

Global Water Leadership Programme

Outcomes Brief



About GWL

The Global Water Leadership (GWL) Programme, implemented by Global Water Partnership (GWP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Sanitation and Water for All (SWA), World Health Organization (WHO), and the Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP), brings together key stakeholders and decision-makers from two water pillars – water resources management and water, sanitation and hygiene – to develop holistic, integrated policies and plans for enhancing national water and climate resilience.

About GWP

The Global Water Partnership (GWP) is an international network that promotes the effective, efficient, and sustainable management of water resources around the world. Our vision is for a water secure world. Our mission is to advance governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development. The Network has 13 Regional Water Partnerships, 77 Country Water Partnerships, and more than 3,500 Partners located in 179 countries.

The views expressed in this document do not necessarily represent the official views of GWP.

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Disclaimer

'Palestine' in this document refers to the State of Palestine, in line with UN Resolution 67/19 (2012).

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Cover photo: Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Hon Liana Kakhobwe Chapota, MP, at the GWL Closeout Workshop in Malawi, March 2024

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Other photos: GWL country teams

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Acronyms and abbreviations

BWB	Basin Water Boards
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office of the United Kingdom
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GWL	Global Water Leadership in a Changing Climate Programme
GWP	Global Water Partnership
GWP-Med	GWP Mediterranean
GWPEA	GWP Eastern Africa
IWRM	Integrated water resources management
MDERH	Ministry of Energy Development and Water Resources
MoEWRI	Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
PPP	Public-private partnership
RWB	Rwanda Water Resources Board
SWA	Sanitation and Water for All
TFP	Technical and financial partner
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
WECS	Water and Energy Commission Secretariat
WRM	Water resources management



Foreword

Over the past three years, Global Water Partnership (GWP) had the honour of working as implementing partner for the Global Water Leadership (GWL) Programme, collaborating hand-in-hand with other global partners and key stakeholders in seven countries.

While the GWL Programme was a time-bound intervention, it leaves a powerful legacy of empowered leaders, robust and locally owned Response Strategies, and enhanced integration between integrated water resources management (IWRM); water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); and climate resilience. The innovative approach taken by the GWL Programme has fostered systemic changes in how countries understand and approach water security challenges, and forged a more integrated, inclusive and locally grounded model that holds promise for replication.

Now the seven countries of the GWL Programme are working on putting their Response Strategies into effect and obtaining funding in accordance with their Finance Plans. As time passes, they will make strides towards achieving climate-resilient IWRM and WASH. As the world enters a period in which the conservation and careful management of water resources will be of paramount importance, the GWL Programme's central message – linking IWRM with WASH – can be seen as prescient, as its structure is optimised to enhance political, social, and financial buy-in.

GWP is committed to working with partners at all levels to foster action towards achieving a water-secure world. I believe that methods developed through the GWL Programme and catalogued in this document can serve as guiding materials for water leaders globally, to serve the needs of their populations and assist in preserving their water resources for generations to come.

Alan AtKisson



*Executive Secretary and CEO
Global Water Partnership*

Global Water Leadership Programme

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GWP | Global Water Leadership Programme – Outcomes Brief

Executive summary

Nearly a quarter of the way through the twenty-first century, shockingly, **over 785 million people still lack access to water; 1.9 billion lack access to basic sanitation.**

While integrated water resources management (IWRM) can be a vehicle to ensure sustainable management of water resources for all, progress on its achievement – after a decade of steady improvement – is still insufficient, considering that implementation of IWRM, as measured through SDG 6.5.1, is **currently at 57 percent globally.**

A groundbreaking global initiative, the Global Water Leadership in a Changing Climate (GWL) Programme aims to address these challenges through bringing the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and IWRM sectors closer together and addressing climate resilience.

As an implementing partner for the GWL Programme from April 2021 to March 2024, the Global Water Partnership (GWP) provided **critical support to governments in seven low and middle-income countries to support** them in becoming international models for water leadership.

The flagship products of the GWL Programme were government-validated Response Strategies for addressing the most critical barriers to climate-resilient IWRM. Multi-stakeholder working groups were formed, tasked with developing a Response Strategy containing two components: **an Action Plan and a Finance Plan. Building stakeholder capacity in identifying financing options was a key output.**

Many barriers identified by the seven GWL Programme countries that worked with GWP were shared across countries, such as an **absence of high-level political leadership on water, insufficient data collection** on national water resources, and **financial constraints**. The similar challenges faced across contexts shows the potential of the GWL Programme’s approach across more countries in the future.



Tackling **barriers to gender-transformative WASH and integrated water resources management (IWRM)** was a key part of the GWL Programme. The programme ensured gender inclusivity through analysis of the gender aspect of existing water resources management (WRM) practices, **inclusion of women in working groups and project activities** (including in leadership roles), and **capacity-building courses on gender.**



In addition to these achievements on a national scale, the profile of the GWL Programme and the IWRM and WASH efforts of the country teams were built through the participation and providing **key messages of importance of integration of IWRM and WASH in climate resilience** in a host of international conferences, including climate COPs, SWA Ministers Meetings, UN Water Conferences and Stockholm World Water Week.

Now that the countries of the GWL Programme are putting their Response Strategies into effect, and obtaining funding in accordance with their Finance Plans, as time passes, they will make strides towards achieving climate-resilient IWRM and WASH sectors.

The **map** overleaf presents selected highlights of country teams’ achievements.

GWL Programme elements



GWL country teams and partners gathered at the GWL Closeout Workshop in Malawi, March 2024

Country highlights

1. Central African Republic

Response Strategy aligned with the country's 3-year budgeting programme, NDC and NAP, highlighting potential for climate finance to mobilise resources for water sector.

2. Rwanda

GWL supported 2 districts to mainstream water resilience in district land-use plans. Technical briefs developed to guide stakeholders on coherence between integrated water resources management (IWRM) and WASH.

3. Uganda

GWL team helped to highlight gaps in the country's Water Policy, now under review and waiting for cabinet approval. GWL also supported the Government's participation in international fora.

4. Malawi

Response Strategy achieved input into national strategies, policies, and budgets, including Ministry of Water and Sanitation's Strategic Plan and revised Water Policy. Dual-phased approach to stakeholder consultation included voices from local frontline practitioners before national-level discussion.

4. Tanzania

Response Strategy integrated with the Tanzania Water Investment Programme and Zanzibar Water Investment Programme. GWL working groups structured as part of National Multi-Sectoral Forum, a government formal institutional mechanism to engage stakeholders in IWRM.

6. Palestine

In face of conflict and occupation, Palestine team aligned Response Strategy with national sectoral strategies, and national commitment to include IWRM and WASH in public budget. Funding proposals being developed at the time of writing.

7. Nepal

GWL team provided inputs on Irrigation, WASH, and River- and Water-Induced Disaster Management Policies in 2023, with inputs due for Climate Change Policy revised in 2024. Enhanced awareness of climate-water relationship through 7 provincial workshops under NDC partnership support programme.

Donor

UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office



£3.25
million

Implementing partners



Global Water Partnership (GWP)



United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)



Sanitation and Water for All (SWA)



Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP)



World Health Organization (WHO)



Participating countries supported by GWP



Central African Republic



Rwanda



Uganda



Malawi



Tanzania



Palestine



Nepal

Part I

GWL, a groundbreaking global initiative

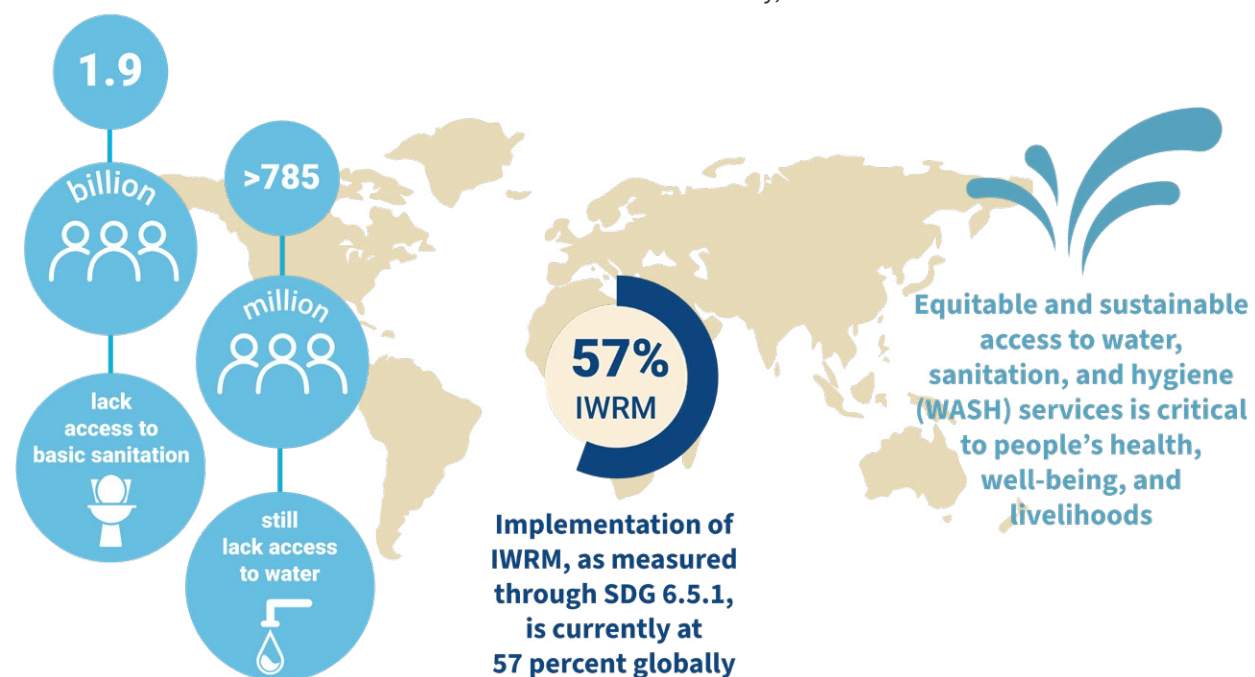
1. Introduction

Nearly a quarter of the way through the twenty-first century, shockingly, over 785 million people still lack access to water, according to the United Nations; 1.9 billion lack access to basic sanitation.

