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UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP)

Understanding the state, use and management of the world's freshwater resources and designing better water policies

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Chief of section

Groundwater Sustainability and water cooperation (GSW)

UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP)

The World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) was established at UNESCO in 2000 in response to a call from the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) to produce a UN system-wide periodic global thematic overview of the status, use and management of freshwater resources.

Since 2000 **UNESCO IHP (Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme) and WWAP** have started taking action together to meet the growing requirements of UN Member States and the international community for a wider range of policy-relevant, timely and reliable information in various fields of water resources developments and management.



The World Water Assessment Programme is supported by the Government of Italy.



The UN Development Report (WWDR)

The UN Development Report (WWDR) is the UN-Water's flagship report on water and sanitation issues, launched each year the 22 March on the UN World Water Day.

UNESCO WWAP coordinate with all the UN Agencies and international academic institutions for the preparation of the report that focusses on a different Water Resources aspect each year and gives policy recommendations to decision-makers by offering the most updated available knowledge, in-depth analyses and best practices.

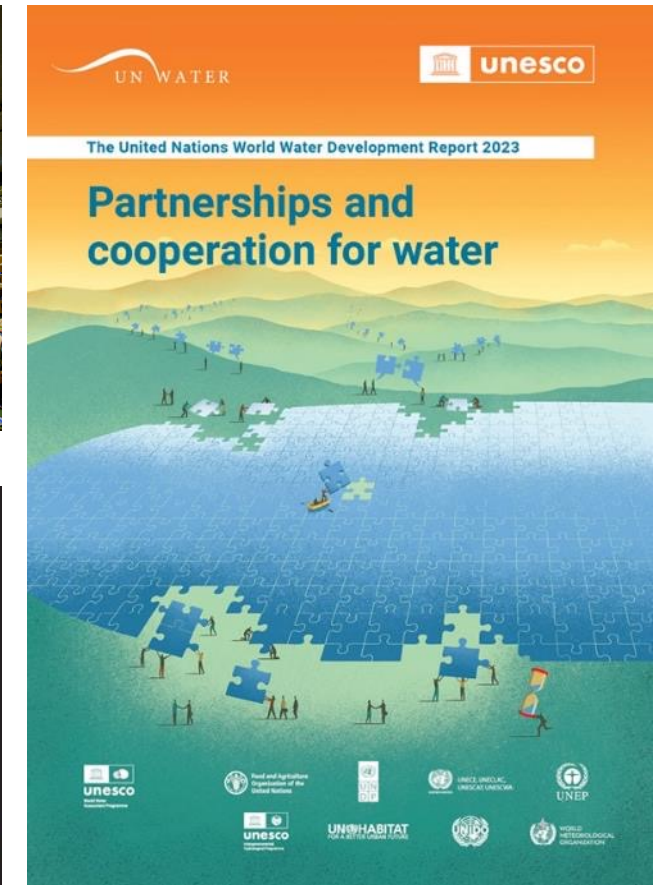
Working closely with the UNESCO IHP, it contributes to the Achievement of the AGENDA 2030 and in particular to the Sustainable Development Goal 6



