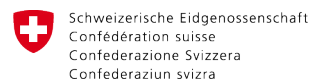


# Final Evaluation Phase 1 (2021–2025) Water Unites Us Programme

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## Description of the programme



### Objectives of the Water Unites Us Programme:

- Improve water management and governance through evidence-based.
- Mobilise joint efforts among the public sector, private sector, and civil society.
- Promote a shift toward responsible production and consumption.

## Components

 <b>C1. Public Institutions</b>	 <b>C2. Corporate Water Stewardship</b>	 <b>C3. Natural Infrastructure</b>	 <b>C4. Knowledge Management</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementation of policies and instruments for water management.</li> <li>- Institutional water monitoring.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assessment and reduction of water impacts with the business sector.</li> <li>- Promote sustainable lifestyles with civil society.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enhancing multi-stakeholder partnerships to conserve ecosystems and improve the livelihoods of the populations that protect them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilitation of knowledge sharing, advisory support, and the application of experiences and tools among Latin American countries.</li> </ul>

**C4** has a regional scope and coordinates actions across multiple countries.

- Governance and political dialogue.

### Cross-cutting themes:

- Innovation in best practices, technologies, and knowledge management.
- Gender equality, youth involvement, and ensuring no one is left behind.

## Regional Findings

### Alignment

- Application of Switzerland's International Cooperation objectives and alignment with the strategic framework of SDC's Water Thematic Division.
- Active participation of Swiss Embassies in Colombia, Peru, Mexico, and Brazil.
- Promotion of Corporate Water Stewardship among Latin American companies based on international standards.
- Generation of valuable knowledge for water management at the institutional, business, and local levels, enhancing climate resilience.
- Lack of explicit coordination with other cooperation programmes in the region.

### Governance Structure

- Regional coherence in objectives and outputs.
- Monitoring limitations hinder cross-country comparisons. Variations in contribution levels are observed.
- Facilitation of political dialogue, enhanced by the careful selection of implementers and adaptation to local priorities and capacities.

### Community of Practice (CoP)

- Joint regional publications and regional exchange and training events with professionals from 20 countries.
- Technical assistance based on available expertise and aligned with the interests of Ecuador, Panama, and Uruguay.
- Coordination with the Business Council of the Pacific Alliance, RésEAU (SDC's Water Network), the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP-UNESCO), the Conference of Ibero-American Water Directors (CODIA), and the UN Global Compact's Water Action Hub.americanos del Agua (CODIA) y el Water Action Hub de Pacto Global de Naciones Unidas.

## Conclusions



The Water Unites Us programme has proven to be highly relevant and coherent in addressing the challenges of water conservation, access, quality, and disposal faced by the public sector, private sector, and civil society. At both regional and national levels, it successfully mobilised and facilitated joint action among these actors.



The cross-cutting themes of governance, political dialogue, and innovation in best practices, technologies, and knowledge management are reflected in the programme's various components and have been essential to achieving its objectives.



The program also incorporated gender and youth approaches, promoting balanced participation and launching specific initiatives in Colombia, Mexico, and Peru, as well as at the regional level.

## Conclusions by Evaluation Criteria

Final assessment of components by evaluation criteria

	Relevance	Coherence	Efficiency	Effectiveness	Impact	Sustainability
Programme	High	High	Medium High	Medium High	Medium	Medium
C1.	High	High	Medium High	Medium High	Medium	Medium
C2.	High	High	High	Medium High	Medium	Medium
C3.	Medium High	High	Medium High	High	Medium High	Medium Low
C4.	High	Medium High	High	High	High	Medium High

### Relevance

The programme addresses the challenges of water conservation, access, quality, and disposal. Its regional approach has encouraged interest from other countries to join, especially through on-demand support offered by the Community of Practice.

### Effective

The projects have either achieved or are close to achieving their goals. To implement the actions, public, private, and civil society actors mobilised resources—both financial and in-kind—amounting to 89.3% of the budget allocated by SDC.

### Impact

Components 1 and 4 of the programme have provided relevant information and capacities for decision-making. Actions related to Corporate Water Stewardship are appreciated, but their impact has been limited by the lack of attractive policy instruments and the unclear pathway for capitalising on the knowledge produced. Natural infrastructure projects have had a positive impact on the conservation of water sources.

### Coherence

Local implementers possess knowledge of institutional frameworks and their political platforms, particularly in Colombia, Peru, and Mexico. Challenges arise in integrating various components due to their deployment across different geographic regions.

### Efficiency

In most countries, financial and human resources were utilised efficiently, achieving results that exceeded the minimum mandate requirements. However, challenges arose in engaging companies under the Corporate Water Stewardship component.

### Sustainability

The alignment of the programme's actions with local regulatory and institutional frameworks has enabled some activities to be taken up by local actors. However, there remain risks to scaling and sustainability.