While integrated water resources management (IWRM) can be a vehicle to ensure sustainable management of water resources for all, progress on its achievement – after a decade of steady improvement – is still insufficient, considering that implementation of IWRM, as measured through SDG 6.5.1, is currently at 57 percent globally.

Equitable and sustainable access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services is critical to people's health, well-being, and livelihoods, while the effective implementation of IWRM can help maximise economic, social, and environmental welfare. However, despite being so deeply interconnected, WASH and IWRM have often existed as two distinct practices.

Current efforts to improve water security globally are falling short due, among other reasons, to a lack of useful data to inform decision and policy-making, high-level leadership to prioritise action in favour of water security, and investment to increase resilience.



1.1. What is the GWL Programme?

“The GWL model revolutionised water sector planning by fostering continuous engagement through collaborative sessions over a year, enriching participants' understanding of IWRM. It empowered staff and boosted partner morale by actively involving them in identifying and addressing water management challenges. This hands-on approach transformed IWRM from a concept into a tangible, impactful practice within the community.

- Bona Mremi, Community Development Officer, Lake Tanganyika Basin Water Board, Tanzania



Malawi's Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Hon. Liana Kakhobwe Chapota, MP, being interviewed at the GWL Closeout Workshop in Malawi, March 2024

1.1.1 Report structure

This Outcomes Brief aims to highlight key results from GWP's engagement with the GWL Programme and is divided into two parts. **Part I** is then divided into three sections and sets out how the GWL Programme operated under GWP's implementation. After a brief introduction to the programme in **Section 1**, **Section 2** presents operational aspects of the GWL Programme that have allowed the achievements of the programme to already begin to

accrue, and contrasts the unique GWL Programme structure with more typical approaches to IWRM and WASH. **Section 3** analyses selections from the country teams' Response Strategies and their achievements, nationally and internationally. Finally, **Part II** consists of seven sections, showcasing the achievements of the seven GWL Programme countries, presenting progress on integrated and climate-resilient IWRM and WASH around the world.

1.1.2. Scope and objectives

The Global Water Leadership in a Changing Climate (GWL) Programme aims to address the challenges already mentioned, and to improve the resilience, health, well-being, and livelihood options of vulnerable populations, especially women and youth.

A groundbreaking initiative that is global in scope, the GWL Programme aims to address these challenges through bringing the WASH and IWRM sectors closer together and addressing climate resilience. It provides critical support to governments to become international models for water leadership, and to demonstrate the socio-economic transformations that can be accomplished by making climate-resilient and gender-transformative IWRM and WASH services a political priority.

From its launch in 2021, the GWL Programme has been working to strengthen national support for water resource and services management, provide critical information and analysis to identify and resolve barriers, input into water (and/or climate) policies,

and help governments access financing to transform the sector. In doing so, the GWL Programme has been working to ensure climate resilience is considered when implementing IWRM. At the core of this success is a commitment to breaking down the silos in which IWRM and WASH operate for the development of holistic and climate-resilient water solutions.

As an implementing partner for the GWL Programme from April 2021 to March 2024, the Global Water Partnership (GWP) provided critical support to governments in seven low and middle-income countries to support them in becoming international models for water leadership.

GWP designed a set of work packages to contribute to **Output 1 (Leadership and collaboration), Output 2 (Evidence, norms, and standards), and Output 3 (Identifying systemic and financial constraints)** for IWRM and, where possible, climate-resilient WASH services. These outputs contributed to mobilising and strengthening political leadership for climate-resilient WRM which integrates WASH and IWRM at the national and international levels.

1.1.4. Participating countries supported by GWP

- 1  Central African Republic
- 2  Rwanda
- 3  Uganda
- 4  Malawi
- 5  Tanzania
- 6  Palestine
- 7  Nepal



1.1.3. Donor and partners

Implementing partners



Global Water Partnership (GWP)
 - Gathering data on water resources management, policies, and plans
 - Identifying bottlenecks in water resource management
 - Catalysing political uptake and implementation of the strategies through international platforms



Sanitation and Water for All (SWA)
 Providing a platform for multi-stakeholder sector dialogue, advocacy, and lesson-learning



World Health Organization (WHO)
 Providing guidelines, monitoring and reporting on water and sanitation safety, from drinking water and sanitation safety plans to infection prevention and control



United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
 Demonstrating approaches to increase the climate resilience of WASH services, developing and leveraging the capacity of government and sector partners, and leveraging climate finance to maximise impact



Donor



UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
£3.25 million



Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) of WHO and UNICEF
 Generating critical data insights into WASH access to enable evidence-based policy and decision-making

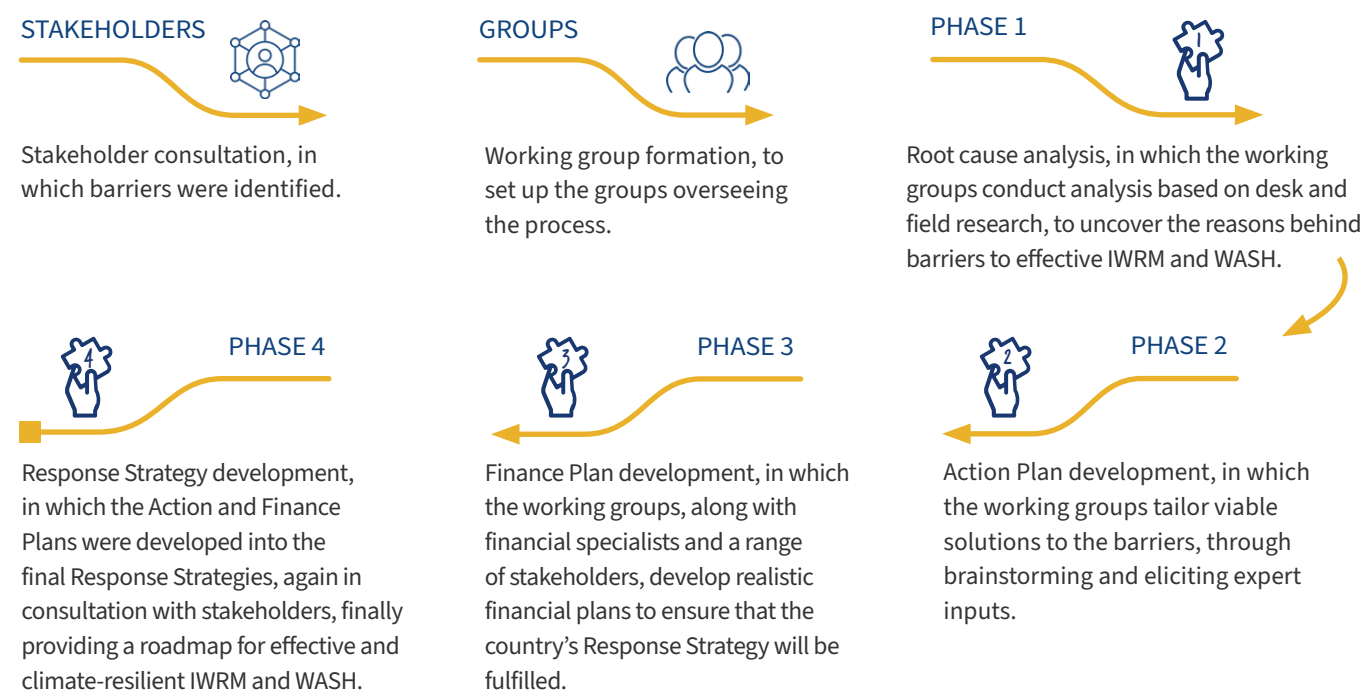
2. How the GWL Programme operated

2.1. Structures and processes

The GWP implementation of the GWL Programme hinged on the facilitation of stakeholder consultations and convening multi-stakeholder working groups to enable the GWL Programme

countries to transform their water and WASH sectors.

The specific activities of the GWL Programme proceeded along the following sequence:



2.2. Outputs

2.2.1. Response Strategies

The flagship product of the GWL Programme were government-validated Response Strategies for addressing the most critical barriers to climate-resilient IWRM. As a result of this process, barriers were identified by national stakeholders, who prioritised the top two-to-four barriers to effective and climate-resilient IWRM and WASH in their respective countries.

“**Root cause analysis is paramount in addressing the complex Palestinian water situation. By meticulously dissecting barriers, we uncover the systemic inequities and infrastructure challenges plaguing access to this vital resource. Only by understanding these root causes can we forge sustainable solutions that ensure equitable access to water for all Palestinians, paving the way for dignity, stability, and prosperity.**

- Beesan Shonnar, Policies and Technical Support Director, Palestinian Water Authority

Multi-stakeholder working groups were formed – one per barrier – each tasked with developing a Response Strategy to address their respective barrier. The Response Strategies contained two components: an Action Plan and a Finance Plan.

