



6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



SDG 6 and TÜRKİYE

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS

TURKISH WATER INSTITUTE
SUEN
TÜRKİYE SU ENSTİTÜSÜ

About SUEN

By bridging science and policy, Turkish Water Institute (SUEN) works towards the development of sustainable water policies and strategies at the national and international levels.

SUEN works in cooperation with national and international water-related institutions in scientific research, policy advisory and capacity building to address local and global water issues.

Our vision

To be a leading research, training and think-tank organization in the field of water policies in the region and the world.

Our mission

To contribute to the development of Türkiye's sustainable water policies and strategies through activities at the national and international levels.

Our history

SUEN was established in 2011 building on the network and experience of the 5th World Water Forum Secretariat. The success of the Forum, held in 2009 in Istanbul, elevated Türkiye's global role in water issues, and the knowledge gained formed the foundation of SUEN.

Table of CONTENTS

-  **Background of Sustainable Development Goals**
-  **SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation for All**
-  **SDG 6 Targets and Global Indicators**
-  **SDG 6-Related Global Facts**
-  **Global Status of SDG 6**
-  **Institutional Responsibility**
-  **Policies and Legislation for the Achievement of SDG 6**
-  **Türkiye's Major Developments and Achievements in SDG 6**
-  **Next Steps for the Future**

Background of SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were established at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012. The objective was to produce a set of universal goals that meet the urgent environmental, political and economic challenges facing our world.

The SDGs replaced the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which started a global effort in 2000 to tackle the indignity of poverty. The MDGs established measurable, universally-agreed objectives for tackling extreme poverty and hunger, preventing deadly diseases, and expanding primary education to all children, among other development priorities.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries, both developed and developing, in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

The 17 SDGs are integrated, recognizing that progress in one area influences outcomes in others, and that sustainable development requires a balanced approach to social, economic, and environmental dimensions.



SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation for All

What's the goal?

To ensure access to safe water sources and sanitation for all.

Why?

Access to water, sanitation and hygiene is a human right.

The demand for water has outpaced population growth, and half the world's population is already experiencing severe water scarcity at least one month a year.

Water is essential not only to health, but also to poverty reduction, food security, peace and human rights, ecosystems and education.



Challenges to Safe Water and Sanitation

Insufficient access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) remains a critical global challenge. In 2024, 2.2 billion people lacked safely managed drinking water, 3.4 billion went without safely managed sanitation and 1.7 billion lacked basic hygiene services at home. In schools, 646 million children remain without basic hygiene services, requiring a fourfold increase in progress to meet 2030 targets.



AVOID WASTING WATER.

Water scarcity affects more than 40% of the world's population.

SDG 6 Targets and Global Indicators

TARGET 6-1



TARGET 6.1: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

Indicator 6.1.1: Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services

SAFE AND AFFORDABLE DRINKING WATER

TARGET 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.

Indicator 6.2.1: Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water

TARGET 6-2



END OPEN DEFECTION AND PROVIDE ACCESS TO SANITATION AND HYGIENE

TARGET 6-3



TARGET 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.

Indicator 6.3.1: Proportion of wastewater safely treated facility with soap and water

Indicator 6.3.2: Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality

IMPROVE WATER QUALITY, WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND SAFE REUSE

TARGET 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.

Indicator 6.4.1: Change in water-use efficiency over time

Indicator 6.4.2: Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources

TARGET 6-4



INCREASE WATER-USE EFFICIENCY AND ENSURE FRESHWATER SUPPLIES

TARGET 6-5



IMPLEMENT INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

TARGET 6.5: By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.

Indicator 6.5.1: Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100)

Indicator 6.5.2: Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation

TARGET 6.6: By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.

Indicator 6.6.1: Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time

TARGET 6-6



PROTECT AND RESTORE WATER-RELATED ECOSYSTEMS

TARGET 6-A



EXPAND WATER AND SANITATION SUPPORT TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

TARGET 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.

