

About the World Bank Group Water Department

The World Bank Group Water Department leads the institution's efforts to advance water security as a foundation for growth, jobs, and a livable planet. The Water Department brings together financing, global knowledge, and implementation expertise to deliver transformative and scalable solutions across three pillars—Water for People, Water for Food, and Water for the Planet—to help countries build the capacity to meet global water challenges.

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**THE WORLD BANK GROUP
WATER STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

WATER FORWARD

***Investing in Water for
People, Food, and Planet***

DECEMBER 2025

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List of Acronyms

CPSD	Country Private Sector Diagnostic
DFIs	Development Finance Institutions
DPO	Development Policy Operation
E&S	Environmental and Social
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCV	Fragility, Conflict, and Violence
FFI	Framework for Financial Incentives
FY	Fiscal Year
GCP	Global Challenge Program
GWSP	Global Water Security and Sanitation Partnership
IDA	International Development Association
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IFI	International Financial Institution
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
JIP	Joint Implementation Plan
MDB	Multilateral Development Bank
MIGA	Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
MLD	Million Liters per Day
MPA	Multiphase Programmatic Approach
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
PBC	Performance-Based Contract
PCG	Partial Credit Guarantee
PforR	Program-for-Results
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PRG	Partial Risk Guarantee
PSP	Private Sector Participation
PSW	Private Sector Window
PUB	Public Utilities Board
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SIP	Small Investment Program
SPV	Special Purpose Vehicle
TMP	Target Management Plan
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
VGf	Viability Gap Funding
WaterSAP	Water Sector Assessment Program
WBG	World Bank Group
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WRG	2030 Water Resources Group
WSIP	Water Strategy Implementation Plan
2iE	Institut International d’Ingénierie de l’Eau et de l’Environnement (International Institute for Water and Environmental Engineering)

Executive Summary

Water is the foundation of a livable planet. Water sustains lives and livelihoods, enables food production, drives economies and industry, and supports ecosystems. However, economic growth in many regions is already stifled by too much, too little or too polluted water. Over 2.1 billion people lack safely managed drinking water, and more than 3.4 billion live without adequate sanitation (JMP 2025). In addition, 4 billion people experience water scarcity every year, with several billion vulnerable to floods and droughts – and with impacts falling disproportionately on women and the poor.

Moreover, water security is part of the foundational infrastructure for growth and jobs. Key water-dependent economic sectors provide 1.7 billion jobs worldwide. Water is critical to **(1) creating jobs** through the design, construction, operations, and maintenance of water-related infrastructure; **(2) enabling jobs** by boosting the productivity of the workforce; and **(3) protecting jobs** by preventing diseases and mitigating the impacts of floods and droughts.

With the aim of scaling up and replicating proven solutions to address water security and aligned with the Fast Track Water Security and Climate Adaptation Global Challenge Program (GCP), the World Bank Group (WBG) developed a new Water Sector Strategy, which was discussed with the Executive Directors in July 2024, and which outlined three core pillars to build a water-secure world – Water for People, Water for Food, and Water for Planet.¹

This note lays out the WBG’s Water Strategy Implementation Plan (WSIP) to improve water security for 400 million people by 2030 through seven scalable solutions, as follows:

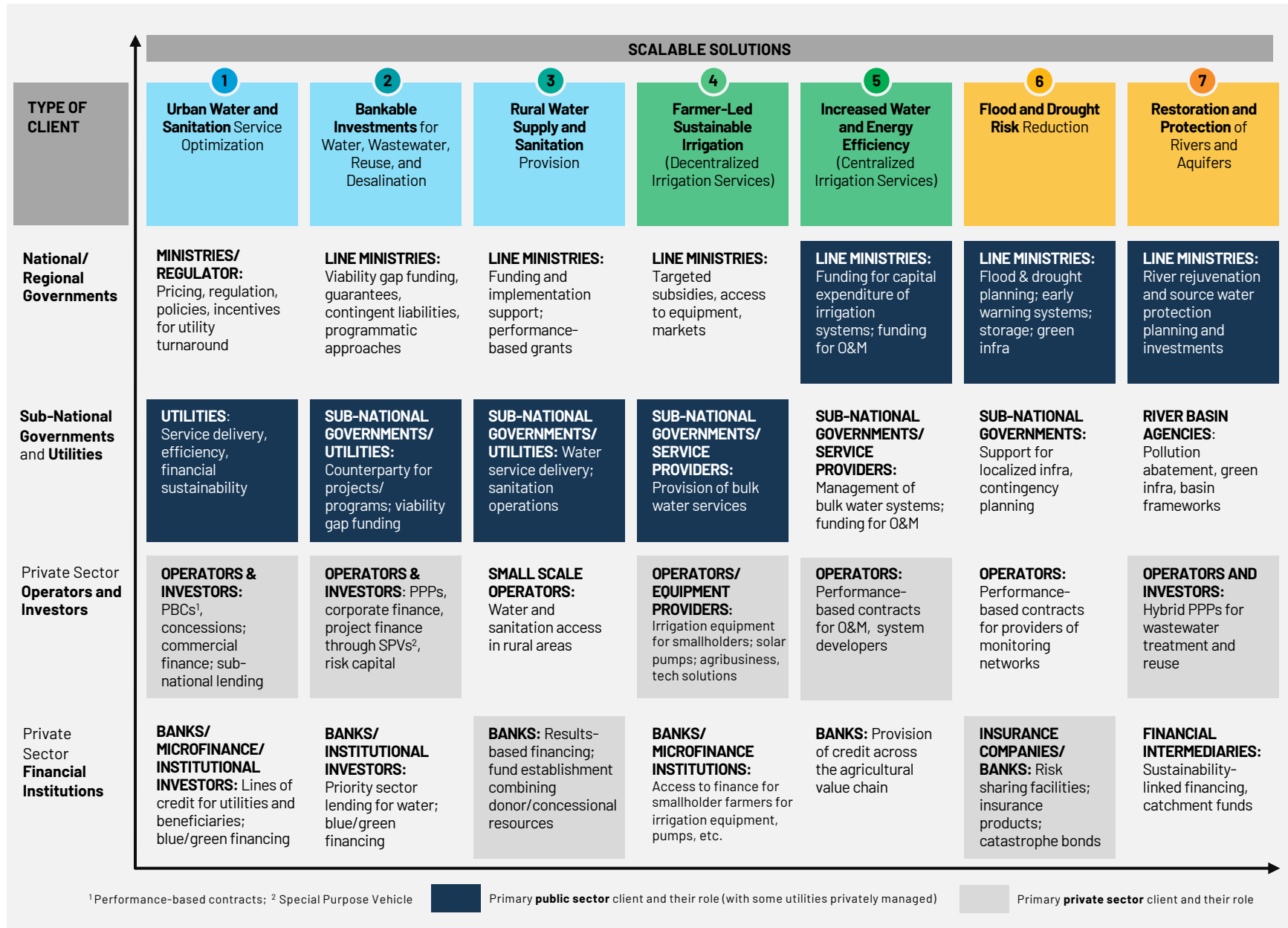
<p>Solution #1: Urban Water and Sanitation Service Optimization</p>	<p>Solution #2: Bankable Investments for Water, Wastewater, Reuse, and Desalination</p>	<p>Solution #3: Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Provision</p>	<p>Solution #4: Farmer-Led Sustainable Irrigation – Decentralized Irrigation Services</p>	<p>Solution #5: Increased Water and Energy Efficiency – Centralized Irrigation Services</p>	<p>Solution #6: Reduction of Flood and Drought Risk</p>	<p>Solution #7: Restoration and Protection of Rivers and Aquifers</p>
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The newly created WBG Knowledge Bank would support deployment of these solutions to key client segments, namely, national and sub-national governments, private sector operators, investors, and financial institutions (see Figure 1). WSIP aims to realize a bold ambition for water security through country-led Water Compacts for efficient deployment of WBG resources to countries committed to policy and regulatory actions; coordinated public and private sector interventions to mobilize capital investments at scale, and multiphase programmatic approaches to replicate and scale what works.

Given the scale of global water challenge, the WBG will expand collaboration with other public and private sector partners, including multilateral development banks, UN agencies, and philanthropies, to form a coalition called “Water Forward” to fast-track global water security and reach many more people in developing countries. Such knowledge and financing partnerships that leverage each other are urgently needed to create impact at scale. Water Forward would mobilize, align, and coordinate financial and technical support from partners around country water compacts to increase the effectiveness and sustainability of water related interventions.

¹ Annex I provides a summary of the WBG Corporate [Water Sector Strategy](#). The Fast Track Water Security and Climate Adaptation Global Challenge Program (GCP) provided the framework on which the World Bank Water Strategy is based. The WBG Water Strategy and this WSIP provide the ambition and plan, respectively, for scaling the GCP framework.

FIGURE 1: Client Segmentation for Each Scalable Solution



The Current Context: Water Security for a Changing World

Global Context

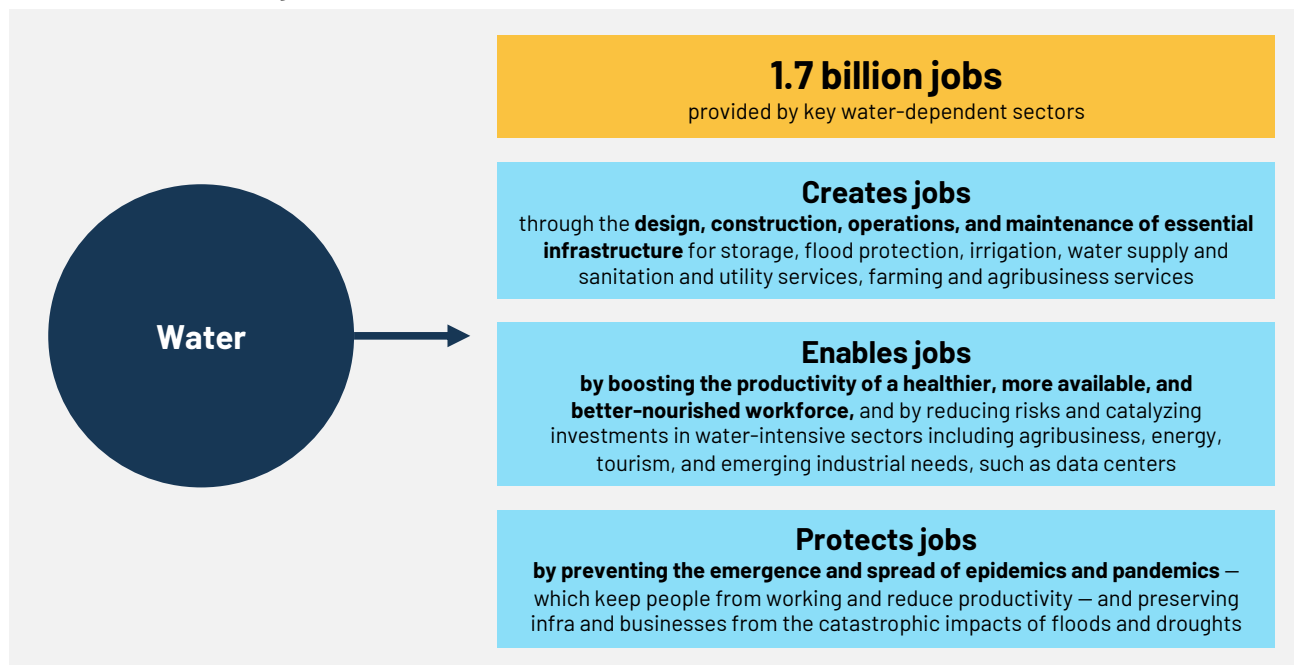
1. **In a world undergoing extraordinary political, social, and economic turbulence, water insecurity looms large.** Economic growth can be stifled by too much or too little water, or water that is polluted. Climate shocks – more frequent floods and droughts, and more unpredictable rainfall – further constrain growth and contribute to social tension and political instability.

