



Saudi Arabia's Water Sector The Integration of National Water Strategy and SDG-6

This report presents an overview of the current status and progress made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia towards SDG 6.

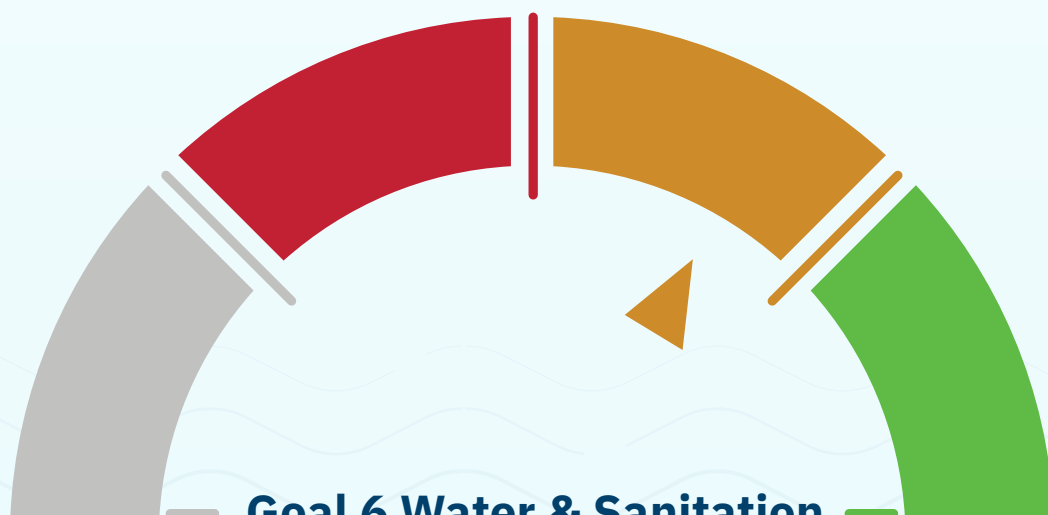
2024



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Saudi Arabia's Water Sector The Integration of National Water Strategy and SDG-6



Goal 6 Water & Sanitation
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Overall Performance



Introduction to SDG-6



ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL



SAFE AND AFFORDABLE DRINKING WATER

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



IMPLEMENT INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

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



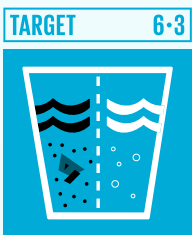
END OPEN DEFECACTION AND PROVIDE ACCESS TO SANITATION AND HYGIENE

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.



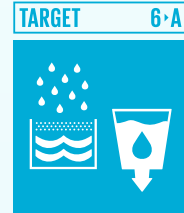
PROTECT AND RESTORE WATER-RELATED ECOSYSTEMS

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



IMPROVE WATER QUALITY, WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND SAFE REUSE

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.



EXPAND WATER AND SANITATION SUPPORT TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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.



INCREASE WATER-USE EFFICIENCY AND ENSURE FRESHWATER SUPPLIES

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.



SUPPORT LOCAL ENGAGEMENT IN WATER AND SANITATION MANAGEMENT

Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.



Saudi National Water Strategy 2030

- The Saudi Arabia 2030 Vision was Launched with the aim of strengthening the economy and improving public well-being.
- Based on Vision 2030 objectives, the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture (MEWA) developed the National Water Strategy 2030 (NWS), which provides a comprehensive framework for water sector development in the Kingdom.
- The Strategy includes 10 strategic programs and 47 initiatives derived from thorough analysis of the different components of the Kingdom water sector.
- All Programs and Initiatives aim to ensure water sector sustainability in light of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6.

