



# HSE Communications

## World Water Day

### 22-March-2022

## Groundwater, making the invisible visible

World Water Day, focuses on the importance of freshwater.

World Water Day celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water. It is about taking action to tackle the global water crisis. A core focus of World Water Day is to support the achievement of **Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030**. In 2022, the focus is groundwater, an invisible resource with an impact visible everywhere.

Groundwater is water found underground in aquifers, which are geological formations of rocks, sands and gravels that hold substantial quantities of water. Groundwater feeds springs, rivers, lakes and wetlands, and seeps into oceans. Groundwater is recharged mainly from rain and snowfall infiltrating the ground. Groundwater can be extracted to the surface by pumps and wells. It is also critically important to the healthy functioning of ecosystems, such as wetlands and rivers.

We must protect them from overexploitation – abstracting more water than is recharged by rain and snow - and the pollution that currently haunts them, since it can lead to the depletion of this resource, extra-costs of processing it, and sometimes even preventing its use.



# Groundwater: making the invisible visible

UN WATER  
22 MARCH  
WORLD  
WATER  
DAY  
2022 Groundwater

Out of sight, under our feet, groundwater is a hidden treasure that enriches our lives. Our drinking water and sanitation, our food supply and natural environment – all these rely on groundwater.

