

Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme

25th session of the Intergovernmental Council
(Paris, 26 – 29 April 2022)

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Summary

This document summarizes the Information to Member States on the reporting and evaluation process of main achievements of IHP-VIII (according to Resolution XXIII-7). In addition, the document provides information on the preparation process of the Operational Implementation Plan and of the Financial plan of IHP-IX. Furthermore, the document summarizes the process that led to the preparation of the Framework for the IHP Flagship initiatives. Finally, the document presents the proposed working modality for the implementation of the Operational Implementation Plan of IHP-IX and presents the Thematic Working Groups.

Information to Member States on the reporting process of main achievements of IHP-VIII (according to Resolution XXIII-7) (Agenda sub-item 4.1)

1. The Resolution XXIII-7 adopted in the 23rd session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council requested the IHP Secretariat to publish a comprehensive report on the IHP-VIII implementation and to carry out an external evaluation of IHP-VIII. The IHP Intergovernmental Council also requested Member States to make voluntary financial and in-kind contributions to the IHP-VIII comprehensive report of its implementation and the evaluation of this phase. The following way forward is proposed in order to capture the activities implemented by the IHP Secretariat, the UNESCO Water Family and the Member States during the eight years of IHP-VIII (2014-2021).
2. The IHP Intergovernmental Council shall nominate Task Force comprising two experts from each one of the six regions and 2-3 representatives from Category 2 Centres (C2Cs) and Chairs (considering regional balance) and a representative from professional organization, with gender balance as far as possible, and a focal point provided by the Secretariat.
3. The Task Force should prepare a template of the IHP-VIII achievement report.
4. The experts nominated from each of the regions should work with the IHP National Committees to obtain and compile key achievements of the IHP-VIII (2014-2021) clustered around the IHP-VIII themes: i) water-related disasters and hydrological changes; ii) groundwater in a changing environment; iii) addressing water scarcity and water quality; iv) water and human settlements of the future; v) ecohydrology engineering harmony for a sustainable world; vi) water education - key to water security.
5. UNESCO Water Family namely from Category 2 Centres and UNESCO Chairs should also provide their achievement report to the task team.
6. IHP Secretariat should appoint a focal point for this task.
7. IHP Secretariat should also prepare the key achievements undertaken by secretariat along the line of six thematic areas and submit to the Task Force.
8. The Council may wish to consider requesting voluntary contributions from the Member States, as stated in the Resolution XXIII-7; to initiate the preparation of the IHP-VIII achievement report and to undertake independent evaluation process of the IHP-VIII implementation.
9. The first draft of the achievement report prepared by the Task Force shall be submitted to the 26th IHP Intergovernmental Council session for feedback and subsequent finalization.

Preparation of the Financial Plan for the Ninth Phase of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (Agenda sub-item 4.2)

10. In June 2021, the Intergovernmental Council (IGC) of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) adopted, by Resolution XXIV-1, the Strategic Plan for the Ninth Phase of IHP (IHP-IX, 2022-2029). The IGC of IHP encouraged the UNESCO Water Family Members to take up the responsibility in the implementation of the IHP-IX, and decided to identify Members of an Open-Ended Working Group to prepare Operational and Financial Plans for the implementation of the IHP-IX.
11. In November 2021, the General Conference approved the [Medium-Term Strategy \(41 C/4\)](#) 2022-2029 and [Draft Programme and Budget \(41 C/5\)](#) for the biennium 2022-2023. For Major Programme II (Natural Sciences), Strategic Objective 2 (Enhance knowledge for

climate action, biodiversity, water & ocean management, & disaster risk reduction), Output 3.SC2 (Water science, innovation, education, management, cooperation and governance bolstered for a water secure world in a changing environment), an integrated budget of USD 43,327,000 is foreseen, divided as follows:

- USD 16,258,000 Voluntary Contributions at hand;
- USD 13,229,000 Regular Programme;
- USD 13,840,000 Funding gap;

