as an honest broker, the GPW will further use and promote water as an instrument for peace, security and inclusive development under its 'Water and Peace' component. Voices speaking in favour of cooperation and good water governance are supported in the 'Water Voices' component to raise awareness and momentum for action to address the water crisis.



Switzerland is committed to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. I am convinced that the GPW will make a significant contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 6 which is to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. It is committed to meet the important global challenge to provide strong, effective and lasting water solutions the billions in need deserve.

Patricia Danzi

Director General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Bern, December 2020

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1. Context analysis

1.1. Global challenges and policy context

Water for sustainable development – Freshwater is at the core of sustainable development and is critical for socio-economic development, healthy ecosystems and human survival itself. In recent decades, significant progress was made on access to water, sanitation, wastewater management, hygiene and the development of procedures to better manage water resources¹. This progress contributes positively to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) including the dedicated water-goal, SDG 6², the reduction of inequalities, the enjoyment of human rights, peaceful co-existence of peoples and conservation of natural resources³.

Water governance – All human lives and activities depend on water, throughout its entire cycle. The governance of surface and groundwater resources, including water quality, is crucial to meet the specific needs of different actors. With increasing competition between water-dependent sectors, a collective management at all levels can contribute to prevent or mitigate an escalation of water crises. Water is everywhere but not managed sustainably enough by the cognisant actors, bodies and institutions. Water is often under the responsibility of multiple government ministries; and multilaterally across more than 30 UN agencies. The pressing need for global water governance is compromised by voices that are still too weak to advocate for the recognition of the various values of water (social, economic, environmental, and cultural) and for its interlinkages with other issues such as climate change, agriculture, food security, energy, health, forced displacement and migration.

Acceleration and transformation of action and investments for equitable access to water and sanitation – The SDG 6 ‘to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all’ is alarmingly off track⁴. Despite progress made over the last decade, 2.1 billion people worldwide still lack access to safe drinking water and 4.2 billion to safely managed sanitation. The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the essential role of hand washing to control the spread of the virus, but accessing facilities with water and soap at home is still out of reach for 40% of the world’s population, approximately 3 billion people⁵. In addition, the

context of armed conflicts and disasters can deprive access to safe water and sanitation, hamper operation and maintenance of services and damage water-related infrastructure. There are strong geographical disparities characterised by weak access mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa and in rural and remote areas including mountains where investments are harder to attract. Norms, values and practices fostering inequities and social exclusion of marginalised regions and groups, including youth and women, migrants and forcibly displaced persons, are persisting⁶ in the water sector.

Fragmented and insufficient investments – Water and sanitation services have a remarkable return on investment. Every Swiss franc invested generates a 4.3 Swiss franc return⁷ to individuals and society alike as a result of reduced health care costs, higher labour productivity and higher labour participation. Despite the quick and long-term gains, investments remain insufficient at a global scale. Global financing for water and sanitation infrastructure alone needs to triple to achieve SDG 6 targets by 2030⁸. In addition, investments often fail to sufficiently account for and value the transboundary and multi-sectoral nature of water and its uses at basin and municipality levels.

Water resources under pressure in a context of economic globalisation and climate change – The current economic system has failed to decouple Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from material and energy flows leading to unsustainable use of natural resources and pollution. Water demand is expected to continue to rise due to population increase, economic development and consumption patterns. The degradation and destruction of ecosystems, unsustainable agricultural practices and growing cities affect the entire water cycle, including water quality⁹ and availability. This leads to a loss of biodiversity and detrimental impacts on overall individual wellbeing, including learning and working conditions. It also affects migration, economic growth, forced displacement, and security. With droughts, floods and rising temperatures, water is the primary substance through which societies experience the effects of climate change¹⁰. However, investors have shown little interest to include water in key long-term investments for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

1 <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/goal-06/>
2 <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal6>
3 Objectives set in the Article 54 para. 2 of the Federal Constitution.
4 United Nations (2018), SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation|UN-Water.
5 <https://www.unicef.org/eap/press-releases/handwashing-soap-critical-fight-against-coronavirus-out-reach-billions-unicef>.

6 SDC Thematic working aid ‘Leave No One Behind and Water, sanitation and hygiene’ 2019.
7 https://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/monitoring/economics/en/.
8 Financing | UN-Water.
9 Over 80% of the world’s wastewater – and over 95% in some least developed countries – is released to the environment without treatment (2017 UN World Water Development Report, Wastewater: The Untapped Resource).
10 Around 74% of all natural disasters between 2001 and 2018 were water-related (UNWWDR, 2020).

Water is life

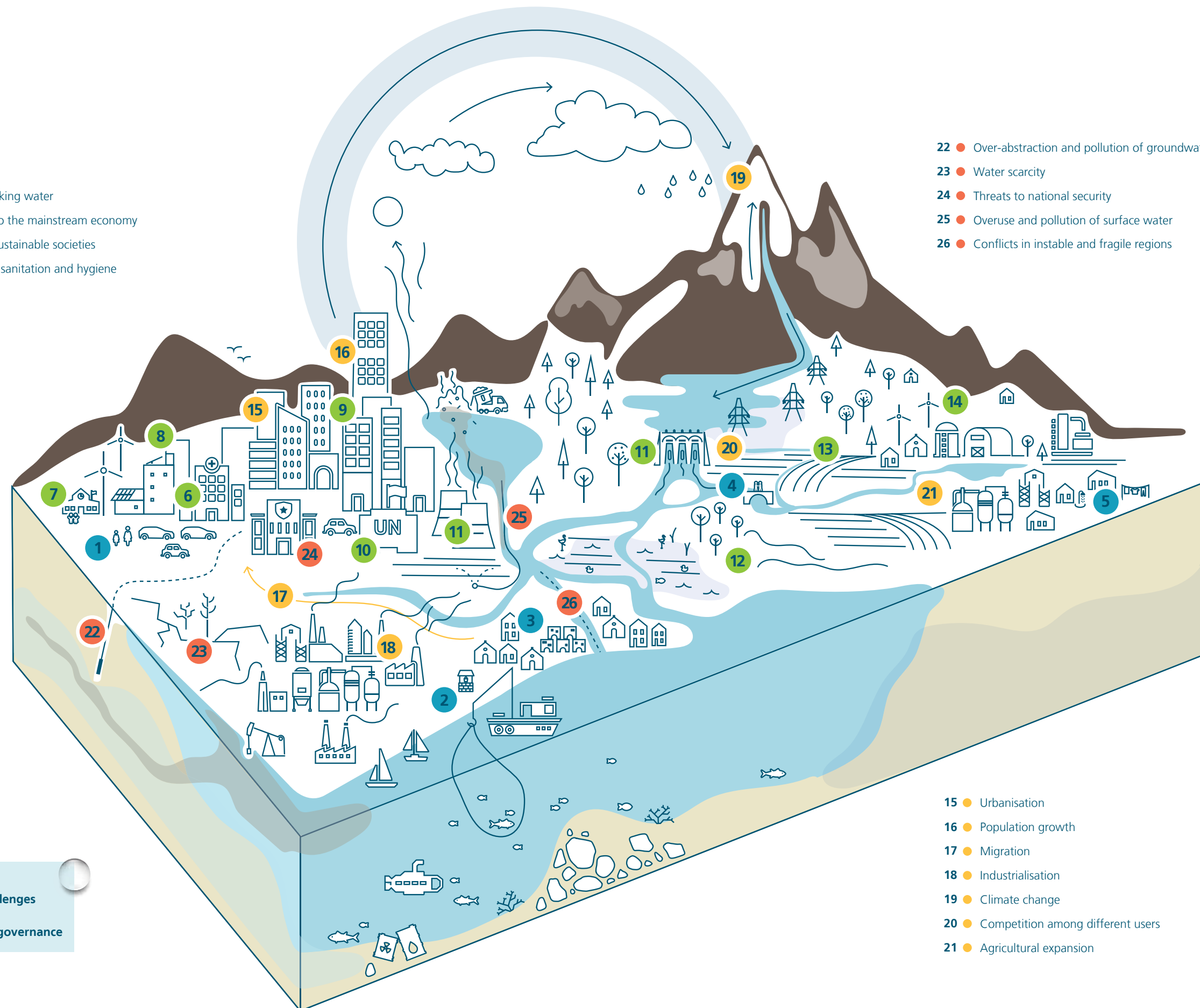
- 1 ● Empowered women and youth
- 2 ● Access to safe and affordable drinking water
- 3 ● Connecting marginalised people to the mainstream economy
- 4 ● Peaceful, inclusive, cohesive and sustainable societies
- 5 ● Access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene

- 6 ● Public health
- 7 ● Education
- 8 ● Sustainable development
- 9 ● Economic growth
- 10 ● Global governance
- 11 ● Producing energy
- 12 ● Integrity of ecosystems
- 13 ● Growing food
- 14 ● Sustaining rural livelihoods

- Benefits of water cooperation
- Links with other key global challenges
- Pressures on water resources
- Negative impacts of bad water governance

- 22 ● Over-abstraction and pollution of groundwater
- 23 ● Water scarcity
- 24 ● Threats to national security
- 25 ● Overuse and pollution of surface water
- 26 ● Conflicts in instable and fragile regions

- 15 ● Urbanisation
- 16 ● Population growth
- 17 ● Migration
- 18 ● Industrialisation
- 19 ● Climate change
- 20 ● Competition among different users
- 21 ● Agricultural expansion



1.2. Swiss interests

Switzerland has direct interests to play an active role in responding to the global challenges of water security.

Switzerland's import of foreign water – Switzerland's economy is highly dependent on other countries for import and export of goods, services, and investments. Despite its own abundant hydrological resources, Switzerland depends more than 82% on imported water¹¹ (used to produce clothing, food and fodder, electronics, cars, etc. abroad). Moreover, access to sustainably managed water resources elsewhere affects the long-term availability and affordability of a number of goods and services imported by Switzerland.

Switzerland's dependency on global solutions – In an increasingly interdependent world, Switzerland benefits from global water security as it contributes, for example, to global public health by limiting the spread of certain water-related diseases and to peaceful and cohesive societies by reducing tensions over shared water resources and promoting peace and cooperation. Water insecurity can transform into conflict and act as a trigger for migration, both voluntary and forced¹².

Water security as a prerequisite to achieve Swiss policies – The lack of access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) threatens global progress towards development, poverty reduction and economic and political stability – key objectives of Switzerland's international cooperation and foreign policy. As party to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Switzerland has an interest in a well-functioning international governance that finds durable solutions to global water security challenges.

Swiss financial sector – Switzerland is aiming at becoming a leading hub for sustainable finance¹³. Integrated in the Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) criteria of sustainable finance, water is increasingly part of the information on sustainability.

1.3. Swiss added value

Thematic expertise – Switzerland, as the water tower of Europe, has a long-standing experience in water resources management and transboundary cooperation. It is recognised as a responsible upstream country and is well-known for its unique approach to water governance. It is home to world-renowned academic institutions providing solutions to global and local challenges associated with water issues. In addition, by hosting many international organisations in Geneva, including the Human Rights Council and major humanitarian and peace organisations, Switzerland is a credible actor for the promotion of human rights to water and sanitation and the link between water and peace. The Global Programme Water (GPW) of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) can contribute to finding responses to the aforementioned challenges by facilitating access to this expertise, bringing together key stakeholders and engaging in international policy dialogue to achieve systemic change in the field of water security.

Supporting innovation – The GPW brings added value by occupying uncharted territories, seeking to pioneer key issues in the water sector. As such, it is appreciated as a risk-taker known for non-conventional, innovative approaches and long-term commitments.

Coalition builder – The GPW engages in partnerships with key public, private, political, academic and civil society stakeholders to rally forces and influence policies, norms and standard setting – as well as their implementation – at national, regional and global levels. Switzerland is recognised for the promotion of dialogue and solutions based on compromise, tapping into its experience and involvement in peace and mediation initiatives around the world to raise sensitive issues with its partners, such as water and peace and cooperation.

Contribution to Switzerland's international positions – The GPW contributes to defining Switzerland's positions in international negotiations, policy dialogues and multilateral institutions and initiatives, promoting feasible solutions for low and middle-income countries that are broadly applicable at the global level.

2. Results, lessons learnt and implications for 2021–24

2.1. Results 2017–20

Water and Peace – Building on the prior success of having a stronger water sector (global water goal in the SDGs, recognition of water and sanitation as human rights), the GPW contributed in enriching the understanding of the fundamental role of water as an instrument for peace and cooperation. The last four years have witnessed the acceleration of the Blue Peace¹⁴ movement. Water and peace and cooperation was further anchored into the international agenda, within regional initiatives and at municipal levels, constructively linking the peace, development and humanitarian agendas.

Youth – The GPW specifically targeted the empowerment and the engagement of youth in the water sector. This objective was taken up by other major agencies in the water sector. A growing influential network of young people, promoted by the GPW, has spurred innovation in the sector, introducing new solutions and technologies.

Private sector engagement – The GPW engaged with different segments of the private sector spectrum, from social and young entrepreneurs to multinational companies. It contributed to entrepreneurial ecosystems/frameworks and efforts of private actors to achieve defined goals towards water security. With the support of the GPW and its Blue Peace engagement, the financial sector started to successfully leverage developments around sustainable finance, including water security in the ESG agenda.

proven to be a powerful instrument for cooperation and promoting peace; consequently, Water and Peace will be deployed as a full programme component. The network of active young people will figure prominently in all components. Gender equality and women's empowerment will be mainstreamed across all components with targeted interventions to support their integration. Water governance principles will be kept as a key feature at all levels and forms of the GPW intervention and collaboration.

