

Position Paper on Water

linked to the public consultation for the Dispatch on Switzerland's
International Cooperation 2021 - 2024

SWP secretariat: 15 August 2019

Supported by ... organisations, of which ... are SWP member organisations and by ... individuals from the Swiss water and sanitation sector

The Swiss Water Partnership

The Swiss Water Partnership (SWP) is a globally recognized brand of Swiss high-quality solutions to global water challenges and acts as a unique multi-stakeholder platform that brings together 70 Swiss organisations from academia, civil society, public and private sectors. As a strong recognized national and global actor in the water sector it has been influential in international processes, like providing space and acting as a consultation platform for defining the Swiss position for the water and sanitation sector as it did for the post-2015 agenda that resulted in the establishment of the dedicated UN Sustainable Development Goal for water (SDG 6): Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. With a strong focus on SDG 6, the SWP members' expertise, applied at different scales and across the sector, contribute to achieving all SDGs as well as the human right to water.

As 82% of Switzerland's water footprint is produced outside of Switzerland, SWP assumes Switzerland's responsibility in this regard by showing solidarity and supporting developing and transition countries in finding solutions to achieve water security for their people and ecosystems. Driven by the platform's values of solidarity and integrity (i.e. promoting transparency, accountability and participative solutions), SWP promotes the sustainable and equitable use and management of water resources and the sustainable universal access to safe water and sanitation.

Together with its members, the platform has created this position paper and invites other Swiss partner organisations to support it, leading to a total number of ... organisations and ... individuals.

Questions by FDFA and EAER

FDFA and EAER have opened the dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2021 - 2024 ([DE](#), [FR](#), [IT](#)) for public consultation and invites all engaged stakeholders to comment. They have posed three explicit questions in the accompanying letter for the public consultation ([DE](#), [FR](#), [IT](#)) and made clear that additional aspects can be addressed:

Do you consider that the

1. new thematic priorities (2.4.)
2. proposed development goals (2.3.)
3. proposed geographic foci of bilateral development cooperation (2.4.1 and 3.1.2)

meet the needs of the developing world's population, Switzerland's interests and the comparative advantages of Switzerland's international cooperation?

Importance of water for the dispatch 2021 – 2024

SWP welcomes the importance that has been given to water¹ in the dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2021 – 2024. SWP supports that water has been recognised

- as key topic in the development goals for human and environment development, including for climate change and natural resources (goals 2.1., 2.2) as well as emergency assistance, the provision of basic needs and migration (goals 3.1., 3.3), (p. 41 - 43)
- as priority topic within the bilateral cooperation for the regions MENA, Central-, South Asia, South-East Asia and in fragile countries in Sub-Sahara Africa (p. 20, 21)
- as core area for humanitarian assistance (p. 19)
- as human-right and as central global topic for transboundary water management, conflict and disaster risk reduction, gender- and inter-generational equality and for the need of involving social entrepreneurship and the private sector, and for creating efficient and sustainable financing supported through the Global Programme Water (p. 26)
- as determinant of health, supported by the Global Programme Health (p. 26)
- as investment to achieve cross-sectoral strategies in order to create and strengthen reliable framework conditions for economic and trade measure, supported by SECO (p. 24).

However, water has not been incorporated

- as key topic in the development goals for economic development and for peace and governance, including not for sustainable economic growth, market access, private sector, employment (goals 1.1., 1.2.), disaster risk reduction, reconstruction, rehabilitation (goal 3.2.), conflict prevention, human rights and gender equality (goals 4.1., 4.2., 4.3.), (p. 41 - 43)
- as a priority topic within the bilateral cooperation for the regions Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean as well as for stable countries in Sub-Sahara Africa (p. 21, 22)
- as a dedicated thematic priority (p. 15) as it has been treated only as a transversal theme
- as a share in the budget (p. 50)

Therefore, SWP demands that water should be addressed as one of the **highest priorities** in the dispatch 2021 – 2024. It strongly encourages amendments of the dispatch to include

- 1. water as a dedicated thematic priority**
- 2. SDG 6 in all four development goals**
- 3. water as a priority topic for all geographic focus regions**
- 4. the share for water in the budget**

¹ To simplify the reading we will use the term water in this position paper, however, the term takes water as a multi-dimensional, multi-level and cross-sectoral entity into account. It includes water, sanitation and hygiene as well as its interconnections between ecosystems, economic stability, social-well being and peace.

