

Position Statement on Water Security

Our purpose is to uplift lives every day by pioneering access to the most affordable goods and services, creating economic opportunity and protecting our planet.

At the heart of its purpose the Shoprite Group aspires to be Africa's most affordable, accessible, innovative, and responsible retailer, by being relentless in its efforts to keep its business efficient and sustain its price leadership. The Shoprite Group acknowledges that the countries where it operates on the African continent are faced with severe water security challenges - a situation that is likely to be significantly exacerbated by the effects of climate change¹. The Group recognises that access to clean water remains a human right, and a precursor to economic development, notwithstanding the availability of water to maintain the integrity of ecosystems.

While the Shoprite Group is not a significant user of water, it does depend on a reliable source of clean water for its direct operations. However, parts of its supply chain, its shoppers and local communities are very dependent on water availability and accessibility.

To this end, the Shoprite Group remains committed to:

1. Using water, as a natural and scarce resource, responsibly and efficiently throughout its direct operations, and engaging with suppliers to do similar.
2. Reducing pollution and improving the treatment of wastewater from its operations.
3. Strengthening the resilience and adaptive capacity of its operations and supply chain to ensure responsible business continuity, and that of the local communities in which it operates.
4. Collaborating and partnering with key stakeholders including regulators, suppliers, NGOs, local communities, and other organisations to address water security issues.
5. Sharing water security information with employees, customers, suppliers, and investors by reporting and disclosing its plans, efforts and performances related to water security.

¹ See the Position Statement on Climate Change