



unicef 

for every child

Water Security for All: Proposal for Action

An investment opportunity for the private
and public sectors

By 2030
the world has committed to achieving universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

The opportunity

Children need many different elements to survive, grow and develop to their full potential – from health care and nutrition, to education and protection. But there is one vital resource that cuts across all of these elements: water.

Water is vital for children’s survival. It supports their physical development and good nutrition. It enables them to focus in the classroom. And it improves livelihood opportunities for their communities, protecting them from risks of child marriage and child labour.

Water’s connection to all these elements provides private and public sector partners with a major opportunity. Because if we can provide clean, safe water to every child, we can multiply our impact with powerful knock-on effects for health, nutrition, education, child protection, and much more.

Investing in water security also unlocks opportunities beyond direct impact for children. For instance, safe and reliable water supplies are essential for business and economies. Research shows that every \$1 spent addressing water risks to business could save more than \$5 in future costs if action is not taken. Ensuring safe and reliable water supplies are available everywhere can also open up new market opportunities and strengthen business resilience in areas where water supplies are currently weak.

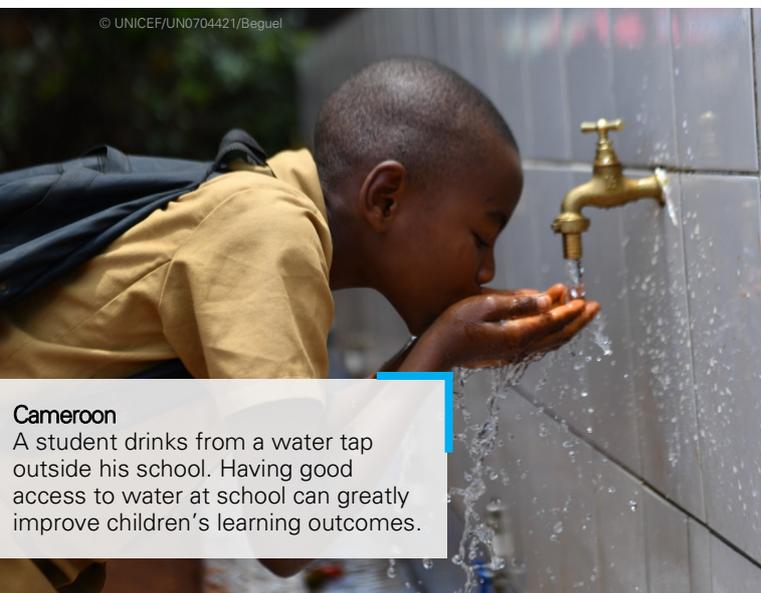
Likewise, water is a pre-requisite for a stable and peaceful society. Water scarcity can drive conflict and migration, as communities and entire populations compete for shrinking water resources. So, investing in safe and reliable water supplies for everyone can also play a critical role in peacebuilding efforts, and reverse the worrying trend of increased conflict and displacement we have seen in recent years.

Water is life. So, investing in efforts to reach Sustainable Development Goal 6 (water and sanitation for all) is not just a good in itself. It also represents an opportunity to achieve multiple impacts with a single investment – as funds to support water security will also have cascading effects across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, contributing to our shared global mission of achieving peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.



While all of this may seem like a grand ambition, it is more possible now than ever before. Thanks to investment from private and public sector partners, progress towards universal water access is on an upward trajectory. Just 62 per cent of people had access to safely managed drinking water in 2000, while today it is 74 per cent. And critical technologies, such as solar-powered water pumps and remote groundwater sensors, are rapidly advancing and becoming cheaper and more user-friendly, giving partners and donors new opportunities to achieve water security more easily and at greater scale.

All of this combines to make investing in water security one of the most powerful opportunities of today – for children, for economies, and for the future of the planet. We have the chance to ensure that everyone has access to safe and affordable water by 2030. We just have to seize the opportunity.



Cameroon
 A student drinks from a water tap outside his school. Having good access to water at school can greatly improve children’s learning outcomes.

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450 million children are living in areas affected by high or extremely-high water vulnerability.

The challenges

Despite the progress that has been made in improving water access in recent decades, there are still 1.42 billion people – including 450 million children – who live in areas of high or extremely-high water vulnerability.

For too many people, **drinking water services are not safe and affordable**. For instance, more than 2 billion people lack access to safe drinking water sources at home, and 144 million still use untreated and unsafe surface water for drinking. Where water access is particularly challenging, communities may be forced to rely on the most expensive options, such as water trucking.

The situation is also becoming more challenging due to climate change. Many changes in climate are felt through water – droughts, floods and rising sea levels – and extreme weather events can damage water supply networks. This problem can be addressed with the right infrastructure, but for too many people **water services and communities are insufficiently resilient to climate change**. And even when infrastructure is strong, it may not make use of green energy solutions, such as solar power.

In the worst cases, water scarcity can rapidly accelerate into full-blown humanitarian crises. This can be mitigated with the right planning – such as drought monitoring systems and reserve water supplies. But for many communities, there is a **lack of forward planning to prevent water scarcity crises**.

Water is also inextricably linked with another type of crisis – violent conflict. In fact, **water insecurity creates a vicious circle with other drivers of conflict**. This is because water can be the starting cause of conflicts, particularly where it is scarce. And once conflicts have begun, they can shift patterns of water use, as populations are displaced and move to new locations. This can strain limited resources and escalate tensions, leading to a cycle of further conflict.

UNICEF's sustainable response

With strong partnership from private and public sector partners, UNICEF is responding to each of the critical water security challenges we face today.

