



Saolta



CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
Global Goal 6

EVERY
PIECE OF
PLASTIC
EVER MADE STILL
EXISTS
TODAY

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
Global Goal 6

“BY POLLUTING
clear water
WITH SLIME
YOU WILL
NEVER FIND
GOOD DRINKING WATER.”

Aeschylus

SDG 6

<https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal6>



This programme is funded by Irish Aid at the Department of Foreign Affairs. Irish Aid is the Government's overseas development programme which supports partners working in some of the world's poorest countries. Irish Aid also supports global citizenship education in Ireland to encourage learning and public engagement with global issues. The content of this communication represents the views of the author only and does not necessarily represent or reflect DFA policy.



TARGET 6-1



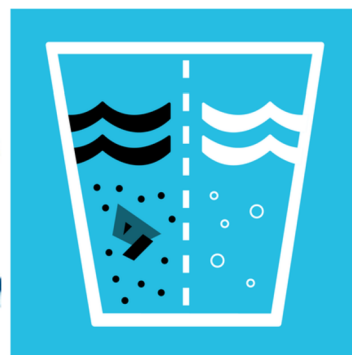
SAFE AND AFFORDABLE DRINKING WATER

TARGET 6-2



END OPEN DEFECTION AND PROVIDE ACCESS TO SANITATION AND HYGIENE

TARGET 6-3



IMPROVE WATER QUALITY, WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND SAFE REUSE

TARGET 6-4

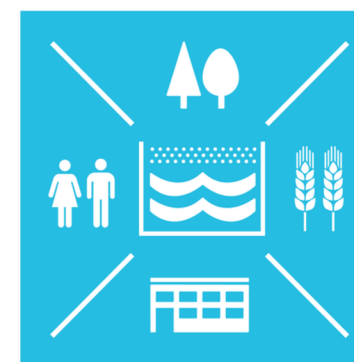


INCREASE WATER-USE EFFICIENCY AND ENSURE FRESHWATER SUPPLIES

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



TARGET 6-5



IMPLEMENT INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

TARGET 6-6



PROTECT AND RESTORE WATER-RELATED ECOSYSTEMS

TARGET 6-6



PROTECT AND RESTORE WATER-RELATED ECOSYSTEMS

TARGET 6-B



SUPPORT LOCAL ENGAGEMENT IN WATER AND SANITATION MANAGEMENT

Targets and Indicators
<https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal6#targets-and-indicators>



SDG 6 snapshot in Ireland

Water stress

22 %

of the renewable water resources in Ireland is being withdrawn, after taking into account environmental flow requirements (SDG indicator 6.4.2, 2021)

Sanitation

80 %

of the population in Ireland uses a safely managed sanitation service (SDG indicator 6.2.1 a, 2022)

Drinking water

96 %

of the population in Ireland uses a safely managed drinking water service (SDG indicator 6.1.1, 2022)

Water management

87 %

is the degree of implementation of integrated water resources management in Ireland (SDG indicator 6.5.1, 2023)

Water quality

58 %

of monitored water bodies in Ireland has good ambient water quality (SDG indicator 6.3.2, 2023)

Wastewater

52 %

of domestic wastewater in Ireland is safely treated (SDG indicator 6.3.1, 2022)

Ecosystems

78 %

of the water basins in Ireland is experiencing rapid changes in the area covered by surface waters (SDG 6 indicator 6.6.1, 2020)

Sustainable Development Goal 6 on water and sanitation (SDG 6)

SDG 6 seeks to ensure safe drinking water and sanitation for all, focusing on the sustainable management of water resources, wastewater and ecosystems, and acknowledging the importance of an enabling environment. In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, countries have committed to engage in systematic follow-up and review of progress towards the Goals and targets, using a set of global indicators.

<https://sdg6data.org/en/country-or-area/Ireland>

(UN Water, 2025)



Ireland's Sustainable Development Goal 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation

Key areas of relevance to SDG 6 in Ireland

Water is fundamental for life and has multiple benefits as a resource, for example supporting human health, ecosystems, recreation, tourism and industry.

Water Framework Directive:

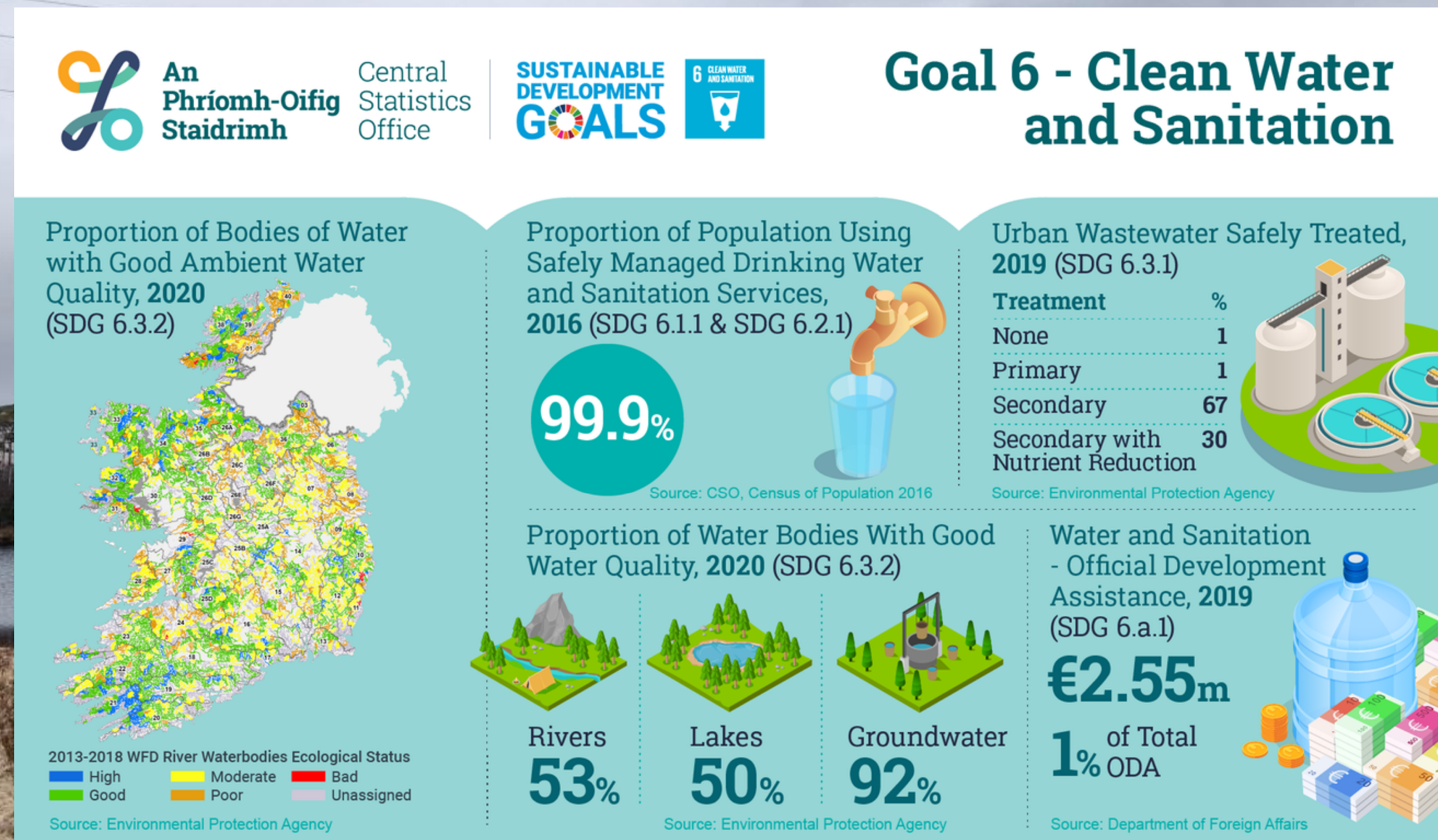
https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/water/water-framework-directive_en

- Water-Related Ecosystems
- Drinking Water
- Waste Water

Clean and Safe Water Water Management

- Enabling Environment Section
- Institutions and Participation Section
- Management Instruments
- Financing

Water Policies



(cso.ie, 2021)



Global Statistics SDG6



(UNDESA, 2024)



Government appointments for Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

2025

Department Policies

Relating to Water and Sanitation

Sample policies

Climate Action and Environment

Climate Action

Environment

Natural Resources

<https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation/departments-of-the-environment-climate-and-communications/>

Key Departmental partnerships

Department of Public Expenditure, NDP

Delivery and Reform

Project Ireland 2040

<https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/09022006-project-ireland-2040/>

National Development Plan 2021-2030

<https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/09022006-project-ireland-2040/>

(DECC, 2025)

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications; Department of Transport

Darragh O'Brien

<https://www.gov.ie/en/biography/089e0-norma-foley/>

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment;
Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

Alan Dillon

<https://www.gov.ie/en/biography/d3f93-alan-dillon/>

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine;
Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

Timmy Dooley

<https://www.gov.ie/en/biography/42adf-timmy-dooley/>

WATER SERVICES POLICY STATEMENT 2024 - 2030

Factor's influencing Water Policy

The three principal international policy influences are:

The United Nations Strategic Development Goals;

European Union water policy;

The OECD Principles of Water Governance
<https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation/departments-of-housing-local-government-and-heritage/>

Water Services Strategic Plan

A Plan for the Future of Water Services
https://www.water.ie/sites/default/files/docs/WSSP_Final.pdf