Out of the water 'bottle' – To achieve systemic transformation, the GPW will reinforce collaboration with less conventional change agents such as consumers, financial investors, artists and youth. It will work through powerful coalitions with the objective of increasing outreach to enhance the consideration of water within global systems (i.e. financial markets, supply chains).

From water efficiency towards water effectiveness – Achieving SDG 6 and other water-related goals requires profound reconsideration of the value of water. Improving water efficiency, i.e. reducing the amount of water required for a particular purpose through the introduction of new technologies or methods, is no longer enough to reduce the absolute volume of water used given the overall increasing demand for water in major use sectors. Effective water use requires thorough appraisal in deciding how to allocate limited water resources for specific purposes. Water effectiveness considers water use beyond efficiency; while water efficiency means doing more with less water, water effectiveness looks holistically at the value of water use in a given context to the entire society, paving the way towards a global water governance¹⁵.

Consideration of the full water cycle – A holistic view of water resources management including ecosystem services and circular economy principles will be integrated throughout all interventions including the provision of drinking water supply, sanitation services, hygiene facility, water stewardship programmes and transboundary water cooperation among others.

2.2. Lessons learnt and implications for 2021–24

The GPW portfolio review conducted in early 2020 highlighted the following elements for consideration in the programme framework 2021–24:

Prominent positioning of effective interventions – This framework builds on past achievements and promising trends such as the global citizen's movement for climate action, the growing claim for social equity, dignity and justice, and the acceleration of the women's rights movement. Water has

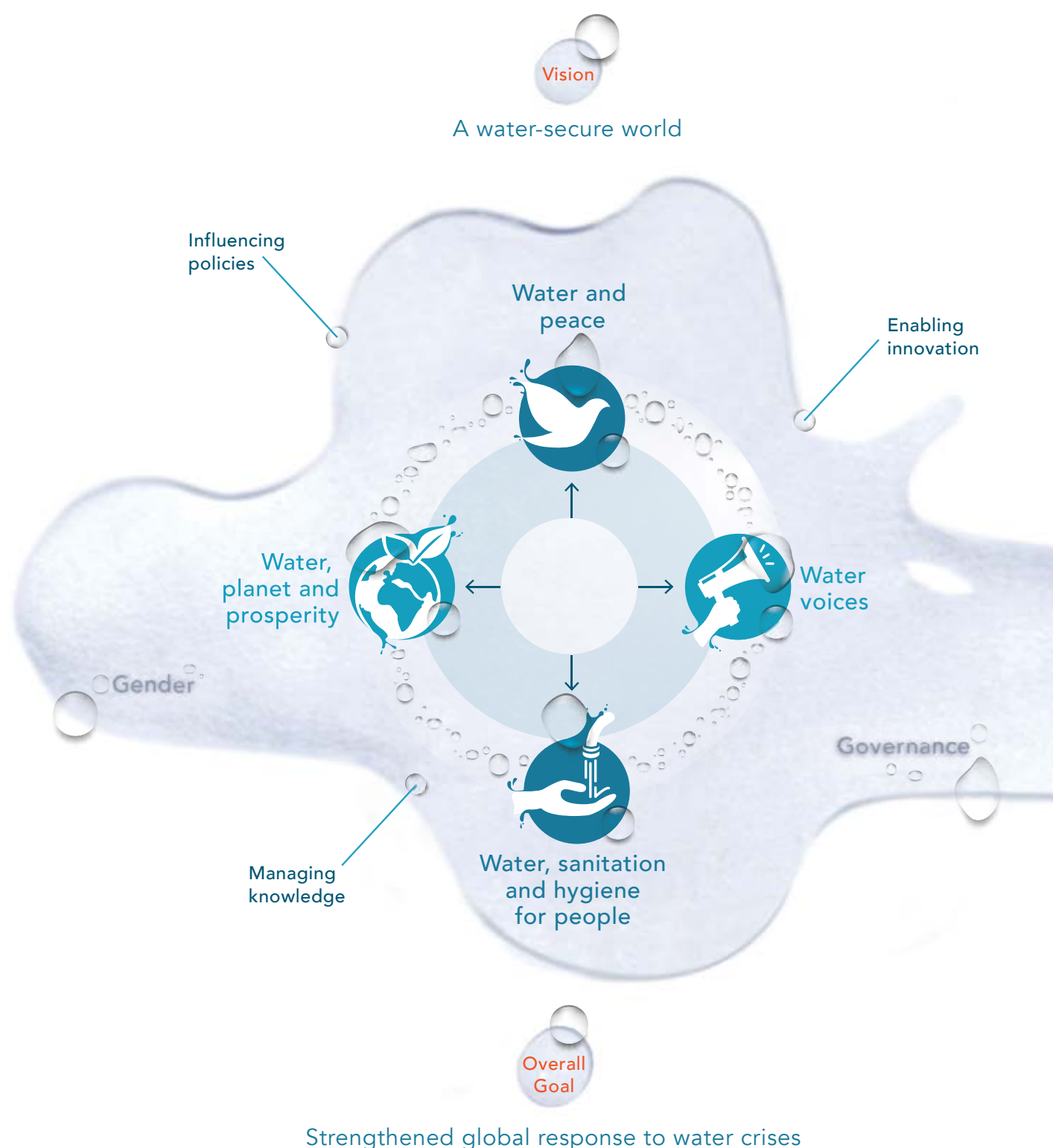
¹¹ WWF, 'The Imported Risk - Switzerland's water risk in times of globalization', 2017.

¹² United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health, 2020. Water and Migration: A Global Overview. UNU-INWEH Report Series, Issue 10. Hamilton, Canada.

¹³ Sustainability in Switzerland's financial sector, situation analysis and positioning with a focus on environmental aspects, Federal Council report (June 2020).

¹⁴ www.thebluepeace.org (see also annex 6).

¹⁵ Illustrative example: Is it effective for a water-scarce country to use its limited water resources (sometimes fossil water) to grow water-demanding crops and export them, even when using water saving agriculture practices? Although these crops could provide short-term economic benefits for a few, what about the sustainable management of these water resources?



3. Our commitment

3.1. 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.

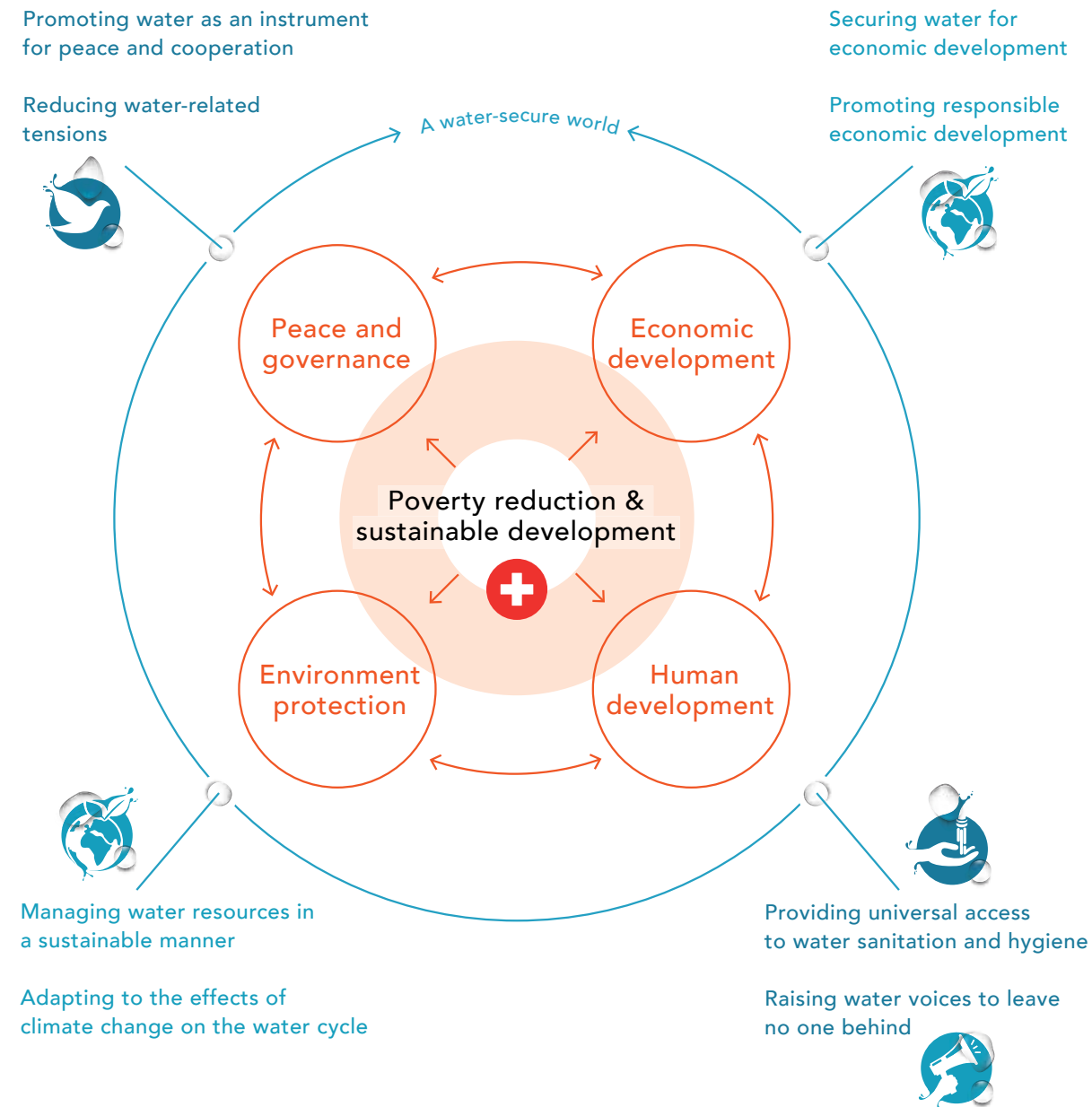
Theory of change

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.

3.2. Priorities and objectives for 2021–24

The GPW programme framework 2021–24 contributes to Switzerland's International Cooperation (IC) Strategy 2021–24 by transforming systems towards a water-secure world. It contributes to (i) human development through universal access to 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 four strategic components described below. Collectively, the components are designed to be mutually reinforcing to reach their specific objectives. The corresponding results framework is presented in annex 2. Gender equality and good governance principles are key criteria, concerns and objectives in the achievement of all outcomes (see also annex 5).



3.3. Strategic component 1: Water, sanitation and hygiene for people

Objective 1: 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.

Water, sanitation and hygiene for people



Outcomes:

Outcome 1.1: Women, men and children have gained access to improved drinking water and sanitation services and adopted good hygiene practices supported by capacitated duty bearers, and by empowered rights holders participating in a meaningful way in shaping policies and finding solutions.

Outcome 1.2: Engagement and national capacities of member states in collection and reporting water and sanitation related data have increased through regular update from the integrated monitoring of SDG 6 done by coordinated UN agencies tracking the evidences of the remaining gap.

Description: The GPW strongly advocates for equitable and universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene. It recognises water and sanitation as fundamental human rights and supports their realisation – working to ensure service availability, quality, acceptability, accessibility, and affordability, to meet the needs of vulnerable people and to contribute to peaceful and cohesive societies (link to component 3).

Each initiative will conduct a thorough analysis to identify groups left behind in access to quality services or underrepresented in decision making processes, such as young people, women, communities affected by protracted displacement, minorities and learners. The GPW will work to accelerate their access by supporting them to engage and claim their rights,

and by sensitising duty bearers about benefits of access. Accordingly, the GPW collaborates with a coalition of key actors to boost the commitment of duty bearers, international organisations, civil society and the private sector to close the gap (link to component 4). It promotes the scaling-up of promising approaches such as the Blue Schools¹⁶, RANAS¹⁷ and WASH FIT¹⁸. Moreover, youth and emerging actors such as social entrepreneurs are empowered in their disruptive, creative and innovative potential.

While the GPW favours models ensuring a minimum cost recovery for long-term, affordable access to water and sanitation, it enables the development of new financing models and approaches to accelerate progress, such as blended finance, sustainable funding schemes and solidarity funds – including climate funds (link to component 3).

The GPW supports countries in monitoring water and sanitation, and in compiling country data to report on global progress towards SDG 6. Credible and timely water and sanitation data provide numerous benefits in both public and private sectors, in particular stronger accountability, increased commitment and investments, and more effective decision-making.

¹⁶ <https://waterconsortium.ch/blueschool/>.

¹⁷ The Risks, Attitudes, Norms, Abilities, and Self-regulation (RANAS) by EAWAG.

¹⁸ WHO | Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool (WASH FIT).

The GPW embraces the change embodied in SDG 6 favouring a more integrated approach by addressing both water, sanitation and hygiene and the quality and sustainability of global water resources (link to component 2). The GPW promotes the recognition and consideration of the full water cycle and seeks to strengthen sustainable and integrated management of surface and groundwater resources in the provision of water and sanitation services.

