Water flows through and interconnects the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). But water and sanitation face a crisis, and this poses one of the most urgent issues for the global community.

The water crisis is a matter of too much, too little, and too polluted. Too much because the devastating impacts of floods, exacerbated by climate change, are hitting poor people first and worst. Too little because, across the world today, 2.2 billion people lack reliable access to safe drinking water services and 4.2 billion lack safe sanitation. Water scarcity could cost some regions up to 6% of their GDP, spur migration and, in the extreme, spark civil conflict. And water is too polluted because there is a dramatic increase in water pollutants from a range of contaminants and wastewater does not get collected or treated.

To respond to this crisis, the World Bank Group envisions A Water-Secure World for All. The SDGs provide an opportunity for development partners to work together on achieving this vision.

In 2019, the World Bank Water GP launched a new Strategic Action Plan on water, following extensive consultation with our partners and clients. It is premised on managing water in a holistic manner throughout the hydrological cycle, and centers on three interrelated pillars: (1) sustain water resources, (2) deliver services, and (3) build resilience.

With a portfolio of water investments of over $29 billion and a staff of 300 water experts in locations worldwide, the Bank's Water Global Practice is uniquely positioned to customize local solutions by sharing global knowledge and amplifying the impact of financing through technical assistance on the ground.

The Water Global Practice has identified five priority themes on water to help achieve the SDGs. To address increasing water scarcity and variability and ensure lasting results, a stronger focus is needed on multiple facets of resilience and sustainability. But without new efforts to improve inclusion, many people will still be unable to access water and sanitation and will be disproportionately affected by water-related diseases and disasters.

Helping countries achieve greater sustainability and inclusion in the water sector requires investment in institutions, to complement a long-standing focus on building infrastructure. Building the institutions and infrastructure needed for universal access and more sustainable water management also demands a vast increase in financing. This can be achieved only by improving financial viability and leveraging domestic and private financing.

To address the priority themes across the Bank’s global portfolio, the Water Global Practice launched the Global Water Security & Sanitation Partnership (GWSP), a multi-donor trust fund, with partners in 2017. To more effectively bring critical resources to the front lines, the partnership serves as a global think tank and increases field presence of our staff in order to expand and deepen the impact of World Bank Group lending on water, ensuring that knowledge flows both to and from implementation.

In 2018, the 2030 Water Resources Group (2030 WRG)—a public-private-civil society partnership—moved to the Water Global Practice from IFC, the Bank Group’s private sector arm. This partnership promotes collective action to accelerate government reforms for sustainable water resources management as a key component of long-term development and economic growth. 2030 WRG is working with over 700 partner organizations across government, the private sector, and civil society on project and policy reforms in 14 countries.

Through the Water Global Practice, the Bank implements programs and projects worldwide, including a series of regional trust-funds focused on Transboundary Water Management (CIWA, SAWI, Danube and CAEWDP). Importantly, the Practice convenes a wide range of partners to achieve cross-sectoral solutions, and shares data, knowledge and know-how across developing countries.
THE WORLD BANK’S STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN ON WATER
Long-term water availability is far from certain as population and economic growth collide with finite—and increasingly degraded—water resources. The Water Global Practice supports clients’ efforts to enhance water security by managing water resources more productively and sustainably. Sustaining water means improving resource management at the river basin, country, and transboundary levels. Keeping watersheds and aquifers healthy reaches across administrative, political, and sectoral boundaries. Supporting effective water and environmental policies, laws, and institutions for integrated water management remains a priority. This is essential because, by 2025, about 1.8 billion people will be living in regions or countries with absolute water scarcity. And by 2030 the world faces a 40% shortfall between the predicted demand and the available supply of water.

**SUSTAINING WATER:**

Improved water stewardship pays high economic, environmental and social dividends. Forming platforms and processes to help stakeholders interact and manage tradeoffs among water users can foster greater stewardship of water resources. Water managers can apply more data-driven management, better understanding of water balances, and disruptive technology to maximize the benefits from water resources. The GP also promotes nature-based solutions. This means optimizing the use of green infrastructure (such as forests, wetlands, and flood plains) and gray, human-built infrastructure to achieve water security.