UNICEF is **facilitating safe and affordable drinking water services**. We are doing this by providing access to safe water services that are sustainable, resilient, close to home and managed professionally. For instance, from 2018-2021 UNICEF reached 69.9 million people with safe water services. To achieve the greatest impact, we work with governments, providing them with expertise on developing policies and budgets for water, as well as technical assistance on the water systems themselves.

At the same time, we are also **building the climate resilience of water services and communities**. UNICEF works to ensure that all water services can withstand climate-related events, such as droughts and floods. We also promote services that are operated using low carbon energy sources, such as solar power. From 2019-2021, UNICEF directly supported the construction of 4,257 solar-powered water systems.

Preventing water scarcity crises through early action is another critical area of UNICEF's work. We support water resource assessments, sustainable groundwater abstraction, efficient water use, and drought warning systems. Taking these early actions helps to prevent situations in which water supplies are fully depleted.

Finally, UNICEF believes in the power of **facilitating water cooperation for peace and stability**. Equitable management of water resources can contribute to increased social cohesion, political stability and peace. So, UNICEF works to ensure that water supplies are equitably distributed and do not contribute to tensions between communities. We also work in conflict zones, to prevent attacks on water infrastructure and personnel, and to ensure that all people affected by crisis can access the water they need.

UNICEF

has developed four investment packages to help achieve climate-resilient water security for all.

Investment packages

UNICEF’s response to the water security challenges covers a wide range – from facilitating access to water services and making sure these services are climate-resilient, to preventing water crises through early action and using water as a peacebuilding tool. But to implement this wide range of programming, and to do so at a large scale, requires the support of private and public sector partners.

To enable partners to join us in our work to advance water security, UNICEF has developed four investment packages. Each investment package represents a different ‘phase’ on the journey towards water security, allowing partners to support countries at the start of their journey, or as they expand and scale up their water infrastructure.



The “**shift**” package allows partners to invest in a country’s first step on the journey to ensuring climate-resilient water supplies, by supporting governments with initial climate risk analysis and testing of potential climate-resilient solutions.



The “**catalytic**” package represents an enabling investment, as partners provide injection funding to help countries unlock even larger investments of climate finance to support their development of climate-resilient water supplies.

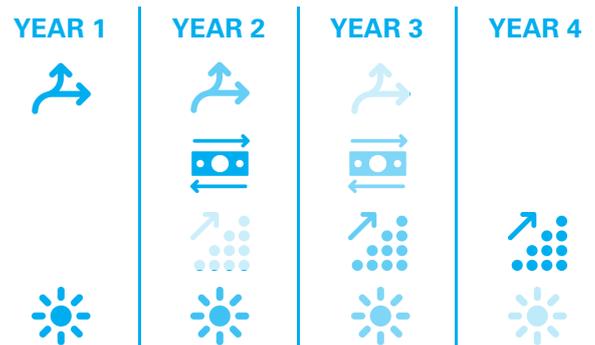


The “**scaling-up**” package takes a varied approach across different countries, but all investments are ultimately aimed at expanding water services to those without access, and upgrading existing services to be resilient to climate change.



The “**solar hub**” package enables partners to invest in support hubs in select geographical regions, allowing countries to access expert guidance to help expand their use of solar energy in water supply systems.

As the packages represent different ‘phases’ on the journey towards water security, they should be implemented over different time periods. For instance, the “shift” package should be implemented before the “catalytic” and “scaling-up” packages, which can then be implemented in parallel. The following diagram shows how the different packages can be rolled out over four years.



The intensity of the colours reflects the scale of investment needed for each package over the four-year period. Thus, the “shift” package requires significant up-front investment in Year 1, with diminishing needs as the years progress. Conversely, the “scaling-up” package requires less funding in the early years, with increasing funding as the timeframe progresses.

