WATER IS OUR MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE

It's in your hand to

Respect it!
Protect it!
Conserve it!

BASE DOCUMENT

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

BASE DOCUMENT

Course 2022-2023

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION" CAMPAIGN –Course 2022-2023.

"Clean, drinking water and accessible sanitation for all."

The purpose of this paper is to illustrate, with information, reflections and data, the "Global Citizenship Education" campaign that our network of Lasallian, Marist and Claretian nonprofit organizations is proposing for the 2022-2023 school year. The campaign will focus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations Agenda 2030 number 6 (SDG 6), which aims to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all people.

I.INTRODUCTION

More than a few experts believe that the next great world war will be fought over water. Indeed, some of the recent conflicts have already been provoked by, among other reasons, the desire to control and secure the hoarding of the water resource[1]. Water is becoming an increasingly valuable commodity because it is scarce and poorly distributed. Proof of this has been the entry of water into the Wall Street stock market, so much so that today, it is traded on the future market and fluctuates like oil, gold, wheat or any other commodity[2]. That is why some people call it 'blue gold'.

Little usable water.- It is paradoxical that our planet is called Earth when 70% of its surface is covered with water. Most of it is salt water; only 2.5% is fresh water. Of the latter, 70% is held in ice caps or permafrost, 29.6% is stored in ice, and only 0.4% is available for human consumption.

European countries and the United States, among others, are already suffering from freshwater scarcity, with the aggravating factor that its pollution is reaching alarming

1 Israeli settlements in the West Bank or conflicts over the Nile or Mekong rivers are examples See . https://www.ecojesuit.com/water-in-the-church's-social-doctrine/.

2 See. https://elpais.com/economia/2020-12-19/la-batalla-por-el-agua-ahora-se-libra-en-wall-street.html

proportions. In Europe, for example, only 9 percent of its major rivers are unpolluted, and in the United States, 40 percent of its rivers and lakes suffer from the same problem.

By 2025, 48 countries inhabited by nearly 3 billion people-35 percent of the world's estimated population-are expected to face a severe freshwater deficit. The fact is that the number of people on our planet is steadily increasing, while the Earth has no more water available today than it did 2,000 years ago, when it was inhabited by less than 3 percent of today's population. Total water consumption has tripled since 1950 and it is estimated that by 2030 there will be an even greater demand, up to 40 percent, that our planet will not be able to supply.

Rich countries today consume, on average, 12 times more water than fragile countries. Expressing this same figure from another perspective, 85 percent of available water is consumed by 12 percent of Earth's human beings.

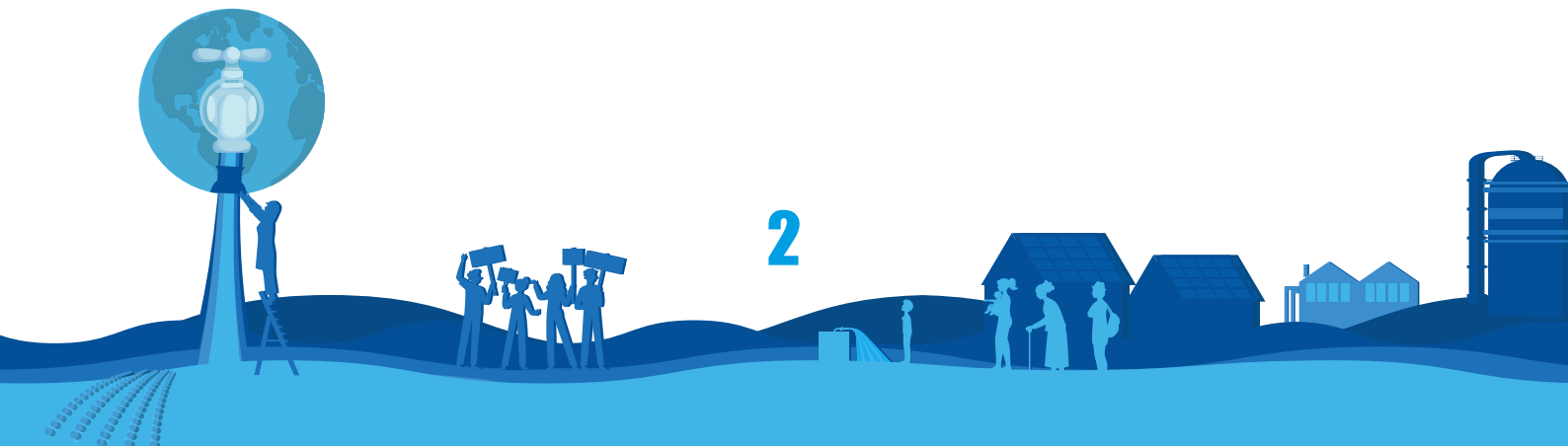
Currently, the agricultural sector is the largest consumer of water, with 58 percent use, followed by the industrial sector, with 34 percent, and domestic, commercial and other urban services, which take up 8 percent. But these figures are changing rapidly, mainly due to increased water use.