**VIETNAM: GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FUND MEKONG DELTA INTEGRATED CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS PROJECT**

The Mekong Delta is a particularly vulnerable region for people and ecosystems. The region needs more research and innovation to transition from traditional practices and livelihoods to ones that sustain water resources. Our project aims to strengthen capacity of research institutions and communities so new approaches and techniques can be applied for better, more climate-smart practices in natural resources management in selected provinces.

**Hydropower and Dams:** The World Bank supports hydropower projects of all scales, with close attention paid to promoting the global best practices on environmental and social safeguards. Client demand has also significantly increased for assistance on formulating national programs on dam safety and watershed management.
CAMEROON: NACHTIGAL HYDROPOWER PROJECT

This project will be the next low-cost hydropower site to be developed on Cameroon’s Sanaga River. The dam aims to increase the supply of reliable, renewable energy throughout the country. A key part of the country’s efforts to reduce electricity costs and promote sustainability, it will provide an additional 30% of installed capacity.

Following the commission of the Lom Pangar Dam in 2016, the estimated average annual tariff compensation fell from $25 million for one year (2017) to $16 million for two years. Once operational, Nachtigal will save Cameroon an additional $100 million in generation costs annually.

Cameroon has the third largest hydropower development potential in Sub-Saharan Africa, estimated at over 12,000MW. Deploying its hydropower resources holds the key to lowering the cost of electricity and ensuring that the country’s economy is competitive.

VALUING WATER:

Pricing and valuation of water are essential for delivering water security. Water’s value is more complex than just the financial valuation for pricing; there are deep interconnections between human needs and social values, cultural considerations, economic well-being, and the viability of freshwater ecosystems. The Water Global Practice is supporting transparent ways of allocating water equitably and efficiently, protecting water resources, and educating and empowering people, especially the youth, about the multiple values of water.

STORING WATER

Expanding water supply and availability is vital. This means new water storage, improved water reuse and recycling and, where viable, desalination and other technologies to create “new” water—while staying mindful of the social and environmental consequences, especially to downstream uses and users of water. Sustaining groundwater and ensuring connectivity between ground and surface water is also a priority.

SHARING WATER

While water needs to be shared equitably and efficiently across sectors and administrative boundaries, riparian countries need additional support to manage the growing pressures on water resources, and to find ways to share transboundary water, encourage policies to promote water efficiency and improve water allocation, and build climate resilience.
UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION

Strong economies require healthy, skilled, and knowledgeable people. A lack of safe water, sanitation, and hygiene not only harms economic potential, it harms people’s dignity, safety, health, and educational achievements. But smart investments in clean water and sanitation prevent needless deaths and transform lives: healthier children become healthier adults who can fulfill their potential and contribute more to the economy.

Utility reform: Water and sanitation utilities are often the best mechanism to reach large unserved populations in urban and peri-urban areas. This is because many are already well-established entities with legal mandates, expertise, and the potential to attract commercial finance. Many utilities in middle-income countries have become world-class service providers, in part because the enabling environment provides the right incentives, and they are also able to leverage commercial finance. Incentivizing utilities to be accountable and efficient, and thus achieve credit-worthiness, often requires policy, institutional, and regulatory reforms. The World Bank aims to improve the efficiency of utility performance, increase cost-recovery from service users, and leverage public finance to mobilize private sector resources for the water sector.

Sanitation: Addressing the global sanitation gap is of highest priority. Investing in sanitation prevents needless deaths and is a key part of investing in people and transforming lives. Failure to address sanitation is expensive: the World Health Organization has estimated the economic costs of poor sanitation at $260 billion per year, which can range from 1 to 6 percent of the GDP. The Water GP is committed to embracing a Circular Economy approach moving away from a “linear” way of thinking about wastewater to a more “circular” perspective, recognizing the valuable resources wastewater contains.

The Water Global Practice follows the principles of Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) and the Sanitation Economy, all the while promoting innovation in wastewater treatment technologies for both centralized and decentralized systems.

MOZAMBIQUE: WATER SERVICES AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT PROJECT

Between 2007 and 2015, this project helped Mozambique rehabilitate and expand water systems in a number of cities and towns. A combined approach, which increased water service coverage while improving institutional support, expanded household water connections and community water access. By installing new and rehabilitating existing water infrastructure, it reached over 700,000 people through household piped connections and public standpipes.
UTTARAKHAND, INDIA: WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION PROJECT

This project helped over 1.57 million people by improving sustainable rural water supply and sanitation services in underserved areas. It also helped build institutional capacity to prepare for and manage the impact of natural disasters. From 2006 to 2015, more than 850,000 households benefitted from improved hygiene and sanitation practices.

