

## SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme

# Stage 1 Support Package:

## Process description

### SDG 6.5.1, degree of implementation of IWRM

March 2020

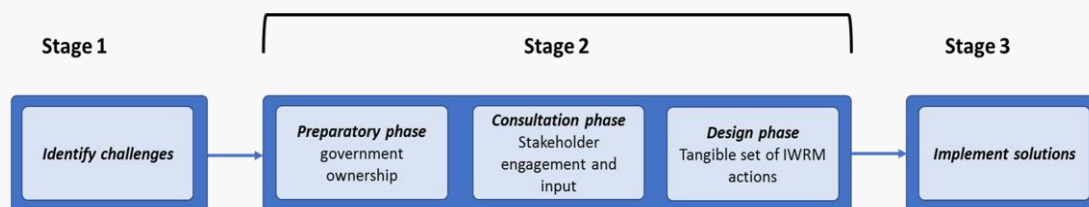
The **SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme** assists governments in designing and implementing country-led responses to **SDG indicator 6.5.1**, the degree of implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), as an entry point to accelerate progress towards the achievement of water-related SDGs and other development goals, in line with national priorities. This is in direct support of the official SDG monitoring and reporting processes, and should lead to measurable progress on the relevant SDG target(s).

Under the guidance of UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and coordinated by Global Water Partnership (GWP) in close collaboration with UNEP-DHI Centre and Cap-Net UNDP, the Support Programme brings together a unique blend of partners in each country, representing governments, civil society, academia and the private sector. The Support Programme is structured according to the following three stages:

**Stage 1 – Identifying challenges** through SDG 6.5.1 monitoring results

**Stage 2 – Formulating responses** in the form of action plans, project documents or similar

**Stage 3 – Implementing solutions** that improve IWRM as a contribution to other water-related SDGs



This document is for those interested in the work carried out under the stage 1 activities of the Support Programme. Separate documents guide the processes for stages 2 and 3.

## Background and purpose of this document

Monitoring and reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.1 are based on a self-assessment survey, sent out to all UN Member States every three years. The survey reviews the level of implementation of IWRM (scoring from 0 to 100), covering 33 parameters (questions) grouped into 4 sections: the **enabling environment** (policies, laws, and plans); **institutions and participation** (institutional capacity, cross-sectoral coordination, private sector contributions, stakeholder participation and gender equality); **management instruments** (water availability monitoring and sustainable water use, pollution control, water-related ecosystems and disaster management, and data and information sharing); and **financing** (investments, recurring costs and revenue raising). Each section contains two sub-sections, the first covering the national level and the second covering 'other levels' – which includes sub-national, basin/aquifer and transboundary levels, as appropriate.

Based on the completed SDG 6.5.1 surveys, a periodic progress review presents a global picture of the current situation of IWRM. The first reporting cycle on that indicator took place in 2017 and established a global baseline<sup>1</sup>. It showed that the world had an average score of 49% (medium-low degree of IWRM implementation), meaning it was not on track regarding SDG indicator 6.5.1, thus further jeopardising the achievement of other SDGs. The central message in the report can be distilled into two words: "Accelerate Progress" by building upon collective action as well as multi-stakeholder monitoring and reporting processes.

The second round of reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.1 is taking place in 2020. In January 2020, UNEP, as the custodian agency for SDG indicator 6.5.1, sent out an invitation to all UN Member States to repeat the survey assessment in order to update that SDG indicator, with a deadline of July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. In that communication, UNEP offered the support of the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme to countries that require it. The Support Programme has committed to assisting at least 60 countries in this endeavour, as it did in 2017 for 36 countries. The support is to be provided by GWP, which will agree with UNEP on the countries to be supported.

This Process Description is the first and main document in the Support Package, which includes eight annexes, listed below. The aim of the Support Package is to explain how the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme can assist the facilitation of multi-stakeholder processes aiming to update the SDG 6.5.1 survey, providing tools and guidance to that effect.

