

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

# GO WATER

Building Governance Capacity for Improved Water Security



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## **Purpose of the GO-WATER programme**

The GO-WATER Programme, or Building Governance Capacity for Improved Water Security, aims to reduce poverty and inequality by improving water security and resilience.

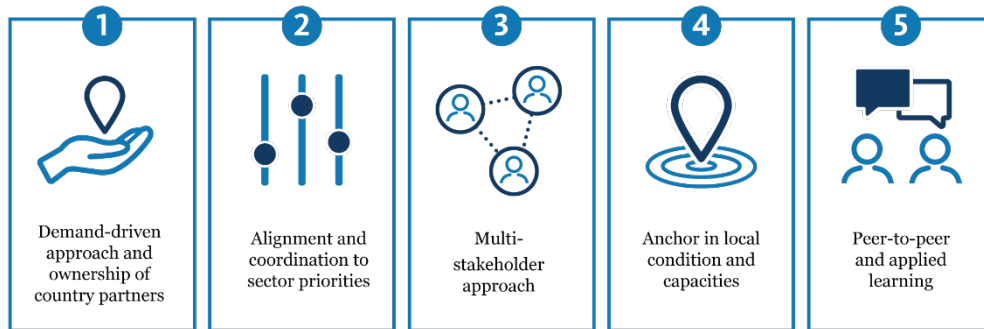
Water is a precious natural resource, essential to life, to basic health, and to economic development. Our environmental sustainability depends on it. Water connects across sectors, places, and people, as well as temporal scales. What happens at one point of the chain is most likely to affect all other aspects.

Projections show that 40% of the world's population currently lives in water-stressed river basins, and that water demand will rise by 55% by 2050 (OECD, 2012a). These trends are expected to predominately affect low- and middle-income countries. As levels of water stress increases, good water governance is essential to ensure equitable allocation and achieve water security.

The GO-WATER programme supports government water organization, by straightening institutional capacity related to water governance. The programme works with middle to higher level water officials and decision makers at national and sub-national level on specific water related issues and risks.

## Principles

The GO-WATER programme runs on 5 principles:



- **Demand-driven approach and ownership of country partners**  
GO-WATER works in Peru following the request to participant from the National Superintendency of Sanitation Services (SUNASS). In all countries, GO-WATER partners with the primary water institution.
- **Alignment and coordination to sector priorities**  
In Uganda the focus area for GO-WATER, coordination and financing for Catchment based Integrated Water Resources Management, was identified by the Ministry of Water and Environment along with sector stakeholders. In all countries, the primary institution for water leads the determination of focus area.
- **Multi-stakeholder approach**  
GO-WATER works with a minimum of 30 individuals in each country and the individuals are selected from a range of institutions including public, private, civil society and academic institutions to promote multi-perspective approach to problem solving.
- **Anchor in national conditions and capacities**  
The programme is co-owned with national partners, and national human resources are used for mentorship support, peer-learning, case study development, etc.
- **Peer-to-peer and applied learning**  
GO-WATER will support the participants identify and implement Water Reform Group Projects over the duration of the programme, these are concrete and actionable projects that are implemented by the participating institutions.

## Countries of focus

The GO-WATER programme is currently working in Bolivia, Colombia, Peru and Uganda providing tailored support in addressing water security risks and exploring local opportunities.

## Bolivia



The Plurinational State of Bolivia is a landlocked country in South America with a population of just over 11.5 million people. Over the past two decades Bolivia's economy has grown dramatically (>300%) and poverty rates have been reduced by over 50%. However, 80% of people living in rural areas still live in poverty due primarily to the low productivity of small-scale farming. Presently, Bolivia has the lowest GDP per capital in South America and is classified as a low-income country by the World Bank.

Bolivia is one of the countries most affected by environmental disasters in the Andean region. During the period 1970 to 2012 Bolivia was affected by more than 4,800 disasters, impacting more than 2 million people, and causing more than 2,350 deaths.

## Water-related risks

Bolivia is a well-watered country, it has roughly 29,000m<sup>3</sup> per person per year which is nearly 6 times the global average for available internal freshwater resources. However, access to safe drinking water is increasingly challenging, currently nearly 60% of people living in rural areas use either surface water or an unprotected source for drinking. And while access to piped water supply is high in urban areas, water shortages are becoming more common as urban populations increase and climate change increasingly impacts the availability of water.

Run off from glaciers is an important contributor to water supply in Bolivian cities, especially during the dry seasons, however Bolivia's glaciers are melting. Over the past 20 years, Bolivia has lost 23 billion M<sup>3</sup> of water stored in glaciers per year and the Tuni glacier (located closest to La Paz) will likely disappear within the next 3 years.