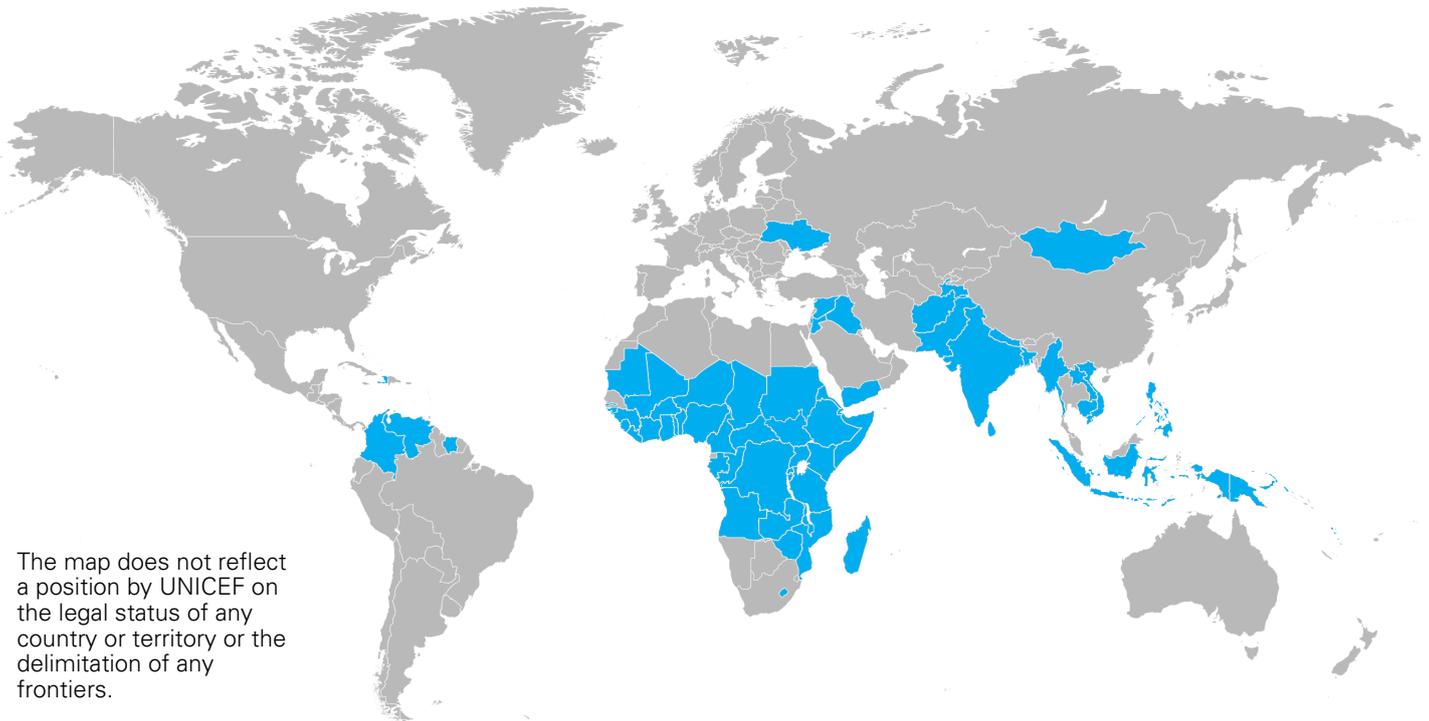


Afghanistan
 “There’s so little food here because of the drought,” says Freshta, mother of 15-month-old Yasmine. “I don’t have enough water to drink or even to wash my clothes.”

In 2021

UNICEF worked in 130 countries with water, sanitation and hygiene interventions – more than ever before and more than any other agency.

The investment packages span 65 priority countries, summarized on the map below:



The map does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers.

Priority countries are: Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine (State of), Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Togo, Uganda, Ukraine, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

As countries are in different 'phases' on their journey towards water security, some investment packages are open in certain countries, and not yet open in others.

The investment packages are summarized on the following pages, showing which countries are open for investment. A results framework and budget is also included for each package. These can be customized according to the selected country of investment.

There are also opportunities for partners to invest in UNICEF's water security work at the global level, or in specific regions.

45 countries need to “shift” their water services to a climate-resilient model to improve water security.

“Shift” package

UNICEF is shifting all of its water programming towards climate resilience, using a nine-step process.



There is an urgent need for funding to support the “shift” in **45 priority countries**. UNICEF is implementing the “shift” in these countries by supporting governments and partners to identify climate risks and solutions to reduce water insecurity. The “shift” package represents a first step towards ensuring climate-resilient water supplies are available to everyone in a country.

UNICEF’s role, in partnership with governments, includes, but is not limited to:

- undertaking bottleneck analyses
- assessing national policies and strategies
- identifying areas of potential groundwater resources
- establishing early warning systems for drought
- testing innovations to reduce water scarcity
- engaging young people as advocates for sustainable use and management of water.

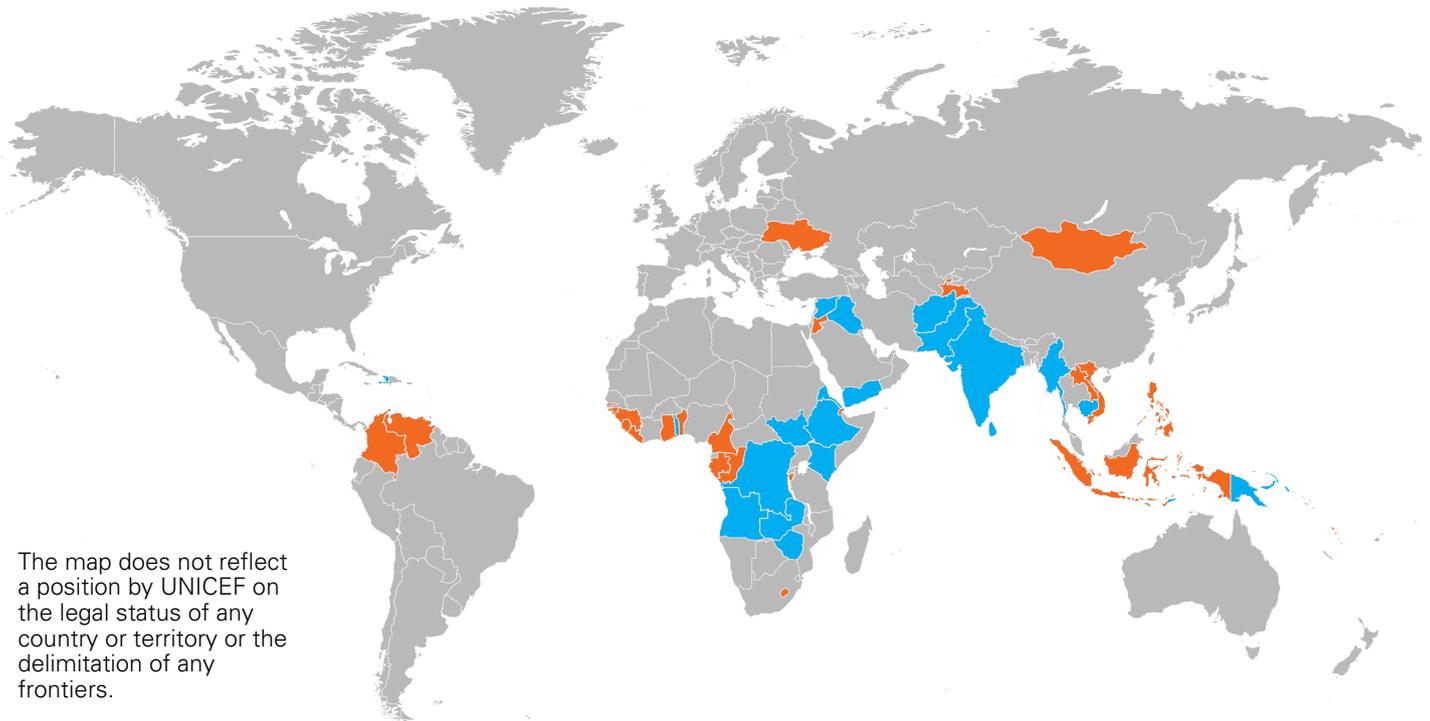
A results framework and budget for the whole investment package is included below. But these can be customized for individual countries, where the costs of implementing the “shift” package over one to two years typically range from \$300,000 to \$700,000, depending on the local context.

