



# THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD WATER DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2019

# Leaving no one behind

Improved water resources management and access to safe water and sanitation for all is essential for eradicating poverty, building peaceful and prosperous societies, and ensuring that 'no one is left behind' on the path towards sustainable development.

# ENSURING INCLUSIVENESS AND EQUALITY TO 'LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND'

*Billions of people still lack safe water and sanitation facilities. Exclusion, discrimination, entrenched power asymmetries, poverty and material inequalities are among the main obstacles to fulfilling the human rights to water and sanitation and achieving the water-related goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.*

## **Today billions are being left behind**

- Access to safe, affordable and reliable drinking water and sanitation services are basic human rights and no one should be left behind.
- The wealthy generally receive high levels service at very low cost while the poor often pay a much higher price for a service of similar or lesser quality.
- Away from home, refugees and internally displaced people are among the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, often faced with barriers to access basic water supply and sanitation services.

## **Overcoming exclusion and inequality**

- Ensuring secure and equal access to water in rural areas can make the difference between farming as a mere means of survival and farming as a reliable source of livelihoods.
- Investing in water supply and sanitation in general, and targeting specific vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in particular, makes good economic sense.
- Inclusive participation fosters equitable access to water resources and affordable water supply and sanitation services.

## **THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD WATER DEVELOPMENT REPORT (WWDR)**

The UN World Water Development Report (WWDR) is the reference publication of the UN System on the status of freshwater resources worldwide. Its production is coordinated by the UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme, which brings together the work of numerous Members and Partners comprising UN-Water.

**2019**

The 2019 edition of the World Water Development Report seeks to inform policy and decision-makers, inside and outside the water community, how improvements in water resources management and access to water supply and sanitation services are essential to overcoming poverty and addressing various other social and economic inequities.

More info on WWDR: [www.unesco.org/water/wwap/wwdr](http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/wwdr)