



High Level Integrated Workshop on UN-Water SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative in Panama

30 October - 1 November 2023

Panama City, Panama

Organizers:



The Government of Panama



CDI Coordination Team

In collaboration with



The Resident Coordinator Office

With the financial support of



The Government of Spain

Background

Since the launch of the SDGs in 2015, many governments regularly inform of their struggle with SDG 6 implementation and achievement due to a lack of institutional, human, financial and technological capacity. Insufficient resources in these critical areas are detrimental for responding to water and sanitation challenges and to the achievement of sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

To rectify this, in September 2019, the UN Secretary-General called on all sectors of society to mobilize for a decade of action on three levels: global action to secure greater leadership, resources and solutions for the SDGs; local action to embed the required transitions into policies, budgets, institutions and regulatory frameworks; and action by all stakeholders to generate an unstoppable movement pushing for the required transformations.

In response, the UN system and its multi-stakeholder partners launched the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework which identified capacity development as one of the five key areas the international community will unify to support countries to accelerate the achievement of SDG 6.

On this basis, UN-Water has launched the SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative (CDI), a demand-driven initiative to support coordination on SDG 6-related capacity development work, facilitate uptake and deployment of capacity development activities, and through this help, accelerate implementation of SDG 6 and its targets as part of the UN International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” and the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework. The CDI responds to particular country’s capacity development needs by facilitating support from the UN system and other development partners, and encourages national-level ownership.

Knowing that skilled staff and capable institutions are needed to manage water resources more sustainably, the UN-Water SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative is focusing on strengthening both institutional and human capacities to deliver water- and sanitation-related services. It is paying particular attention to education and training.

Rationale

Water and sanitation are at the core of sustainable development in Panama. The range of services they provide to the country underpin poverty reduction, economic growth and environmental sustainability. However, in recent decades over-exploitation, pollution, and climate change have led to severe water stress in the country. Now more than ever the country needs to transform the way it manages its water resources and delivers water and sanitation services for millions of people.

Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) on water and sanitation provides the blueprint for ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. However, overall action to achieve the SDGs in Panama is not yet progressing at the necessary speed or scale. The country informed in various fora such

as the High Level Political Forum, of their struggle with SDG 6 implementation and achievement due to a lack of institutional, human, financial and technological capacity. This led the Government of Panama to formally address to the CDI, a formal request for Panama to be considered as a pilot country of the Initiative.

In collaboration with the Government of Panama, the UN Resident Coordinator and Country Team, and UN-Water family Members and Partners, a series of actions and activities will be implemented in Panama in order to augment the national capacity and develop a plan related to the capacities of the water sector, based on a capacity gap assessment and on the country's priorities.

Capacity development resources are available within UN-Water Members and Partners. The CDI Coordination Team will mobilize these resources to assist Panama in designing a comprehensive programme to develop capacities at different levels to accelerate SDG 6 attainment.

As one of the main components of the CDI intervention in Panama, this High Level Integrated Workshop will discuss the capacity development gaps and challenges in the water and sanitation sectors in Panama. Priority areas of intervention and stakeholders will be identified. Topics and priority areas of discussion are of strategic interest for the Government of Panama, and these will be addressed during the Workshop, to which senior officials and experts are invited.

Objective and Expected Accomplishments

The overall goal of the High Level Integrated Workshop (Module A) of the UN-Water SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative in Panama is to seek ownership, buy-in and political will from the highest national levels of the country and to contribute to enhance the capacity of key stakeholders, including Government officials at senior and mid-level level and, to effectively integrate SDG 6 into national development planning and implementation.

Towards this end, this Workshop will assess progress made, identify existing obstacles and challenges, and exchange experiences amongst participants on ways for overcoming these.

The expected accomplishments at the end of the Integrated Workshop include:

- Enhanced ownership, support and political will across national government ministries and other key national stakeholders on the water and sanitation capacity development process.
- Raised awareness, commitment, action and collaboration. Main capacity gaps in the water and sanitation sector identified.
- Enhanced knowledge of national government ministries and other key national stakeholders on possible actions to accelerate implementation of SDG 6 and how to contribute and collaborate towards this endeavour.

- Identified interlinkages and areas where coherent policy/decision making is desired at the country level.
- Enhanced understanding of key actors and priority areas for the capacity development for input into the detailed capacity development needs assessment and plan formulation.

Format of the High Level Integrated Workshop

The High-Level Integrated Workshop will take in a hybrid format (in person and online). For the opening segment, senior officials will make a 5 - 10 minutes speech. For the interactive discussions (high level plenary and other panel discussions), senior officers and panelists will make a 5 -10 minutes presentation and answer questions, followed by interaction with participants in the workshop room.

The event will be open to UN-Water family members. Participants to the High Level Integrated Workshop will include National Government Ministries (at the ministerial and director's level), UN Resident Coordinator and UN Agencies representatives.

