The Sustainable Development Goals Extended Report 2023

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Note: This unedited 'Extended Report' includes all indicator storyline contents as provided by the SDG indicator custodian agencies as of 30 April 2023. For instances where the custodian agency has not submitted a storyline for an indicator, please see the custodian agency focal point information for further information. The 'Extended Report' aims to provide the public with additional information regarding the SDG indicators and is compiled by the Statistics Division (UNSD) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

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Target 6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

Indicator 6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services

Indicator 6.2.1 Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water

Since 2015 the global population without WASH services has decreased in rural but increased in urban

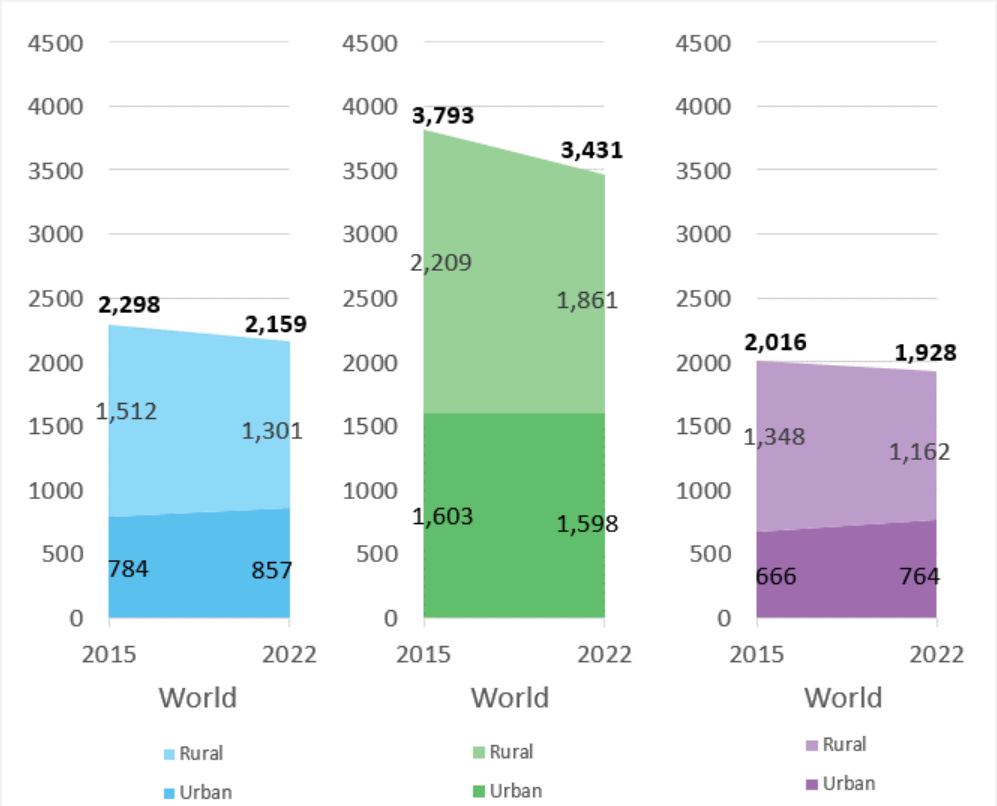
Since 2015, the global population using safely managed drinking water services increased by 687 million, with the largest numbers of people gaining access in Central and Southern Asia (251 million). But despite progress, 2.2 billion people around the world still lacked safely managed drinking water in 2022, including 703 million who lacked even a basic water service (408 million in Sub-Saharan Africa alone). Between 2015 and 2022, the population lacking safely managed drinking water decreased from 1.5 billion to 1.3 billion in rural areas, and increased from 784 million to 857 million in urban areas.

The global population using safely managed sanitation services has increased by 911 million, with the largest number of people gaining access in Central and Southern Asia (328 million). But in 2022, 3.4 billion people still lacked safely managed sanitation, including 1.5 billion who lacked even a basic sanitation service (762 million in sub-Saharan Africa and 482 million in Central and Southern Asia). Among these 419 million people still practised open defecation, falling from 763 million in 2015. Between 2015 and 2022, the population lacking safely managed sanitation decreased from 2.2 billion to 1.9 billion in rural areas, but remained largely unchanged at 1.6 billion in urban areas.

Over the same period, the population with a basic hygiene service increased by 637 million, with the biggest contribution coming from Central and Southern Asia (395 million). But despite progress, 1.9 billion people worldwide still lacked a basic handwashing facility with soap and water at home (895 million in Sub-Saharan Africa), including 653 million with no handwashing facility at all. Between 2015 and 2022, the rural population lacking basic hygiene services decreased from 1.3 billion to 1.2 billion in rural areas, but the unserved urban population rose from 666 million to 764 million.

Achieving the SDG global targets of universal coverage by 2030 will require a 6-fold increase in the current global rate of progress on safely managed drinking water services, a 5-fold increase for sanitation safely managed sanitation services, and an 8-fold increase for basic hygiene services.

Since 2015 the global population without WASH services has decreased in rural but increased in urban



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000-2022: special focus on gender. New York: United Nations Children's Fund and World Health Organization (forthcoming). Link: https://washdata.org

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Tom Slaymaker, UNICEF; Rick Johnston, WHO

Custodian agency(ies): WHO,UNICEF

Target 6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally

Indicator 6.3.1 Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated

Significant quantities of industrial and domestic wastewater are discharged without safe treatment, but large gaps in monitoring and reporting result in an unclear picture of the global wastewater sector.