Key to the Response Strategies’ success was the method of working groups meeting regularly to investigate specific bottlenecks, before developing informed strategies to redress these issues. A key innovation was the integral part played by multi-stakeholder working groups comprising government agencies, NGOs, civil society organisations, WRM and WASH actors, academia and the private sector. These diverse stakeholders pooled their expertise and perspectives to address WRM and WASH challenges.

Rather than being external consultant led, national working groups (and through them, national governments) take ownership of the whole process, and their collaborative approach can ensure buy-in from donors so that Response Strategies are assured of the backing they require to succeed.

“**The process used in developing the Response Strategies has ensured ownership by not only Government, but also WASH stakeholders, who were part of the process from the beginning. The ownership [of the Response Strategies] is held by the working groups, not an international consultant.**

- Maxwell Wengawenga, Deputy Director of Planning, Ministry of Water and Sanitation, Malawi

2.2.2. Action Plans

Central to the Response Strategies’ success were the Action Plans for their uptake. To be impactful, these required:

Capacity-building and knowledge exchange on sustainable IWRM, financial planning and climate resilience

Government and stakeholder ownership of the implementation process to ensure continued action towards IWRM and WASH goals

Disseminating Response Strategies and advocacy efforts targeting policy- and decision-makers

THE ACTION PLANS

Alignment with national and sectoral strategies

Efforts to integrate Response Strategies into government budgets

2.2.3. Finance Plans

A programme’s success is often determined by the extent to which its strategies and plans are financially feasible. Building stakeholder capacity in identifying financing options was therefore a key output of the programme. Preparing and submitting funding proposals in line with the Finance Plans to potential local and external donors helped secure support from key partners, including development actors outside the GWL Programme.

“**Integration of a Finance Plan in the strategy is a new initiative in Nepal. This exercise contributed to our understanding of the process and elements to be considered during the formulation of the Finance Plan.**

- Laxman Sharma, WRM Specialist, Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, Nepal

All country teams were successful in drafting their complete Response Strategies, inclusive of both Action Plans and Finance Plans, by the conclusion of year 3 of GWL.

3. Synthesis of results

3.1. Barriers and responses

Many barriers identified by the seven GWL Programme countries were common to all countries. Surfacing this commonality was a key output of the programme and underpinned the value and extensibility of the programme to other countries.

How these themes were then addressed by the Response Strategies show similarities and differences. The following paragraphs highlight both a selection of key barriers and the actions countries identified to tackle them. The major barriers were:



Political or policy-related

including weak implementation of existing legal frameworks for IWRM, the absence of strong regulatory frameworks, and a lack of political will



Institutional

including overlap and/or poor institutional coordination, and insufficient resource distribution



Data-related

with insufficient monitoring of water resources



Infrastructural

with poor water infrastructure management leading to inefficient utilisation of water resources



Financial

with insufficient financial resources being dedicated to the water sector



Societal

including low awareness of IWRM and WASH issues in wider society

Political barriers and responses



The Central African Republic cited inconsistent implementation of laws and the lack of human capacity as key barriers. Suggested responses included: getting IWRM into the revised National

Environmental Code, increased capacity building of officials, and strengthening anti-corruption regulations. Similarly, Malawi and Nepal identified inadequate political will as key barriers and suggested actions that included advocating for effective governance structures, increased staffing and resource allocation at national, district, and community levels (Malawi), and policy dialogues with politicians and stakeholders (Nepal).

Institutional barriers and responses



Root cause analysis identified overlapping legal and regulatory mandates as key hurdles to IWRM in countries such as Tanzania and Nepal. Tanzania's response included plans to review and strengthen IWRM efforts through policy harmonisation and joint project implementation. In Nepal, institutional coordination within Government was set to be improved; human resources need assessed at national, provincial, and local levels; and IWRM guidelines and manuals developed, outlining stakeholders' different roles.

Data barriers and responses



Both the Central African Republic and Rwanda planned to create frameworks for gathering data on monitoring water resources, and mobilising funding for this. Nepal is working towards a policy on data management and developing a national database on WRM and WASH. Palestine identified a lack of a synchronised and updated national database and is developing an integrated planning tool and performance management system for water resources and climate change.

Infrastructure barriers and responses



In Rwanda, limited water demand and supply management capacity is reducing water productivity and is to be addressed by establishing a project management team and water infrastructure

management committees and building the water management capacity of water users in agriculture and industry. Tanzania is planning to improve inefficient irrigation schemes, pilot modern irrigation practices and encourage use of water-efficient irrigation technologies.

Financial barriers and responses



Financial barriers to climate-resilient IWRM and WASH were common to all countries. Malawi's Response Strategy outlined a pathway to increasing WASH financing to 7 percent of the national budget and 0.5 percent of GDP, by attracting investment, particularly in climate-resilient infrastructure. Meanwhile, Tanzania focused on improving the understanding of the economic value of water resources to the Government and other stakeholders, including through public expenditure reviews of the water sector every three years.

Social barriers and responses



Rwanda identified limited community knowledge and awareness of water management issues, and documenting and disseminating best practices and lessons on water management to rectify the situation as a response. Palestine suggested conducting a study and workshops on the barriers to and knowledge of reusing treated wastewater, and a campaign including advocacy materials such as podcasts, posters, leaflets, and stickers.

3.2. Gender inclusivity

Women participants in the GWL Programme reported positively on their experiences. For example:

“Working groups offered me significant professional growth, increased my confidence, and enabled formation of strong bonds with my fellow group members. They allowed me to both contribute and learn. Through this process, I gained a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities in IWRM. Additionally, I acquired new skills in project finance planning. In addition, having the opportunity to share my views and ideas with senior experts in the field was particularly motivating and enriched my career. Simply, this programme has provided me with knowledge, skills, and connections that will undoubtedly shape my future endeavours in water resources management.

- Kayitesi Adeline, Civil Engineer, Young Water Professionals, Rwanda

A key GWL Programme highlight is that a number of countries identified tackling **barriers to gender-transformative WASH and IWRM** in their Response Strategies. Malawi, for example, pledged to advocate for improved understanding of gender equality and social inclusion in IWRM and WASH while leaving no one behind. In relation to broader social barriers to effective IWRM, Palestine identified a lack of gender mainstreaming on the reuse of treated wastewater and the disproportionate effects of climate change on women and girls as key challenges.

The GWL Programme ensured gender inclusivity in the following ways:

- ▶ Analysis of the gender aspect of existing WRM practices was conducted by all countries. The findings were integrated into the composition and structure of the working groups.

- ▶ Gender inclusion in working groups and project activities:
 - ▶ Efforts were made to encourage inclusion of women in working groups. On average across the seven countries, 37 percent of working group members were women, much better than the average global ratio of women leadership in the water sector of 23 percent.
 - ▶ Many countries ensured a good representation of female leadership in the working groups. For instance, Uganda ensured at least two women out of five leadership positions within each working group. In Malawi, the Ministry of Gender was represented during the workshops to input into the draft Response Strategy.
 - ▶ Working groups in Palestine had 64 percent of their members as women. All three chairs of working groups were women from key stakeholder institutions. A representative of the Ministry of Women's Affairs was included in the capacity-development programme.
 - ▶ GWL Palestine also took an active gender approach by engaging with the Palestinian Women Water Practitioners Network (PWWPN). PWWPN co-organised a dissemination session for the Response Strategy to local NGOs, invited female water professionals to attend the second consultation workshop, and hired a female graphic designer to design the Response Strategy.
- ▶ Capacity-building on gender: All GWL country staff and key individuals were encouraged to take an online course on Gender and IWRM, and to participate in a gender budgeting course organized by GWP.

3.3. Key country achievements/highlights

1. Central African Republic

Response Strategy aligned with the country's 3-year budgeting programme, NDC and NAP, highlighting potential for climate finance to mobilize resources for water sector.

2. Rwanda

GWL supported 2 districts to mainstream water resilience in district land-use plans. Technical briefs developed to guide stakeholders on coherence between IWRM and WASH.



3. Uganda

GWL team helped to highlight gaps in the country's Water Policy, now under review and waiting for cabinet approval. GWL also supported the Government's participation in international fora.

5. Tanzania

Response Strategy integrated with the Tanzania Water Investment Programme and Zanzibar Water Investment Programme. GWL working groups structured as part of National Multi-Sectoral Forum, a government formal institutional mechanism to engage stakeholders in IWRM.

4. Malawi

Response Strategy achieved input into national strategies, policies, and budgets, including Ministry of Water and Sanitation's Strategic Plan and revised Water Policy. Dual-phased approach to stakeholder consultation included voices from local frontline practitioners before national-level discussion.

7. Nepal

GWL team provided inputs on Irrigation, WASH, and River- and Water-Induced Disaster Management Policies in 2023, with inputs due for Climate Change Policy revised in 2024. Enhanced awareness of climate-water relationship through 7 provincial workshops under NDC partnership support programme.

6. Palestine

In face of conflict and occupation, Palestine team aligned Response Strategy with national sectoral strategies, and national commitment to include IWRM and WASH in public budget. Funding proposals being developed at the time of writing.

3.4. International achievements

May 2022

At the SWA Sector Ministers Meeting in Jakarta, the GWP Global Coordinator was active in designing the content for the session and supporting the ministerial delegations of several GWL country teams.