Water and Jobs

2. **Water security is a core foundational element for economic growth, providing an opportunity to support job creation.** Water insecurity, on the other hand, weakens the workforce and stifles key job-creating sectors such as agriculture, energy, and industry. Building water infrastructure, using water resources more efficiently to meet increasing demand e.g. for data centers, ensuring access to clean water and improved sanitation – and thereby also improving nutrition, are all key to accelerating job creation at scale. Figure 2 highlights the intrinsic linkage between water security, the Water Strategy Implementation Plan (WSIP) and jobs.²

2 Water protects, enables and creates 1.7 billion jobs worldwide in water intensive sectors (roughly half of all jobs globally). Based on: ILO (2023) https://www.ilo.org/global/research/global-reports/weso/WCMS_865332/lang-en/index.htm (Global Employment); FAO (2024) data portal: <https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/OEA> (Agribusiness); IRENA (2021) Renewable Energy Report. https://irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Agency/Publication/2021/Oct/IRENA_RE_Jobs_2021.pdf (Hydropower); UNIDO Industrial Development Report (2024). https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/unido-publications/2023-11/IDR24-OVERVIEW_1.pdf (Manufacturing/Industry); World Steel Association 2024 <https://worldsteel.org/data/world-steel-in-figures/world-steel-in-figures-2024> (Metal and Minerals); WTTC (2023) <https://wttc.org/news-article/global-travel-and-tourism-catapults-into-2023-says-wttc> (Tourism); ILO (2021) Decent Work; WASH. <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/decent-work/lang-en/index.htm>.

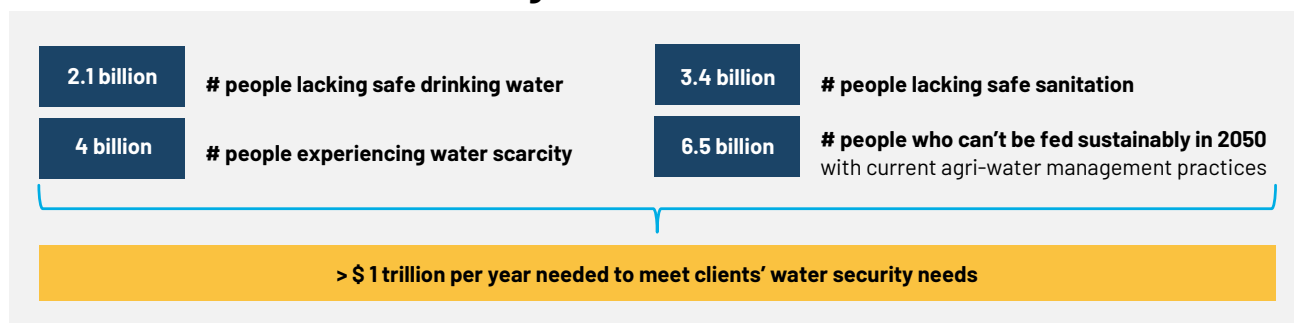
FIGURE 2: Centrality of Water to Jobs³



The Water Challenge and the Need for a World Bank Group Approach

3. **The scale of the challenge (Figure 3) calls for accelerated action and a radical departure from business as usual.** This will require cutting-edge knowledge and innovation, higher levels of investment, and coordinated public and private sector participation, highlighting the need for joint World Bank, IFC, and MIGA engagement at all levels in the form of a one World Bank Group (WBG) approach.

FIGURE 3: Core Water Sector Challenges



4. The WSIP proposes specific scalable solutions focused on client needs. It aims to leverage the WBG Knowledge Bank⁴ and global partnerships to mobilize support, develop and deliver coordinated approaches and build client capacity to meet the global water challenge.

3 Every \$1 invested in sanitation equates to approximately \$4.3 of GDP growth, mostly through avoided costs of people falling sick and being unable to work.

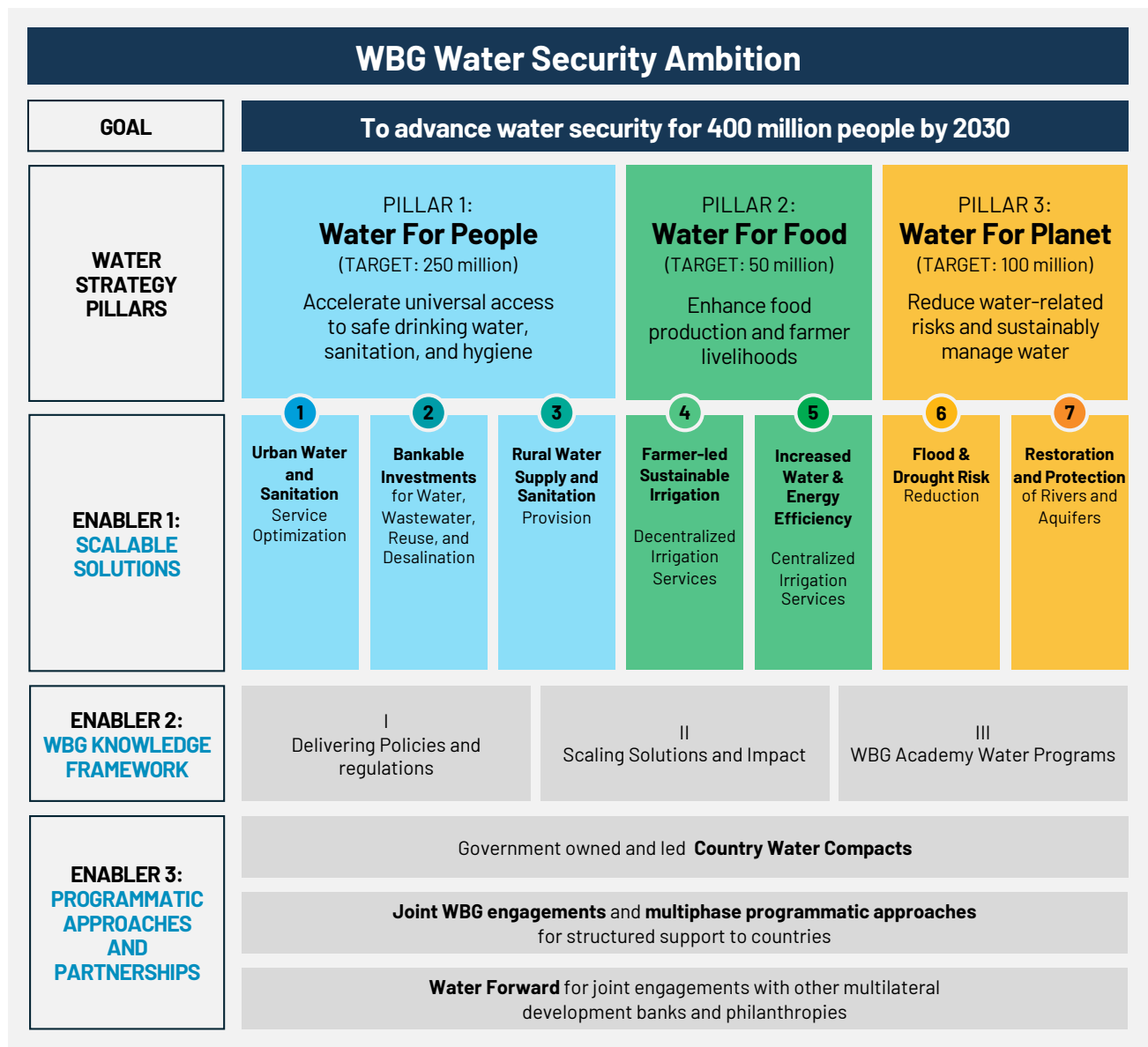
4 World Bank Knowledge Bank <https://www.worldbank.org/en/about/unit/brief/knowledge-bank> and World Bank Group Academy <https://academy.worldbank.org/en/home>

WBG Ambition on Water: The Water Strategy Implementation Plan

WBG Targets

- The WBG aims to improve water security for 400 million people by 2030 under this WSIP⁵. The WSIP is the WBG’s roadmap to implement its Water Strategy, “Building a water-secure future – for People, Food, and Planet” – (Figure 4) using its own resources, with a strong focus on job creation and leveraging more private and commercial capital.

FIGURE 4: WSIP at a Glance



5 The WSIP covers the period FY26–FY30. Targets are aspirational given the WBG pipeline and capacity, global needs, and the ambition needed to meet development targets.

6. The result targets and indicators for WSIP are in Figure 5. The Extended WSIP results framework is included in Annex II. The WSIP results framework is fully aligned with and draws exclusively from the WBG Corporate Scorecard.

FIGURE 5: Results Framework for WSIP⁶

Pillar	Targets	Outcome Indicators
Water for People	___ million people with access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and/or hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People provided with water, sanitation, and/or hygiene, of which (%) is safely managed. Sub-indicators likely to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People provided with at least basic water ▪ People provided with safely managed water ▪ People provided with at least basic sanitation ▪ People provided with safely managed sanitation ▪ People provided with basic hygiene
Water for Food	___ million people benefiting from enhanced food production and/or improved livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with strengthened food and nutrition security. Sub-indicators likely to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People fed as a result of increased agricultural/food production ▪ Beneficiaries of in-kind and food transfers, productive inclusion, cash-based interventions and/or food emergency programs ▪ People fed as a result of increased agricultural/food market linkages or trade ▪ People fed as a result of improved access to food from increased non-farming income
Water for Planet	___ million people with reduced water-related risks and/or benefitting from improved sustainable water management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficiaries with enhanced resilience to climate risks. Sub-indicators likely to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People benefitting from climate resilient infrastructure ▪ People benefitting from enhanced resilience of terrestrial and aquatic systems ▪ People benefitting from increased resilience of livelihoods, jobs, or firms ▪ People benefitting from increased financial system resilience ▪ People covered by disaster risk finance and insurance ▪ People benefitting from climate resilient planning, preparation, surveillance, and/or response

Client Focus

7. WSIP adopts a country-led model that tailors WBG scalable solutions to specific client needs, capacity, and creditworthiness to reach its ambitious targets. With the aim of fast-tracking impact, the WSIP focuses on countries (1) facing acute water challenges and (2) where governments are willing to prioritize reform, improve efficiency, and open the sector for private sector participation and private capital mobilization. A differentiated approach to country engagement will be taken so that low-income countries, Fragile, Conflict- and Violence-affected (FCV) situations and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are well represented.

⁶ Results will be reported at the level of corporate scorecard indicators (rather than at sub-indicator level). Sub-indicators for the Corporate Scorecard will be used to calculate the outcome indicator values, and will be tracked only if results are related to WSIP/ water-related outcome. Results for sub-indicators unrelated to water will not be reported (e.g. nutrition interventions only related to water will be reported). As reporting relies on the WBG Corporate Scorecard, the WBG Outcomes Department will undertake the results reporting in coordination with the Water Department.

Water Compacts

8. The approach to reaching an ambitious target under the WSIP is anchored in government-owned and led Water Compacts, which will take different forms depending on context. Water Compacts can **specify the overall ambition and commitment of governments to advance the water agenda, as well as targets for fund mobilization, including public funds to leverage private capital**. Country-led (or sub-national) compacts can include specific policies and regulations to be established to improve the operational and financial performance of the sector, action plans to reach the unserved and underserved populations, as well as to align partners and mobilize new financing, including private and commercial financing. This may include:
- Water laws and policies relevant to the water sector on water supply, sanitation, irrigation, water quality and/or water resources management, guiding sector direction and ambition, as well as the establishment of respective regulators and institutions when needed;
 - Government policies that commit to creditworthiness and financial sustainability of the water utilities;
 - Operational and financial improvement plans for large irrigation operators (public);
 - Medium-term basin level water resources development plans including cross-jurisdictional river basins that cover all key users and uses (e.g. agriculture, energy); and/or
 - Enabling policies for access to municipal and subnational financing.
9. Where such national or sub-national programs or plans for reform already exist, they will be deemed to be the basis of Water Compacts under the WSIP. There are ongoing national and sub-national programs supported by the Multiphase Programmatic Approaches (MPAs), Joint Implementation Plans⁷ (JIPs) or Development Policy Operations (DPOs) that may have many elements of a national or sub-national Water Compact. In other cases, governments will adopt requisite policies and regulations as part of a Water Compact, sometimes led by the highest levels of government. In the initial phase, 27 countries have been identified for potential water compacts of which 6 countries⁸ would have their Compacts finalized by the launch of Water Forward expected during IMF-WBG Spring Meetings in April 2026 in Washington DC. As additional countries finalize Water Compacts, the list of countries in Water Forward will be updated through a dedicated dashboard.

Client Typology

10. **Core clients for the WBG WSIP encompass (1) governments** – national, regional, sub-national, and utilities;⁹ as well as governmental partnerships such as cross-jurisdictional river basin organizations and regional economic communities; and **(2) private sector** – operators, investors, and financial institutions, as outlined in Figure 6.
- 10.1. **National Governments:** The WBG will support programmatic approaches at the national level, working through the Ministry of Finance and line Ministries, such as Ministries of Water, Irrigation,

7 A WBG Joint Implementation Plans is a tool designed to enhance strategic coordination, planning, and collaboration across the World Bank, IFC, and MIGA, to leverage the strengths of each institution for greater impact. It informs operations at a country level from both public and private sector perspectives.