	Planned results	Budget
Impact	Climate-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programmes strengthened in 65 priority countries, ensuring children have access to and benefit from climate-resilient WASH services.	
Outcome/ Outputs “Shift” package	<p>45 countries supported to transition towards a climate-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector</p> <p><u>Outputs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ National and sub-national capacity on climate resilience improved ■ Risk-informed bottleneck analysis for inclusive and resilient WASH services available ■ WASH services aligned with national climate priorities ■ WASH sector risk analysis available, climate-resilient options appraised, climate rationales developed, and priority areas of intervention identified ■ Groundwater resources identified, and early warning systems in place ■ Proof-tested innovations to reduce water scarcity and address water insecurity identified ■ Youth engagement for sustainable water use and management promoted ■ Equitable management of water resources/WASH services promoted 	\$24,955,050

*More detailed information on the results frameworks and budgets by country or set of countries are available upon request for each package.

6.1 million people are estimated to have gained access to climate-resilient water services through UNICEF direct support in 2021.

The 45 countries which are currently open for investment in the “shift” package are illustrated on the map below. Those countries shaded in **blue** are the most urgent priority for investment, while those shaded in **orange** are also in need of investment.



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Highest priority countries: *Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Iraq, Kenya, Myanmar, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Timor-Leste, Togo, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe*

Additional priority countries: *Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Colombia, Congo, Djibouti, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Indonesia, Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Mongolia, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam*

Successes from the “shift” approach

UNICEF has already begun implementing the “shift” package in several countries. For instance, Bolivia was the first country to introduce a risk-informed Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Bottleneck Analysis in 2021, with the issues identified influencing the government’s water planning’s roadmap for the coming years.

In countries like Angola, the water and sanitation sector are included in national climate plans, such as the Nationally Determined Contributions, introduced as part of the Paris

Agreement on climate change. These kinds of commitments are often a pre-condition for climate funding opportunities, making this work a vital precursor to the “catalytic” package.

Finally, in water-scarce countries like Mauritania, Sudan, or Chad, processes to identify risks and opportunities for water security have helped identify more suitable technologies and service delivery models for the local context.

UNICEF is a delivery partner for the Green Climate Fund, which has the largest pool of funds for climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives.



“Catalytic” package

The water, sanitation and hygiene sector needs to quadruple its funding to reach universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation by 2030. Countries that have done the “shift” are better prepared to leverage climate funds for the water sector. For instance, key climate financiers, such as the Green Climate Fund, require strong climate rationales (such as those enabled by the “shift” package) and feasibility studies for the development of successful proposals.

Through the “catalytic” package UNICEF is helping all 65 target countries to unlock climate finance opportunities by supporting them to develop those feasibility studies and assessments needed to secure funding. This offers donors a powerful opportunity, as investing in the “catalytic” package enables you to unlock further resources from major funders – making your money go further.

A results framework and budget for the whole investment package is included below. But it typically costs \$400,000 to implement the “catalytic” package in one country, over one to two years. This leads to the development of a full proposal to major funding bodies, such as the Green Climate Fund, with an average value of \$50-100 million.