The United Nations World Water Development Report 2023

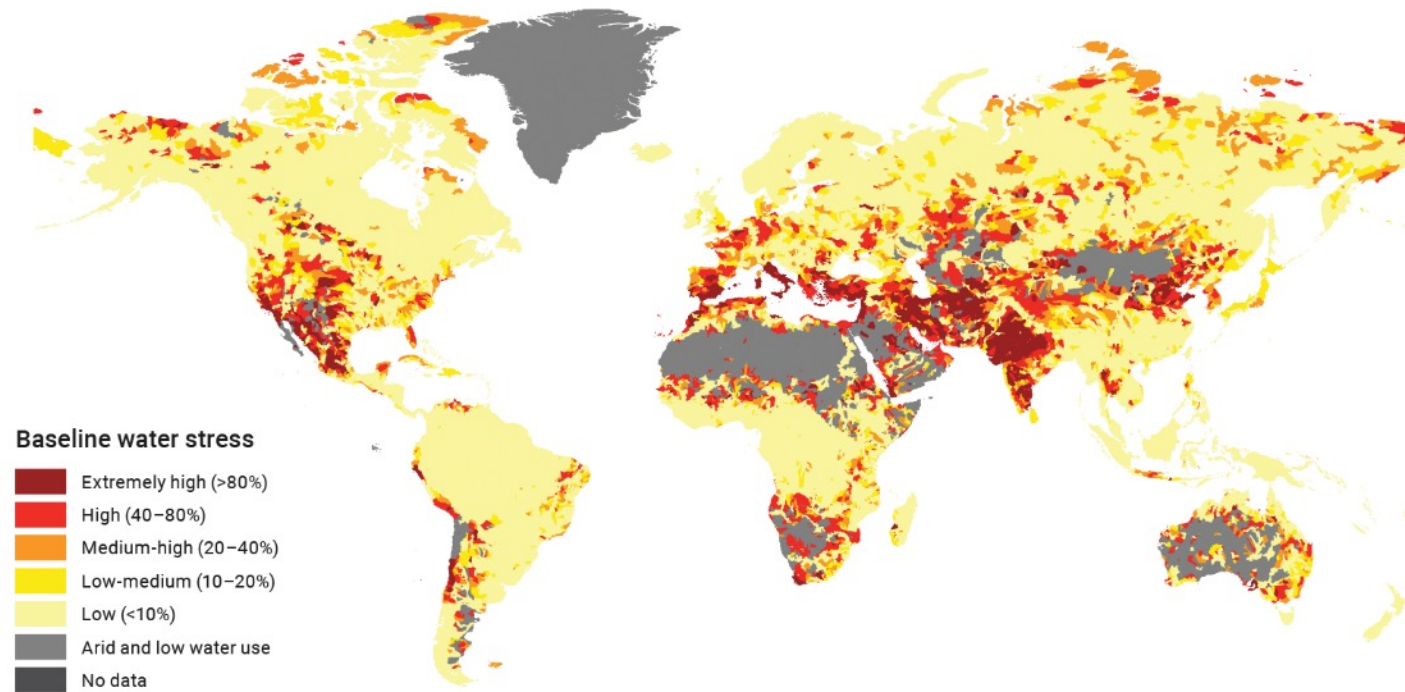
The 2023 United Nations World Water Development Report (UN WWDR) was launched at the [UN 2023 Water Conference](#), in New York, on the UN World Water Day (22 March 2023), which was focused on **accelerating change to solve the water and sanitation crisis**

The Report shows how building partnerships and enhancing cooperation across all dimensions of sustainable development are essential to accelerate progress towards SDG 6 and human rights to water and sanitation.



The world is facing water challenges

Global water use has increased by a factor of six over the past 100 years and continues to grow steadily at a rate of about 1% per year as a result of increasing population, economic development and shifting consumption patterns.