8 Pending confirmation from governments, first cohort countries could include Brazil, Cambodia, Chad, Republic of Yemen, Senegal, and Uzbekistan.

9 While the majority of water utilities are public sector owned and managed, some utilities may be private.

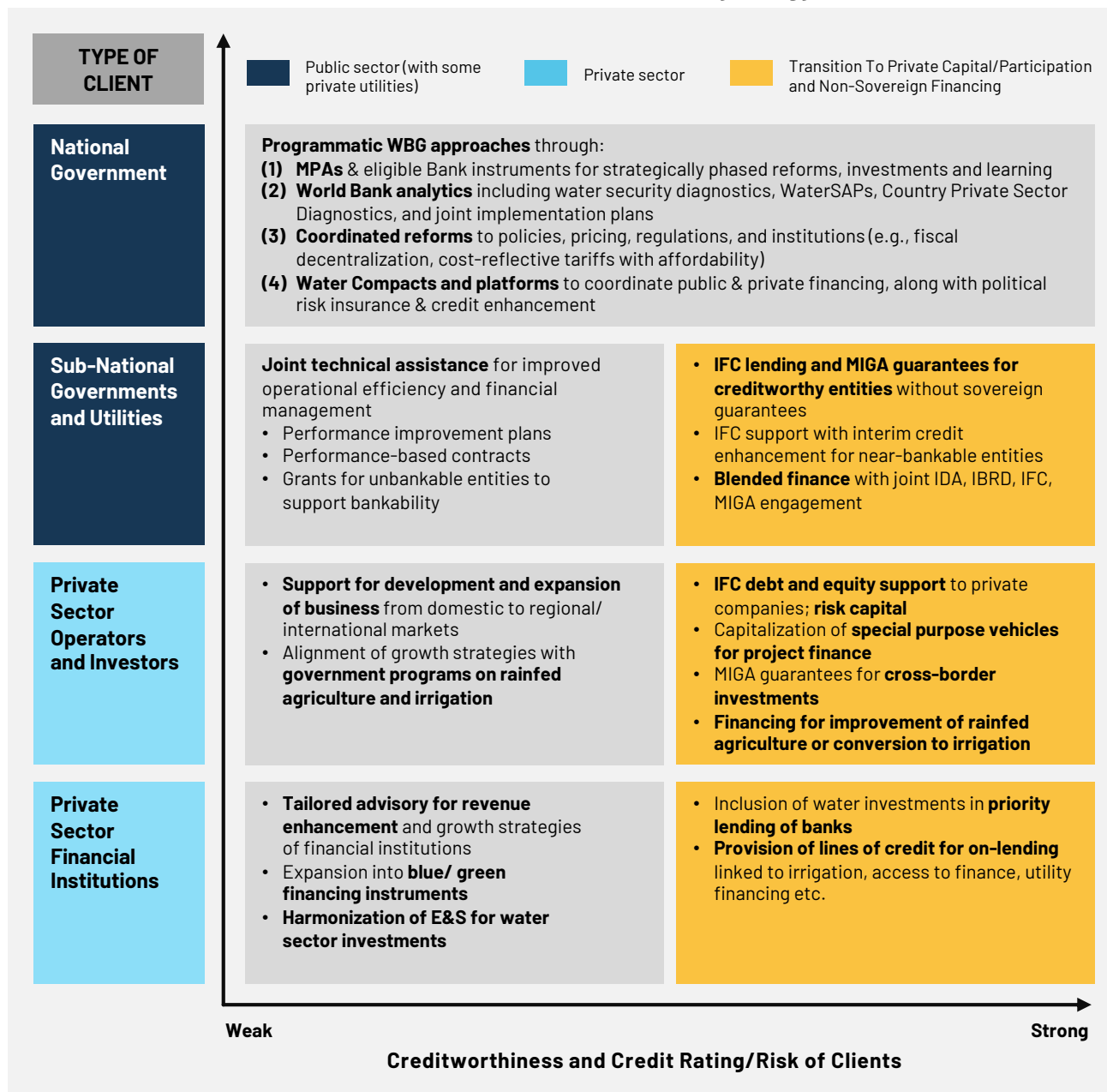
Energy, Agriculture, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Urban Development. Approaches combine **(1) use of the MPA**, which allows for strategically phasing reforms, investments and learning, together with **(2) core WBG analytics and framing** in the form of joint country diagnostics, such as Water Sector Assessment Programs (WaterSAPs) and Country Private Sector Diagnostics (CPSDs), which outline roadmaps for increasing the level of private sector participation and capital mobilization in a country, with **(3) reforms to the enabling environment**, including policies, institutions, and regulations, moving towards cost-reflective tariffs, and improving sector performance and efficiency, and **(4) Water Compacts**.¹⁰

- 10.2. **Sub-National Governments, Utilities and other types of Government Partnerships:** The WBG is supporting a coordinated effort to expand **access of creditworthy municipalities and utilities to commercial financing without sovereign guarantees**. In addition to technical assistance to improve the operational efficiency and financial sustainability of such entities to reach more beneficiaries and attain creditworthiness, this approach also facilitates reforms, where needed, such as fiscal decentralization, tariff improvements, and strengthened regulations to promote turnaround strategies. In addition, the WBG works with sub-national departments of water resources, irrigation, public works, and others to enhance performance and service delivery. Where sub-national Governments are responsible for water security, WBG will encourage adoption of Water Compacts at sub-national levels to ensure policy and regulatory actions in the sector. In addition, where requested by Governments, governmental partnerships such as cross-jurisdictional river basin organizations and regional economic communities can be supported in their work to advance water security subject to WBG policies and procedures.
- 10.3. **Private Sector Operators and Investors:** The WBG is supporting a combination of **(1) corporate finance** through debt and equity, **(2) project finance** through the capitalization of special purpose vehicles and other financing facilities, and **(3) risk capital** for project development and advisory services. **WBG guarantees** may mitigate country and project risks and facilitate investments to support private investors and commercial lenders. In cases where the credit rating of such clients is weak, the WBG may provide technical assistance for revenue enhancement and growth strategies.
- 10.4. **Private Sector Financial Institutions:** Expanding investments for water security also requires engagement with private sector financial institutions. WBG support for such clients includes technical assistance for the **expansion of product offerings to include blue and green financing**¹¹ instruments, along with appropriate environmental and social (E&S) standards. In addition, the WBG is supporting the **inclusion of water investments in priority lending commitments of banks**, along with the provision of **possible lines of credit for water-related investments for on-lending** by financial intermediaries.

10 The WSIP is rooted in the World Bank Group policies, procedures and practices. Country participation in WSIP and relevant content of country compacts are expected to be included in the Country Partnership Framework. WSIP intends to employ the full range of WBG tools and resources as requested by countries, including special initiatives such as the Framework for Financial Incentives (FFI) and IDA GROW.

11 Green financing refers to mobilizing and directing financial resources – via green bonds and loans – towards environmentally sustainable projects and initiatives, including renewable energy, emissions reduction, and resource management. Blue financing is a subset of green financing that directs use-of-proceeds and sustainability-linked instruments to target freshwater and marine-friendly activities, including water management, habitat restoration, sustainable aquaculture, and marine ecosystem conservation.

FIGURE 6: WBG Technical and Financial Support Linked to Typology of Client



11. **The private sector** is a key stakeholder to support the scaling of solutions for sustainable water security. The private sector brings not only additional capital, but also expertise, innovation, operational efficiency, and results-oriented delivery models. As described in Box 1, the WBG can play a catalytic role in enabling this by supporting national and service provider-level reforms, improvements to water pricing and creditworthiness, and providing guarantees and credit enhancement as well as advice on bankable structures for private sector participation across the water value chain. Good practice suggests that attracting private investment is most effective when projects are financially viable, risks are clearly mitigated and tariffs are cost-reflective, complemented by targeted subsidies where necessary. A predictable market environment with stable policy on tariffs, pricing of water and energy, subsidies, and coordination between funding partners including Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), Governments and the private sector is required to secure market development, including for SMEs which are essential for job creation.

BOX 1: Private Sector Participation (PSP) in Water

This is a critical lever for addressing the growing challenges in the water sector. The private sector brings not only additional capital, but also innovation, operational efficiency, and results-oriented delivery models. Currently PSP accounts for only ~10% of sector capex, compared to ~90% in digital and ~50% in transport and energy. While achieving similar levels of PSP in water may not be feasible, there is an opportunity to double PSP to 20% over the next decade. This would represent a significant shift, enabled by two converging trends: (i) sovereign governments are increasingly fiscally constrained, with limited capacity to meet rising investment needs; and (ii) growing recognition of the importance of cost-reflective water pricing to reduce wastage and ensure financial sustainability, as advocated by the Global Commission on the Economics of Water.

Where PSP can work – enabling conditions. To unlock this potential, the WBG will prioritize markets where enabling conditions are already in place or where targeted support to reform-oriented governments can help establish them. These conditions include (i) Regulatory and governance clarity; (ii) Sector financial sustainability; and (iii) Political and social acceptability of private involvement.

Types of PPP projects. The WBG will then deploy tailored structures to suit varying levels of maturity of the enabling conditions.

- In less mature markets, the approaches will focus on Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) models for bulk water supply and treatment as these can be ringfence for financing while reforms are being implemented. To support utility efficiency improvements, Management Contracts or Performance-Based Contracts (PBCs) will be leveraged. These will draw on hybrid financing structures blending public and private capital, with targeted instruments to support affordability: concessional finance, viability gap funding (VGF), and local currency solutions.
- Where public utilities and municipalities are operating efficiently and are able to provide quality services to the citizens, the WBG will support fiscal decentralization and enabling policies for access to subnational financing.
- In more developed markets with a track record of PSP the WBG will help structure concessions and fully commercial PPPs covering the full spectrum of water services. Financing will move away from concessional capital to fully commercial lending, leveraging sustainability finance (green and blue finance) and engaging with local investors to strengthen alignment.

Partnership Focus

12. Partnerships are a critical part of the WSIP and its broader ambitions. The World Bank Group alone cannot meet the immense needs of countries' water challenges. WSIP is part of a much larger coalition called **Water Forward**, which together with public and private sector partners, including bilaterals, multilaterals and philanthropies, aims to mobilize, align, and coordinate financial and technical support in order to reach millions of additional beneficiaries. Water Forward will ensure complementarity with government priorities and create a supportive ecosystem to catalyze investments in the sector and enable achievement beyond the World Bank Group target of reaching 400 million people by 2030. As foundational partners join Water Forward, a new target will be established, beyond the WBG target.

Enablers of Impact

13. **The WSIP aims to reach its ambitious target through three enablers of impact: (1) scalable solutions, (2) knowledge for impact at scale, and (3) scalability through programmatic approaches and partnerships.** Each of these is outlined below.

Enabler 1 — Scalable Solutions

14. The WBG aims to support programs of scalable solutions that combine infrastructure, policy, and private sector participation and capital mobilization, across each of the three water strategy pillars, as outlined below. The scalable solutions are aligned with the World Bank Group Gender Strategy, to accelerate gender equality into all water security interventions, focusing on women’s economic empowerment, leadership, and safety, recognizing that women are often primary water collectors and caregivers. The strategy promotes women in skilled jobs within the water sector and empowers them as leaders in water management. Further, water-related aspects of the WBG Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) have been included in – and informed the design of – the seven scalable solutions. *The lessons learnt in the identification of these scalable solutions are outlined in Annex III.*

Pillar 1 — Water for People

15. **Accelerating universal access to water and sanitation, and hygiene, with an indicative target of reaching 250 million people by 2030.** Proven, scalable solutions will be used to expand and improve access to water and sanitation, applying a differentiated approach for urban and rural contexts, with attention to gender, as well as unserved and underserved communities, and based on client needs. The WBG is closely collaborating with governments committed to reform, including by linking disbursements to critical policy, pricing, and institutional improvements. These measures will create stronger incentives for change and ensure that WBG investments are not only building assets, but also sustainable systems. The WSIP will build on WBG health initiatives¹² and prioritize water and sanitation in education and health care facilities— to reduce disease, improve health, and support human capital development. **Three scalable solutions are provided below, with country examples outlined in Figure 7.**
 - 15.1. **Scalable Solution 1: Urban Water and Sanitation Service Optimization.** The WSIP will enhance service delivery, prepare utilities and municipalities for private sector engagement, and enhance their creditworthiness by improving their operational and financial performance. This includes upgrading urban water and sanitation systems to reduce non-revenue water and improve asset management and service reliability, while implementing institutional reforms to support financial sustainability, such as cost-reflective tariffs and independent economic regulators. Performance-based contracts will be used to attract private operators and strengthen utility capacity and efficiency. Reforms, such as fiscal decentralization, can help unlock access to sub-national financing (states, provinces and municipalities), expanding access to capital without relying on limited sovereign funding and guarantees, and help create higher-value jobs. Demand-side solutions including behavioral change are particularly relevant for impact, for example to reach sanitation access goals.