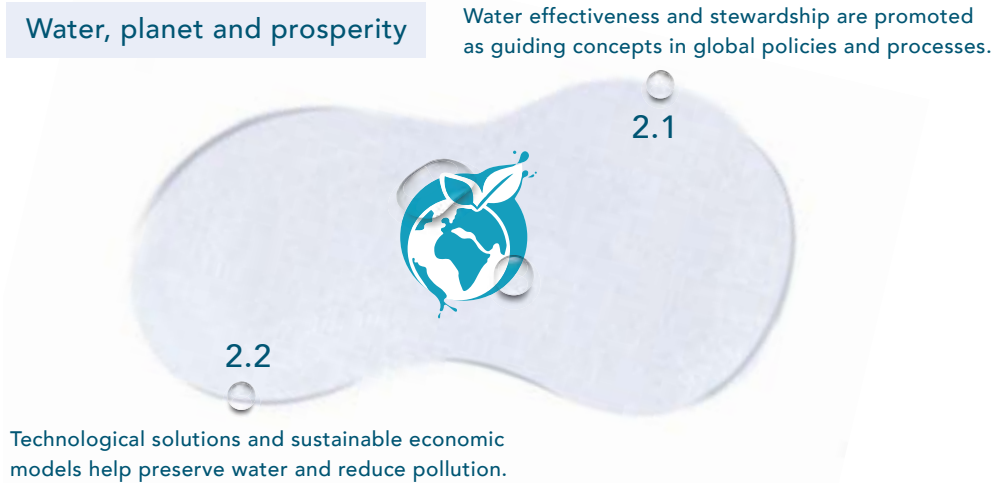
#dignity #LNOB #humanrights
#gender #equity #water #toilet
#menstruation #watercycle
#infrastructure #respect #covid19
#innovation #peace



Burkina Faso – Data checking at a bore hole with a water monitoring device by WaterAid.
© Andrew McConnell / Panos Pictures

3.4. Strategic component 2: Water, planet and prosperity

Objective 2: 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.



Outcomes:

Outcome 2.1: Socially and culturally equitable, economically beneficial, environmentally sustainable use of water (water effectiveness/water stewardship) are implemented jointly by all stakeholders including civil societies, private sector and other agents of change and promoted in key national, regional and global processes.

Outcome 2.2: Water is preserved and/or reused, and water pollution avoided or reduced, by supporting technological solutions finding, including circular economy, in specific production/consumption sectors (textile, pharmaceutical, agriculture, food and beverage) to optimise processes towards sustainable use of water resources.

Description: The GPW engages with the current movements for a more environmentally responsible society to advocate for a coherent global governance of water at basin level as well as across sectors and actors. It advocates for new models, partnerships, and business strategies, integrating concerned communities while incentivising the private sector to take action, and to improve water governance at the global supply chain level. A special focus is given to (i) water use in agriculture, in close collaboration with the Global Programme Food Security (GPFS), as agriculture is responsible for 70% of worldwide water withdrawal and (ii) major water-consuming industries (e.g. textile and food & beverage).

The GPW together with the Global Programme Health (GPH) and the Global Programme Climate Change and Environment (GPCCE) jointly continue supporting initiatives on water quality with the objective to improve the health and environment of populations exposed to water pollution (link with component 1). It strives to contribute to new economic models and approaches based on the principles of a circular economy with a focus on the development of innovative water management models and technologies coherent with the full water cycle. While there is an increasing emphasis on reducing the use of water in industrial processes and in agriculture, there is no fundamental questioning of the very allocation of water for the production of specific goods and services, neither from the producers side nor from the consumers side. Hence, the GPW will place a greater emphasis on looking at water effectiveness in the global market economy, through engagement with consumers, producers and investors (link to component 4) for including water in eco-labels and sustainable investment criteria and strategies.

The GPW together with the GPCCE intend to position water more strategically in the debates on climate change adaptation at all levels, develop innovative models of holistic management of surface and groundwater resources to reduce the global water footprint, preserve livelihoods and ecosystems and reduce tensions between various water users (link to component 3).

#climate action #pollution #alternative
#future generation #effectiveness #peace



Uganda – In a rubbish dump, in a wetland area of Lake Victoria, a man washes plastic bags, scavenged from the rubbish in order to sell them to recyclers. © Frederic Nov / Panos Pictures

3.5. Strategic component 3: Water and peace

Objective 3: 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.



Outcomes:

Outcome 3.1: Key stakeholders in water diplomacy use innovative spaces for dialogue and inclusive and transparent processes in their efforts towards formalising arrangements for sharing water resources sustainably.

Outcome 3.2: The economic, environmental, social and peace benefits of water cooperation are shown through new sustainable financial mechanisms supporting cross-border, and local cooperation.

Outcome 3.3: The need for water-related infrastructure in armed conflicts is recognised through international efforts.

Outcome 3.4: Stakeholders participating in water arrangement processes are capacitated in their respective roles to shape policies and implement good practices in water diplomacy and have access to shared, reliable scientific evidence taking into account climate change.

Description: The GPW contributes to reducing water-related tensions and using water as an instrument of peace and cooperation by supporting some of the recommendations of the Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace¹⁹, in line with the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) lines of action on Water and Security²⁰.

It advocates, in close cooperation with other units of the FDFA and with global partnerships, for the inclusion of water security in development, peace and humanitarian agendas.

Moreover, together with the Humanitarian Aid and other FDFA units, the GPW pushes for the inclusion of water aspects in global humanitarian response dialogues around peace and security, more particularly on the issues of the protection of water-related operators, infrastructure and supply of consumables in armed conflicts.

¹⁹ Report A matter of survival: <https://www.genevawaterhub.org/resource/matter-survival>.
²⁰ Guidelines: https://www.eda.admin.ch/dam/deza/en/documents/themen/wasser/eau-securite-lignes-d-action-DFAE_EN.pdf.

The GPW improves water diplomacy by supporting global institutions that are establishing standards for good practices in arranging transboundary water sharing. It facilitates processes by enhancing the capacity of key stakeholders such as basin organisations, country representatives, municipalities, international, regional and national financial institutions, but also young people, journalists and artists and empowering the next generation of professionals and champions to take part and influence transboundary water management (link to component 4). It tackles specific thematic of common concerns, such as the international laws on water, issues of digitalisation in water diplomacy, large dams, standardisation of data in river basins and financing of transboundary infrastructures.

The GPW supports studies in specific transboundary river basins and aquifer systems, based on transparent and shared data related to water quality and quantity, social, economic and other environmental aspects to improve inclusive and transparent decision-making. These studies feed in the processes leading towards concrete solutions for a fair sharing and sustainable management of transboundary water resources.

Through Blue Peace Financing, the GPW bolsters a coalition of front-runners in the development of sustainable financial mechanisms and standards specifically aimed at promoting water as an instrument of peace across sectors, benefiting also local communities in the riparian countries. The financing mechanisms will promote more responsible use of water resources (link to component 2). With access to financial means, water resources (quality and quantity) will be preserved allowing sustainable economic growth, adaptation to climate change, and ultimately the reduction of tensions between users and countries.

In all its global and regional Blue Peace initiatives, including in West Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia, the GPW supports inclusiveness of water diplomacy processes and emphasises on the importance of impact-oriented actions for groups of people left behind (localising Blue Peace).

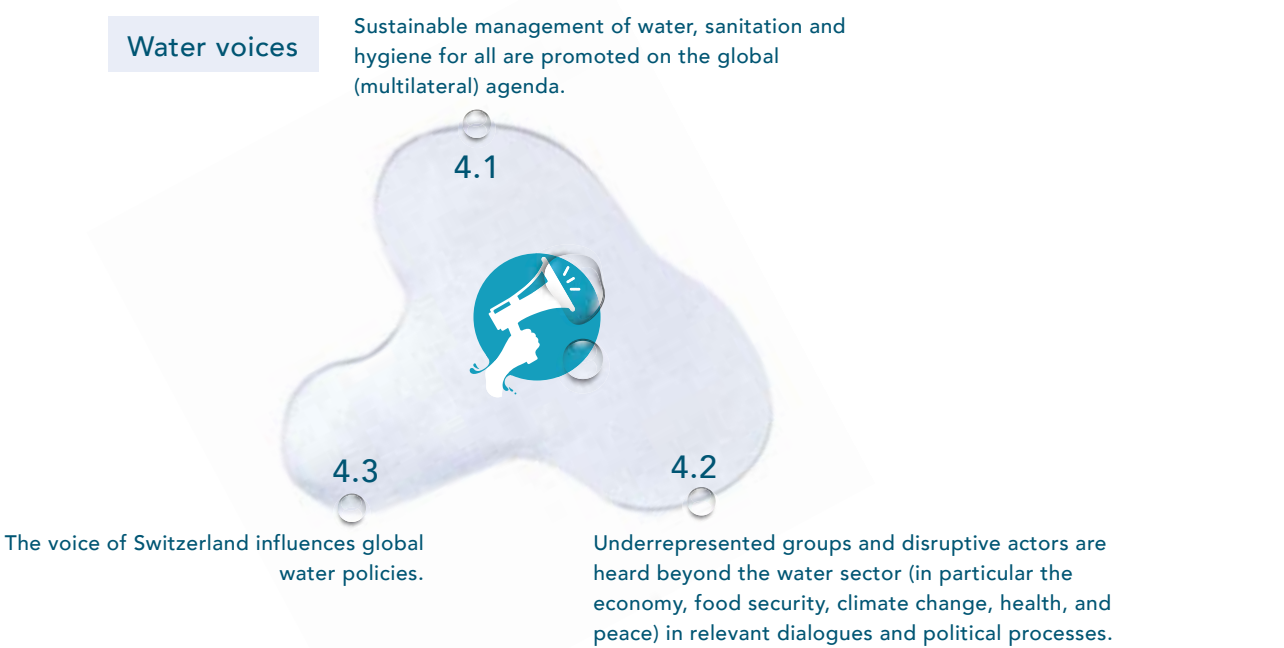
**#BluePeace #bluebond #peace
#intergeneration #accountability
#data #journalism #art**



Iraq – Peshmerga fighters stand guard at the Mosul Dam in Northern Iraq. © Reuters / Youssef Budlai

3.6. Strategic component 4: Water voices

Objective 4: 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 of the need to address the global water crisis in national, regional and international agendas within and beyond the water community.



Outcomes:

- Outcome 4.1:** The availability and sustainable management of water resources, sanitation and hygiene for all is well positioned in international agendas and in a strong and inclusive multilateral system.
- Outcome 4.2:** Underrepresented groups and disruptive actors are heard when calling for the recognition of the value of water in its social, cultural, economic and environmental dimensions going beyond the water sector (in particular the economy, food security, climate change, health, and peace) in relevant dialogues and political processes.
- Outcome 4.3:** Swiss voice and expertise is clearly recognised and influential in further developing the watersector as well as other interconnected sectors.

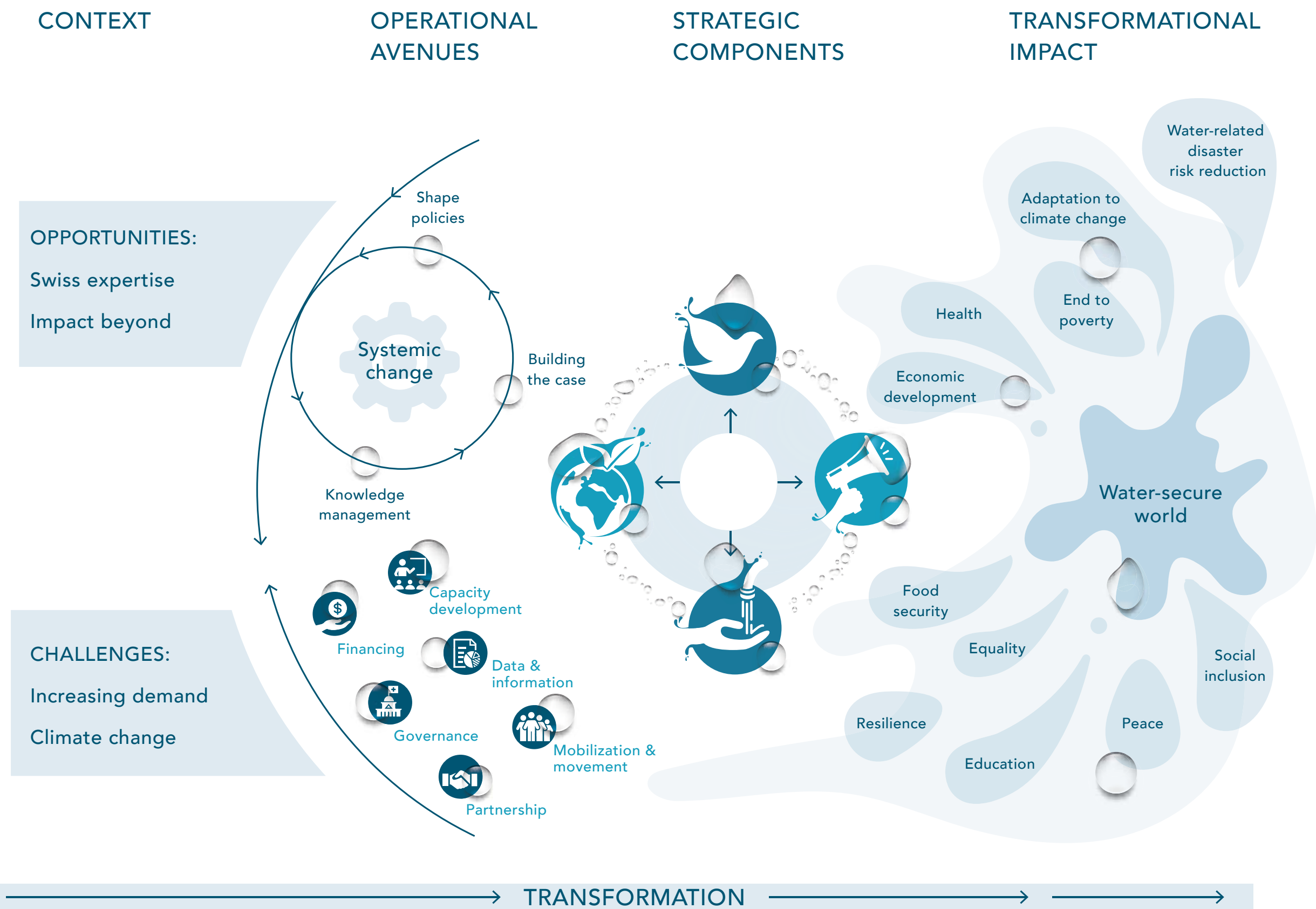
hygiene in political agendas. The GPW bolsters influential coalitions composed of public and private sector stakeholders, academia, youth, communities, media, art, influencers and other relevant civil society actors and movements (e.g. climate and environmental movements) to voice their concerns and expectations. It supports initiatives striving to obtain the necessary attention both within and beyond the water sector, from communities to the world stage, to urgently address the global water crisis and bring about transformational changes for a water-secure world.