Indicator 6.A.1: Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government coordinated spending plan

TARGET 6.B: Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

Indicator 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

TARGET 6-B



SUPPORT LOCAL ENGAGEMENT IN WATER AND SANITATION MANAGEMENT

SDG 6-Related Global Facts

6.1.1 DRINKING WATER

2.2 billion people lacked safely managed drinking water.
(26% of the world's population)



6.2.1a SANITATION



3.4 billion people
lacked safely managed
sanitation services.
(42% of the world's population)

6.2.1b HYGIENE

1.7 billion people
lacked basic hygiene services at home.
(20% of the world's population)



6.3.1 WASTEWATER

56% of domestic wastewater is safely treated.
*Covering 84% of the global population



6.3.2 WATER QUALITY

Lack of water quality data means:

up to **4.8** billion people could be at risk by 2030 due to critical knowledge gaps about pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss.



6.4.1 WATER-USE EFFICIENCY

Between 2015 and 2022,
water-use efficiency rose by
23% globally.

6.4.2 WATER STRESS

Global water stress level is
18% in 2022.



SDG 6-Related Global Facts

6.5.1 INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

The world will not achieve sustainable water management until at least 2049.

40% of countries are being left behind, having limited capacity to balance competing demands across sectors and cope with increasing pressures.



6.5.2 TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION

43 out of 153 Member States sharing transboundary waters have operational arrangements.



More than 20 countries lack any arrangements for transboundary waters.

6.6.1 ECOSYSTEMS

Loss of permanent surface water in 364 river basins driven by unsustainable practices and climate change has impacted over 93 million people.



6.A.1 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Aid disbursements to the water sector decreased by **5%** between 2015 and 2022.

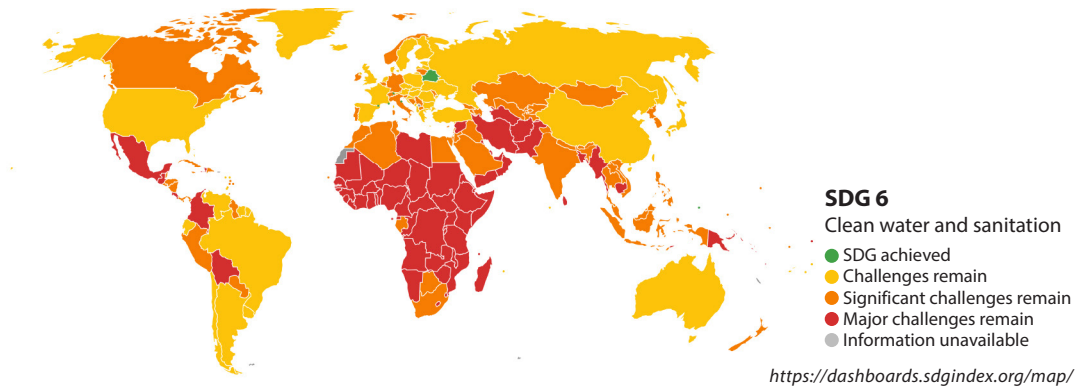


6.B.1 PARTICIPATION



Less than **1/3** of 106 responding countries indicated having high levels of participation by local communities in water and sanitation decision-making.

Global Status of SDG 6



Manavgat Fall, Antalya | Türkiye

Türkiye's Policy and Achievements in SDG 6 Targets



Ensure access to safe water and sanitation for all.

Institutional Responsibility

The Presidency of Strategy and Budget under the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye is the national focal point for sustainable development in Türkiye. The Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT) is in charge of coordination of data procurement and consolidation process concerning all SDG indicators.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is the national coordinating body with regard to SDG 6. Several other institutions also support the achievement of this goal.

