

**Sustainable Development Goal 6**  
Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation

2018

**6 CLEAN WATER  
AND SANITATION**



United Nations



Sustainable Development Goal 6  
Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation

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United Nations at a glance

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## THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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# FOREWORD

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Water is life. Progress in nutrition, health, education, work, equality, environmental protection and international cooperation are all related to the availability and sustainable management of water and universal access to effective systems for disposing of our waste.

These are the objectives of Sustainable Development Goal 6. If we remain off track to deliver on SDG 6 then we jeopardize the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Yet, today, billions of people still lack access to safe water and sanitation, resulting in needless deaths, chronic disease, missed education and reduced productivity.

At the same time, demand for water -- from agriculture and industry as well as domestic use -- is rapidly rising and water pollution and ecosystem degradation are being made worse by increasing amounts of untreated wastewater. And all of this is happening against a backdrop of climate change, which is playing havoc with the predictability of our most precious resource.

What this report makes clear is that we must tackle weak funding, planning, capacity and governance of water and sanitation services as a top priority. New partnerships are needed, involving stakeholders within and beyond the water and sanitation sectors, to address these fundamental issues, balance competing needs, and act to get SDG 6 back on track. Data and smart technologies must be embraced so interventions can be as effective as possible and progress tracked over time.

The High-Level Panel on Water convened by the United Nations and the World Bank Group issued their final report *Making Every Drop Count* on World Water Day. The report's recommendations set forth a global agenda for water action to help countries reach the SDG 6 targets.

As we intensify our efforts to achieve SDG 6 and advance implementation of the International Decade for Action on Water, we should be guided and inspired by the fact that our work will lay the foundations for a healthier, fairer, more stable, equitable and prosperous world. The United Nations stands ready to support countries and their partners to achieve SDG 6 across the globe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'António Guterres'.

António Guterres

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