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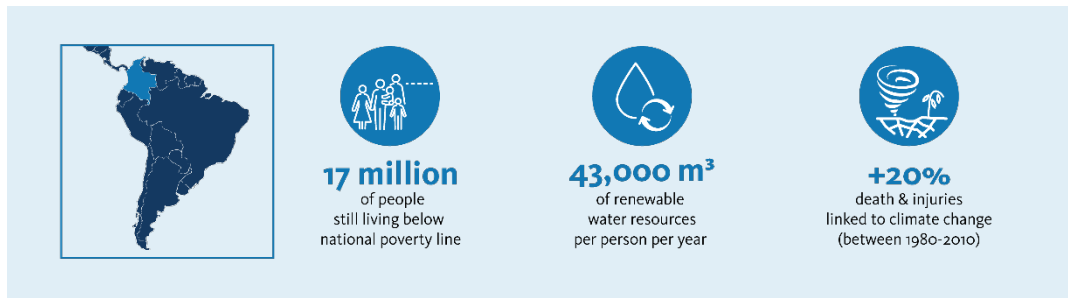
## Opportunities

In September 2021, in partnership with UNICEF and the Ministry of Environment and Water (MMAyA), a WASH Bottleneck Analysis Workshop was held and an action plan to strengthen the WASH sector in Bolivia was produced. Priority activities included capacity building and institutional strengthening at all levels (national, subnational, and local) and for all governance functions (regulation, financing, accountability). Working from this action plan it was agreed that SIWI should work with the Authority for Social Oversight and Control of Drinking water & Basic Sanitation (AAPS) and focus on the regulation of service providers in small towns and rural areas. The WASHReg approach will be used to discuss main challenges and set an action plan and specific activities to improve the regulation.

### Areas of GO-WATER support in Bolivia

- Support the Municipal Governments develop processes to improve the ability of service providers to registration and report against performance indicators.
- Regulation of quality-of-service guidelines and policies
- Support to service providers to strengthen the implementation of tariff scheme to improve their performance
- Incorporation of NDC mitigation and adaptation targets in the standards for quality of service.
- Experience sharing and learning across the various countries involved in GO-WATER in LAC.

## Colombia



Colombia is an upper middle-income country with one of Latin America's largest economies and a population of nearly 50 million. Colombia's population is primarily urban with 80% living in cities and towns. Over recent decades Colombia has succeeded in significantly reducing poverty levels from a high of 65% in 1990, however there are still over 17 million people living below the national poverty line.

From an environmental perspective Colombia contributes significantly to global biodiversity, it has the highest number of species by area in the world, including more species of bird than all of Europe and North America combined.

Due to its physical, geographic, economic and social characteristics Colombia is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change in the LAC region. The impact of climate change in Colombia has been significant, with a 20% increase between 1980 and 2010 in the rate of deaths, injuries and people affected by climate-related disasters, with a reduction in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 1.5%.

### Water-related risks

Colombia is one of the most water rich countries globally, it has over 43,000m<sup>3</sup> per person per year of renewable freshwater resources and has the largest volume of freshwater in Latin America after Brazil. However, the majority of freshwater is found in less densely populated regions, leaving one third of urban populations living under water stress. The number of people and municipalities experiencing water stress or shortages is expected to increase due to the combined effects of urban population growth and climate change. Colombia's climate is projected to get hotter, with more intense and frequent El Nino and La Nina cycles resulting in higher frequency and impacts from flooding, droughts and landslides and continuing the rapid melting of Colombia's glaciers. Currently, Colombia has the highest recurrence of extreme events in South America, with 84% of the population and 86% of its assets in areas exposed to two or more natural hazards. In addition to the challenges on water quantity, the quality of Colombia's water has declined. Currently, about 20% of wastewater is treated and the Water Quality Risk Index for human consumption found nearly 30% of municipalities with high or very high sanitary risk due to low water quality.