There is therefore an urgent need for measures to establish as harmonious a relationship as possible between economic growth and sustainable living.[3]

A basic human right.- by its very nature, water cannot be treated as one product among many. Water has always been considered a public good and, consequently, must be used rationally and equitably. Distributing it fairly is an inalienable responsibility of public agencies. Sometimes, the activities of private and powerful corporations, constantly seeking their own profit and in collusion with public authorities, ignore these principles, threatening to deprive the most fragile populations of their rights and thus increasing social inequalities[4].

3 "The most delicate and sensitive point in considering water as an economic good is to ensure that a balance is maintained between ensuring that the water needed to meet basic human needs is available to the poor and that, when it is used for production or other profitable uses, it is properly valued." https://www.ecojesuit.com/el-agua-en-la-doctrina-social-de-la-iglesia/

4 It can happen through the monopolization of water sources by mining or agribusiness companies, such as the flowers produced in Africa for export to Europe, the severe pollution from chemical waste dumping in seas and rivers, or even the oversupply of leisure facilities, sometimes related to tourism, as when a golf course in a developing



Therefore, water should not be treated like any other economic good, but as a resource indispensable for the maintenance of life and ecosystems, because without water, life cannot exist. Most importantly, water is indispensable for the dignity of human beings. That is why in July 2010 the United Nations General Assembly recognized basic access to water and sanitation as a fundamental, universal and inalienable human right.

II. SDG 6 IN THE 2030 AGENDA

Ensuring the sufficient quantity and quality of water supply, its sustainable and democratic management, and the access of as many people as possible to adequate wastewater treatment is critical to both the development of society and the fight against poverty and disease anywhere in the world. Moreover, the cross-cutting nature of water makes it a key resource for sustainable economic, social, and environmental development[5].

For these reasons, it is not surprising that among the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda there is one dedicated exclusively to this issue, SDG 6, which we will focus on.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which ended in 2015, had already devoted some attention to the issue of water, although, it must be said, it was a light focus that went rather unnoticed. One of the eight MDGs, Goal 7, aimed to "ensure environmental sustainability," and was spread over a small range of four goals. One of them, Goal 7c in particular, aimed to "halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation."

country uses more water than a village. Or it can happen when seemingly beneficial hydroelectric dams drastically underestimate the human and environmental devastation they cause, or when a country's water supply system is privatized and managed for the profit of transnational corporations." https://www.ecojesuit.com/el- water-in-the-church-social-doctrine/

5 For this reason, we propose at the end of this paper that along with the issues of SDG 6 could be addressed at some point,other issues related to health, sanitation, and well-being, even though these, strictly speaking, fall under SDG 3. But there is a close relationship between the two issues and the specific ways to address them, so it is not at all unreasonable to address them together, at least at some point.

Evaluation of what was accomplished in 2015 showed satisfactory aspects[6] although, as is often the case in these matters, much remains to be done.

That is why one of the 17 SDGs deals exclusively with the issue of water and sanitation[7]. It is number 6, which consists of eight goals and eleven indicators.

This SDG has many points of intersection with the other elements of the 2030 Agenda: with number 13 (to which last year's campaign was dedicated), given the relationship between the amount of water available and climate phenomena; with number 15[8]concerning forests, mountains, rivers, lakes and other freshwater ecosystems, as well as to various circumstances that directly impact water supply and management, such as desertification, deforestation, drought and floods; with number 14 concerning marine biodiversity.

On the sensitivity of the 2030 Agenda.- We have seen that, at least on the issues of drinking water and sanitation, there is a link between the Millennium Goals and the 2030 Agenda. However, Goal number 6 is characterized by the principles that inspire these new UN Goals:

Let us highlight some of them:

- Sustainability: SDG 6 seeks to set the world on sustainable development paths, building responsible, green and global citizens.
- Universality and interdependence: it is clear that clouds, rivers and water, in general, know no boundaries. The problems addressed by SDG 6 are becoming increasingly

6 Globally, 2.1 billion people have gained access to improved sanitation. The percentage of people defecating outdoors has almost halved since 1990.
Globally, 147 countries have met the target for access to a safe drinking water source, 95 countries have met the target for access to safe drinking water, and 95 countries have met the target for access to safe drinking water sanitation goal, and 77 countries have achieved both.
See https://www1.undp.org/content/undp/es/home/librarypage/mdg/the-millennium-development-goals-report-2015.html

7 In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the so-called "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," which consisted of 17 goals (SDGs) and 169 targets related to individual SDGs. Shortly thereafter, in July 2017, 232 indicators were finally adopted that will be used to assess the achievement of the goals and, consequently, the SDGs.

