

The United Nations World Water Development Report 2016

WATER AND JOBS



WWDR
2016



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United Nations
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Cultural Organization



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Assessment Programme



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The United Nations World Water Development Report 2016

WATER AND JOBS

Published in 2016 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,
7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France

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This report is published by UNESCO on behalf of UN-Water. The list of UN-Water Members and Partners are available on: <http://www.unwater.org>

Chapter 9, Europe and North America, by Annukka Lipponen and Nicholas Bonvoisin, © United Nations

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ISBN 978-92-3-100146-8

ePub ISBN 978-92-3-100155-0



Suggested citation:

WWAP (United Nations World Water Assessment Programme). 2016. The United Nations World Water Development Report 2016: Water and Jobs. Paris, UNESCO.

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WWAP provided the opportunity for individuals to be listed as authors and contributors or to be acknowledged in this publication. WWAP is not responsible for any omissions in this regard.

Original cover design by Phoenix Design Aid

Printed by UNESCO CLD

This publication is printed in vegetable inks on FSC Mixed Sources paper, supporting responsible use of forest reserves, 100% recycled, acid-free and chlorine-free.

Printed in France

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FOREWORD

by **Ban Ki-moon**

Secretary-General of the United Nations

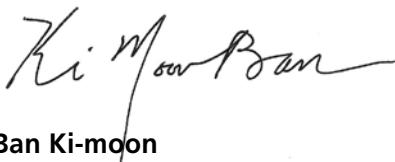
Sustainable development, human migration, conflict and natural disasters: water cuts across these and many other major issues on the global agenda. Employment is another key factor in population movements, civil unrest and environmental sustainability.

The 2016 edition of the United Nations World Water Development Report, which was coordinated by the United Nations World Water Assessment Programme of UNESCO in collaboration with UN-Water Members and other partners, illustrates how the connection between water and jobs holds the promise of inclusive and sustainable economic growth for all countries. Its findings can serve to help reach the Sustainable Development Goals, which are all interlinked, including Goal 6 covering water and sanitation for all, and Goal 8 addressing decent work for all.

Among its findings, this report shows that many jobs in the global workforce depend on water. It demonstrates that water stress and the lack of decent work can exacerbate security challenges. It also traces the link between scarce or poor quality water, damaged ecosystems and instability that can lead to forced migration.

The main message of the report is clear: water is essential to decent jobs and sustainable development. Now is the time to increase investments in protecting and rehabilitating water resources, including drinking water, as well as sanitation while focusing on generating employment.

I commend this report to all those interested in joining forces to realize our bold vision for sustainable development aimed at creating a future where all people live in dignity on a healthy and peaceful planet.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Ki Moon Ban' in a cursive style.

Ban Ki-moon

FOREWORD

by Irina Bokova

Director-General of UNESCO

Water and jobs are inextricably linked on various levels, whether we look at them from an economic, environmental or social perspective. This edition of the World Water Development Report breaks new ground by addressing the pervasive relationship between water and jobs to an extent not yet seen in any other report.

The report estimates that well over one billion jobs, representing more than 40% of the world's total active workforce, are heavily water-dependent. Such jobs are found in agriculture, forestry, inland fisheries, mining and resource extraction, power generation and water supply and sanitation, as well as in several manufacturing and transformation industries including food, pharmaceuticals and textiles. Another billion jobs, representing over one third of the world's total active workforce, are likely to be moderately water-dependent. Examples of sectors with moderately water-dependent jobs include construction, recreation, transportation and manufacturing/transformation industries such as wood, paper, rubber/plastics and metals.

This means that nearly 80% of the jobs constituting the global workforce are dependent upon having access to an adequate supply of water and water-related services, including sanitation. As such, jobs in the water sectors themselves (including integrated water resources management and ecosystem restoration and remediation; building and managing water infrastructure; and the provision of water-related services, such as water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities) help to create an enabling environment for the creation and maintenance of decent jobs across most other sectors of the global economy.

As competition for freshwater resources grows and climate change impacts supplies, it is increasingly critical that governments develop and adopt employment policies that take account of the limitations imposed by water availability, while fulfilling the human rights to water, sanitation and decent jobs, according to each country's own resource base, potential and priorities. Achieving the appropriate sectoral balance, and generating the highest possible output of decent and productive jobs without compromising the support capacity of water resources and ecosystems, is essential to ensuring long-term social, economic and environmental sustainability.

An important part of the policy package for addressing water-related challenges consists in ensuring that a sufficient number of water experts and professionals are available to inform and assist the process of meeting these challenges. As this report highlights, addressing the current and growing human resources gaps in the relevant water-related sectors requires immediate consideration from policy-makers. Notably, the shift to a green economy in sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fishing, energy, resource-intensive manufacturing, recycling, buildings and transport is changing the range of tasks and required expertise associated with various jobs, as a result of new technologies, processes and practices.

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