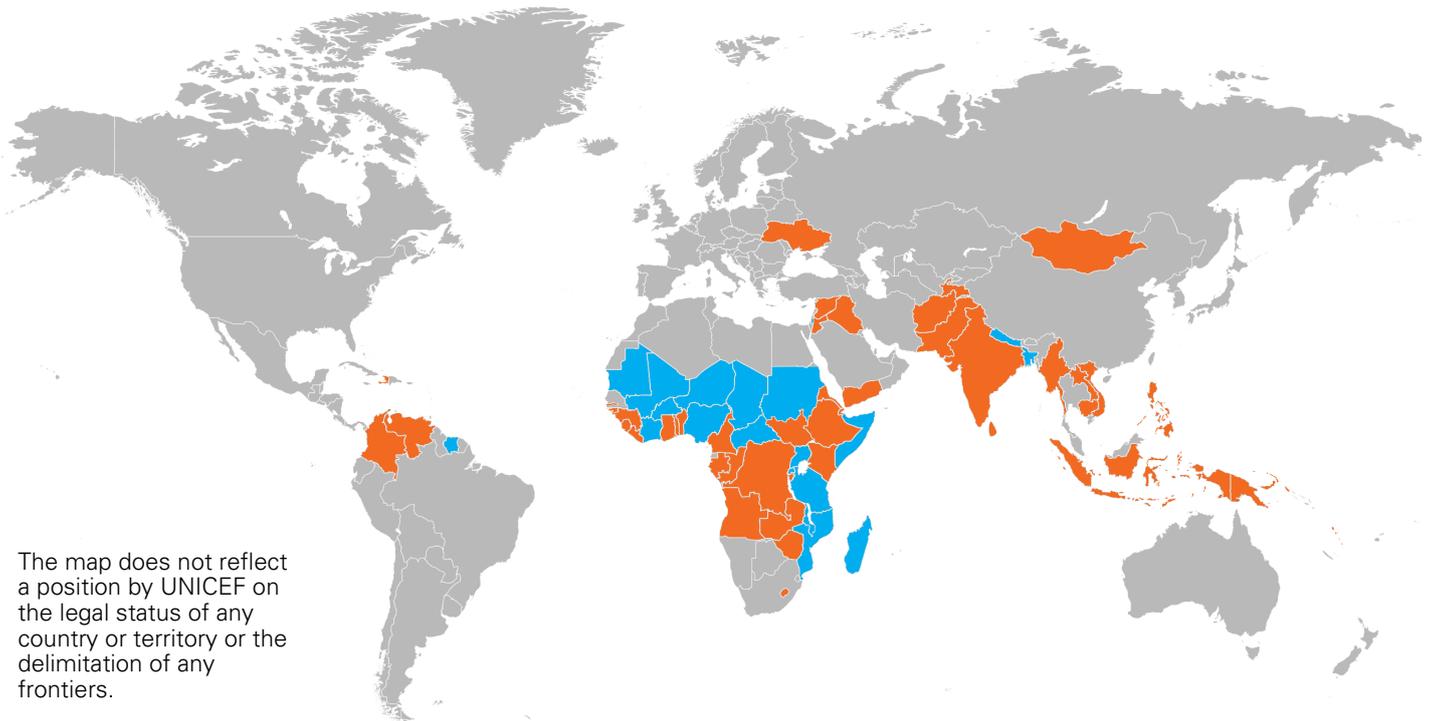
Jordan
 “Everyone in Jordan is affected by climate change in some way or another,” says Anwar, a youth climate leader with a UNICEF-supported programme. “What will this world look like in ten years?”

	Planned results	Budget
Impact	Climate-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programmes strengthened in 65 priority countries, ensuring children have access to and benefit from climate-resilient WASH services.	
Outcome/ Outputs “Catalytic” package	60 countries supported to leverage climate financing in the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector <u>Outputs</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Climate financing opportunities scanned ■ Pre-feasibility studies and package of annexes for climate proposals available ■ Country-level co-funding instruments identified and available ■ Full climate finance proposal submitted 	\$24,000,000

*More detailed information on the results frameworks and budgets by country or set of countries are available upon request for each package.

Transitioning to a green economy can unlock new economic opportunities and jobs, with an investment of \$1 yielding an average of \$4 in benefits.

The countries which are currently open for investment in the “catalytic” package are illustrated on the map below, shaded in blue. The countries shaded in orange need to implement the “shift” package first before they can move onto the “catalytic” package.



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Countries ready for the “catalytic” package now: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Palestine (State of), Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Suriname, Tanzania, Uganda

Countries that need to implement the “shift” package before investment in the “catalytic” package: Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Colombia, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Ukraine, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Successes from the “catalytic” approach

In Uganda, UNICEF has begun implementing the “catalytic” package. We supported the government to develop their first water proposal to the Green Climate Fund, a major fund established to assist developing countries in adaptation and mitigation practices to counter climate change. The proposal developed had a value of \$17 million.

With the support of private and public sector partners, we can expand our implementation of the “catalytic” package, developing similar feasibility studies and full proposals for low-income countries to unlock transformative climate financing to support greater water security.

Over 700 staff

across UNICEF are dedicated to water, sanitation and hygiene, providing the scale of workforce needed to transform water security globally.



“Scaling-up” package

Currently, 12 of UNICEF’s priority countries are ready to receive investment as part of the “scaling-up” package, and additional countries are expected to be ready in the near future once they complete the “shift” package. This package contains a lot of flexibility, but is ultimately aimed at providing climate-resilient water services to those without access, or upgrading existing services to be resilient to climate change.

UNICEF considers a water service to be climate-resilient if it meets all of the following criteria:

- A risk analysis has been undertaken to identify potential impacts of extreme weather events (such as floods), and preventive measures have been included in the water service (such as elevated infrastructures in flood-prone areas).
- Water sources are reliable at all times, throughout the year, including during extreme weather events, such as droughts or floods.
- Management and service delivery models are robust enough to cope with crises and ensure longer-term sustainability of the infrastructures.
- The impact of the system in terms of greenhouse emissions has been considered and (when feasible) renewable energy sources, such as solar power, are being used to mitigate that.



India
A group of women join a training session on how to test the quality of drinking water.

UNICEF’s objective is to have 100 per cent of our water, sanitation and hygiene results being climate-resilient. In 2021, 6.1 million people (24 per cent of UNICEF’s global results in drinking water) were reached with climate-resilient drinking water services. So, we still have some way to go.

The “scaling-up” package can help us bridge this gap and also offers a strong ‘value for money’ for donors. The cost for each country is based on size of population, with an average cost of \$45 per person for the provision of a climate-resilient water system for people without service, though the unit costs can vary significantly across countries.