1. Water as a dedicated thematic priority is in line with the three criteria for the engagement in international development cooperation

SWP urges that water becomes a dedicated thematic priority in the dispatch 2021 – 2024 because water

- is a **dedicated SDG and human right for which Switzerland** is one of the world's pioneers and engages for on the national and international agenda for years
- is at the core of **all dimensions of sustainable development**
- is one of the **most essential and strategic resources** for international cooperation
- needs to be addressed and **managed holistically** to solve multi-dimensional, multi-level and cross-sectoral challenges.

Water needs to be included for **all dimensions of sustainable development and for all regions** as it is one of the **most essential and strategic resources** for global social well-being, economic development, the maintenance of ecosystem services and is directly linked to peace and security. It is a dedicated **human right** and **SDG**, that Switzerland has been advocating for on the international agenda. This recognition in relation to water and sanitation has been at the **heart of Switzerland's strategy** in the national and international cooperation for years. Thus, Switzerland among its partners has committed to ensure **universal access** to safely managed water and sanitation for all humans. The **successes** to improve the access to basic services that Switzerland has achieved worldwide are only a first step. It is coherent and consistent to continue and leverage this **Swiss investment**.

In this regard, SWP encourages the commitment to manage the entire water cycle, including its economic, peace and governance dimension across regions. At the same time, cooperation with all stakeholders among all water-dependent sectors is necessary for achieving a systemic change towards sustainable management of water resources. It must continuously be at the centre of Switzerland's approach to humanitarian aid and development cooperation: Only the **holistic consideration of the entire water cycle, in cooperation with all partners**, has the potential to contribute to an improved health, food security and ultimately to sustainable economic growth, peace and security, which will give a perspective to the local population, with which Switzerland has established partnerships.

Switzerland has an interest and the responsibility in contributing to solving global water problems, as it has a direct and positive impact on our economy, our environment and, above all, on our well-being: Contributing to solving water problems has a **direct and positive impact** on the life of the people worldwide as well as in Switzerland.

SWP members and partners have jointly developed a strong argumentation to demonstrate that water as a dedicated thematic priority is in line with the three criteria for the engagement in international development cooperation as displayed on page 9 of this document.

Given this strong argumentation from the Swiss water and sanitation sector and Switzerland's prominent advocacy for the adoption of water as a human right and dedicated SDG, SWP encourages that Switzerland remains coherent in its commitment and strongly supports the global implementation of the human right and SDG 6.

Therefore, SWP urges that water becomes a dedicated thematic priority in the dispatch 2021 – 2024.

2. Including SDG 6 in all four development goals

SWP urges to include **SDG 6 in all specific development goals** on page 41 - 43 of the dispatch as it is at the core to achieve all four overall development goals: The human, environmental and economic development as well as for peace and governance (p. 14 - 17). Therefore, we will first demonstrate that water is one of the highest priorities to reach the four development goals and then display the suggested amendments for page 41 - 43 of the dispatch below. The detailed arguments by SWP members and partners are shown on page 10-11 of this document. Translation of the goals are available online ([DE](#), [FR](#), [IT](#)).

