

# SDG 6: Target 6.B Speaker Notes

To accompany the Target 6.B Slide Deck

- Slide 1: Today we'll be examining the SDG 6, Target B.
- 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: As stated by the United Nations, Target 6.B is "support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management." In the following slides, we'll break down this goal into its key components and how we can track progress on this goal.
- Slide 4: Target 6.B only has one indicator, referred to as 6.B.1. This indicator is how we measure progress for target 6.B and is meant to give us tangible evidence of changes in local community support in regard to water and sanitation management.
- Slide 5: Indicator 6.B is [READ SLIDE]. A possible metric we can use to track the progress under the indicator 6.B.1 is the share of countries with clearly defined law or policy in water resources planning and management.
- Slide 6: This graph, created with data released by the UN Statistics Division, depicts the percentage of countries in each region with clearly defined law or policy in water resources planning and management in the years from 2017 to 2019. As we can see, landlocked developing countries have the highest percentage with 84.62%. Oceania (exc. Australia and New Zealand) has the lowest percentage with 28.57%.
- Slide 7: Reporting data under certain categories is optional for UN Member States. For indicator 6.B.1, stakeholder participation is measured using multiple indicators like water resourcing and planning, urban sanitation, and hygiene promotion and are not aggregated into one overall value. 130 UN Member States chose to report data under indicator 6.B.1 in the last 5 years which is equivalent to about 80% of UN signatories reporting.
- Slide 8: A case study relevant to target 6.B is South Africa. Before we delve into South African law and procedures on water and sanitation management, let's examine some country statistics. The population of South Africa is approximately 58.5 million, with about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the population residing in urban areas. Less than half of the population has access to a basic hand washing facility. 52% of the water bodies in the area have good ambient water quality and 95% of the transboundary basin areas have an operational agreement for water

cooperation.

- Slide 9: In this graph we can see the procedures in law or policy for participation by users and communities, as well as the level of participation. The level of participation is measured on a 3-point scale with 1 being low, 2 being moderate, and 3 being the highest amount of participation. The existence of procedures is measured with a 5 for procedures that are not clearly defined and with a 10 for clearly defined procedures.
- Slide 10: For the rest of this case study, we will be focusing on Cape Town and the Cape Town water crisis in the Western Cape of South Africa from 2015-2020. The peak of the water crisis, however, was between mid-2017 and mid-2018. Approximately 4 million people were directly affected by the water crisis, required to wait in long lines for a daily allocation of 15-25 litres of water.

The response from the government was to drastically reduce the amount of water residents could use and impose fines if anyone was caught using more than their allotted amount. At official water collection sites, security guards ensured that no one was taking more than their fair share of water. The city's leaders also issued recommendations to residents and tourists alike, urging them not to flush toilets, skip showers, and swim in the ocean instead of in pools. "Day Zero" refers to the estimated date that the city would reach a critical amount of water available in the reservoir and would be forced to shut off the taps. The city insisted that if "Day Zero" was reached, taps would still run in hospitals. Additionally, efforts would be made to allow communal taps in informal neighborhoods to run; areas that experienced water insecurity prior to the water crisis.

According to the WWF, despite the drought ending in 2020 due to rains filling the dam levels to 95%, the possibility for another drought in Cape Town is not only possible, but likely. The programs that drastically reduced water usage like the "if it's yellow let it mellow campaign" and daily allocation of a specific amount of water, ended along with the drought. Additionally, growing populations and urbanization have resulted in the WWF estimating that water demand in the area will only increase, putting stress on the already fragile water resources. The creation and enforcement of robust water laws and regulations to prevent another water crisis, like policies for using groundwater sustainably and catchment management would be beneficial.

This picture was taken during the height of the water crisis in January of 2018 depicts the main water source for Cape Town, the Theewaterskloof dam.

- Slide 11: This short video by National Geographic further explains the water crisis in Cape Town, explores how climate change is involved in the changing environment, and examines how Cape Town may become a blueprint for future water crises. \*play video\*

- Slide 12: The way in which all SDGs interact and relate is complex and achieving progress on one SDG often necessitates achieving progress on another. As can be seen in this slide, the same goes for achieving progress within one SDG. Though these targets are useful to help track progress in any one area, it is also necessary to examine and think critically about how these targets interact.
- Slide 13: N/A