## Component-Based Conclusions



### C1. Public Institutions

The programme strengthened institutional water monitoring systems, tailoring them to local institutional contexts and generating relevant data for decision-making. Financial sustainability depends on national authorities, especially in Colombia. Progress has not been achieved in developing appealing and scalable policy instruments to promote corporate water management under the conditions encouraged by SDC.



### C2. Corporate Water

The programme encouraged reflection and action on corporate water stewardship, including collective efforts in the field across all countries except Brazil. It faces challenges in implementation, sustainability, and scalability due to a lack of local actors capable of sustaining the work. Actions promoting sustainable lifestyles and responsible consumption, especially in Mexico and Colombia, fostered reflection and suggested alternatives to reduce water and energy consumption. In Peru, efforts also helped empower women and youth and improve their living conditions.



### C3. Natural Infrastructure

Natural infrastructure projects have positively impacted the conservation of water sources and enhanced the livelihoods of vulnerable populations. However, sustainability continues to be a challenge. These efforts were led by local organizations.



### C4. Knowledge Management

The Community of Practice generated valuable information and delivered training sessions that guided water-related decision-making across Latin America, including documents, events, courses, and technical assistance. It is essential to enhance the Community's capacity to foster inter-country learning, particularly in countries not directly involved in cooperation. In Ecuador, for example, technical products were adapted for the agriculture sector; in Uruguay, training sessions focused on water footprint methodologies and awareness campaigns.

## Conclusions by country



Relevance	Coherence	Efficiency	Effectiveness	Impact	Sustainability
High	High	Medium High	Medium High	Medium	Medium



**C1.** · Strengthening institutional capacities for water monitoring: IDEAM, the Ministry of Environment, and three Regional Autonomous Corporations. Contribution acknowledged in the 2022 National Water Study.

**C2.** · Implementation of corporate water stewardship with 37 companies, in collaboration with ANDI (National Business Association of Colombia). Evidence of links between anchor companies and value chain suppliers. Promotion of 11 collective actions in the territory, some led by women-led organisations. Responsible consumption campaigns.

**C3.** · Engagement of private and community actors in protecting mountain ecosystems and enhancing community livelihoods through the miPáramo project. The project was replicated in Bogotá, demonstrating its scalability.



Relevance	Coherence	Efficiency	Effectiveness	Impact	Sustainability
High	High	Medium High	Medium High	Medium High	Medium Low

**C1.** · Strengthening the National Water Resources Information System of the National Water Authority (ANA): methodologies and guidelines for data collection and analysis, software modules, and systematization of information.

**C2.** · Promotion of ANA's Blue Certificate, especially among small and micro-enterprises. Training 100 professionals in water footprint calculations for 32 companies, with 16 applying for the certificate. Evidence of weak connections with Chile. Promotion of sustainable lifestyles and responsible consumption in the Rimac watershed through five schools, 21 community kitchens, and five youth networks—contributing to the empowerment of women and youth.

**C3.** · Facilitated 17 natural infrastructure projects in the Rimac basin involving local public and community actors that supported reforestation and enhanced community livelihoods. Provided training on business management and sustainability to 43 enterprises.



Relevance	Coherence	Efficiency	Effectiveness	Impact	Sustainability
High	High	Medium	Medium Hig	Medium Low	Medium

**C1.** · Implemented corporate water stewardship with 10 Mexican companies, encouraging their participation in collaborative territorial actions. Coordinated with the “Adopt a Water Body” programme led by CONCAMIN (Confederation of Industrial Chambers of Mexico).

**C2.** · Collaboration with the National Water Commission (CONAGUA): analysis and dissemination of public policies to promote Corporate Water Stewardship, and dialogues with civil society to encourage responsible consumption and sustainable lifestyles.



Relevance	Coherence	Efficiency	Effectiveness	Impact	Sustainability
High	Medium	Medium Low	Medium	Medium Low	Medium Low

**C1.** · Training of 11 companies (7 still in development) in corporate water stewardship.

**C2.** · Water footprint assessments conducted with 4 companies. Collaboration with the UN Global Compact and the Brazilian Life Cycle Assessment Network (ACV Network).

· Multi-stakeholder discussions took place on water reuse at an industrial level in Brazil.



## Recommendations

### Enabling Conditions



Enhance regional governance to foster coordination, coherence, and collective learning.



Focus geographically on integrating components to maximise impact and learning.



Identify and connect the programme with existing policy tools to encourage corporate water stewardship.



Secure commitments and coordination mechanisms between countries to promote sustainability, especially regarding financial resources and institutional support.

### Implementation Mechanisms



· Promote the use of water monitoring data among various stakeholders.

· Highlight the importance of water footprint information through real-world examples.



· Enhance value chain approaches by sharing experiences.

· Simplify corporate water management training to foster greater adoption.



· Consolidate the Community of Practice as a regional hub for articulation, learning, and influence.

· Enhance regional voice and presence in international reflections and advocacy platforms.