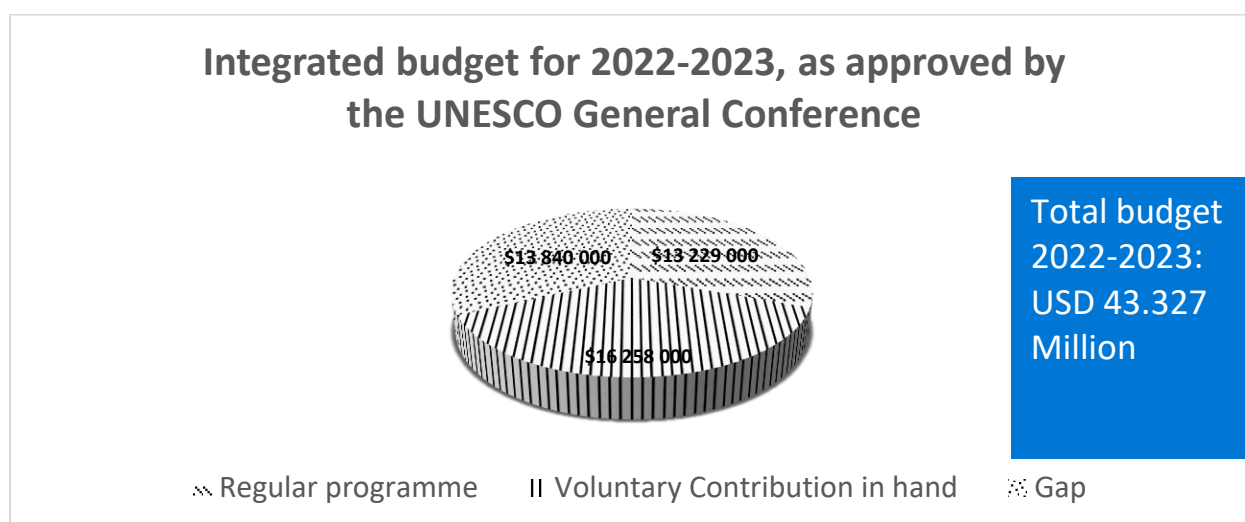


Fig. 1: IHP Integrated budget for 2022-2023

12. The IHP Secretariat did a thorough analysis of the funding availability, under 41 C/5, and compared them with the Operational Implementation Plan. This in-depth analysis led to a categorization of the outputs, based on the part of 41 C/5 funding they would be receiving:

- For some outputs, very limited funding is available during the 41 C/5 biennium. For these outputs, additional funding will have to be sought to ensure implementation of the key activities.
- Other outputs have only limited funding from the 41 C/5 biennium. It means that some basic activities can be implemented with the funding available under the 41 C/5, but additional funding will be needed to fully implement the key activities.
- A minority of outputs have adequate funding is available from 41 C/5 biennium only, to implement at least one of the key activities in a substantive manner in a limited geographic area. However, also for this case, additional funding will be needed to ensure adequate implementation of the remaining activities and for the upcoming biennium. In addition, additional funding would be needed to expand the geographic scope of the outputs.

13. The results of the analysis are the following:

- 5 Outputs have sufficient funding
- 14 Outputs have limited funding
- 15 Outputs have minimal funding

