



# Groundwater and gender equality : how groundwater could help to achieve SDG 5

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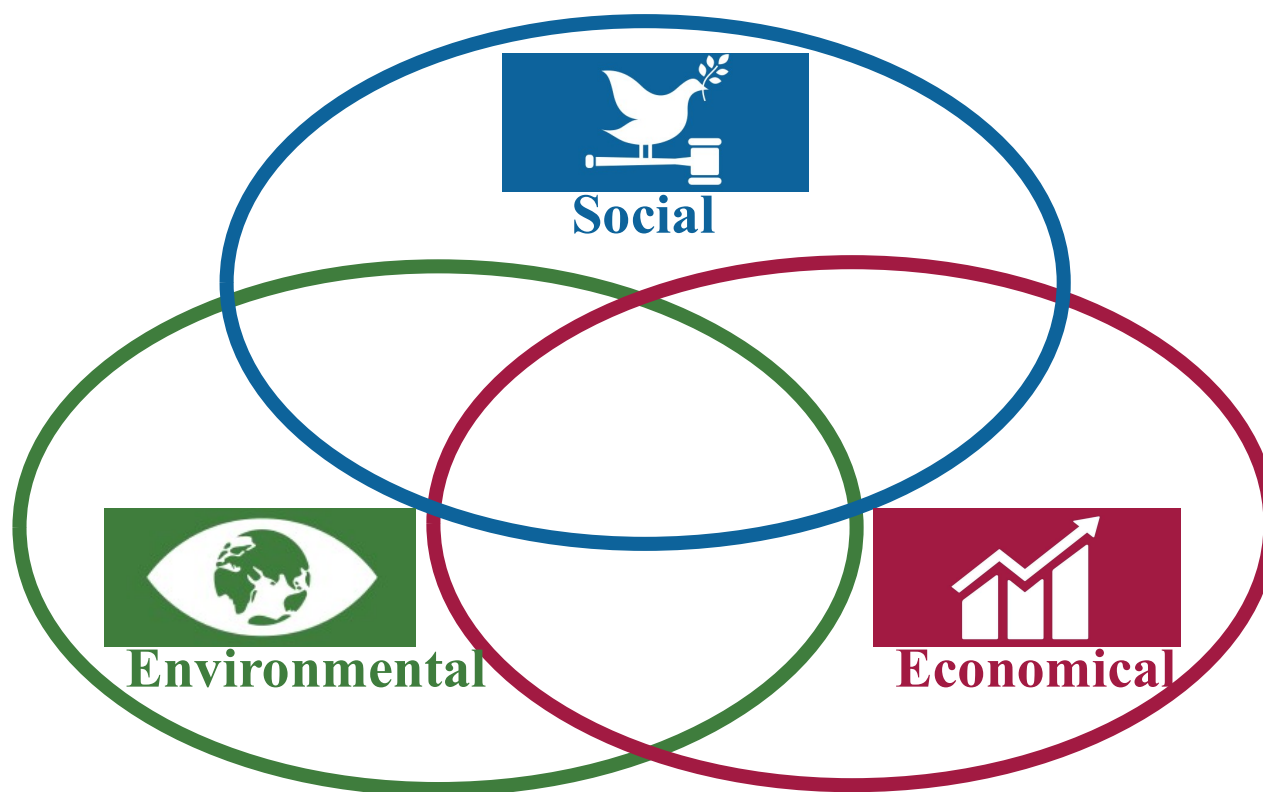
# What **sustainability** means?