In 2015, which has the highest data coverage for wastewater treatment and generation over the last decade, 42 countries reported on both the total volume of wastewater generated (113 178 million m3), and the total amount of wastewater treated (36 732 million m3). Accordingly, 32% of the total wastewater generated in 2015 by these countries, representing 18% of the global population in 2015, received at least some treatment.

Far fewer countries (only 14 countries, all in Europe and representing 4% of the global population) reported the volumes of industrial wastewater generated (14 310 million m3) and treated (4293 million m3), leading to a treatment rate of 30%. The proportion of total and industrial wastewater flows receiving any treatment are also similar to the proportions of flows safely treated (i.e. using at least secondary treatment) which are based on a lower data coverage.

Households from 140 countries and territories, representing 89% of the global population, were estimated to generate 267 740 million m3 of household wastewater in 2022. Of this, 154 895 million m3 (58%) was safely treated (i.e. received secondary or better treatment, or was treated in compliance with local standards). An estimated 57% of all household wastewater was collected at centralized wastewater treatment plants, while another 24% was collected in septic tanks for on-site storage before treatment and disposal. Of the total volume of household wastewater delivered to wastewater treatment plants and septic tanks, approximately 87% was safely treated.

The global wastewater sector would stand to benefit most from improved wastewater collection coverage (particularly by increasing the proportion of wastewater contained in sewers and septic tanks, while eliminating direct discharges to water bodies); and more rigorous national-level monitoring and reporting programmes in most regions. Finally, direct discharges from sewers may be significantly underreported, as these are not commonly measured and/or may be more prevalent among the 92 countries and territories (typically lower income) where safely treated household wastewater could not be estimated due to a lack of data.

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Graham Alabaster, UN-Habitat; Rick Johnston, WHO; Andrew Shantz, WHO; Florian Thevenon, UN-Habitat

Custodian agency(ies): WHO, UN-Habitat,UNSD

Indicator 6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality

There is information on over 76,000 water bodies, but over three-quarters of them were in 24 high-GDP countries. The poorest 20 countries reported on just over 1,000 water bodies. “More monitoring needed” can be an overused message, but a critically important one when people are using untreated water of unknown quality for drinking and domestic use.

Indicator 6.3.2 monitors the proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality, which is defined through national and/or sub-national water quality standards. Acceleration is needed in all world regions to define water quality standards and ensure that freshwaters are reliably assessed as a prerequisite to inform policy action.

In all world regions many water bodies are still in good condition. 60 per cent of water bodies assessed in 97 countries have good ambient water quality (see figure 1). Protection is easier than restoration, so efforts to protect these water bodies from pollution must be initiated now.

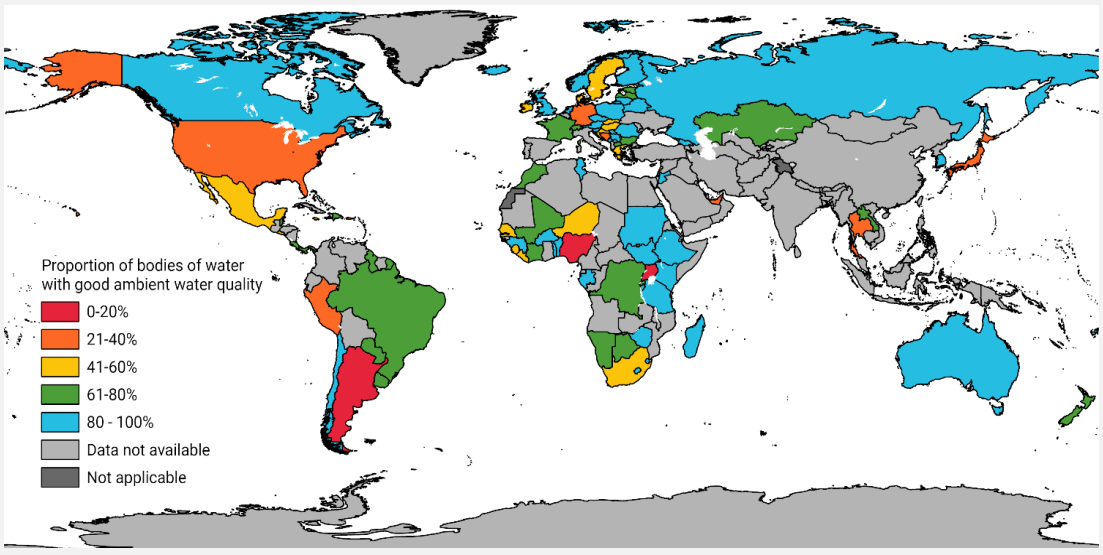
The data shows positive trends for countries with robust monitoring systems. 44 per cent of countries reporting in both 2017 and 2020 are on track to improve water quality which supports the concept that monitoring is a prerequisite for positive management action. At the same time a lack of water quality data means that over 3 billion people are at risk because the health of their freshwater ecosystems is unknown. Data on water quality from developing countries lacked detail, with the indicator calculated using relatively few measurements and without suitable environmental water quality standards.

There also is a lack of groundwater data. Only around 60 per cent of reporting countries included information about groundwater, which is problematic because groundwater often represents the largest share of freshwater in a country. Understanding of the hydrogeological environment, the pressures on these resources, and how to monitor them effectively is lacking in many countries.

Agriculture and untreated wastewater pose two of the greatest threats to environmental water quality globally and release excess nutrients into rivers, lakes and aquifers which damage ecosystem function. Measurements of nitrogen and phosphorus failed to meet their targets more often than the other water quality parameters of the indicator. Acceleration is needed to enhance farming management practices and improve wastewater treatment rates to protect freshwater quality, especially in regions with high population growth such as Africa.

