



# Clean Water and Sanitation





Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



Access to clean water is a human right. Ensuring access to clean water and sanitation is usually a responsibility of local governments, and relies on effective local governance, natural resource management, and urban planning



The UN explains: "Clean water is a basic human need, and one that should be easily accessible to all. There is sufficient fresh water on the planet to achieve this. However, due to poor infrastructure, investment and planning, every year millions of people – most of them children – die from diseases associated with inadequate water supply, sanitation and hygiene."

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the critical importance of sanitation, hygiene and adequate access to clean water for preventing and containing diseases. Hand hygiene saves lives. According to the World Health Organization, handwashing is one of the most effective actions you can take to reduce the spread of pathogens and prevent infections, including the COVID-19 virus. Yet billions of people still lack safe water sanitation, and funding is inadequate.

## Global status of indicator 6.1.1 Proportion of population using safety managed drinking water services (2022)





## Global status of indicator 6.2.1 Proportion of population using safety managed sanitation services (2022)









#### Facts and Figures



- As per latest estimates, 73% of the world's population use safely managed drinking water services, increasing from 69% in 2015.
- However, over 2.2 billion people across the globe don't have access to safely managed drinking water including 703 million without a basic water facility.
- Globally, 1.8 billion people lived in households that didn't have drinking water supply on premises in 2022.
  - In 7 out 10 of such households, girls and women aged 15 and above were primarily responsible for fetching water.
  - Girls under 15 years of age (7%) are also more likely than boys under 15 (4%) to fetch water.
  - Women and girls often must make long journeys to fetch water. They lose time in education, employment, and leisure owing to this while also exposing themselves to physical harm and other dangers in the way.
  - In 2022, over 1.7 billion people globally use a drinking water source contaminated with faces, posing a threat to their health and safety.
- 800,000 women and girls lose their lives every year due to the lack of clean water.

 57% of the global population have access to safely managed sanitation services, increasing from 49% in 2015.



- Despite the progress, over 3.5 billion people live without access to safely managed sanitation services including 1.5 billion without even basic sanitation facilities such as toilets and latrines.
- Access to basic hygiene services increased from 67% in 2015 to 75% in 2022.
- 2 billion people lack basic handwashing facilities with soap and water at home, including 653 million with no handwashing facility at all.
- Sub-Saharan Africa is the farthest behind all regions across the world in terms of water, sanitation and hygiene with only marginal improvement in the indicators since 2000.
- In Sub-Saharan Africa, only 31% of the population have access to safely managed drinking water and only 24% of the population have access to safely managed sanitation services.
- Approximately, 1 million people die each year from diarrhoea caused by unsafe drinking water, sanitation and hand hygiene. These are preventable deaths. 395,000 children under 5 years of age can be saved each year if these risk factors are addressed.
- About 58% of household wastewater (based on data from 140 countries) was safely treated in 2022. The household wastewater that is not
  properly treated ends up damaging human health and ecosystems.
- Given that data is available only from 140 countries and reporting in low, especially from industrial sources, the lack of data poses a risk to more than 3 billion people living in areas where freshwater quality is unknown.
- Where data is available, 60% of water bodies assessed in 97 countries had good ambient quality of water.
- Only 11% of the total wastewater from domestic and industrial sources are currently reused.

• The untapped potential of wastewater reuse is approximately 320 billion m3 per year. It has the potential supply 10x times more than the current global desalination capacity.



- Mismanagement of transboundary water and lack of operational arrangements and cooperation over transboundary water is a cause for water stress and conflict. Not just that, it threatens to interfere with the achievement of other SDG targets such as food, energy, peace, climate, life on land and below water, and so on.
- Transboundary waters account for 60% of the world's freshwater flows and 153 countries have territory within at least one of the 286 transboundary river and lake basins and 592 transboundary aquifer systems.
  - Only 32 countries have 90% or more of their transboundary basin area covered by operational arrangements.
  - Only 24 countries report that all their transboundary basins are covered by cooperation arrangements.
- Over 2 billion people live in countries under water stress.
- 3.6 billion people face inadequate access to water at least one month per year.
- Even though global water stress levels were at a safe level of 18.2% in 2020, the regional disparities are vast.
  - Central and Southern Asia experience high water stress levels of over 75%
  - Northern Africa faces critical water stress, surpassing 100%
- Improving water use efficiency in agriculture and industries is critical to reducing the water stress levels.
- Water-related ecosystems provide clean water, regulate floods & droughts, and support biodiversity. But these ecosystems are threatened by factors like pollution, climate change and overexploitation.
  - About 20% of the world's river basins are experiencing rapid changes in the area covered by surface water.
  - Wetland ecosystems have experienced an alarming 85% loss in the past 300 years.
  - 81% of species dependent on inland wetlands have declined since 1970.







6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

**6.2** 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



**6.3** By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally

**6.4** By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity

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

6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

**6.A** By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programs, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies

6.B Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management







How do we achieve the **#GlobalGoals** by 2030?



Mobilize everyone, everywhere

Demand urgency and ambition

Design new innovations and solutions

#### SUSTAINABLE G ALS

