

2020 WORLD WATER DEVELOPMENT REPORT

WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

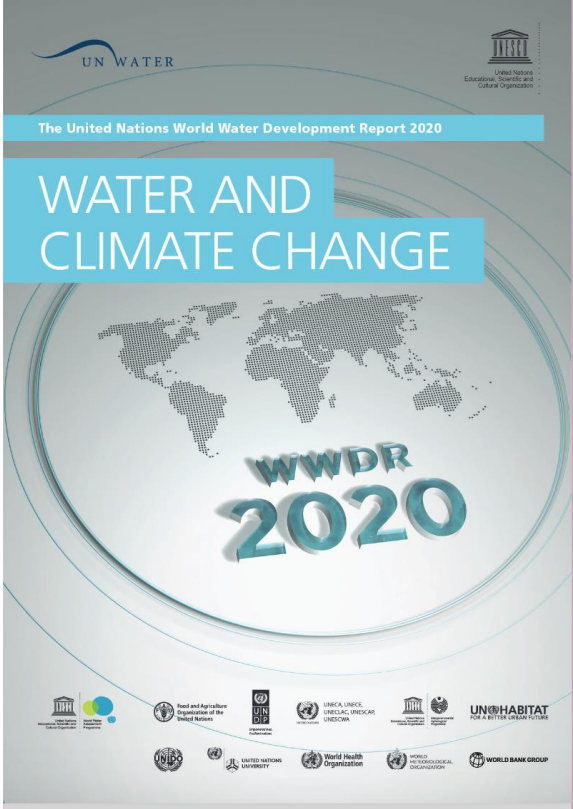
In March 2020, the new [World Water Development Report - Water and Climate Change](#) was launched by the United Nations. Coordinated and produced by UNESCO, the Report is the result of close and continued collaboration within the UN-Water family.

The 2020 United Nations World Water Development Report focuses on the challenges, opportunities and potential responses to climate change, in terms of adaptation, mitigation and improved resilience that can be addressed through improving water management.

The report warns that climate change will affect the availability, quality and quantity of water needed for basic human needs, thus undermining enjoyment of the basic rights to safe drinking water and sanitation for billions of people and the authors call on States to make more concrete commitments to address the challenge. Such a deterioration of the situation would only hinder achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6 which is part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, according to which access to safe drinking water and sanitation must be guaranteed for all within ten years. This will be a considerable challenge: 2.2 billion people currently do not have access to safely managed drinking water, and 4.2 billion, or 55% of the world's population, are without safely managed sanitation.

Water use has increased six-fold over the past century and is rising by about 1% a year. However, it is estimated that climate change, along with the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme events - storms, floods and droughts, will aggravate the situation in countries already currently experiencing water stress and generate similar problems in areas that have not been severely affected. Furthermore, the report highlights the fact that poor water management tends to exacerbate the impacts of climate change, not only on water resources but on society as a whole.

In the introduction, Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO highlights that...*The report shows that water does not need to be a problem – it can be part of the solution. Water can support efforts to both mitigate and adapt to climate change. Wetland protection, conservation agriculture and other nature-based solutions can help to sequester carbon in biomass and soils. Improved wastewater treatment can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and produce biogas as a source of renewable energy.*



The 2020 edition of the Report is the result of a concerted effort between FAO, SIWI, UNDP, UNESCO-IHP, UNESCO WWAP, UN-Habitat, UNU-INWEH, WHO, WMO and the World Bank. The Report also benefitted from the contributions of several other UN-Water members and partners, as well as from numerous scientists, professionals and NGOs who provided a wide range of relevant material.

To know more

[United Nations World Water Development Report in UNESCO website](#)

[Global launch in UNESCO website](#)

[Executive Summary](#)

[Facts and figures](#)

[2020 World Water Day](#)

[2018 World Water Report - Nature based solutions](#)

[International Decade for Water 2018-2028](#)