BRAZIL: SÃO PAULO WATER RECOVERY (REÁGUA) PROJECT

Participating water and sanitation operators in the state of São Paulo, Brazil, were paid for verified results in recovering water. Operators recovered water either by using it more efficiently or by treating wastewater to reduce pollution and improve water quality. Overall, 47 million cubic meters of water per year have been recovered, equivalent to the yearly consumption of 800,000 people. The project benefitted 97,400 people living in five critical watersheds.

CROATIA: COASTAL CITIES POLLUTION CONTROL PROJECT 2 (CCPCP)

From 2009 to 2015, the project helped eliminate untreated wastewater discharge, piloted innovative wastewater treatment solutions, helped strengthen institutions, and improved seawater quality monitoring in the coastal area. It supported development of new wastewater treatment and collection systems. It also built capacity of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the national water agency, and participating municipal water utilities in project preparation, management, and efficient operations of new collection and treatment systems.

WASH POVERTY DIAGNOSTIC

This initiative makes the case, based on robust evidence, that a step change is required in how countries manage resources and provide water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services. This starts with better targeting to ensure these services reach those most in need and tackling inefficiencies so that public services are both sustainable and effective. Offering a comprehensive analysis of water and sanitation indicators, the research spans 18 countries around the world and—for the first time—pinpoints specific geographic regions within countries that have inadequate WASH services. It sheds light on major disparities in water supply and sanitation services between rural and urban, poor and better-off areas.

OPTIMIZING WATER USE IN AGRICULTURE

As the world faces the challenges of climate change and food security, water in well-designed agriculture programs are essential for reaching the goal of a water and food secure world for all. Irrigation and drainage will be needed for food security, jobs, and economic growth. While irrigation covers only 20% of total cultivated land, it supports the production of 40% of the world's food and 55% of the value of global agricultural produce. Improving irrigation performance is a strategic priority for tackling rural poverty and mitigating climate impacts, especially for the most vulnerable. Improving service delivery for a range of users while sustaining water resources for all will be an increasing challenge.

Irrigation Reform: Governments play a key role in modernizing irrigation schemes and making institutional reforms to improve service delivery and water-use efficiency. Changing agricultural systems in these ways will help address rising demand and promote climate-smart agricultural practices and policies. A focus on service delivery requires institutional interventions focused on water delivery functions, processes, and capabilities. Through an initiative on governance in irrigation and drainage, the Water Global Practice promotes new insights, pathways and tools to bring about sustainable reform that acknowledges stakeholders' perspectives on performance and takes iterative approaches.
Farmer-Led Irrigation Development: Millions of small-scale farmers face challenges from food and water insecurity, dependence on unpredictable rainfall, and increasing frequency of natural disasters. At the same time, farmer-led initiatives to develop irrigation are increasingly important. A key principle is that farmers have agency over decision making on irrigation development and implementation. The initiative supports: (a) developing innovative financial models and accessible financing and technologies suitable for smallholder irrigators; (b) building on farmers’ knowledge and experience to facilitate, rather than steer, the development process; (c) fostering international partnerships between multiple stakeholders to expand enabling policy environments and inclusive finance for this traditionally informal sector; and (d) ensuring the proper stewardship of water and other resources to deliver smallholder irrigation services at scale.

Water Stewardship: Unsustainable and inequitable water use is a global problem, and the water in the agriculture sector needs both to display accountability and be part of the solution. The Alliance for Water Stewardship—a global network of water stakeholders—promotes use of water that is socially equitable, environmentally sustainable, and economically beneficial. It pursues a stakeholder-inclusive process that involves both site- and catchment-based actions. This means measuring, planning, monitoring, and engaging farmers and water user organizations with other basin stakeholders in optimizing water use. The Water Global Practice supports the use of water balances and water accounting, as well as inclusive stakeholder processes, to find the right balance between different needs and objectives.