12 Scaling Action to Achieve Health for All.

- 15.2. **Scalable Solution 2: Bankable Investments for Water, Wastewater, Reuse, and Desalination.** Under this solution, the WBG will support national and subnational governments, including relevant ministries, regulatory agencies, municipal authorities and utilities, in establishing the necessary regulations, institutional frameworks, and cost-recovery tariffs to improve water sector performance, develop projects across the water sector, including bulk-water, wastewater treatment and reuse facilities, as well as desalination projects—and in accessing financing for these projects. This will ensure that bulk water, reuse and desalination facilities are both economically viable and environmentally safe. Large-scale projects will be supported through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models, utilizing hybrid financing mechanisms such as viability gap funding and blended finance, in addition to WBG co-financing and derisking tools. In addition, for clients developing large data centers, new energy generation or other industries with sizable water requirements, new technology will be leveraged where needed to demonstrate and promote reuse and desalination, as well as appropriate regulation of new water uses. These will be critical for the sustainability of these new industrial sectors, which are central to the creation of jobs.
- 15.3. **Scalable Solution 3: Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Provision.** Such interventions will prioritize decentralized, community-managed systems (including those managed by women’s groups, indigenous communities or other local groups) and other appropriate management models that promote long-term sustainability and customization to local needs. They will also be adapted to the specific contexts of FCV situations and SIDS. Given the challenges in attracting large-scale private investment in rural areas, the WSIP will support local governments, community water committees, small-scale private operators and social enterprises by developing regulatory frameworks and enabling their participation in service delivery.

FIGURE 7: Scalable Solutions for Water for People

SOLUTION	SUCCESS CASES WHICH CAN BE SCALED	TO BE REPLICATED UNDER WSIP
<p>1</p> <p>Urban Water and Sanitation Service Optimization</p>	<p><i>Support for regulatory reform to catalyze investments for universal access, including leveraging private sector participation, combined with advisory and commercial financing to utilities to enhance service delivery via water loss reduction and upgrades of water and sewage networks</i></p> <p>BRAZIL – Companhia de Saneamento Básico do Estado de São Paulo (water & waste management company) & other utilities; National Water & Sanitation Agency (\$13bn in private investments)</p>	<p>PERU – Superintendencia Nacional de Servicios de Saneamiento (Regulator) & leading utilities – Programmatic approach to enable tariff and subsidy reforms, and potential avenues for commercial financing</p>
	<p><i>Drive utility transformation through performance-based/ matching grants and targeted capacity building</i></p> <p>INDONESIA – 59 utilities; Ministry of Public Works and Housing (\$160 m private capital mobilized; 1.6m households impacted)</p>	<p>KENYA – Nationwide Water Service Providers and Counties – Performance-based financing to improve water service providers’ financial performance, aiming to leverage commercial financing</p>
	<p><i>Scale safe sanitation by integrating on-site sanitation into utility business plans, using performance-based fecal sludge management contracts, household subsidies and regulatory reforms</i></p> <p>ZAMBIA – Lusaka Water and Sewerage Company (325K people with access to improved sanitation)</p>	<p>INDONESIA – Perusahaan Daerah Air Minum (Utilities), Badan Layanan Umum Daerah (Regional Public Service Agency in Indonesia) and local governments – Citywide inclusive sanitation with output-based grants to improve service delivery</p>
	<p><i>Support for fiscal decentralization to unlock sub-national lending and fund major water infrastructure projects without sovereign guarantees</i></p> <p>TÜRKIYE – Subnational governments of Mersin and Izmir</p>	<p>SOUTH AFRICA – Ethekwini Municipality – Financing for two wastewater treatment plants for industrial use with private sector participation</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Bankable Investments for Water, Wastewater, Reuse, and Desalination</p>	<p><i>Close the water loop by mandating wastewater reuse for industry, recovering energy from sludge, piloting indirect potable reuse and covering 90% of O&M costs through reclaimed water revenues</i></p> <p>INDIA – Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board (Utility) (380 MLD of new supply unlocked, 2.2 million people benefited incl. from reuse)</p>	<p>PERU – Lurin and Lake Titicaca government agencies – Safely managed sanitation and wastewater reuse through strengthened utilities, community providers, and sector institutions</p>
	<p><i>Support hybrid PPPs for wastewater treatment, reuse, and desalination to raise private capital</i></p> <p>INDIA – Ministry of Jal Shakti (Federal Water Ministry), National Mission for Clean Ganga, UP Jal Nigam, other utilities, municipalities (e.g., Varanasi, Haridwar, Mathura); private operators and investors (e.g., Tata Cleantech Capital) (\$650 million private capital)</p>	<p>UZBEKISTAN – Private Operators – 2 wastewater treatment plants to prevent untreated wastewater from polluting local rivers</p> <p>SENEGAL – Office National de l’Assainissement du Sénégal (national sanitation office) & Société Nationale des Eaux du Sénégal (state water company); ACWA Power (4.5 million people supported by wastewater treatment and desal)</p>

SOLUTION	SUCCESS CASES WHICH CAN BE SCALED	TO BE REPLICATED UNDER WSIP
<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p>Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Provision</p>	<p><i>Support rural sanitation services through capacity building, performance-based capital grants, and improved operations</i></p> <p>EGYPT, ARAB REP. – Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities; Egyptian Water and Wastewater Regulatory Agency (~13.5 million)</p>	<p>TANZANIA – Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency – Capacity building, operational support centers, regulatory improvements, and performance-based allocations for improved rural services</p>
	<p><i>Strengthen rural service delivery through coordinated, government-led, multi-donor investment platforms that align institutions, financing, and local implementation</i></p> <p>ETHIOPIA – ONE WASH PROGRAM – Ministry of Water and Energy, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, and the Water Resources Development Fund (3 million people reached)</p>	<p>PAKISTAN – Sindh Rural WASH Services Company – Improved rural WASH services through governance improvements, province-wide investment planning, and community involvement</p>

Pillar 2 – Water for Food

16. **Enhance food production and farmers’ livelihoods, with a target of reaching 50 million people by 2030.** The WBG will scale up solutions that expand farmers’ access to equipment, services, and finance—boosting the productivity of both rainfed and irrigated systems and ensuring they operate reliably and are well-maintained, and improve water use efficiency where needed. By ensuring reliable water access and irrigation services and helping governments create the right conditions—such as better-targeted subsidies and reduced financial risks—this pillar paves the way for the WBG’s AgriConnect¹³ initiative, which mobilizes private investment to help small farmers raise productivity and expand their operations. **Two scalable solutions are outlined below, with country examples highlighted in Figure 8.**

16.1. **Scalable Solution 4: Farmer-Led Sustainable Irrigation - Decentralized Irrigation Services.**

Aligned with the AgriConnect initiative, the WBG will scale up support to strengthen equipment and service markets for smallholder farmers and cooperatives and improve their access to affordable finance, including programs for women. This will include financial incentives such as targeted subsidies which have increased the adoption of solar pumps in several countries, opening up opportunities in emerging carbon markets. The WBG will also support the uptake of disruptive technologies, such as payment apps, which increase transparency and access for farmers to suppliers, thereby reducing market fragmentation and improving farmers’ access to finance.

16.2. **Scalable Solution 5: Increased Water and Energy Efficiency - Centralized Irrigation Services.**

The WBG will support operators of centralized irrigation systems to break the build-neglect-rebuild cycle, by improving irrigation service and ensuring sustainable funding for O&M. Modernization can reduce operating costs, boost agricultural productivity, and improve cost recovery from farmers. The WBG will support performance-based contracts, notably for O&M, which will include asset management planning; technology upgrades such as energy-efficient pumps and the use of solar pumps; and disruptive technology for payments like smart-prepaid water meters and/or e-payments. Public sector investments will be used to leverage private sector involvement, coupled with guarantees to mobilize commercial capital for wastewater treatment and reuse as an additional source of agricultural water, enabling more job creation.

13 AgriConnect is the World Bank Group’s initiative to turn small-scale farming into an engine of lasting growth, jobs, and food security.

FIGURE 8: Scalable Solutions for Water for Food

SOLUTION	SUCCESS CASES WHICH CAN BE SCALED	TO BE REPLICATED UNDER WSIP
<p>4</p> <p>Farmer-Led Sustainable Irrigation</p> <p>Decentralized Irrigation Services</p>	<p><i>Target subsidies to reduce the cost of irrigation and promote farmer contributions for irrigation equipment; digital portal for micro-irrigation subsidy disbursement, reducing deployment time and increasing access to irrigation</i></p> <p>UGANDA – Local governments (3,200 farmers benefitted, producing food for ~20,000 people)</p> <p>INDIA – Government of Uttar Pradesh (Targeted subsidies to reduce the cost of irrigation and promote farmer contributions for irrigation equipment)</p>	<p>KENYA – Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation; National Irrigation Authority; private water companies – Access to irrigation technology, result-based financing, and digitalization; IFC investments in micro-irrigation companies</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Increased Water and Energy Efficiency</p> <p>Centralized Irrigation Services</p>	<p><i>Facilitate modernization of off-farm irrigation systems</i></p> <p>MOROCCO – Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Fisheries, Rural Development, Water and Forest; Regional Agricultural Development Offices of Doukkala, Gharb, Haouz, and Tadla (~9,800 farmers benefitted, producing food for ~66,000 people)</p> <p>INDIA – Irrigation and Waterways Department of the Government of West Bengal (~400,000 farmers benefitted through irrigation and agriculture improvements, producing food for ~1.8 million people)</p> <p>CHINA – Ministry of Water Resources and provinces: Water-saving innovations in water-scarce regions like Hebei, Shanxi, and Ningxia, using remote sensing to improve water use efficiency, productivity, pricing reforms (952,288 beneficiaries)</p>	<p>UZBEKISTAN, TAJIKISTAN, and KYRGYZ REPUBLIC – Ministries of Water Resources – Central Asia MPA to improve irrigation service delivery</p> <p>ETHIOPIA – CRISP (Ministries of Irrigation and Lowlands, Water and Energy, and Agriculture)</p> <p>GHANA – (Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ghana Irrigation Development Authority) – Performance-based contracts and conveyance infrastructure modernization</p> <p>TÜRKIYE – Devlet Su İşleri (state agency responsible for water resources and irrigation) – Support for irrigation service and water efficiency for 200,000 beneficiaries</p>

Pillar 3 – Water for Planet

17. **Reduce water related risks and sustainably manage water resources, with an indicative target of reaching 100 million people by 2030.** The WBG will assist national and local governments secure water of an adequate quantity and quality to support the long-term development of people, food production, and ecosystems – while also protecting communities from water-related disasters. At the foundation of the WSIP, the Water for Planet pillar includes **two scalable solutions for water management, with country examples highlighted in Figure 9:**

17.1. **Scalable Solution 6: Reduction of Flood and Drought Risk.** The WBG supports national and local governments in early intervention and planning to reduce flood and drought impacts through detection, establishment of early warning systems and response measures, land and water policies, and physical interventions (such as dikes, reservoirs, polders, and floodplain preservation), and nature-based solutions. Better management of existing water storage infrastructure, including dam rehabilitation and retrofitting infrastructure, will reduce risks and increase the benefits of hydropower, flood protection, and irrigation. This will include improving dam infrastructure to cope with increased floods and repurposing existing dams to also reduce floods – as well as building a new cadre of experts in dam safety and water resource management through university programs.

17.2. **Scalable Solution 7: Restoration and Protection of Rivers and Aquifers**, and water resource management. WBG will support restoration and management of rivers, lakes, and aquifers and other water-related ecosystems through clean-up, pollution abatement; wastewater treatment and re-use; and restoration and protection of green infrastructure (e.g., landscapes, including rainforests, watersheds, wetlands and floodplains). In addition, the WSIP will support governmental clients – in coordination with their public and private counterparts – in setting up basin-level frameworks and targets, cross-jurisdictional basin investment plans for effective management of shared waters, and in building other capacities for management of water quality and quantity (including supply and demand-side management, related biodiversity, and systems for monitoring and enforcement).¹⁴ It will facilitate commercial financing for large investments, such as wastewater treatment plants and re-use, including hybrid PPPs and guarantees, as well as with planning and regulatory capacity for these investments. Furthermore, the WBG will scale protection of surface and groundwater sources, as well as blue and green water management. This requires enhancing the capacity of regional, national, and local agencies, including cross-jurisdictional and transboundary basin organizations, to establish proper policies, and engaging stakeholders to shift behavior.