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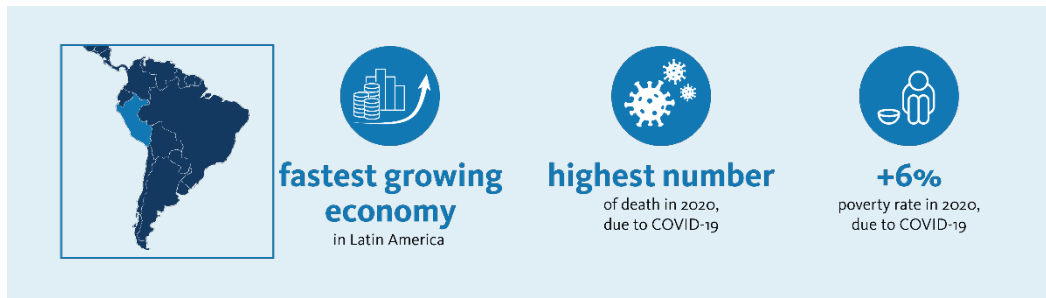
## Opportunities

Since 2020, SIWI has been working with Colombia's Commission for the Regulation of Drinking Water & Basic Sanitation (CRA) to improve regulatory process in the country under the WASHREG program. The main challenges identified are related to user protection and tariffs, quality of service and health, environment, and capacity building and coordination. Building on this partnership it was agreed to focus GO-WATER on the Superintendency of Public Utilities (SSPD), who is responsible for the inspection, surveillance, and control of public utilities, including water, sewerage, and sanitation.

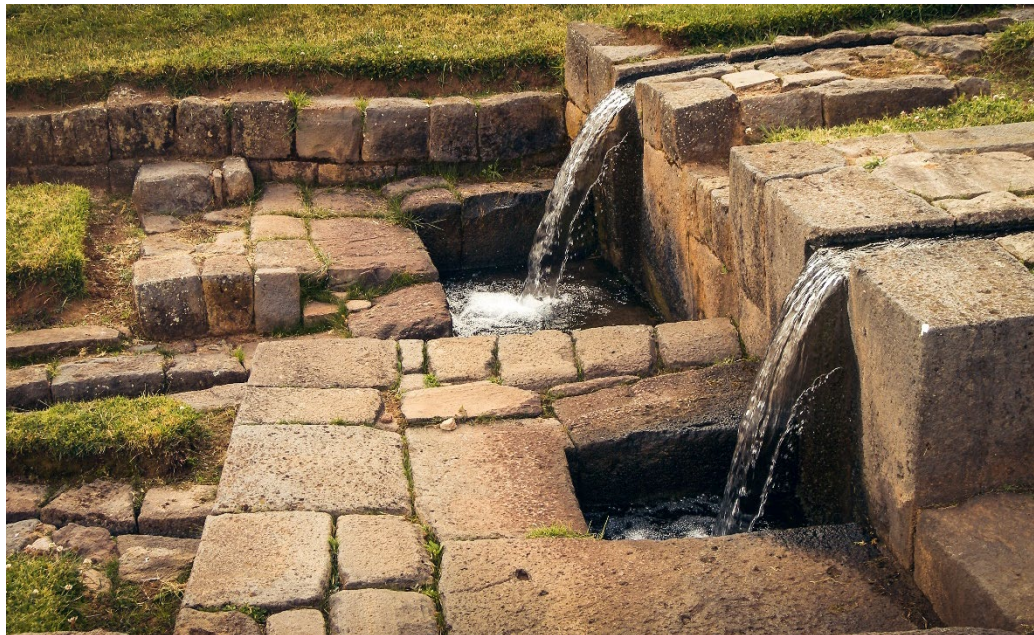
### Areas of GO-WATER support in Colombia

- Conduct analysis on the knowledge and capacity needs of small service providers (less than 2,500 customers) in small towns and rural areas on aspects of quality of service, environmental responsibilities, financial subsidies, business development, information management, etc.
- Identification of the limitation and challenges in the application of tariff methodologies by different sized service providers, again focusing on service providers with less than 2,500 customers.
- Piloting actions to improve the application of tariff methodologies with the objective of developing more efficient monitoring and control processes for services provides with less than 2,500 customers.
- Experience sharing and learning across the various regions in Colombia and between the countries involved in GO-WATER in LAC.

## Peru



Peru is an upper middle-income country with a population of over 30 million people and one of the fastest growing economies In Latin American since the early 2000s. Averaging at over 5% GDP growth since 2002. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a large negative impact on Peru. Globally, Peru has had the highest number of deaths per capita globally and in 2020 the employment rate decreased by 25% and the economy contracted by 12%. The government responded with a range of supports with a combined resource equivalency of 20% of GDP, however despite this effort, the economic slowdown and rising unemployment have driven up the poverty rate by 6% pushing almost two million people into poverty.





## Water-related risks

Peru has extremely large quantities of freshwater, it accounts for 4% of the global freshwater resources and has an estimated 50,000m<sup>3</sup> per person per year. However, the majority of the freshwater is found in the Amazon region where less than 5% of the population lives. About 55% of the population live along the coast which is semi-arid and accounts for just 2% of the country's water resources. Peru's capital Lima is the 2nd largest desert city in the world. It has an annual rainfall of just 6mm per year and so relies on the Chirilú River Basin for its water needs, however two thirds of the glaciers feeding the basin have disappeared in the past 40 years and climate predictions on precipitation within the basin remain uncertain. Consequently, nearly 1.5 million Lima's residents lack running water and rely on water trucks, which can cost over 15 times the price of water from the main water utility.