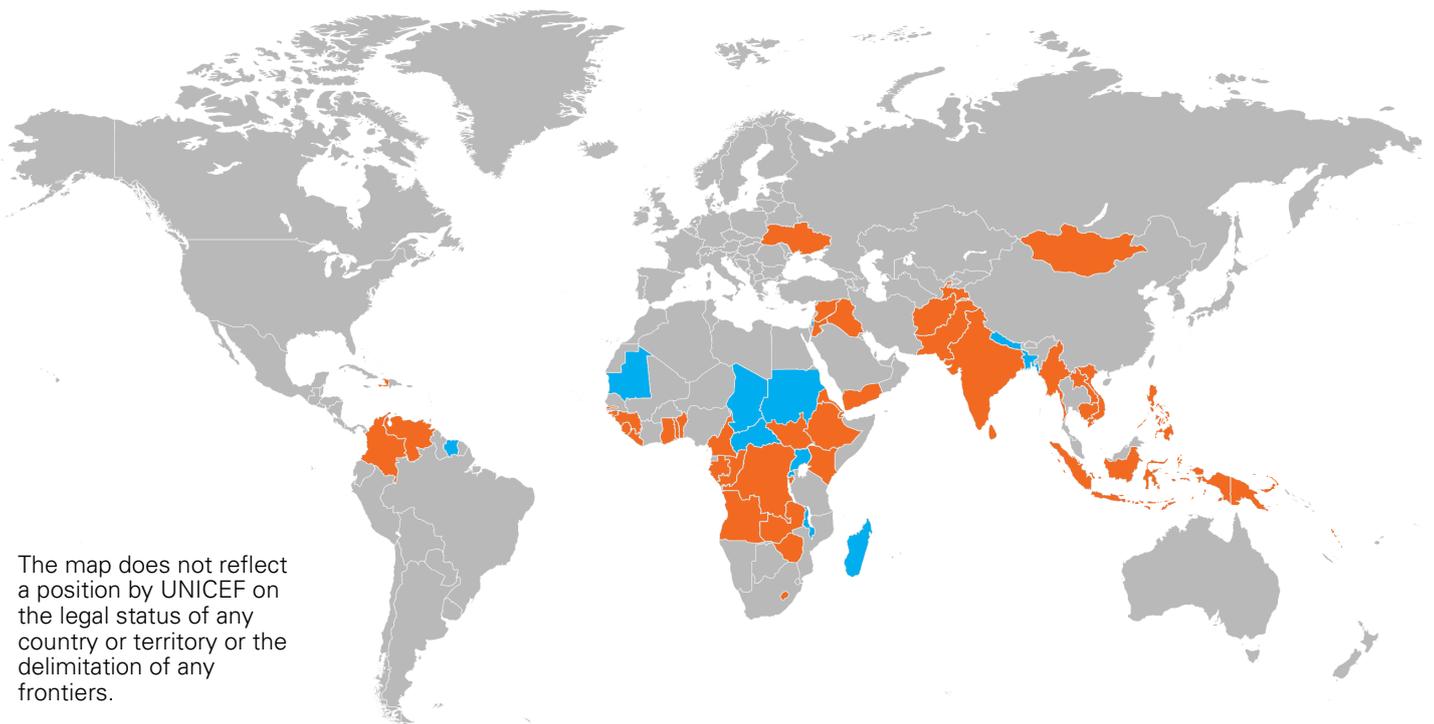
The budget and results-based framework for the “scaling-up” investment package is included below, but these can also be customized for individual countries.

	Planned results	Budget
Impact	Climate-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programmes strengthened in 65 priority countries, ensuring children have access to and benefit from climate-resilient WASH services.	
Outcome/ Outputs “Scaling-up” package	<p>65 countries supported with demonstrative climate-resilient service delivery models</p> <p><u>Outputs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Communities at risk identified ■ Environmental and Social Safeguard analysis incorporated in programme implementation ■ Climate and water safety incorporated in WASH services technical designs ■ Climate-resilient WASH infrastructure available in target communities ■ Service delivery model established, and capacities developed 	\$270,900,000

*More detailed information on the results frameworks and budgets by country or set of countries are available upon request for each package.

12 countries are ready to receive investment in the “scaling-up” package now.

The countries which are currently open for investment in the “scaling-up” package are illustrated on the map below, shaded in blue. The countries shaded in orange need to implement the “shift” package first before they can move onto the “scaling-up” package.



The map does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers.

Countries ready for the “scaling-up” package now: Bangladesh, Central African Republic, Chad, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Nepal, Palestine (State of), Rwanda, Sudan, Suriname, Uganda

Countries that need to implement the “shift” package before investment in the “scaling-up” package: Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Colombia, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Ukraine, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Successes from the “scaling-up” approach

UNICEF has expanded its work on climate-resilient water systems in recent years. For instance, in 2019 only 15 countries had progressed through assessment and design levels to implement climate options. By 2021, this more than tripled to 57, and 80 countries had reported taking steps outlined in the WASH Climate Resilient Framework.

One specific example comes from the State of Palestine. Here, UNICEF has built an innovative stormwater collection

system that addresses two problems related to climate change: dropping groundwater levels due to increased aridity, and run-off from severe storm events overwhelming drainage and sewage systems. The new system increases climate-resilience by redirecting excess waters during periods of heavy rainfall, and using this to recharge local aquifers which are used in times when water is more scarce.

Solar power can vastly improve the reach and quality of water services.

"Solar hub" package

A climate-resilient water service is one that considers the impact of the system in terms of greenhouse emissions and (when feasible) uses renewable energy sources. The recent technological improvements of solar power have drastically reduced costs, making it possible for many countries to adopt solar-powered systems for the provision of water. However, there are significant gaps in many countries. For instance, it is difficult to find qualified professionals to design, install and maintain solar systems, and without proper guidance this technology can actually increase water insecurity.