## Strategic rationale

The assistance provided by the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme should enhance the quality of the results of the SDG 6.5.1 survey and analysis obtained from each country (stage 1). It should also strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs) within the countries targeted and facilitate the sharing of best practices between them. The assistance should also aim to accelerate implementation of IWRM. In those countries where stage 2 or 3 activities have already taken place or are currently ongoing, the stage 1 assistance should align with and help strengthen those activities. The stage 1 activities are also expected to strengthen the interlinkage with other related activities, such as the updating of the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Planning (NAP) and GCF Readiness, among others.

## Process overview and timeline

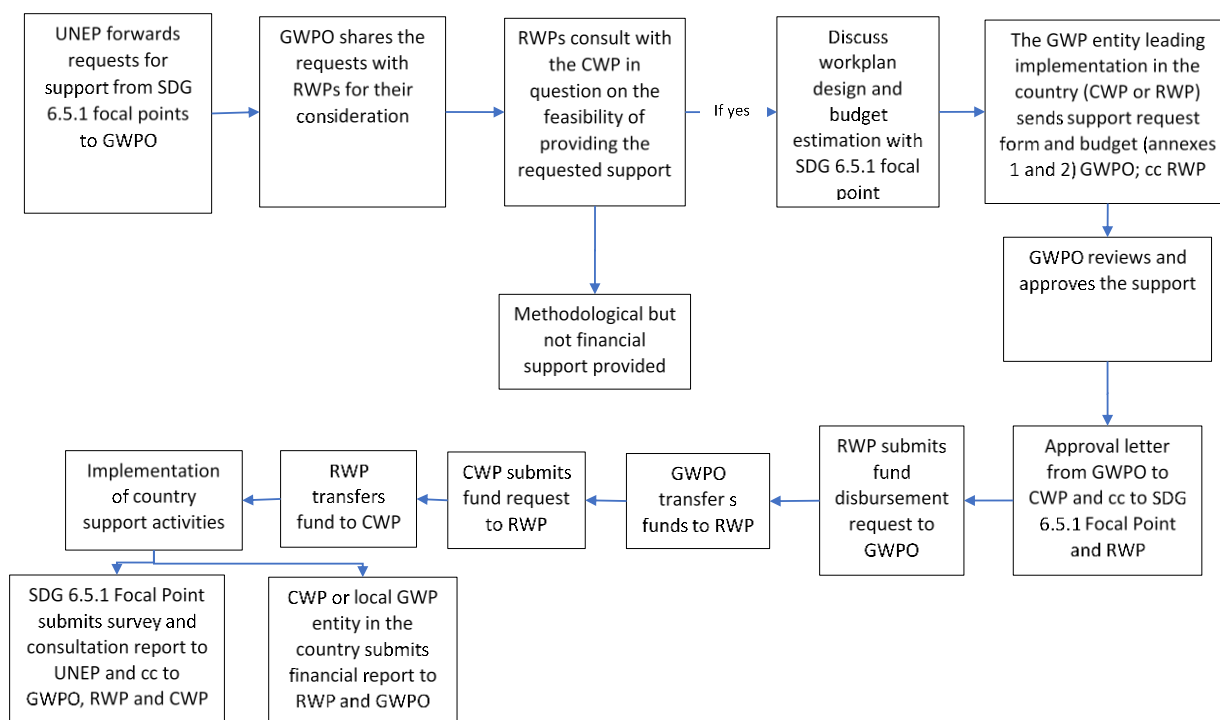
All requests for assistance sent by countries' SDG 6.5.1 Focal Points to UNEP, in response to the official communication, will be evaluated by the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme. The assistance, where possible<sup>2</sup>, shall take the shape of financial and material support to be distributed by GWPO and facilitated mainly but not exclusively through GWP's regional and country water partnerships, guided by this Support Package. This

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.unwater.org/publications/progress-on-integrated-water-resources-management-651/>

<sup>2</sup> Since the Support Programme has limited funding and has committed to supporting 60 countries, requesting support does not guarantee that financial support can be provided. However, the methodology is open to all and the training materials may be open to a limited number of participants, as well as possible technical and communication support.

assistance shall be formalised following the templates provided, prior to the implementation of the activities. A general overview of the process and timeline can be seen below.