8 Mainly objectives 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, and 15.4. See. https://www. ine.es/dyngs/ODS/es/objetivo.htm?id=5198

complex and cannot be successfully addressed unless they are addressed in a coordinated and coherent way across communities, agencies and nations.

- For inclusion and against inequality: SDG 6 does not want to leave anyone behind; on the contrary, it shows a strong concern for combating poverty, supporting women and girls, and all vulnerable people in general.
- Rights-based: SDG 6 always takes into account that basic access to water and sanitation is a basic human right and therefore universal and inalienable.
- Resolving crises, conflicts and disasters: SDG 6 aims to help resolve conflicts of all kinds between countries over water management by establishing a just basis for agreements that last for many years. This is a very effective way to promote peace and security among peoples.
- Providing knowledge: science, technology and innovation will be key tools for achieving many of the SDG 6 goals, which in many cases will be a first step toward achieving other outcomes that do not depend directly on technology and knowledge.

III. THE DIFFERENT TARGETS OF SDG 6

We will now present the different objectives of SDG 6, with their corresponding indicators, trying to highlight the most important issues associated with each of them.

Since many of the issues raised are addressed on a daily basis in different formal education subjects, depending on the different levels of education, we will focus on those aspects that have negative consequences for people, especially in impoverished countries. At the same time, we will pay attention to different aspects of lifestyles in rich countries related to water and sanitation management that can impact the living standards of the most fragile societies.

Target 6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

Indicator 6.1.1: Percentage of population using safely managed drinking water supply services.

The wording is very clear, both in terms of time limits and in the three characteristics required for access to clean water: that it be universal, equitable, and affordable.

There are still millions of people on our planet who must rely on rivers, streams, ponds or lakes to meet their daily water needs. Most people aspire to have drinking water in their homes. However, one in four people do not have the convenience of having piped water at home, nor the health and economic benefits that come with it. Instead, they have to spend a lot of time and energy lining up at public water supply sites and bringing home heavy loads of water that often meet only essential needs.

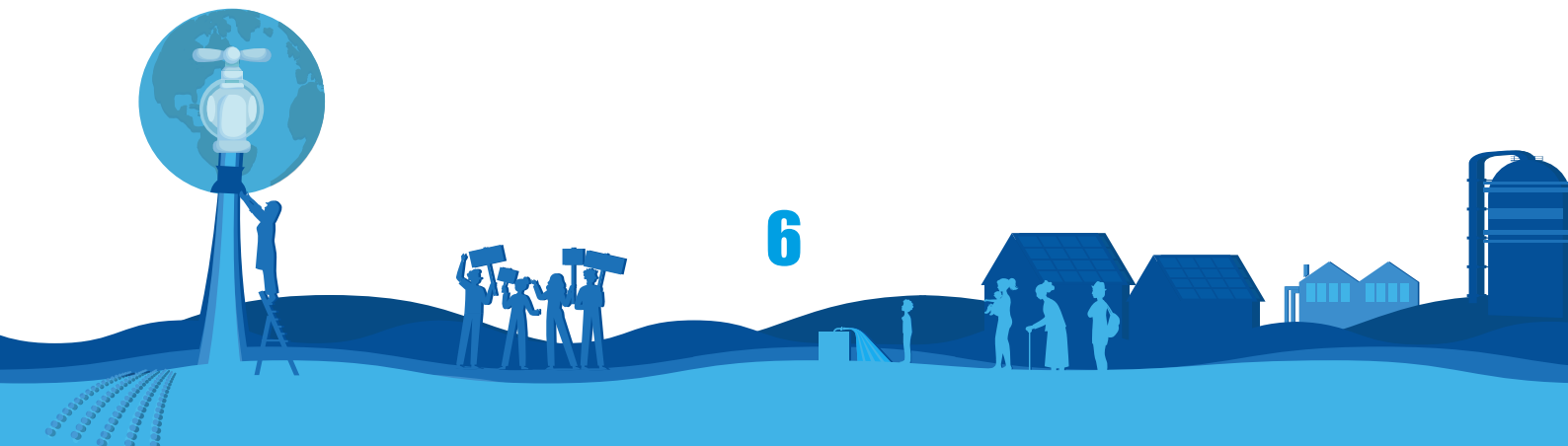
Most affected are the most fragile and marginalized populations in society, many of whom-especially in cities-pay a high price for small amounts of water that are often not of good quality.