November 2022

The GWL Programme supported countries participating in spreading the message on including water in climate action at COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh. GWL country teams in Nepal and Uganda assisted their ministerial delegations.

December 2023

At COP28 in Dubai, December 2023, the GWL Programme participated in broadcasting the message about the value of including water in climate action, with the participation of government officials from Nepal, Palestine, Tanzania, and Uganda.

August 2022

GWP, UNICEF, and the FCDO co-hosted a well-attended session at Stockholm World Water Week, featuring presentations on Malawi, Rwanda, and Uganda.

March 2023

At the UN Water Conference, the Global Coordinator promoted the GWL Programme at GWP's flagship event on "Partnerships to Reach the SDGs". Malawi, Tanzania, and Uganda GWL country teams collaborated with other IWRM and WASH partners to prepare their national delegations.

3.5. Looking to the future

Throughout the GWL Programme implementation, consistent feedback from government focal points was that the development of Response Strategies without external international consultants was a key factor in ensuring national ownership. National stakeholders had successfully identified what needed to be done to secure climate-resilient and gender-responsive IWRM and WASH. The carefully crafted and validated Finance Plans made it easy to plug directly into annual budgets and sources of funding. This approach will be the key driver for implementation of Response Strategy even after completion of the programme activities.

Ensuring that each country had a clear and costed pathway to effective and climate-resilient WASH management is one of the key achievements of GWL. The innovation at the heart of the GWL Programme's approach is tackling WRM and WASH challenges through a locally led process that is optimised to ensure political, social and financial buy-in. The pioneering methodology and processes introduced by the GWL Programme could be scaled up to help any countries in serving their needs of populations and preserve their water resources for generations to come.

Part II

Country highlights



GWL country teams and partners gathered at the GWL Closeout Workshop in Malawi, March 2024



Central African Republic

“The GWL has been very beneficial to CAR through its support in this programme aimed at effectively responding to the systemic obstacles linked to the sustainable and inclusive management of water resources in the Central African Republic.

Gary Sekou, Director, Research and Planning Department, Directorate General of Hydraulic Resources

Country context

Water management in the Central African Republic (CAR) is challenging. Only about one third of the population has access to improved drinking water sources, while less than one fifth has access to improved sanitation facilities. To address these challenges, key national stakeholders engaged in a government-led, inclusive, and participatory change process through GWL. The working model sought to identify systemic and financial constraints in IWRM and define strategies to overcome them.

How the GWL Programme operated in the country

An initial consultation, attended by representatives of 25 institutions and led by GWP and Ministry of Energy Development and Water Resources

(MDERH), identified the key barriers to IWRM and gender equality. Barrier-specific working groups were established by the MDERH. These working groups analysed the root causes of these constraints and ultimately developed a nationally validated Response Strategy, consisting of an action and financial plan.

Timeline of the GWL Programme in the Central African Republic



Participants at the GWL launch and first stakeholder workshop in the Central African Republic

“The root cause analysis phase allowed us to uncover the real problems that prevent the development of the water sector in the Central African Republic; problems for which we have found lasting solutions through rational and participatory approach.

– Clarisse Banyombo, Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning

Putting the response into action

During the round table organised by the Government in April 2024, the Response Strategy was presented to the technical and financial partners working in the water sector who have begun to enter into agreements to support the implementation of the Action Plan.

The GWL Programme has had a profound and lasting impact on improving IWRM and WASH services in CAR. Its unique, nationally validated approach broke down traditional silos and directly facilitated the implementation of major water strategies and documents into policy documents.

“CAR is now preparing its National Development Strategy where I’m involved in the Ministry of Planning. The GWL working group model should be capitalised on if we want the strategy to meet our priorities in the country.

– Bertin Yezia, member of Group 3/Head of Service, Institut Centrafricain des Statistiques et des Etudes Economiques et Sociales



Members of the Government at a workshop on the appropriation of water resource strategy and policy documents in the Central African Republic

Key highlights and impact

1 A first-of-its-kind strategy

This was the first time in the country’s history where stakeholders oversaw the process of identifying obstacles and providing solutions. This has influenced a positive shift in coordination and participatory policymaking, proving that “communication from below” is critical to development processes.

2 A focus on gender inclusion

Key to the Response Strategies was the emphasis on centring gender in climate resilience policies. This was demonstrated by the working groups, which were each chaired by two women and two vice-chairwomen. As a result, participants in the GWL Programme expressed a strong desire to see the working group model replicated.

3 Prioritising financing

The focus on developing a nationally-validated financial plan has created a clear pathway for TFPs to support the implementation of the Response Strategy, with organisations such as UNDP, UNICEF and the European Union expressing their willingness to support the Government’s resource mobilisation efforts.



Barriers	Root causes	Response Strategy	Est. cost (EUR)	Potential Funding sources
1. Weak application of existing texts and documents	A lack of implementing legislation for certain laws; inadequate human resources; fragility of the country following multiple crises	Strengthen the application of existing texts and documents Actions: 1) Elaborating of the 11 texts implementing the Water Code; 2) Revising of the organic texts of the Water and Transport departments; 3) Seeking government arbitration to harmonise water-related missions between the Water and Transport departments; 4) Strengthening internal control measures; 5) Strengthening regulatory measures to prevent corruption; 6) Setting up a behaviour change programme; 7) Promoting the Water Code, National Water Policy and other water-related documents; 8) Protecting critical water infrastructure; 9) Raising public awareness of the importance of water infrastructure and resources	3,254,047	UNICEF, WHO, World Bank, BDEAC, MDERH, UNICEF, NGOs, SODECA, ANEA, Orange RCA
2. Lack of an optimum water resource monitoring system	Overlapping responsibilities of government structures; lack of coordination structure; lack of financial resources to cover the costs of monitoring water resources; insufficient human resources to set up and operationalise the monitoring system	Set up and operationalise an optimum water resource monitoring system Actions: 1) Setting up and operationalising the coordination committee; 2) Setting up a monitoring and evaluation framework; 3) Mobilising funding for the acquisition, maintenance, and renewal of monitoring tools; 4) Mobilising resources to monitor water resources; 5) Defining a human resources strategy for the monitoring system	676,110	MDERH/TFPs/NGOs
3. Poor distribution of human resources	A violation of current legislation; nepotism/laxity; consumerism; lack of capacity-building for some human resources managers; incompetence of some human resource managers	Improve the distribution of human resources Actions: 1) Updating the workforce or career plan for civil servants and government employees; 2) Popularising the procedures manual within MDERH; 3) Developing internal communication on the values of the Central African Republic and the mission assigned to MDERH; 4) Defining and implementing a capacity-building programme for human resources managers at MDERH; 5) Recruiting new agents; 6) Assigning agents in the Human Resources Department	530,110	MDERH/Civil servants, NGOs
4. Mismatch between the national budget allocated and the problems to be solved	A weak resource mobilisation strategy; non-application of the “polluter pays” principle; low level of PPP in the water sector; weak political will; weak mobilisation of equity capital; decline in official development assistance	Better match the national budget to the problems to be solved Actions: 1) Developing a resource mobilisation strategy; 2) Implementing the resource mobilisation strategy; 3) Calling on Government to draw up implementing regulations for the law on PPPs; 4) Implementing and operationalising the framework/mechanism for the development of PPPs; 5) Reinforcing the status of water in the country’s government and development agenda; 6) Operationalising the National Water Fund; 7) Creating an internal monitoring committee for the mobilisation of own resources and the execution of public expenditure; 8) Strengthening the confidence of TFPs	770,732	MDERH, TFPs, NGOs, budget, Orange RCA, UNICEF
Total			5,230,999	

Rwanda

“This Response Strategy is in line with Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) strategic plan 2021–2030, as it is tackling the main challenges water resources sector is facing related to flooding, soil erosion, capacity building of water users as well as knowledge transfer. RWB commend different partners like GWP Eastern Africa for their tireless efforts in advancing water resilience in Rwanda. Therefore, there is a need for collective action to implement this Response Strategy.

– Evariste Nsabimana, Deputy Director-General of RWB

Country context

Despite Rwanda’s abundant rainfall throughout the year, limited water storage infrastructure and high population density have led to severe water scarcity (670 m³ of water per capita per year) and low access to “basic” sanitation services (64 per cent countrywide). To tackle this, the GWL Programme united a multi-stakeholder team to transform national water governance and WASH as well as mainstreaming water resilience in land use, one of the key factors affecting sustainable WRM in Rwanda.

How the GWL Programme operated in the country

The implementation of the GWL Programme was co-led by GWP Rwanda and the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) alongside the programme partners. Government agencies convened multi-stakeholder working groups representing RWB, the Water and

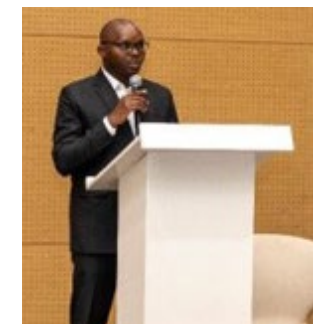


Data collection and stakeholder consultation during the root causes analysis

Sanitation Corporation, Rwanda Energy Group, Rwanda Agricultural and Animal Resources Development Board, the National Land Authority, as well as the University of Rwanda, WaterAid-Rwanda, NGOs, youth organisations and the private sector. The working groups conducted a mixed-methods approach to investigate the barriers.

