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Advancing Capacity Development for SDG 6 and promoting Early Warning for All (EW4All) initiative to support integrated and sustainable water management

People

Deadline: 15 Jul 2026

Type:	Side Event
Location:	New York, United States of America
Date:	16 Jul 2026
Duration:	2 Hours
Thematic Area:	Water Resources Management
Website:	https://www.unwater.org/our-work/sdg-6-capacity-development-initiative
Price:	\$0.00
Event Focal Point Email:	dize.dogan@unitar.org
Partnership:	World Meteorological Organization (WMO), , UN Water members, , UNESCO, , United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), , IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, , Cap-Net, , Netherlands

BACKGROUND

Water is central to sustainable development, climate resilience, public health, food security, and disaster risk reduction. Yet climate change is intensifying hydrological extremes, increasing the frequency and severity of floods, droughts, and water-related disasters that threaten lives, infrastructure, ecosystems, and economies—particularly in vulnerable countries.

At the same time, many countries continue to face persistent capacity gaps in water governance, integrated water resources management (IWRM), sanitation services, hydrological monitoring, and early warning systems. Addressing these challenges requires stronger institutional and human capacities, science-based decision-making, risk-informed governance, and enhanced partnerships across sectors and stakeholders.

The UN-Water SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative (CDI) serves as the inter-agency coordination platform on freshwater, sanitation, and hygiene-related capacity development work. The Initiative is demand-driven, responding to country-specific capacity development needs through coordinated support from the UN system and development partners, while promoting national ownership. The CDI contributes directly to the capacity development accelerator of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework and supports implementation of the UN System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation.

In parallel, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), through its Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM), has for more than 25 years promoted integrated, risk-based, and people-centred approaches to flood management. WMO supports countries in strengthening hydrological services, flood forecasting, climate information services, and Early Warning Systems for All (EW4All), helping governments integrate flood risk management into sustainable development and climate adaptation strategies.

The 2026 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), convening from 7 to 15 July 2026 under the theme “Transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for a sustainable future for all,” will include an in-depth review of SDG 6, among others. Thirty-six countries will present Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), several of which face significant water and climate-related challenges.

This joint side event will provide an opportunity to showcase how integrated water resources management, hydrological services, flood risk management,

capacity development, and early warning systems can accelerate progress toward SDG 6, SDG 11 and SDG 13. It will also contribute to building momentum toward the 2026 UN Water Conference, to be held in the United Arab Emirates from 8–10 December 2026, co-hosted by Senegal and the UAE.

The event will highlight practical experiences from countries and partners implementing integrated and science-based approaches to water management and resilience, while generating recommendations for strengthening national capacities, partnerships, financing, and political commitment ahead of the 2026 UN Water Conference.

EVENT OBJECTIVES

This joint side event aims to:

- Showcase the work of the UN-Water SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative (CDI) and WMO's Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM) in strengthening water and sanitation governance, hydrological services, flood forecasting, and early warning systems.
- Demonstrate how targeted capacity development, integrated water resources management, and science-based hydrological services contribute to measurable progress on SDG 6 and climate resilience.
- Share country experiences and lessons learned from Rwanda, Jordan, and other flood-prone and climate-vulnerable countries.
- Promote integrated flood management approaches that balance flood risk reduction, livelihoods, ecosystem sustainability, and development planning.
- Generate actionable recommendations for scaling up investments, partnerships, and institutional capacities ahead of the 2026 UN Water Conference.
- Strengthen political recognition of integrated water resources management, hydrological services, and early warning systems as critical enablers of sustainable development and climate adaptation.

Expected Outcomes:

- Increased awareness about the UN Water SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative and WMO initiatives such as Early Warnings for All (EW4All) Water at the Heart of Climate Action (WHCA) and the Hydrological Status and Outlook System (HydroSOS)

- Learning from the experience on capacity development to strengthen capacity development as part of the 2026 UN Water Conference Interactive Dialogue (f) on Investments for Water and 2030 UN Sustainable Development Agenda
- Stronger political recognition of integrated water resources management and flood risk management as critical pillars of sustainable development and climate resilience
- Concrete recommendations for embedding flood risk management hydrological services sanitation capacity development and early warning systems into SDG implementation and climate adaptation policies
- Enhanced collaboration among governments UN agencies financial institutions academia civil society youth and development partners working across water climate and disaster risk reduction
- Increased momentum toward the 2026 UN Water Conference and strengthened commitments around capacity development resilience and water security

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

Science to Action: Raising awareness and capacity on the needs and use of hydrological data, forecasting, climate information, and Early Warning Systems to strengthen integrated water resources management and sustainable planning.

Integrated Flood Management (IFM): Promoting risk-informed and people-centred approaches that balance flood management with water security, livelihoods, and sustainable development.

Capacity Development for SDG 6: Strengthening institutional and human capacities for water governance, water & sanitation, hydrological services, and disaster risk reduction.

Climate Adaptation and Resilience: Aligning flood management, water governance, and hydrological services with National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), climate policies, and resilience strategies.

Equity and Inclusion: Protecting vulnerable communities through inclusive, risk-informed water governance and community-centred early warning systems.

Financing and Partnerships: Mobilizing resources and partnerships to strengthen hydrological services, water management systems, sanitation capacity development, and climate resilience.

METHODOLOGY

1. Scene setting and Moderation

2. Welcome and Opening Remarks - High-Level Segment

Objective: Highlighting the importance of integrated water resources management, capacity development, hydrological services, and early warning systems for achieving SDG 6 and strengthening climate resilience.

3. Technical Perspectives: Capacity Development Initiative for SDG 6 and EW4All - Hydrological Services and Integrated Flood Management

4.

High Level Panel Discussion

Objective: Sharing country perspectives on SDG 6 CDI, flood risk management and hydrological services, and progress toward SDG 6 targets.

5. Interactive Q&A and Audience Engagement

6. Closing Remarks

TARGETED AUDIENCE

- UN Member States
- UN agencies and international organizations
- National hydrological, meteorological, water, sanitation, and disaster management agencies
- Government ministries and departments
- Development partners and financing institutions
- Academia and research institutions
- Civil society organizations and NGOs
- Youth representatives and community-based organizations
- Private sector and innovation partners

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

STRATEGIC RELEVANCE

This joint side event directly contributes to:

- SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities;
- SDG 13: Climate Action;
- The UN Early Warnings for All Initiative;
- The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework;
- The UN System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation;
- 2026 UN Water Conference Interactive Dialogue (f) on Investments for Water; and
- Preparatory momentum toward the 2026 UN Water Conference.