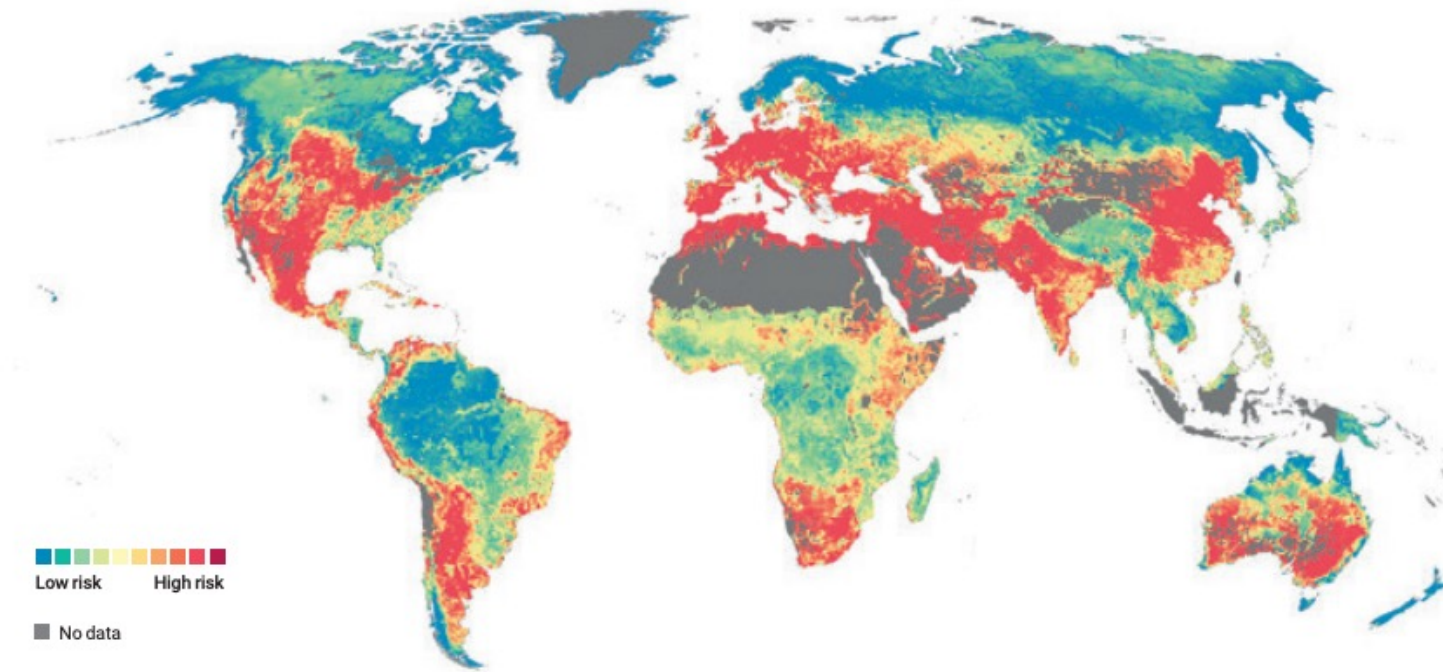


Annual baseline water stress

10% of the global population lives in countries with high or critical water stress

The world is facing water challenges

Water quality data are scarce, especially in remote areas and developing countries where water quality monitoring networks and capacity are lacking. **Improving water quality worldwide is essential to sustainable water resources management, human health, ecosystems' integrity and sustainable development.**



Nearly all countries show signs of risks related to water quality

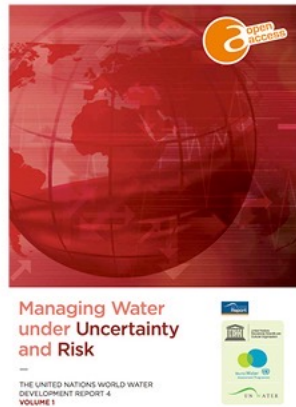
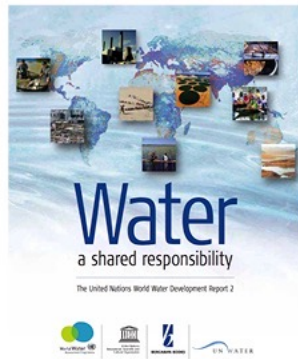
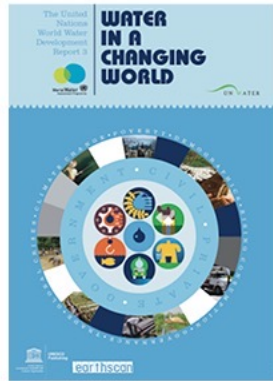
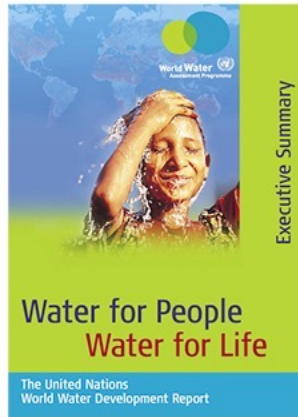
The world is facing water challenges

- The global **urban population** facing water scarcity is projected to increase from 933 million (one third of global urban population) in 2016 to 1.7–2.4 billion people (one third to nearly half of global urban population) in 2050, with India projected to be the most severely affected
- **Competition** for freshwater between **cities and agriculture** is projected to grow due to rapid urbanization, for which urban water demand is projected to increase by 80% by 2050

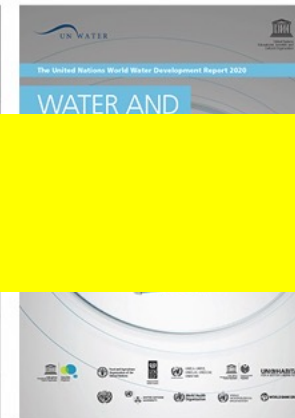
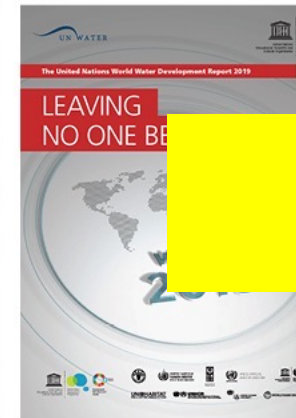
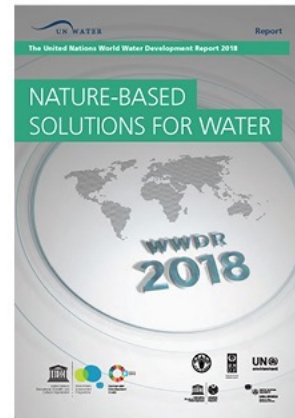
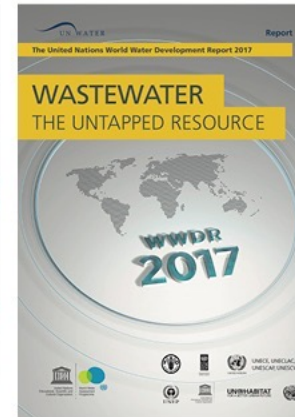
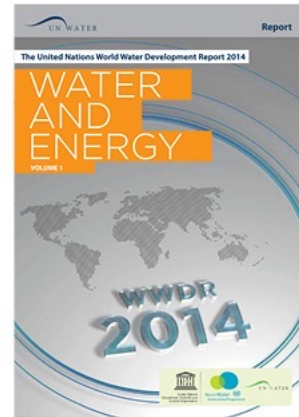
Partnership to solve competition



