Recent and Future Developments at the United Nations World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP)

Stefan Uhlenbrook, Director and Coordinator
25 May 2017
About WWAP UNESCO

The United Nations World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) is a UNESCO Programme that was founded in 2000 in response to a call from the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development for a United Nations system-wide effort ‘to prepare periodic assessments and analyses of water resources availability (with a focus on both quantity and quality) and present a global picture of the state of freshwater resources and major challenges’.

“You can't manage what you can't measure”

WWAP’s MANDATE: WWAP assesses and reports on the state, use and management of freshwater resources worldwide. It seeks to equip water managers and key decision-makers with the information, data, tools and skills necessary to effectively participate in the development of relevant policies.
INBALANCE BETWEEN WATER DEMAND AND SUPPLY AND CONFLICTS AMONG USERS AND USES ARE GROWING WITH DEVELOPMENT, GLOBAL CHANGES AND POPULATION DENSITY

INCREASING WATER SCARCITY

Source: Mekonnen and Hoekstra (2016)
UN WORLD WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME
Monitor – Assess – Report the State, Use and Management of Water Resources
UN WORLD WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME
Monitor – Assess – Report the State, Use and Management of Water Resources

ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH
Science-based Policy Impact and Uptake, Capacity Development

WORLD WATER DEVELOPMENT REPORT (WWDR), Annual Reports and Synthesis Report

APPLIED RESEARCH AND PROJECTS
Water Assessments, Water and Gender, Emerging Fields

PUBLICATIONS COMMUNICATION COLOMBELLA PREMISES ADMINISTRATION and MANAGEMENT
The main product of WWAP is the WWDR which is the UN’s flagship report on Water. WWAP coordinates the work of 34 UN agency members and of 37 partners of UN-Water in the annual production of the authoritative WWDR.
Main Findings WWDR 2016

Opportunities for employment growth and decent jobs are contingent upon the sustainable management of water resources and the provision of water-related services.
TAKE-HOME MESSAGES
FROM THE WWDR 2016

1. 3 out of 4 jobs are water-dependent

2. Water scarcity and supply disruptions limit the growth potential for decent, high quality jobs

3. Sustainable water policies facilitate bridging knowledge and capacity gaps while reducing gender inequalities

4. Access to water and sanitation services is critical for healthy and productive workforce

5. Investments in water infrastructure and ‘water jobs’ generate positive returns and have a multiplier effect on job creation across all economic sectors

6. The transition to a greener economy enhances opportunities for decent jobs
1. Wastewater increasing worldwide
2. Vast majority released without treatment
3. Affordable (‘low-cost’) treatment options are available
4. Reliable and sustainable source of water
5. Sustainable source of energy, nutrients and other recoverable by-products
6. In a circular economy, wastewater use and by-product recovery can generate new business opportunities while helping finance sanitation services
7. The costs of improved wastewater management are outweighed by benefits in terms of human health, socioeconomic development and environmental sustainability
8. Essential for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
1. 3 languages (EN, FR, ES) and in preparation CH and ARAB, and 9 languages of the side publications

2. Reinforcing the outreach/uptake activities: “nice reports do not change the world”

3. >30 National/Regional Events:

Argentina (Buenos Aires), Austria (Vienna), Belgium (EU Parliament Brussels; in preparation), Botswana (Gaborone), Brazil (Brasilia), Cape Verde (Praia), China (Beijing), Dominican Republic (Santo Domingo), Egypt (Alexandria, Cairo), Ethiopia (Addis Ababa, Bahir Dar), Finland (Helsinki), France (Paris), Germany (Munich), Ghana (Accra), Italy (Firenze, Perugia, Rome, Trento, Venice), India (New Delhi), Indonesia (Jakarta), Jordan (Amman), Kazakhstan (Almaty), Kenya (Nairobi), Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek), Mongolia (Ulaanbaatar), Mozambique (Maputo), Nigeria (Abuja, Kaduna), South Sudan (Juba), Swaziland (Mbabane), Tajikistan (Dushanbe), Thailand (Bangkok), The Netherlands (Delft, The Hague), Uruguay (Montevideo) and Uzbekistan (Tashkent), the USA (United Nations Headquarters, New York)…
UN WORLD WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME
Monitor – Assess – Report the State, Use and Management of Water Resources

ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH
Science-based Policy Impact and Uptake, Capacity Development

WORLD WATER DEVELOPMENT REPORT (WWDR), Annual Reports and Synthesis Report

APPLIED RESEARCH AND PROJECTS
Water Assessments, Water and Gender, Emerging Fields

PUBLICATIONS COMMUNICATION COLOMBELLA PREMISES ADMINISTRATION and MANAGEMENT
Global Review and Reporting:
- Annual SDG Progress Report by Secretary General
- Quadrennial Global Sustain. Development Report (GSDR)
- Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR)

4-year cycle:
- In-depth review of HLPF of selected SDGs, SDG 6 in 2018
  ‘transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies’
..., and there will be further Reports on other SDGs, UN reports, national/regional/global SDG reports, academic papers, strategy papers etc.
Structure of SDG 6 Synthesis Report

1- Global status for each SDG 6 target/indicator.

2- Analyzing SDG 6 intra-linkages and its linkages within the 2030 Agenda

3- The way forward: policy recommendations highlighting the several measures that should be taken to handle the challenges and opportunities.

CEO Water Mandate, FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNECE, UNEP, UNICEF, UN-Water TAU, WHO and WMO are members of this Task Force coordinated WWAP of UNESCO
ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH
Science-based Policy Impact and Uptake, Capacity Development