Target 6.2: By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.

Indicator 6.2.1: Percentage of the population using (a) safely managed sanitation facilities and (b) facilities for washing hands with soap and water.

According to data from the SDG assessment, by 2015 millions of people had gained access to adequate latrines, toilets or other sanitation facilities. The greatest progress in this area was made in East Asia, while sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania lagged behind. At the same time, the percentage of the world's population defecating outdoors has decreased significantly. Still, more than one billion people have no sanitation facilities at home and must continue this practice, which endangers the environment and the health of the individual and the community.

To pay special attention to the situation of women, girls, and people in vulnerable situations in relation to water and sanitation, it is necessary to advance the construction of adequate sanitation facilities, especially in schools and health centers, and in a second



stage, also in markets, buildings, religious places, civic centers etc. In addition, as an essential complement to the above measures, in addition to promoting water facilities, courses and awareness campaigns should be organized on the importance of hygiene for people's health and concrete measures to promote it on a daily basis should be institutionalized.

In summary, the experts insist on the need for further efforts in the coming years in this field, and point to three specific priorities:

1. Continue to take measures to ensure that no one has to do their business in the open air.
2. Make progress in bringing safe water to all households and building adequate sanitation facilities in homes, along with the regular practice of good hygiene measures.
3. Provide all schools and health centers with safe water and facilities and promote hygienic measures in schools and health centers.

6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.

Indicator 6.3.1: Percentage of domestic and industrial wastewater flows adequately treated.

Indicator 6.3.2: Percentage of water bodies of good quality.

This goal 6.3 refers mainly to water purification, both domestic and municipal wastewater and industrial wastewater, as can be seen from indicator 6.3.1.

At this point, it would be interesting for pupils to clearly establish the basic criteria that are necessary to qualify water as potable. A second step would be to ask what are the main causes that lower the quality of water, that is, that pollute it. It would be necessary to understand what water pollution is and the different types of pollution that can be encountered: physical, chemical and biological, depending on the type of undesirable substances that are incorporated into the water.

Having understood the different pollutants that can reduce water quality, it would also be useful to discuss the different primary uses of water in our societies.

It would also be interesting to study what kind of pollution is introduced into each of them and for what reasons. It would be stimulating to investigate other forms of water pollution related to its management, from its origin to its arrival at distribution points: at sources, catchments, pipelines, supply works, etc.

An essential element would be to realize that water pollution, depending on the type and degree to which it occurs, will make it unusable for certain uses. It must also be understood that the introduction of certain undesirable substances-physical and chemical pollution or microorganisms (biological pollution)-into water can become a serious danger to the general health of the population.

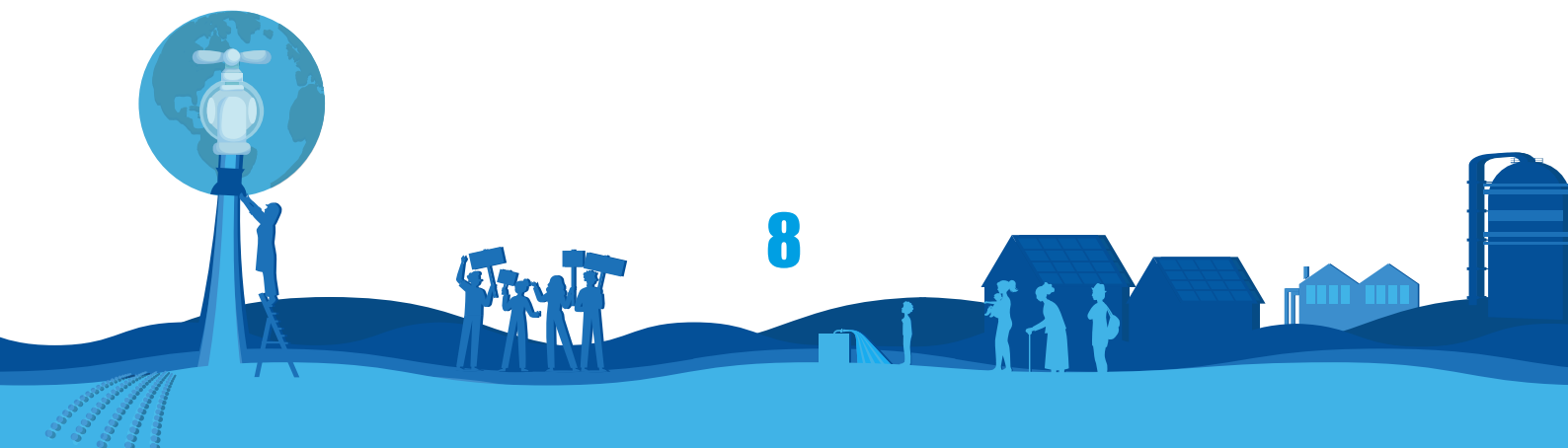
Once the rudiments of water pollution, which we have discussed in the previous paragraphs, are understood, another possible area of interest for pupils would be the different methods of purifying water, depending on the type of pollutant that has affected it. It will then be necessary here to study the different physical, chemical or biological processes to which polluted water can be subjected so that it can recover, as far as possible, its original quality.