FIGURE 9: Scalable Solutions for Water for Planet

SOLUTION	SUCCESS CASES WHICH CAN BE SCALED	TO BE REPLICATED UNDER WSIP
6 Flood and Drought Risk Reduction	<i>Floods: Improve forecasting, early warning for floods, combined with green/ grey infra to protect communities (e.g., dry polders, reservoirs, dikes, wetlands)</i> ARGENTINA – Chief of Cabinet of Ministries, Buenos Aires City (47,000 people) ROMANIA – Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests, National Administration “Romanian Waters” (12 rivers with flood risk management plans) PHILIPPINES – Dpt. of Environment and Natural Resources, Dpt. of Public Works and Highways, Metro Manila Dvt. Authority (600,00 people)	TÜRKIYE – Directorate General of State Hydraulic Works and Directorate General of Water Management with local governments – Improvements to flood early warning systems and infra for flood protection in 7 river basins
	<i>Drought: Monitoring and early warning systems to trigger coordinated responses to droughts (e.g., water tankers to municipalities experiencing water shortages) and invest in long-term measures to reduce drought (water storage, irrigation, conservation plans etc.).</i> BRAZIL – Ministry of National Integration and regional governments (27 million people covered by drought monitoring/response)	JORDAN – Ministry of Water and Irrigation and Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation – Drought management systems, monitoring, and contingency planning
	<i>Dam safety: Rehabilitating and reoperating dams to cope with increased floods in climate change; repurposing existing irrigation dams to reduce floods; and building capacity for risk-based dam safety management</i> SRI LANKA – MASL/Ministry of Mahaweli Dev and Environment (80 dams) INDONESIA – Ministry of Public Works and Housing (21.5 million people benefitting, 127 dams)	NIGERIA – Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation – National dam safety protocol and risk register; rehabilitate high priority dams

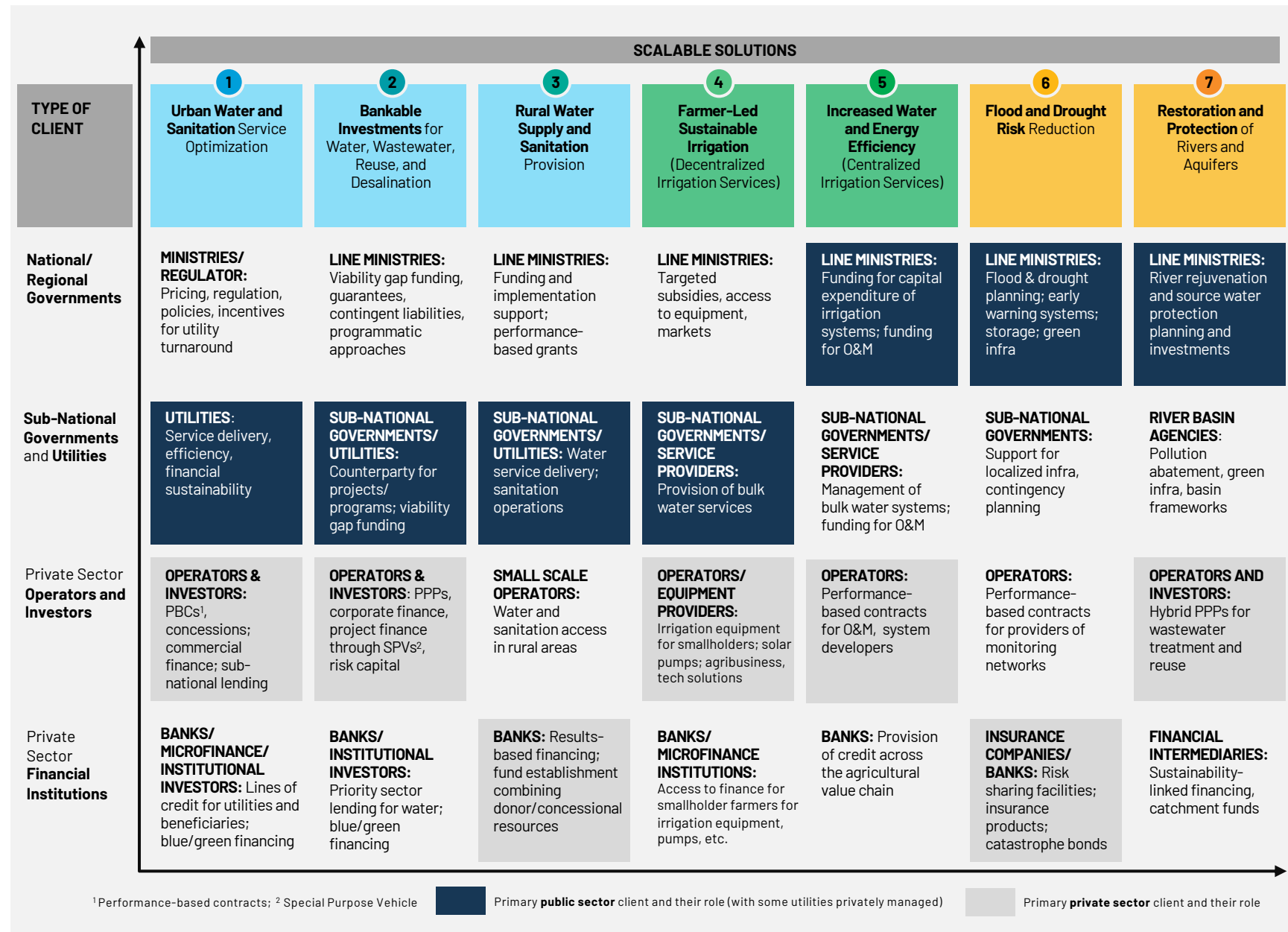
14 Biodiversity and water security are deeply linked: healthy ecosystems with rich biodiversity provide natural water filtration, water storage, flood control, and stable supplies, acting as crucial “green infrastructure.” At the same time, water is essential for biodiversity itself, with disruptions to one threatening the other through pollution, land use changes, habitat loss, and climate change impacts, making nature-based solutions vital for both.

SOLUTION	SUCCESS CASES WHICH CAN BE SCALED	TO BE REPLICATED UNDER WSIP
<p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p>Restoration and Protection of Rivers and Aquifers</p>	<p><i>Restoration: Manage and restore rivers, lakes, and aquifers through clean-up, pollution abatement, wastewater treatment (WWT) and re-use, and biodiversity protection. Establish basin-level frameworks and targets, and infrastructure for pollution prevention, reduction, and treatment</i></p> <p>CHINA- YANGTZE AND YELLOW RIVERS – Provincial agencies and River Conservancy Commission, Ministry of Water Resources (80 river chief system platforms integrated, ~1,200 metric tons of plastic waste prevented from entering water bodies)</p> <p>COLOMBIA - Corporación Autónoma Regional de Cundinamarca (Water quality standards improved; multi-functional areas recuperated)</p>	<p>INDIA - Ministry of Jal Shakti - Restoration of 6 river basins – proposed – River basin planning through regulation, monitoring, and financial incentives. State and municipal co-financing for wastewater management systems using PPPs with guarantees, designed to achieve measurable river health improvements.</p>
	<p><i>Protection: Protect water sources and support catchment management. Create new sustainable livelihood practices that improve water quantity and quality.</i></p> <p>MALAWI - Ministry of Irrigation and Water Development (30,582 ha of land under sustainable landscape management practices)</p> <p>ETHIOPIA - Ministry of Agriculture (556,580 ha under sustainable landscape management practices)</p>	<p>HORN OF AFRICA GROUNDWATER PROGRAM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KENYA - Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, Intergovernmental Authority on Development • SOMALIA - Ministry of Energy and Water Resources • ETHIOPIA - Ministry of Water and Energy Sustainable development and monitoring of groundwater resources in borderland areas.

Scalable Solutions for Every Client Typology

18. Across each of the scalable solutions, the WBG will engage with its core clients to improve water security. Due to the fragmentation of water sector responsibilities in many developing countries across multiple ministries, departments, agencies, and service providers at the national and sub-national levels – often with overlapping mandates and complex governance structures – a central tenet of the WSIP approach is working with clients at different levels of government to streamline planning, allocations, and decision-making for the sector. Such improvements provide a more stable enabling environment for the mobilization of private capital, expertise, and innovation through reforms to governance, creditworthiness of service providers, and bankability of investments.
19. While the WBG works with all of the core clients identified in Chapter 2, Figure 10 below segments (1) the primary **public sector** client and (2) the **primary private** sector client for each of the scalable solutions.

FIGURE 10: Client Segmentation for Each Scalable Solution¹⁵



Differentiated Approaches for Fragility, Conflict, and Violence (FCV) Contexts and Small Island States

20. Water insecurity can amplify FCV risks, while small island states may lack resilience to water-related extreme events. Given the unique challenges in FCV contexts and small island states, linked to capacity constraints, risks to private sector engagement, and in some cases security risks, the WBG is adopting a differentiated approach, tailored to these contexts, as highlighted in Figure 11. For example, the IDA-Private Sector Window/MIGA Guarantee Facility is a key tool to enable private investments in these contexts where private capital is more difficult to flow. There are currently 17 FCV countries in the WSIP pipeline, covering scalable solutions across the three WSIP pillars. WSIP will be aligned and seek to maximize synergies with the WGB FCV Strategy (under discussion) and the Small States Strategy (under preparation) and the associated implementation plans. It will support scaling up engagements in FCV situations where water-resource constraints are a primary driver of conflict, as well as in small states (including islands) facing water challenges.

FIGURE 11: Scalable Solutions Adapted to FCV Contexts and Small Island States

Context	Fragility, Conflict, and Violence (FCV)	Small Island States
Context-Specific Challenges	Institutional weaknesses	Nascent markets
	Security risks	Capacity constraints
	Climate shocks	
Differentiated Approaches	From emergency response to long-term service development	Capacity building at national/ local levels
	Results-based sector strengthening	Operational efficiency improvements
	Community-driven local planning	Derisking of private sector investments
	Co-financing with others, including international development agencies and climate financiers	
Examples of Engagement	CLIENT: Haiti Water and Sanitation Directorate (DINEPA)	CLIENT: Utility - Solomon Water
	SCALABLE SOLUTION #3: Decentralized rural water supply and sanitation reaching 250,000 people	SCALABLE SOLUTION # 1: Improve access to clean water and sanitation for 34,000 people, nearly 50% of the total population
	ENGAGEMENT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPP at Lascahobas with IFC support, preparing private operator contract, professionalizing rural service delivery • UNICEF emergency WASH and UNOPS-supported studies and training • Community-led WASH investments through NGO window with grants financing commune subprojects • Results-based sector strengthening with verification using performance-based contracts 	ENGAGEMENT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design-Build-Operate (DBO) contract facilitated with private sector participation through blended financing • Operational improvements made through non-revenue water reduction • Water utility institutions strengthened • Co-financing facilitated from Asian Development Bank (ADB); European Union (EU); and counterparts

Enabler 2 — WBG Knowledge Bank for Impact at Scale

21. Through WSIP, the WBG will expedite the translation of knowledge into action by leveraging the WBG Knowledge Bank. The **Policy and Regulation** team will deliver policy and regulatory guidance, promote new technologies, and help countries to develop policies, laws and regulations to improve efficiency, enhance financial sustainability, and promote private sector participation through DPOs, Program-for-Results (PforRs), and upstream innovations. The **Solution and Impact** team will scale and replicate high-impact projects using WBG instruments, including IBRD/IDA loans, IFC investment and advisory services and MIGA guarantees. It shares replicable knowledge for the three pillars and for cross-cutting issues such as gender (see Figure 12) through communities of practice and provides operational support to regions including through dedicated SWAT teams.
22. **Global and regional WBG Knowledge hubs.** The WBG Knowledge Bank will leverage the centers of excellence in client and partner countries and blend them with WBG experience so that operational teams and their client counterparts can learn lessons and scale them, as illustrated in Figure 12. Key hubs include the Singapore Water Center, established with the Government of Singapore and the Public Utilities Board (PUB), which is supporting clients on wastewater reuse, desalination and urban water security. In Burkina Faso, the newly inaugurated Africa Water Center, in partnership with the International Institute for Water and Environmental Engineering (2iE),¹⁶ hosts the Defying Drought WBG Academy Impact Program to help clients in the Sahel prepare for and tackle drought. The Tokyo Development Learning Center provides capacity building for clients on urban flood management and more. These hubs act as engines of innovation and replication, turning proven ideas into scalable solutions that deliver impact on the ground.
23. **Innovation, digital transformation, smarter use of data, and leveraging private finance are essential in delivering impact at scale.** WBG Academy offerings and the new data 360 initiative will help clients organize and apply data to improve operational performance, unlock private finance, and replicate proven solutions across countries. The WBG will build on successful engagements¹⁷ and leverage partnerships with leading global technology partners to strengthen data systems, deploy AI-enabled services, and connect farmers, utilities, and service providers to markets and finance across the seven scalable solutions. This can create a virtuous loop where transparency builds trust, lowers risk, enables credit, and crowds in private capital. Key areas of focus include: digitalization, artificial intelligence (including practical “small AI tools” that work on basic devices), remote sensing, and data analytics.