## Expected Outputs

For each country assisted by the Support Programme, the following main outputs must be produced:

1. **SDG Indicator 6.5.1 survey.** This should include assigned scores for all 33 questions, completed *Status description* and *Way forward* sections for each question of the survey, and completed annexes. The two narrative fields under each question should be used to further include information on: i) References, where applicable; ii) Rationale for the decisions; iii) Divergence in views of the set scores, where applicable, e.g. between different stakeholder groups; iv) Differences in scores from different areas/levels; and vi) Planned or recommended activities to advance implementation of IWRM in the specific area. The survey should be submitted in English, French or Spanish, and/or any other language in which it was completed. The consolidated final survey (one per country) should be submitted by the national SDG 6.5.1 Focal Point to the UNEP SDG 6.5.1 Helpdesk at [iwrmsdg651@un.org](mailto:iwrmsdg651@un.org). All annexes to the survey should be duly completed.
2. **Stakeholder consultation report.** The report should be produced using the template provided in Annex 5, and should capture the list of stakeholders engaged in the workshop(s) and through other communication, issues on which agreement was not made, strongly diverging opinions, as well as suggestions for next steps and follow up action for the continuous monitoring of SDG 6.5.1 in the country. The consultation report, if not originally produced in English, French or Spanish, should have an executive summary of the process translated into English, which should be budgeted for. Photos of the process should also be annexed to the reports, where available, but no confidential information should be included, since the reports will be placed online. This information should ideally be submitted by the national SDG 6.5.1 Focal Point along with the completed survey, although it may also be submitted at a later date by the facilitator, if required.

## Proposed consultation process

The in-country data collection process shall bring together different stakeholders from multiple sectors with the objective of having a consolidated perspective on where the country stands in respect to IWRM

implementation, using the 33 questions contained in the survey instrument as a simple diagnostic tool for countries to identify strengths and weaknesses in different aspects of IWRM implementation.

It is suggested that the in-country monitoring process and workshop(s) could be organised around the following four stages:

- (i) Preparatory work,
- (ii) The consultation phase,
- (iii) The submission,
- (iv) The follow-up activities.

Regarding the *preparatory work*, it is suggested to start by hiring one or more facilitator(s) at the national level, knowledgeable about IWRM and the broader development context, and well connected with different stakeholders. If financial and technical assistance is provided through the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme, the cost of hiring this/these facilitator(s) should be included in the budget request form. The choice of facilitator(s) should ideally be made in consensus between the GWP entity leading implementation in the country (either the CWP or RWP) and the national SDG 6.5.1 Focal Point. Positive gender discrimination should be considered in the choice of facilitator(s).

These facilitator(s) should gather and review relevant information, including the 2017 SDG 6.5.1 baseline<sup>3</sup> and, where available, reports of prior workshops and consultations, as well as any further information that might contribute to moving the score on any of the 33 questions in the SDG 6.5.1 survey. The baseline information on SDG 6.5.2 may also be useful background reading, inasmuch as it relates to the transboundary questions under 6.5.1<sup>4</sup>. The monitoring guide provides further suggestions for structuring the data collection and discussion process in countries. The national baseline report on SDG 6.5.1, the 2020 survey instrument and monitoring guide, among other information, can all be found on the IWRM Data Portal. The prior socialisation of the relevant information should facilitate a more efficient process, to ensure that most participants are fully cognisant of the survey structure and meaning. If necessary, a socialisation workshop may be necessary with participants prior to the data collection workshop.

In addition, the facilitator(s) should prepare a list of participants to be invited to take part in the workshop(s), considering criteria of sectoral and other forms of diversity, using the guidelines in Annex 2. The facilitator should work closely with the national SDG 6.5.1 Focal Point in preparation of the workshop design and agenda, including the venue(s) and date(s), and in the identification of workshop participants. These documents should be validated with the national SDG 6.5.1 Focal Point and the GWP entity leading implementation in the country (CWP or RWP). GWPO further reserves the right to review them with an eye to ensuring broad multi-stakeholder participation.

