

Global Water Leadership in a Changing Climate (GWL)

A global initiative to support emerging leadership for improved water, sanitation and hygiene services, and climate resilience

Background

Equitable and inclusive access to sustainable and climate resilient drinking-water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services are crucial to human health and wellbeing as well as development and livelihood opportunities. Well-managed WASH services can support efforts to combat diseases like COVID-19, help people adapt to the impacts of climate change, empower women and girls, and underpin the achievement of broader sustainable development goals. A pre-requisite for sustainable WASH services is the proper management of water resources.

However, despite the critical importance of this issue, over 785 million people still lack access to water, 1.9 billion lack access to basic sanitation. Fewer than 71% of the global population have basic handwashing facilities with soap and water at home. Developing countries face the greatest challenges, due in part to greater vulnerability to climate change impacts and fewer means to reduce climate-related risks.

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

To address these challenges and to improve the resilience, health, well-being and livelihood options of vulnerable populations, especially women and youth, the UK Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) launched the Global Water Leadership in a Changing Climate (GWL) programme in partnership with the Global Water Partnership (GWP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Sanitation and Water for All (SWA), JMP and WHO. A ground-breaking global initiative, the GWL provides critical support to governments in selected low and middle-income countries (LMICs) to become international models for water leadership, demonstrating the socio-economic transformations that can be accomplished by making climate-resilient and gender-transformative water management and WASH services a political priority.

Programme objectives and outputs

Initiated in May 2021, the GWL will run initially until 2024. Its primary focus will be to support governments to implement impactful and inclusive climate resilient water policies and strategies that will result in better served and more climate resilient communities. It will also engage the water and WASH sectors to identify the impacts of climate change on their resources and services and to identify and leverage large-scale opportunities for climate financing.

The Government counterparts in the identified countries will be crucial partners in successfully achieving the key programme objectives, including:

- ▶ Generating and analysing critical evidence and data on water resource management and WASH services in-country to aid in decision-making processes supporting transformative policies and strategies;
- ▶ Identifying the impact of climate change on water resources and WASH services, discovering technical solutions, and embedding these into key national policies, plans, strategies and priorities;
- ▶ Driving progress by focusing national efforts on identifying bottlenecks and creating strategies to overcome them, including potential sources of new or existing finance;
- ▶ Building political will and fostering dynamic collaboration between stakeholders to strengthen water governance and build back resilient, inclusive water resources management and WASH services;
- ▶ Strengthening water leadership by creating a palette of new voices to advocate for the critical importance of sustainable water resources and WASH services for health, livelihoods, climate resilience, and economic growth in national and international arenas.
- ▶ Creating the Investment case for climate resilient water resources and WASH services.

IN 2020



2 billion people lacked safely managed drinking water service



2.3 billion people lacked basic handwashing services



3.6 billion people lacked safely managed sanitation services

Theory of change

Outputs	Outcomes	Impact
Strengthened leadership and collaboration in water resources and WASH governance at global and national level	More poor and vulnerable people in LMICs use resilient, safely managed water and WASH services	Improved resilience, health and wellbeing for poor and vulnerable people in LMICs
Data and analysis used to inform the development of inclusive and resilient policies and strategies for water management and WASH services	↑	
Bottlenecks and resource constraints impeding the sustainable management of fresh water resources and the delivery of inclusive, resilient WASH services identified to stimulate government-led collaborative action	Intermediate Outcome: LMICs implement inclusive and resilient policies and strategies for water and WASH services	

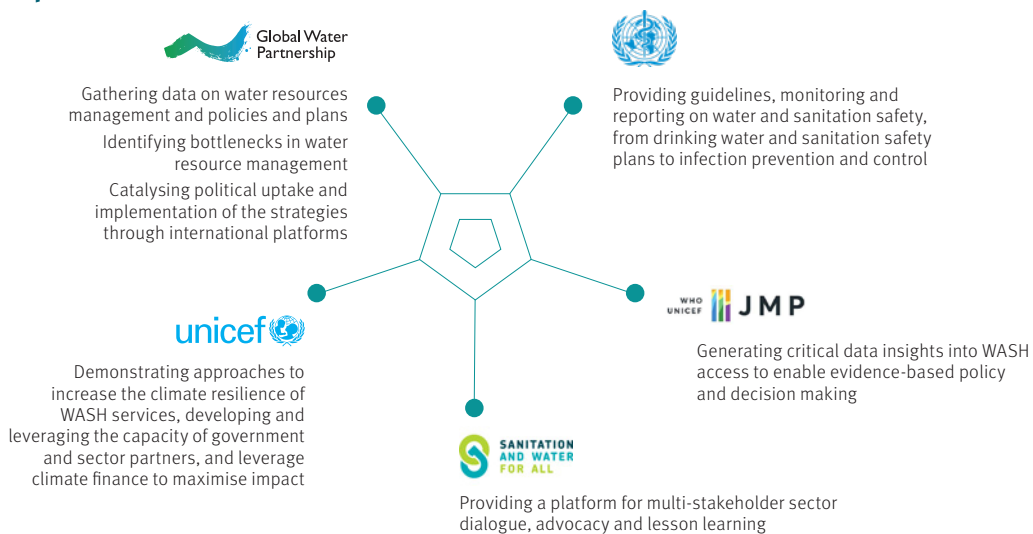
Programme implementation



The programme is being implemented through a strategic collaboration between the 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), with support from other entities. Each partner plays a specific role in the programme as shown below.

To achieve its goals, the Programme takes both a horizontal and a vertical approach, and cooperation will be pursued at multiple levels: between national and local stakeholders within a country, between national and global stakeholders across international platforms; and among project partners both at the global level and within each country.

Programme partners and their roles



The actionable knowledge products emerging from this programme must contribute to a collective effort of all the partners to inform decision-making processes, guide political and financial choice, influence behaviour change that benefits those most in need, and encourage national and international leadership for water.

For more information on the Programme and how it is supporting national governments please visit www.gwp.org

Funded by



Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