¹⁶ In French: Institut International d'Ingénierie de l'Eau et de l'Environnement (2iE)

¹⁷ For example, the UP PRAGATI Accelerator (Uttar Pradesh Program for Agricultural Transformation and Increased Incomes), led by the WBG Water Department in partnership with Microsoft, has already demonstrated through large-scale pilots how remote sensing, data-driven monitoring, and digital advisory services can improve irrigation performance and water productivity at scale. This model is now being adapted and replicated in other states and markets.

FIGURE 12: WBG Knowledge Bank Work to Replicate Learning and Build Capacity

	Examples of Replicable Knowledge			Capacity Building
Water For People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standardized package of support on reuse “Scaling ReWater” “Utilities of the Future” and “Citywide Inclusive Sanitation” to advance WSS service delivery models 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digitalization & AI as key enablers to boost efficiency and decisions through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Digital Water for utilities (smart metering, NRW, digital twins for energy & O&M, AI-based service) ii) Water Informatics: water accounting, remote sensing-based Irrigation monitoring, digital twins, AI-based Early Warning Systems, AI-enabled Advisories 	<p>Equal Aqua Platform supports gender diversity in water sector jobs (data collection and benchmarking, peer-to-peer support and knowledge exchange operational support, capacity building and training)</p>	<p>WBG Academy Water Program</p> <p>Impact Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‘Defying Drought’ – WBG Academy Program with 2iE Institution in Burkina Faso Enabling clients to implement scalable solutions for drought and agricultural water management <p>Practitioners Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Utility Creditworthiness eLearning course and cohort program Utilities for Climate (U4C) peer-to-peer workshops Circular Economy eLearning course M&E Capacity Building <p>Singapore Water Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utility Leaders training program with PUB, Singapore’s National Water Agency Urban NEWater Security training Urban Flood Management
Water For Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‘Irrigation Operator of the Future’ toolkit to enhance performance, creditworthiness, and service delivery ‘Farmer-Led Irrigation Development’ guide for irrigation development by farmers ‘Handbook for Scaling Irrigation Systems’ AgriConnect Initiative 			
Water For Planet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Framework for ‘Integrated Water Storage Planning’ Drought risk and resilience assessments Nature-based solutions for water security 			

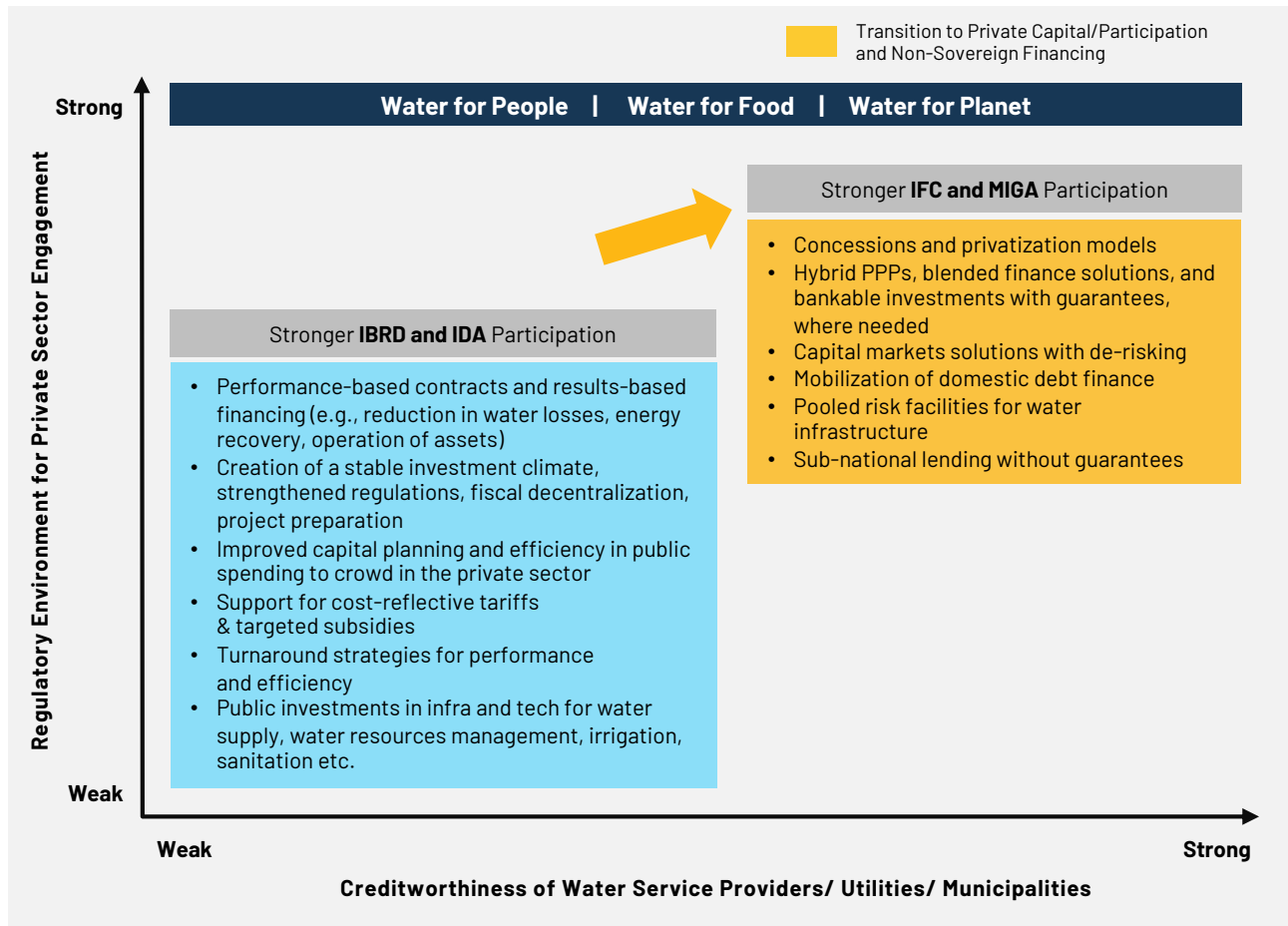
Enabler 3 — Programmatic Approaches and Partnerships

24. In meeting the goals under this WSIP, reliance on public resources alone will be insufficient, necessitating greater involvement and alignment of DFI partners, the private sector and philanthropic organizations. **Public funds** must be spent more efficiently and wisely to create the enabling environment needed to attract private investments in water. Private participation can include **private operators** that can improve efficiency by bringing operational know-how, innovation, and enhanced service delivery to support overall sustainability of the sector. **Commercial capital**, including funds (private equity, infrastructure and pension) and banks, can provide financing at scale to expand investment in water infrastructure. **Concessional capital**, from impact investors, philanthropies, and development partners such as MDBs and climate funds, can be deployed strategically to de-risk commercial investments, crowd in more financing, and enhance affordability.

Joint WBG Approach to Unlock Additional Capital

25. Crowding in more commercial capital to meet the investment needs for water security requires a joint WBG approach, to create the enabling environment for private sector engagement and improve the creditworthiness of water service providers and municipalities (Figure 13). Increases in private participation and financing must be supported by policies, institutions, and regulations, including a transition period during which risk mitigation instruments and concessional financing will be needed. Reforms will aim to create a stable regulatory environment and a financially sustainable sector, with a balanced risk-reward allocation between the public and private sector, which can attract private sector participation and capital. MIGA’s political risk and non-honoring guarantees are uniquely suited to de-risk regulatory, payment, and contractual risks in water PPPs, sub-sovereign utility financing, and corporate investments.

FIGURE 13: Differentiated WBG Support Based on the (1) Creditworthiness of Water Service Providers and Municipalities and the (2) Regulatory Environment for Private Sector Participation



26. To promote long-term sector reforms, including those that support the mobilization of private capital and private sector participation, the use of MPAs will be employed. This structure enables faster decision-making, creates predictable pathways for project preparation and implementation, and provides sustained support for reforms and their implementation over a longer period. In addition, the WBG is supporting the use of Joint Implementation Plans, which leverage the expertise and instruments of the entire WBG to address sectoral challenges for clients. Figure 14 provides ongoing examples of such joint support.

FIGURE 14: Examples of Ongoing Support to Countries

SENEGAL	AZERBAIJAN
CLIENT	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ONAS (National public agency - wastewater treatment plant) • SONES (Senegal state-owned national water company - desalination) • ACWA Power (Private operator) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Economy (PPP contracting agency) • ASWRA - Azerbaijan State Water Resources Agency • ACWA Power (Private Operator)
IMPLEMENTATION OF SCALABLE SOLUTION # 2: BANKABLE INVESTMENTS FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT, REUSE, AND DESALINATION	
<p>FIRST DESALINATION PLANT IN SENEGAL Development of a bankable project for desalination to serve 4 million people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of WB IDA to make the plant financially viable • Investments from IFC alongside private companies to finance the plant <p>WASTEWATER TREATMENT PPP Development of a bankable project for wastewater treatment, which doubles project reach from 300,000 to 600,000 beneficiaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of WB IDA to make the plant financially viable • IFC support to bring in a private operator and support potential private capital • Potential MIGA/ World Bank guarantees to insure against political and payment risks that may impact the private investors and lenders 	<p>NEW DESALINATION PLANT IN BAKU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFC support for bringing in a private operator and to mobilize private capital for the desalination PPP in Baku • WB support to reduce high levels of water losses • Potential MIGA and WB guarantee to insure against political and payment risks
EXPECTED IMPACT	
<p>Water security for 4 million people through desalination Pollution reduction through the design of a wastewater treatment plant \$ 1 billion in private capital mobilization</p>	<p>Water security for 1.5 million people through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New water supply creation (desalination) • Reduction of losses in water supply (non-revenue water reduction)

27. The WBG uses various financing and risk instruments to support water sector investments. Figure 15 provides examples of financing solutions in use across regions and countries at different scales.