SDG 6 Coordinator: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Responsible and Relevant Institutions

- Presidency of Strategy and Budget
- Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Treasury and Finance
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works (DSI)
- Turkish Water Institute (SUEN)
- Bank of Provinces (ILBANK)
- Union of Municipalities of Türkiye (TBB)

Policies and Legislation for the Achievement of SDG 6

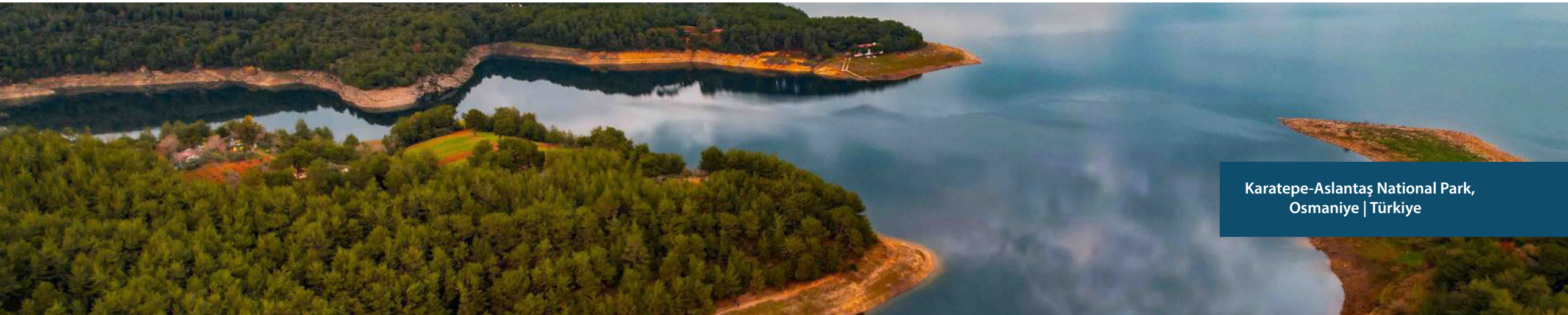
In addition to the National Development Plan and strategic plans of relevant public institutions, SDG 6 is supported by other key policy documents including:

- National Water Plan (2026-2035)
- Basin Protection Action Plans
- River Basin Management Plans
- Basin Master Plans
- Water Quality Action Plans
- Drinking Water Basins Protection Action Plans
- Climate Change Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan (2024-2030)
- Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (2024-2030)
- Water Efficiency Strategy Document and Action Plan within the Framework of Adaptation to the Changing Climate (2023-2033)
- Flood Management Action Plans
- Drought Management Action Plans
- Sectoral Water Allocation Plans
- National Basin Management Strategy
- Wastewater Treatment Action Plan
- Drinking Water Conservation Plans
- Action Plan for the Program on Enhancing Efficiency of Water Use in Agriculture

The main policies in line with SDG 6 are as follows:

- Establishing an integrated water resource management model,
- Developing a national basin-scale classification system to support the conservation, sustainable use, and efficient management of water resources,
- Identifying and monitoring the quantity and quality of water bodies (both the groundwater and surface water), while strengthening measures for the protection, improvement, and pollution control of water resources,
- Securing the water supply system from source to tap for the entire urban and rural population, and improving water distribution networks to minimize water losses and enhance efficiency,
- Ensuring financial sustainability in the provision of drinking water and sanitation investment and services,
- Mainstreaming water treatment facilities and operate them in line with the standards based on the required environmental protection level and classification of water basins,
- Promoting the reuse of treated wastewater as a key component of water efficiency and circular water management,
- Enhancing water savings at the basin level by assessing the impacts of climate change and sectoral water use, and implementing sector-specific water efficiency measures (agriculture, industry, urban use),
- Raising awareness and promoting behavioral change to support water efficiency across all sectors and users.

Measures for the sustainable management of water resources in order to protect and develop the potential of groundwater and surface water, prevent pollution as well as access to safe drinking water and sanitation services are regulated in detail Legislative standards regarding water pollution and water quality are, in general, in line with the EU standards.



