



Global Water Partnership



Country Water
Partnership
ARMENIA

Global Water Partnership Supports Armenia to Achieve SDG 6 Targets

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Role and achievements of Global Water Partnership all over the world

- ▶ The Global Water Partnership (GWP) is a global action network with over 3,000 Partner organizations in 179 countries. The network has 69 accredited Country Water Partnerships and 13 Regional Water Partnerships,
- ▶ Starting from 2005 GWP officially has branch organization in Armenia, we have more than 100 partners from water related state authorities and agencies, water users associations, private service agencies and consultants, social and educational institutions,
- ▶ I have joined to the Team as a board member since 2015 and from 2019 till now member of CACENA Regional Council,
- ▶ GWP supports mobilization of national potential in SDG 6 since the beginnings and continues its activity on this way until now. Several projects were implemented within the period 2016-2021 on the way of monitoring of SDG 6 some targets; methodology of implementation was provided and explained to state institutions and focal points.

Support the Government of Armenia in localization of SDG-6 targets, development of implementation strategy and monitoring mechanisms

- ▶ Implemented with support of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and GoArWaters in 2020 -2021,
- ▶ The Strategy paper outlined vision of the Armenian Government until 2030 towards to provide access to water supply and sanitation service for all, also keeping clean environment, treated wastewater and organize proper management of the infrastructure and resources,
- ▶ The strategy is an integrated document, which provides a program of measures and a mid and long term action plan for implementation of each measures to achieve SDG 6 all targets,

Wastewater Treatment – challenge for Armenia

- ▶ Significant problem, which was emphasized in the SDG 6 Strategy document,
- ▶ Operation of the WWT plants and wastewater treatment in the local rural areas are still problematic points for Armenia, which caused serious ecological problems
- ▶ Rehabilitation and properly operation of already constructed WWT Plants also big challenge for Armenia
- ▶ The best solution which was offered by SDG 6 strategy not only construction and rehabilitation of huge WWTP in secondary towns, but also provision of small natural based solutions for rural areas,

Armenia toward to implementation of IWRM approaches

- ▶ Starting from 2000 year the process of development of the new water legislation has been started, taken into consideration the main principles of IWRM and Water Framework Directive,
- ▶ According to the newly developed Water Code in 2002, two main actors were recognized in the water sector: resources manager body and infrastructure manager body, Both state authorities are partner of GWP with whom organization implemented lots of Projects, particularly SDG 6 Strategy, Drought Management, River Basin Planning etc.
- ▶ The functions and responsibilities of these two managerial structures, as well as responsibility of independent regulator of public services are clearly defined by local water legislation,
- ▶ Parallel significant reforms were done in infrastructure and resource management sectors.
- ▶ River basin management plan development was started and now it is ongoing

River Basin Planning

- ▶ The territory of Armenia is divided into six river basins
- ▶ basin management plans development process has been run with support of European Union
- ▶ RBMP were developed and approved by the Government for three basins, for three others this process is ongoing.
- ▶ One of the biggest basins in Armenia, where located freshwater Lake Sevan, called **Sevan basin**
- ▶ **GWP has implemented lots of communication activities in Sevan basin, supported with EUWI+ during development of RBMP for this basin**

SEVAN LAKE

- ▶ Lake Sevan is the biggest water body not only in Armenia, but also in the Caucasus region,
- ▶ Second highest freshwater lake in the world,
- ▶ Alpine wetland, located in Gegharkunik region of Armenia at an altitude of 1,900 m above sea level,
- ▶ Volume of lake is 33-mlrd m³
- ▶ The total surface area of its basin is about 5,000-km²
- ▶ Twenty-eight rivers flow into the lake and only one river flows out, towards the Ararat Valley.
- ▶ Here are inhabited three endemic fish species
- ▶ Lake Sevan, including its watershed, tributaries and outflow is one of the registered Ramsar sites in Armenia,



SEVAN LAKE

- ▶ Sevan Lake has an important recreational value, many hotels and recreational zones are located along the shore
- ▶ WWT problem not solve in the rural communities around Sevan, so Lake continually polluted on behalf of costal hotels,
- ▶ caused by not reasonable human activities and overused of water in hydro energy purposes the level of lake decreases about twenty meters in Soviet period,
- ▶ In the future, the level of lake was raised due to the construction of the Arpa Sevan tunnel, water flows into Sevan
- ▶ settlements and buildings built over 50 years and the planted forests went under the water,
- ▶ The quality of water has changed, the level of nitrogen and phosphorus increased and the lake became sick.



SEVAN LAKE

- ▶ The problem of Lake Sevan is under attention of the government
- ▶ In 2012-2013 Wastewater Treatment Plants were built in three towns nearby the lake.
- ▶ In the frames of EBRD loan project, the German company has designed and built the WWT facilities in three costal towns,
- ▶ WWTP are only for mechanical treatment of wastewater, collected from the settlements, it was expected that biological treatment will be constructed later on, but the problem not solved till now,
- ▶ The problem of lake blooms is growing every year, and now it can be considered as big environmental problem for Armenia.
- ▶ The international community provide their willingness and support for cooperation with the Armenian government through various grant projects, but serious investments are needed to cure the lake,

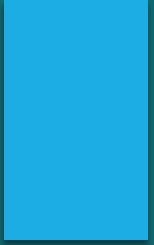
SEVAN LAKE

- ▶ WWT is a big problem for Lake, which still unsolved and requested smart solution, integrated approach and investments,
- ▶ Cleaning of flooded tress and bushes is necessarily. The process is under attention of Government. Cleaning actions organized with support of international Projects, and also state budget.
- ▶ Not solved problem of WWT in rural areas nearby the Lake, about 78 communities discharge their wastewater directly in the rivers and Lake,
- ▶ Hotels and resorts not provide local biological treatment and discharge untreated water directly in the Lake,
- ▶ **Armenia needs the support of partnership and international community to solve problem of Sevan Lake,**

First water canal was built during the Urartian Kingdom and is accepted as a world water engineering wonder.

It was constructed in Armenia in 9 century B.C, which is known as the oldest irrigation channel in history, and used for irrigation of vineyards.





Armenia appreciated current support and high level cooperation with international community.
In the meantime and using this platform I would like to appeal to the world community to keep and continue attention to water problems of Armenia.

Thank you for attention

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