



Water Forward

FOR PEOPLE FOR FOOD FOR PLANET

DRIVING JOBS AND PROSPERITY



Business as usual not an option?



3.4 billion

of people lacking safely managed sanitation



4 billion

of people experiencing water scarcity



2.1 billion

of people lacking safe drinking water



6.5 billion

of people who can't be fed sustainably in 2050 with current agri-water management practices

> \$1 trillion

per year needed to deliver sustainable water management globally



Global Investment Inadequate to Meet Water SDGs

...and Private Spending is a Drop in the Bucket *

Water Financing Needs

\$6.7 trillion

by 2030

\$22.6 trillion

by 2050

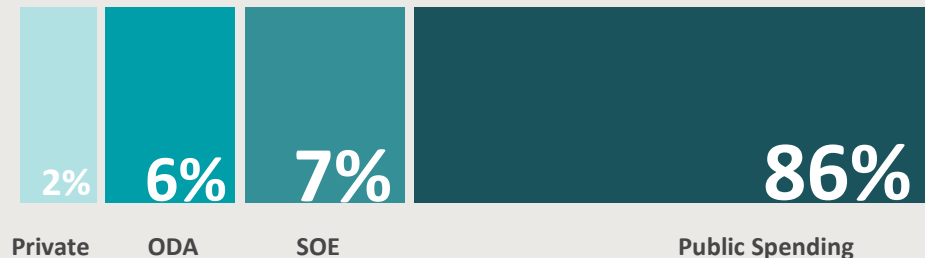
VS

Annual Spending in the Water Sector

Public spending constitutes largest share of spending in the water sector – a mere **0.5% GDP** on average

Private spending makes up roughly **2%**.

US\$ 164.6 billion



Only 1.2% government budget is for water; compared to 4-5% for energy or transport sector vs 60% for human development

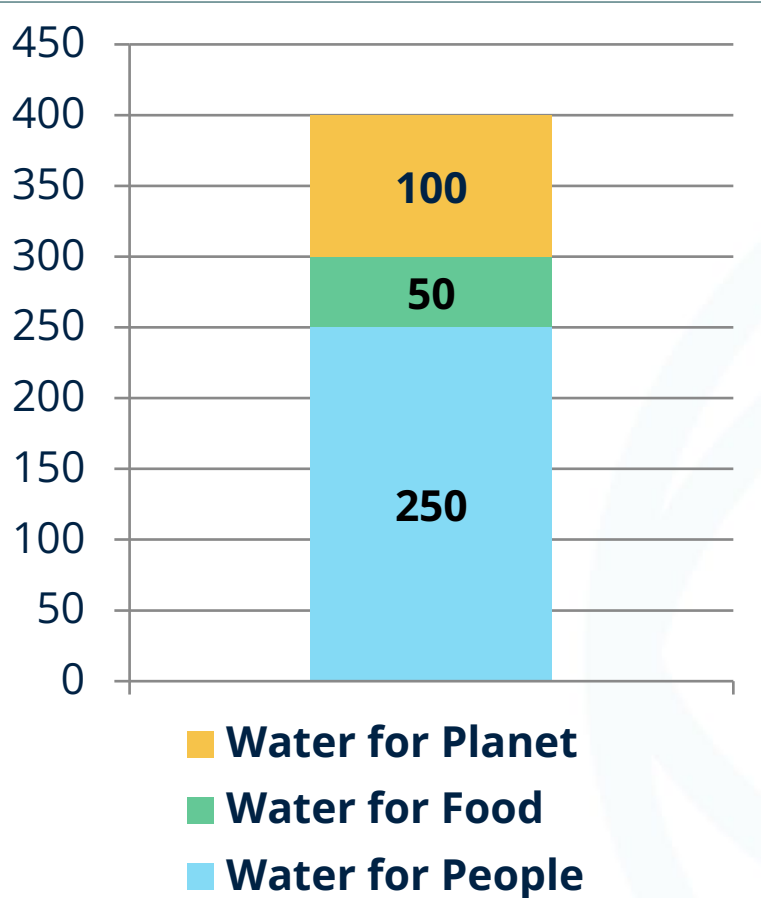
WBG Ambition: Advancing Water Security for 400 Million People by 2030

Where Does it come from?

400M = 10%




of 4 billion people facing various forms of water insecure people globally

Pillars Contributing to 400M Goal



How will results be reported

Results tracked using [WBG Corporate Scorecard Indicators](#):

-  People provided with water, sanitation and/or hygiene, of which (%) is safely managed;
-  People with strengthened food and nutrition security
-  People with enhanced resilience to climate risks

Water Forward

FOR PEOPLE FOR FOOD FOR PLANET

Water Forward is a new global coalition that brings together governments, multilateral development banks, the private sector, and philanthropies, with each contributing its comparative advantage, whether reforms, financing, or delivery.