Vision

A sustainable water sector, safeguarding the natural resources and environment of the Kingdom and providing cost-effective supply and high quality services. Efficiency contributes to economic and social development



Basic dimensions of water sector objectives

Cost Management	Economic Sustainability	Environmental Sustainability	Quality and Excellence Customer Service	Supply Security
Improving operational efficiency	Strengthening economic contribution	Resources development and conservation	Water quality conforming to Saudi standards	Achieving comprehensive coverage
Ensuring affordability	Contribution to increase private sector participation	Limiting Environmental footprint for the adaptation to climate change	Upgrading quality of services	Meeting demand
	Localization of industry and generation of jobs			Enhancing supply flexibility In emergency cases



NWS Programs

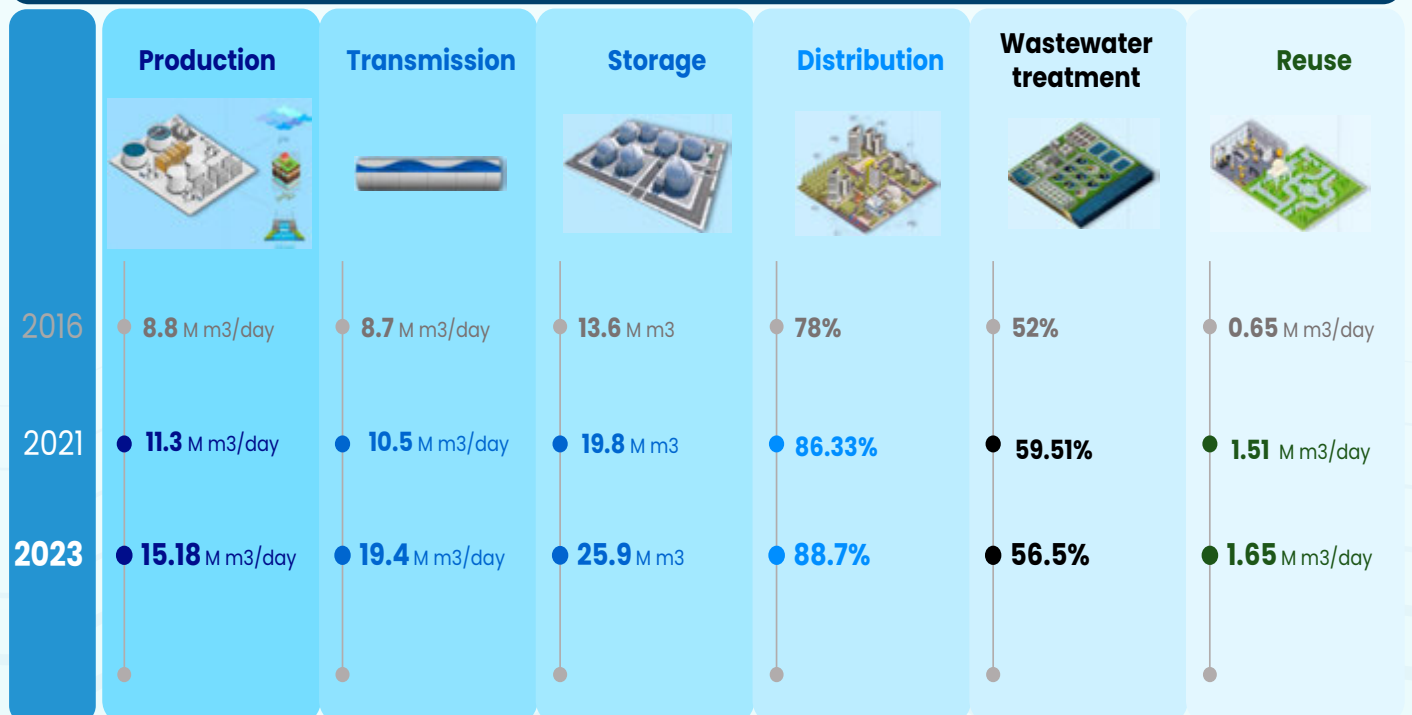
Program	Description	Owner	Program	Description	owner
1 Water Act and Water Resources Management Regulations	Aims at adopting comprehensive policies, issuing the water law and establishing water resources regulations	MEWA	6 Water Services Regulations	Aims to ensure that the ECRA is committed to achieving its objectives, in particular to build capacity for regulating water services	
2 Water Resources Management	Aims to adopt an integrated approach to water resource management, national planning, demand management and resource development	MEWA	7 Restructuring of SWCC	Including restructuring and transformation of the Saline WCC to achieve the new institutional structure of the sector	
3 Sector Readiness for Emergency Management	Designed to ensure that the water sector is ready to withstand any disruption or disruption in normal day-to-day operations	MEWA	8 Participating of the private sector in the production and treatment WW	Focuses on the inspection and collection of assets of production and wastewater treatment and privatization	Under MEWA Supervision
4 Research, Development and Capability Building	Aims to develop R & D capabilities, encourage saudization efforts, develop leadership capabilities and manage water	MEWA	9 Distribution Restructuring and Privatization	Aims to restructure distribution facilities and gradually adopt advanced privatization models	
5 Supply Chain Efficiency and Service Quality	Aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of operational processes and improving the quality of services through the implementation of a number of technical initiatives	MEWA	10 Restructuring of SIO and Irrigation Improvement	Aims to restructure and prepare the General Irrigation Corporation for its new expanded role	