The working groups, focusing on limited technical capacity and renewable water resources conducted field visits in eastern Rwanda, while the working groups tasked with flood risk management and siltation impacts conducted their field visits in the north-western region. Fieldwork involved engaging directly with local stakeholders through interviews and observations to gain a thorough understanding of each challenge. Out of 25 barriers, 4 were identified as the most urgent to address.

Timeline of the GWL Programme in Rwanda



Mr. Evariste Nsabimana, Deputy Director-General of Rwanda Water Resources Board

“The strategic objectives of the RWB strategic plan include strengthening governance of water resources and strengthening RWB’s capacity and financial sustainability. To achieve these objectives, RWB will need partners and stakeholders in IWRM.

– Eng. Davis Bugingo, RWB Flood Management and Water Storage Development Division Manager

Putting the response into action

The Response Strategy will feed into the Government of Rwanda’s Vision 2050, National Strategy for Transformation (NST1), and the Rwanda Resources Board Strategic Plan 2021–2030, the African Union Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goal 6 (clean water and sanitation for all), among other programmes. The Government will also aim to incorporate the strategy into its budget, pitching concept notes and proposals to donors and partners.

“This Response Strategy represents Rwanda’s commitment to transforming its water management landscape. The success of this strategy lies not only in its meticulous planning but in the collective effort and dedication of all stakeholders involved. Through this transformative journey, Rwanda sets an inspiring example for sustainable water management globally.

– François-Xavier Tetero, Chairperson of Regional Steering Committee, GWPEA



Working groups during the development of the Finance Plan in Rwanda

Key highlights and impact

1 Multi-disciplinary engagement

In March 2024, the launch of the Response Strategy was officiated by representatives from RWB, FCDO, UNICEF Rwanda and GWP Eastern Africa (GWPEA). GWL also engaged UNICEF on the Response Strategy and co-developed a case study on strengthening IWRM and climate-resilient WASH in the Mpazi sub-catchment in the Kigali district.



2

IWRM and WASH interlinked

GWL developed and presented a technical brief summarising the coherence between IWRM and WASH in Rwanda, which was published on national and international water and media platforms.



3

Mainstreaming water resilience into land-use plans

Rwanda supported two districts, Karongi and Rusizi, in mainstreaming water resilience into their land-use plans. This was a unique addition to a strategy covering a range of national activities, including the empowerment of water users, flood management, soil erosion control and dissemination of communication materials. Having seen the success of the GWL Programme in Rwanda, working group participants recommended replicating this support in other districts in the region. They also recommended implementing a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to follow up on the milestones set by the GWL Programme, embracing an adaptive, reiterative management process, and strengthening community awareness and engagement on the need to manage natural resources.



Rwanda – Identified barriers and Response Strategy

Barriers	Root causes	Response Strategy	Est. cost (Rwandan franc)	Potential Funding sources
1. Limited technical capacity	A lack of implementing legislation for certain laws; regulatory inconsistency; inadequate human resources; fragility of the country following multiple crises	Empower decentralised entities and water users through capacity-building on sustainable water infrastructure management Actions: 1) Improving water users’ skills in the management of water infrastructures; 2) Enhancing the coordination capacity of decentralised entities; 3) Establishing and operationalising water infrastructure management committees	1,057,802,280	Grants from international NGOs, bilateral partners, and NGOs; government budget allocation; PPPs; accessing climate funds; community contributions and engagement; development bonds and special purpose vehicles; technology transfer agreements
2. Flood risk management	Insufficient skills and awareness among water users; lack of an institutional coordination mechanism at the local level, lack of construction, operation and maintenance capabilities for water infrastructure, and a general lack of awareness and best practices on water management among water users	Mainstream water resilience into district land-use plans and establish flood forecasting systems in critical flood-prone areas Actions: 1) Enhancing water resilience within district land-use plans; 2) Establishing flood forecasting systems	1,195,381,240	Grants from international NGOs, bilateral partners, and NGOs; government budget allocation; PPPs; accessing climate funds; community contributions and engagement; development bonds and special purpose vehicles; technology transfer agreements
3. Limited community awareness	Absence of consistent training programmes and technical support in sustainable water management at the community level; insufficiency of skilled trainers and knowledge-sharing platforms	Disseminate knowledge through the community of sustainable water management, reinforcing the link between water quality, agricultural productivity, and conservation Actions: 1) Documenting and disseminating best practices and lessons on water management; 2) Improving community knowledge on sustainable water management practices	915,963,466	Grants from international NGOs, bilateral partners, and NGOs; government budget allocation; PPPs; accessing climate funds; community contributions and engagement; development bonds and special purpose vehicles; technology transfer agreements
4. High siltation of water bodies impacting water development projects	Soil erosion from unprotected catchments; limited community awareness of the impact of soil erosion on agriculture and infrastructure	Establish soil conservation measures/practices in the upstream water supply sources for key cities (Rusizi, Karongi, Huye) Actions: 1) Restoring the degrading landscape; 2) Promoting climate-smart agricultural practices; 3) Sustainably managing stormwater; 4) Improving community awareness of the impact of soil erosion on agricultural productivity and water pollution	16,651,947,000	Grants from international NGOs, bilateral partners, and NGOs; government budget allocation; PPPs; accessing climate funds; community contributions and engagement; development bonds and special purpose vehicles; technology transfer agreements
Total			19,821,093,986	

Uganda

“ We acknowledge that we cannot achieve this vision on our own as a Government and this is why we seek productive partnerships with development partners, private sector and non-governmental organisations to realise our goal.

– Sowed Sewagudde, Directorate of Water Resources Management at the Ministry of Water and Environment

Country context

The water sector in Uganda is fragile. The country remains at risk from the effects of climate change, wetland degradation, the inability to match investment in WASH with population growth, as well as the reduction in government expenditure on water from 5 to 3 per cent. The GWL Programme set out to jointly understand these challenges and implement inclusive, climate-resilient IWRM and WASH services.

How the GWL Programme operated in the country

The Uganda GWL Programme was co-led by the Government through the Ministry of Water and Environment, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, National Planning Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Local Government and the National Environment Management Authority, alongside GWP Eastern Africa. Two working groups, each of 20 members, were established, including actors from

Government, NGOs, UNICEF, civil society organisations, cultural and religious groups, catchment management committees, academia and the private sector.

The thematic working groups conducted a literature review of available country data on IWRM and WASH and field studies in the four water management zones (Upper Nile, Kyoga, Victoria, and Albertine), which were guided by questionnaires.

Timeline of the GWL Programme in Uganda



“ The root cause analysis from different stakeholders in water management zones was ground truth information that informed the need for more climate-resilient IWRM/WASH in Uganda.

– Henry Bazira, Executive Director of the Water Governance Institute and Chair of the Working Group for Limited Finance

Putting the response into action

Uganda’s Response Strategy was developed in alignment with the National Development Plan III and the programme-based approach to national planning, enabling water and climate resilience to be mainstreamed into budgets for growth, infrastructure, inclusiveness and wellbeing. Prior to its launch, the Response Strategy was presented to senior management in the Ministry of Water and Environment to strengthen the Government’s ownership of its implementation, while technical and policy briefs were developed to strengthen ownership for working group members. Following the launch, during Uganda Water and Environment Week, which the Prime Minister and Vice President of Uganda attended, the Ministry mobilised water stakeholders to champion IWRM in the country. The Government of Uganda and its partners are now spearheading resource mobilisation through mapping donors and submitting proposals to them.

“ The Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Water and Environment is able to continue mainstreaming a more resilient IWRM/WASH sector upon the development of the Response Strategy, and this will be through developing concept notes through Government working groups already established for resource mobilisation.

– Sewagudde Sowed, Ag. Assistant Commissioner of Transboundary Water Resources, Ministry of Water and Environment

Key highlights and impact

1 Mainstreaming IWRM and WASH in national strategies



Having highlighted the weak legal, policy and institutional frameworks on IWRM and WASH, the Response Strategy led to a review of the water policy, which is now awaiting cabinet approval.

2 Collaboration with international partners



GWL Uganda partnered with Sanitation and Water for All to integrate IWRM into WASH messaging while UNICEF, through the Ministry of Water and Environment, coordinated the development of the National Adaptation Plan for WASH.

3 Awareness-raising and inclusion



With support from the Ministry of Water and Environment, media broadcasts and dissemination raised awareness of the climate-water relationship. With GWL support, the Ugandan Government was able to spearhead country commitments, including the country brief on achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6 and the presidential compact at the United Nations Water Conference 2023, as well as participating in the Sector Ministers’ Meeting during Sanitation and Water for All 2022 in Indonesia, the Finance Ministers’ Meeting 2023, Stockholm World Water Week, COP 28, and the 10th World Water Forum in 2024.