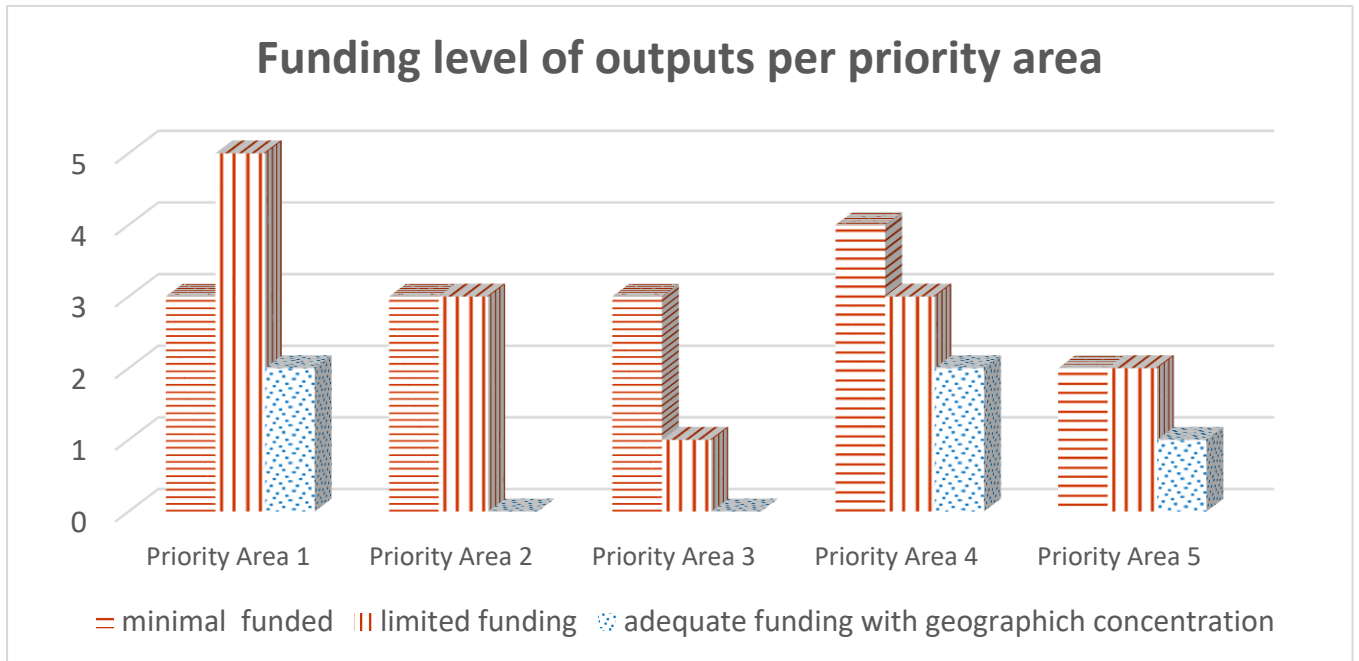


Fig. 2: IHP-IX OIP Funding level outputs per Priority Area

14. The assessment of the current and expected funding under 41 C/5 and the mapping of IHP-IX OIP highlighted the need for substantial additional contributions through the implementation period. As such, a structured financing dialogue for IHP-IX is proposed, with the objective of bringing together current and future donors, stakeholders and partners, including Member States, development agencies, public and private actors to support the implementation of the IHP IX Strategic Plan.

15. The following table 1 provides an overview of the extrabudgetary projects conducted at this early stage of IHP-IX.

Table 1: List of Extrabudgetary Projects

Project name	Total Project Budget	Duration	Donor
Enabling implementation of the Regional Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the rational and equitable management of the Nubian Sandstone Aquifer System (NSAS)	\$3,990,000.00	2018-2022 (Extension until 2024 requested to UNDP)	GEF/UNDP
Improving IWRM, Knowledge-based Management and Governance of the Niger Basin and the Iullemeden-Taoudeni/Tanezrouft Aquifer System (ITTAS)	\$200,000.00	2019-2024	GEF/UNEP
Mediterranean coastal aquifers management and governance	\$2,825,000.33	2020-2025	GEF/UNEP
Governance of Groundwater Resources in Transboundary Aquifers (GGRETA) - Phase 3	\$1,924,258.00	2019-2022	Swiss Development Cooperation
Sustainable Water Security for Human Settlements in Developing Countries under Climate Change	\$3,130,000.00	2017-2027	Republic of Korea
Senior Programme Specialist (P5) Secondment to Hydrology Division (Theme 4: Water for Human Settlements)	\$606,463.00	2021-2023	Republic of Korea
Addressing Hydro-Climatic Vulnerability through Citizen and Open Science	\$751,010.00	2021-2024	Government of Flanders
Global Water Pathogen Project	\$300,000.00	2015-2023	Bill Melinda Gates Foundation
UNESCO activities implemented within the UN WATER framework	\$1,362,873.00	2015-2030	UN-Water
Enhancing Climate Services for Improved Water Resources Management in Vulnerable Regions to Climate Change: Case studies from Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean	\$641,296.00	2017-2022	Government of Flanders