WATER FOR FOOD INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON FARMER-LED IRRIGATION

The 2018 Forum brought together over 200 participants from over 26 countries, including 14 from Africa. The theme, Water for Food Security: From Local Lessons to Global Impacts, was based on the premise that global breakthroughs are often driven by local action. Organized by the World Bank in partnership with the Daugherty Water for Food Institute at the University of Nebraska, and supported by several partners, the event showcased voices from farmer representatives, the private sector, national and regional policymakers, and major international financing institutions. The Forum helped galvanize a coalition to legitimize farmer-led irrigation as a major development agenda, particularly for Africa. It provided the opportunity for an inclusive global dialogue to help catalyze change in developing countries.

INDIA: ANDHRA PRADESH AND TELANGANA STATE COMMUNITY BASED MANAGEMENT

The World Bank-supported project, which ran from 2007 to 2016 in India, benefitted 605,000 people by strengthening the capacity of community-based institutions. It developed and equipped over 116,000 hectares of land with irrigation and drainage services. In addition, it developed and rehabilitated tank irrigation infrastructure, helped farmers improve their productivity, and increased crop intensity by over 30%.

CHINA: WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT II

This project tackled water scarcity through a series of interlinked operations in Hebei, Shanxi, and Ningxia—three of the most water-scarce provinces in China’s Northern region. To decrease net consumption, the project reduced water withdrawal for irrigated agriculture in Ningxia and Shanxi, and groundwater overdraft in Hebei. In addition, it provided incentives to farmers to lower the agricultural production costs and increase their agricultural yield and value.

UZBEKISTAN: SOUTH KARAKALPKISTAN WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Through this project, 1,500 private farms and 40,000 small family farms will benefit from more reliable water distribution. Once the irrigation system is restored, over 30,000 hectares of abandoned land will be recovered for horticulture and fodder crops production. Local farmers say improved irrigation will not only allow them to create additional jobs on farms, but that new job opportunities will be possible in downstream production. This includes the processing of juice, jam and cheese, as well as the storing and packaging of agriculture products (fruits, vegetables, dairy and meat), which can later be sold on the domestic market or exported abroad.
Water scarcity, exacerbated by climate change, could cost some regions up to 6% of their GDP, spur migration, and spark conflict. The combined effects of growing populations, rising incomes, and expanding cities will see demand for water rising quickly, even as supply becomes more erratic and uncertain. An estimated 150 million people now live in cities with perennial water shortages, and this number may increase to 1 billion by 2050. Unless urgent action is taken, water will become scarcer in regions where it is currently abundant—such as Central Africa and East Asia—and scarcity will greatly worsen in regions where water is already in short supply—such as the Middle East and Africa’s Sahel. Flooding, already a problem affecting over 2 billion people in the past two decades, is also expected to intensify with climate change. The World Bank supports building resilience through operations in FCV (fragility, conflict and violence) countries, as they are often vulnerable to multiple shocks involving climate, conflict, migration, and weak governance.

**BUILD RESILIENCE TO SHOCKS**

**ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND WEATHER EXTREMES**

Effective climate change adaptation requires sound water management to reduce vulnerability and build resilience. The Water Global Practice focuses on building systems to reduce flood and drought risks by financing water infrastructure, creating healthy watersheds, improving hydrological and meteorological services, and promoting planning processes that address climate uncertainty.

**Hydromet services:** Hydrological and meteorological (or “hydromet”) hazards are responsible for 90% of disaster losses worldwide. With population growth, rapid urbanization and climate change, disasters and their impacts are projected to become more severe. Hydromet services provide real-time weather, water, early warning, and climate information products to users, based on a wide range of data. Governments worldwide are expressing a demand for better and more effective hydromet services and early warning systems to help save lives and livelihoods. Better weather forecasting and warning systems could increase productivity globally by $30 billion a year, while saving $35 billion a year in losses.

**Managing extremes—flood risk management:** Floods are a natural process that can bring benefits by creating fertile floodplains, rich deltas, and productive wetlands; they are an integral part of freshwater eco-systems. But all too often floods are a hazard for vulnerable and exposed populations, and these hazards can escalate into disasters. These risks can be addressed by financing both gray infrastructure (built facilities such as reservoirs, embankments, and drainage canals), as well as green infrastructure such as forests, flood plains, and wetlands that help absorb flood waters. Flood zoning and land-use planning, combined with early warning systems and disaster response systems, are key to managing flood risks. And after every event it is important to assess how to “build back better.”