The indicator scores reported were independent of GDP. Whether the majority of water bodies in a country were reported as “good” or “not good” quality is unrelated to GDP, with low, middle and high-income countries reporting both situations. The drivers of poor water quality are likely to be different in poor and rich countries and therefore will require specific management measures but action must be taken in all countries.

Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality, 2017-2020



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- Available support and information on SDG indicator 6.3.2: https://communities.unep.org/display/sdg632/Documents+and+Materials on SDG indicator 6.3.2

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Stuart Warner, UNEP; Kilian Christ, UNEP; Melchior Elsler, UNEP; Philipp Saile, UNEP; Dmytro Lisniak, UNEP

Custodian agency(ies): UNEP

Target 6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity

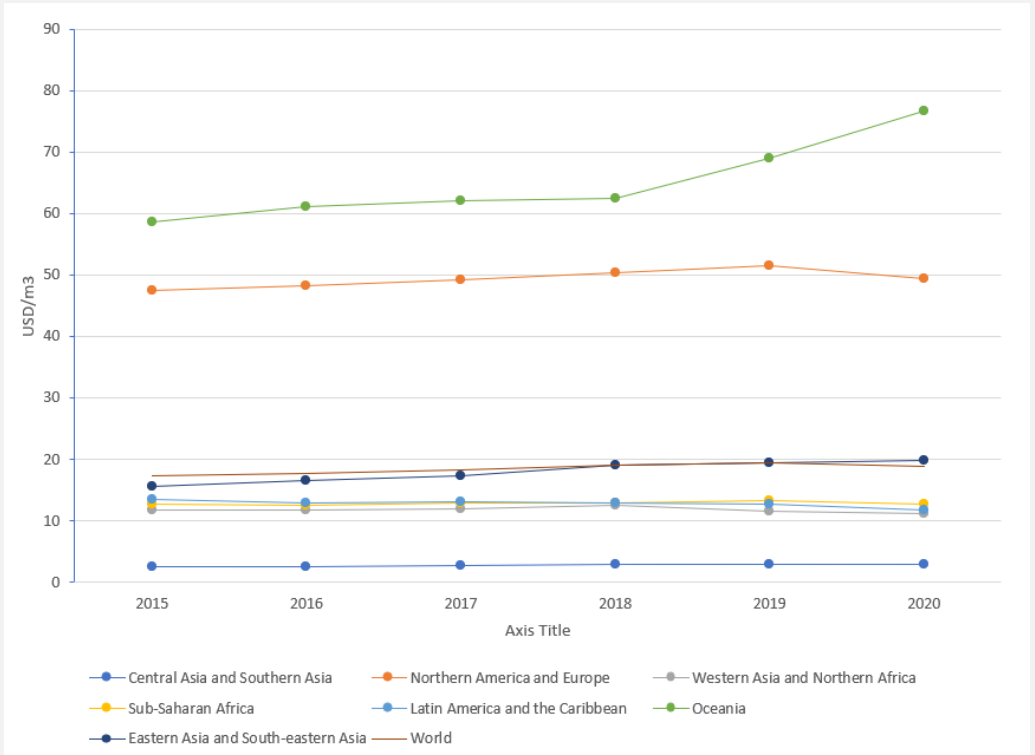
Indicator 6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time

Water use efficiency has risen by an overall 9 percent between 2015 and 2020, although there exist vast regional differences

Water use efficiency (WUE) rose from 17.4 USD/m3 in 2015 to 18.9 USD/m3 in 2020 worldwide, which represents a 9 percent efficiency increase. In 2020, estimates for water use efficiency range from below 3 USD/m3 in economies that depend largely on agriculture to over 50 USD/m3 in highly industrialized, service-based economies. This suggests that a country's economic structure has a direct link to its overall water use efficiency levels. Around 57 percent of countries presented a water use efficiency equivalent to 20 USD/m3 or less in 2020, compared to 58 percent in 2015. However, global averages mask vast regional differences. Central and Southern Asia, Eastern Asia and south-eastern Asia and Oceania show the highest growth rates in water use efficiency from 2015 to 2020, while Latin America and the Caribbean shows a decrease.

All economic sectors have seen an increase in their water use efficiency since 2015. In 2020, the industrial sector had a WUE equivalent to 32.08 USD/m3, the services sector 104.65 USD/m3 and the agriculture sector 0.59 USD/m3. In relative terms, water use efficiency in agriculture has had the greatest increase (20 percent) from 2015, compared to the industrial sector (13 percent), and service sector (0.3 percent). Increasing agricultural water productivity (quantity or value of output in relation to the quantity of water beneficially consumed) through more efficient irrigation systems and better agricultural management practices is key for improving water use efficiency, particularly in agricultural-reliant countries. Other important strategies to increase the overall water efficiency include the reduction in water losses, such as by tackling leakages in municipal distribution networks and the optimization of industrial and energy cooling processes.