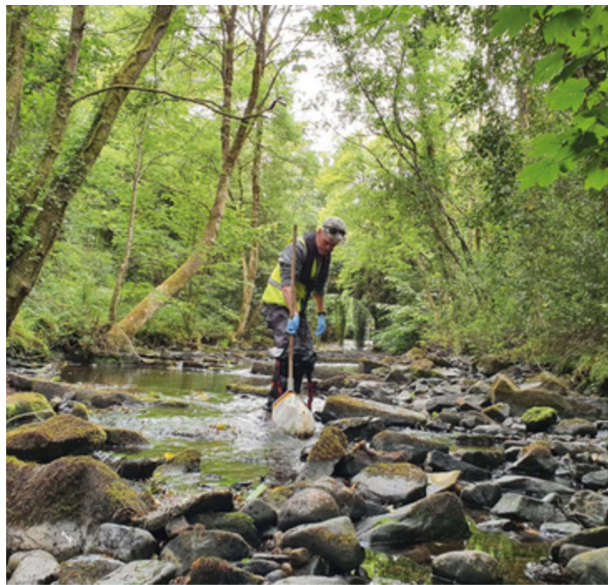
(Uisce Éireann, 2015)



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Clean Water and Sanitation in Pictures

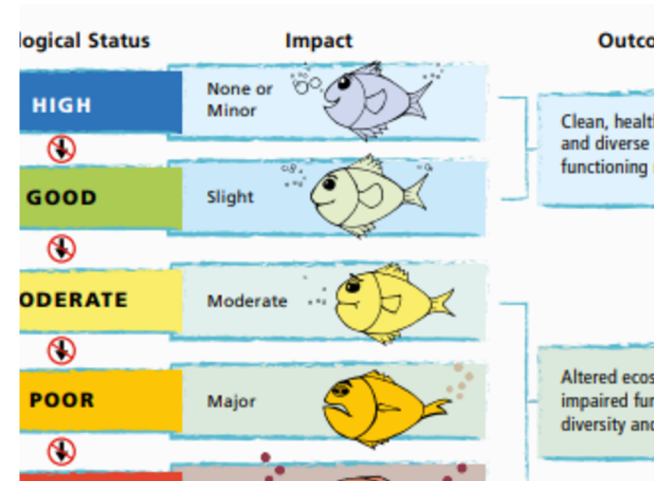
Exerts from The
EPA Summary Report Water Quality in Ireland 2016 – 2021 and the UN Water Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation



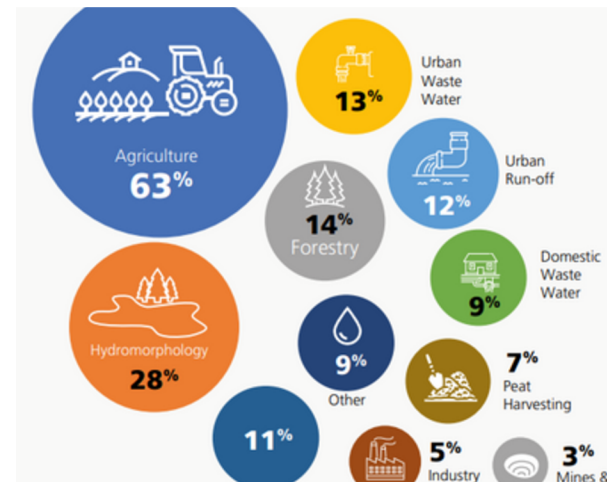
Vietnamese farmers and water buffaloes work on rice fields. UN Photo/Kibae Park



Measuring river discharge in Kenya. Photo/Georgina Smith



(EPA, 2016)



(UNWater, 2018)



Development Education 38 Resources found for

SDG 6

(DevelopmentEducation.ie, 2025)



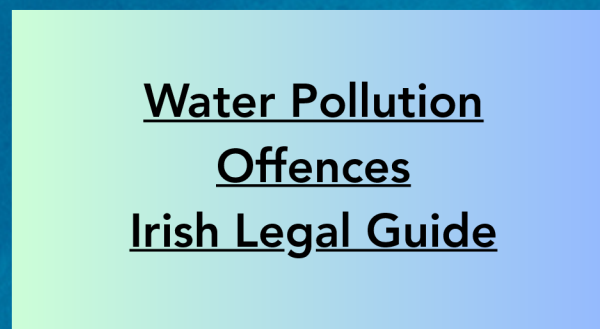
(Eurostat, 2024)



(UN Water, 2025)



(Centre for Systems Solutions, 2018)



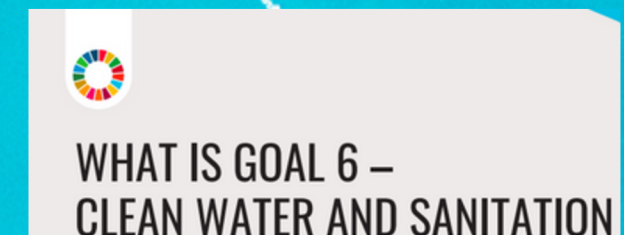
(McMahon, 2023)



(DESA, 2024)



(Trócaire, 2024)



(UNDGC, 2023)

SDG 6 Embedding GCE in ACE



Resources

SDG Knowledge Hub

132 Guest Articles
61 Policy Briefs
1674 News
419 Events
13 Generation 2030
Goal 6 – Clean Water & Sanitation
SDG Knowledge Hub_
(IISD, 2025)

Campaign News



(Save the Boyne, 2025)



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Sustainable Development Goal 6 Bonus Material

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