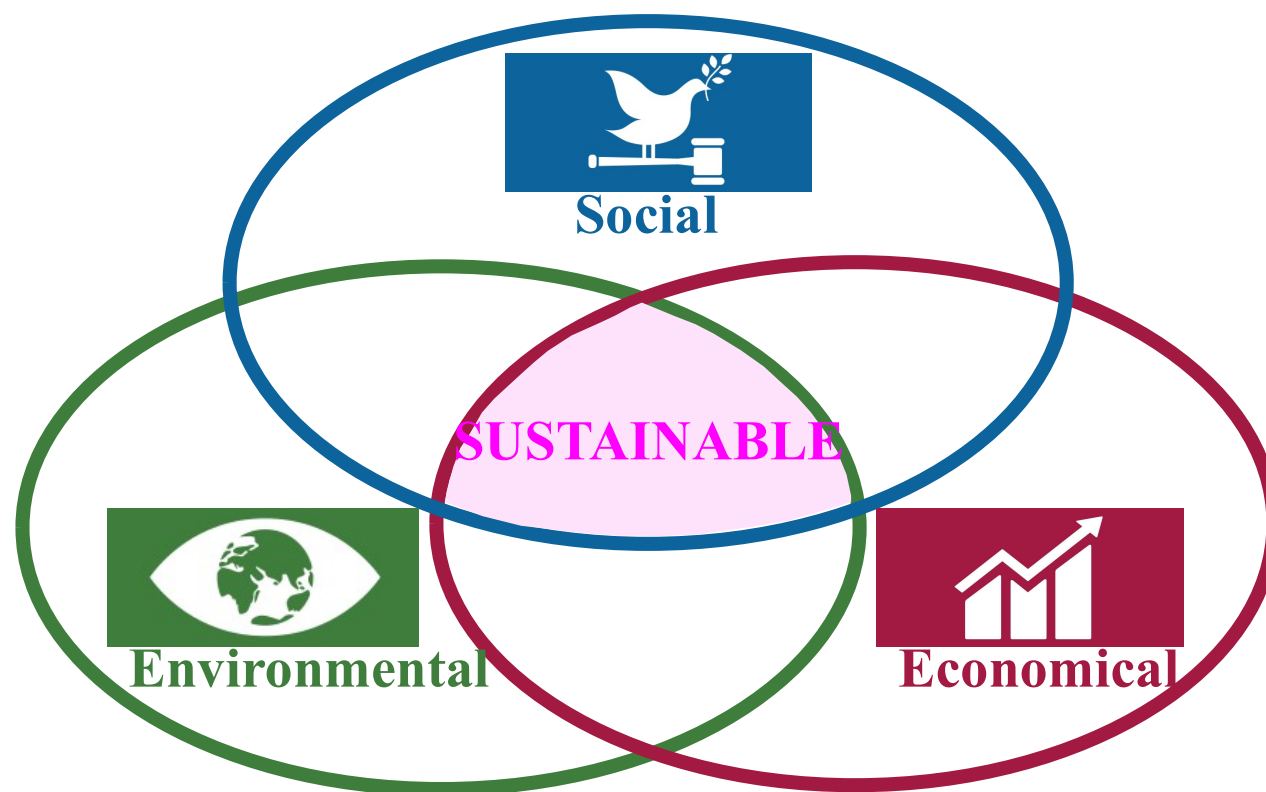
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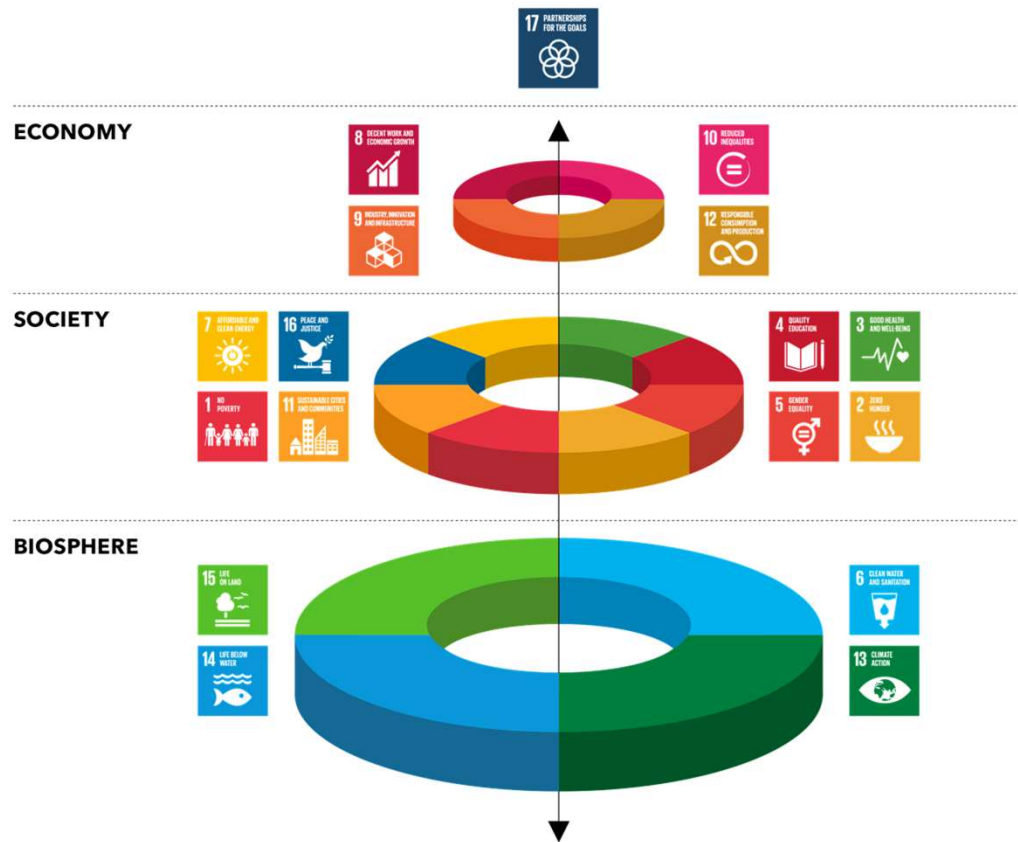




