

IFC TAKES ACTION ON

Water

Water is vital to life and every sector of the global economy.

If we fail on water, we will fail on almost all SDGs. Yet despite its critical value, water resources are not being managed sustainably, and climate change is exacerbating the global water crisis. IFC is a leading advisor and investor in the water sector, with extensive experience in preparing, structuring, and financing complex projects in emerging markets. We provide investment and advisory services, partnering with public and private sector stakeholders to support the development of inclusive water and wastewater infrastructure.

Our Challenge



About

2.2 billion

people around the world still lack safely managed drinking water, 2.2 billion lack basic handwashing facilities, and 3.5 billion people do not have access to adequate sanitation¹



9 out of 10

natural disasters involve water,² but less than 5% of global climate finance went to the water sector in 2021–2022³

Under prevailing trends, the world will face a

40%



shortfall between demand and supply of water by 2030, with 10% of the global population already living in countries with high or critical water stress⁴

It is estimated that about



\$6.7 trillion

will need to be invested in water-related infrastructure by 2030, and \$22.6 trillion by 2050 to address the global water crisis⁵

Invest in and partner with



cities and water utilities to help them meet their universal access goals



offer

advice on engineering, social and environmental standards,

risk management, local markets, innovative technologies, regulatory and market reforms

Our Approach



Advise on structuring and implementing

effective Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to scale up private sector investments in water infrastructure and improve services

Our Response

Utilities for Climate



(U4C) helps water utilities increase commercial investments in water infrastructure, improve climate resilience, and develop climate-smart utilities. The global U4C network currently includes 10+ utilities **servicing over 70 million people** in emerging markets with a total of **\$488 million in committed financing**.

Brazil



IFC's **\$52 million blue loan** to Sanasa, a water utility company, will help expand water supply and sewage treatment in Campinas, a city of **1.3 million people**.



India



IFC has worked with local governments and the World Bank to deploy innovative public-private partnerships to reduce pollution, protect biodiversity, and improve water quality in Ganga, the country's sacred river that sustains livelihoods for **half a billion people**.

At a Glance

- Since 1994, IFC has committed and mobilized more than **\$3.5 billion** in water projects around the world
- IFC invests in water utilities, municipalities, and private companies globally with a growing pipeline of **\$1.6 billion**.
- IFC's Blue Finance Guidelines have helped raise **\$1.4 billion** for groundbreaking blue economy commitments around the world from Thailand and Brazil to Ecuador, Romania, and Türkiye

¹ sdgs.un.org/goals/goal6

² sdgs.un.org/partnerships/better-data-water-related-disasters

³ www.climatepolicyinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Global-Landscape-of-Climate-Finance-2023.pdf

⁴ watercommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Turning-the-Tide-Report-Web.pdf

⁵ www.oecd.org/water/Policy-Paper-Financing-Water-Investing-in-Sustainable-Growth.pdf