Second, guided by indicator 6.3.2, we must also be concerned about the overall quality of water bodies that we can use and generally enjoy. This has a lot to do with the amount of wastewater discharged into rivers, lakes, and seas without any treatment, or with clearly insufficient or inadequate treatment.

There are, however, some problems related to this objective 6.3 that directly affect many people. Two very specific examples are given here:

1. Mining companies' actions in relation to watersheds. There is a very serious design problem that shows a lack of ecological sensitivity and minimal concern for the fate of the people affected, which are unacceptably put at the service of economic interests.

2. The right to clean water versus the right to pollute, which is really just a different way of looking at the previous problem: the contrast between the human and environmental rights of ordinary people versus the financial interests of corporations.



Because water pollution is a byproduct of industrial technologies and global trade. Such problems have always arisen in industries such as paper, textiles and leather. But new information technologies are also responsible for wasting water, for example in the production of microchips.

6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.

Indicator 6.4.1: Change in efficient use of hybrid resources over time.

Indicator 6.4.2: Level of water stress: freshwater extraction as a proportion of available freshwater resources.

If we look at the concerns of indicator 6.4.1, we are talking about the efficient use of water resources, of which the agricultural sector is by far the largest consumer.15 . Agriculture that is concerned about conserving water resources and promoting water use efficiency will have a direct impact on the environment and will be able to lower the energy costs associated with agricultural work.

To increase the efficiency of water resources in agriculture, it will be necessary, on the one hand, to take care of the efficiency in the use of available water and, on the other hand, to make a strong effort to increase its reuse.

To deal with the efficiency of our water use in agriculture is, fundamentally, to deal responsibly-ecologically and socially-with irrigation and the problems associated with it.

In order to determine how to proceed, it will be essential to study the characteristics of our soil, the crop we want to introduce, the dynamics of the associated fluvial and/or subsurface environment, and how best to manage risks. Once the above variables are known, it will be necessary to evaluate the water network available to us and, taking into account financial possibilities, decide which type of irrigation may be the most appropriate, according to the characteristics of the soil and ecosystem. The most commonly used irrigation methods at present are furrow irrigation, sprinkler irrigation, drip or localized irrigation, drainage irrigation, flood or submergence irrigation, and

infiltration or canal irrigation. Each has its advantages and disadvantages, especially in terms of water use efficiency. It will be interesting for pupils to understand what each type of irrigation consists of, to study how it uses water, under what circumstances it will be advisable to use each type of irrigation, and under what circumstances it will be preferable to change methods.