Timing and Duration

The workshop will be held from the 30 October to 1st November 2023

Venue: Ciudad del Saber (TBC)

Number of in-person participants: 50 maximum

Working language

The working language of the meeting will be **Spanish** with simultaneous interpretation into English.

Tentative programme

Day 1	<p>High Level Opening Segment Facilitator:</p> <p>9:00 - 9:30 (To be updated accordingly) Opening remarks UN Resident Coordinator for Panama (5 min) Minister of Environment of Panama (5 min) Other Ministers (foreign affairs, social development) - (5 min each if available) High Level Representatives of other institutions in charge of water in Panama (example: Canal Panama Authority, etc.) (5 min each)</p> <p>9:30 - 10:00: Keynote address(es) UNRCO or National Government</p> <p>10:00 - 10:20: Outline of the UN-Water SDG 6 Capacity Development</p>
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Initiative (CDI)

UNESCO and UNDESA (10 min)

Mr. Tomoyuki Okada

10:20- 10:30: Aims and programme of the integrated workshop

Facilitator: Gaetano Casale, IHE Delft

10:30-11:00: Group photo and Coffee / tea break

11:00 - 11:30: High-level plenary on national perspective on SDG 6 capacity development in Panama

(High-level representatives from Ministries and national water agencies - to be identified)

- Present the national government ministerial adherence on the water capacity development process of CDI
- Capacity gaps in the water sector in Panama under CDI
- Identification of interlinkages and areas where integrated policy/decision making is desired at the country level.

11:30 - 12:00: Questions and answers

12:00 - 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 - 14:40 Session 1: Context Setting

Facilitator:

- Progress of water-related SDGs - global status and the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework (10 min)

By UN-Water

- Progress of water-related SDGs - national status in Panama

By Government of Panama (20 min)

- Outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference - Key messages, game changers, and voluntary commitments (10 min)

By UNDESA

Ms. Eun Hee Lee

14:40 - 15:00: Questions and answers

15:00 - 15:30 Coffee / tea break

15:30 - 16:30: Session 2: Water and sanitation sector management and institutions in Panama

Facilitator:

	<p>- Water and sanitation efficiency across sectors (20 min) By</p> <p>- Water governance and institutions (20 min) By</p> <p>- Integrated Water Resources Management including Transboundary Cooperation (20 min) By: Ilyas Masih, IHE Delft</p> <p>16:30 - 16:50: Questions and answers</p> <p>16:50 - 17:20: Summary of the day 1 By rapporteur</p>
Day 2	<p>Group works: Elements and tools for the development of a national capacity development plan related to water sector in Panama Facilitator: Ilyas Masih</p> <p>9:00 - 10:00: Group work 1: Capacity gaps assessment in the water and sanitation sector – initial discussion Lead by</p> <p>Sub-group A: Capacity gaps assessment in the water sector Rapporteur:</p> <p>Sub-group B: Capacity gaps assessment in the sanitation and hygiene sector Rapporteur:</p> <p>10:00 - 10:30: Coffee/tea break</p> <p>10:30 - 11:30: Group work 2 National priority actions in the water and sanitation sector Lead by:</p> <p>Sub-group A: National priorities of Panama in the water sector Rapporteur:</p> <p>Sub-group B: National priorities in the sanitation and hygiene sector Rapporteur:</p> <p>11:30 - 12:30: Group work 3: Cross-cutting issues for capacity development in the water and sanitation sector Sub-group A: Economy and finance in water and sanitation development and management capacity</p>

	<p>Rapporteur:</p> <p>Sub-group B: Water and sanitation data management Rapporteur:</p> <p>Sub-group C: Water actions to address climate change in the water and sanitation sector Rapporteur:</p> <p>12:30 - 14:00: Lunch break</p> <p>14:00 - 15:30: Presentation of main findings from the three groups Facilitator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group work 1: Main findings on capacity gaps assessment in the water and sanitation sector (20 min) - Group work 2: Main findings on national priority actions in the water and sanitation sector (20 min) - Group work 3: Main findings on cross-cutting issues for capacity development in the water and sanitation sector (20 min) <p>15:30 - 16:00: Coffee/tea break</p> <p>Closing session</p> <p>16:00 - 16:30: Panel discussion on next steps: Where do we go from here? Take-aways and future action By UNESCO</p> <p>Panelists (TBC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representative of the Ministry of Environment of Panama - Representative of Panama Canal Authority - Representative of Academia - Representative of CDI Coordination Team/Members <p>16:30 - 17:00: High-Level closing remarks By: UN Resident Coordinator in Panama Representatives from the Government of Panama</p> <p>17:00: End</p>
Day 3	<p>9:00 - 12:00: Field trip to a target institution for the capacity development initiative and/or to Panama Canal</p>

12:00: End

Contact for more information

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