

SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation

TARGETS	INDICATORS
6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services
6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations	6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water
6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally	6.3.1 Proportion of wastewater safely treated
	6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality
6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity	6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time
	6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources
6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate	6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100)
	6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation
6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes	6.6.1 Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time
6.A By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies	6.A.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan
6.B Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management	6.B.1 Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management

SDG 6 in the Fiji National Development Plan

100% Access to Clean and Safe Water and Proper Sanitation

- Every Fijian has the right to clean and safe water in adequate quantities.
- For urban areas 100% access to clean water will be realized by 2021 and for the rural and maritime areas by 2030.
- Resources will be allocated for sustained maintenance and construction of new water treatment plants.
- The free water programme will continue to support low income households.

- New dam sites are being identified to meet the long-term demand and consideration will be given for the joint development of water supply and hydro-power.
- Innovative technologies will be maximised and climate-resilience will be a key aspect of new projects.
- Public education on water conservation will be increased.
- 70% of the population will have access to sewerage systems in the next 20 years.

Definitions

What is the Free Water Initiative?

The Free Water Initiative began in 2015 and provides any household that has a total income below \$30,000 a year with up to 250 litres of free water per day.

SOURCE:

<https://fijivillage.com/news/Free-water-initiative-for-Fijians-to-begin-next-month-k2rs95/>

READING: <https://fijisun.com.fj/2016/06/23/free-water-initiative-continues/>

What is rainwater harvesting?

Rainwater Harvesting is the collection and storage of rainwater that would otherwise flow down gutters into the drain. Rainwater is collected from the roof, and then re-used. It can provide major water savings and make water usage much more sustainable.

SOURCE:

<https://www.rainwaterharvesting.co.uk/download/content/download-brochures-and-manuals/rain-water-harvesting-information.pdf>

Fiji National Development Plan Target 3.1.1 – Water and Sanitation

The government aims to provide “clean and safe water in adequate quantities and proper and adequate sanitation for every Fijian household”.

- The Constitution guarantees the right of every Fijian to clean and safe water and adequate sanitation facilities.

Water

- Currently 78% of Fiji’s population have access to a treated water supply, with this figure around 98% in urban areas; therefore coverage in rural areas needs to be expanded.
- In the next 5 years major investments will be made to cater for long term water supply needs including new treatment plants and reservoirs.
- With assistance from the Asian Development Bank, Green Climate Fund and European Investment Bank a new treatment plant is being constructed on the Rewa River to meet increasing demand in the area.
- Options for new dam sites are also being explored.

- Options for enhanced rainwater harvesting, recycling, aquifer management and the use of renewable energy for desalination is being explored and implemented where feasible.
- By 2021, it is hoped that 85% of rural communities will have access to clean water.
- Free water tanks will be distributed in rural and maritime communities and ground water sources will be developed in remote island communities.
- Awareness of water conservation will be increased.
- The free water initiative will continue.

Sanitation

- 71% of the population have access to improved sanitation, with 25% having access to sewerage facilities.
- In the next 5 years there will be investment to move from septic tanks to standardized treatment systems.
- Sewerage plants will be constructed in urban areas.
- In rural and maritime areas the government will construct smaller sewerage treatment plants.
- Water and sewerage infrastructure will be made more climate-resilient.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Rewa River Treatment Plant

The project will strengthen water supply through the design and construction of a new water intake by the River Rewa, with a pumping station, wastewater treatment (WWT) plant, clear water reservoir, and pipeline to increase water production by 30,000 m³ per day. This will improve climate resilience by taking water from further up the river system to avoid salinity.

<https://www.greenclimate.fund/project/fp008> - The Rewa River Treatment Plant



Figure 1: New water tanks in a Fijian village



Figure 2: Waila Water Treatment Plant

Fiji National Development Plan Target 3.2.9 – Sustainable Cities and Towns

The government is working on “Creating vibrant and environmentally sustainable urban centres”

- Fiji is experiencing rapid urbanisation, with slightly over half the population now living in urban areas. This is projected to increase to around 56 percent by 2021.
- In the next 5 years, the government will focus on better urban development strategies.
- Waste recycling and transfer stations will also be developed in strategic areas around the country.
- All new urban development projects will need to comply with guidelines to ensure resilience to climatic hazards and natural disasters.
- A special Smart City Programme shall be developed for the Towns and Cities to ensure that the towns are cities that adapt to global modern urban management practices - all for the purpose of promoting a clean and green environment.

Fiji National Development Plan Target 3.2.10 – Expanding the Rural Economy

The government is working to “Promote equal opportunities, access to basic services and building resilient communities”

- Aims to bridge the development gap between the urban and rural areas, through government investment in the development of:
 - Rural infrastructure,
 - Provision of education and health services,
 - Rural electrification,
 - Access to water,

- Income-generating opportunities,
- Better communications,
- Transportation.
- In consultation with communities and stake holders, investments will continue for the next 5 years in an integrated manner.
- Increased attention on gender differences in access to and repayment of credit, the beneficiaries of land purchase, land titling, public amenities, extension services and technology to enable equal access by all to the factors of agricultural production. The policy will consider the disadvantaged position of the most vulnerable women in rural areas.

SDG 6 in figures

78% - The proportion of Fiji's population that have access to a treated water supply

71% - The proportion of the population that have access to improved sanitation

25% - The proportion of the population that have access to sewerage facilities

SDG 2019 Review

Overview

- Over 700,000 Fijians benefit from the current water supply scheme.
- In 2009 the Water and Sewerage Department was transformed into the Water Authority of Fiji (WAF) to enhance the sustainable delivery of water and sewerage services.
- In 2017, 70.1% of households in Fiji had access to piped water for drinking (global average = 71%).
 - The remaining 30% of households rely on boreholes, wells and rain harvesting.

SDG Targets

- Several targets have been incorporated in the Fiji National Development Plan including the achievement of 100% access to clean and safe water, 60% access to central sewerage systems by 2031 and reduce the amount of unaccounted water to 32% by 2021.
- Fiji is specifically focusing on targets 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 highlighted above and these targets are being monitored through a number of frameworks.

Water and Sanitation

- WAF monitors and formulates policy for the provision of sustainable water and wastewater services.

- As part of WAF the National Water Resource Management and Sanitation Policy reviews existing policies on the provision of water and sanitation to improve service delivery. This is done by working with stakeholders and local communities.
 - The Department is also working on the creation of a National Water Statistics Database.
- In rural areas Ecological Purification Systems are being installed with more than 26,000 already benefitting.
- A massive investment of \$855million is underway which will upgrade water infrastructure improving the lives of more than 300,000 Fijians.
- Water leakage will be reduced through meter replacement, early leakage detection and repairs.

Collaboration

- The demand for sewage and water supply creates opportunities for investment and collaboration with stakeholders along with partnerships with NGOs and the private sector.
 - E.g. the Rotary Pacific Water for Life Foundation has supported several rural communities.
- Fiji has one of the lowest tariffs for water and therefore in order to help to conserve water, these tariffs need to be raised slightly to encourage more responsible usage.
- A Technical Working Committee, that consists of all relevant stakeholders, has been established to coordinate water sector activities.
- There is a need for a more knowledge-based water sector and therefore the education sector needs to be developed to provide this.