In September 2015, the United Nations Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with their 169 targets. The new agenda was a call for action by all countries to play their part in finding shared solutions to the world's urgent challenges.

Both developed and developing countries through global partnership are required to balance the economic, social and ecological dimensions of sustainable development with the view to end poverty, improve health and education, reduce inequality, tackle climate change, preserve our oceans and forest and improve economic growth.
Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

According to data from the United Nations, 2 billion people lack access to safely managed drinking water services and 3.6 billion people lack safely managed sanitation services.

Beyond access to drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene, Sustainable Development Goal 6 also addresses the additional targets such as protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems, improve water quality and reduce water pollution.

SDG 6 and Interlinkages with other Sustainability Development Goals

According to a UN Water report, interlinkages between SDG 6 and other Goals include increasing access to “water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) [6.1, 6.2] in homes, healthcare facilities, schools and workplaces, complemented by wastewater treatment [6.3], as a way to reduce risk of water-borne disease [3.1–3.3, 3.9] and malnutrition [2.2]; support education [4.1–4.5] and a productive workforce [8.5, 8.8]; and address poverty [1.1, 1.2, 1.4], gender inequality [5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5] and other inequality [10.1–10.3].”