Group photo during the launch of the GWL Programme in Uganda



A water pump and children in Uganda



The Under-Secretary signing the Response Strategy during the launch

Uganda – Identified barriers and Response Strategy				
Barrier	Root causes	Response Strategy	Est. cost (EUR)	Funding sources
1. Limited finance for IWRM/WASH	Limited capacity in the designing, planning and budgeting of IWRM/WASH projects; inadequate prioritisation of funds for financing IWRM and WASH; inadequate knowledge of IWRM and WASH which affects intervention financing, and weak institutional arrangement and coordination	Mobilise and increase the resource allocation base for IWRM and WASH services in Uganda Actions: 1) Increasing awareness among stakeholders about limited financing and the need for increased funding in IWRM/WASH; 2) Enhancing capacity of relevant actors in implementation of IWRM/WASH; 3) Increasing financing of climate change adaptation and mitigation; 4) Promoting the value of IWRM/WASH in social economic development; 5) Improving coordination and collaboration of IWRM/WASH interventions among different MDAs, CBOs, NGOs, private sector, and local governments following programme-based planning and budgeting approach	2,721,400	Development partners
2. Lack of an optimum water resource monitoring system	Gaps in the implementation of WASH and IWRM policies, strategies and frameworks, gaps in awareness and the information dissemination and tracking of IWRM and WASH services, weaknesses in the planning and coordination of WASH and IWRM, and policy economy and governance issues	Strengthen policy, legal and institutional frameworks on IWRM and WASH Actions: 1) Reviewing and updating the information and communication strategy for inclusive communication mechanisms for different groups; 2) Developing a harmonised monitoring and evaluation data-collection tool on IWRM, WASH and climate change; 3) Promoting the economic, social, cultural and political value of water; 4) Improving coordination and collaboration of IWRM and WASH interventions among different ministries, departments and agencies, community-based organisations, NGOs, private sector and local governments following programme-based planning and budgeting approach; 5) Hastening the justice processes on environmental degradation and encroachment	3,510,900	Government of Uganda and development partners
Total			6,232,300	

Malawi

“**Malawi has for a long time faced challenges that have directly been due to weaknesses in developing feasible solutions in IWRM and sustainable WASH. Through the Response Strategies developed under the GWL Programme, Malawi will have a more climate-resilient water and sanitation sector, which will be achieved through a more inclusive approach involving stakeholders at national, regional, and local levels.**

– Deborah Muheka, GWL Malawi Coordinator

Country context

Malawi faces a number of IWRM challenges, including over-reliance on groundwater, especially in rural areas, soil erosion and diminishing water quality. These issues, coupled with water-related climate shocks, such as Cyclone Idai (which in 2019 destroyed an estimated USD 3.8 million worth of WASH infrastructure), are hampering Malawi's delivery of WASH services.

How the GWL Programme operated in the country

In Malawi, the GWL Programme was led by the Ministry of Water and Sanitation in collaboration with GWP Malawi, who facilitated a comprehensive approach to tackling IWRM and WASH challenges in the country. In July 2022, in alignment with the Ministry's Strategic Plan 2023–2028, the Ministry of Water and Sanitation and GWP Malawi convened a group of multi-stakeholders for a consultation workshop to prioritise the most critical barriers to climate-resilient water management in Malawi.



Using a water pump in Malawi

Three working groups, each comprising an average of 18 members, were established from Government, CSOs, academia, private sector and development partners. The process for developing the Response Strategy followed participatory engagement with a multi-stakeholder group from civil society organisations, the private sector, academia, other ministries and departments, and umbrella organisations in the water sector.

Timeline of the GWL Programme in Malawi



“**For most of us, financial matters are usually a challenge. Engagement of a finance consultant enhanced my confidence in developing Finance Plans. This was particularly so because of the interactive process that was used by the consultant. This was great experience.**

– Samuel Bota, Country Water Partnership Vice Chair, GWP

Putting the response into action

Malawi’s Response Strategy was disseminated to the district councils, coordination bodies and all stakeholders involved in the development process. With key partners championing, the strategy should feed into the One WASH Programme (borrowed from Ethiopia to harmonise WASH in the sector) and the WASH Investment Plan, among other programmes. Government budgets, strategies, policies and funding applications, as well as COP 28 negotiations, have all incorporated the strategy in an effort to strengthen WASH systems in Malawi. In July 2024, the President of Malawi will launch the strategy alongside the Water Policy and Strategic Plan.


“ I am glad that the Programme did not just stop at identifying the major challenges to WRM and WASH but went further to develop government-endorsed Response Strategies, all of which contain an Action Plan and Finance Plan. This is very critical because players in the water sector can begin to realistically look at how they can make an impactful contribution towards healthier ecosystems and climate-resilient communities.

– Liana Kakhobwe Chapota, MP and Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation




Minister of Water and Sanitation, Hon. Abida Mia (centre), poses with Ministry and GWL Malawi staff


Key highlights and achievements

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1 Stakeholders at the forefront

Malawi’s approach to stakeholder consultations deliberately sought out perspectives from frontline practitioners by first travelling to the three regional centres to gather data on the greatest barriers to climate-resilient water management. These barriers were synthesised and presented at the national-level workshop, where participants then identified the top three barriers. This dual-phased process uncovered barriers that were unlikely to have been voiced if the process had been conducted solely at the national level.
- 

2 A Nexus approach to planning

The programme supported advancing climate-resilient plans and policies for water by inserting, water concerns into climate policies and/or plans through the piloted Water-Energy-Food Nexus demo project, and through supporting the Ministry of Water and Sanitation in developing its first strategic plan of 2023–2028.
- 

3 International presence

The programme supported the Ministry of Water and Sanitation in developing its keynote address for the United Nations Water Conference 2023 and completing a gender and IWRM course. A dual-phased approach allowed Malawi to ensure regional input at Stockholm World Water Week 2023. Efforts have been made to include water in climate resilience activities, such as GCF Readiness and the Water-Energy-Food Nexus approach. UNICEF collaborated with GWL Malawi to ensure integrate and interlink IWRM and WASH, through training on WASH financing, a joint courtesy call to the Minister of Water and Sanitation, a joint field mission and progress update meeting, revisions to the workplan and budget, and participation in the launch of the Malawi Climate Resilient WASH Financing Strategy.

Malawi – Identified barriers and Response Strategy				
Barrier	Root causes	Response Strategy	Est. cost (USD)	Funding sources
1. Inadequate water investments and climate financing	Disproportionately low level of funding in the budget compared with health, education and agriculture, a minimal increase in the budget allocation for the WASH sector (less than 0.5 per cent of GDP), and a singular funding source for WASH (donors)	Increase WASH financing to 7 per cent of the national budget and 0.5 per cent of GDP, and develop a framework for innovative financing models by 2024/25 Actions: 1) Building adequate resources for WASH for infrastructure investment; 2) Promoting a conducive legal and regulatory framework that is responsive in promoting investment; 3) Promoting data availability, accessibility and sharing; 4) Promoting the building of climate-resilient infrastructure	5,495,644	UNICEF, Government of Malawi, World Bank, Water Aid, African Development Bank, GWP, African Center for Tech Studies
2. Weak coordination and regulatory framework	Weak coordination of stakeholders, poor adherence to WASH regulations and inadequate enforcement of WASH regulations	Promote a conducive and responsive environment for investment Actions: 1) Improving coordination mechanism at national, council and community levels; 2) Reviewing and enforcing policies and regulations for improved implementation of the WASH strategy; 3) Improving institutional capacity regarding regulation enforcement and coordination; 4) Improving data management systems at the central level	3,605,116	Government of Malawi, World Bank, African Development Bank, CSOs, USAID, GWP
3. Lack of political will and water leadership	Insufficient knowledge and poor attitude among various stakeholders, negative political influence, opposing mindsets of service providers and users, and weak sectoral coordination and integration	Improve advocacy efforts to promote and enforce the building of climate-resilient infrastructure Actions: 1) Promoting awareness of the importance of WRM, WASH and other related activities among local communities and other stakeholders; 2) Advocating for effective governance structures, increased staffing and resource allocation at the national, district and community levels, and 3) Lobbying for strengthened management information systems in water and sanitation; 4) Advocating for legally recognised and enhanced status of the Ministry of Water and Sanitation; 5) Advocating for improved understanding of gender equality and social inclusion in WRM and WASH while leaving no one behind	839,985	Government of Malawi (including Water Utilities), World Bank, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, African Development Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency, UNICEF, Government of Scotland
Total			9,940,745	

Tanzania

“As the Director of Water Resources at the Ministry of Water, it is my privilege to present this all-encompassing Response Strategy that the prestigious National Multi-Sectoral Forum has meticulously created. We are committed to transforming lives through sustainable development and effective management of water resources. I urge all stakeholders, including government agencies, development partners, business sector organisations, and civil society, to adopt the principles stated in this text as we progress through the implementation phase.

– Dr George Lugomela, Director of Water Resources, Ministry of Water

Country context

Despite Tanzania’s proximity to Africa’s three largest lakes and high annual rainfall, increasing dam construction and surface water abstraction are disrupting river flows and biodiversity, while agricultural and mining run-off, untreated wastewater and inadequate sanitation compromise water quality. A high degree of urbanisation, population growth and a steady decline in government expenditure on WRM are further causes for concern.



Top: Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Water, Engineer Mwajuma Waziri, holding the Response Strategy during the 2024 National Multi-Sectoral Forum closing ceremony
Bottom: GWL Country Coordinator for Tanzania presenting virtually at COP 28 on 3 December 2023

How the GWL Programme operated in the country

Alongside GWP, the lead government agency was the Ministry of Water, which provided oversight and strategic leadership throughout the planning and implementation phases of GWL activities. This Ministry is leading both the implementation of the Response Strategy and other related initiatives within the broader frameworks of the Tanzania Water Investment Programme and the Water Sector Development Programme.

The working group model was institutionalised within the National Multi-Sectoral Forum (NMSF). Three working groups, each comprising 10 representatives from ministries, academia, NGOs, the private sector and development partners, performed desk research, literature reviews and field interviews to understand the causes of the barriers. Within each working group, smaller GWL task forces were formed to work on the Response Strategy.