Furthermore, online training for facilitators, prepared by GWPO and available on Cap-Net's Virtual Campus, will contribute to standardising the understanding of the survey, process and expected outputs. All facilitators should complete this online training and obtain a pass mark before facilitating the process in their country. The training will be available online in English, French and Spanish, as a self-based learning and evaluation tool. The SDG 6.5.1 focal point and other interested stakeholders may also request to take the course, upon request.

In the *consultation phase*, the workshop(s) should ideally be held at an accessible venue which allows for full and meaningful participation by all. Proceeding question by question, the workshop(s) should facilitate a broader understanding of any progress made (or lack of progress) in implementing IWRM since the baseline reporting period. If consensus cannot be reached on any particular question during the workshop, follow-up consultation with a small focus group should be established within a reasonable timeframe, so as to resolve the lack of consensus.

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<sup>3</sup> National Baseline reports are available for 172 countries on the IWRM Data Portal: <http://iwrmdataportal.unepdhi.org/iwrmmmonitoring.html>

<sup>4</sup> See [http://www.unece.org/water/transboundary\\_water\\_cooperation\\_reporting.html](http://www.unece.org/water/transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting.html) under "section III. C. – Reports by Countries".

To ensure optimal results in the process, it may be necessary to consult with various stakeholders, by different means that are relevant to the culture of the country, such as online surveys, individual or collective interviews, focus groups, pre- and/or post-workshop consultations, discussion fora, or others. That consultation may focus either on the preparatory phase, in terms of providing relevant inputs for consideration from different stakeholders, and/or be used as a validation mechanism for the outputs of the workshop(s). This is particularly important in cases where not all relevant stakeholders are able to attend the workshop(s).

When the presentation of other topics is appropriate—such as an IWRM Action Plan developed under the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme, the analysis of opportunities for advancing IWRM in conjunction with the updating of the NDC, or similar topics – formal presentations and consultations may be organised back-to-back with the SDG 6.5.1 workshop. In this sense, a variety of approaches may be adopted, and innovation is very much welcome.

In order to *submit* the required information, the final score of the survey will be calculated by the national SDG 6.5.1 Focal Point, together with the facilitator(s) and the GWP representative. The completed survey and the consultation report shall be sent to UNEP by the national SDG 6.5.1 Focal Point. The in-country approval and validation process to be followed will be particular to each country. Following submission, there will be a quality assurance process in which the submission will be reviewed by UNEP.

As much as possible, *follow-up* should look to build upon the opportunities identified for advancing IWRM, thus ensuring progress on SDG 6.5.1 between reporting periods. That may lead to the formulation and implementation of an IWRM Action Plan or similar, under stages 2 and 3 of the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme<sup>5</sup>, or other schemes that are relevant to the country's circumstances. The follow-up should also seek to highlight the opportunities for synergy with other national, sub-national or transboundary development objectives, including but not limited to other SDG targets, the Paris Agreement and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

## Approach to multi-stakeholder consultation

The main focus of the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme is on water governance, advancing IWRM not as an end in itself, but as a means of fostering the water resources management improvements that will result in tangible impacts on sustainable development in general, as seen through progress towards the other SDG 6 targets and broader national water-related goals. To reflect that objective, the process to evaluate progress since the SDG 6.5.1 baseline report should be conducted in partnership with national governments, working with relevant stakeholders in each country - which may include civil society, academia, international organisations, the donor community and the private sector, among others. It should also involve stakeholders from sectors outside the water community, whose activities depend and/or impact upon water resources.

In addition to the previously mentioned monitoring guide, the guidance for stakeholder inclusion, found in Annex 2, should be used in a way that is appropriate for each country's particular stakeholder landscape.

## Working languages

The supporting information provided on the [IWRM Data Portal](#) appears in English, Spanish, French, Russian, Chinese, Arabic and Portuguese. Using this material, the workshop itself and other related activities should be conducted in the local language of the country in question. The two main outputs mentioned above, namely the completed survey and workshop report(s), should ideally be submitted by the SDG 6.5.1 Focal Point in English, French or Spanish.