UNICEF has developed a Regional Solar Technical Hub in West Africa, which provides technical assistance to governments and partners, develops manuals, conducts trainings and works with local authorities to promote solar technology where feasible. Now, the "solar hub" package aims to expand the Solar Hub to other regions, so additional countries can benefit from this technology.

Partners can contribute to maintaining the existing Solar Hub in West Africa or expanding to other regions. Urgent funding is needed to extend the existing coverage to the West African region for the next three years (\$2.4 million) with an additional \$5-7 million needed to cover other priority countries.

The budget and results-based framework for the "solar hub" package is included below. But partners can also support the solar hubs beyond funding. For instance, private companies with experience in solar energy can also contribute with technical expertise or in joint research.



Uganda
A student uses the solar-powered water system constructed at his school by UNICEF.

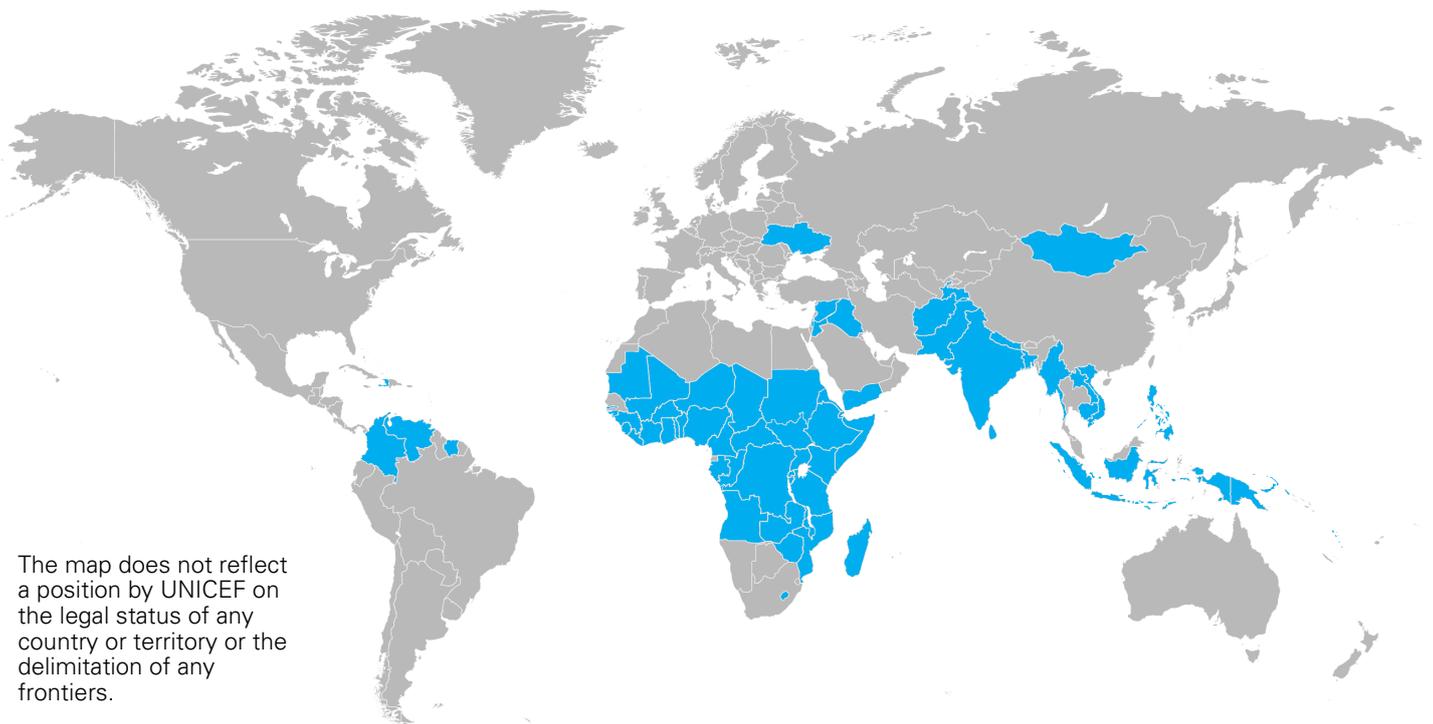
	Planned results	Budget
Impact	Climate-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programmes strengthened in 65 priority countries, ensuring children have access to and benefit from climate-resilient WASH services.	
Outcome/ Outputs "Solar Hub" package	65 countries supported through the promotion of global and regional solar technical hubs <u>Outputs</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Solar technical hubs established and operational in four regions ■ Capacity and skills on solar-powered water systems imparted 	\$9,600,000

*More detailed information on the results frameworks and budgets by country or set of countries are available upon request for each package.

Over half

of the solar-powered water systems UNICEF has installed so far are in West and Central Africa, where the first Solar Hub is located.

Countries ready for the “solar hub” package now are all 65 of the priority countries. The countries which are currently open for investment in the “solar hub” package are illustrated on the map below, shaded in blue.



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Successes from the “solar hub” approach

In 2021, the Regional Solar Technical Hub in West Africa responded to over 60 support requests from government and partners. It also organized in-person workshops for over 175 people and online training courses for over 250 participants. The Solar Hub is also continuing to develop, making training materials and a resource library in French and English widely available to support countries in their journey towards a solar-powered future for water.

“The price of a litre of diesel can increase so much that many communities may not be able to afford fuel to access water. With solar energy, communities have a power supply system that virtually operates at zero cost.”

Michael Forson
Water and Sanitation Manager
UNICEF South Sudan

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Democratic Republic of the Congo
UNICEF staff and other stakeholders observe the opening of a solar-powered water system.