## Opportunities

Considering that both other Latin American countries (Bolivia & Colombia) involved with the GO-WATER programme determined to focus on regulation of water and sanitation services, and the request from the national regulator (National Superintendency of Sanitation Services) in Peru to participate in the programme, it was agreed to also focus on regulation of water and sanitation services in Peru. This will also joint work across the three countries, including the exchange of experiences and information.

SIWI is currently working with the National Superintendency of Sanitation Services (SUNASS) on the specific topic for GO-WATER, however some potential topics include:

### Areas of GO-WATER support in Peru

- Support to improve the implementation of regulation and supervision of water and sanitation services in rural areas.
- Support to review the tariff regulation model for water and sanitation services in the rural area
- The inclusion of disaster and risk management in the planning of water and sanitation service providers
- Review of performance indicators for water and sanitation providers
- Experience sharing and learning across the various countries involved in GO-WATER in LAC

## Uganda



Uganda is a land locked country in East Africa with a rapidly expanding population. By 2050 Uganda's population is projected to double with an additional 35 million people living in urban areas. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic Uganda's economy was growing, however since 2020 growth had halved and the number of people living below the poverty line had increased. The Ministry of Finance reported that over 66% of Ugandans had some level of lost income because of COVID-19.

### Water-related risks

Overall Uganda is well provided with water resources, 16% of its total land area comprises of lakes and wetlands, including the largest freshwater lake in Africa, Lake Victoria, and the river Nile. Uganda's water resources are being challenged on a number of fronts. Due to development for housing and agriculture over the past few decades Uganda has lost 50% of its wetlands and water quality water pollution is a growing concern. Presently, 32% of the rural population and 30% of the urban population do not have access to an improved water source or better, and 28 million people do not have access to an improved sanitation facility.

Increasing, Uganda is experiencing extreme weather events. Over the past 30 years, the instances of floods, droughts and landslides have increased and currently it is estimated that flooding alone affects nearly 50,000 people and costs over \$62 million per year. Based on climate predictions this trend will likely continue, by 2050 precipitation is forecasted to reduce in the drier northern regions and increase in the wetter regions around Lake Victoria and Elgon and Rwenzori Mountains.



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## Opportunities

Uganda has made significant progress in improving the performance of the National Water Sewerage Corporation, both in terms of coverage and quality of service. However, due to increasing risks related to the management of the water resource resulting from increased demand and increased climate variable the Ministry of Water and the Environment determined that GO-WATER should focus on water resource management and climate adaptation. The Ministry is currently working to determine the specific capacity gaps and demands in relation to these areas. For illustrative purposes, demand areas could involve:

### Areas of GO-WATER support in Uganda

- Drought mitigation and adaptation measures at catchment level in drought prone areas.
- Support the Water Resources Institute develop and implement its strategic approach to human resources management within the WMZ zones
- Resource mobilization to support the implementation of the Catchment Management Plans

## For further information on the GO-WATER programme

Visit: [siwi.org/go-water](http://siwi.org/go-water)

**Håkan Tropp, PhD**

Programme Director, Capacity Development

[Hakan.tropp@siwi.org](mailto:Hakan.tropp@siwi.org)

**Maria Dillon**

GO-WATER Programme Manager

[Maria.dillon@siwi.org](mailto:Maria.dillon@siwi.org)

**Lourdes Álvarez**

Programme Manager, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) / Gender Equality  
Champion

[lourdes.alvarez@siwi.org](mailto:lourdes.alvarez@siwi.org)

**Lotten Hubendick**

Programme Officer, Water Resources Department

[lotten.hubendick@siwi.org](mailto:lotten.hubendick@siwi.org)

## About SIWI

The Stockholm International Water Institute, SIWI, is a not-for-profit institute with a wide range of expertise in water governance. SIWI creates knowledge, develops capacity, and offers policy advice to countries, communities, and companies. SIWI also organizes the world's leading water conference, World Water Week, and awards the prestigious Stockholm Water Prize and Stockholm Junior Water Prize. SIWI has its main office in Stockholm, Sweden and regional offices in Southern Africa (Pretoria, South Africa) and Latin America (Bogota, Colombia), however works globally to change how water is understood, valued and managed.

Through GO-WATER, SIWI offers capacity development on water governance. The programme aims to reduce poverty and inequality by improving water security and resilience.