FIGURE 15: Scalable Financing Solutions¹⁸

28. One such tool to leverage finance is the MIGA/WBG Unified Guarantees Platform. WSIP supports private sector and country clients with improved access to guarantees, including MIGA political risk insurance and WB partial risk guarantees to support private and PPP projects, and MIGA non-honoring of financial obligations and WB partial credit guarantee products to support public sector projects. MIGA can also deploy its IDA-Private Sector Window (PSW)/MIGA Guarantee Facility to support projects in high-risk and low-income countries. In addition, the Guarantee Platform is developing innovative guarantee products such as:

- MIGA-World Bank blended guarantees**, with credit enhancement through a combination of IBRD partial credit guarantee taking first loss and MIGA's non-honoring of financial obligations coverage taking the second loss. The blended guarantee structure could be adopted for all eligible borrowers (sovereign, sub-sovereign, and state-owned enterprises) to access international markets to support projects, especially in middle-income countries.
- MIGA breach of contract coverage with IDA liquidity-supported guarantees, and**
- Portfolio approaches to cover multiple projects.**

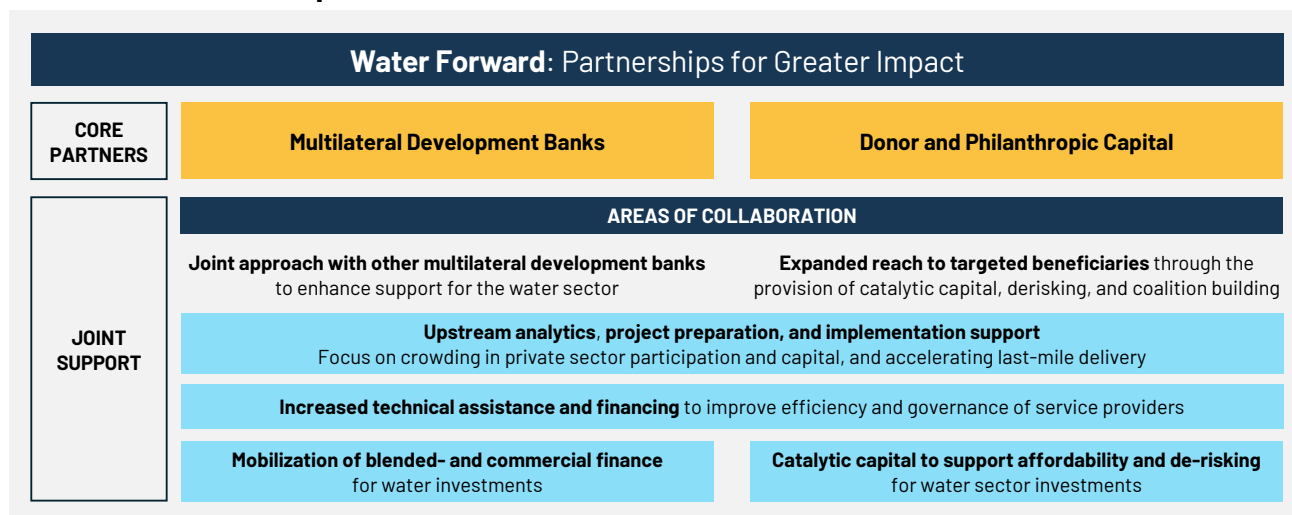
Partnership Approaches — Water Forward

29. Partnerships are critical to expand the impact and reach of the WSIP well beyond the WBG goal of 400 million, to help countries solve their water challenges. The WBG has begun initial work with other lead partners to facilitate the co-creation of Water Forward involving Governments, multilateral and bilateral partners, UN agencies, and philanthropies. This mission would mobilize, align, and coordinate financial and technical support from partners around country water compacts to increase the effectiveness and

¹⁸ Scaling Up Finance for Water: A WBG Strategic Framework and Roadmap for Action. © World Bank. <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/40225>

sustainability of water-related interventions (Figure 16). Partners joining Water Forward will be asked to use their voice and draw on their comparative advantages – including advocacy, technical expertise and financing. The design of Water Forward will benefit the experiences from Mission 300,¹⁹ AgriConnect and other large-scale global initiatives to drive transformational change.

FIGURE 16: Partnerships linked to Water Forward



30. Water Forward will build on and expand the following partnerships:

- 30.1. **Bilateral Partners:** Water Forward will provide an opportunity for donor countries to show leadership and commitment to supporting ambitions set out in the compact country. At the global level, support provided by bilateral donors through the Global Water Security and Sanitation Partnership (GWSP) will enable rigorous global and country diagnostics and analytics, technical assistance, and capacity building to enhance the impact of water sector investments and achieve measurable results on the ground. At the country level, better coordination will help partners align their activities and investments to increase funding for country water compacts commitments.
- 30.2. **Multilateral Partners:** Water Forward will leverage the recent pledge of the ten Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to enhance their support for the water sector from 2026 to 2030 and beyond. This commitment includes increasing financing and technical assistance for the water sector to improve efficiency and governance of service providers and supporting blended finance for water security. Further, the WSIP will build on existing United Nation partnerships, including with the UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy for Water, UN Water, World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and others.
- 30.3. **Philanthropy:** Water Forward will benefit from partnerships with philanthropic organizations under different pillars of the strategy to mobilize capital and solutions and increase the number of people reached. In particular, the philanthropic sector can help mobilize blended finance, deploy grant resources to incentive reform, accelerate progress with targeted support to help clients overcome implementation challenges, and expand projects’ reach to the most vulnerable.

19 M300: The World Bank Group and partners’ initiative to scale up electrification in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Resourcing the WSIP: Better WBG to Scale with Urgency

31. The WSIP is proposed to be delivered through joint WBG country and global support. The primary responsibility for implementation of the WSIP would rest with WBG country teams, supplemented with knowledge and technical support from a global secretariat staffed by the Global WBG Water Team.
 - 31.1. **Global Water SWAT Teams:** For projects in complex situations, SWAT teams with staff and experts with prior experience in similar situations will be deployed, drawing on the Global Solutions Group networks within the WBG Knowledge Bank. Such teams will be mobilized rapidly to address bottlenecks, provide tailored and practical technical advice, and help drive reforms on the ground in both project preparation and implementation.
 - 31.2. **Cross-sectoral engagement to address governance reforms of the water sector:** To better navigate political economy challenges, WSIP will actively include the governance specialists and experts from across the WBG to strengthen institutions and support reform implementation.
 - 31.3. **Skills and competencies of WBG staff to deliver on the WSIP:** WBG Water Leadership team reviews on an ongoing basis the skills and competencies of staff to be fit for purpose and deliver an ambitious plan. The WBG Knowledge Bank will integrate Water expertise from across IBRD/IDA, IFC, MIGA, and DEC. This creates a single, cohesive structure designed to deliver joint public and private sector solutions, enhancing operational impact and policy alignment. Additional needs will be met through talent management, the Water Mentoring Program, special purpose secondment and staff exchange programs, and investing in learning of staff, especially country office-based WBG staff.
 - 31.4. **Improving Water portfolio performance:** Although noting the positive trajectory of water project performance, the WSIP recognizes that problem projects do exist in the World Bank water portfolio, and that additional attention through the WSIP, including from SWAT teams, will focus on strengthening project design and enhancing quality at entry. The WSIP will strategically deploy MPAs to capture learning and phased approaches, and Additional Financing instruments will be used to scale-up well-performing projects. Together, these instruments enable teams to enhance learning, address implementation challenges, respond to emerging needs, and scale up proven solutions more effectively.

Operationalization of WSIP

32. **The WSIP has the ambitious WBG target of delivering water security for 400 million people by 2030.** This represents roughly one in seven of the total number of people facing different forms of water insecurity. It is an ambitious stretch of the WBG’s impact – and work is already underway to reach this goal.

33. **Water Compact countries.** The initial twenty-seven potential countries for water compacts have been identified based on government commitment, ongoing WBG engagement, and the potential to achieve impact at scale:

Albania	Ethiopia	Peru
Armenia	Guinea	Philippines
Brazil	Honduras	Republic of Yemen ²¹
Burundi	Jordan	Senegal
Cambodia	Kenya	Somalia ²²
Cameroon	LC3 Caribbean (Countries TBD)	Tanzania
Chad	Madagascar	Türkiye
Chile	Nepal ²⁰	Uzbekistan
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Pakistan	Zambia

34. FY26 will be the first year of the implementation of the WSIP. Based on the existing portfolio, expected beneficiaries to be reached from the WBG WSIP for the period of FY26 – FY30 are approximately 170 million people across the three water security pillars of Water for People, Food and Planet.²³ There is a strong pipeline of WBG operations, including 19 Multi-phased Approaches (MPAs) that can significantly advance progress. The WSIP target of 400 million beneficiaries through 2030 is predicated on heightened attention and awareness of the growing water crisis and the need to act now; the development of country-owned Water Compacts; WBG client countries prioritizing investing in water, the opportunity for greater private sector leveraging through increased WBG collaboration; and operational efforts for faster disbursement.

35. **Forming Water Forward.** Once launched, Water Forward has the potential to leverage additional funds based on Government policy and financial commitment in Water Compacts, to more than double the number of people reached. Consultations with key stakeholders is critical. Work is currently underway to co-design the mission with key partners who have expressed interest in playing a leadership role in the partnership, including:

- **Bilateral partners.** Outreach to existing GWSP partners and potential new partners who are interested in contributing to the coalition are ongoing.

20 Kathmandu Valley Water Security.
 21 Subject to applicable WBG policies and ability to implement associated programs and projects given FCV context.
 22 Subject to applicable WBG policies and ability to implement associated programs and projects given FCV context.
 23 As calculated by the Outcomes Department as of July 2025, based on the information provided by regional teams and applying the Outcomes algorithms and methodologies.

- **Multilateral partners.** Discussions are underway with ten MDBs to establish an additional target for their work. WBG is engaged with the hosts of the 2026 UN Water Conference, the Governments of United Arab Emirates and Senegal to advance Water Forward.
 - **Philanthropic partners.** Meetings are planned for December 2025 to determine concrete ways in which the philanthropic sector will contribute to Water Forward, in terms of financing and increasing the number of people reached.
36. The launch of Water Forward is expected by the end of FY 2026, to include the announcement of an ambitious overall target of number of beneficiaries to be reached based on efforts for all partners – potentially to exceed 1 billion people, assuming leadership and participation by key partners.
37. **Immediate next steps.** The WSIP was discussed at CODE on December 10, 2025. Following Board approval, a series of sequential actions will be initiated:
- 37.1. **Immediate (post-approval):** WSIP document to be publicly disclosed after final design. Engage countries most willing to champion Water Compacts. Governments will lead the development of these compacts, while WBG teams provide technical support, facilitate reform dialogue, and align resources. Countries will be encouraged to engage in robust Compact consultation processes with a range of stakeholders. This will establish first-mover countries as models and attract early partner support. The WSIP and the first round of Compacts could be launched at the IMF-WBG 2026 Spring Meetings. WBG will continue to work with a broad range of stakeholders to co-design Water Forward.
- 37.2. **Short-to-Medium-term (next 6-12 months):** Operationalize the WSIP through a One WBG approach via country-led platforms. WBG Country Teams, supported by the Global Secretariat and SWAT teams will strengthen project design, improve quality at entry, and coordinate allocations. IFC and MIGA will mobilize private capital and provide financial and risk instruments. Water Forward will be launched during this period, setting an aspirational target for total beneficiaries and engaging MDBs, bilateral donors, and philanthropic partners, with foundational partners anchoring efforts and expanding membership.
- 37.3. **Ongoing & long-term:** Sustain and scale implementation support at regional and country levels, providing technical assistance, monitoring progress, and facilitating reforms through Water Compacts and country-led platforms. Conduct a mid-term review of WSIP progress. Continue knowledge management and capacity building via the WBG Knowledge Bank and WBG Academy Water Program. Apply differentiated approaches for FCV contexts and small island states and continuously coordinate public and private investments to maximize impact.

Recommendations

Management proposes that the Board approve the WBG Water Strategy Implementation Plan. By doing so, (1) the Board would support the general direction of travel and the principles and path forward described in the Plan, with the expectation that Management will identify and pursue operational activities consistent with such direction and principles, and (2) the Board would approve specifically: the proposed scalable solutions (“Scalable Solutions” section of the Plan), the differentiated approaches (“Client Focus” section of the Plan), and results framework (Figure 5 and Annex II of the Plan).

Annexes

Annex I: Summary of WBG Corporate Water Sector Strategy

Annex II: WSIP Results Framework

Annex III: Lessons Leading to Scalable Solutions

Annex IV: Synergies with other WBG Sectoral Programs and Initiatives

Annex I: Summary of WBG Corporate Water Sector Strategy²⁴

Building A Water Secure Future			
Problems	<p>Water for People</p> <p>2.2 billion lack clean drinking water, 3.5 billion without safe sanitation</p>	<p>Water for Food</p> <p>Produce more food with less water; 70 % of freshwater withdrawals for agriculture, 80 % rainfed agriculture produces only 60 % food</p>	<p>Water for Planet</p> <p>4 billion people live in water-scarce areas, with billions vulnerable to floods and droughts</p>
Targets	<p>Double impact and scale to reach 300 million people by 2030</p>		
	<p>[# M people] with access to safely managed drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene</p>	<p>[# M people] with benefitting from increased food production through irrigation, soil conservation, and better rainfed systems</p>	<p>[# M people] with enhanced resilience to climate risks (flooding/drought)</p>
Challenges	<p>Resource Inefficiency and Undervaluation</p>	<p>Limited Private Sector Participation</p>	<p>Complex Implementation</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Major investment needed: current spending about \$0.164 trillion/ year, yet > \$1 trillion/ year needed for water SDGs by 2030 ▪ Inefficient resource use: water underpriced; subsidies not benefiting the poorest; weak performance incentives; lots of leakage ▪ Political-economy difficult: water sacred; weak policy and institutional frameworks; multiple agencies and often transboundary 		
Way forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reforming Water Pricing ▪ Accelerating Utility Reforms ▪ Strengthening Capacity ▪ Scaling Sub-National Financing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improving Pricing ▪ Supporting Climate Resilience ▪ Enhancing Performance ▪ Accelerating Value-Added Agribusiness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reducing Likelihood and Impact of Droughts and Floods ▪ Restoring Rivers and Aquifers ▪ Strengthening Ecological Outcomes and Productivity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ JOINT WBG Implementation / expanded financial toolkit: Guarantees, Risk-sharing facilities, Non-sovereign (municipal) borrowing ▪ Enhancing climate adaptation and resilience, exploring more opportunities for mitigation, and tapping climate finance ▪ Learning and knowledge exchange: tapping into digital solutions and informatics, ensuring replicability and scalability 		

24 World Bank Group Water Strategy: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/water/overview#2>. Please note that the indicative target of [400]million people has been adjusted for consistency with this paper. These metrics are aligned with the corporate scorecard, as per the following standard sub-indicators: Water for Food: [# M people] fed as a result of increased agricultural/ food production from new/improved irrigation and drainage and/or better rainfed agriculture; Water for Planet: [# M people] with new or improved access to water, sanitation, or hygiene in a climate-related water-stressed context & [# M people] benefitting from adaptation measures to manage water related hazards. The statistics related to challenges in the water sector are based on figures available when the Water Sector Strategy was approved in FY24.