47 Total number of initiatives

Privatization and Restructuring Initiatives

NWS Performance

Impacts of NWS 2030 through effective IWRM on Supply Chain





Drinking water

TARGET 6.1

SAFE AND AFFORDABLE DRINKING WATER

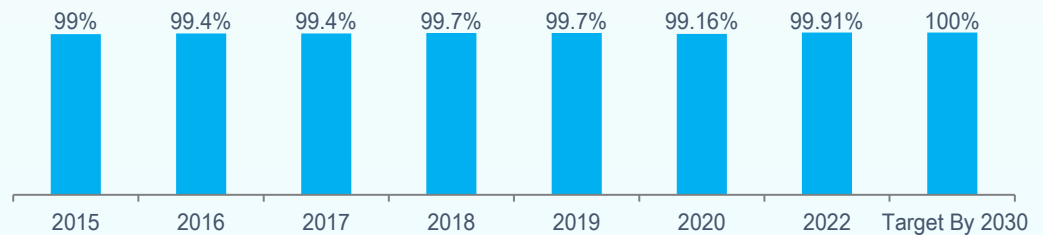


By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

Indicators		Custodians
6.1.1	Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	WHO, UNICEF

Trend is measured as change in indicator value (status) between 2015 and 2022. The indicator value should increase to reach the global target (100 per cent).

KSA Performance



Relevant Entities

شركة المياه الوطنية
National Water Company



الهيئة السعودية للمياه
Saudi Water Authority



وزارة البيئة والمياه والزراعة
Ministry of Environment Water & Agriculture



Measures towards full achievement

- Water Resource Management projects focused on sustainable planning and utilization of water resources to ensure long-term availability as per Saudi Arabia's NWS Program 2.
- Supply Chain Efficiency and Service Quality improvement program initiated by NWS Program 5, aimed to enhance water distribution systems efficiency, and improve service standards nationwide.
- Establishing water quality monitoring programs to increase drinking water quality compliance.
- Pollution control and water quality enhancement.
- Seqaya charity project for water, to guarantee water for the inhabitants of remote desert areas.
- Enhance water demand management across all uses.



Sanitation and Hygiene

TARGET 6-2



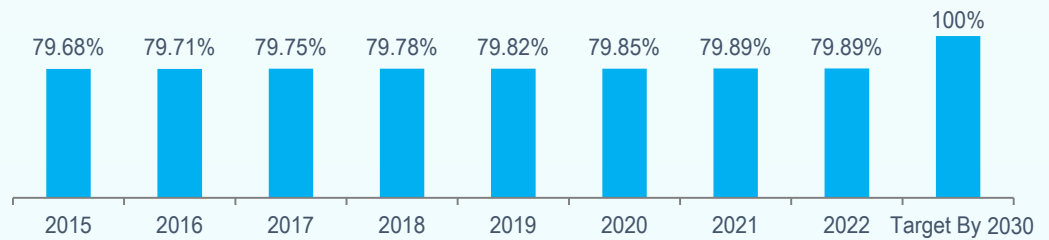
END OPEN DEFECACTION AND PROVIDE ACCESS TO SANITATION AND HYGIENE

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.

Indicators		Custodians
6.2.1	Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water	WHO, UNICEF

Trend is measured as change in indicator value (status) between 2015 and 2022. The indicator value should increase to reach the global target (100 per cent).

KSA Performance



Relevant Entities

شركة المياه الوطنية
National Water Company



الهيئة السعودية للمياه
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Measures towards full achievement

In alignment with The NWS programs 5, 6 and 8:

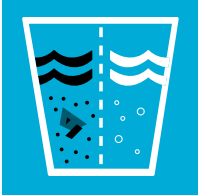
- The goals for nationwide wastewater coverage are to grow from 65 percent in 2020 to 95-100 percent by 2030, to expand treatment capacity, and promote water reuse.
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has around 70 sewage treatment plants and wastewater network coverage estimated at more than 60% (National Water Strategy 2030).