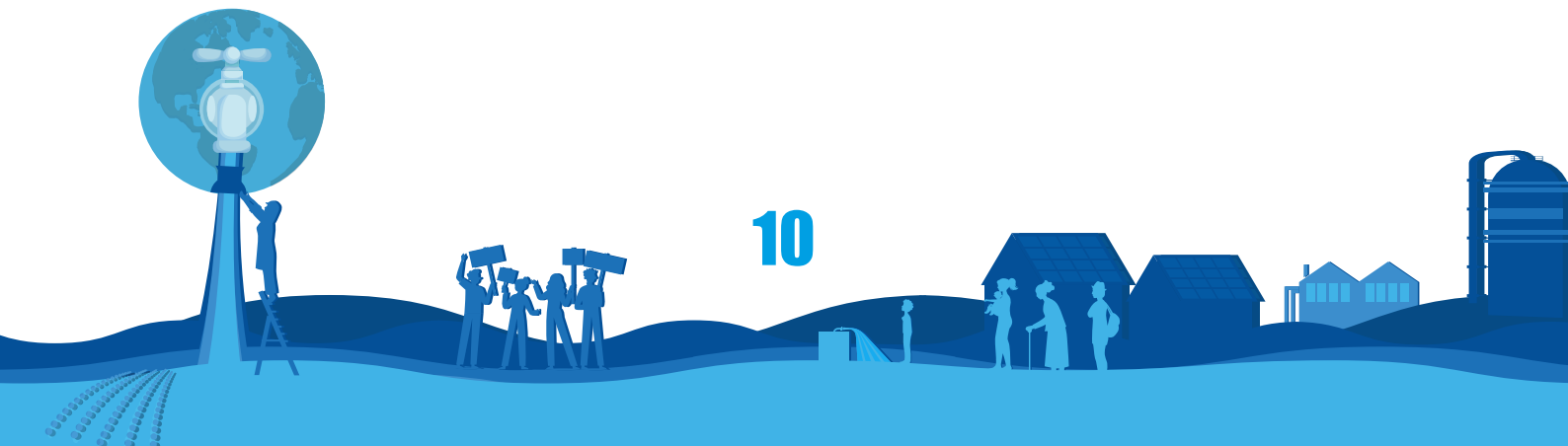
As for water reuse, it will rarely be possible to reuse water without first recycling it. In this sense, the simplest and most interesting recycling is that of rainwater, by means of cisterns installed to use it for irrigation. Reusing rainwater for use in agriculture has many advantages and very few disadvantages. In short, rainwater is an unpolluted and cost-free commodity, so its recycling contributes to energy and economic savings on farms. In this section, it would be interesting to study the specific benefits of using water tanks for irrigation, as well as to see what kinds of materials and designs are usually used and why.

Recycling wastewater, especially urban wastewater, for subsequent use in agriculture is currently a very limited practice. In these times of general scarcity and general deterioration of water quality, it may be an alternative that should be more seriously considered.

Another interesting possibility is the desalination of seawater, or brackish water from any other source. This is an increasingly important agricultural resource, but it is also used for human consumption and for various industrial uses, for example in mining. Here it would be interesting to study what water desalination consists of and the different methods that are used to achieve it, with their own characteristics that make them more or less suitable depending on the case in question.

Indicator 6.4.2 can allow us to propose some activities. This indicator refers to "water stress," and the latest statistics show that about 2.3 billion people currently live in countries with water stress, including 721 million in high and critical water stress conditions. It would be very interesting to analyze the reasons why these things happen, in relation to the natural environment in which they occur, and it would also be necessary to investigate what could be done to "significantly reduce the number of people suffering from lack of water," as called for in Objective 6.4.

One disaster, partly caused by human action and closely related to this topic, is that of drought. It could be studied, at first, from a purely technical and economic point of view, and then move on to consider the consequences of drought.



Target 6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.

Indicator 6.5.1: Extension of integrated water resources management.

Indicator 6.5.2: Percentage of the transboundary basin area with operational agreements for water cooperation.

Since 2017, through detailed surveys to which all countries are required to respond, we have been trying to assess and push the achievement of this SDG 6.5 target.

What are these surveys about? On the specific laws that countries have in place for "integrated water resources management " (IWRM); whether there are specific basin management plans (plans that must consider both surface water and groundwater aquifers); agreements signed with neighboring countries for coordinated transboundary water management, which is also very relevant to indicator 6.5.2; centralized monitoring (e.g., at the national level) of the quantity of water available, taking into account its quality and usability; control of water pollution; management tools to reduce the negative impacts produced by the various natural, industrial, or other disasters that may occur at any time; specific tools for managing different basins, both at the surface water and groundwater levels; and, finally, the economic issue: Revenues, taxes, levies or other means of raising funds from water, which in turn can be invested to improve various aspects of IWRM.

According to provisional data available around 2017 achievement of the targets related to this 6.5 goal globally was less than half, at 49 percent. The most advanced regions of the world in different aspects of IWRM were Australia and New Zealand, with 72 percent, and Europe and North America with 69 percent. The furthest behind on this indicator 6.5.1 were the Caribbean and Latin America, with only 35 percent, and Central and South Asia, with 37 percent.

For indicator 6.5.2, there is a very wide regional difference in IWRM agreements on transboundary surface waters. While Europe and sub-Saharan Africa have a more favorable situation, with extensive international agreements for IWRM of shared rivers and lakes, in other regions there are many more difficulties in reaching satisfactory compromises between countries. As for groundwater management, the difficulties are everywhere very great here, and there are almost no agreements among countries to

minimally organize the IWRM of their shared groundwater. Therefore, if SDG 6.5 is to be implemented on time, transboundary cooperation on IWRM, especially for shared aquifers, must be drastically accelerated.

Target 6.6 By 2030, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.

Indicator 6.6.1: Change over time in the extent of water-related ecosystems.

