

ACCELERATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER-RELATED SDGS IN BRAZIL

Under increasing urgency to respond to water-related sustainable development, national governments need to accelerate progress on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 to assure “sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”. Since 2017, a consortium of partners (UNU-INWEH, UNOSD, the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, and the Korea Environment Corporation(1)) has implemented the project “Water in the World We Want” to investigate how countries can address critical evidence gaps and deliver better policies to achieve SDG 6. The consortium collaborated with the experts and policymakers from the project partner countries to develop SDG 6 Policy Support System (SDG-PSS), the key output of this project, to help create evidence for the enabling environment of SDG 6 in countries with limited or missing data.

Implementing SDG-PSS in Brazil

Brazil joined the project during its second phase in a regional workshop held in Costa Rica in March 2020. Brazil’s engagement was initiated by the Brazilian National Water and Sanitation Agency (ANA). Brazil showed strong enthusiasm and interest in implementing SDG-PSS and in playing a strategic role as a regional-hub for Latin America and the Caribbean during the third phase of the project (2021–2023).



MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTING SDG-PSS IN BRAZIL


Brazil adopted SDG-PSS in 2021. As the SDG 6 focal point institution in Brazil, ANA formed a national team to manage SDG-PSS and related outputs and to adapt it to Brazilian policy and systematic environments.


A national consultancy was hired to coordinate, analyze, and discuss SDG-PSS results with national stakeholders. Except for the SDG-PSS component “State” carried out by ANA, all national data for the six SDG-PSS components were compiled following a consultation with experts from almost 30 organizations. Overall, at least 35 professionals from different institutions were involved in the discussions about applying SDG-PSS in Brazil.


PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

Implementing SDG-PSS has benefited Brazil in three critical dimensions, (i) defining gaps and national targets, (ii) strengthening institutional collaboration, and (iii) fostering SDG 6 international collaboration by facilitating SDG-PSS in other countries, particularly those belonging to the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP).

[1] UNU-INWEH: United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health; UNOSD: the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development

 **Defining Gaps and National Targets:** Using SDG-PSS in Brazil contributed to a better understanding of SDG 6 specificities, especially among policy professionals, and helped define numerical aspirations and identify institutional weaknesses at the national level. For example, Brazil is on track to achieving Target 6.1 by 2030 and has defined in law numerical objectives such as ensuring sewage collection for 90% of the population and ensuring drinking water supply for 99% of the population until 2033. One of Brazil's challenges is related to its diversity. It is a huge country with different realities, which require different approaches and strategies. This condition reinforces the need for evidence and reliable diagnoses, converging to SDG-PSS's outcomes. Brazil has good results in Target 6.5 and is enhancing efforts to integrate surface and underground water. By exploring different components of SDG-PSS as a tool for analyzing SDG 6 indicators simultaneously, new avenues of exploration are defining future metrics for other targets. In this context, the component "State" allowed for straightforward identification of weaknesses and gaps in the data. The summary review has the potential to inform decision-makers and can be used to investigate deficiencies in the databases and formulate strategies for data collection that are not available or not yet systematized. More specifically, major data collection challenges have been identified for Indicators 6.3.1, 6.6.1, and Indicators 6.a.1 and 6.b.1. When it comes to reporting and data analysis, the most challenging components were "Gender Mainstreaming", and, to a lesser extent, "Policy and Institutions". For example, aspects that need more attention in Brazil are strong political will to guarantee annual funding for SDG 6 and improving leadership structure, strategy, and governance in general. This will result in better alignment and effectiveness.

 **Strengthening Institutional Collaboration:** In recent years, inter-institutional collaboration for data collection for SDG 6 indicators in Brazil has evolved through policies and information exchange mechanisms such as open data, spatial data infrastructure, and information access laws. Organizations from different sectors have allowed for a broader institutional analysis of SDG-PSS outputs, which has strengthened collaboration and has great potential to contribute to future policies and actions on the ground for Brazil to achieve SDG 6 in 2030.

 **Fostering SDG 6 International Relations:** Brazil is actively involved in facilitating the implementation of SDG-PSS in other countries. The role of Brazil in the third phase can be seen in their sharing of experiences and lessons learned at the national and international levels. For example, ANA addressed SDG 6 capacity-building in its bilateral cooperation agenda and regional actions with the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization and CPLP. In 2019 and 2022, the agency produced an extensive report titled SDG 6 in Brazil, ANA's Vision of the Indicators, which was flagged by UN-Water as a good practice for other countries. Brazil plans to produce another SDG 6 report which will include SDG-PSS outcomes. In addition, as Brazil occupies a leading role in the CPLP, an SDG-PSS guideline document will be published and shared with Lusophone countries. The translation of SDG-PSS to the Portuguese language will facilitate a more in-depth understanding of SDG 6 and its achievement in these countries.

PERSPECTIVES

Brazil is optimistic about the potential positive impacts of SDG-PSS on the whole Brazilian population and is dedicated to narrowing data gaps during the next five years by improving databases, expanding monitoring and intensifying exchange experiences with other institutions and countries. Brazil is also working towards better communication and improving support for implementing the 2030 Agenda. The government will work on defining strategies and actions necessary for implementing SDG-PSS in Brazil and supporting its use within Latin America and the Caribbean and the CPLP.



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