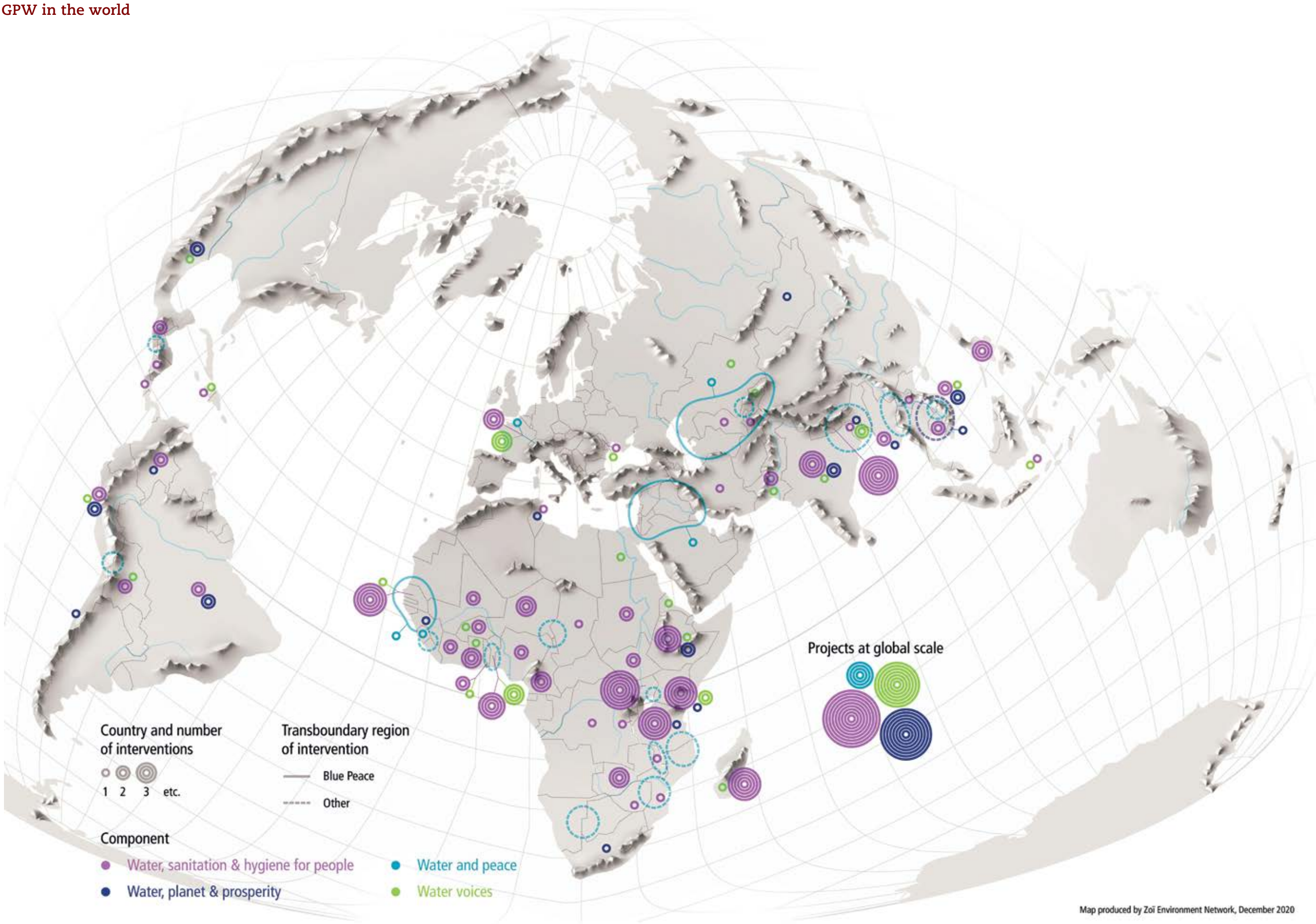
#youth #UNO #Switzerland #innovation
#women #education #civilsociety
#art #innovation #journalism #benefit

Description: The GPW promotes the expertise, knowledge and skills of water actors in Switzerland and worldwide. It recognises people’s capability and desire to promote transformative voices that help position water, sanitation and hygiene in national priorities and international fora. The GPW continues its engagement with relevant stakeholders to enhance coherence in the implementation of SDG 6 at the global level (including within the UN system), and at the national and local levels by strengthening water, sanitation and



China, 2018. #RunningDry Campaign (Mina Guli, Thirst).
© Kelvin Trautman





4. How we act – joint action on global challenges

4.1. Principles of action

All programmes, projects and contributions of the GPW meet key global challenges and contribute to the reduction of global risks and focus on inequity and poverty. In line with the Guidelines of the SDC's global instruments for Development and Cooperation 2021–24, the GPW applies the following three operational principles to bring about systemic changes:

1. Influencing policies and norms by bringing innovative approaches, expertise and experience from local and national levels into global policy processes for the development and the implementation of norms, policies and standards for a more water-secure world
2. Enabling innovation through projects, programmes and partnerships, in particular building the case on new financing models and technologies, as well as new policies, business models, practices, approaches and behavioural insights
3. Managing knowledge, i.e. action-oriented knowledge generation and exchange, within and beyond Switzerland

Through these principles of action, the GPW seeks to induce systemic change in all its endeavours, i.e. transforming the way water resources and sanitation are managed and governed at system level (vs. pilot level). Finding solutions to the global water crisis also requires the 'elevator' approach going from local to global to local. Thus, the role of the GPW is also to ensure that relevant local solutions of the SDC are scaled-up, replicated, and inspire global initiatives (e.g. reduction of pollution by local antibiotics manufacturers influencing international private sector norms). In return, the programme contributes to translation of global norms (e.g. guidelines on formal transboundary water arrangements applied by a river basin organisation in water diplomacy processes) at the regional and local levels. To ensure appropriate knowledge management at all levels, close coordination is required with the SDC's South Cooperation Department, Department for Cooperation with Eastern Europe and the Humanitarian Aid.

Regarding its geographical outreach, the GPW operates first and foremost at global level. In addition, it has regional foci in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, and Central and East Asia and draws from a rich experience in Latin America.

4.2. Joint action on global challenges

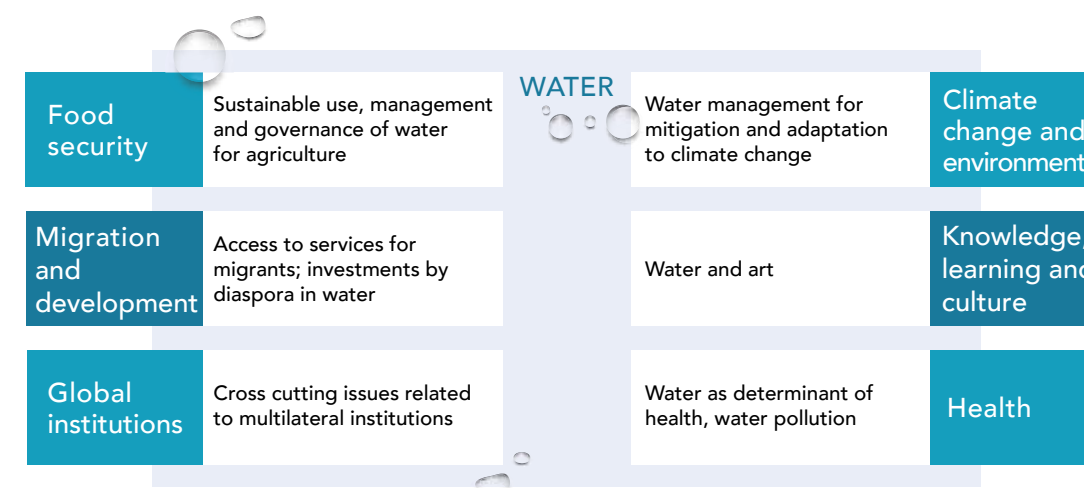
Progress in the water sector will require new types of partnerships. Governments, the private sector, academia, civil society and media must build bridges between government-led development and businesses, from local to regional and global levels, and encourage multi-sectoral approaches. To maximise its relevance, influence and effect, the GPW develops joint actions with other SDC units and engages with a wide range of partners in Switzerland and beyond. Typically, these are:

Other SDC departments (South Cooperation Department, Department for Cooperation with Eastern Europe, Humanitarian Aid) **and thematic networks:** As host of the SDC's thematic network 'Réseau', the GPW bears the SDC-wide thematic responsibility for water. The GPW takes stock of all SDC water-related cooperation projects to enrich its global policy dialogue and exert influence where possible with the Swiss representations abroad. It strengthens its partnerships with the South and Eastern Europe Cooperation on strategic regional programmes, based on jointly defined priorities. The GPW complements the SDC's other operational units involved in water by focusing on the global and regional dimension and global responses to major sectoral challenges and by applying the principles of subsidiarity. The Humanitarian Aid's strong field presence provides added value and complements the GPW with on-the-ground interventions, especially in fragile contexts; fostering a humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach. Synergies and good opportunities for coordination and cooperation exist not only with the Humanitarian Aid WASH activities, but also with its DRR activities, especially in the fields of Integrated Watershed Management and Environment.

The 'Green Cluster'²¹ aims at helping to mainstream these issues into the SDC's regional and country programmes in a coordinated manner and to ensure the appropriate integration of these topics into operational activities. The GPW seeks the support of and the collaboration with other SDC thematic networks and competence centres according to needs (i.e. gender, governance, education, employment and income, engagement with the private sector).

²¹ The 'Green Cluster' consists of four thematic networks within the SDC, to promote a more inclusive vision under the 2030 Agenda, particularly on climate change: Agriculture & Food Security, Climate Change & Environment, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Water.

SDC Global Cooperation Department



Federal Administration, FDFA and others

The SDC through the GPW is one of the pillars of the Interdepartmental Committee of Sustainable Development on Water (IDANE-Water) as well as the Blue Peace FDFA Group that ensures continuity between the different Blue Peace initiatives, and between Blue Peace initiatives and other major water-security advocacies of the GPW and Swiss political divisions. The GPW works with the FDFA (e.g. Directorate of International Law, United Nations and International Organisations Division, the Swiss representations) and with the State Secretariat for International Finance (SIF), the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH), the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO) and the Federal Office of Agriculture (FOAG). It supports Swiss representations, permanent missions to the UN and IFIs around the world to foster harmonised policy intervention.

Swiss-based organisations and others that complement the SDC's expertise: These include the AGUSAN group, a well-established community of practice for water-sector specialists, and the Swiss Water Partnership, an interdisciplinary platform that brings together over 70 academic, civil society, public and private sector organisations. They allow for Swiss knowledge and expertise to be produced, verified, compiled and introduced into the sectoral debate or translated into innovative solutions to global water challenges.

International and global institutions that are highly relevant to the GPW's objectives and have a major influence on the global water sector. The GPW commits time (as a member of the governance bodies) and funds (through core or earmarked contributions) to specialised agencies, strategic alliances, thematic fora, operational programmes and global networks across the United Nations system, International Finance Institutions (IFI), regional and international organisations, the bilateral donor community and the community of water practitioners.

Other development actors and alliances, mobilised across all pillars of society: public sector (from national to local governments, public-service providers), private sector, civil society (international and national NGOs, associations), global movements (Blue Peace, climate action, declarations for social equity dignity and justice), academia, private sector (domestic and international) and financiers (major trusts, foundations, philanthropies, social impact and microfinance investors).

4.3. Strategic steering

Monitoring at three levels

The GPW's programme framework is subject to regular monitoring to keep track of its relevance, effectiveness and efficiency. Its strategic steering is based on a three-level outcome monitoring system: (i) the thematic and policy context level (ii) the result framework level (see annex 2), and (iii) the programme and project level. The GPW also uses a periodic peer-review mechanism, which ensures the relevance, insight, coherence and influencing power of the GPW portfolio as well as an efficient and effective implementation of its framework. More details on monitoring and evaluation can be found in annex 3.

Reporting to IC strategy 2021–24

The GPW tracks the contribution of the programme framework to selected sub-objectives of Switzerland's International Cooperation Strategy 2021–24 by measuring the Aggregated Reference Indicators (ARIs) and Thematic Reference Indicators (TRIs) as specified in the result framework given in annex 2.

Monitoring of financial planning

The financial planning presented in annex 4 is indicative. Disbursements will be monitored against financial budget targets that may vary over time. The status is reported and commented in the GPW’s internal annual report.