Change in water use efficiency across regions (2015-2020)



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- AQUASTAT – FAO's global information system on water and agriculture, https://www.fao.org/aquastat/en/
- FAO and UN Water. 2021. Progress on change in water-use efficiency. Global status and acceleration needs for SDG indicator 6.4.1, 2021. Rome. https://doi.org/10.4060/cb6413en

Custodian agency(ies): FAO

Indicator 6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources

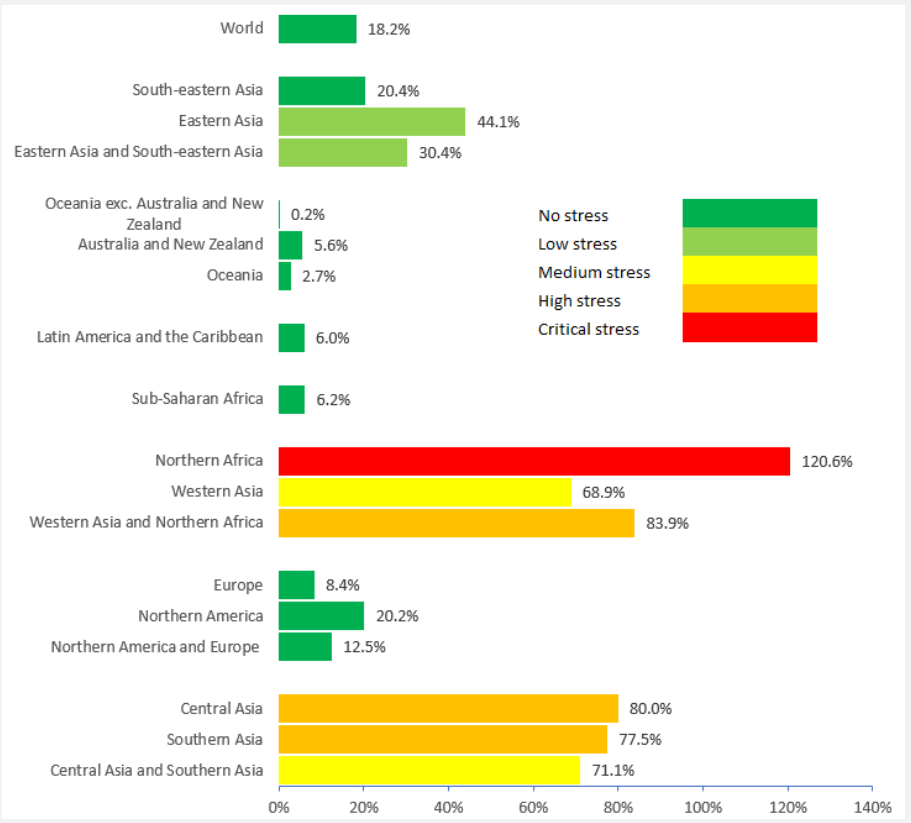
Water stress is worrying high and rising in parts of the world

The measure of water stress accounts for all freshwater withdrawals relative to total freshwater resources, including environmental flow requirements for ecosystem services. A withdrawal rate above 75 percent of renewable water resources represents high water stress, and more than 100 percent is critical. High water stress can have devastating consequences for the environment and hinder or even reverse economic and social development.

At the global level, water stress remains at a safe level of 18.2 percent in 2020, but this masks substantial regional variations, and represents a 1.2 percent rise since 2015. In 2020, water stress levels ranged from high in Southern Asia and Central Asia to critical in Northern Africa. The situation in Western Asia and Northern Africa is particularly concerning since it registered an 18 percent increase in water stress levels from 2015 to 2020.

Globally, agriculture is the dominant sector in terms of freshwater withdrawals representing 72 percent of the total freshwater water withdrawals in 2020, followed by the industrial sector at 16 percent and the service sector at 12 percent of total freshwater withdrawals.

Level of water across regions and sub-regions, 2020



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- AQUASTAT – FAO's global information system on water and agriculture https://www.fao.org/aquastat/en/
- FAO and UN Water. 2021. Progress on Level of Water Stress. Global status and acceleration needs for SDG Indicator 6.4.2, 2021. Rome. https://doi.org/10.4060/cb6241en

Custodian agency(ies): FAO

Target 6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

Indicator 6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management

Coordination between various users of water is essential to achieve multiple SDGs

Integrated management of water resources across sectors is critical to achieve water-related targets under most of the other SDGs, including those on strengthening resilience to climate-related hazards (13.1), sustainable agriculture (2.4), renewable energy (7.2), sustainable management and use of natural resources (12.2), and restoration of freshwater ecosystems and their services (15.1), to name just a few. Yet 50 per cent of countries do not have formal mechanisms for coordinated action on water management, instead relying on ad-hoc discussions (see chart).

In recognition of the importance of water resources management in building climate resilience, there have been increasing calls to strengthen the links between water and climate, including at the UN 2023 Water Conference, which recommends that "IWRM mechanisms and tools should be strengthened to link to and operationalise other processes related to disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change, with a particular focus on adaptation" (Interactive dialogue 3: Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment).

On indicator 6.5.1, while there was some progress between 2017 and 2020 – from 49 to 54 out of 100 – the average rate of implementation is insufficient to meet the target. The good news is that 22 countries have proved that real and rapid progress is possible, showing that political will and adequate financing are two key enablers for success.