Karatepe-Aslantaş National Park,
Osmaniye | Türkiye

Türkiye's Major Developments and Achievements in SDG 6

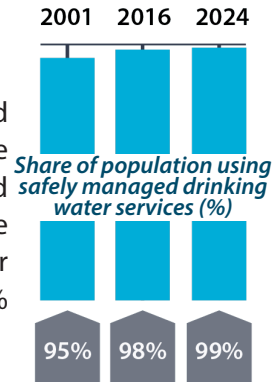
TARGET 6-1



SAFE AND AFFORDABLE DRINKING WATER

Indicator 6.1.1

In terms of access to drinking water and sanitation services, a very large portion of the population is served through the central and local governments' investments. While the population using safely managed drinking water services was 95% in 2001, this rate reached 99% by 2024.



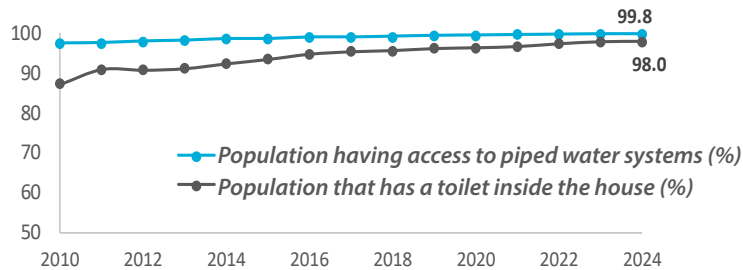
TARGET 6-2



END OPEN DEFECTION AND PROVIDE ACCESS TO SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Indicator 6.2.1

Between 2010 and 2024, the share of the population with access to piped water systems rose from 97.5% to 99.8%, while access to a toilet inside the house increased from 87.3% to 98.0%.



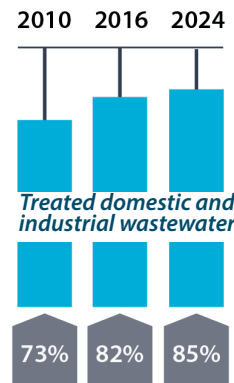
TARGET 6-3



IMPROVE WATER QUALITY, WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND SAFE REUSE

Indicator 6.3.1

In the same period, the rate of safely treated wastewater increased from 73% to 85%, the number of domestic wastewater treatment facilities reached to 1327.



Indicator 6.3.2

Between 2015 and 2022, the percentage of assessed water bodies with good quality increased from 79.7% to 82.8%.

Water and Sewer Infrastructure Program (SUKAP)



The Program provides grants covering the half of project cost from the central budget to the municipalities with a population of 25,000 or less for drinking water and sanitation services. The Program also ensures the improvement of the quality of drinking water, which directly affects human health in the municipalities and commissioning of new water resources. Further, effective, efficient, and environmentally sensitive city infrastructure facilities are established by addressing the need for sewer infrastructure and wastewater treatment plants.

As of September 2025, a total of 1,525 projects have been supported (in grants and concessional loans) under the program, of which 1,457 have been completed, while 68 projects remain ongoing.

SDG Targets: 6.1 - 6.2 - 6.3 - 6.4 - 6.5

Executing Entity: ILBANK

Start & End Dates: 2011 - Ongoing

Supporting Village Infrastructure (KÖYDES)



To minimise the development disparities between provinces and regions, the project Supporting Village Infrastructure (KÖYDES) was launched. Between 2005 and 2024, drinking water investments have been carried out in 5,851 settlements without access to water and in 74,117 settlements with inadequate water supply. During the same period, investments were also made in 1,285 septic tanks and 68 wastewater treatment plants.