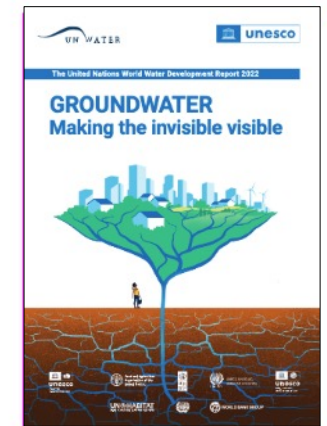
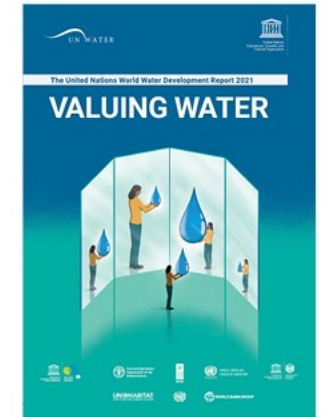
The United Nations World Water Development Report: Launch of 2022 edition on Groundwater



2003 – 2012



2014 – 2020



2021 – 2022

Why focus on groundwater - UNESCO lead UN agency in this topic

Groundwater provides:

- **Almost 50%** of all drinking water worldwide
- **Around 40%** of the water used in irrigation
- **About 1/3** of the supply required for industry.

Not only does groundwater sustain **ecosystems**, it is also an important factor in **climate change adaption**. With the rise in water scarcity and the decrease in the availability of surface water (due to human activity and climate change), there is increased reliance and pressure on groundwater.



Progress on transboundary water cooperation according to SDG indicator 6.5.2

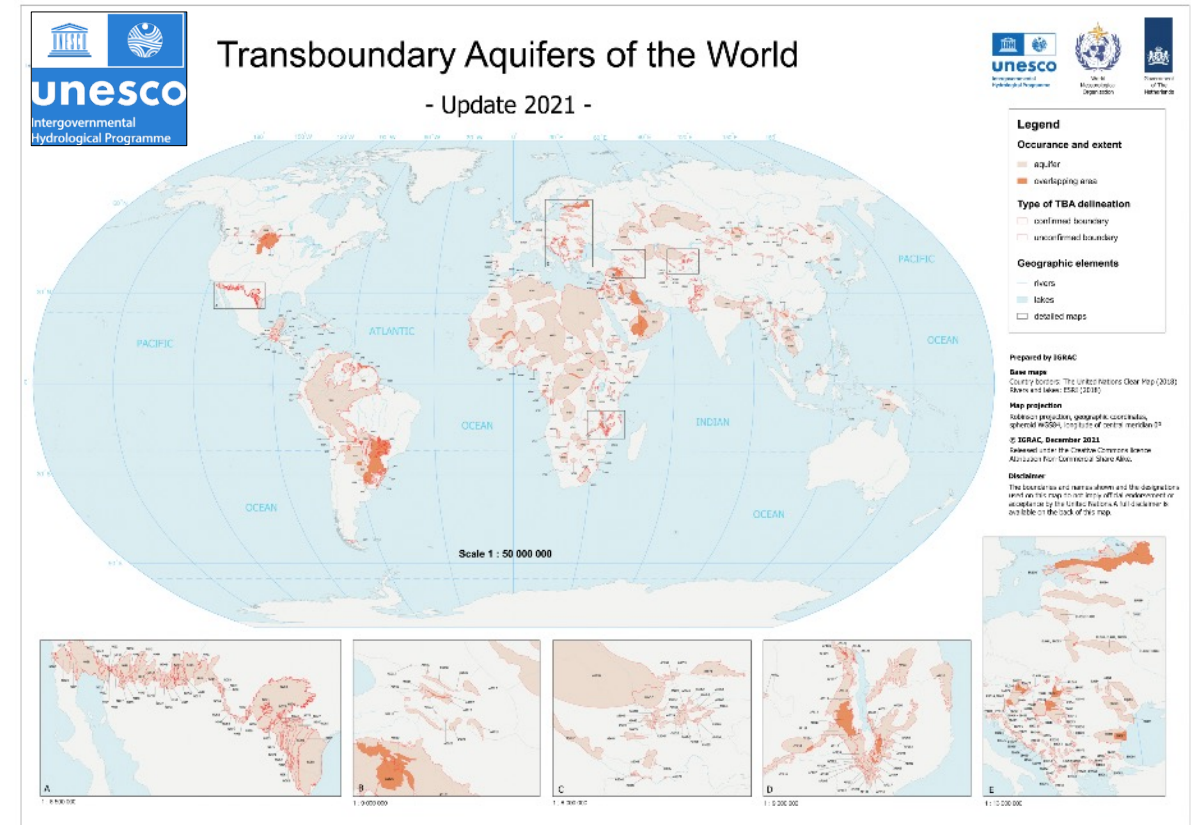
Indicator 6.5.2: Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation

High level of engagement

- In 2020: **129** out of 153 countries submitted reports

Not on track

- Only **24 countries** report **all** transboundary surface waters and groundwaters covered by **operational arrangements**
- Only additional **22 countries** with more than **70%** of their waters covered by operational arrangement
- Insufficient knowledge **on groundwater systems**, despite an unprecedented opportunity for countries to consider their transboundary aquifers
- Progress must be accelerated to ensure that all transboundary basins are covered by operational arrangements by 2030



UNESCO WWAP work on Capacity building

WWAP organizes trainings and courses to strengthen capacities on the themes of the World Water Development Reports.

The trainings and course books are designed to provide an overall understanding of the Report's annual themes and recommendations. Trainings on:

- **Wastewater**
- **Nature-based solutions**

The courses aim to strengthen the scientific, technical and policy capacities of the participants, and to facilitate decision making in managing water resources sustainably. Courses on:

- **Water and climate change**
- **Sustainable development**
- **Water and gender**

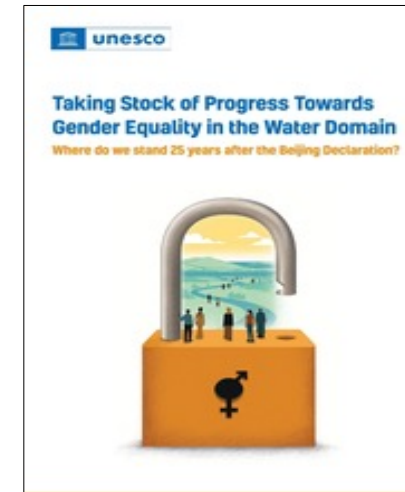
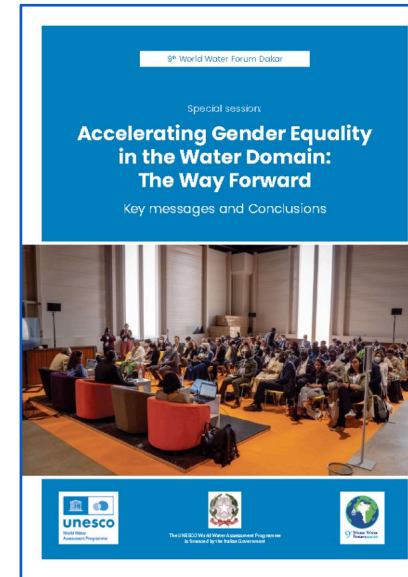


UNESCO WWAP work on water and gender

In line with **UNESCO's Gender Equality Priority**, the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) has launched a **Call for Action** to accelerate the achievement of gender equality in the water domain.

To address the lack of sex-disaggregated water data and provide scientific evidence on gender inequalities in water, UNESCO-WWAP has been working to create **water and gender indicators**, a reference methodology, and practical techniques and tools for collecting and analyzing disaggregated data in the field.

Gender inequalities in the water sector are high, with serious implications for the international community's efforts to achieve sustainable development.





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Thank you

UNESCO IHP website



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