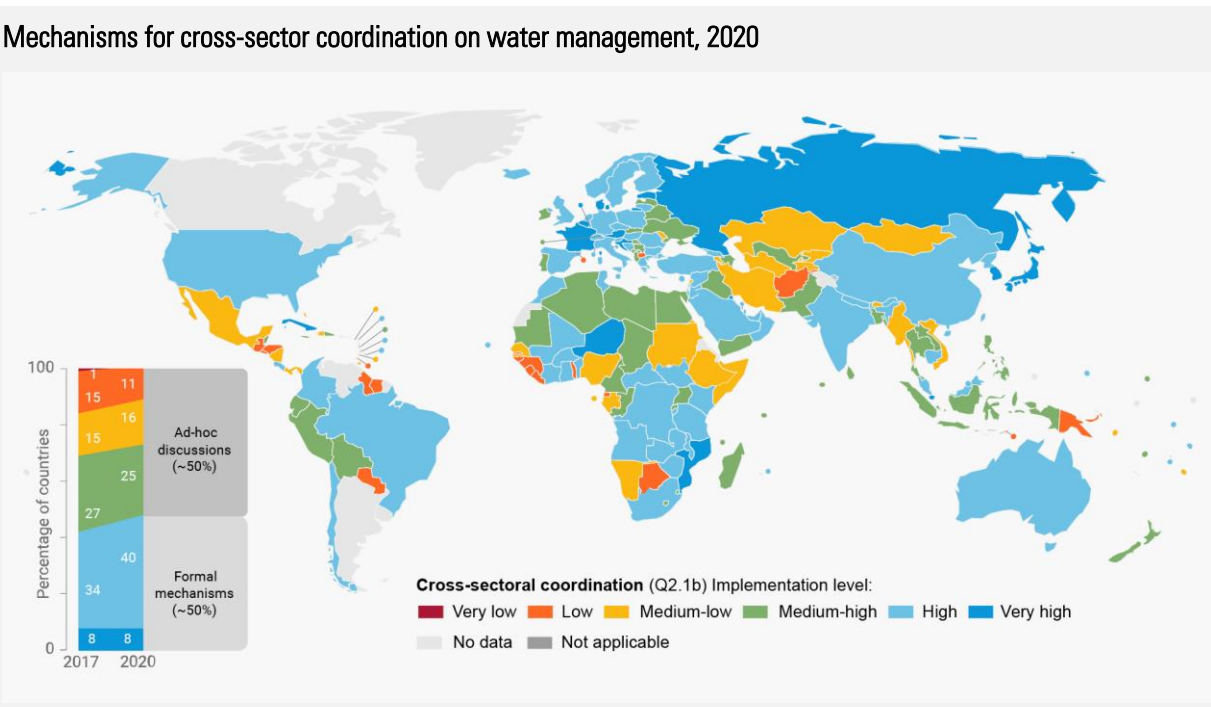
107 countries need to urgently accelerate implementation of sustainable water management. Detailed budgeted action planning, with stakeholder inputs from across sectors, can help to prioritise and coordinate efforts and resources. The UNEP-lead SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme has helped 16 countries so far to develop IWRM Action Plans, and is working on scaling this up.

While each country must identify their own priorities and pathways to make progress, some of the most commonly cited areas for improvement, across the 186 countries that have reported on their implementation of integrated water resources management include: joint planning and implementation within the water sector and across other sectors; leveraging financing, including from COVID-19 build-back-better packages and climate resilience funds; stronger basin and aquifer management, and capacity development at these levels; better collection and sharing of data and information; and inclusive participation. To support these activities, many countries make the case for needing to update their legal frameworks to reflect progressive, coordinated water management, but they also point out that this can take many years to achieve – though we only have eight years till 2030.

The 44 countries that are close to achieving the target need to sustain their efforts, since achieving and maintaining the objectives of sustainable water resources management is an ongoing process.

Acceleration is most urgently needed in South and Central America, the Caribbean, Oceania, South and Central Asia, and Central and West Africa, but further effort is still needed in all countries and regions.

Mechanisms for cross-sector coordination on water management, 2020



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

All reports, country summaries, and results, available through the IWRM data portal: http://iwrmdataportal.unepdhi.org/; including:

- 2021 SDG 6.5.1 status report: Executive Summary: http://iwrmdataportal.unepdhi.org/IWRMDataJsonService/Service1.svc/DownloadPublicationsReportDoc/English/SDG%206.5.1%20Global%20progress%20report%202020%20EXECUTIVE%20SUMMARY.pdf
- 2021 6.5.1 full report: report: http://iwrmdataportal.unepdhi.org/IWRMDataJsonService/Service1.svc/DownloadPublicationsReportDoc/English/SDG%206.5.1%20Global%20progress%20report%202021%20full%20report.pdf
- SDG 6.5.1 video: https://youtu.be/fKgkmXCO7h0
- SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme:
  - website https://www.gwp.org/en/sdg6support/ and
  - video https://youtu.be/Uc7gTLXzxNk

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Custodian agency(ies): UNEP

Indicator 6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation

A significant effort is needed to ensure that all transboundary waters are covered by operational arrangements, and the full benefits of transboundary water cooperation across all Sustainable Development Goals can be realised.

As a key theme of the UN 2023 Water Conference and Water Action Agenda, transboundary water cooperation is recognized as offering benefits well beyond water, such as supporting the provision of renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure and promoting peace and partnerships. With over three billion people depending on transboundary water resources, cooperation is indeed crucial for sustainable development, peace and climate action

While operational arrangements between countries provide the basis upon which to nurture transboundary water cooperation and realize its benefits, only 32 countries out of the 153 countries sharing transboundary waters have 90% or more of their transboundary waters covered by such arrangements. Data analyzed at the regional level highlights key challenges. In Europe and North America 24 out of 42 countries sharing transboundary waters have 90% or more of their waters covered by operational arrangements. However, only six countries in Asia, four countries in Latin America and only one country in North Africa report having 90% or more of their waters covered by operational arrangements.

Groundwater provides almost half of all drinking water, 40% of the water used for irrigation, and around a third of industrial water supplies. A key groundwater challenge is to address knowledge gaps and strengthen operational arrangements for transboundary aquifers. Data from 2017 and 2020 suggests that at least 50 countries only have 30% or less of their transboundary aquifers covered by an operational arrangement. Moreover, this figure is based on data from just 94 of 153 countries that share transboundary aquifers. For some of the other 59 countries, the lack of aquifer data may preclude them submitting Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 data. An added complexity is that there is only a handful of aquifer specific arrangements in force. Most of the operational arrangements that do cover transboundary aquifers were originally developed for river basins. Steps are therefore needed to ensure that aquifers are appropriately incorporated into the implementation and development of these basin arrangements.