UNICEF is rated

'very good' on the 2022 Aid Transparency Index – the highest rated United Nations agency. We take pride in our high standards of fund management, oversight and reporting.

The results and targets

The world is off track to achieve universal access to safely managed drinking water by 2030 (Sustainable Development Goal 6.1). In addition, climate change is putting the progress we have made on water security over the last two decades at risk.

As part of **UNICEF's Strategic Plan for 2022-2025**, we aim to reach 50 million people with climate-resilient and safe drinking water, and support governments and partners in the needed transition towards a climate-resilient sector.

With renewed support for the four investment packages developed, and through our network of partners in the WASH sector, we aim to contribute to the even higher global targets included in the [Water Security for All initiative](#).

The **Water Security for All initiative** aims to collectively reach 450 million children and their families (1.42 billion people) living in areas of high or extremely high-water vulnerability with resilient solutions.

The Water Security for All initiative is well aligned and a key contribution to the **Sustainable Development Goal 6.1**: Achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030.

Why partner with UNICEF?

At UNICEF, we know what it takes to achieve the greatest impact for children. And this impact rests on our **five comparative advantages**.

Our expert staff

UNICEF has over 700 expert staff working in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). These experts are implementing WASH programmes in 135 countries – more than any other organization.

Leading and pioneering

UNICEF is the leading United Nations agency in drinking water and sanitation, and works as sector coordinator in several countries. We are also a key actor in bringing innovative technologies to scale – from solar-powered water pumps to groundwater mapping – to ensure water security for all.

Taking the work to scale

Given UNICEF's presence in 190 countries and territories, we are uniquely placed to achieve results at scale. From 2018-2021, UNICEF provided safe water services to 69.9 million people, many of them living in the most challenging environments.

Meeting needs throughout the entire childhood and adolescence

UNICEF is there for every child, across all ages. Water security encompasses this approach, with safe water in early childhood protecting children from deadly diseases, and adequate hygiene facilities providing dignity to adolescent girls during menstruation.

Before, during, and after an emergency

UNICEF's presence on the ground before, during and after emergencies enables us to ensure water access – even in the most challenging contexts. We are the Global Lead Agency for Humanitarian WASH interventions, and, in 2021, 33.3 million people gained or regained access to water services through UNICEF direct humanitarian relief programmes.



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Venezuela
A UNICEF staff member visits a water treatment plant where UNICEF has been supporting the repair and upgrade of facilities.

100 per cent of UNICEF's funding comes from voluntary support from the private and public sectors.

How the private and public sectors can invest

UNICEF is 100 per cent voluntarily funded. Our partnership opportunities are designed to meet your mission or passion, and also achieve our shared ambition for children. We have two ways in which private and public sector partners can invest in a water-secure future for children and their families.

Invest in Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Thematic Funds

For partners and donors who are passionate about water – or interested in supporting across the four packages of investment – UNICEF's Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Thematic Funds is an ideal option.

The WASH Thematic Funds can be invested in at global or across any of the 65 target countries. This approach allows UNICEF to strengthen systems at scale and direct your funding to water, sanitation, and hygiene results. We know that when we strengthen WASH systems, we don't just help one child; we make large scale changes for every child at the same time.

The value propositions to the right give an idea of the impact you can achieve across different levels of investment.

\$350,000

per year over three years (\$1,050,000) can contribute to the "shift" package in one middle-sized country and support the development of a climate finance proposal through the "catalytic" package.

\$500,000

per year over three years (\$1.5 million) can contribute to the "shift" package in two large-size countries.

\$800,000

can support the continuation of the West Africa Solar Hub for one full year, providing technical assistance to 8-12 countries and trainings to over 2,000 technicians.

\$2 million

per year over three years (\$6 million) can contribute to the "shift" package in four countries, develop four proposals through the "catalytic" package, and contribute to the "scaling-up" package by providing climate-resilient water services to 40,000 people in areas of high or extremely-high water vulnerability.



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Iraq

A group of girls wash their hands at a camp for people who have been displaced from their homes.

Partnership is essential for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6 – water and sanitation for all – by 2030.

Invest in specific programmes and packages

UNICEF has a long history of developing strategic partnerships to meet partners' priorities and goals. These bespoke partnerships see donors build long relationships with our experts to develop lasting and powerful initiatives that can be scaled up to benefit children in the long term.

Partners can invest in specific programmes through any of the four investment packages. The needs across these four packages are massive and urgent. But the proposals can be adjusted based on partners' interests and expectations, with customized results frameworks and budgets depending on the countries selected.

In addition to financial investment UNICEF is also looking to collaborate with committed partners through innovation and technical expertise in areas of energy and water supply. Likewise, we are convening a group of committed private sector players to meet periodically with UNICEF's climate resilient water, sanitation and hygiene experts to monitor progress and discuss future engagement opportunities. The Advisory Group will be invited to participate in periodic programme visits.



Yemen
Rayan, age 2, enjoys playing with water when it arrives in his local area.



The world has achieved significant progress in advancing water access in recent decades, thanks to the investment and support of private and public sector partners. Now, we need to keep this momentum going to achieve our shared global aim under Sustainable Development Goal 6: “water and sanitation for all” by 2030.

By ensuring every child has universal access to water, we can enable a cascading impact, benefiting their health, nutrition, education, protection, and much more. We can also support economies and contribute to more peaceful communities.

Water is life. And, in many ways, it is the key to everything – unlocking myriad benefits across all areas of sustainable development. By supporting UNICEF's water security work you can help turn this key, and open the door to a healthier, happier and more sustainable future – for every child.

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