Risk management

The GPW’s programme portfolio entails a series of noticeable risks. For policy and norm setting at the international or regional level, the non-adoption by national policy makers and other stakeholders is perceived the most important risk. Result and impact measurement will be difficult as attribution and causality is difficult to prove. Cost inefficiencies are occasionally an issue when working with large international institutions. Negotiations, strict cost controls and requirements regarding achieved results limit these risks. Fiduciary risks exist with smaller institutional partners that lack the sophisticated internal control mechanisms. Careful selection and specific audits do limit such risks. Reputational risks of the GPW are monitored, particularly regarding its water stewardship portfolio.

Learning & Accountability

Periodic reviews, internal evaluations and capitalisations at the (i) programme and project level and the (ii) component level (i.e. Blue Peace) will enable the GPW to learn from its experiences and account for its achievements. The thematic network RésEAU has a pivotal role to share new insights and knowledge beyond the GPW team with the broader water community of practice.

5. Resources

The financial allocation and human resources are indicative and may be amended based on external influence or the SDC internal decisions.

5.1. Financial resources

The GPW’s total indicative expenditures for the period 2021–24 are projected to remain stable with around CHF 118 million or an average of CHF 29.5 million per year (see annex 4). The latter corresponds to the average yearly level of disbursement during the previous years.

The budget is allocated to bilateral programme support. The GPW maintains adequate flexibility in managing its finances thanks to an appropriate mix of instruments.

Responding to the climate change targets of the IC strategy 2021–24, the GPW will ensure to achieve the objectives set by the Global Cooperation Department, in aligning its projects and initiatives accordingly. In addition, the GPW will strive to invest at least 1% of its operational budget for culture.

5.2. Human resources

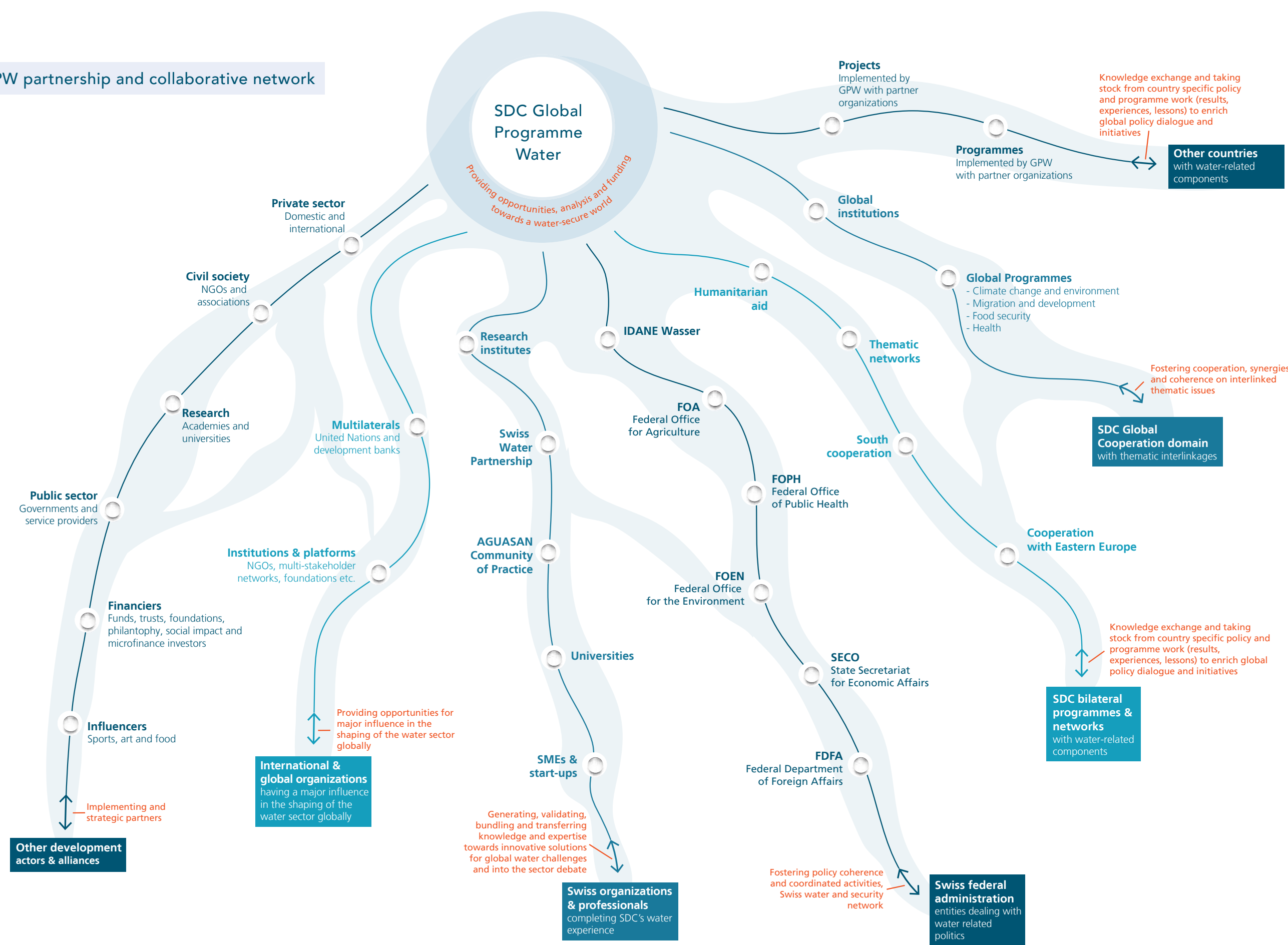
The GPW’s human resources are the cornerstone of its success. It promotes thematic expertise and aims at sufficient, qualified and motivated human resources to fulfil the outlined mandate and to assure effectiveness of its engagement.

Working mainly from the SDC’s office in Bern, as of 2020 the division consists of 12 permanent staff or 9.9 Full-Time Equivalents, including the focal point of the SDC thematic network on water, sanitation and hygiene ‘RésEAU’, and graduate interns. In addition, the GPW counts on the support of a ‘Special Envoy of Switzerland for Water in Central Asia’, an ambassador of Switzerland whose mandate to promote water and peace in Central Asia could become global by 2022. It also depends on the consistent backing from Swiss representations abroad with national programme officers.

A progressive portfolio consolidation towards fewer but larger projects will help ease the work load on staff. The division is committed to using best working practices by seeking out continuously new efficiency gains and optimisations.



GPW partnership and collaborative network



Annexes

Annex 1: List of acronyms

AGUASAN	Swiss Community of Practice for Water Supply and Sanitation in developing countries
ARI	Aggregated Reference Indicators
AWS	Alliance for Water Stewardship
CAREC	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation
CDP	(Formerly) Carbon Disclosure Project
CEWAS	International centre for water management service
CoP	Community of Practice
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ESG	Environment Social and corporate Governance
EAWAG	Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology
FDFA	Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
FOAG	Federal Office of Agriculture
FOEN	Federal Office for the Environment
FOPH	Federal Office of Public Health
FSVO	Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GLAAS	UN-Water Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water
GPCCE	Global Programme Climate Change and Environment
GPFS	Global Programme Food Security
GPW	Global Programme Water
GPH	Global Programme Health
GWSP	Global Water Security and Sanitation Partnership
GWP	Global Water Partnership
HRTWS	Human Rights to Water and Sanitation
IC	International Cooperation
IDANE	Interdepartmental Sustainable Development Committee
IFI	International Finance Institution
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
JMP	Joint Monitoring Programme (WHO/UNICEF)
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PPP	Public-Private Partnership

RANAS	Risks, Attitudes, Norms, Abilities, & Self-regulation approach to systematic behaviour change
RésEAU	SDC's thematic network for water
RWSN	Rural Water Supply Network
SANDEC	Department of Sanitation, Water and Solid Waste for Development at EAWAG
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SECO	State Secretariat for Economic Affairs
SHA	Swiss Humanitarian Aid
SIF	State Secretariat for International Finance
SIWI	Stockholm International Water Institute
Solidarit' eau	Swiss Municipal Solidarity for Drinking Water in Developing Countries
SWP	Swiss Water Partnership
TRI	Thematic Reference Indicators
UN	United Nations
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WASH FIT	Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool
WEF	World Economic Forum
WHO	World Health Organisation
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation
WIN	Water Integrity Network
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

Annex 2: Results framework 2021–24

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 water-borne 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, mobilisation of agents of change and Swiss expertise, capacity development of partners, and positioning ourselves as a trusted partner and coalition builder.

Strategic component 1: Water, sanitation and hygiene for people

Objective: 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.

Theory of change: If the GPW supports access and monitoring of affordable water, sanitation and hygiene services of good quality, and its positive effects on sustainable development, as well as the capacitation of duty bearers and the empowerment of rights holders to guarantee that access, then countries will accelerate progress towards universal access to quality services for those left behind, thereby contributing to human development because rights holders are better supported in their claims and engagement, and duty bearers are better capacitated and sensitised to the benefits of access, through advocacy work based on evidence, shared good practices, facilitated access to financing mechanisms, optimised governance models based on reliable and transparent data, the capacity-building of service providers, and the development and testing of new technologies.



- Contribution to selected sub-objective(s) of the IC strategy 2021–24:**
- S.O. 4: Ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources – by improving the global governance of water resources
 - S.O. 7: Strengthening equitable access to quality basic services – by accelerating the universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene services
 - S.O. 9: Strengthening and promoting human rights and gender equality – by protecting the recognition of the human rights to water and sanitation
 - S.O. 10: Promoting good governance and the rule of law and strengthening civil society – by promoting a human rights based approach in the water sector

Targeted SDGs



Partners

EAWAG/SANDEC, Fondation Hironnelle, Global Water Partnership, Inter-American Development Bank, Rural Water Supply Network, Sanitation and Hygiene Fund, Sanitation and Water for All, Sistema B, Solidarit'Eau, Swiss NGO consortium (Caritas, Fastenopfer, HEKS, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation, Solidar Switzerland, Swissaid, Swiss Red Cross, Foundation Terre des hommes), UN-Water, World Bank, World Health Organisation, World Meteorology Organisation, Young Water Solutions, and other federal offices.

Outcome	Description	Indicators
1.1	Women, men and children have gained access to improved drinking water and sanitation services and adopted good hygiene practices supported by capacitated duty bearers, and by empowered rights holders participating in a meaningful way in shaping policies and finding solutions.	<p>→ Number of female and male beneficiaries from general population²², school learners (females and males), health centre patients (females and males), supported each year to gain access to improved drinking water (SDG 6.1 - ARI WAT 1)</p> <p><u>Baseline (2020)</u>: 0 women and 0 men from general population, 0 women and 0 men from school learners, 0 health centre patients (females and males)</p> <p><u>Target (2024)</u>: 200,000 women and 200,000 men from general population, 20,000 school learners (10,000 men/10,000 women), 100,000 health care facility patients</p> <p>Source: contributions to the Sanitation and Hygiene Fund and to the Swiss Water and Sanitation Consortium</p> <p>→ Number of school learners, health centre patients, female and male beneficiaries supported each year to gain access to sanitation services (6.2 - ARI WAT 2) and adopt good hygiene practices</p> <p><u>Baseline (2020)</u>: 0 women and 0 men from general population, 0 school learners (men/women), 0 health care facility patients (men/women)</p> <p><u>Target (2024)</u>: 200,000 women and 200,000 men from general population, 20,000 school learners (10,000 men/10,000 women), 100,000 health care facility patients</p> <p>Source: contributions to the Sanitation and Hygiene Fund and to the Swiss Water and Sanitation Consortium</p> <p>Global baseline (2017): 2.2 billion people around the world do not have safely managed drinking water services (Drinking water from sources located on premises, free from contamination and available when needed); 4,2 billion people do not have safely managed sanitation services (using hygienic toilets with adequate and safe waste treatment and disposal); and 3 billion people lack basic handwashing facilities (having handwashing facilities with soap and water in the home)</p> <p>Global target (SDG 6.1 & SDG 6.2): By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all. By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.</p> <p>→ Number of countries are supported to fulfil their obligation to provide access to water and sanitation</p> <p><u>Baseline (2020)</u>: 0</p> <p><u>Target (2024)</u>: 50</p> <p>Source: Sanitation and Hygiene Fund, Swiss Water and Sanitation Consortium, Sanitation and Water for All</p>

22 The number of beneficiaries are calculated based on the percentage of the SDC's contributions of the total budget of the supported partners. For example, a programme of a partner benefiting 100,000 people, where the SDC's contribution is 50% of the overall budget, is reported as 50,000 beneficiaries in the SDC's outcome.

Strategic component 2: Water, planet and prosperity



Objective: 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, adaption to climate change and a reduction of pollution.

Theory of change: If the GPW supports agents of change in their efforts to showcase the direct and indirect benefits of water effectiveness and water stewardship to society, the economy and the environment, leading to the development of subsequent policies, and promoting the reduction of pollution in key sectors

then a more responsible use of water resources will improve the health of targeted populations, thereby contributing to human development; furthermore, water resources (quality and quantity) will be preserved allowing sustainable economic growth, mitigating the impact of climate change, and ultimately reducing tensions between users,

because the role of water for sustainable economic growth will be better valued as a cornerstone for reaching the SDGs; hence the need for different consumption and production patterns to be better understood

through inclusive policy dialogues based on reliable and transparent data and information with key stakeholders of water stewardship, advocacy efforts in all major upcoming relevant processes and events at all levels (Food Systems Summit 2021, Mid-Term Review of the Water Action Decade 2023, COP 26, World Water Forum in Dakar, expo Dubai), support to initiatives promoting water protection, preservation and /or reuse within production / consumption processes of specific sectors (textile, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, food & beverages), and monitoring and enforcement of water quality-related laws and regulations.