Countries have demonstrated that gathering data for the purpose of monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals is in itself a tangible way by which they can progress cooperation and foster partnerships. Within the framework of indicator 6.5.2 monitoring, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal recently recognized the need to accelerate progress on developing an operational arrangement for the Senegal-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin (SMAB), which is home to an estimated 20 million habitants across the four countries. Several river basin commissions, including those covering the Danube, the Okavango, Limpopo, Zambezi, Rhine, Meuse, Finnish-Swedish shared waters and Spain-Portugal shared waters, have also demonstrated the value of using these joint institutions to share data on SDG indicator 6.5.2. Other countries, including Costa Rica, Colombia, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama have used the occasion of SDG indicator 6.5.2 data gathering to hold bilateral meetings on their shared waters. Also, at the national level, countries have used the SDG indicator 6.5.2 process to improve internal co-ordination on transboundary waters issues. Botswana, for example, has incorporated aquifers into water law reforms, and several countries, including Albania, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Togo demonstrate the importance of collaboration with national groundwater institutions.

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- UN-Water SDG6 monitoring: https://www.sdg6monitoring.org/indicator-652UNECE SDG 6.5.2 webpage: https://www.unece.org/water/transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting.html
- UNESCO SDG 6.5.2 webpage: https://en.unesco.org/themes/watersecurity/transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Sonja Koeppel, UNECE; Ali Rieu-Clarke, UNECE; Sarah Tiefenauer-Linardon, UNECE; Aurélien Dumont, UNESCO; Tatiana Dmitrieva, UNESCO

Custodian agency(ies): UNESCO-IHP, UNECE

Target 6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

Indicator 6.6.1 Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time

Only 15 percent of the worlds wetlands ecosystems remain. It's time to protect and restore wetlands at scale

Wetland extent and condition continues to deteriorate globally. Wetland area continues to decline, with conversion and loss continuing in all parts of the world. Over the past three hundred years, over 85 percent of the planet's wetlands have been lost, largely through drainage and land conversion (Hu et al., 2017), with many remaining areas degraded (Ramsar Convention Secretariat, 2016). Some wetlands are receding due to reduced flows caused by droughts and water extraction, trends that are expected to be amplified by climate change and increasing global demand for water. Since 1970, 81% of inland wetland-dependent species and 36% of coastal and marine species have declined far more than species dependent on other biomes and an increasing number are facing extinction.

Wetland ecosystem services and values are increasingly used as nature-based solutions. Wetlands have always provided services to humanity, yet recognition of the scale of these benefits and the consequences of their loss is quite recent. Unsustainable use and inappropriate management of wetlands not only results in loss of ecosystem services but can bring direct risks including disease.

The most fundamental of these ecosystem services is the provision of adequate quantities and quality of water, with major health and well-being impacts where this is lacking. Wetlands also provide services related to climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction, fisheries (over two thirds of the world's fish harvest is linked to the health of coastal and inland wetland areas); agriculture, through the maintenance of water tables and nutrient retention in floodplains; timber production; energy resources, such as peat and plant matter; wildlife resources; transport; and recreation and tourism opportunities. Wetlands are considered the most biologically diverse of all ecosystems, 40% of the world's plant and animal species live or breed in wetlands (UNFCCC, 2018).

Wetlands ecosystem services exceed terrestrial services in value. The monetary value of wetlands was recently estimated to constitute roughly 43 per cent of the value of all global ecosystems, contributing around $47 trillion per year in ecosystem services (Davidson et al., 2019). The lion's share of this value (68 per cent for inland and 89 per cent for coastal wetlands) comes from the regulating services these ecosystems provide, such as maintaining water and soil quality through filtration and nutrient cycling, as well as protecting riverbanks and coastlines from flooding and erosion. Protecting and restoring wetlands is a valuable climate change mitigation action as wetlands act as carbon sinks, absorbing greenhouse gas emissions. Peatlands have been estimated to store twice as much carbon as all of Earth's forests, while mangrove soils hold over 6 billion tons of carbon and can sequester up to 3-4 times more carbon than their terrestrial counterparts (Dargy et al 2017; WWF). Keeping wetlands 'wet' prevents emissions of methane and carbon dioxide being released from the soil into the atmosphere.

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- UNEP Freshwater Ecosystems Explorer Data Portal
- Ramsar Global Outlook on Wetlands

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Stuart Crane, UNEP; Maria Rivera, Ramsar Convention

Custodian agency(ies): UNEP,Ramsar

Target 6.a By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies

Indicator 6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan

ODA disbursements to the water sector decreased between 2015 and 2021 from US$ 9.1 billion to US$ 7.8 billion, a decrease of 15%, with ODA commitments showing a similar decrease.

