



USAID and the U.S. Global Water Strategy

USAID’s investments in water security under the [U.S. Global Water Strategy](#) are critical to advance health, prosperity, stability, and resilience. The Global Water Strategy details USAID’s approach to implementing the [White House Action Plan on Global Water Security](#).

VISION: A water-secure world

GOAL: To improve health, prosperity, stability, and resilience through sustainable and equitable water resources management and access to safe drinking water and sanitation services and hygiene practices.

GWS STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

Strengthen Water and Sanitation Sector Governance, Financing, Institutions, and Markets



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

Increase Equitable Access to Safe, Sustainable, and Climate-Resilient Drinking Water and Sanitation Services, and Adoption of Key Hygiene Behaviors



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

Improve Climate-Resilient Conservation and Management of Freshwater Resources and of Associated Ecosystems



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

Anticipate and Reduce Conflict and Fragility Related to Water

USAID’S INTERMEDIATE RESULTS

- 1.1 Develop, strengthen, and implement inclusive laws, policies, and regulations
- 1.2 Effectively mobilize and target public and private financing
- 1.3 Improve the capacity and performance of regional, national, and sub-national institutions
- 1.4 Advance transparency, accountability, equity, and efficiency through participatory, data-driven decision-making

- 2.1 Increase area-wide access to safe, equitable, and affordable sanitation services
- 2.2 Increase access to equitable, safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water services
- 2.3 Improve performance and climate resilience of water and sanitation service providers
- 2.4 Increase adoption of key hygiene practices

- 3.1 Allocate and use water resources more equitably and efficiently
- 3.2 Enhance reliability and quality of water resources through watershed management, including protection, restoration, and nature-based solutions
- 3.3 Improve the climate resilience of water resources management

- 4.1 Strengthen capacity to predict, prepare for, and adapt to shocks impacting water and sanitation systems in fragile settings
- 4.2 Address humanitarian water, sanitation, and hygiene needs
- 4.3 Strengthen cooperation and reduce conflict over water
- 4.4 Strengthen coherence across humanitarian, development, and peace approaches to water and sanitation programming

GWS OPERATING PRINCIPLES



Work through and strengthen global, national, and local systems



Focus on meeting the needs of marginalized and underserved people and communities, and those in vulnerable situations



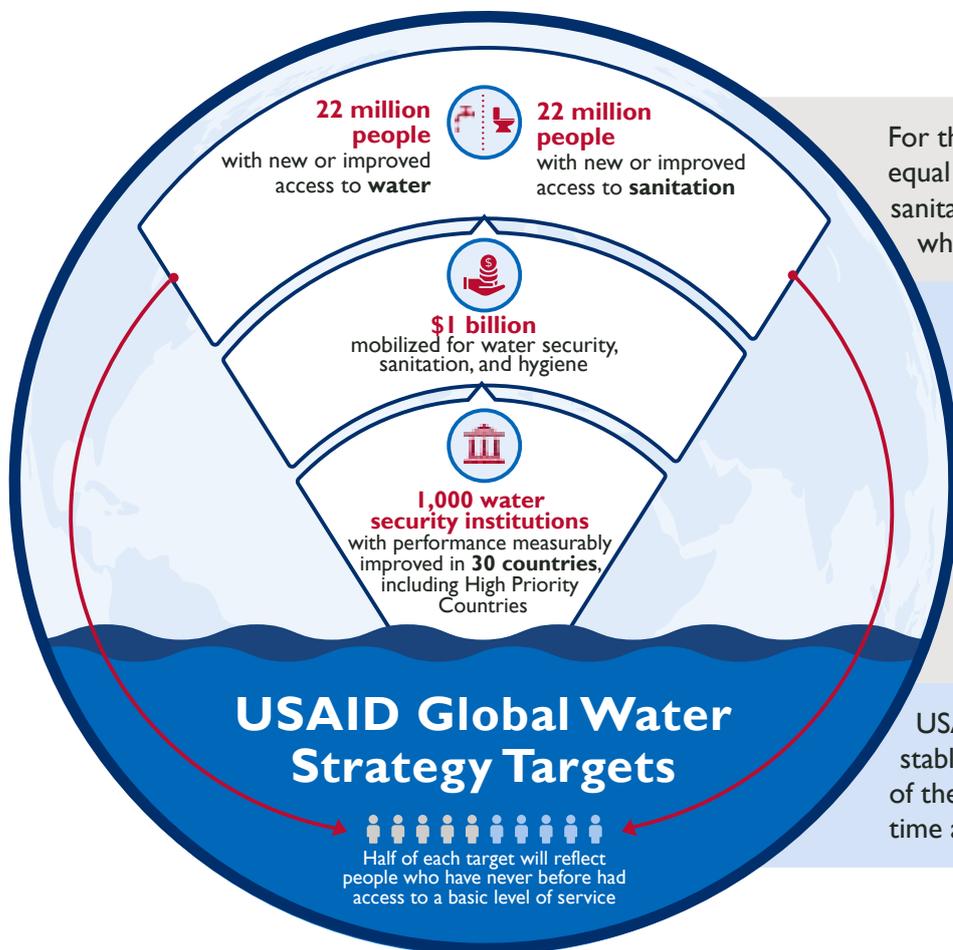
Leverage data, research, learning, and innovation



Incorporate resilience across all aspects of this strategy

USAID Global Water Strategy Targets

USAID has set ambitious targets that reflect our efforts to directly increase the number of people reached with services, and has also set new types of targets that capture how we intend to strengthen essential systems by mobilizing financing and improving institutional governance and performance.



For the first time, the Agency has set equal targets for drinking water and sanitation services to elevate sanitation, which has been historically deprioritized.

Mobilizing additional financing will only be possible if sector institutions are positioned to attract and invest those funds effectively.

USAID's ambitious financing target reflects the critical need to more effectively leverage our investments to mobilize other sources of funding to accelerate progress.

USAID will pursue these targets across stable and fragile contexts, and at least half of the total number reached will gain first-time access to basic services.

Implementing Across the USAID Program Cycle

USAID provides high-level guidance for developing water and sanitation programming across the USAID Program Cycle. This includes strategic planning, project and activity design and implementation, developing activity budgets and resourcing, and monitoring, evaluation, and learning.

Designation of High-Priority Countries

- The U.S. government must focus its investments under the Water for the World Act on countries and geographic areas where the needs are greatest and to maximize impact and sustainability.
- High-Priority Countries are designated through a rigorous four-step analytical process (see Annex B of the Strategy).
- Explore the [WASH Needs Index](#) to learn more and visit the [High-Priority Country page](#) on [GlobalWaters.org](#).

Roles and Responsibilities

USAID's approach details how the following roles will ensure effective implementation:

- Global Water Coordinator
- Water Leadership Council
- Water and Sanitation Technical Working Group
- Mission water and sanitation leads
- USAID/Washington points of contact

