

1. IAHS-HELPING, Global Goals, and the SUN Working Group

The **Science for Water Solutions Decade**, [IAHS-HELPING \(2023-2032\)](#), has inspired the hydrological community to align their efforts under three themes and eight goals. HELPING serves as a platform for translating science into action, guided by local hydrological scientists and open science principles. A key aspect of HELPING is co-creation with stakeholders and end-users, ensuring that scientific advancements effectively address water-related challenges.

As part of **Theme Three (HELPING cross-cutting goals)**, the [Strategic UN Synergy \(SUN\) Working Group](#) has been established to support the implementation of HELPING goals. At its core, SUN WG fosters the integration of hydrological science, policy, and practice, following co-creation and open science principles.

The SUN newsletter aims to keep the community informed and engaged, sharing updates and insights related to hydrology and its intersection with UN programs, collaboration opportunities, major events, recent publications, and science-policy capacity-building initiatives.

2. World Water Day 2025: Save Our Glaciers

Every year on **March 22**, we celebrate **World Water Day** to highlight the importance of freshwater and advocate for sustainable water management. This year's theme, '**Save Our Glaciers**,' emphasizes the critical role of glaciers and the urgent need to protect them from climate change.

✦ Useful links for World Water Day 2025:

- ◆ Events: [UN World Water Day Events](#)
- ◆ Resources: [Campaign materials \(posters, animations, factsheets\)](#)

💡 Did you know?

Each year, UNESCO's **World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP)** publishes the United Nations World Water Development Report (WWDR) on behalf of UN-Water. Released on March 22, this report provides a comprehensive analysis of global water challenges and solutions, aligning with the World Water Day theme.

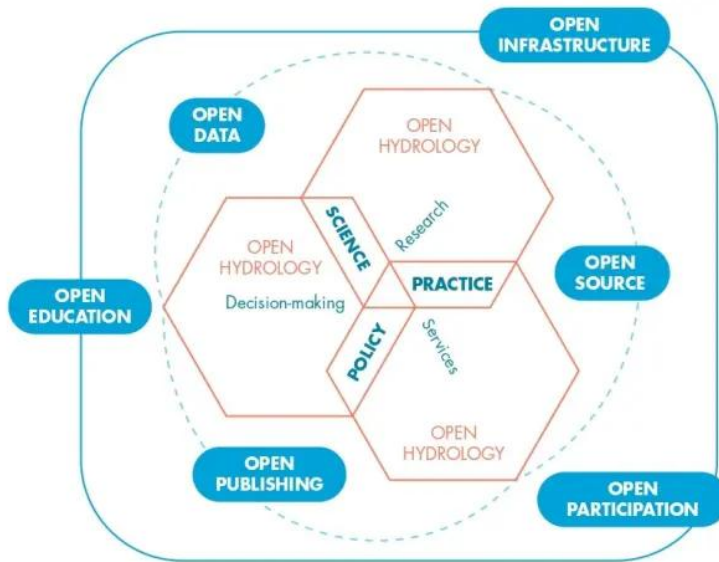
📖 Learn more about:

- ◆ WWAP and its responsibilities: [UNESCO WWAP](#)
- ◆ Previous WWDR reports: [UN-Water Publications](#)

3. Publications Update

The Open Hydrology Framework: Mainstreaming Open Science in Hydrology

The **UNESCO** Recommendation on Open Science promotes making scientific research accessible and inclusive. The Open Hydrology Framework applies Open Science principles to water management, emphasizing Open Data, Open Source, Open Publishing, Open Infrastructure, Open Education, and Open Participation.



Credit: UNESCO (±)

It is published by UNESCO-IHP.

Authors: Nilay Dogulu, Koen Verbist and Annelies Mertens

More information:

- ◆ [Overview of Open Hydrology](#)
- ◆ [Full Report](#)

4. Spotlight on Hydrological Science-Policy-Practice Programs (HSP3)

In the SUN Newsletter, we aim to highlight global and national efforts that bridge science and policy in hydrology. This issue focuses on one of the UN's major strategic initiatives: UN 2.0.