It aligns all partners behind government-led Water Compacts: government-owned action plans that connect policy reform, institutional strengthening, and investment planning in one coordinated framework

MISSION

To deliver water security for over 1 billion people by 2030 under three pillars:



Water for People



Water for Food

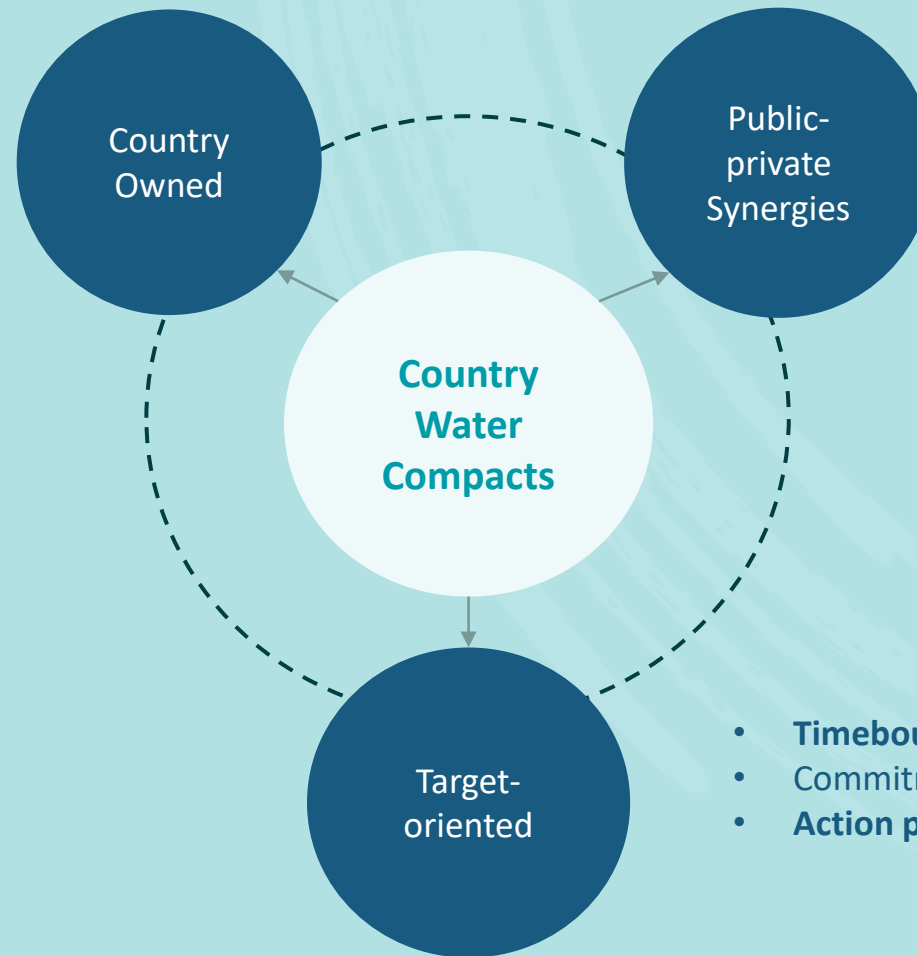


Water for the Planet

Country Commitments to Reforms and Investments Drive Sector Planning and Implementation

Country-owned and country-led plans and ambitions for:

- Policy and regulatory reforms
- Investments



- **Use of public resources** to leverage private and commercial capital
- Design of **enabling conditions** for bankable projects and municipal and sub-national financing

- **Timebound**
- Commitment to sector **financial sustainability**
- **Action plans** to reach the underserved

Private Sector Participation in Water: Why, When, and How?

Unlocking private investment in water is a critical component of Water Forward and a key lever to meet investment needs in the sector

Why It Matters

- Additional capital
- Innovation, operational efficiency, and results-oriented delivery models.
- Sovereign governments fiscally constrained,
- Cost-reflective water pricing to reduce wastage and ensure financial sustainability.

Supporting Enabling Conditions



Regulatory and Governance Clarity



Sector Financial Sustainability



Political and Social Acceptability



Tailored Approach to Market Maturity

Less Mature Markets

- Build - Operate-Transfer PPP models
- Management and performance-based contracts
- Concessional loans, viability gap funding and local currency financing to support affordability

Markets with Efficient Subnational Utilities

- Fiscal decentralization
- Policies to enable lending to subnational entities (e.g. municipalities)
- Bring in private sector know-how

More Developed Markets

- Concessions with fully commercial PPPs
- Sustainable Finance (e.g., green & blue finance, sustainability linked loans and bonds)
- Engagement with local investors to strengthen alignment

Country Compacts Launched during 2026 IMF-WBG Spring Meetings



-  Albania
-  Angola
-  Bolivia
-  Cambodia
-  Cameroon
-  Côte d'Ivoire
-  Jamaica
-  Jordan
-  Kenya
-  République Démocratique du Congo
-  Senegal
-  Sierra Leone
-  Uzbekistan
-  Viet Nam

Country commitments to deliver reliable water at scale

Financing Partners: MDBs Commitments to Deliver Reliable Water at Scale

**100 MILLION
PEOPLE**

Asian Development
Bank (ADB)

**100 MILLION
PEOPLE**

Asian Infrastructure
Investment
Bank (AIIB)

**3 MILLION
PEOPLE**

Council of Europe
Development
Bank (CEB)

**20 MILLION
PEOPLE**

European Bank for
Reconstruction
And Development
(EBRD)

**300 MILLION
PEOPLE**

European
Investment Bank
(EIB)

**50 MILLION
PEOPLE**

Inter-American
Development Bank
(IDB)

**85 MILLION
PEOPLE**

Islamic Development
Bank (ISDB)

**70 MILLION
PEOPLE**

New Development
Bank (NDB)

**400 MILLION
PEOPLE**

The World Bank
Group (WBG)





WATER IS LIFE



WATER IS JOBS



WATER IS RESILIENCE

Water Forward unites partners, solutions, and finance to ensure water security for generations

JOIN US

Together, the public and private sectors, supporting countries accelerate and scale up access to water security



For more information on how to join, please contact waterforward@worldbank.org

Thank you