SDG Targets: 6.1 - 6.2 - 6.3 - 6.4

Executing Entity: Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change

Start & End Dates: 2005 - Ongoing

TARGET 6-4 Target 6.4


INCREASE WATER-USE EFFICIENCY AND ENSURE FRESHWATER SUPPLIES

Türkiye's Water Efficiency Campaign, launched in 2023, supports SDG 6.4 by promoting the sustainable, equitable, and efficient use of water across all sectors. Within this framework, the "Water Efficiency Strategy Document and Action Plan (2023–2033)" was prepared to assess the current status of water use, evaluate national and international legislation and strategies, and incorporate global best practices. The document defines sector-specific strategies to enhance water efficiency in urban, agricultural, and industrial water use.

Türkiye – Key Achievements on Integrated Water Resources Management



Türkiye has made significant progress in advancing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), demonstrating a high level of implementation across policy, institutional, and basin-based management frameworks.

1. Strong Policy and Strategic Framework

Türkiye has established a comprehensive national water policy architecture grounded in IWRM principles. Key milestones include the National Basin Management Strategy (2014) and the National Water Plan (2026–2035), which provide an integrated framework addressing both water quantity and quality. The recent establishment of the National Water Board (formerly the Water Management Coordination Committee) (2012) has further strengthened high-level coordination and policy coherence.

2. Advanced Legal and Regulatory Alignment

Türkiye has developed an extensive legal framework for water management, largely aligned with the EU Water Framework Directive. River Basin Management Plans are supported by legislation in force since 2012, and new Water Law and Flood Law drafts are in the process of enactment, aiming to further consolidate IWRM implementation nationwide.

3. Nationwide Basin-Based Planning and Implementation

Türkiye applies IWRM at basin level across all 25 river basins, through instruments such as:

- River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)
- Basin Protection Action Plans
- Flood and Drought Management Plans
- Sectoral Water Allocation Plans

Innovative integrated approaches combine multiple planning tools into a single framework, enhancing coordination and effectiveness.

4. Climate Change Integration in Water Management

Climate adaptation is systematically embedded in water governance. Türkiye has:

- Developed climate projections for all basins
- Prepared drought management plans in nearly all basins
- Integrated climate considerations into allocation and basin planning

These efforts align water management with national climate strategies and long-term resilience goals.

5. Multi-Level Governance and Institutional Coordination

Water governance is supported by a multi-level institutional structure, including:

- National Water Board (national and strategic level)
- Basin Boards (basin level)
- Provincial structures (local implementation)

This mechanism ensures coordination across sectors and administrative levels, reinforcing participatory and integrated decision-making processes.

6. Transboundary Water Cooperation

Türkiye actively engages in transboundary water management through numerous bilateral agreements and protocols. Recent initiatives include:

- Appointment of a special envoy for water diplomacy
- Development of joint action plans

These efforts contribute to regional water security and cooperation.

TARGET 6-5

Indicator 6.5.1



Global progress on integrated water resources management (IWRM) remains limited, with implementation increasing from 49% in 2017 to 57% in 2023. In comparison, Türkiye has sustained a relatively high level of IWRM implementation, remaining stable at around 70–73% over the 2017–2025 period.

IMPLEMENT INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

TARGET 6-A

Indicator 6.A.1



Türkiye continues to provide substantial international and domestic support for water and sanitation. Hosting around 3.1 million refugees as of 2024, it ensures continuous WASH services through major infrastructure investments, allocating an estimated \$1.6–2 billion since 2011. Internationally, Türkiye delivers technical assistance, water infrastructure projects (e.g. Ambouli Dam in Djibouti), and humanitarian aid. Since 2005, Türkiye has supplied safe drinking water to nearly 2 million people across 15 African countries.

EXPAND WATER AND SANITATION SUPPORT TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Through its capacity building programs, Turkish Water Institute (SUEN) contributes to the capacity development of many countries in water and sanitation. Between the years, 2012-2025, more than 2,500 experts from 55+ countries benefitted from the training programs in various water and sanitation related subjects implemented by SUEN.