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# Agenda 2030



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# 2010 - Water as a Human Right

On the 28 of july 2010, the UN  
General Assembly has recognise the  
«Human right of water and  
sanitation»



# 2015 – Agenda 2030, goal 6



**Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all**

TARGET 6-1



SAFE AND AFFORDABLE DRINKING WATER

TARGET 6-2



END OPEN DEFECCATION AND PROVIDE ACCESS TO SANITATION AND HYGIENE

TARGET 6-3



IMPROVE WATER QUALITY, WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND SAFE REUSE

TARGET 6-4



INCREASE WATER-USE EFFICIENCY AND ENSURE FRESHWATER SUPPLIES

TARGET 6-5



IMPLEMENT INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

TARGET 6-6



PROTECT AND RESTORE WATER-RELATED ECOSYSTEMS



# Hydrogeology

Therefore, the **study of groundwater** and its qualitative and quantitative aspects is **FUNDAMENTAL** in a global context of climate change.

We must therefore think about the sustainable use of this resource.



# WATER – THE BLUE GOLD

Climate change are effecting water resources.

We are used to think about:

- Inondations
- Droughts
- Ocean acidification
- Increase of the sea level



# WATER - THE BLUE GOLD



# Groundwater and gender equality



Fundamental to underline the importance of groundwater for the achievement of Goal 5 - Gender Equality, which **at first glance seems to be one of the most distant from the topic of groundwater**



# Groundwater and gender equality



Socially defined gender roles in water management often create disparities and inequalities regarding water access, use, and labour, making **consideration of gender issues an important component of groundwater governance.**



# Groundwater and gender equality



Women represent at least half of the workforce in agriculture and food production, and **often bear the daily burden of carrying water to their families**. Droughts make this task more difficult: girls are forced to go further away to find water and, for example, they can't have the possibility to go to school.

**Climate change**, inadequate access to water, and poor water quality **negatively affect women's and girls' health, education, employment, income, and empowerment** in ways that are distinct from their male counterparts



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# Groundwater and gender equality



Women and girls during their period need adequate and healthy sanitary facilities to manage their **menstrual hygiene** in a safe and private manner.

It is crucial to have access to safe places to do their hygiene as they are often **prone to infections** because doing so in open places would mean being easier victims of **sexual abuse** (The World Bank).

## Groundwater and gender equality



Moreover, women usually take care of others (children and elderly in their families), it is reported (UN water) that they often put the lives of others before their own and are **victims in greater numbers in the event of natural disasters**.



## Groundwater and gender equality



Furthermore, anthropologic studies had highlighted also some cultural problems:

- In some societies, the traditional role of women don't allow them to **learn how to swim (WIRED)**
- **Traditional female clothes** prevent from moving in the event of escape from immediate dangers



## Groundwater and gender equality



In the last report of Global Water Partnership (GWP) and UNEP-DHI (United Nations Environment Programme Centre of Water and Environment) is pointed out that **communities in which women are involved in water management have better economic and social outcomes.**





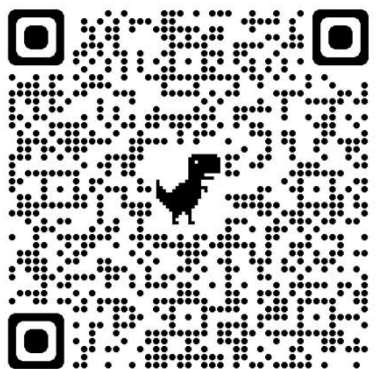
*Fact Sheet*

# Women, Gender Equality and Climate Change



Detrimental effects of climate change can be felt in the short-term through natural hazards, such as landslides, floods and hurricanes; and in the long-term, through more gradual degradation of the environment. The adverse effects of these events are already felt in many areas, including in relation to, inter alia, agriculture and food security; biodiversity and ecosystems; water resources; human health; human settlements and migration patterns; and energy, transport and industry.

