

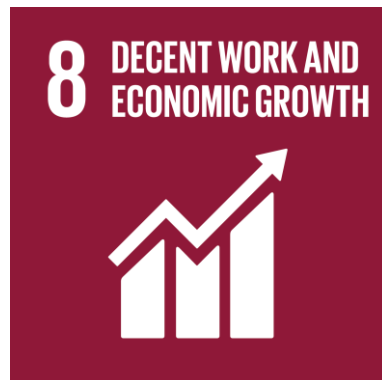


Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Position Piece Oct 2022

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September of 2015. This included 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs represent an urgent call for action for both developed and developing countries towards ending poverty and other deprivations. They recognise that the only way to achieve this is to combine strategies that improve health and wellbeing, tackle environmental issues, and support economic growth.

Delivery on the SDGs and their related targets is central to the work of Water-Share Ireland. Delivering safe and clean water to vulnerable communities in developing countries is crucial to end poverty and other deficiencies including health, welfare, and environmental protection.



Water-Share Ireland's commitment to delivering on SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation – is key to our work. This SDG aims to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by providing safe and affordable drinking water, access to sanitation and hygiene, improving water quality and wastewater treatment, and supporting local engagement in water and sanitation management.

Water-Share is using the wealth of knowledge provided by our Water-Share partners to contribute to achieving this goal by delivering sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programmes to vulnerable communities in developing countries. The WASH programmes are essential for the well-being of communities across our project areas, providing vulnerable people with access to clean and safe water for drinking, cooking, and washing.

For example, our project in Lake Victoria, Uganda is bringing potable water to areas lacking suitable groundwater resources of their own and work in Idlib, Syria to provide safe and clean drinking water to those affected by conflict in the country are significant contributors to the achievement of this goal.

Beyond the immediate impact on health and wellbeing, reliable water sources also reduce the burden on communities, and particularly women and children, to have to travel long distances on foot for what can often be unclear and unsafe drinking water supplies.

Water Share is also committed to delivering SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth. This goal aims to promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.

Water-Share Ireland is contributing towards economic growth in developing countries by securing clean and safe water supplies and providing infrastructure to ensure its continued provision. Access to safe and sanitary water means that people do not need to travel long distances for water collection – saving vulnerable communities both time and money – and provides productive local employment in the maintenance of these facilities and infrastructure. Additionally, safe water supplies reduce the direct and indirect health costs associated with contaminated water, contributing to economic growth.

Through the delivery of WASH programmes across 13 developing countries, we are enabling people to stay in employment by freeing up working days that would otherwise be spent collecting water and by addressing the health impacts of unsanitary supplies.

SDG14 – Life Below Water – is also a critical goal for Water-Share. This goal seeks to achieve the conservation and sustainable use of our oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.

Water-Share is contributing to this by looking at how our projects can work to remove harmful pollutants and reduce eutrophication by treating waste water. Eutrophication, which results in reduction in water quality and in the amount of oxygen available to aquatic animals, is a harmful process that impacts both environmental and human health. By reducing this, we are protecting fragile marine and aquatic habitats and species.

Our work in Freetown, Sierra Leone, to develop the country's first wastewater treatment plant, is working to reduce the pollution of roadside channels and the foreshore which result in public health issues and damage to the marine environment. This is helping to achieve the SDG targets of reducing marine pollution, protecting, and restoring ecosystems, and conserving coastal and marine areas.

Seven years on, there has been some progress made on the SDGs, but still lots more to do. The SDGs are now more important than ever, and Water-Share, with your support, can continue to deliver projects that achieve these critical targets, that aim to build a fairer, cleaner, and better world.

Please visit - <https://www.goalglobal.org/water-share/>