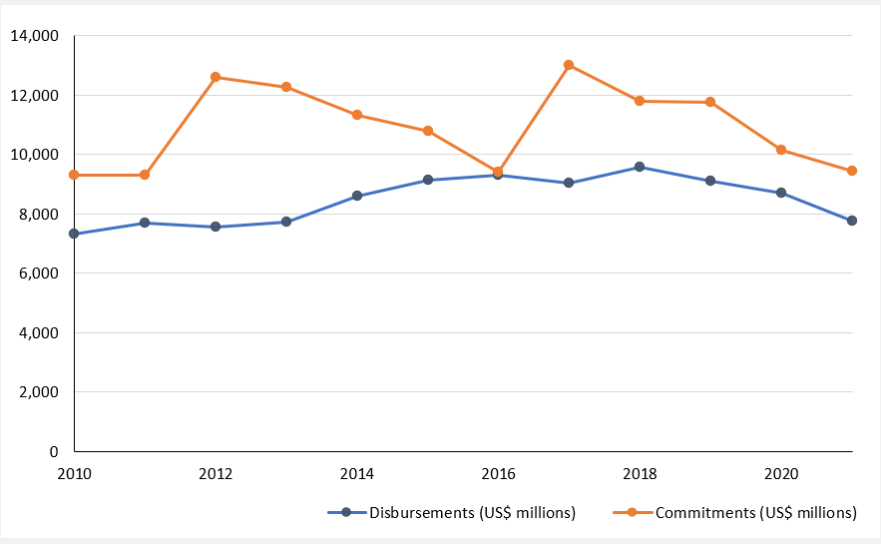
Between 2015 and 2021, ODA disbursements to the water sector decreased from US$ 9.1 billion to US$ 7.8 billion, a decrease of 15%. Disbursements peaked in 2018 at US$ 9.6 billion. ODA commitments have also reduced by 13% since 2015, from US$ 10.8 billion in 2015 to US$ 9.4 billion in 2021. Commitments peaked at US$ 13 billion in 2017 and have decreased every year since.

The region receiving the largest amount of water sector ODA is consistently Sub-Saharan Africa, which received near 30% or more of water sector ODA disbursements every year since 2015. In 2015, US$ 2.8 billion of ODA was disbursed to Least Developed Countries; this peaked at US$ 3.6 billion in 2019 and has since decreased to US$ 2.9 billion in 2021. All SDG regions have shown a decrease in ODA disbursements between 2019 and 2021. In two regions, Latin America and the Caribbean and Western Asia and Northern Africa, there was a local peak in 2020 followed by a large drop of over 40%.

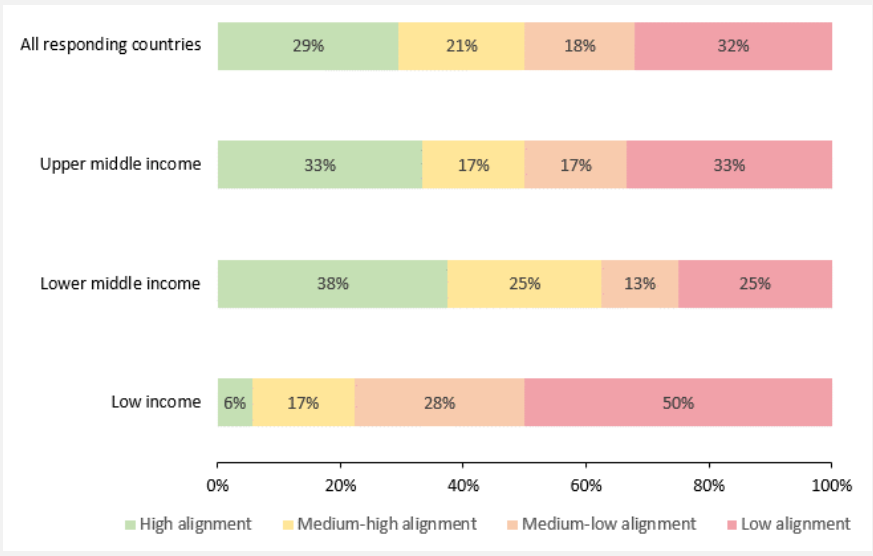
There have been considerable changes in the prioritization of sectors since 2019, as donors commit increased ODA to some sectors and less to others as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Water supply and sanitation ranked 6th in ODA commitments in 2018 and 2019 among the 43 sectors defined by OECD-CRS; however, its ranking dropped to 12th in 2020 and recovered only modestly to 11th in 2021. Other sectors that appear to have been similarly de-prioritized include agriculture, general environmental protection, and support for refugees in donor countries: these sectors dropped 4 or more places between 2019 and 2021. Sectors that rose 4 or more places in the rankings include basic health (which rose 7 places to 2nd place), general budget support (which rose 10 places to 4th place), and banking and financial services.

International cooperation as defined for this target implies a degree of collaboration and alignment between donors and recipient governments. Globally the percentage of water sector ODA channeled through the recipient government increased from 60.2% to 71.8% between 2015 and 2021. However, donor alignment with recipient country national plans remains low: In 2021, 29% of countries reported a high alignment[1] between donor funds and national water sector plans, whilst 32% of countries reported having low alignment. This figure varies strongly by income group. Only 6% of low-income countries report high alignment between donor funding and national plans. In contrast to this, 38% of lower-middle income countries and 33% of upper-middle income countries report a high alignment between donor funding and the national plan.

ODA disbursements and commitments for the water sector (constant 2020 US$ millions)



Per cent of countries with donor funds aligned to the national water sector plan (%), by income group, 2022



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-water (GLAAS) 2022 Report: Strong systems and sound investments: Evidence on and key insights into accelerating progress on sanitation, drinking-water and hygiene: https://glaas.who.int/glaas/un-water-global-analysis-and-assessment-of-sanitation-and-drinking-water-(glaas)-2022-report
- OECD creditor reporting system: https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=crs1
- GLAAS data portal: https://glaas.who.int/
- SDG 6 data portal: https://www.sdg6data.org/en

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Marina Takane, World Health Organization; Tom Stakes, World Health Organization; Mark Hoeke, World Health Organization

Custodian agency(ies): WHO,OECD

[1] "High" alignment is defined as over 95% of donor funds aligned with the national plan. "Medium-high" alignment corresponds to 75-94% of funds aligned with the national plan. "Medium-low" alignment corresponds to 50-74% of funds aligned with the national plan. "Low" alignment corresponds to less than 50% of funds aligned with the national plan.