Water quality and wastewater

TARGET 6-3

IMPROVE WATER QUALITY, WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND SAFE REUSE

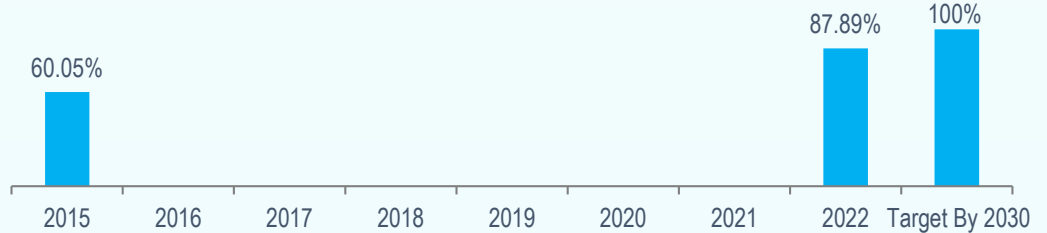


By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.

Indicators	Custodians
6.3.1 Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated	WHO, UN-Habitat, UNSD

Trend is measured as change in indicator value (status) between 2015 and 2021-2022. The indicator value should increase to reach the global target.

KSA Performance



Relevant Entities

المركز الوطني
للرقابة على الالتزام البيئي
National Center for Environmental Compliance
المملكة العربية السعودية



شركة المياه الوطنية
National Water Company



الهيئة السعودية للمياه
Saudi Water Authority



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Ministry of Environment Water & Agriculture



Measures towards full achievement

In relation to 6.2.1, NWS programs 5, 6, and 8 aims are:

- Reach a total amount of 10.3 million m³/d of collected wastewater by 2030 after the addition of 11 large-scale and 150 small-scale treatment plants.
- Foster Private Sector participation in financing and operation of wastewater treatment and reuse services.



Water use and scarcity

TARGET 6.4

INCREASE WATER-USE EFFICIENCY AND ENSURE FRESHWATER SUPPLIES

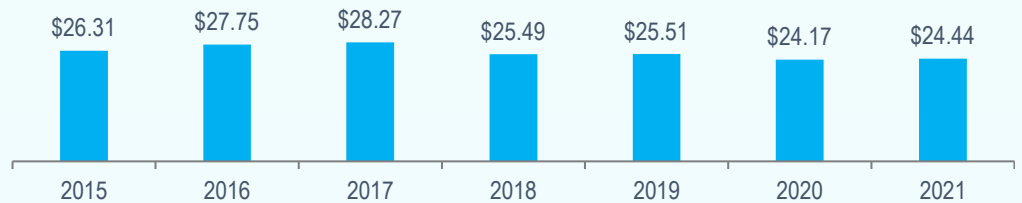


By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.

Indicators	Custodians
6.4.1 Change in wateruse efficiency over time	FAO

Trend is measured as change in indicator value (status) between 2015 and 2021. The indicator value should increase to reach the global target.

KSA Performance



Relevant Entities



المؤسسة العامة للري
Saudi Irrigation Organization
المملكة العربية السعودية



شركة المياه الوطنية
National Water Company



الهيئة السعودية للمياه
Saudi Water Authority



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Ministry of Environment Water & Agriculture



Measures towards full achievement

- Introduce technological innovations to promote water conservation and cost efficiency.
- Saudi Arabia has taken measures to reduce consumption by increasing efficiency, eliminating waste, and ending unsustainable practices.
- Publish information about water efficiency performance of buildings and appliances to stimulate adoption.
- The National Program for Water Conservation (Qatrah), aiming to preserve the country's non-renewable water resources.



