

SDG 6: Target 6.A Speaker Notes

To accompany the Target 6.A Slide Deck

- Slide 1: Today we will be analyzing the first means of implementation target for SDG 6, 6.A - to expand water and sanitation support to developing countries.
- Slide 2: As defined by the United Nations, sustainable development goal number 6 is to “ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.” Here’s a short video highlighting some of the key issues this sustainable development goal addresses. *Play video.*
- Slide 3: Target 6.A, as defined by the UN is “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.”
- Slide 4: Having such a large gap in funding, many developing nations around the world are struggling to make progress on SDG 6. When countries cannot support themselves, is it important for countries with excess resources to attempt to aid their neighbors so everyone can move forward.
- Slide 5: We will be able to track this target’s progress after looking deeper into its components for implementation, also known as indicators.
- Slide 6: The indicator for Target 6.A focuses on “the amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance (ODA) that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan.” It may seem a bit confusing, but really ODA just refers to the amount of funding that a country receives from another that is invested into water-related programs to make progress on SDG 6.
- Slide 7: Take a minute or two to think about where ODA is distributed most, you might be surprised. After, proceed to the next slide for the answer
- Slide 8: As you might have guessed, developed nations like Australia, England, The United States, and more receive very little, if any ODA. Overall, Asia and Africa receive the most ODA every year. India and Vietnam are the countries that receive the most assistance in the world.
- Slide 9: According to UN Water, globally we sent over \$9 billion in ODA in 2019. It should be noted, however, that ODA commitments fell by 9% in the year before. It will be of utmost importance that donors continue to assist developing nations as we get closer to

2030 in order to achieve SDG 6.

- Slide 10: The most common investments for ODA around the world is currently for large systems dealing with water supply and large systems for water supply and sanitation. The next most important would be water sector policy and administrative management, which is crucial for progress.
- Slide 11: Similar to Pakistan and many other countries in the region, Afghanistan deals with a water scarcity crisis. A large part of this stems from its geographic location and climate, but second would be the very small percentage it holds for the degree of implementation of integrated water resources management. This means that water infrastructure is handled rather poorly, and the population deals with the consequences as a result. With just under three-fourths of the country living in rural areas, it is important that Afghanistan uses its ODA (\$152 million) to improve its water infrastructure as the world continues to face climate change and population increase.
- Slide 12: Fortunately, Afghanistan has begun to heavily invest in renewable energy related to water. As the figure shows, the vast majority of the country's ODA is funneled into hydro-electric power plants--not only making better use of its scarce water, but also producing energy as a byproduct. The country is also investing heavily in basic drinking water supply and basic sanitation, which will hopefully increase the current statistic that shows only 38% of the population has access to a basic hand washing facility. Lastly, Afghanistan is investing in agricultural water resources, which will supply a growing population that lives primarily in rural areas that rely on subsistence agriculture. There is a lot of progress to go, but it is great to see that Afghanistan is using its ODA to invest in long term solutions to its water-related stresses.
- Slide 13: Considering Target 6.A is a means of implementation target, it inherently means that it is directly linked to all of the other targets in SDG 6. Without financial assistance from developed and better-off developing countries, many developing nations and small island developing states will be left to struggle on their own. The main goal of 6.A is to expand water and sanitation support to developing countries, like Afghanistan. While it is not perfect, relying primarily on other countries and individual donors, it presents an opportunity for countries with excess resources to help their neighbors in achieving the same goals everyone is pursuing. Once basic water and sanitation goals have improved in a developing country, it can then start to make progress on human wellbeing goals like No Poverty and Zero Hunger and protect its environment through conservation efforts.
- Slide 14: N/A