Why does SDG6 matter to local governments?

Ensuring access to clean water and sanitation is usually a responsibility of local governments, and relies on effective local governance, natural resource management, and urban planning.

The challenges involved can vary hugely at sub-national level, particularly between urban and rural areas.

In urban areas, the main challenge is often a lack of access to basic services in informal settlements, or high prices and a lack of quality control of water from private vendors. In rural areas, water may be free, but it may involve long journeys to and from the source, and may be contaminated.

Local governments have a role to play in improving water quality through environmental protection measures and sustainable solid waste management.

Integrated water resources management requires horizontal cooperation in planning and environmental policy between municipalities and regions across borders. Local governments are ideally placed to support participatory management of water and sanitation by communities, including slum-dwellers.

OTHER RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL AGENDAS:
- Financing for Development
- Climate Change
- Habitat III