Water use and scarcity

TARGET 6.4

INCREASE WATER-USE EFFICIENCY AND ENSURE FRESHWATER SUPPLIES

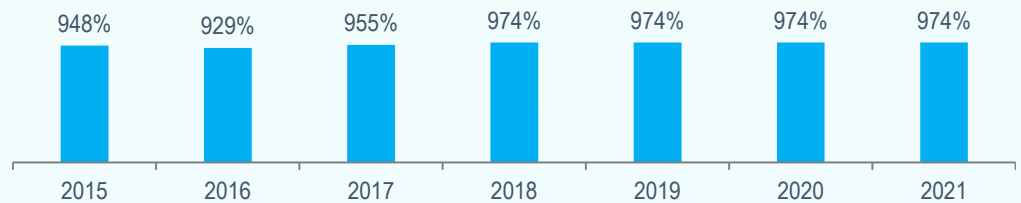


By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.

Indicators		Custodians
6.4.2	Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources	FAO

Trend is measured as change in indicator value (status) between 2015 and 2021. The indicator value should increase to reach the global target.

KSA Performance



Relevant Entities



المؤسسة العامة للري
Saudi Irrigation Organization
الهيئة العامة للري



شركة المياه الوطنية
National Water Company



الهيئة السعودية للمياه
Saudi Water Authority



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Ministry of Environment Water & Agriculture



Measures towards full achievement

- Water Resources Management (MEWA - Water Affairs)
- Water Loss Reduction and Continuity of Supply Enhancement
- Building 1,000 new dams in different regions of the Kingdom (MEWA).
- Expansions for most desalination projects are already planned or underway.
- MEWA aims to reduce daily per capita consumption from 263 liters to 150 liters by 2030.



Water resources management

TARGET 6.5

IMPLEMENT INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

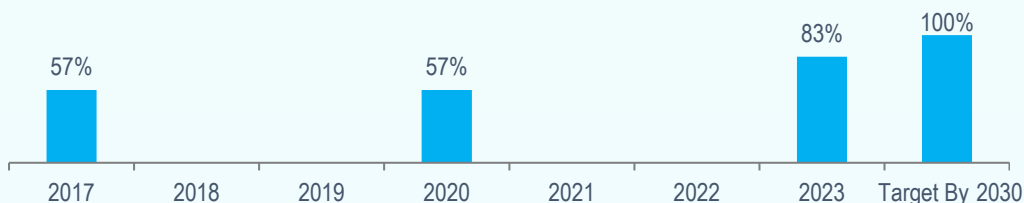


By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.

Indicators	Custodians
6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management	UNEP

Trend is measured as change in indicator value (status) between 2017 and 2023. The indicator value should increase to reach the global target (91-100%).

KSA Performance



Relevant Entities



المؤسسة العامة للري
Saudi Irrigation Organization
المملكة العربية السعودية



شركة المياه الوطنية
National Water Company



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Saudi Water Authority



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Measures towards full achievement

- NWS Programs 1, 2, 3, 4, and 9 support the restructuring and build of IWRM capabilities.
- The Programs promote resilience in emergencies, develops renewable groundwater and surface water resources, expands treated sewage reuse, advances sustainable desalination, and optimizes non-renewable groundwater use.
- The efforts ensure expanded water supply for Hajj and Umrah needs, supported by digital systems for informed decision-making and public awareness initiatives.



Water resources management

TARGET 6.5

IMPLEMENT INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

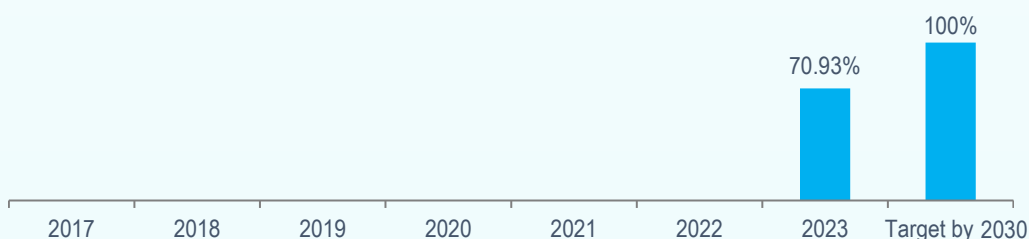


By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.

Indicators	Custodians
6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation	UNECE, UNESCO

Trend is measured as change in indicator value (status) between 2017 and 2023. The indicator value should increase to reach the global target (100 per cent).