Contribution to selected sub-objective(s) of the IC strategy 2021–24

- S.O. 3: Addressing climate change and its effects – by improving adaptation to climate change through a more sustainable use of water
- S.O. 4: Ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources – by reducing or avoiding water pollution
- S.O. 10: Promoting good governance and rule of law and strengthening civil society – by supporting the participation of civil societies in rethinking global production systems

Targeted SDGs



Partners

Alliance for Water Stewardship, CDP, Earth Security, El Agua Nos Une partnership, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Strategic Foresight Group, Stockholm International Water Institute, UN Environment Programme, Water Witness International, World Bank, World Economic Forum, World Wildlife Fund, various private sector partners, and other federal offices.

Outcome	Description	Indicators
2.1	Socially, culturally equitable, economically beneficial, environmentally sustainable use of water (water effectiveness/water steward-ship) are implemented jointly by all stake-holders including civil societies, private sector and other agents of change and promoted in key national, regional and global processes.	<p>→ 2.1.1 Effectiveness of existing or newly introduced GPW-supported norms and policy frameworks in the field of water (adapted TRI WAT 1)</p> <p>Baseline (2020): n.a.</p> <p>Target (2024): Policy Framework/ Norms/ Guidance adapted from 2021 onwards</p> <p>Source: Water stewardship programme</p> <p>→ 2.1.2 Number of major international processes where water effectiveness is advocated for</p> <p>Baseline (2020): 0</p> <p>Target (2024): 3</p> <p>Source: Water stewardship programme, GPW annual report on the GPW team's contributions to influence global water-related policies</p>
2.2	Water is preserved and/ or reused, and water pollution avoided or reduced, by supporting solutions finding, including circular economy, in specific production/consump-tion sectors (textile, phar-maceutical, agriculture, food and beverage) to optimise processes towards sustainable use of water resources.	<p>→ 2.2.1 Number of cases built leading to measurable reduction of water pollution used for policy influencing at regional or global levels</p> <p>Baseline (2020): 0</p> <p>Target (2024): 8 (2 per year)</p> <p>Source: project 'Boosting collective action for improved water quality management' (UNEP, WWF, AWS, Carbon disclosure project, Aid by Trade Foundation, Water Witness International, SIWI), circular economy programme</p> <p>Global Baseline: Over 80% of the world's wastewater – and over 95% in some least developed countries – is released to the environment without treatment;</p> <p>Global SDG Target: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimising release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated waste-water and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally</p> <p>→ 2.2.2 The effectiveness of existing policies and legal frameworks in the field of environment (adapted TRI CCE 1)</p> <p>Indicator will be assessed qualitatively</p> <p>Baseline (2020): n.a.</p> <p>Target (2024): Policy Framework/ Norms/ Guidance adapted from 2021 onwards Source: project 'Boosting collective action for improved water quality management' (UNEP, WWF, AWS, Carbon disclosure project, Aid by Trade Foundation, Water Witness International, SIWI), circular economy programme</p>

Strategic component 3: Water and peace



Objective 3: The paradigm of perceiving water as a source of tensions and conflicts has shifted to-wards 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.

Theory of change: If the GPW promotes innovative spaces for water dialogue, supports the development of new financial mechanisms, raises awareness around the role of water infrastructure in conflicts, and capacitates stakeholders in transboundary water arrangement processes, then water cooperation and protection of assets will become more attractive, better accepted and adopted, and ultimately systematised and institutionalised, because key stakeholders involved in water-dependant policy developments and implementation will see the potential for water cooperation to bring about social, environmental, economic and peace benefits beyond water, through innovative cross-border and local sustainable financial mechanisms, the creation of spaces for inclusive regional and local dialogue, reliable data sharing, and programmes for capacity development.

Contribution to selected sub-objective(s) of the IC strategy 2021–24

- S.O. 4: Ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources – by promoting cooperation between countries to manage transboundary water resources
- S.O. 5: Providing emergency aid and ensuring the protection of civilians – by calling for the protection of water-related infrastructure in armed conflicts
- S.O.7: Strengthening equitable access to quality basic services – by facilitating access to financial mechanisms for municipalities to invest in water
- S.O. 8: Preventing conflicts, promoting peace and respect for international law – by promoting water as an instrument of peace and cooperation
- S.O. 10: Promoting good governance and the rule of law and strengthening civil society – by involving local communities in transboundary water arrangements

Targeted SDGs



Partners

CAREC, cewas, Earth Security, the Economic Intelligence Unit, Geneva Water Hub, German-Kazakh University, International Secretariat for Water, IUCN, MICT, OSCE, Pôle Eau Dakar, Turkish Water Institute, UNCDF, UNECE, UNESCO, University of East Anglia, World Youth Parliament for Water, International, Regional, and National Financial Institutions, countries, river basin organisations, municipalities, and other federal offices.

Outcome	Description	Indicators ²³
3.1	Key stakeholders in water diplomacy use innovative spaces for dialogue and inclusive and transparent processes in their efforts towards formalising arrangements for sharing water resources sustainably.	<p>→ Number of processes of peaceful management of water resources in transboundary river basins or aquifer systems or municipalities that increase societies' capacities to resist and mitigate all forms of water-related conflicts and tensions, or that strengthen cooperation mechanism, state-society relationship and social cohesion (adapted TRI FCHR 2)</p> <p>Baseline (2020): 0 Target (2024): At least 20</p> <p>Source: Geneva Water Hub, BRIDGE programme (IUCN), Blue Peace Middle East initiative (Turkish Water Institute, University of East Anglia, cewas, MiCT), Blue Peace Central Asia initiative (German-Kazakh University, CAREC), Blue Peace West Africa (Pôle Eau Dakar, UNCDF)</p> <p>→ Number of global processes and policies offering space and tools for dialogue around water and peace</p> <p>Baseline (2020): 0 Target (2024): 20</p> <p>Source: Geneva Water Hub, UNECE water convention, UNESCO, Blue Peace Index- Economist Intelligence Unit, World Youth Parliament for Water, International Secretariat for Water, Earth Security</p>
3.2	The economic, environmental, social and peace benefits of water cooperation are shown through new sustainable financial mechanisms supporting cross-border, and local cooperation.	<p>→ Number of cases of new financial mechanisms involving cross-border and/or local cooperation established, sustainable investment plans developed and financial means mobilised leading to economic, environmental, social and peace benefits for the countries in the region and/or local communities</p> <p>Baseline (2020): 0 Target (2024): 2</p> <p>Source: Blue Peace Financing programme (UNCDF, Earth Security)</p>
3.3	The need for water-related infrastructure in armed conflicts is recognised through international efforts.	<p>→ Number of key actors trained on international humanitarian laws in reference to the protection of water-related infrastructure in armed conflicts (ARI HA 2)</p> <p>Baseline (2020): 0 Target (2024): 120</p> <p>Source: Geneva Water Hub</p> <p>→ Number of references of the Geneva List of principles on the protection of water infrastructure in key national, regional and global policy and scientific documents and manuals</p> <p>Baseline (2020): 0 Target (2024): 10</p> <p>Source: Geneva Water Hub</p>

23 As water diplomacy processes are lengthy and go beyond the timeframe of this programme framework, ARIs and TRIs could be not used

3.4	Stakeholders participating in water arrangement processes are capacitated in their respective roles to shape policies and implement good practices in water diplomacy and have access to shared, reliable scientific evidence taking into account climate change.	<p>→ 3.4.1 Number of water diplomacy processes benefiting from produced scientific pieces of evidence</p> <p>Baseline (2020): 0 Target (2024): 20</p> <p>Source: Geneva Water Hub, BRIDGE programme (IUCN), UNECE water convention, regional Blue Peace initiatives (Middle East, Central Asia, West Africa)</p> <p>→ 3.4.2 Number of countries benefiting from the GPW supported capacity development in water diplomacy</p> <p>Baseline (2020): 0 Target (2024): 100</p> <p>Source: Geneva Water Hub, BRIDGE programme (IUCN), UNECE water convention, UNESCO, regional Blue Peace initiatives (Middle East, Central Asia, West Africa)</p>
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Strategic component 4: Water voices



Objective 4: 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 of the need to address the global water crisis in national, regional and international agendas within and beyond the water community.

Theory of change: If the GPW supports coordination efforts at multilateral level towards a global governance of water, supports under-represented groups and disruptive actors in raising their voices to make progress towards a better governance of water, and makes Swiss expertise available to find solutions to this global challenge, then actors beyond the water sector will have an increased awareness of the value of having a strong water governance at all levels, leading to effective implementation of sustainable water management because the various voices of water will be less fragmented and better able to reach out to agents of change in their respective sectors through supporting the coordination mechanism of the UN system's action on all water-related issues, providing means to agents of change from a wide range of stakeholders (youth networks, artists, journalists, etc.) and under-represented groups such as women, young people, and marginalised populations, to participate in the shaping of water-related policies, through leveraging Swiss expertise, and through knowledge-sharing in the RésEAU.

Contribution to selected sub-objective(s) of the IC strategy 2021–24

- S.O. 4: Ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources – by having strong voices calling for a global governance of water
- S.O. 8: Preventing conflicts, promoting peace and respect for international law – by having peace actors sensitised to the potential for water to promote peace and cooperation
- S.O. 9: Strengthening and promoting human rights and gender equality – by supporting actors promoting the human rights to water and sanitation
- S.O. 10: Promoting good governance and the rule of law and strengthening civil society – by supporting underrepresented groups to raise their voice at local, national and global levels

Targeted SDGs



Partners

AGUASAN, International Secretariat for Water, RésEAU members, Rural Water Supply Network, Swiss Water Partnership, Water Integrity Network, World Bank Global Water and Sanitation Partnership (GWSP), World Youth Parliament for Water, UN Water (and over 30 UN water-related agencies) artists, journalists, influencers, countries, basin organisations, and municipalities, and other federal offices.

Outcome	Description	Indicators
4.1	The availability and sustainable management of water resources, sanitation and hygiene for all is well positioned in international agendas and in a strong and inclusive multilateral system.	<p>→ 4.1.1 Effectiveness of newly introduced International norms, global policies and political processes influenced and developed in the field of water endorsed by several UN agencies (adapted TRI WAT 1)</p> <p><u>Baseline (2020)</u>: n.a</p> <p><u>Target (2024)</u>: International norms, global policies and political processes adopted from 2021 onwards</p> <p>Source: UN Water</p> <p>→ 4.1.2 Number of water-related global campaigns organised by relevant agencies coordinated by UN Water</p> <p><u>Baseline (2020)</u>: 0</p> <p><u>Target (by 2022)</u>: 20</p> <p>Source: UN Water</p>
4.2	Underrepresented groups and disruptive actors are heard when calling for the recognition of the value of water in its social, cultural, economic and environmental dimensions going beyond the water sector (in particular the economy, food security, climate change, health, and peace) in relevant dialogues and political processes.	<p>→ 4.2.1 Quality and inclusiveness of instruments and institutions for water governance at all levels, measured by geographical representation and stakeholder involvement of under-represented groups and non-conventional actors.</p> <p>Targeted groups will be identified for each initiative and specific baselines and targets developed accordingly</p> <p>→ 4.2.% of the GPW's partners including specific resources lines for supporting the participation of underrepresented groups and inputs from disruptive actors</p> <p><u>Baseline (2020)</u>: 10%</p> <p><u>Target (2024)</u>: 50%</p> <p>Source: Partner's annual reports</p>
4.3	Swiss voice and expertise is clearly recognised and influential in further developing the water sector as well as other interconnected sectors.	<p>→ 4.3.1 Number of initiatives organised by the Swiss Water Partnership and the RésEAU contributing to major global water-related processes and events.</p> <p><u>Baseline (2020)</u>: 0</p> <p><u>Target (2024)</u>: 12 (3 per year)</p> <p>Source: Swiss Water Partnership, ResEau's newsletters</p>

Annex 3: Management and monitoring

Portfolio management

The GPW seeks to consolidate its programme and projects portfolio with the objective of strengthening its expertise, capacity and effectiveness in policy influencing in selected thematic priorities. This means that the overall number of supported projects, programmes, and initiatives shall be significantly reduced by 2024. In the medium term, each component shall encompass a reduced number on average of multi-year flagship programmes. Through its partnership- and coalition-building approach, the GPW will mainly use the contribution modality under the federal subsidy law. Open calls and tenders will be used and launched in particular for the identification of innovation- and knowledge-related programmes. Short-term, time-bound and opportunity-driven actions may complement the flagship programmes, including the GPW's supportive advocacy engagement. Likewise, the number of contracts will be reduced, with the objective of limiting the administrative burden and ensuring sufficient capacity of programme personnel for knowledge-related and concept-based communication and policy advocacy work. As the GPW aims at systemic change and transformation in complex issues such as transboundary water resources management, an important share of the GPW's programmes will have longer-term project cycles (10–15 years). Some supported programmes will however not be time bound a priori, if the aspired outcome is deemed essential to the international water community, and if they can only be financed through global public resources (i.e. global common goods such as knowledge related to water and the platforms for its diffusion). Beyond its commitments, the GPW strives to maintain sufficient financial flexibility throughout the period from 2021 to 2024 to be able to deal with changes in the overall budget and react to upcoming investment opportunities, in line with this programme framework.

Monitoring and evaluation

The GPW's programme framework is subject to regular monitoring to keep track of its relevance, effectiveness and efficiency. Its strategic steering is based on a three-level outcome monitoring system:

1) The thematic and policy context level is monitored through close engagement with partners, and by leveraging knowledge and expertise through the SDC water network RésEAU and the AGUASAN Community of Practice.