To protect means to eliminate or reduce, as far as possible, the deterioration or loss of ecosystems. To restore means to reverse the loss or deterioration of ecosystems and to contribute to the recovery of damaged or destroyed systems by restoring their structural characteristics, species composition, and ecological processes.

Water-related ecosystems addressed by this objective 6.6 ultimately respond to the provision of water services to society and are important for improving water quantity (by capturing and storing water) and water quality (as they can break down and/or absorb pollutants from water). Regarding the specification of ecosystems considered, there are four that could be considered aquatic: wetlands, rivers, aquifers-or groundwater-and lakes. But two other very important ecosystems, also directly related to water issues, are included: mountains and forests. Indeed, most of the world's rivers are fed by mountain sources, and snow - glaciers, for example - act as a mechanism for supplying water to these ecosystems.

More than half of humanity depends on mountains for its water supply. Forests, in turn, are essential for safeguarding water quality and quantity.

Goal 6.6 aims to contribute to improving the health of water-related ecosystems, so it should be considered in close relationship with other SDGs with similar goals-SDG 15 for terrestrial ecosystems and SDG 14 for marine ecosystems. These three SDGs (6, 14 and 15), acting together, aim for significant improvement of our planet's ecosystems.

The only indicator related to this objective, 6.6.1, aims to measure changes over time in the spatial extent of water-related ecosystems (wetlands, forests, and drylands); the amount of water in ecosystems (rivers, lakes, and groundwater); and the resulting ecosystem health. There is, as can be seen, on the one hand a purely hydrological

interest in the analysis of each ecosystem, but an important biological criterion is also incorporated. In the idea of indicator 6.6.1, only by considering both criteria together can each ecosystem be adequately characterized.

A key issue we have described in this objective 6.6 would be the peculiarities--biological, geological, atmospheric, geographical, etc.--of the six ecosystems mentioned. For example, the importance of mountains and forests in relation to water quantity and quality. This is a topic for pupils to address in the content of different academic subjects. Perhaps it would be sufficient to propose a reminder to teachers who deal with these topics, so that they realize that they are related to SDG 6 and expressly point this out to their pupils when working on these issues.

As aspects of special interest to the campaign, we propose to analyze the evolution and effects of climate change on the six ecosystems mentioned above, taking into account especially its effects on people: their habitats, livelihoods, economies, peace, etc. And when analyzing the consequences of worsening climate change on people's lives, we could look particularly at our country and the poorest people. Comparisons of various kinds could also be made, which would help to think through important issues. This would be an interesting way to look at these issues in more depth, and at the same time connect with the issues we worked on last year on SDG 13.

After the six targets (6.1 to 6.6) that propose concrete objectives to be achieved through various actions, SDG 6, like almost all the other SDGs, presents two goals related to "means of implementation," that is, some concrete tools or pathways necessary to make it possible to achieve the stated goals.

Target 6.A. By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies

Indicator 6.a.1: Volume of official development assistance for water and sanitation that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan.

Objective 6.a calls for an increase in international cooperation and external support to developing countries. International cooperation refers to aid in the form of grants or loans, including official development assistance (ODA), which has long been in operation in many countries in one form or another. The main objective of such aid would be to strengthen knowledge, skills and abilities in governance in water management in recipient countries.

Target 6.a supports the achievement of all other SDG 6 targets by promoting financing and capacity building in developing countries.

Looking at the concrete results assessed so far in 2019, more than 80 percent of states reported insufficient funding to meet national water targets.

In 2014, more than $7 million in ODA was provided specifically for water supply and sanitation, or 4 percent of total ODA granted that year. At the same time, nearly half of the countries that participated in the 2014 Annual Global Assessment on Sanitation and Drinking Water reported that they were more than 50 percent short of the funds needed to meet the SDG targets on drinking water and basic sanitation.

In light of these figures, if SDG 6 is to be achieved, more aid needs to be allocated to develop its goals, while the actual aid that currently goes to water and sanitation projects needs to be better monitored to ensure that it is spent efficiently and honestly on the projects it is supposed to be spent on. Corruption is a permanent specter that threatens these processes where a lot of money is at stake.

As far as our campaign is concerned, this lens is so highly specialized in economics that only some students at certain levels would be able to delve into the topics of interest. We

refer here to those students who are studying economics or socio-political studies. This could be used as an opportunity for them to delve into the complexities of cooperation.

Target 6.B -Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

Indicator 6.b.1: Percentage of local government units that have established policies and operational procedures for community participation in water and sanitation management.