Timeline of the GWL Programme in Tanzania



“Working with a finance consultant was immensely beneficial, particularly in clarifying the intricacies of budget formulation, monitoring and execution. While the taskforce teams have gained confidence, there remains a need for more time and continued support from the consultant to fully master these aspects. Next time, I believe we will all be more eager to engage in Finance Plan development, now that we understand our roles more clearly.

– James Genga, Managing Director of Equiplus Company Limited

Putting the response into action

Tanzania’s Response Strategy neatly aligns with the Tanzania Water Investment Plan and the goals of the Water Sector Development Programme. The National Multi-sectoral Forum has submitted a proposal to the National Water Board for the strategy to be integrated into the Water Sector Development Programme II and its related projects. This integration requires the Government’s approval, via the Ministry of Water. The strategy’s Finance Plan identifies a variety of sources for activation including the Tanzanian Government through its annual budget allocations as well as funds from the National Water Fund, climate change funds from the Ministry of Finance, Vice President’s Office and other ministries, and other potential development partners.

“The journey towards water resilience in Tanzania is a collaborative one, made stronger by the support of water sector development partners like the Global Water Leadership programme. By acting before water scarcity occurs, we are committed to ensuring a water-secure future for our nation.

– Asha Mohammed Msoka, GWL Programme Coordinator, Tanzania

Key highlights and impact

1

Mainstreaming IWRM and WASH in national strategies

The GWL Programme in Tanzania effectively pioneered parallel initiatives for bridging the gaps between IWRM and WASH sectors. The programme supported the Zanzibar Water Investment Programme with rapid groundwater potential assessments to enhance water quality and strengthen the management of climate change impacts. The meticulously crafted Action and Finance Plans influenced the Tanzania Water Investment Programme’s approach to resolving barriers to funding, legal support and coordination in WRM.



2

National and international effect

Following the launch of the Response Strategy by the country’s Prime Minister with the promise to take it to the interministerial committee, the strategy has had a significant presence at larger scales. The strategy influenced the theme of the 6th National Multistakeholder Forum: “Floods and Droughts: Investment in Water Security is an Urgent Issue” and was presented at COP 28 alongside the working groups’ experience of the multisectoral process.



Aerial view of the Tulo Kongwa irrigation system, Tanzania. The system is unlined, a sign of inefficiency.

Barrier	Root causes	Response Strategy	Estimated cost (Tanzanian shilling)	Funding sources
1. Inadequate funds to implement climate-resilient water resources	Limited financial resources, limited technical capacity, limited understanding of the importance of water resources among stakeholders, inadequate prioritisation of WRM, perception of WRM subsector as inflexible and an unappealing ally in and outside the Ministry of Water	Enhance the competence and capacity of the Ministry of Water, WRM division and the Basin Water Boards (BWBs) for the effective implementation of WRM and resource mobilisation as well as enhancing the understanding of the economic value of water resources to the Government and other stakeholders Actions: 1) Assessing the capacity of the Ministry of Water, WRM Division and BWBs in undertaking their mandates; 2) Addressing the capacity gaps of the Ministry of Water; 3) Creating awareness around the economic value of water; 4) Scaling up the study of the economic value of water for all basins; 5) Conducting a public expenditure review on the water sector every three years	72 billion	Climate financing (65%), development partners, civil society organisations and philanthropists (21%), private sector (9%), Government of Tanzania (5%)
2. Inefficient utilisation of water resources in agricultural activities, using the case study of Ruvu Basin	Poor, water-intensive agricultural practices and techniques, climate change, reduced water availability, diminished farmer productivity, inadequate enforcement of laws in WRM, inadequate technical capacity among water users, inadequate monitoring of water resources and use, inadequate and outdated irrigation infrastructure leading to inefficient water abstraction and use	Provide adequate modern irrigation infrastructure with efficient water utilisation, promote the adoption of efficient water serving irrigation technologies and enhance the technical capacity of water user groups and irrigators associations to operate and manage modern irrigation systems Actions: 1) Training extension officers; 2) Incentivising the adoption of water-efficient irrigation technologies; 3) Rehabilitating inefficient irrigation schemes and piloting modern irrigation practices; 4) Building farmer capacities for optimised water usage	483 billion	Government of Tanzania (50%), private sector (33%), development partners, civil society organisations and philanthropists (11%) and climate financing (5%)
3. Overlapping legal and regulatory mandates impacting intersectoral coordination in WRM	Limited financial and human resources, fragmented implementation of the institutional framework for WRM, overlapping sectoral mandates and the integrity of practitioners	Enhance intersectoral coordination Actions: 1) Reviewing policy, legal and institutional frameworks and revising them; 2) Surveying sectoral financial and human resource allocation; 3) Integrating WRM efforts through policy harmonisation and joint project implementation; 4) Assessing the Code of Ethics and Conduct and developing an awareness programme on it, then advocating for the Programme's implementation	2 billion	Government of Tanzania (98%), development partners (2%)
Total			557 billion	

Palestine

“ One takeaway [from the GWL Programme] is the need to ensure political will and support from the decision makers, in any country, to implement projects. Another is the need to co-design any project with partners and stakeholders as early as possible.

– Ghazi Abu Rumman, GWL Programme Coordinator

Country context

The ongoing crisis in the Palestinian territories has severely exacerbated an already critical lack of access to water. Less than 1 per cent of the population in Gaza has access to clean drinking water (compared with 93 per cent in the West Bank), and on average only about half of the population of the territories has access to drinking water.

How the GWL Programme operated in the country

Palestine Water Authority was the key government agency who hosted the working group meetings, the validation of deliverables, Response Strategy launch and its dissemination workshop. GWP-Mediterranean liaised with UNICEF physically and virtually to welcome the new joining members. Three working groups were established, each chaired by a female representative. Together they identified 35 barriers and prioritised 3.



One of three women chairs of working groups presenting the Response Strategy in Palestine

Timeline of the GWL Programme in Palestine



“ We launch the Response Strategy to mitigate the impact of climate change on Palestinian water resources. We lay the foundation for the implementation of this comprehensive strategy with the aim of strengthening and integrating our national efforts to address these challenges, and take measures to would integrate WRM and sustainable development for our future generations through cooperation and integration of efforts between our official and private institutions.

– H.E. Eng. Mazen Ghunaim, Minister, Head of Palestinian Water Authority



Hosting the validation of the Response Strategy at the Palestinian Water Authority, with high-level participation from strategic government stakeholders

Putting the response into action

The Response Strategy was launched in March 2024 by the head of the Palestinian Water Authority and the head of the Environmental Quality Authority. The strategy supports several significant plans, programmes and strategies of the Government of Palestine, particularly the Strategic Plan and Action Plan for the Palestinian National Water Sector (2017–2022), National Agricultural Sector Strategy Update (2021–2023), Cross-Sectoral Environment Strategy (2020–2023), the National Water and Wastewater Policy and Strategy for Palestine 2013–2032, and the Water Tracker Report.

Despite the severe disruptions in Gaza, the development of funding proposals is under way and a national commitment has been made to include the Response Strategy in the public budget at a later date.

“The participation of Palestinian leadership women in the GWL Response Strategy development process highlights the significant role of mitigating gender-oriented environmental pressures on Palestinian women, either through their participation and formulation of environmental strategies and policies to mainstream gender issues to become more gender sensitive on the national level, or within the rights of Palestinian women in obtaining an environmental nexus of food security and clean water all in a healthy environment.

– Eman Duwaik, Project Coordinator of Palestinian Women Water Network



Celebrating the launch of Response Strategy in Palestine on 10 March 2024 with Minister of Water Authority and Minister of Environmental Quality Authority

Key highlights and achievements

1 Working groups institutionalised



Following the Response Strategy launch, programme participants made a proposal to institutionalise the three working groups for further climate-related financing and continuous involvement in GWL’s vital work.

2 Continuation of programme despite conflict



Palestine GWL faced challenges when the conflict between Israel and Hamas broke out in October 2023. Communications and face-to-face activities have become difficult. Despite this challenge, the work of GWL continued, some activities (such as EFQM training, see below point) shifted partly to online, and all the GWL Programme activities were completed with high government ownership.

3 Focus on gender aspect of addressing WRM and WASH barriers



From the beginning of the strategy, the Palestinian Women Water Practitioners Network also partnered with the GWL Programme to finalise and disseminate the Response Strategy to their members through several activities including: co-organising dissemination sessions to local NGOs, inviting female water professionals to attend the workshops, designing the Response Strategy for publication purposes (by a female graphic designer), developing communication reports, media, leaflets, banners, outlines and advertisements for social media channels and the official website, and convening meetings with stakeholders. The working groups identified a lack of gender mainstreaming on the reuse of treated wastewater during the programme, giving further recognition to the disproportionate effects of climate change on women and girls, and the intersecting needs of water and gender equality.