More than 2,500 participants from over 55 countries attended the capacity development programs organized by SUEN

An Example of Türkiye’s International Water Cooperation: **Friendship Dam in Djibouti**

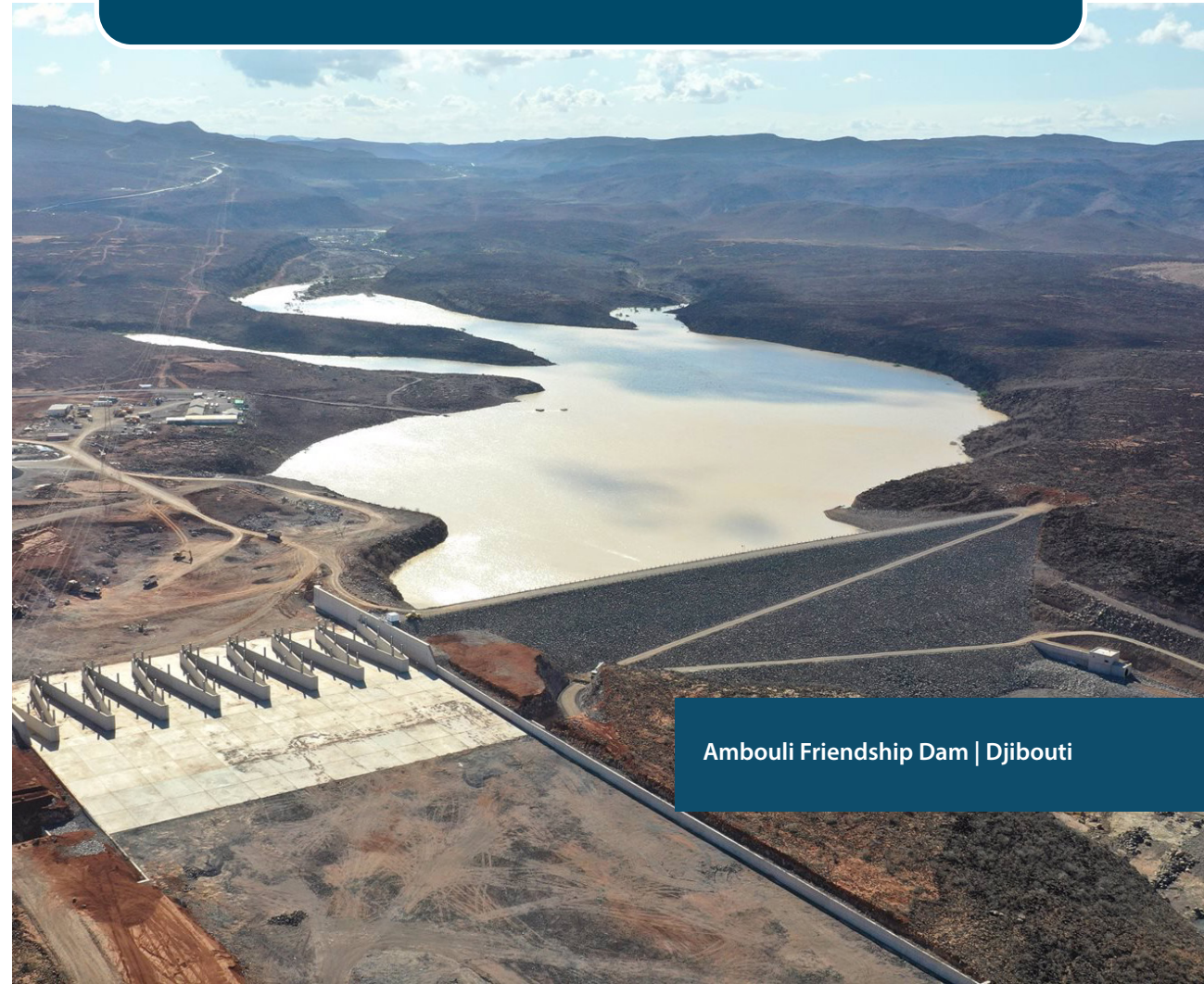


The Turkish Government through the State Hydraulic Works (DSI) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry completed the construction works of a dam on the Ambouli river in order to provide domestic water to the capital city of Djibouti and protect the city from the potential floods.