Needs assessment for Climate Services for improved Water Resources Management in vulnerable regions to Southern Africa	\$50,000.00	2016-2022	Government of Flanders
Addressing Climate Risk and Building Adaptive Capacity in South Africa's Biosphere Reserves: Towards Sustainable Water and Ecosystem Management	\$1,743,133.00	2021-2023	Government of Flanders
Reducing vulnerabilities of populations in Central Asia region from glacier lake outburst floods in a changing climate	\$6,500,000.00	2021-2027	Adaptation fund
Water Security for Turkana, Kenya	\$340,908.00	2018-2022	Government of Slovakia
A Community-focused Flood Early Warning System for the BuPuSa Transboundary River Basins	\$957,210.00	2021-2024	Austrian Development Agency
Implementation of the Guarani Aquifer Strategic Action Program	\$2,000,000.00	2021-2023	GEF/CAF
Support for the technical and institutional preparation of ADASA for the 8th World Water Forum	\$ 2,199,154.00	2016-2024	Government - Brazil - Agência Reg de Águas, Energia e Saneamento Básico do DF
Enhanced governance for water security in LAC via strengthened capacities and knowledge	\$150,000.00	2020-2022	Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
The Role of Sediments and Hydropower in River Basin Management - A contribution to the UNESCO IHP World's Large Rivers Initiative.	\$280,000,00	2019-2022	World Bank
Good Governance for the Sustainable Development Goals: mobilizing UNESCO's water and environmental science networks for the 2030 Agenda	\$172,000.00	2019-2022	Japan
Total	\$30,123,305.33		

Thematic working groups for the operational implementation of IHP-IX (Agenda sub-item 4.4)

Rationale

16. The strategic plan of IHP-IX has five interrelated and intertwined priority areas and 34 outputs. Under each output, key activities were identified for the delivering the expected result. In total 150 key activities are considered under the operational implementation plan. The IHP-IX strategic plan is a visionary document to be collectively delivered by the secretariat, UNESCO water family and interested partners.

17. As follow up to the recommendation of the mid-term review of the previous IHP phase, the delivery of IHP-IX calls for more involvement of Members States, as well for a coordinated UNESCO water family with revigorated national IHP committees. It also requires an enhanced engagement with other UN agencies and partners.

18. A coherent and effective implementation of IHP-IX requires an appropriate operational framework for strong coordination and collective delivery. The operational framework should be flexible enough to facilitate synergies and strong involvement of UNESCO water family and should also optimize the current available expertise within the division and in the field.

19. As Secretariat of the IHP, the division of water sciences is in charge of the overall delivery of the IHP-IX Strategic Plan in partnership with Members States, the UNESCO Water Family and partners in line with the 41 C/4 and the 41 C/5 (cf. para. 11 above).

Operational thematic working groups

20. The strategic plan of IHP-IX was prepared following an inclusive and intensive consultative, participative and negotiation process mobilizing contributions of Members States, the UNESCO water family and partners. A consultation process was also followed in preparing the Operational Implementation Plan with the contributions of Members States, the UNESCO water family and partners in defining key activities to be implemented.

21. Following the call of express of interest in contributing to the implementation of the strategic plan, members of UNESCO water family and partners have positioned themselves under each one of the 34 outputs to be involved as leads, co-leads and contributors.

22. A critical analysis of the different outputs and key activities has clearly shown important interlinkages among various outputs and therefore the critical need for synergy in delivering these outputs.

23. As it would be very difficult to manage 34 groups one for each output and due to interrelated priority areas, outputs and key activities, the creation of a limited number of thematic groups has been proposed to help ensuring synergy among outputs during the implementation and facilitate the operational implementation of IHP-IX.

24. Each thematic working group will be in charge of certain synergic outputs and will comprise relevant C2Cs, Chairs, Member States through their National Committees and partners, jointly working with the secretariat to collectively deliver related relevant IHP-IX outputs.
25. From the IHP Secretariat, the work of each thematic group will be facilitated by a thematic team leader.
26. Building on the analysis of the 34 outputs, related key activities and taking into account interlinkages for their clustering and the thematic expertise available within the Secretariat, the following eight cross-cutting thematic working groups have been proposed:
- Eco-hydrology, experimental basin and designated sites;
 - Water quality, pollution, source to sea including non-conventional water;
 - Groundwater sustainability;
 - Urban/rural water including transition to circular economy and related changes;
 - Hydrological processes, scarcity and extremes, erosion and sediment, and cryosphere;
 - climate change, risk analysis, decision-making and adaptation on river basins;
 - Water management, governance and cooperation;
 - Water education including support to the Global acceleration framework.
27. Annex I is providing a preliminary clustering of outputs under each thematic group for synergy, keeping in mind that some outputs can be covered under various thematic groups like for example citizen science and data issues. Annex II is providing the Terms of reference of the Thematic Working Groups.
28. For each thematic working group, in addition to a team leader from the Secretariat who will be in charge of facilitating and coordinating the work of the group, it is proposed to nominate two co-chairpersons and a rapporteur from Members States to lead the delivery of the IHP-IX relevant outputs.
29. The two co-chairpersons and rapporteur should be elected during the first meeting of each thematic group. The IHP Secretariat through the thematic team leader will be in charge of organizing and facilitating various meetings of the group which should be mainly online meetings.
30. The two co-chairpersons and rapporteur with the support of the Secretariat should report regularly to the IHP Bureau and the Intergovernmental Council on the implementation of the IHP-IX relevant outputs under their group.