## Organisation structure

The organisation of this process is to be overseen by the Senior Water Resources Management Specialist, SDG6 Programme within GWPO, with administrative, communication and thematic support provided by the

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<sup>5</sup> In which case additional financial resources will be required, to be discussed with the Support Programme.

SDG 6 Programme Associate. The three regional SDG coordinators (in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia) will be pivotal to the success of this process within their respective regions<sup>6</sup>. The RWPs and/or CWPs will also be actively involved in defining the process and in overseeing its successful implementation within their respective regions and countries. The process in each country should be assisted by one or more trained and formally hired facilitator(s). The national SDG 6.5.1 Focal Points should be involved in all phases of the consultations and output delivery.

## The support to be provided

The Support Programme provides free open access to the methodology to conduct a stakeholder-inclusive process for reporting on SDG 6.5.1, and may provide access to the online training to countries that request it, for up to 350 participants in total. Moreover, the Support Programme offers some financial assistance for this purpose, as described in this document, for up to 60 countries. Those CWPs or RWPs interested in taking part in the process should, once aligned with the SDG 6.5.1 Focal Point in their country, submit a request using the Support Request Form (see Annex 6), with the corresponding budget (Annex 8). Each CWP (or RWP when leading the implementation in the country) should attempt to leverage additional funding to increase the scope of the consultation and the follow-up actions, both in-cash and in-kind. If approved, the budget shall be transferred to the RWP in question, or the external partner when appropriate.

When requests are made from countries where GWP does not have a formal country presence, those requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and the corresponding administrative arrangements will be ad-hoc for the circumstances.

## Further information and annexes

This document and annexes 1-5 are freely available to all those interested in the process. Annexes 6-8 are only intended for RWPs and CWPs, or other countries outside GWP's network which requests support.

Purpose	Annex	Description
Multi-stakeholder consultation guidance (may be shared externally)	1	<b>Facilitator's guide</b> – This document details how the process may be facilitated, and may be the annex to the contract signed with the in-country facilitator.
	2	<b>Guidelines for Participation and Inclusion</b> – aims to ensure the multi-stakeholder nature of the workshops, including inclusion of women, young people, vulnerable groups, the private sector, other governmental institutions, civil society, academia, the donor community, etc
	3	<b>Suggested Agenda for the Workshop</b> – including agendas for a single workshop and a possible two-step approach
	4	<b>Communication and Outreach Plan</b> – this plan should be adapted to regional and country circumstances and implemented in a coordinated manner
Reporting template (may be shared externally)	5	<b>Consultation Reporting Template</b> – This should be completed after finalising the process to describe the different stakeholders that took part in the process and how they contributed. It may be completed and shared with UNEP and GWP in English, French or Spanish, or may simply be an executive summary in English, when the language the report is written in is not English, French or Spanish.
Request forms and guidance	6	<b>Support Request Form</b> - The Support Programme deploys its financial and technical assistance based on country requests, to be formalised through the Support Request Form, administered by the GWPO in Stockholm.

<sup>6</sup> Since there is no regional coordinator for Europe, workshops held in Europe may require a slightly different process.

Purpose	Annex	Description
	7	<b>Financial instructions for support</b> – This document explains how the financial flow is to be managed and includes a standard budget outline
	8	<b>Budget Template and Checklist</b> - This budget template is mainly aimed at GWP’s Country and Regional Water Partnerships, who should also include the expenditure in their financial reports. If any other countries are supported where there is no CWP, the financial reporting may be tailored according to the circumstances

Furthermore, the survey, monitoring guide, PowerPoint guidance and a guidance video for national focal points are available from the IWRM Data Portal, in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish: <http://iwrmdataportal.unepdhi.org/iwrmmmonitoring.html>.

## Questions?

Please contact the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme on [sdg6iwrmsp@gwp.org](mailto:sdg6iwrmsp@gwp.org) if you have any doubts on the contents of this document or the process.