**METRO MANILA FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

The Philippines is one of the world’s most typhoon-prone countries, ranking third in risk of disasters, including floods and storms. The World Bank is helping Metro Manila reduce flood risk by investing in infrastructure, reducing solid waste that clogs storm drains, and relocating people at risk. The project will benefit 1.7 million people who are at risk of flooding and relocate 2,500 poor families living in flood-prone slum areas.

**Managing extremes—drought risk management:** Droughts are slow-moving disasters, and their economic and human consequences can be devastating and long-lasting, even rippling through generations. The Global Practice supports clients in coping better with droughts through interventions in: i) drought monitoring and forecasting, ii) drought vulnerability and impact assessment, and iii) drought mitigation and emergency response.

Floods and drought risks are often best managed through an integrated approach at the watershed level. For example, multi-purpose reservoirs can be used both to store water for dry periods as well as retain it to reduce flooding. Hydromet services can be provided for both drought and flood management, as well as for planning infrastructure and allocating water.
PARAIBA IMPROVING WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND SERVICES PROVISION PROJECT

The drought-prone states of Northeast Brazil has been an area of Bank support for over a decade to help improve climate resilience. This includes development of the Northeast Drought Monitor, an integrated information system used by all stakeholders involved in drought monitoring and early warning/prediction. The monitor facilitates access to hydromet, agricultural, socioeconomic, and other data to improve real-time decision making. Drought preparedness plans have also been developed to help improve the reliability of water supply for the region’s cities. In addition, the Paraiba Project finances an interregional bulk water supply system to help 27 cities that historically suffer from severe droughts, as well improve the monitoring system.

PERU: INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN TEN BASINS PROJECT

The World Bank is helping Peru—which is subjected to devastating droughts and floods from the El Nino effect and relies on rapidly melting glaciers for much of its water supply—to build resilience to a changing climate. This project supports startup of a nationwide modern water management system that facilitates water conservation, allocates scarce water between competing users, and develops plans to help ensure a water secure future. The project also invests in national hydromet systems and helps strengthen water institutions at the aquifer and basin levels.

Cutting-edge Analytical Work on Climate Resilience: The Water Global Practice has also produced several key reports that guide strategic development of our work and inform the design of projects. These include High and Dry (2016), which looked at climate change and the economy; Uncharted Waters (2017), which examined the economic and social costs of floods and droughts; and Water Scarce Cities (2018), which shared the experiences of cities worldwide that are building resilient water supply systems. Most recently, Integrating Green and Gray Infrastructure (2019) shows how using natural systems in combination with building infrastructure can help improve climate resilience.

CONFLICT AND MIGRATION

Fragility, conflict, and violence is a critical development challenge that threatens efforts to end extreme poverty and affects both low- and middle-income countries. Water insecurity can exacerbate these challenges by causing large-scale disease outbreaks and human suffering, and compound existing fragilities in social, economic, and environmental systems. Experience in FCV countries across the world underscores that affected countries are often climate vulnerable—indeed, they are some of the most impacted by climate change, and the least able to respond.

The World Bank aims to respond to immediate needs in collaboration with the UN system and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), while helping in transitioning from humanitarian to development responses that rebuild governments’ capacity to deliver services while strengthening citizen-state relations.

SOMALIA: WATER FOR AGROPASTORAL LIVELIHOODS PILOT PROJECT

Rural Somalia remains acutely poor and subject to repeated cycles of devastating droughts—averaging one every four years since 1960. The World Bank is working both with humanitarian partners to respond to drought emergencies, as well as with the government to test innovative ways of planning and designing more long-term water development projects. For example, while funding for the 2016 drought response was channeled through FAO and the ICRC to provide immediate relief (emergency water supplies, and sanitation and hygiene kits) in Somaliland and Puntland, government units used World Bank financing to improve pastoral and agro-pastoral communities’ access to, and management of, small-scale dams. These sand and sub-surface dams harvest and store rainwater under sand, increasing soil moisture and replenishing the water table, while avoiding losing water to evaporation and runoff.
The Water Global Practice is responsible for a portfolio of about $30 billion in World Bank lending through 170 projects. Additionally, the Bank finances of $13 billion in multi-sector projects related to water. Water Supply and Sanitation, traditionally the largest part of the water portfolio, currently accounts for 53% of the work program with 34% devoted to urban water supply and sanitation and 19% on rural water supply and sanitation. In Water Resources Management (WRM) has increased to 25% of the portfolio and is growing. The remaining 22% of activities in the portfolio are related to water in agriculture, hydropower and dams, and other areas.