Objective 1: Economic development (Sustainable growth/ market access/ decent employment)

- The foundation for a stable economic development is the access to natural resources, including water
- Water is a major driver to create employment along many value chains

Suggested amendments (highlighted in red and detailed in the Annex):

Ziel 1.1: *Die Rahmenbedingungen für den Marktzugang verbessern und wirtschaftliche Möglichkeiten schaffen (Verbindung mit SDG 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 17)*

Ziel 1.2: *Innovative Initiativen des Privatsektors fördern, um die Schaffung menschenwürdiger Arbeitsplätze zu erleichtern (Verbindung mit SDG 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 17)*

Objective 2: Environmental development (Climate Change/ natural resources)

- Water is a main factor of causes and consequences of climate change
- Holistic water management is essential for adaptation and mitigation strategies to climate change
- Sustainable water resource management is core to preserve ecosystem services and biodiversity

Objective 3: Human Development (Saving lives/ access to basic needs/ migration)

- Water is the key for an improved health, food security and to reduce disaster risks
- Lack of access to WASH services is a root cause for migration
- A large effort to achieve safely managed drinking water, sanitation and hygiene still needs to be made: In 2017 more than 2.1 billion are lacking access to safely managed drinking water, more than 4.2 billion are lacking access to safely managed sanitation services and 3 billion people lacking water and soap for hand washing ([WHO/UNICEF JMP Report 2019](#)).

Suggested amendments:

Ziel 3.2: *Katastrophenvorsorge, Wiederaufbau, Rehabilitation (Verbindung mit SDG 6, 11)*

Objective 4: Peace and Governance (rule of law)

- Universal access to safely managed drinking water and sanitation is a human right (not only improvement for some people but for all)
- Water is an instrument and a strategic important resource for peace and to reduce conflicts in transboundary issues
- Water, sanitation and hygiene plays a key role in gender and intergenerational equality

Suggested amendments:

Ziel 4.1: Konflikte verhüten, Frieden und Achtung des Völkerrechts fördern (Verbindung mit SDG 5, 6, 16)

Ziel 4.2: Menschenrechte und Geschlechtergleichstellung stärken und fördern (Verbindung mit SDG 4, 5, 6, 10, 16)

Ziel 4.3: Gute Regierungsführung und Rechtsstaatlichkeit fördern (Verbindung mit SDG 6, 16)

3. Water is a priority topic for all focus regions

Water is central for all regions and thus should be included as priority topic **in all geographic focus regions**. Amendments are displayed in red. Translations of the goals are available online ([DE](#), [FR](#), [IT](#)).

Focus regions

1. *Sub-Sahara Africa (p. 21):*

- Water is as important in stable countries in this region as in fragile countries to preserve peace and contribute to preventing migration

Suggested amendments (highlighted in red):

*In den **stabilen Ländern** dieser Region sind die Prioritäten:*

- *Wasser und Anpassung an den Klimawandel und Reduktion von Katastrophenrisiken*

2. *Eastern Europe (p. 22):*

- Improvement of basic provision and adaptation to climate change, in regard to Integrated Water Resource Management, transboundary issues (e.g. Kosovo) is key to achieve water security of the vulnerable population and to prevent conflicts in the region

Suggested amendments:

Prioritäten der bilateralen Entwicklungszusammenarbeit in dieser Region:

- *wirtschaftliche Entwicklung durch die Stärkung des Finanzsektors, Schaffung von Arbeitsplätzen, Verbesserung der Grundversorgung, **einschliesslich der Wasser-, sanitären und der Energieversorgung der Städte und in ländlichen Regionen**; (...)*
- *Verminderung der Ursachen des Klimawandels und Anpassung an dessen Folgen, einschliesslich **der Wasser- und Energiebewirtschaftung**, Umweltschutz und Reduktion von Katastrophenrisiken.*

3. *Latin America and the Caribbean (p. 22):*

- Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) remain a conflict-driven region and therefore improvements in (water) governance remain important.
- The international cooperation with the WASH sector has been fruitful and successful in the LAC region. In order to benefit from the knowledge and know-how developed in the Swiss development programmes within these countries, Switzerland should invest into conserving and sharing the knowledge and lessons learnt with other regions.
- Inequalities within the water sector between rural and urban regions remain high in the region: "While urban water and sanitation services performance rates are on the increase, the same trend is not witnessed outside of the urban circle, and inequalities persist. According to the JMP (2015) 14.1% of the rural LAC population lack access to a basic drinking water service (compared to 1.9% of the urban population) and 8.5 million people relied on surface water for drinking. In the same year, only 68.4% of the rural population used a basic sanitation service (compared to 90% of the urban population) and 18 million people in rural LAC still practiced open defecation ([World Bank 2019](#))."