UN 2.0: A Smarter, Future-Ready United Nations

UN 2.0 is one of the United Nations' most ambitious modernization efforts, designed to make the organization more **efficient, data-driven, and innovative**. At its core is the '**Quintet of Change**,' which integrates:

- ✓ Data – Strengthening data-driven decision-making
- ✓ Digital – Enhancing technological integration
- ✓ Innovation – Encouraging creativity and problem-solving
- ✓ Foresight – Anticipating future challenges and trends
- ✓ Behavioral Science – Applying insights to influence positive change

Although **UN 2.0** is not directly related to hydrology, its **emphasis on cutting-edge approaches is informative and inspiring for the hydrological community**. This initiative highlights the importance of adaptation, technology, and collaboration—all crucial elements for addressing global water challenges.

 Below is an infographic illustrating the UN 2.0 framework.

- ◆ More information: <https://www.un.org/two-zero/en>

FORWARD-THINKING CULTURE



Our ambition is to cultivate an organizational culture that thrives on **agility, creativity, learning, and adaptability**. We aspire to nurture a dynamic UN ecosystem that champions **diversity, inclusion, and youth empowerment**, rooted in

unwavering commitments to **sustainability, integrity, humility, and humanity**. By accelerating work underway, our goal is to reshape the blueprint for forward-thinking international organizations in the twenty-first century.

QUINTET OF CUTTING-EDGE SKILLS



DATA

Building on the overarching UN data strategy launched last year, turning the organisation into the state-of-the-art data analyst and communicator for the benefit of the world.



DIGITAL

Developing digital skills and culture means embracing technological advancements and integrating them seamlessly into our work processes. It is about leveraging digital tools and platforms to enhance efficiency, foster collaboration, and amplify results.



INNOVATION

Cultivating innovation skills and culture is about fostering environments that encourage creativity, risk-taking, and continuous learning. It goes beyond simple problem-solving - it's about viewing challenges as opportunities for groundbreaking ideas and solutions.



FORESIGHT

Instilling a culture of foresight means equipping ourselves with the capacities to discern emerging trends, anticipate potential shifts, and respond proactively. It signifies a commitment to long-term thinking, strategic planning, and readiness for a spectrum of possible futures.



BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

Nurturing behavioural science skills and promoting a culture of behavioural insight goes beyond understanding human actions. It is about applying knowledge of human behaviour to design evidence-based strategies and interventions that encourage positive change.

VISIT THE WEBSITE



Learn more at www.un.org/two-zero

Credit: [UN 2.0](https://www.un.org/two-zero)

5. Call for Collaboration: Water-Related Hazards and Their Impacts

An exciting opportunity to collaborate on **case studies of water-related hazards affecting infrastructure**. The aim to **develop a joint publication** on water-related risk events (e.g., floods, droughts, extreme weather) and their impacts on infrastructure such as dams, levees, bridges, and water distribution systems.

This initiative, led by researchers from the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Gran Sasso Science Institute, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, and the University of Pisa, aims to collect and analyze real-world examples of single- and multi-risk events that have led to infrastructure failures. These could include isolated, triggering, compound, or consecutive events that affected dams, levees, diversions, water distribution systems, bridges, and other critical water-related infrastructure. Failures such as levee breaches, overtopping, seepage, bridge collapses, and dam breaches are of particular interest.

Currently, the team is gathering expressions of interest and initial case studies through a brief survey (5 minutes to complete). If you have relevant experiences, we encourage you to contribute. The survey also includes detailed background information about the study.

📌 **Survey link to participate:** <https://forms.gle/3RxjPfaaz697s7fB9>

In the next phase, selected contributors will be asked to provide qualitative insights on event characteristics, management strategies, and risk components. This collaboration offers an opportunity to be part of a joint publication and contribute to a better understanding of infrastructure resilience under water-related hazards.

🕒 **Survey deadline:** June 3rd

For any questions or additional details, please reach out to:

✉️ Elena Ridolfi (elena.ridolfi@uniroma1.it)

6. Final Notes

We hope this first issue of the SUN Working Group Newsletter provides valuable insights and encourages collaboration within our community and beyond. Stay tuned for future updates!