In fiscal years 2016 to 2019, the World Bank support provided more than 62 million people with access to improved water sources and more than 30 million with access to improved sanitation facilities and brought new or improved irrigation services to over 4 million hectares of land.
Social Inclusion in Water is a cross-cutting program housed within the Water Global Practice. It focuses on the World Bank’s concept of inclusion, as “the process of improving the ability, opportunity and dignity of people disadvantaged on the basis of their identity to take part in society.” The program aims to deepen social inclusion in the water sector through generation and curation of knowledge, strategic country engagements, capacity building, and stronger partnerships. Activities include building evidence on female employment in water utilities and supporting participatory and inclusive approaches in water governance and decision making.

THE RISING TIDE: A NEW LOOK AT WATER AND GENDER

A World Bank report, The Rising Tide, provides policymakers and practitioners with a new framework for thinking about the intersections between water and gender. It reviews a vast body of literature to present a “thinking device” that visualizes water as an asset, a service, and a space. It shows water as an arena where gender relations play out in ways that often mirror inequalities between the sexes. And it examines norms and practices related to water that often exacerbate ingrained gender and other hierarchies. Its key message is clear—interventions in water-related domains are important, both in and of themselves and for enhancing gender equality more broadly. The report discusses examples of initiatives that have had consequences for gender equality, whether intended or unintended, and makes the point that gender inequality does not always show up where we might expect.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN WATER UTILITIES

Women are highly underrepresented in water utilities, and even when present, their progression through the organization is usually slow, with few women in leadership and decision-making positions. This is symptomatic of a larger issue of women in science, technology, engineering, and math jobs. With support from the Global Water Security & Sanitation Partnership, the Bank is making progress on this in our lending operations. For example, the Baghdad Water Supply and Sewerage Improvement Project in Iraq and the Lilongwe Water and Sanitation Project in Malawi have taken significant steps to close gender gaps in women’s representation in the utilities, including by increasing their participation in decision-making roles.

EGYPT: SUSTAINABLE RURAL SANITATION SERVICES PROGRAM FOR RESULTS

This program aims to strengthen institutions, in part through decentralization, with the goals of increasing access to and improving delivery of rural sanitation services. Citizen engagement is a key element. As the program enters its second phase, it is exploring ways of deepening the citizen engagement reforms and strengthening the role of women, both in beneficiary communities and in water sector utilities themselves.
In 2017, the World Bank and our partners launched a new initiative for a water-secure world, the Global Water Security & Sanitation Partnership (GWSP), housed within the Water Global Practice.

This partnership comes at a vital moment, as progress lags yet challenges are growing, and ambition is rising. Inspired by its previous alliances, the new partnership builds on decades of knowledge, learning, and practical experience from the World Bank, the Water Partnership Program (WPP), and the Water and Sanitation Program (WSP).

At the core of the GWSP’s model is a belief that first-rate research and systematic knowledge is essential to maintaining the high quality of World Bank operations. They are equally essential to shaping the external debate as part of our mission to deliver a water-secure world for all. Hence the partnership is working to produce strategic, robust, and practical ideas, insights, and information that can help shape practice and policy.

The GWSP supports World Bank task teams, clients, and other partners through three distinct points of entry. First, it provides staff in the Water Global Practice with the tools and analysis they need to collaborate with global experts, develop new concepts, and conduct in-depth research. Second, it supports long-term country engagement, through a model that places staff in strategic locations (including FCV situations) for ongoing water-sector dialogue and technical assistance. And third, it enables just-in-time technical support through the Water Expertise Facility, which provides rapid responses to changing project conditions, including by shift a project’s trajectory toward more sustainable results.