4. Define the share of water in the budget

Within the dispatch 2021 - 2024 SWP notes the following:

- The exact budget for water remains unclear (p. 50).
- The overall budget for global programmes and initiatives is at 796 Mio. CHF, which is 12 % of the budget for international cooperation (p. 50) and around 30 Mio. CHF are indicated per year for each global programme (p. 25).

SWP encourages to make the **share in the budget** dedicated for water activities explicit and supports to **increase the Swiss official development aid (ODA, APD) to 0.7 % of the GNI**: The prognosis of the Swiss official development aid (ODA, APD) is at 0.45 % of the GNI (p. 2), which is below the ODA ratio of 0.5 % of the GNI as decided by the Swiss parliament in 2011. This commitment is considerably below the international commitment of 0.7 % of the GNI (Addis Ababa Action Agenda).

SWP underlines that the increased budget for climate change action should be considered as an **additional budget to the current ODA**: As the budget for climate change action will be increased (p. 50), it should come as an additional budget to the current ODA and not reroute the funds planned for other thematic priorities.

In the list of priority organizations (Annex 5, p. 48-49), many of the global multi-lateral organisations related to water have been listed, however, some important organisation and networks are not explicitly mentioned. SWP demands to **include also following global multi-lateral organisations and networks related to water in the budget allocation** as listed in Annex 5 of the dispatch (p. 48-49):

- **UN Water (Interagency Mechanism)**
- **Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC)** as part of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
- **World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)** as part of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

SWP expresses its deepest gratitude to FDFA and EAER as well as to the supporting organisations for taken this position paper into account for the Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2021 – 2024. SWP welcomes all organisations, the FDFA and EAER to share its impressions and to discuss with us the SWP position to address **water as one of the highest priorities** for the dispatch 2021 – 2024.

Arguments by SWP linked to the Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2021–2024

SWP urges that water becomes a **dedicated thematic priority** as it is in line with the **3 criteria for the Swiss engagement in international development cooperation**

1 . Needs of the local population

Water is a need for all:

- 1.1** The **universal access to water and sanitation for urban and rural areas** is still unsolved globally: In 2017 more than 2.1 billion are lacking access to safely managed drinking water, more than 4.2 billion are lacking access to safely managed sanitation services and 3 billion people lacking water and soap for hand washing ([WHO/UNICEF JMP Report 2019](#)).
- 1.2** **Urban sanitation** is key to prevent health risks (through improving water quality) and to reduce water stress (through water recycling).
- 1.3** The global **water crisis** is real and threatens **economic development**. The crises is visible through the water cycle perturbations related to **climate change**.
- 1.4** The **lack of transboundary collaboration in water governance** is a crucial issue in many regions and **threatens water resources and peace**.
- 1.5** The lack of access to the safely managed basic services and the increasing water stress (also due to climate change) is a **root cause for migration**.
- 1.6** Water needs of the population can only be addressed in a **joint effort**, through humanitarian **emergency** assistance and long-term **development** cooperation.

1. Needs of the local population

3. Swiss interests

2. Added value of Swiss international cooperation

2. Added value of Swiss international cooperation

The Swiss water development sector is a strong and reliable partner in international cooperation:

- 2.1** It has a **strong Swiss know-how** on monitoring, treating and improving **water quality** (surface, groundwater, including sanitation and waste water treatment since 1960s) as well as on improving **water efficiency** (including less or no water for sanitation).
- 2.2** It invests in **combined approaches between technical solutions** (inclusive infrastructure, buildings, facilities, respecting nature, user-centered and locally adapted), **capacity building** (trainings) and **inclusive governance** (incl. clear legal frameworks) to ensure clear decision-making mechanisms and implementation in water and sanitation issues.
- 2.3** It uses and stands for a **consensus-based approach and neutrality** which allows interventions on transboundary water issues by integrating Blue Peace as a water diplomacy tool into foreign affairs policy.
- 2.4** It increases **stability** and allows **economic growth** through "Water for peace" by exporting a **decentralized water management model** to ensure better governance of public services.