Target 6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

Indicator 6.b.1 Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management

In 2022, the majority of countries define procedures for local community participation in law or policy for rural drinking-water and water resources management, but far fewer report high levels of community participation.

Strengthening community participation is fundamental to adapt and sustain SDG 6 solutions to local community contexts and to ensure no one is left behind. Participation may range from users having access to information to more formal representation of users or communities in government processes for joint decision-making on issues surrounding WASH and water resources management. In 2022, 87% of countries define procedures for local community participation in law or policy for rural drinking-water. However, only 31% of countries report high levels of community participation.

Similar results were found for participation in water resources management. In 2022, 85% of countries define procedures for local community participation in law or policy. However, only 28% of countries report high levels of community participation in water resources management.

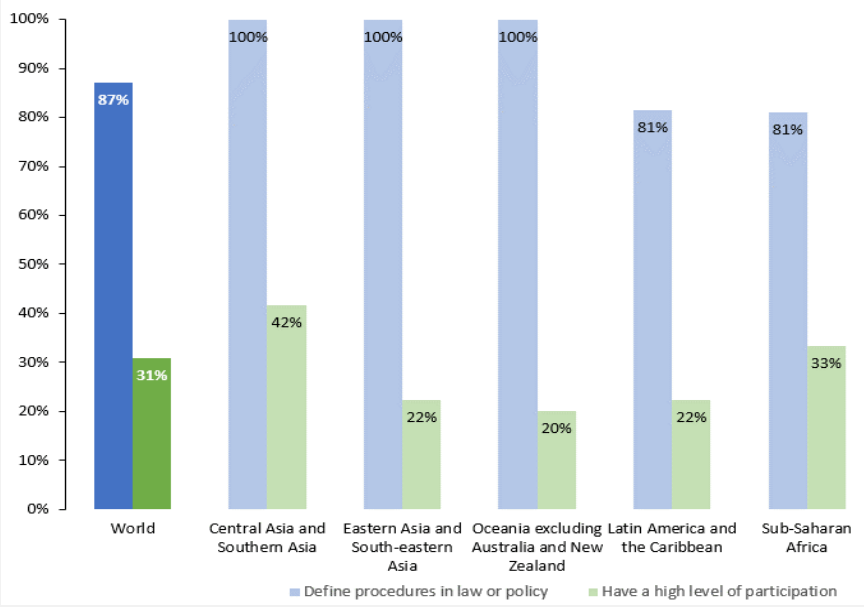
Since 2016, the percentage of countries having procedures for local community participation defined in law or policy has remained high (over 70%) for both rural drinking-water and for water resources management; however, the percentage of countries with high levels of participation remains consistently low (under 40%).

In three regions (Central Asia and Southern Asia, Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia, and Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand)), over 90% of countries define participation procedures in law or policy for rural drinking-water. The percentage of countries reporting high levels of community participation was highest in Central Asia and Southern Asia (42%).

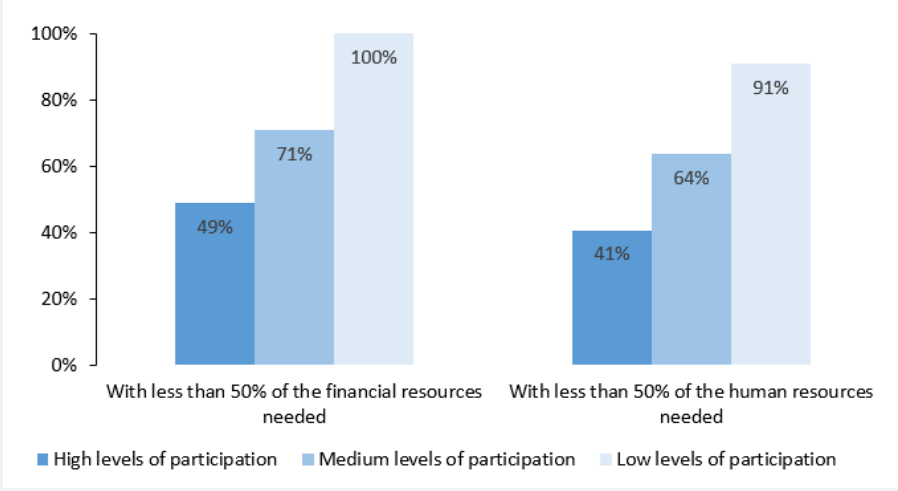
In two regions (Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia, Western Asia and Northern Africa), over 90% of countries define participation procedures in law or policy for water resources management. The percentage of countries reporting high levels of community participation was highest in Central Asia and Southern Asia (50%) and in Western Asia and Northern Africa (47%).

Participation of users and communities is constrained by a lack of financial and human resources. Only 14% of countries have sufficient (over 75% of the) financial and human resources needed to support the participation of users and communities for rural drinking-water and sanitation. Similarly, for water resources management only 17% of countries have sufficient resources. Countries with fewer financial and human resources to support participation also reported lower levels of community participation for rural drinking-water, overall.

Per cent of countries that define proceduresin law or policy and have a high level of participation (%), 2022, by region



Per cent of countries with insufficient human and financial resources (%), 2022, by level of community participation



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-water (GLAAS) 2022 Report: Strong systems and sound investments: Evidence on and key insights into accelerating progress on sanitation, drinking-water and hygiene: https://glaas.who.int/glaas/un-water-global-analysis-and-assessment-of-sanitation-and-drinking-water-(glaas)-2022-report
- GLAAS data portal: https://glaas.who.int/
- SDG 6 data portal: https://www.sdg6data.org/en

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