Annex II: WSIP Results Framework

Outcome indicators and sub-indicators for tracking WSIP targets are drawn from the World Bank Group Results Indicators in the WBG Corporate Scorecard. Further details are provided in Table 1, 2 and 3.

Results will be reported at the level of corporate scorecard indicators (rather than at sub-indicator level). Sub-indicators for the Corporate Scorecard will be used to calculate the outcome indicator values and will be tracked only if results are related to WSIP/water-related outcomes. Results for sub-indicators unrelated to water will not be reported (e.g. nutrition interventions only related to water will be reported).

TABLE 1: WBG Water Strategy Targets and Indicators

Pillar	Targets	Outcome Indicators ²⁵
Water for People	___ million people with access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and/or hygiene (of which male/female)	People provided with water, sanitation, and/or hygiene, of which (%) is safely managed. Subindicators likely to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People provided with at least basic water • People provided with safely managed water • People provided with at least basic sanitation • People provided with safely managed sanitation • People provided with basic hygiene
Water for Food	___ million people benefiting from enhanced food production and/or improved livelihoods (of which male/female)	People with strengthened food and nutrition security. Subindicators likely to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People fed as a result of increased agricultural/food production • Beneficiaries of in-kind and food transfers, productive inclusion, cash-based interventions and/or food emergency programs • People fed as a result of increased agricultural/food market linkages or trade • People fed as a result of improved access to food from increased non-farming income
Water for Planet	___million people with reduced water-related risks and/or benefitting from improved sustainable water management (of which male/female)	Beneficiaries with enhanced resilience to climate risks. Subindicators likely to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People benefitting from climate resilient infrastructure • People benefitting from enhanced resilience of terrestrial and aquatic systems • People benefitting from increased resilience of livelihoods, jobs, or firms • People benefitting from increased financial system resilience • People covered by disaster risk finance and insurance • People benefitting from climate resilient planning, preparation, surveillance, and/or response

²⁵ Outcome indicators and sub-indicators used to track WSIP targets are all drawn from the World Bank Group Results Indicators from the WBG Corporate Scorecard. The Water Global team actively participated in the technical advisory group for these indicators, leading the group on “People provided with water, sanitation, and/or hygiene, of which (%) is safely managed” indicator and contributing to discussions on indicators led by the Agriculture Global team (Food and nutrition security) and the Outcomes Department (Climate resilience). For more information on each indicator, please refer to the WBG Scorecard Methods Notes, available here: <https://scorecard.worldbank.org>.

TABLE 2: WBG Corporate Scorecard – Client Context Indicators Employed for WSIP

Indicator	Source
1.1 Percentage of people with access to basic drinking water, sanitation services, or hygiene	World Health Organization (WHO) / United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene
1.2 Percentage of people facing food and nutrition insecurity	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
1.3 Percentage of terrestrial and aquatic areas that are protected	UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)
1.4 Economies with increasing renewable natural capital per capita	The World Bank

TABLE 3: WBG Corporate Scorecard – WBG Result Indicators Employed for WSIP²⁶

World Bank Group Results. Intermediate outcomes of WBG support			
Indicator	Monitoring	Frequency	Source
2.1 People provided with water, sanitation, and/or hygiene, of which (%) is safely managed.	Reports results achieved and results expected, including for sub-indicator	Annual	WBG Scorecard
2.2 People receiving quality health, nutrition, and population services	Reports results achieved and results expected	Annual	WBG Scorecard
2.3 People with strengthened food and nutrition security	Reports results achieved and results expected	Annual	WBG Scorecard
2.4 Net greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)	Reports results achieved and results expected	Annual	WBG Scorecard
2.5 Beneficiaries with enhanced resilience to climate risks	Reports results achieved and results expected	Annual	WBG Scorecard
2.6 Hectares of terrestrial and aquatic areas under enhanced conservation/ management	Reports results achieved and results expected	Annual	WBG Scorecard

26 Sub-indicators for the Corporate Scorecard will be tracked if results are related to WSIP/water-related outcomes. Results for sub-indicators unrelated to water will not be reported (for example, nutrition interventions unrelated to water). As reporting relies on the WBG Corporate Scorecard, the WBG Outcomes Department will undertake the results reporting in coordination with the Water Department.

Annex III: Lessons Informing the Scalable Solutions

SCALABLE SOLUTION	■ Water for People ■ Water for Food ■ Water for Planet
<p>SCALABLE SOLUTION # 1:</p> <p>Urban Water and Sanitation Service Optimization</p>	<p>Financial sustainability with clear regulatory frameworks and rules-based tariff setting can attract private capital:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For example, Brazil’s move toward cost-recovery tariffs, national guidelines and sector targets, and stronger balance sheets for utilities led to the mobilization of private capital. • By introducing transparent tariff methodologies, Brazil improved investor trust while ensuring affordability safeguards. • Clear rules helped depoliticize tariff adjustments and supported a pipeline of commercially viable projects. <p>Tying matching grants to verified performance can incentivize operational and financial efficiency: Such incentives, accountability, and graduation pathways can drive utility reforms and crowd in non-public finance.</p> <p>Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) – with centralized and decentralized solutions – is needed to ensure sanitation access for all: Sewer-only, infrastructure-led approaches have not delivered universal, safely managed urban sanitation. CWIS that deploys a mix of onsite and sewer, centralized and decentralized solutions ensures affordable systems that also service the poor.</p>
<p>SCALABLE SOLUTION # 2:</p> <p>Bankable Investments for Water, Wastewater, Reuse, and Desalination</p>	<p>Clear pricing signals, regulatory clarity, and revenue streams through offtake of used water can support bankable investments in reuse: Treating “used water” as a reliable, fit-for-purpose source of water can be economically viable compared to more expensive water supply-side solutions. This is particularly so when reuse is supported through clear regulations and standards, pricing of freshwater to reflect full costs, and offtake from high-value users.</p> <p>Water security can be advanced through a portfolio-of-options approach combining water demand- and supply-side solutions: With increasing water and climate stress, a portfolio approach that combines wastewater treatment and reuse, targeted desalination, and private or hybrid financing with phased reforms can mitigate the risks to water security.</p>
<p>SCALABLE SOLUTION #3:</p> <p>Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Provision</p>	<p>Result-based approaches are more effective in expanding rural water supply and sanitation: Given the reliance on smaller, more dispersed systems, where behavior change and long-term maintenance are critical, results-based approaches have been seen to be more effective in rural contexts. This is because rural water and sanitation systems suffer from a chronic “build-neglect-rebuild” problem, with weak incentives for keeping systems working, and large equity gaps. In this context, results-based approaches realign resources with verified service outcomes (functionality, sustained access, behavior change).</p>

<p>SCALABLE SOLUTION # 4: Farmer led Sustainable Irrigation Decentralized Irrigation Services</p>	<p>Farmer-led sustainable irrigation is a high growth market: Adapting solutions to smallholder farmers through the appropriate design of irrigation equipment, facilitation of digital tools to enable market access, and distributed renewable energy access can fast-track smallholder access to irrigation.</p>
<p>SCALABLE SOLUTION # 5: Increased Water & Energy Efficiency Centralized Irrigation Services</p>	<p>Multiphase projects aligned with national programs can support sustainability of irrigation investments: This builds on successes with centralized irrigation systems in China, India, Morocco, and Türkiye, where regulatory reforms are combined with infrastructure development.</p> <p>Private operation of irrigation systems through performance-based contracts with digital monitoring can improve service delivery: Performance-based incentives can boost services, productivity, and cost recovery. Moreover, advances in remote sensing can allow frequent, accurate monitoring, even in remote areas.</p>
<p>SCALABLE SOLUTION #6: Flood and Drought Risk Reduction</p>	<p>Flood risk reduction requires early warning systems, combined with built and natural solutions: Given the magnitude of floods, engineering solutions alone may not protect populations. A combination of solutions to ensure preparedness (including early warning systems), and green and grey infrastructure may be more viable and affordable, and financial solutions add an extra layer of protection.</p> <p>Clear and coordinated strategies for drought management are critical to ensure timely responses: Ensuring a common definition of droughts, combined with agreed strategies for drought monitoring and response across institutions, are critical pathways to fit-for-purpose and timely responses to droughts.</p> <p>Dam safety requires a common risk assessment framework and adequate technical capacity: Dam safety requires institutional mandates and specialized skills that are absent in many locations. A common approach to dam registration, risk assessment and monitoring, along with capacity building through local universities, has increased dam safety across various countries.</p>
<p>SCALABLE SOLUTION #7: Restoration and Protection of Rivers and Aquifers</p>	<p>Incentives from the national level to subsidiary levels of government for pollution reduction can drive change: Piece-meal approaches to pollution reduction without overarching targets and goal setting often fail. With appropriate incentives and policy frameworks from national governments, such efforts can lead to impact.</p> <p>Inclusion of communities in planning of interventions for water source protection is key to sustainability: Community involvement to address how they use and rely on natural resources leads to more sustained project outcomes.</p>
<p>Cross Cutting Themes: Gender</p>	<p>Incorporating gender analysis early in project design using disaggregated data and labor division assessments helps ensure equitable participation, while engaging women in decision-making strengthens governance and sustainability. Providing targeted training and technology access empowers women economically and socially, while gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation enhances accountability and impact. Recognizing women's roles in water management and addressing barriers to their involvement fosters inclusive institutions, improves resource efficiency, and increases their participation in water related jobs.</p>
<p>Cross Cutting Themes: Climate</p>	<p>Water can serve as an effective lever for climate action, as it helps mitigate as well as adapt to climate change. Transforming water utilities into low-carbon, efficient systems can reduce wastewater emissions—at zero or even negative cost—while generating revenue, as well as help utilities tap into carbon markets. Climate-smart agriculture, including water-efficient irrigation, can achieve higher agricultural productivity that can also boost farmer incomes; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and increase drought resilience. Improved sanitation curbs waterborne disease due to extreme weather events such as floods. Strategic storage solutions, including nature-based solutions, can enhance resilience of ecosystems and communities, and capture and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.</p>

Annex IV: Synergies with other WBG Sectoral Programs and Initiatives

The WSIP aligns with other Bank initiatives, including the Health Action Plan, AgriConnect, and M300. By working across sectors through joint analysis, coordinated operations, country dialogue and shared learning, the WBG is leveraging complementary expertise and resources to maximize impact and ensure more integrated, effective solutions. Figure 1 details some of the joint work being undertaken through the WSIP and these initiatives.

FIGURE 1: WSIP Work in Coordination with other WBG Corporate Priorities

Health Action Plan	AgriConnect and Food	Energy and the M300 initiative	Accelerating Digitalization and Data 360
Sustainable WASH, waste and energy services in health facilities and schools	Reliable water access, irrigation infrastructure and services	Resilient hydropower	Digital platforms for utility creditworthiness, asset management, and service optimization
Water quality monitoring	Improving agricultural water productivity, water efficient agriculture	Reducing energy footprint of water services by encouraging energy efficiency in delivery, utilization	Remote sensing, GIS tools for water resource monitoring and planning
Sanitation and hygiene behavior change	Strengthen equipment and service markets	Solar-powered irrigation, energy-efficient pumps	Smart water meters, E-payment systems to improve transparency and financial sustainability
WSS regulatory framework for public health	Improve farmers and equipment suppliers' access to affordable finance		AI-powered early warning systems for floods and droughts