Palestine – Identified barriers and Response Strategy				
Barrier	Root causes	Response Strategy	Est. cost (USD)	Funding sources
1. Absence of integrated planning tools for WRM based on climate change scenarios	Lack of synchronised national databases, lack of data cleansing and updating, lack of assigned responsibilities to collect and validate data sets	Develop integrated planning tools for WRM based on climate change Actions: 1) Stocktaking available applied tools such as geographic information systems, remote sensing, Water Tracker, etc. based on the terms of reference; 2) Organising a workshop to present and validate the study findings; 3) Endorsing and E-distributing; 4) Capacity-building the human resources involved in the implementation; 5) Piloting the tool in some partnering institutions; 6) Implementing	198,155	Public budget, private sector donations (in the context of social responsibility), PPP arrangements, official development assistance, international aid organisations
2. Lack of national performance management and related jointly defined smart key performance indicators (KPIs)	Insufficient baseline studies, a lack of national coordination to agree quantified shared responsibilities, and an authority matrix mandating data collection and monitoring	Develop an integrated performance management system for WRM based on climate change Actions: 1) Conducting an assessment study of existing systems, platforms, coverage and a mechanism of data-sharing towards a well-structured system including smart and gender-responsive KPIs; 2) Establishing a validation workshop; 3) Performing applicability testing; 4) Giving on-the-job training; 5) Applying smart KPIs	35,670	Public budget, private sector donations (in the context of social responsibility), PPP arrangements, official development assistance, international aid organisations
3. Social behaviour restrictions on the reuse of treated wastewater and the need to involve youth, gender and vulnerable groups in the awareness programme	Religious concerns, health hazards and underperforming wastewater treatment facilities	Mainstream the social acceptance and use of treated wastewater, with a focus on women and youth Actions: 1) Conducting a study and two validation workshops to gauge the multisectoral barriers to and knowledge of reusing treated wastewater; 2) Developing advocacy materials such as brochures, posters, leaflets and stickers; 3) Developing podcasts; 4) Meeting with policy and decision makers in partnering institutions; 5) Organising focus groups; 6) Preparing two policy papers	115,385	Public budget, private sector donations (in the context of social responsibility), PPP arrangements, official development assistance, international aid organisations
Total			349,210	

Nepal

“ I do expect that implementation of this strategy through coordinated efforts would contribute to meeting Nepal’s international commitment of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions, advancing climate-vulnerable people’s adaptiveness and resilience, and promoting inclusive and climate-friendly water resources development.

– Sarita Dawadi, Secretary of the Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS)

Country context

Despite its landlocked status, over 6,000 rivers and rivulets run through Nepal, giving it access to 225 billion cubic metres of water every year. Despite this, only 21 per cent of the population has access to safely managed water, most industrial wastewater goes untreated, existing WASH systems are unsustainable, and data on water quality and water use efficiency is lacking.

Between 2000 and 2020, while the population with access to improved water sources increased from 50 per cent to 90 per cent, the access to safely managed water fell from about 27 per cent to 18 per cent – a result of both the 2015 earthquake and a huge backlog of facilities needing rehabilitation.

In 2015, the Government formulated a national strategy directing each municipality to formulate its own 5- to 10-year WASH plan. The current national 5-year plan aims to increase access to safe drinking water from 88 per cent to 99 per cent.

How the GWL Programme operated in the country

All workshops and meetings of the GWL Programme were led, facilitated, supervised, and coordinated by the government lead, Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS). WECS organised events from project inception and validation workshops to the launch of the approved Response Strategy by officially inviting participants in writing and sending agenda in advance. WECS formed three working groups, each of 20 participants with alternating coordinators chairing. The sectors and departments represented in the working groups were water, energy, industry, forests and environment, climate change and disasters, federal affairs, transport, NGOs, academia, the United Nations, private sector, and banks. WECS organised a one-day workshop, where 60 participants prioritised nine barriers obstructing WRM and WASH services but, following iteration, compressed them into three.

Timeline of the GWL Programme in Nepal



“ Policies and plans prepared before 2015 do not provide necessary provisions to promote climate-resilient water resources development. The multi-stakeholder working group approach greatly contributed to understanding the nature and magnitude of the barrier and analysing the barrier-based root causes. The root cause analysis provided a basis to select appropriate options.

– Prakash Gaudel, Assistant Manager of Nepal Electricity Authority and Coordinator

Putting the response into action

The Minister of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation launched the Response Strategy in March 2024 at an event attended by 90 guests from local and national government, intergovernmental organisations, NGOs, water users and the media. Through WECS, the strategy will be integrated into the National Planning Commission’s 16th Plan (2024/25–2028/29) to remove obstacles to the country’s development. The strategy will feed into national irrigation policy, WASH policy, the River and Water-Induced Disaster Management Policy 2023, and the 2024 revisions to the Climate Policy 2019.

In the future, two sensitisation workshops will be held in each province every year to sustain engagement with the strategy, while a National Water Resources Coordination Committee will be established with the chair of WECS and representatives across sectors. Finance is expected to come from a range of domestic, foreign, bilateral and multilateral sources, and through climate finance such as the Least Developed Countries Fund, Special Climate Change Fund, Adaptation Fund and GCF. The Loss and Damage Fund may also be a funding source, given the increase in climate-induced disasters in the country.



Sushil Chandra Tiwari, Secretary of WECS, describing the GWL multi-stakeholder process at a COP 28 side event



Launching of the Response Strategy by Hon. Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation on 29 March 2024

Key highlights and impact

1 Building on proven methods

The GWL Programme expanded the traditional “learning-by-doing” approach to climate strategy, which has been in place in Nepal since 2009. Manamaya Bhattarai Pangeni, the Joint Secretary of National Planning Commission and member of the Programme Coordination Committee of GWL, praised the programme’s approach, commenting that it would make the Response Strategy easy to implement.

2 Advancements in the water sector

From July 2022 to October 2023, over 85 per cent of the working group members attended and contributed to the Response Strategy, a feat that had not ever been achieved in the country’s water sector. The Government revised policies to include water in climate resilience activities and plans and to make water their policies and plans “climate-smart”.

3 Engagement during and beyond the project

UNICEF supported the launch and inception of the GWL Programme. Alongside GWL it developed the work plan and shared its progress with FCDO in 2023. Locally, the GWL team developed seven provincial workshops under the Nationally Determined Contribution Partnership scheme to raise awareness of the strategy.

Internationally, the GWL Focal Point shared the programme’s progress with the United Nations Water Conference 2023. In addition, the WECS secretariat met with development partners at COP 27 to discuss the strategy, and at COP 28 brought attention to the GWL Programme’s successes by presenting on its multi-stakeholder process. The Government of Nepal led the GWL Programme through the Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS) with support from GWP Nepal/Jalsrot Vikas Sanstha Nepal for WRM and the Ministry of Water Supply, and support from UNICEF Nepal for WASH. WECS led the development of the Response Strategy and invited multi-stakeholders for consultations.

“Nepal’s Response Strategy was developed under the leadership, guidance and facilitation of the Government. We will integrate the key strategies in the 16th Plan which will be finalised soon. Hence, ownership lies with the Government and is expected to internalise its implementation through planning and budgeting processes.

– Kapil Gnawali, Senior Divisional Hydrologist and Engineer at WECS

Nepal – Identified barriers and Response Strategy				
Barrier	Root causes	Response Strategy	Est. cost (USD)	Funding sources
1. Policy implementation	Inadequate political commitments, incoherent approaches for policy formulation, inadequate capacity for policy implementation	Strengthen political commitments, approaches for policy formulation and capacity for policy implementation Actions: 1) Raising awareness at political level about climate resilience, IWRM and WASH services; 2) Promoting evidence-based water-related planning; 3) Aligning policy with the constitution and international commitment and avoiding individualistic approach of policy formulation; 4) Promoting multi-stakeholder consultative processes in policy formulation; 5) Conducting policy audit and impact evaluation; 6) Ensuring policy implementation by enhancing capacity and developing mechanisms for coordination, monitoring, auditing and reporting; 7) Developing policy-coherent laws	2 million	Government, water users, NGOs, development partners
2. Institutional coordination	Unclear and overlapping roles and responsibilities of the three tiers of government, inadequate institutional capacity for addressing issues and challenges of integrated WRM and WASH, a lack of integrated WRM and river basin considerations in planning and implementation, a lack of a water resources utilisation tariff, river basin and climate change-related institutions	Clarify roles and responsibilities of Government and fortify institutional capacity for addressing challenges of integrated WRM and WASH Actions: 1) Developing guidelines regarding WRM and WASH at all levels; 2) Adopting IWRM and the River Basin Approach as a functional planning tool; 3) Establishing a regulatory mechanism for water tariff; 4) Reforming WECS structure and mandate; 5) Establishing River Basin offices for major rivers; 5) Establishing Climate Change Section under Environment Division in the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation (MoEWR); 6) Involving MoEWR and other water institutions in water and climate negotiation processes	47 million	Government, water users, NGOs, development partners
3. Data and capacity-building	A lack of mandate and policy clarity on data generation, validation and sharing, limited budget and motivation for data generation and management, limited coordination among different institutions for data generation and management, inadequate human resources and institutional memory, limited need- and output-based training, and limited funds/resources for capacity development	Clarify policy on data generation, validation and sharing, and improve need- and output-based training Actions: 1) Formulating a policy on data management; 2) Mandating WECS as the central data management institution on water resources; 3) Developing a National Data Profile; 4) Ensuring budget allocation; 5) Developing, training and utilising human resources; 6) Developing data-sharing guidelines; 7) Preparing a capacity-building plan; 8) Using Standard Operating Procedures for knowledge management; 9) Preparing and implementing capacity development plan; 10) Accessing and promoting partnership for fund generation	4 million	Government, water users, NGOs, development partners
Total			53 million	

Global Water Partnership (GWP)

PO Box 24177, SE-104 51

Stockholm

Sweden

GWP website: www.gwp.org

GWL website: www.gwp.org/en/global-water-leadership-programme

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