



# SDG goal 6 monitoring in the Kingdom of Bahrain

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## ABSTRACT

The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development goals (SDGs) is an ambitious, aspirational, and transformational in nature global development plan. It is comprised of 17 holistic, indivisible, and universally applicable goals that embed and integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development – the economic, social, and environmental dimensions. These goals are supported by 169 integrated targets and 232 global indicators to enable global monitoring and reporting on their implementation progress. Goal 6 (SDG 6) of this agenda – the water and sanitation goal – aims to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. As opposed to goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which was limited to access to water and sanitation facilities, SDG 6 of the sustainable development goals covers the entire water – cycle in an integrated manner. It is extended to address drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, protection of water-related ecosystems, water use efficiency and scarcity, and water management at both national and trans-boundary levels. Water and sanitation services are at the very core of the 2030 Agenda; thereby SDG 6 is cutting across all the other goals on both targets and indicator levels. This paper attempts to establish a baseline and methodological mechanism for monitoring and reporting on SDG 6 in the Kingdom of Bahrain. A trend analysis approach was used for tracking progress towards meeting the SDG 6 targets. According to the monitoring results, progress varies considerably. Bahrain has fully achieved the targets of increasing the coverage of the population having access to safely managed drinking water and sanitation services, and halving the proportion of untreated wastewater, well ahead of the agenda deadline. Progress on attaining the targets associated with the protection of water-related ecosystems and water use efficiency and water scarcity are, however, falling short at various degrees of implementation. The monitoring efforts also reveal that, despite the modest progress made on enhancing the institutional structures and capacity building in the water sector, implementation of integrated water resources management (IWRM) is still facing enormous challenges. In general, our analyses have shown that the natural water scarcity, high population growth rates, accelerated socio-economic development, non-efficient water use, shortages in financial outlays, and the lack of adequate technical and institutional capacities are the crucial factors hindering or decelerating progress on achieving SDG 6. Although sufficient data were made available for our analysis, data gaps were inevitable and require focused attention during the 2030 Agenda time frame. Among others, a set of potential management measures and policy interventions that may help fill these gaps and accelerate progress are recommended.

**Keywords:** Sustainable Development Goals; SDG 6; Kingdom of Bahrain; Water and Sanitation; Sustainable Water Management