The GWSP works to advance five priority themes where action is critically needed to achieve the SDGs for water: sustainability, inclusion, institutions, financing, and resilience.
And it is delivering results. In its first year, the GWSP funded analytics and assistance to 31 countries that influenced $13.8 billion in World Bank lending. There are already many notable stories of impact, including:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>GWSP assistance is helping 150 rural water services by using solar-powered water pumps and prepaid meters; this is an essential first step toward financial sustainability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>The GWSP is working with other donors and the private sector to implement microfinance schemes for latrines. It has funded capacity building for both toilet manufacturers and customers and has leveraged $25 million in loans and output-based subsidies to help 850,000 people gain access to improved sanitation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>The GWSP is supporting expanding access to improved water sources to 105,000 households.</td>
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</table>

Over the next four years, the GWSP aims to invest up to $200 million in low- and middle-income countries. Partnership resources will be used to boost demand for innovative investments and to improve how water institutions function. The goal is to see one country after another achieve better development outcomes, across a range of sectors, through water management practices that mitigate risk.
The 2030 Water Resources Group (2030 WRG) is a public-private-civil society partnership hosted by the World Bank Group. It helps governments accelerate reforms for sustainable water resources management as a key component of long-term development and economic growth. It works to change the political economy for water reform by convening a wide range of stakeholders and providing water resources analysis in ways that are appealing for politicians, administrators, and business leaders outside the traditional water sector.

The partnership works with over 700 organizations across government, the private sector, and civil society on projects and policy reforms in 14 countries. These include Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mexico, Mongolia, Peru, South Africa, Tanzania, and Vietnam, as well as Brazil’s São Paulo State; efforts in India are both national-level and with the states of Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh.

The 2030 WRG uses a multi-stakeholder platform model: stakeholders in each country identify projects and policy reforms according to their context and needs, then implement them jointly. Common themes include transforming value chains, promoting circular economies, and advancing water security and resilience. The means of implementation range from capacity building and innovative financing to new institutional arrangements and management systems.

In 2018, this partnership:

- Facilitated $444 million in public and private investments in water-related infrastructure and technology
- Reduced the annual discharge of untreated wastewater by 233 million cubic meters
- Reduced freshwater abstraction by 152 million cubic meters, a savings equivalent to the total amount of water consumed in New York City for 40 days
In Mongolia, the parliament recently approved a revised Water Pollution Fee Law based on a polluter-pays model developed under the 2030 WRG’s national multi-stakeholder platform.

In India, the 2030 WRG joined with the Maharashtra water authority and the Bombay Chamber of Commerce and Industry to launch a blockchain hackathon, aiming to crowdsource solutions for better water resources management in Maharashtra’s wastewater sector.

Mexico’s Water Advisory Council and National Water Commission collaborated with the 2030 WRG and partners to launch the Social Compact for Water. This new agreement will convene stakeholders from the public and private sectors and civil society for open dialogue on shared ethical values and principles that will guide the country’s water policy making.

In Tanzania, the Ministry of Water convened over 100 stakeholders to chart a path for development of water-smart infrastructure that can support sustainable growth in the country. Bringing together senior leaders from government, business, research institutions, and civil society, the forum stemmed from sustained collaboration between the 2030 WRG and the ministry to strengthen coordination gap among the various authorities engaged in water resources management.

In the years ahead, the 2030 WRG strategic plan aims to reach about 25 countries by 2023, an expansion that will be critical to advance the SDGs on water resource management (Goal 6) and innovative global public-private-civil society partnerships (Goal 17).

The World Bank Group works to mobilize financing for development by leveraging the private sector and optimizing the use of scarce public resources. This requires collaboration across sectors and between public- and private-sector partners to solve complex challenges.

In the water sector, where challenges affect urban, agricultural and industrial interests, cooperation is essential. Rarely, however, have partnerships in water effectively unified government agencies, the private sector, and civil society. It is more urgent than ever that these parties come together, and the 2030 WRG has shown that such collaboration is possible.
1. **Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA)** assists riparian governments in Sub-Saharan Africa in unlocking the potential for sustainable, climate-resilient growth; the focus is on addressing constraints to cooperative water resources management and development.

2. **The South Asia Water Initiative (SAWI)** supports a rich portfolio of activities designed to increase regional cooperation in the management of the major Himalayan river systems in South Asia and deliver sustainable, fair, and inclusive development and climate resilience.

3. **The Danube Water Program** helps countries of the Danube region—which are undergoing rapid modernization in the wake of EU accession and harmonization—to match major new investments in water and wastewater assets with the regulatory, organizational, managerial, and technical reforms in sector institutions and governance.

4. **The Central Asia Energy-Water Development Program (CAEWDP)** helps Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan enhance cooperation and pursue integrated energy and water development initiatives.

Through the Water Global Practice, the World Bank also manages four regional trust funds:
A WATER-SECURE WORLD FOR ALL

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