2) The result framework level (see annex 2), is done mainly through the annual reporting mechanism and to the best degree and periodicity possible. Results will be measured using also the indicators specific to the related SDGs and outcomes of the SDC's Water Aggregated Reference Indicators (ARI) and Thematic Reference Indicators (TRI). The use of indicators disaggregated by sex and the use of gender responsive indicators will be increased. International norms, policy frameworks, voluntary guidelines and newly generated knowledge can have expected as well as unexpected effects; their impacts on vulnerable peoples' livelihoods are sometimes perceived only after a considerable amount of time has elapsed, and too often do not entirely correspond to what had been conceived at the outset. Strict causality and attribution of such evolvments to the GPW results framework are therefore difficult to report.

Despite the complexity of the chain of effects and the methodological challenges of measuring such results empirically, the GPW is committed to achieve and to account for measurable results, including the use of periodic impact evaluations at thematic level. Annual reporting will continue to use anecdotal, non-systematic, descriptive methods to account for achieved results in particular for outcomes that cannot be measured quantitatively. A backstopping arrangement is put in place to strengthen the GPW's capacity to compile, monitor and account for results.

3) The programme/project level is done mainly through annual programme and project monitoring and reporting, but also through periodic project and programme evaluations. In addition, the GPW will provide strategic steering at programme and project level through active engagement in steering mechanisms.

The GPW uses a periodic peer-review mechanism as well, which ensures the relevance, insight, coherence and influencing power of the GPW portfolio as well as an efficient and effective implementation of its framework.



Annex 4: Financial planning 2021–24
Programme framework of the Global Programme Water

Annual budget allocation according to components (tentative), in CHF

	source	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021–24	in %
Component 1: Water, sanitation and hygiene for people	bilateral	11,210,000	10,030,000	9,735,000	10,030,000	41,005,000	35%
Component 2: Water, planet and prosperity	bilateral	5,010,000	5,010,000	6,490,000	5,600,000	22,110,000	19%
Component 3: Water and peace	bilateral	9,440,000	10,030,000	7,960,000	8,260,000	35,690,000	30%
Component 4: Water voices	bilateral	3,540,000	4,130,000	5,015,000	5,310,000	17,995,000	15%
Other components, e.g. outphasing General	bilateral	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	1,200,000	1%
Total budget allocation		29,500,000	29,500,000	29,500,000	29,500,000	118,000,000	100%

Annual budget allocation (tentative), in CHF

	source	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021–24	in %
Global Programme Water	bilateral	29,500,000	29,500,000	29,500,000	29,500,000	118,000,000	100%
Multilateral cooperation	multi-lateral	–	–	–	–	–	0%
Total budget allocation		29,500,000	29,500,000	29,500,000	29,500,000	118,000,000	

Annex 5: Transversal themes

INTEGRATING GOVERNANCE INTO THE WATER SECTOR A PRACTICAL GUIDE

About this document

- Context: This guide is one in a series written to support SDC staff in integrating governance in SDC's priority themes/sectors – in this case, water. It is related to SDC's Guideline on Integrating Governance (available [here](#)).
- Content: The document outlines [key governance issues](#) regarding the water sector¹ and provides [practical guidance](#) on how to integrate governance aspects into sector and cooperation strategies, programs/project planning, [implementation, monitoring and reporting](#). It provides a summary of [good practice projects](#) as well as an overview over water governance [related tools and references](#).
- Target audience: The document is written for SDC staff and its partner organizations

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Introduction

The significance of water and water governance

Water forms the basis of all life on Earth and is essential for sustainable development. Water is a habitat and a source of essential sustenance, a prerequisite for fostering livelihood, supporting economic growth and ensuring the integrity of ecosystems. Water is both a common good of overriding public interest as well as a limited natural resource, at the focus of **different uses** and competed for by a **multiplicity of users**. The use of water encompasses urban and rural, national as well as transboundary challenges and implies linkages across sectors such as agriculture, environment, energy, water and sanitation and health. This makes **governance of the water sector** particularly complex and challenging with a very crowded stakeholder space and often complex and contradictory policies and legal frameworks. The competition among different stakeholders often happens to the detriment of the poor and less powerful population groups, which obstructs the ambitions for inclusive development and just societies. This calls for additional targeted measures for more inclusive policies and functional power relations.

¹ In this document, the term "water sector" is used in a broad sense and refers to all institutions, actors, as well as the legal frameworks and socio-cultural aspects related to water. Specifically "water sector" includes also sanitation, but not only refers to the WASH sector, which is rather understood as a sub-sector of the water sector.

Governance: Water is a common good of public interest as well as a limited natural resource, which is used in different ways by multiple users with competing interests. The use of water encompasses urban and rural, national, transboundary as well as global challenges. It implies linkages across sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, environment, energy, water and sanitation, and health. This makes governance of the water sector particularly challenging, given that it involves many stakeholders and often complex and contradictory policies and legal frameworks. Competition for water resources often happens to the detriment of the vulnerable and less powerful population groups, which impedes progress towards inclusive development and fair societies. This calls for additional targeted measures for more inclusive policies, functional power relations, and strong global governance of water. The SDC has developed a practical guide to integrate governance at all levels into the water sector²⁴.

²⁴ https://www.shareweb.ch/site/DDLG/NDocuments/2019_Integrating_Governance_into_Water_FINAL_english_version.pdf.

Gender and Water

Photocredit: Pierre Kötter, Puits dans le village de Tounzourawa, zone de Dankassari, Niger

SDC GUIDANCE SHEET

Prepared by
the Gender Equality Network
and RésEAU

August 2019

This thematic guidance sheet is one in a series written to support SDC staff in ensuring that gender issues are taken into account transversally in different thematic domains - in this case water. This guidance note illustrates key issues regarding gender in water such as:

Women and girls are responsible for water collection in 80% of households without access to water on premises.

Women are underrepresented as professionals in water management and governance, only seven percent of all ministers of water and natural resources are women and women are under-represented at lower levels of decision making.

The purpose of this note is to guide reflections. It is not a checklist.

Gender: Women and girls traditionally bear the responsibility for water and hygiene practices in the family. They are also important actors in sustainable development, e.g. as producers, entrepreneurs, employees and consumers. The participation of women and girls in decision-making can also lead to more balanced, innovative problem-solving approaches²⁵. However, insufficient consideration of gender-specific needs, limiting social norms, legal obstacles and under-representation in decision-making bodies and management positions prevent women from realising their full potential. Women are under-represented as professionals in water management and governance, with only 7% of all ministers of water and natural resources being female. They are also under-represented at lower levels of decision-making²⁶. The SDC has developed a Water and Gender Guidance sheet that supports the integration of gender in the GPW's portfolio²⁷.

²⁵ McKinsey Global Institute Report (2015) finds that USD12 trillion could be added to global GDP by 2025 by advancing women's equality. See: <https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/employment-and-growth/how-advancing-womens-equality-can-add-12-trillion-to-global-growth>.

²⁶ <https://www.watergovernance.org/focus-area-post/gender/>.

²⁷ [https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Gender/Documents/Gendernet%20Toolbox/Thematic/Gender%20Water%20EN%20190910%20web%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Gender/Documents/Gendernet%20Toolbox/Thematic/Gender%20Water%20EN%20190910%20web%20(1).pdf).

Annex 6: Glossary

The GPW uses the following working definitions of selected key concepts and approaches:

Blue Peace Movement

Water is a powerful instrument for cooperation and peace promotion. Blue Peace refers to water cooperation across borders, sectors and generations with the aim of fostering peace, stability and sustainable development. This can take the form of shared institutions and legal frameworks, bringing countries together in a commitment to resolve differences peacefully – and to use their shared water as a foundation for wider economic and diplomatic collaboration. Blue Peace turns competition for limited freshwater resources into collaboration, resulting in more peaceful, cohesive and sustainable societies.

The Blue Peace approach:

- Reduces or averts conflicts over water;
- Provides opportunities for further cooperation between countries, sectors and communities by using water as an entry point to encourage broader dialogue and increase mutual trust.

This growing global movement aims to develop a culture of cooperation and peace and preserve precious freshwater resources, while achieving equitable and sustainable use of water across boundaries, sectors and generations. This movement promotes solutions from international organisations, governmental agencies, the private sector, NGOs, research institutes, artists and young people.

Using a variety of diplomatic, political, technical and financial tools, the Blue Peace movement advocates for creative and innovative thinking on how to use, manage and invest in water resources.

In practice, Blue Peace is advanced when different stakeholders come together to make equitable decisions about, and invest in, shared water resources to promote cooperation and peace.

Blue Peace uses various instruments to reduce tensions over shared water resources, and promote water cooperation to support peace and stability, such as:

- Diplomatic: Creating a safe space for dialogue, encouraging exchange, promoting inclusiveness;
- Political: Constructing a common understanding of trans-boundary water resources management, and encouraging transparency, accountability and data-driven decision-making across all levels of government;
- Technical: Building capacity and sharing data that feeds into decision-making processes, as well as providing new techniques and technologies;
- Financial (‘Blue Peace Financing’): Developing innovative financial tools that facilitate cross-sectoral and transboundary investment in water.

This ensures that decision-makers have the technical expertise, political support and financial investments required to manage water in a peaceful, equitable and sustainable way.

Circular economy

A circular economy (often referred to simply as ‘circularity’) is an economic system aimed at eliminating waste and the continual use of resources. Circular systems employ reuse, sharing, repair, refurbishment, remanufacturing and recycling to create a closed-loop system, minimising the use of resource inputs and the creation of waste, pollution and carbon emissions. A circular economy aims to keep products, equipment and infrastructure in use for longer, thus improving the productivity of these resources. All ‘waste’ should become ‘food’ for another process, either as a by-product or recovered resource for another process serving human needs, or as regenerative resources for nature (e.g. compost). This regenerative approach is in contrast to the traditional linear economy, which has a ‘take, make, dispose’ model of production.

Human rights to water and sanitation

The human rights to water and sanitation are a legal obligation which have to be progressively realised. The human right to safe drinking water entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use. The human right to sanitation entitles everyone in all spheres of life and in all settings, without discrimination, to have physical and affordable access to sanitation that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable, and provides privacy and ensures dignity. The Human Rights to Water and Sanitation were fully recognised in 2010 by the UN General Assembly (*A/RES/64/292*) and the Human Rights Council (*A/HRC/RES/15/9*). Moreover, the human right to sanitation was explicitly recognised as a distinct right by the UN General Assembly in 2015.

Human rights chiefly concern the relationship between the individual and the State. Governmental obligations with regard to human rights can broadly be categorised in terms of obligations to respect, protect, and fulfil.

Respect: The obligation to respect requires that States Parties (governments ratifying a treaty) refrain from interfering directly or indirectly with the enjoyment of the rights to water and sanitation.

Protect: The obligation to protect requires that States Parties prevent third parties such as corporations from interfering in any way with the enjoyment of the rights to water and sanitation.

Fulfil: The obligation to fulfil requires that States Parties adopt the necessary measures to achieve the full realisation of the rights to water and sanitation.

The GPW has made sustainable access for all to affordable water and sanitation services of good quality one of its priorities over the past years. It has been a strong advocate for the recognition of water and sanitation as fundamental human rights. The GPW calls for faster implementation of these rights and supports partner countries in making the necessary systemic changes to achieve the water-related 2030 SDGs. Sustainable access for all to water, sanitation and hygiene services also supports the achievement of other SDGs and Human Rights (to adequate food, to health including environmental health, to education through access to good quality learning environments, etc.). It contributes to human development and economic stability. Sustainable access for all to water, sanitation and hygiene services should be resilient to crises, including systemic ones (such as pandemics and climate change), and should be a cornerstone of crisis prevention, mitigation and response.

In the event of competing demands (domestic, industrial, or agricultural use) for scarce resources, the basic necessities for life and health (i.e. drinking water) shall be prioritised in line with the human rights to water and sanitation.

Human rights to water and sanitation and pricing

The rights to water and sanitation do not imply the right to free services. These services have a real cost. It is the responsibility of public authorities to ensure that the population has access to these services at an affordable price – now and in the future. This has been recognised by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation in his report on affordability (*A/HRC/30/39*).

‘The human rights framework recognises that revenues have to be raised in order to ensure universal access to services. If everyone obtained water and sanitation free of charge, that could actually harm low-income households by depriving governments and service providers of the revenue needed to expand and maintain the service, posing a risk to the overall economic sustainability of the system or to the State’s capacity to protect and fulfil other human rights. Moreover, where a policy provides free water distributed through utility networks, this tends only to benefit those who have access

to a formal water supply. As the majority of vulnerable and marginalised individuals and groups in developing countries do not enjoy access to a formal water supply, they will not be able to access free water provided by utilities. From a human rights perspective, public funds need to be directed towards extension of services for the most disadvantaged and for ensuring that such services are affordable. Where people face an inability to pay, the human rights framework indeed requires free services that must be financed through sources other than user contributions. To ensure both affordability and financial sustainability, States must look beyond tariffs toward a broader system for financing water and sanitation services, including taxes and transfers, and cross-subsidisation through public finance or tariff systems’.

Integrated water resource management (IWRM)

IWRM is a process that promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximise economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems.

The IWRM approach involves: an integrated, trans-sectoral approach to water; the sustainable management of water resources which ensures that water resources are available for future generations; recognition that water is a valuable resource, with its value reflected in how it is used; and a participatory approach to water resources management involving stakeholders, to ensure equity as well as efficiency in water use.