The rock-fill type dam project, with a talveg height of 38 m and total reservoir volume of 14.37 hm³, was commissioned in the year of 2019. The total project cost of €16 million was fully financed by the Turkish Government.

SDG Targets: 6.1 - 6.A

Executing Entity: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry



Ambouli Friendship Dam | Djibouti

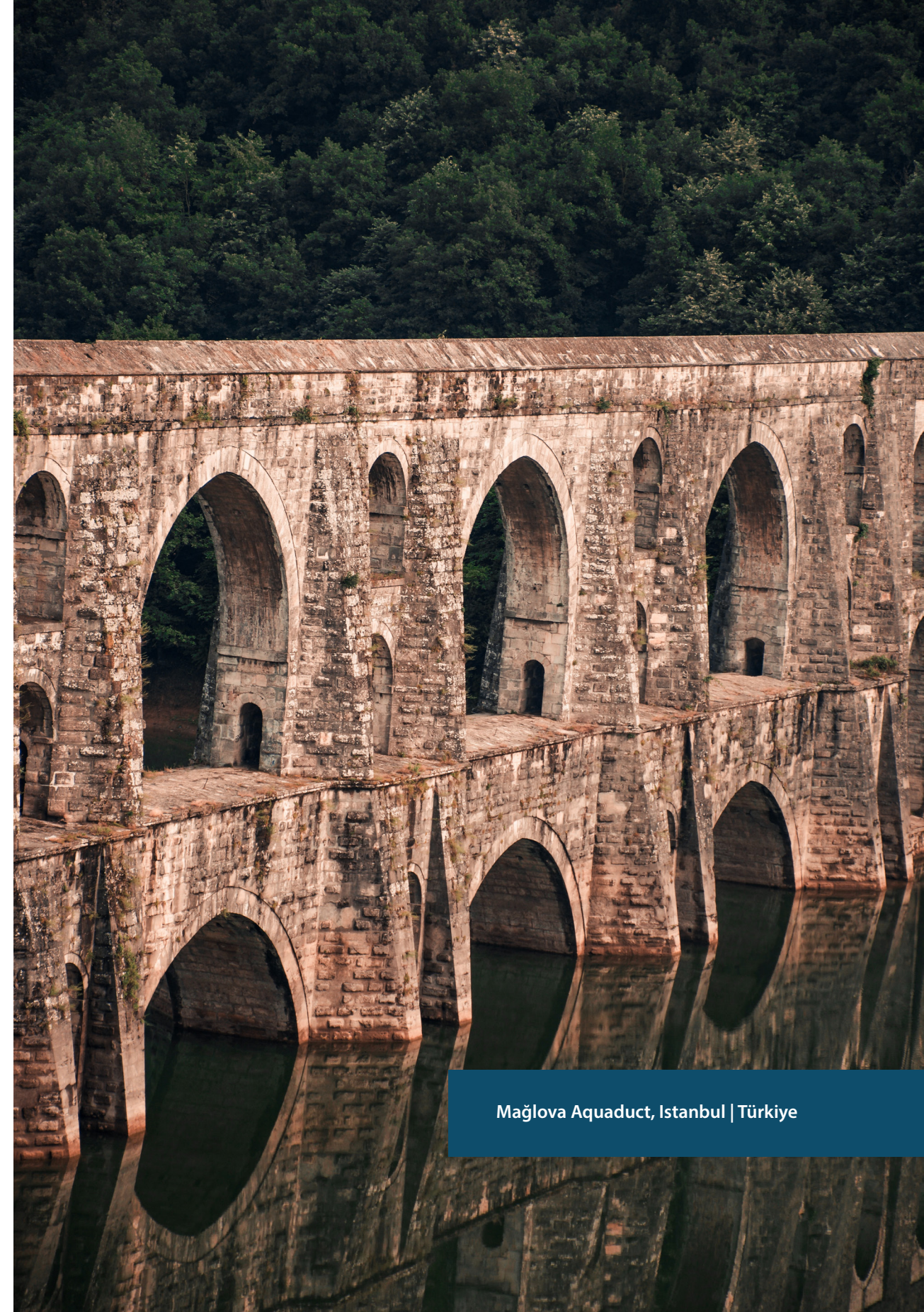
Next Steps for the Future

Türkiye has scored 82 out of 100 for SDG 6 in the Sustainable Development Index and Dashboard prepared in 2025 which presents a revised and updated assessment of countries' distance to achieving the SDGs. Türkiye as expected considers this score not sufficient and has planned major steps to the goal of achieving a full score.

The following policies will be implemented in the upcoming years to achieve SDG 6:

- A key priority will be the full operationalization of integrated water resources management (IWRM) at basin scale, ensuring the coordinated management of surface and groundwater resources while safeguarding ecosystem integrity.
- Türkiye will further prioritize climate-resilient water management, enhancing adaptation capacity to increasing hydrometeorological risks such as droughts and floods.
- In line with the “Nation-wide Water Efficiency Initiative” launched in 2023, efforts will continue to focus on improving water use efficiency across all sectors, particularly in agriculture, industry, and urban water services.
- Another critical step involves accelerating digital transformation in water management. The expansion of smart water systems, supported by remote sensing, artificial intelligence, and big data applications, will enable real-time monitoring, improved demand-supply projections, and evidence-based decision-making processes.
- Türkiye will continue to strengthen legal and regulatory frameworks to establish a more comprehensive and integrated water governance system.
- Sustainable financing will remain a cornerstone of future actions. Türkiye will enhance investment prioritization and financing mechanisms, including public-private partnerships and access to international funding, to support water infrastructure, wastewater treatment, and ecosystem restoration projects.
