Programmatic scope

Through strengthened governance and management frameworks and processes, GoAL-Waters aims at contributing to more sustainable planning, allocation, use and protection of water, coastal and marine resources in cities, river basins, coastal and marine areas; and to ensure use and protection of freshwater and coastal resources in ways that benefit the livelihoods of vulnerable groups and small-scale food producers. The programme also enables work on freshwater and coastal resources management to be carried out from the entry point of human rights, gender, integrity, biodiversity, climate change and/or disaster risk reduction.

Between 2019-2023, GoAL-Waters aims to support at least 15 partner countries to achieve more effective, equitable and sustainable freshwater and coastal resources management. While support typically lasts four years with a total budget of USD 200,000 – 400,000, it may be initiated through shorter interventions to support critical functions of a policy reform, or national-level consultation, analysis and action planning in relation to water/ocean-related SDG targets monitoring. During 2020, there will be targeted efforts at enhancing water's role in Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement.

GoAL-Waters forms part of the UNDP Water and Ocean Governance Programme (WOGP). It is delivered through UNDP Country Platforms with strategic management and technical assistance through the UNDP-SIWI Water Governance Facility (WGF) and UNDP's Water and Ocean Advisors.

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See also:
www.undp.org/water
www.watergovernance.org

Governance, Accountability and Learning for Water Sustainability (GoAL-Waters)

Sustainable Use and Protection of Freshwater and Coastal Resources through Strengthened National and Local Governance

In collaboration with:

WATER GOVERNANCE FACILITY
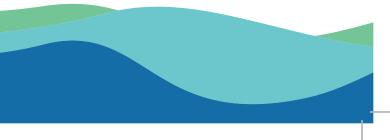
SIWI

With support from:

Sweden Sverige

GOAL WATERS

Implementation approach

The UNDP GoAL-Waters (Governance, Accountability and Learning for Water Sustainability) programme supports equitable, efficient and environmentally sustainable use and protection of freshwater and marine resources. It helps identifying priorities and opportunities and addressing gaps and constraints in water and ocean governance by developing policy reform plans and action at national and local levels.

GoAL-Waters provides flexible support to national and local authorities and partners, supporting the 2030 Agenda with an emphasis on Sustainable Development Goals 6 to "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all" and 14 to "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development."

GoAL-Waters builds on UNDP's close working relationships with country governments and partners, through which UNDP regularly supports country level coordination, national development strategies and alignment with the SDGs. The support is delivered through UNDP Country Offices and partners, with strategic management and technical support provided through the UNDP-SIWI Water Governance Facility (WGF) and UNDP's Water and Ocean advisors.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Sustainable Development Goal 6:
Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

SDG 6 targets

6.1 Safe water for all

6.2 Equitable sanitation and hygiene

6.3 Reduce pollution, increase safe reuse

6.4 Increase water-use efficiency

6.5 Implement integrated water resources management

6.6 Protect and restore water-related ecosystems

SDGs Means of Implementation

6a Capacity building

6b Participation of local communities

GoAL-Waters – Sustainable use and protection of freshwater and coastal resources through strengthened national and local governance

Good governance is essential for balancing the many often conflicting demands on freshwater and coastal resources. The demand for water within society has increased for decades. Land and water management has direct implications downstream, some of which extend to open ocean. Projected population and development trends point towards even sharpened competition in the future. At the same time, climate change affects the supply and demand of freshwater and the vulnerability of coastal areas. These factors jeopardize livelihoods and vital ecosystem functions in river basins, along coasts and marine areas.

The quality of a governance process sets the basis for the quality of its outcomes. GoAL-Waters provides means to invest in governance – to strengthen intersectoral coordination, institutional arrangements and stakeholder engagement in priority-setting, development of plans, policies, laws and regulation, and in their implementation. Ensuring the involvement of vulnerable groups, supporting transparency, accountability and integrity/anti-corruption and taking due consideration to gender dimensions and human rights are all critical for the legitimacy as well as the sustainability of the outcomes.

Coping with water stress through improved governance: drought management in Jordan

Jordan is the second most water scarce country in the world. The level of water scarcity is further exacerbated by drought events, which undermine the country's economic growth and development. The nature, location and scale of drought effects have yet to be thoroughly investigated. Above all, drought needs to be managed by way of carefully deliberated action.

The GoAL-Waters activities in Jordan is an example of the type of, gap-filling, flexible and demand-driven support that GoAL-Waters can provide. The collaboration between UNDP and the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to strengthen drought management in Jordan started in 2016.[1] During this time, a Drought Management Unit has been established at the Ministry of Water, a water sector policy for drought management to guide actions across sectors at different levels of drought has been developed and endorsed by the Cabinet, while water efficiency measures and pilot projects that demonstrate innovative solutions for water saving and reuse have been tested at municipal level.

At present, work is underway to strengthen local knowledge on the effects of drought and climate change on the water resources in different basins, to prioritize drought response options through multi-stakeholder dialogues, validate a drought vulnerability assessment to inform the drought management planning. Further, a national roadmap to strengthen the water governance more broadly is in the making.

[1] *The water governance support to Jordan was initiated under GoAL-Waters predecessor programme GoAL WaSH.*

Sustainable Development Goal 14:
Conserve and sustainable use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

SDG 14 targets

14.1 Reduce marine pollution

14.2 Protect and restore ecosystems

14.3 Reduce ocean acidification

14.4 Sustainable fishing

14.5 Conserve coastal and marine areas

14.6 End subsidies contributing to overfishing

14.7 Increase benefits to small islands

SDG 14 Means of implementation

14a Knowledge

14b Access for small-scale artisanal fisheries

14c Implementing international law

14 LIFE BELOW WATER