3. Swiss interests

Water as priority in international cooperation is a Swiss interest:

- 3.1** It contributes to a **more secure world and to ensure a sound natural resource management**, which are elements described in the foreign policy strategy and are in line with the Swiss water and sanitation sector.
- 3.2** It supports to be aware and to import new **climate change mitigation strategies /solutions** from other countries for climate change adaptation.
- 3.3** It establishes **stable climate change mitigation institutions with international partners to reduce green house gas emissions and the effects of climate change worldwide, including Switzerland**.
- 3.4** It pushes for **efficient, long-term water resources management** globally to ensure economic growth through imports of water-intensive goods (Swiss water footprint).
- 3.5** It establishes a **stable institutional environment** to contributing to preventing massive migration by investing in sustainable municipal water and sanitation services.
- 3.6** It represents a **strong Swiss voice** in international fora through its four Swiss water networks.
- 3.7** It supports international activities of Swiss private sector, public and academic organisations with know-how in the water sector (SWP represents many of those organisations).

Arguments by SWP linked to the Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2021–2024

SWP demands to include **SDG 6** in sub-goals **1.1, 1.2, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3** in the dispatch as it is central to reach all 4 Swiss Development Goals:

O1 Economic development: Contribute to sustainable economic growth, market creation and employment creation		O4 Peace and Governance: Promote peace, the rule of law and gender equality		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The foundation for a stable economic development is the access to natural resources, including water Water is a major driver to create employment along many value chains 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universal access to safely managed drinking water and sanitation is a human right (not only improvement for some people but for all) Water is an instrument and a strategic important resource for peace and to reduce conflicts in transboundary issues Water, sanitation and hygiene plays a key role in gender and intergenerational equality 		
O1.1. Improve framework conditions for market access and create economic opportunities SDG 6	O1.2. Promote innovative initiatives by the private sector to facilitate the creation of decent jobs SDG 6	O4.1. Preventing conflicts, promoting peace, respect for international law SDG 6	O4.2. Strengthen and promote human rights and gender equality SDG 6	O4.3. Good governance, promote the rule of law SDG 6
<p>1.1.1. Water is an essential resource for economic stability (e.g. energy, hydropower) and governance (e.g. legitimacy by population, governance through Integrated Water Resource Management).</p> <p>1.1.2. Access to resources like water is a precondition for water-dependent private sector initiatives and investments.</p> <p>1.1.3. Holistic water management supports to increase resilience to climate change for economic activities, especially for agricultural production, which is a key sector in many development and transition countries.</p> <p>1.1.4. The water use along value chains of goods that serve Switzerland with water-intensive goods (Swiss water footprint) needs to be optimized through improving economic framework conditions for mutual benefits for all actors (producers, consumers) and the environment.</p> <p>1.1.5. The water sector accelerates sustainable access to safe water and sanitation by involving the private</p> <p>1.1.6. The Swiss water sector at the global level and along the value chain, but also locally by developing new types of decentralized business models and by promoting social entrepreneurship in collaboration with local authorities.</p> <p>1.1.7. The Swiss water ecosystem has further the capacity and reputation of advancing technology and innovation that helps to develop efficient solutions and fosters local production and job creation while advancing SDG 6.</p>	<p>1.2.1. For implementing solutions, the water sector engages strongly with the private sector and relies on private financing and innovation potential. The cooperation with the private sector unfolds the economic sustainability of the water sector's engagements. Private actors are not just users, but take responsibility in this cooperation for the social, economic and environmental systems in which they operate.