In many of these contexts, women are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than men—primarily as they constitute the majority of the world's poor and are more



## Meet Margaret

There was a time when many hours of Margaret's days were consumed by collecting water. From her Kenyan home to a local pond and back again, Margaret made multiple trips of two kilometers each to collect water for her family's bathing, cooking, and cleaning needs.

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*Access to safe water turns poverty into possibility.*

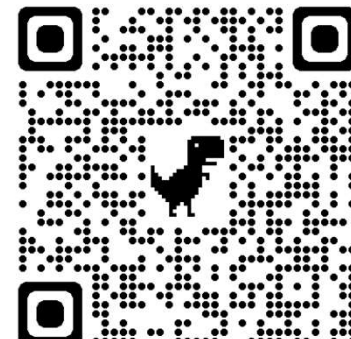
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Through a small, affordable loan made possible by Water.org, Margaret was able to purchase a rain storage tank and tap. With access to safe water just steps from her door, now Margaret has time to sew beautiful dresses to sell and support her family – turning poverty into possibility.

40 M

Margaret is one of the 40 million people Water.org has empowered with access to safe water or sanitation.

Meet the people you empower >

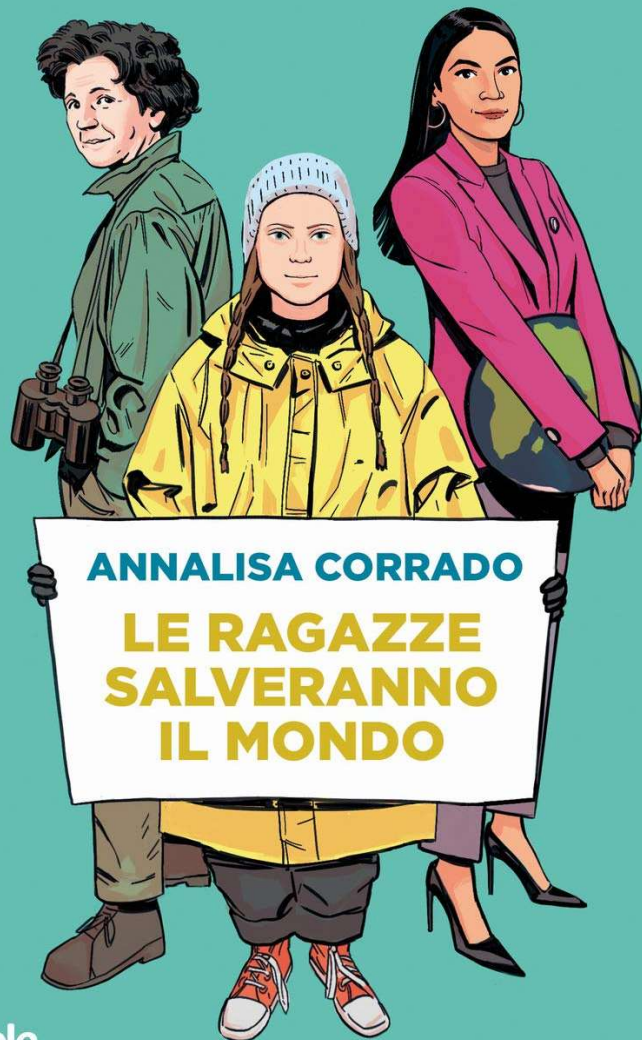


## Groundwater and gender equality



So, when we talking about groundwater and gender equality, we have to remember that Goal 5 cannot be completely achieved without thinking about Goal 6.

**The road to achieve Goal 5 is also much more, but this cannot be done without thinking about the importance of groundwater.**



***“Women are not only victims. As they often farm the land, manage water supplies and energy use they can, when empowered be effective actors of change in developing mitigation and adaptation strategies within their communities “***

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