



## SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



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### An Overview

Clean, accessible water for all is an essential part of the world we want to live in and there is sufficient fresh water on the planet to achieve this. However, millions of people including children die every year from diseases associated with inadequate water supply, sanitation and hygiene (SDG 3). The proportion of the global population using an improved drinking water source has improved but 3 in 10 people still lack access to safely managed drinking water services, and 6 in 10 people lack access to safely managed sanitation facilities - at least 892 million people continue to practice open defecation. Each day, nearly 1,000 children die due to preventable water and sanitation-related diarrheal diseases and more than 80% of wastewater resulting from human activities is discharged into rivers or sea without any pollution removal, impacting ecosystems (SDG 14) and human health (SDG 3).

Water provision also impacts gender equality (SDG 5). Women and girls are responsible for water collection in 80% of households without access to water on premises, impacting access to education (SDG 4) and employment (SDG 8).

Water scarcity affects more than 40% of the global population and is projected to rise due to the impacts of climate change (SDG 13) and unsustainable agricultural practices (SDG 2) - approximately 70% of all water abstracted from rivers, lakes and aquifers is used for irrigation. Water scarcity issues are set to worsen due to the impacts of climate change (SDG 13). Over 1.7 billion people are currently living in river basins where water use exceeds recharge and by 2050, at least one in four people is likely to live in a country affected by chronic or recurring shortages of fresh water. Drought afflicts some of the world's poorest countries, worsening hunger and malnutrition (SDG 2), whereas floods and other water-related disasters account for 70% of all deaths related to natural disasters (SDG 11). Water, sanitation and careful management are essential to saving lives and achieving all of the SDGs.

### SDG 6 Keywords

This list is comprised of the Scopus queries generated by Elsevier in order to identify research that supports SDG 6, as part of the assessment undertaken by the global THE Impact League.

safe water access / drinking water	clean drinking water / water source	water sanitation and hygiene	water-use efficiency
water supply	clean water	hygienic toilet	anti-fouling membrane
water management	aquatic (eco)toxicology	freshwater water quality	wastewater treatment
water security	water shortage	water conservation	water footprint
water infrastructure	water pollution	water purification	water use
water, ecosystems and endocrine disruptors	pollution remediation	pollutant removal	groundwater/ freshwater and water pollution
freshwater availability	water scarcity	open defecation	blue/ green/ grey / black water

### SDG 6 Targets & Indicators

Consider if your research could support a specific target in order to maximise impact.

TARGETS		INDICATORS	
<b>6.1</b>	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	<b>6.1.1</b>	Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services
<b>6.2</b>	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	<b>6.2.1</b>	Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water
<b>6.3</b>	By 2030, improve water quality by reducing	<b>6.3.1</b>	Proportion of wastewater safely treated

	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	<b>6.3.2</b>	Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality
<b>6.4</b>	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	<b>6.4.1</b>	Change in water-use efficiency over time
		<b>6.4.2</b>	Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources
<b>6.5</b>	By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate	<b>6.5.1</b>	Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100)
		<b>6.5.2</b>	Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation
<b>6.6</b>	By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes	<b>6.6.1</b>	Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time
<b>6.A</b>	By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies	<b>6.A.1</b>	Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan
<b>6.B</b>	Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management	<b>6.B.1</b>	Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management

#### Useful Links

- [Water Action Decade, 2018-2028](#)
- [UN-Water](#)
- [World Water Assessment Programme](#)
- [UNESCO Water](#)
- [UNDP Water and Ocean Governance](#)
- [UN Water for Life Decade](#)
- [UN-HABITAT Water and Sanitation](#)
- [A Post-2015 Global Goal for Water: Recommendations from UN-Water](#)
- [Water and Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- [Information briefs on water and sustainable development](#)
- [UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication](#)
- [UN Water and Sanitation Best Practices Platform](#)
- [Water Action Decade](#)