Annex I: Preliminary clustering of outputs under each Thematic Group

Thematic Team/Group	IHP-IX relevant outputs	Flagships	Main Partners
Eco-hydrology, experimental basins and designated sites	1.2, 4.6, 3.2, 4.1, 1.10, 2.1	FRIEND	IAHR, UNEP, FAO
Water quality, pollution, source to sea including non-conventional water	1.8, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 1.10, 2.1, 3.3	IIWQ	UNEP, IAHR, IWRA
Groundwater sustainability	1.7, 1.3, 4.7, 4.8, 5.3, 1.10, 2.1	ISARM, MAR, GRAPHIC, WHYMAP	IAH
Urban/rural water including transition to circular economy and related changes	1.4, 1.5, 1.9, 1.10, 2.1, 3.3	IUWM	UN-Habitat
Hydrological processes, scarcity and extremes, erosion and sediment, and cryosphere	1.6, 4.2, 1.1, 1.10, 2.1, 3.1	IFI, IDI, FRIEND	IAHS, WMO
climate change, risk analysis, decision making and adaptation on river basins	1.7, 1.3, 4.7, 4.8, 5.3, 1.10, 2.1	FRIEND, HELP, ISI	IAHS, WMO
Water management, governance and cooperation	4.9, 5.2, 5.4, 2.1, 5.1, 5.5	PCCP, HELP, ISARM	IWRA, OECD, UNECE
Water education including support to the Global acceleration framework	2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.1, 2.2, 3.4	ALL	UN-Water and 36 Partners

Annex II: Terms of reference of Thematic working groups

Context

For an effective and coherent implementation of IHP-IX eight thematic groups have been established: (i) Eco-hydrology, experimental basin and designated sites;(ii) Water quality, pollution, source to sea including non-conventional water; (iii) Groundwater sustainability; (iv) Urban/rural water including transition to circular economy and related changes; (v) Hydrological processes, scarcity and extremes, erosion and sediment, and cryosphere; (vi) Climate change, risk analysis, decision making and adaptation on river basins; (vii) Water management, governance and cooperation and (viii) Water education including support to the Global acceleration framework.

Objectives

Each working group, with facilitation of the IHP Secretariat, will:

- Be in charge of the collective delivery of the relevant IHP-IX outputs under the thematic group in line with key activities of the operational implementation plan;
- Contribute to mobilize additional and appropriate financial and in-kind resources needed for the implementation of the activities of the thematic group;
- Report regularly to the IHP Bureau and IHP Council on the implementation of activities under the group.

Composition

Each working group will comprise on voluntarily basis interested and committed:

- Members States through their national IHP committees;
- C2Cs;
- Water Chairs;
- Flagship initiatives;
- Partners including professional organization;
- Centre of excellences and scientific institutions;
- UN agencies.

During its first meeting, each thematic working group will elect two co-chairs and a rapporteur to lead the work of the group. Each thematic group will be coordinated from the IHP Secretariat side by a thematic team leader.

Meetings

The IHP Secretariat, through the thematic team leader, will be in charge of organizing and facilitating various meetings of the group which should be mainly online meetings.

Reporting

The two co-chairs and rapporteur, with the support of the IHP Secretariat, should report regularly to the IHP Bureau and the Intergovernmental Council on the implementation of the IHP-IX relevant outputs under their group