</p> <p>1.2.2. The cooperation with Swiss companies (and academia) is needed to integrate more systematically their expertise and their know-how (e.g. on how to extract energy and fertilizers from wastewater) into the projects of United Nations agencies and Swiss cooperation.</p> <p>1.2.3. By creating networks of young water professionals, supporting their existing structures and improving their skills, the Swiss international water cooperation is attracting young talents in the water sector and is supporting to create a stimulating environment in which they can thrive, stay in the industry and become future agents of change.</p> <p>1.2.4. Water is a major driver of employment. The development of innovative initiatives by the water and sanitation sector provides essential employment in development and transition countries with the goal that 1 million professionals additional per year need to be trained to connect 3.5 billion people to a working water and sanitation system by 2030, which means to connect 70000 people per day.</p> <p>1.2.5. The Swiss training model of a "dual vocational training", which combines academic with professional training, allows the development of this sector. Vocational training programs need to be oriented towards local professionals that will build and operate the infrastructure of tomorrow, such as drillers, masons, plumbers, electricians, laboratory technicians and engineers.</p> <p>1.2.6. Innovative financial mechanisms are as crucial for the water sector as for other sectors. As an example, SWP has developed an innovative blended finance mechanism that allows to pay back providers of water-ecosystem services from indirect beneficiaries.</p>	<p>4.1.1. Hydrodiplomacy (e.g. through the Blue Peace movement) and Integrated Water Resource Management in all regions are key to prevent conflicts on water (e.g. transboundary issues).</p> <p>4.1.2. Switzerland is a recognized global neutral leader in the water sector. This positions Switzerland optimally to bring other actors together: this strong "Convening Power" is used as a role model in the field of hydrodiplomacy. It combines the creation of favorable framework conditions for political dialogue in water resource management with projects on data and knowledge management.</p> <p>4.1.3. As the Depositary State of the Geneva Conventions, Switzerland needs to commit itself to ensuring that the fundamentally civilian character is recognised and that water and sanitation infrastructure is better protected in conflicts.</p> <p>4.1.4. Switzerland needs to engage in fragile contexts by combining investment in infrastructure with a contribution to more inclusive governance.</p>	<p>4.2.1. Access to safely managed water and sanitation services is a human right. Switzerland is one of the world's pioneers in the field of human rights to water and sanitary facilities: our persistence to discuss, develop and defend the law and its application at the international level and in Switzerland was the key to progress.</p> <p>4.2.2. Water, sanitation and hygiene plays a key role in gender and intergenerational equality (e.g. menstrual hygiene management, reduction of water carrying by women and children</p>	<p>4.3.1. Switzerland's implementation of the 2030 Agenda has a strong governance component, including ensuring institutional and policy coherence for the water sector. Switzerland communicates globally its know-how in water both in technical as well as political terms.</p> <p>4.3.2. Engagement in hydrodiplomacy worldwide (e.g. through the Swiss Blue Peace movement) needs to be continued and systematically integrated into Swiss foreign policy.</p> <p>4.3.3. Good governance is a major component of successful Integrated Water Resource Management in all regions.</p> <p>4.3.4. Based on its national experience with managing water resources (50% comes from groundwater), Switzerland should also commit itself to a more systematic integration of groundwater into discussions on the governance and management of transboundary basins.</p> <p>4.3.5. Switzerland should foresee the upcoming water crisis and deploy an integrated and respectful approach towards water resources considering the new paradigms of climate extremes (floods, drought, etc.). This implies a change of mindset, considering rainwater harvesting and stormwater management as part of a solid water efficiency strategy.</p>

Arguments by SWP linked to the Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2021–2024

SWP reaffirms the importance of water for objective 1 and 3 as water is central for reaching all 4 Development Goals:

O2 Environmental development: Combat climate change and its effects and manage natural resources in a sustainable way		O3 Human development: Saving lives, providing quality basic services, reducing the causes of forced and irregular migration		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water is a main factor of causes and consequences of climate change Holistic water management is essential for adaptation and mitigation strategies to climate change Sustainable water resource management is core to preserve ecosystem services and biodiversity 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water is the key for an improved health, food security and to reduce disaster risks Lack of access to WASH services is a root cause for migration A large effort to achieve safely managed drinking water, sanitation and hygiene globally still needs to be made as billions of people are lacking access to safely managed WASH services (JMP Report 2019). 		
O2.1. Combat climate change and its effects	O2.2. Ensure sustainable management of resources	O3.1. Providing emergency aid and protecting the civilian population	O3.2. Disaster Risk Reduction, reconstruction, rehabilitation SDG 6	O3.3. Strengthening equal access to improved basic services
<p>2.1.1. SWP welcomes the environmental dimension highlighted in the message 2020 - 2024. We encourage the parliament to set ambitious but achievable mitigation measures in relation to global warming, which particularly affects water resources.</p> <p>2.1.2. In order to benefit from the know-how developed in other countries, Switzerland needs to participate in or initiate, as appropriate, applied (research) programmes on the active management of aquifers with countries particularly affected by climate change.</p> <p>2.1.3. Through water (too much, too little, too late, too early) climate change is affecting water and food security of the most vulnerable population, and puts them at greater risk of falling back into poverty.</p> <p>2.1.4. Switzerland needs to insist on the need to address the water cycle in its entirety in international fora. Visibility on the impact of glacier loss on river regimes due to climate change is limited and international collaboration on this theme is urgently recommended.</p>	<p>2.2.1. Targeting the global water crisis requires systemic change towards sustainable management of water resource as well as a change of paradigm where groundwater resources are being more and more polluted and depleted. The concept of non-renewable water should be introduced. At the same time, cooperation with all stakeholders, including the private sector, is important and necessary for achieving this change.</p> <p>2.2.2. To guarantee water and food security of the most vulnerable people, Swiss experience on climate (services), water resource management, resilient agriculture and stainable Natural Resource Management needs to be shared and applied globally.</p> <p>2.2.3. Nature-based solutions, healthy ecosystems and Disaster Risk Reduction are key ingredients for Natural Resource Management and climate change adaptation.</p> <p>2.2.4. Switzerland is seen as the water tower of Europe should be ahead of the recent developments regarding the efficient use of precipitations as rainwater harvesting, storm water management while promoting more respectful ways such as Nature-based solutions.</p> <p>2.2.5. Given that at least half of the world's population relies on groundwater as main source of drinking water, Switzerland can offer its experience in groundwater drilling and monitoring. The FOEN and the cantons have set up a national monitoring network that could serve as a model for other countries.</p>	<p>3.1.1. Swiss cooperation should better integrate the instruments of global cooperation, development cooperation and humanitarian aid, particularly in the water and sanitation sector, which has many potential synergies that could be better exploited</p>	<p>3.2.1. Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and Disaster Risk Reduction standards for water infrastructure are key to prevent and cope with water-related disasters (flooding, drought, etc.).</p> <p>3.2.2. To manage the disaster risk reduction and coping strategies, digitisation of infrastructure is necessary (for example for early warning systems) and needs to be integrated into reconstruction and rehabilitation of infrastructure. For preventing disasters, Switzerland needs to continue to promote innovative solutions for disaster risk reduction already in development projects (for example through multi-stakeholder IWRM approaches or by proposing innovative mechanisms for collaboration with the private sector).</p>	<p>3.3.1. Unequal access to water and sanitation services is a root cause for migration. Improving basic water services and promoting rural development to reduce inequalities that lead to migration must be a priority under this objective, to be in line with the guiding principle of the 2030 Agenda "Leave no one behind". Especially, low living standard in rural areas, including the lack of access to water and sanitation services, contributes to migration from rural to urban areas: In 2017 "eight out of ten people still lacking even basic services lived in rural areas. Nearly half lived in Least Developed Countries" (World Bank).</p> <p>3.3.2. Increasing sustainable access and quality services by scaling up proven approaches, technologies and investment mechanism is still key to reach SDG 6.</p> <p>3.3.3. To provide an improved access to basic water provision at high quality, Switzerland needs to invest heavily in the use of renewable energy in water and sanitation infrastructure that reduces the carbon footprint while increasing the independence and resilience of such systems. Moreover, it needs to contribute to the transition to automated network management systems, which often allow more efficient use, even for basic water supply systems or waste water treatment plants.</p> <p>3.3.4. Increased urbanisation could benefit from Swiss expertise on urban sanitation and waste water treatment.</p>