

Water Security for All: Proposal for Action

An investment opportunity for the private and public sectors



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for every child

The opportunity

Water is life. It's vital for children's survival. It supports their physical development and good nutrition. It enables them to focus in school. And it improves livelihood opportunities for their communities. Therefore, investing in water security can have a cascading effect, achieving multiple impacts across all elements of a child's life and all 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Investing in water security also has economic benefits. Every \$1 spent addressing water risks to business could save over \$5 in future costs if action is not taken. Likewise, water is a pre-requisite for stable and peaceful societies, as water scarcity drives migration and conflict.

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

The challenges

Today, there are 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.** The situation is becoming more challenging due to climate change, which can cause droughts, floods and rising sea levels. These problems can be addressed with the right infrastructure, but for too many people **water services and communities are insufficiently resilient to climate change.**

Similarly, for many communities, there is a **lack of forward planning to prevent water scarcity crises** before they strike.

Water is also linked with another type of crisis – violent conflict. In fact, **water insecurity creates a vicious circle with other drivers of conflict.** 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.

UNICEF's sustainable response

With 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.** 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. From 2018-2021 UNICEF reached 69.9 million people with safe water services.

We are also **building the climate resilience of water services and communities.** UNICEF ensures that water services can withstand climate-related events, such as droughts and floods, and are operated with 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 vital area of work. We support water resource assessments, sustainable groundwater abstraction, efficient water use, and drought warning systems. These early actions help prevent situations in which water supplies are fully depleted.

Finally, UNICEF believes in the power of **facilitating water cooperation for peace and stability.** We work to ensure 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 all people affected by crisis can access water.

Investment packages

To enable partners to join us, UNICEF has developed **four investment packages** for water security. Each represents a different 'phase' on the journey to water security. Partners can support countries at the start of their journey, or as they expand and scale up their water systems.

Full budgets that are based on achieving results in each country, are available.



The **"shift" package** represents a country's first step, supporting governments with initial climate risk analysis and testing potential solutions.

Cost: \$300,000 to \$700,000 per country



The **"catalytic" package**, provides injection funding to help countries unlock larger sums of climate finance to support climate-resilient water supplies.

Cost: \$400,000 per country



The **"scaling-up" package** aims to expand water services to those without access, and upgrade existing services to be climate-resilient.

Cost: Country cost based on size of population, at an average \$45 per person.



The **"solar hub" package** enables countries to access expert guidance to expand their use of solar energy in water supply systems.

Cost: \$5-7 million to expand to priority countries

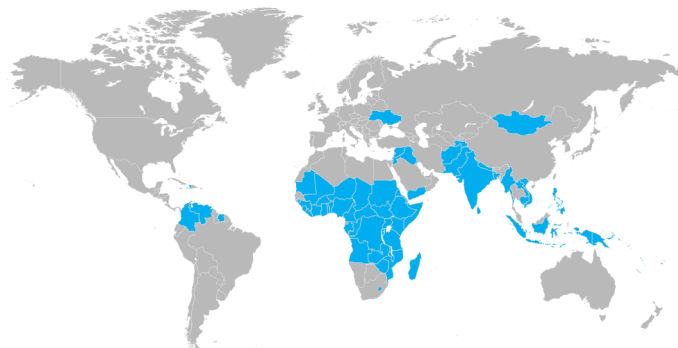
Results and targets

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 transition towards a climate-resilient sector.

With 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) in areas of high or extremely high-water vulnerability with resilient solutions.

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

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



Priority countries: 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.

How you can invest with UNICEF

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.

For partners and donors who are passionate about water – or interested in supporting across the four packages of investment – **UNICEF's WASH Thematic Fund** is an ideal option. This flexible funding approach allows UNICEF to strengthen systems, as we don't just help one child; we make large scale changes for every child.

Partners can also **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.