KSA Performance



Relevant Entities



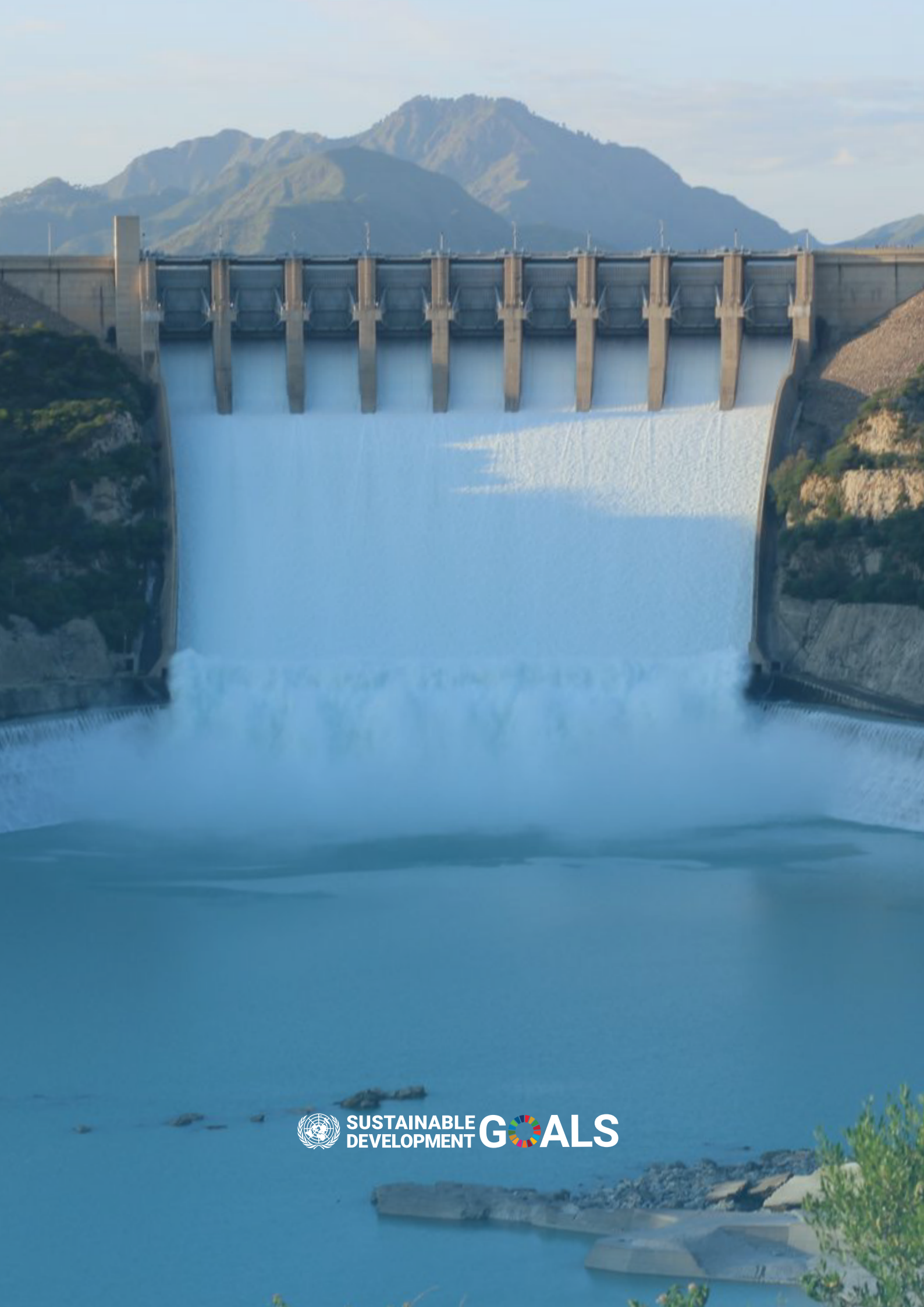
Measures towards full achievement

- Co-management and utilization of the transboundary Saq/Disi Aquifer (2015) by Saudi Arabia and Jordan, and water resources arrangement under the umbrella of The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) .
- Water management activities with Kuwait, Oman, and Yemen.



Notes

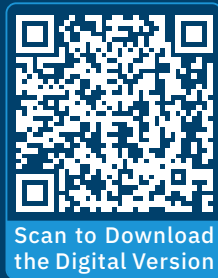
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