- Recognizing the interconnected nature of water, energy, food, and ecosystems, the water-energy-food-ecosystem nexus approach will be further integrated into policy-making and planning processes to ensure balanced and sustainable resource use.
- Increasing public awareness, capacity development, and stakeholder engagement will be essential. Expanding water literacy, strengthening institutional capacities, and fostering collaboration among all actors will support the long-term sustainability of water resources.

Through these next steps, Türkiye aims to ensure the sustainable management of its water resources, enhance resilience to climate change, and contribute effectively to the achievement of SDG 6 and related global sustainability goals.



Mağlova Aquaduct, Istanbul | Türkiye

Sources

Presidential Annual Programme for 2026 (2025), Presidency of Strategy and Budget of the Republic of Türkiye.

Sachs, J.D., Lafortune, G., Fuller, G., Iablonski, G. (2025). Financing Sustainable Development to 2030 and Mid-Century. Sustainable Development Report 2025. Paris: SDSN, Dublin: Dublin University Press. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25546/111909>.

SUEN, Türkiye and Water (2025), <https://www.suen.gov.tr/en/publications/turkiye-and-water>.

Sustainable Development Goals Assessment Report (2019), Presidency of Strategy and Budget of the Republic of Türkiye.

Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT) Database (www.turksat.gov.tr).

Türkiye National Water Plan 2025-2036 (2025), <https://www.tarimorman.gov.tr/SYGM/Duyuru/337/Ulusai-Su-Plani-2026%E2%80%932035-Yayimlandi>.

UN WATER, SDG 6 Data Portal, <https://sdg6data.org/en>.

United Nations, The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2025 (2025), <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2025/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2025.pdf>.

For your notes

A series of horizontal dashed lines for taking notes.



TURKISH WATER INSTITUTE
SUEN
TÜRKİYE SU ENSTİTÜSÜ

Libadiye Cad. No: 52/1
Küçükçamlıca - Üsküdar
34696 İstanbul
www.suen.gov.tr