

SDG 6: Target 6.1 Speaker Notes

To accompany the Target 6.1 Slide Deck

- Slide 1: Today we'll be examining the first target associated with sustainable development goal number 6 - to ensure safe and affordable drinking water for all.
- Slide 2: As a quick refresher (or brief introduction) - sustainable development goal 6 is to "ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all." Here's a short video highlighting some of the key issues this sustainable development goal addresses. *Play video.*
- Slide 3: Target 6.1, as stated by the United Nations, is "By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all." In the next several slides we'll break down this goal into its key components, and how we can track our progress on this goal.
- Slide 4: "Since 2000, 1.6 billion people have gained access to safely managed drinking water services." HOWEVER, "2.2 billion people – 29 per cent of the world's population – still lacked drinking water services on premises, available when needed and free from contamination in 2017."
- Slide 5: The primary way that this target is tracked, is using indicator 6.1.1. Recall that the UN breaks the SDGS into targets and indicators - target 6.1 is an "Outcome" target, specifying a specific circumstance that we're trying to achieve (safe, and affordable drinking water for all), and it has one associated indicator used to measure progress.
- Slide 6: The definition of Indicator 6.1.1 is the Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services. "A safely managed drinking water service is defined as one located on premises, available when needed and free from contamination." These listed metrics are examples of a few different ways elements of this indicator can be explored.
- Slide 7: The data here from Our World in Data shows the total global population using a given drinking water source. Note that though a large portion of the world has access to "at least basic" water sources, these are not necessarily safely managed. The definitions are as follows: "At least basic drinking water represents an improved source within 30 minutes' round trip to collect water; 'limited' constitutes an improved water source more than a 30 minute round-trip away; 'unimproved' is one that by the nature of its construction does not adequately protect the source from outside contamination; and 'surface' is that from surface water sources." Additionally, examining this metric in the context of sub-continent or through an even more detailed aggregation allows us to

compare how different areas of the world are doing on Target 6.1 - which we'll see on the next slide.

- Slide 8: Here we have data from 2015 showing the wide range that exists globally in regard to this indicator: Europe and Northern America have 94% of the population using safely managed drinking water whereas Sub-Saharan Africa has only 24% of the population using safely managed drinking water and 42% using limited, unimproved, or surface water sources.
- Slide 9: As we stated earlier, the goal of Target 6.1 is to “achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all” by 2030. Are we on track to achieve this? One way the UN monitors whether countries will likely reach this goal is by examining the annual rate of change over the past several years (in this case, from 2000 to 2015), and using that trend in addition to the actual percentage of the population with basic drinking water services as of 2015 to estimate whether the country is likely to reach the goal by 2030. As you can see in this figure, a significant number of countries will need to dramatically increase this rate of change in order to meet the 2030 goal: progress is too slow in 68 countries and is actually decreasing in 10 countries.
- Slide 10: In various parts of the world, arsenic contamination is a major threat to health. The country of Bangladesh has the largest proportion of people exposed to arsenic contamination in the world, at 12.4% of the population as of 2012. Even though this value has decreased from 26.6% in 2000, UNICEF reports that “19.4 million people are still drinking water with a level of arsenic above national health standards.” The water quality issues are not confined to arsenic contamination - a variety of other contaminants threaten water resources, such as faecal contamination (in fact, it's estimated that “more than 41 per cent of people drink water from sources with faecal contamination”)
- Slide 11: Let's see how the other targets from SDG 6 as well as the other sustainable development goals tie into the issue of contaminated drinking water in Bangladesh. As previously noted - a significant portion of the population is drinking from water sources contaminated with faecal matter, due both to lack of access to proper sanitation facilities (target 6.2) and due to improper wastewater treatment (target 6.3). Additionally, freshwater resources are minimal and “over-abstraction for irrigation” and other uses has degraded water quality, making water-use efficiency (target 6.4) even more vital in ensuring access to safe drinking water. Targets 6.5 and 6.6 play a key role in ensuring safe drinking water for the population of Bangladesh through integrated water resources management (6.5) and improving the quality of water through restoring related ecosystems (6.6). The solution to these problems include “expanded water and sanitation support” from other countries and organizations (target 6.A) as well as increased local engagement (target 6.B).

→ Slide 12: As you can see from the case study, Target 6.1 relates closely to all the other SDG 6 targets as well as a variety of other sustainable development goals. As depicted in the graphic, these targets are all interconnected. The goal of achieving safe and affordable drinking water for all cannot be achieved without also ensuring good water quality and proper wastewater management (target 6.3), sustainable - including for ecosystem wellbeing - and efficient use of water resources across sectors (targets 6.6 and 6.4), and carefully planned water resource management (target 6.5) - among other connections.

→ Slide 13: N/A