Planetary boundaries: Freshwater consumption and the global hydrological cycle

The planetary boundaries concept presents a set of nine planetary boundaries within which humanity can continue to develop and thrive for generations to come. Freshwater is one of them.

The freshwater cycle is strongly affected by climate change and its boundary is closely linked to the climate boundary, yet human pressure is now the dominant driving force determining the functioning and distribution of global freshwater systems. The consequences of human modification of water bodies include both global-scale river flow changes and shifts in vapour flows arising from land use change. These shifts in the hydrological system can be abrupt and irreversible. Water is becoming increasingly scarce: by 2050, about half a billion people are likely to be subject to water-stress, increasing the pressure to intervene in water systems. A water boundary related to consumptive freshwater use and environmental flow requirements has been proposed to maintain the overall resilience of the Earth system and to avoid the risk of ‘cascading’ local and regional thresholds.

Private sector engagement

The 2030 Agenda calls for a global partnership of all stakeholders willing to invest in sustainable development to reach the SDGs. The private sector, ranging from small- and medium-sized enterprises up to multinationals, is a key stakeholder in this global partnership. Engaging with the private sector has the potential to increase outreach and higher development impact. The GPW engages in a flexible and selective manner in partnerships with the private sector. These engagements can include different forms of cooperation such as public-private development partnerships, joint ventures on blended financing, impact investments, or support of social entrepreneurship. Engagements are considered with local, national, international and Swiss-based private sector actors ready to work under a common vision, striving for clear development objectives in the spirit of the SDGs, and respectful of the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation.

Private sector participation

The participation of the private sector in the provision of water supplies, irrigation and sanitation services has attracted a lot of attention as a way to solve some of the systemic issues of service delivery.

The basis for advocating for private sector participation (PSP) is the recognition that private commercial companies tend to operate services with greater efficiency than government-run utilities, while managing to recover their costs. The level of development and the suitability of private sector institutions in different settings will strongly influence the form of private sector participation.

Options are wide-ranging, from minimum private sector involvement, which could consist of contracting out the management of certain major installations, to full divestiture of responsibility for capital investment, operations, and commercial risk to autonomous water companies.

However, introducing marketplace economics into public health engineering has implications which have provoked considerable controversy, especially after a long period in which the provision of water and sanitation services has been primarily regarded throughout the world as a public service to be provided from the public purse, or at least heavily subsidised.

The key issue is how to set up institutional arrangements that allow the commercial sector freedom to introduce market-place efficiencies while guaranteeing access to services to those communities – by definition the poorest and least able to exercise influence politically or in the marketplace – who are already underserved and most at risk from public health hazards.

In private sector participation processes, the state remains the owner of water resources. It can delegate the distribution and management of water to private companies, but must retain the responsibility of guaranteeing social equity to those for whom services are provided.

Privatisation

A process in which the government transfers state-owned industries (e.g. water, electricity) to the private sector. This usually involves an offer for sale of shares in an industry to the general public. This is not to be confused with the provision of services by a private sector entity under an agreement with public authorities.

Public-Private Partnerships

An agreement between the public sector and a private sector entity, whereby both parties share risks, responsibilities, and in some cases investments. Inviting the participation of the private sector has recently been recognised as a means of making water supply and sanitation services more efficient and cost-effective, while raising revenue to improve long-term sustainability and generate investment for new infrastructure. Engaging with the private sector can release public funds for other development activities and reduce administrative burdens. Developing countries can also benefit from the knowhow of commercial companies specialised in public services management. The involvement of the commercial private sector can help underline the value of the natural resource and – if given appropriate incentives – can also encourage measures to protect and preserve freshwater supplies.

A balanced partnership between public authorities and the private sector requires that their respective roles be clearly defined within a legal framework. The level of development of the country, including the level of skills and capacities within the commercial sector, and the nature of institutions in water-related sectors, will strongly influence the form of public-private partnerships.

Social entrepreneurship

According to the Water and Sanitation Entrepreneurship Pact (SWEPE), entrepreneurs are ‘formal or informal entities delivering market-based activities in water, sanitation and hygiene as well as related areas such as irrigation, hydroelectricity, etc.. These activities can include (but are not limited to) providing operational services (e.g. collection, treatment, distribution, etc.), building infrastructure (e.g. drilling, mini-grid, treatment plants, sanitation facilities, etc.) or developing, sale and distribution of products (e.g. filters, pumps, etc.). The entities can be (impact-driven) businesses or not-for-profit organisations (NGOs) with business revenue’. The GPW supports social entrepreneurship as a complementary solution towards achieving the human rights to water and sanitation.

Transformative change in water²⁸

Transformative change means doing things differently, not just a little more or less of something that is already being done. Truly transformative change is change that becomes sweeping. It often starts small, but it is strategic. It includes individual decisions to help start or build new social norms, and the legal changes that unlock all kinds of other change. Blue Peace financing, for example, strives for such transformative change across sectors and boundaries, bringing together an array of stakeholders including governments from neighbouring countries, civil society and private sector to cooperate in a new way through innovative rules, norms and incentives for positive and sustained development outcomes. Transformative change is the process whereby positive development results are achieved and sustained over time by institutionalising policies, programmes and projects within international and national development strategies. It should be noted that this embodies the concept of institutionally sustained results – consistency of achievement over time. This is in order to exclude short-term, transitory impact.

Virtual water

The concept of Virtual Water was coined to replace the term ‘embedded water’, which had little impact.

Virtual water is the amount of water required for the production of food or other products.

Trade in virtual water allows water-scarce countries to import products that necessitate high volumes of water and export products that necessitate little water, thus making water available for other purposes.

Including virtual water as a policy option requires a thorough understanding of the impact of virtual water trade on the local, social, environmental, economic and cultural situation. Local, national and regional food security should be underpinned by appropriate agreements in agricultural products trade, while respecting a nation’s right to food sovereignty.

Water as a common good and a public good

In the popular meaning, the common good describes a specific ‘good’ that is shared and beneficial for all (or most) members of a given community. This is also how the common good is broadly defined in philosophy, ethics, and political science. However, in economics, the term ‘common good’ is used to refer to a competitive non-excludable good. In common usage, ‘public good’ is often incorrectly associated with ‘common good,’ or with such value-based goals as social equity, social justice and environmental sustainability. Its definition in economic theory is narrower, more precise, and contrasted specifically to ‘private good.’ A private good is one whose individual consumption is both excludable (my use of the good is not dependent on others’ use) and rivalrous (my use of the good could preclude use by another). This characterises most market-based commercial/ commodity exchanges.

A public good is one that is non-excludable (all people have unimpeded access to it and can profit from it) and – in its pure form – non-rivalrous (the individual consumption of the good does not restrict that by another individual). Strictly speaking according to economics theory, common pool resources such as water do not qualify as public goods since their use is not non-rivalrous and use by one person does affect the use by others.

Water should be considered as a composite good combining elements of public and private goods. Water does possess an important characteristic of a public good, i.e. non-excludability – since the consequences of denying access would be culturally and politically unacceptable to much of mankind.



²⁸ Adapted from: IPBES, 2020. What Is Transformative Change, and How Do We Achieve It, and UNDP, 2011. Supporting Transformation Change. Case studies of sustained and successful development cooperation.

Water ownership and use might be classified as ‘a good belonging to and managed by a community’. Water should therefore be considered as a ‘common good’ that qualifies for both private and communal ownership and use. This would allow for a wide range of water management systems that can suit various socio-economic, ecological and ethical conditions.

Water efficiency and water effectiveness

Water efficiency is a multi-faceted concept. It means ‘doing more and better with less’ by obtaining more value out of available resources, reducing resource consumption and the pollution and environmental impact of water use for the production of goods and services at every stage of the value chain and of water service provision. Improving water efficiency means increasing water productivity, i.e. reducing the intensity of water use and pollution from socio-economic activities, through maximising the value of the uses of water. This can be done by improving the allocation of water among competing water uses while ensuring environmental flows so as to obtain greater socio-economic value per drop of water and improving the technical efficiency of water services and the management efficiency of water services provision over their complete life cycle.

Water Use Efficiency (WUE) at national level is the sum of the efficiencies in all major economic sectors weighted according to the proportion of water withdrawn by each sector over total withdrawals.

Whereas increasing water use efficiency through the reduction of the water footprint of a certain good or service is crucial for enhancing water security, the concept has its limits. Firstly, it does not sufficiently include social, ecological, cultural and religious (non-monetary) values of water. Furthermore, it neglects the inter-connectedness of water with other sustainable development goals, including other ecological, economic and social impacts of the world’s current production and consumption systems of goods and services, as the local water cycle is shaped by global processes, and local hydrological changes can have global consequences. Achieving a water-secure world requires systemic change, including land system change and the adaptation of global supply chains to physical hydrological conditions and other ecological, socio-economic and ethical considerations (e.g. trade-offs between global CO2 budget and local water availability). This can be supported by the promotion and integration of circular economy models and the incorporation of broader effects of water use at all levels (from local to global) into decision-making regarding production and consumption.

Water footprint

The water footprint is an indicator of freshwater use that looks at both direct and indirect water use of a consumer or producer. The water footprint of an individual, community or business is defined as the total volume of freshwater used to produce the goods and services consumed by the individual or community, or produced by the business. Water use is measured in terms of water volumes consumed (evaporated or incorporated into a product) and/or polluted per unit of time. A water footprint can be calculated for a particular product, for any well-defined group of consumers (for example, an individual, family, village, city, province, state or nation) or producers (for example, a public organisation, private enterprise or economic sector). The water footprint is a geographically explicit indicator, showing not only volumes of water use and pollution, but also the locations. (*Definition by the Water Footprint Network*).

Water in the 2030 Agenda

The programme framework of the GPW is fully embedded in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which was adopted in September 2015, including Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 to *ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*.

SDG 6 includes eight global targets, covering the entire water cycle: provision of drinking water (6.1) and sanitation and hygiene services (6.2), treatment and reuse of wastewater and improving water quality (6.3), water-use efficiency and scarcity (6.4), IWRM including through transboundary cooperation (6.5), protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems (6.6), international cooperation and capacity-building (6.a) and participation in water and sanitation management (6.b).

An integrated approach to the 2030 Agenda recognises that most aspects of society, development, sustainable growth and the environment are interconnected and dependent. Hence, progress towards SDG 6 can enable and drive progress in most other SDGs; equally, the success of SDG 6 will also depend on most other SDGs meeting their targets (*SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation*).

Through the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 (IMI-SDG6), the United Nations seek to support countries in monitoring water- and sanitation-related issues within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in compiling country data to report on global progress towards SDG 6.

IMI-SDG6, coordinated by UN Water, brings together the United Nations organisations that are formally mandated to compile country data on the SDG 6 global indicators (WMO, WHO, UNICEF, UN Environment, UN-Habitat, UNESCO, UNECE, FAO), and builds on ongoing efforts such as the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP), the Global Environment Monitoring System for Water (GEMS/Water), FAO’s Global Information System on Water and Agriculture (AQUASTAT) and UN-Water’s Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS).

Water ownership

It is important to distinguish between ownership of water, and the right to have access to water and use it. Regulation of the resource can only arise out of the recognition, explicit or implicit, that the government has the right to manage the resource for the public good. Most governments expressly own water, and the protection of the resource is therefore a public function to which individual rights are subservient. The right to use water is based either on customary or statutory claims. In order to be regulated, these must be clearly identified. Customary rights may include the right to expropriate, use or trade water; based on these, systems of community ownership or use and water charges can be built. While building upon existing systems is often the surest and most acceptable route to implementation, systems based only on customary rights may not be able to ensure efficient and equitable allocation of a scarce resource. A water legal framework needs not only mechanisms for ensuring access to water (water rights) but also a system of obligations regarding usage and control of the levying of water charges by individuals (restriction of rights).

Water security

A water-secure world is at the core of the GPW vision.

The GPW uses the working definition of UN-Water, which has defined water security as ‘the capacity of a population to safeguard sustainable access to adequate quantities of and acceptable quality water for sustaining livelihoods, human well-being, and socio-economic development, for ensuring protection against water-borne pollution and water-related disasters, and for preserving ecosystems in a climate of peace and political stability’ (UN-Water, 2013).

According to this definition, in a water-secure world, water has to be managed sustainably throughout the water cycle and within planetary boundaries, taking into account its multi-dimensionality, interconnectedness and dynamic dimensions and its potential for socio-economic development and economic, ecological and societal resilience to environmental impacts and water-borne diseases, without compromising the present and future health of populations and ecosystems.

Water stewardship

The GPW uses the definition of the Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS), which has defined water stewardship as ‘the use of water that is socially equitable, environmentally sustainable and economically beneficial, achieved through a stakeholder-inclusive process that involves both site and catchment-level actions.’ Growing populations and economies, evolving lifestyles and global climate change are putting increasing pressures on water resources. To become good water stewards, major water users, including cities, businesses, farmers and communities, need to understand their own water use and impacts, and to work collaboratively and transparently with others for sustainable water management within the catchment to achieve shared water security goals.

Water use and consumption

‘Water use’ describes the total amount of water withdrawn from its source to be used. ‘Water consumption’ is the portion of water use that is not returned to the original water source after being withdrawn. Consumption occurs when water is lost into the atmosphere through evaporation or incorporated into a product or plant and is no longer available for reuse.



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Editor:

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

3003 Bern

www.sdc.admin.ch

Specialist contact:

Global Programme Water

E-mail: water@eda.admin.ch

www.sdc.admin.ch

Maps and infographics: Zoï Environment Network

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