Objective 6.b aims to involve local communities in the planning and management of water and sanitation, which is essential, first and foremost, to meet the needs of all people, including the most vulnerable. But stakeholder participation in water and sanitation management is also essential to ensure that the technical and administrative solutions chosen are appropriate for the socio-economic contexts for which they are intended.

"Local communities" refer to groups of people, with some relationship or organization among them, who live in a particular place and who will benefit from the water and sanitation services in question, and all related services. Involving these communities in the management of these issues implies having effective practical mechanisms through which they can contribute meaningfully to decisions and guidance on water and sanitation plans and laws that affect them or could affect them. In other words, the goal is to democratize water and sanitation management as much as possible.

Indicator 6.b.1 is simply intended to measure the percentage of local administrative units-urban or rural: municipalities, counties, districts, villages, etc. - that have put in place mechanisms, policies or procedures for the effective participation of local communities in water resources and sanitation management. By assessing the tools and degree of participation of local communities in the management of these resources, this indicator allows us to measure how well the services implemented benefit all people and whether they can be reasonably counted on to be sustainable and durable.

Analyses on the implementation of Objective 6.b indicated in 2014 that 80 percent of countries had policies and laws in place to regulate stakeholder participation in WASH planning, but less than half of the countries had achieved some degree of practical implementation of these issues.

As we are nearing the end of our paper on SDG 6, we believe that this last goal can be

very interesting for working on the goals we are interested in in the campaign. As we encourage attention to the future of people, particularly the most vulnerable, we believe it is essential to focus on civic participation and citizen contribution to community solutions. It is precisely the people who will benefit from water and sanitation services who know best about their hardships and needs, while they also have a thorough understanding of the characteristics and peculiarities of the environment around them, as well as the difficulties and benefits that different proposed solutions may bring. At the same time, they know how much they can contribute, to what extent, what they can do, what they cannot do, and many practical issues that could not be carried out without their support. So it seems to us not only interesting, but necessary and even essential to have their support for the management of water and sanitation services.

In relation to this question, we can propose that students reflect and work in a practical way on different contents. By way of example, we propose three:

1. When thinking about and implementing a particular plan-in this case related to drinking water and sanitation-what is the concrete involvement of local people and communities in thinking about the problem, envisioning practical solutions, actually implementing them on the ground, and maintaining and sustaining them? What would be the difference between involving the people and communities that will benefit from the planned services, or planning and organizing things without involving them? In light of the results of our reflection, what is best and how would it be best to proceed? What difficulties might be encountered in implementing these issues? How could they be solved?

2. Since we are talking about water and its democratic management, we could ask some questions and try to answer them in the most reasoned way possible: who owns water? Is it private property or a common good? What rights over water do people have, or should they have? Which people, in particular? Where is the common good in all these questions? What rights does the state have? What rights do businesses and commercial interests have? Try to come to conclusions that are as clear and practical as possible.

3. We can also ask the same or similar questions from an ecological and consumption perspective. The market paradigm often sees water scarcity as a consequence of the absence of water trade. Thus, it is argued that if water could be moved and

distributed freely in free markets, it could be brought to regions where it is scarce, while higher prices would ensure its conservation. When prices rise, people tend to consume less of a given good, seeking other means to achieve the desired goal. Water is no exception to this rule." One could make a reasoned assessment of these approaches, try to find their strengths and weaknesses, and draw conclusions.

A couple of points, in relation to SDG 6, that could also be considered...

Although they are not directly addressed in the goals of SDG 6 and, consequently, in its indicators, there are a couple of criteria that might be of interest. Not in all of them, of course, but in some group or level, as the case may be. These criteria, expressed very briefly, might be:

1. Study SDG 6 issues, but focusing exclusively on our country, which has special characteristics and problems in relation to water. As appropriate, some issues could also be focused on the specific autonomous community, city or country in question. This would be an interesting way to bring the issues closer to the children and make them more alive and real, to feel that they affect them in a much more direct way. It would also be an extra motivation for them to get involved in the task with more enthusiasm.
2. In addressing SDG 6, we must not forget its close relationship to people's health. In these COVID times, for example, we have seen the importance of frequent hand washing, a complicated issue when there is not enough water available... Although the health theme would correspond more to SDG 3, it would not be out of place to address it here, along with SDG 6, when the relationship is clear and the specific theme chosen makes it appropriate. It would be a way to link the goals and see how all these development issues are often closely related.

PRINCIPLES OF WATER DEMOCRACY

1. Water is a gift of nature.
2. Water is essential for life.
3. All life is interconnected through water.
4. Water for basic needs should be free.
5. Water is limited and can run out.
6. Water should be stored.
7. Water is a common good.
8. No one has the right to waste water.
9. There is no substitute for water.