The Sustainable Development Goals Extended Report 2024

Inputs and information provided as of 30 April 2024

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 2024. 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 6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

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

Global data availability for SDG WASH indicators has increased steadily during the SDG period

Since the publication of the WHO/UNICEF JMP global baseline report in 2017, both the total number of countries, areas and territories and the proportion of the population for which estimates are available has increased steadily with each progress update. Data for all three SDG global indicators are now available for over 50% of countries and over 50% of the population, but data availability varies widely across regions and countries.

During the SDG period, the number of countries with total estimates available for indicator 6.1.1 (safely managed drinking water) has increased by half, from 95 to 142, and the population with data has risen from 34% to 51%. The increase in data coverage has been similar in rural and urban areas, with more than 50 countries producing new baseline estimates in rural areas (from 20 to 75) and urban areas (from 42 to 96). Low-income countries have achieved the largest increases in the number of rural, urban and total estimates for drinking water.

The number of countries with total estimates for indicator 6.2.1a (safely managed sanitation) has increased from 84 to 135 and population coverage has nearly doubled from 48% to 86%. While more countries have estimates for urban areas (116) than for rural areas (89), the number of countries with rural estimates has almost tripled. Low-income and lower-middle-income countries have achieved the largest increases in the number of rural, urban and total estimates for sanitation.

The number of countries with total estimates for indicator 6.2.1b (basic hygiene services) has increased unevenly but population coverage has more than doubled due to the addition of estimates for populous countries, including India and China in 2023. While there has been modest growth in data availability among low-income and lower-middle income countries, there are still very few high-income countries with estimates for basic hygiene.

Percentage of population and number of countries with rural, urban and total estimates available for SDG WASH indicators in WHO/UNICEF JMP progress updates, 2017-2023

Global data availability for SDG WASH indicators has increased steadily during the SDG period

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000-2022. New York: United Nations Children's Fund and World Health Organization

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): UNICEF; 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

Globally, approximately 40% of domestic wastewater is discharged without safe treatment, but large gaps in monitoring and reporting result in an unclear picture of the global wastewater sector

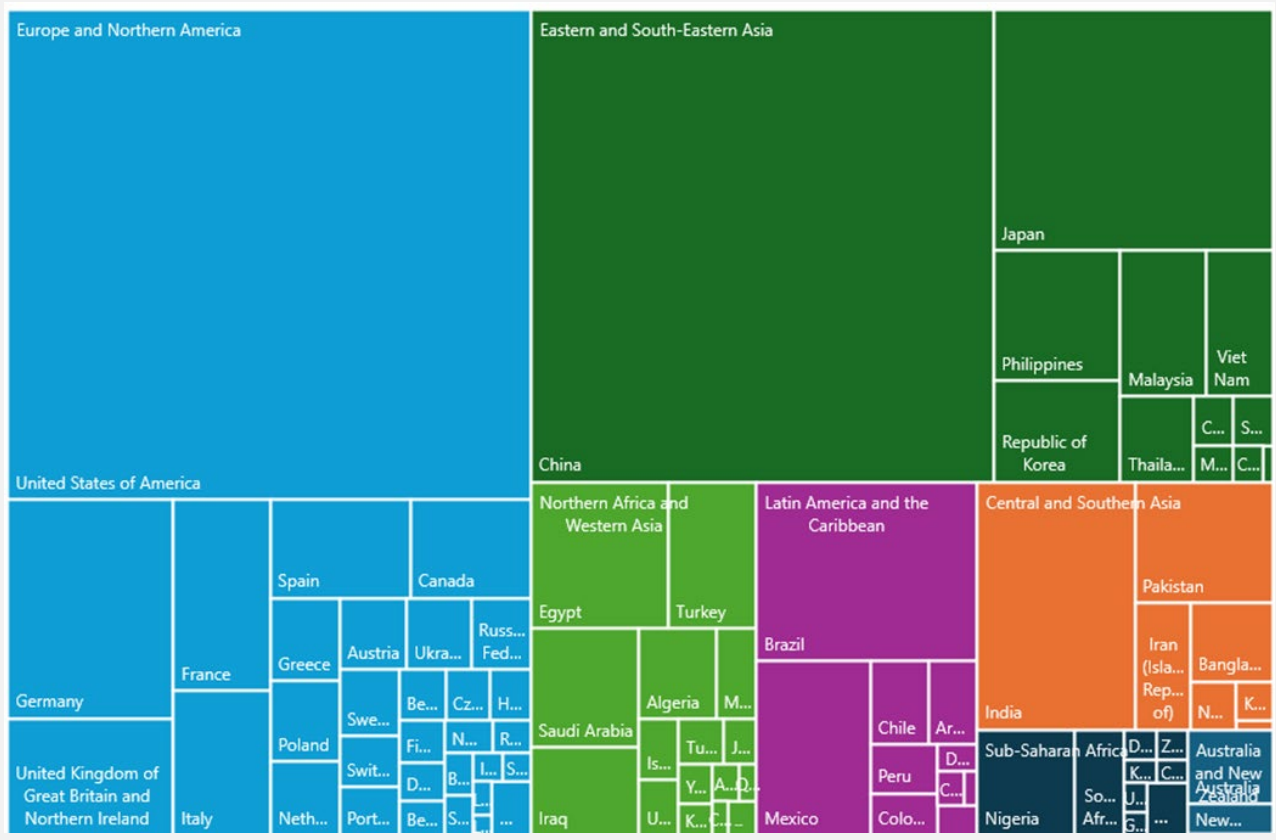
Over the 107 countries reporting some wastewater statistics for 2022 (representing 73% of the world's population), only 73 countries (representing 42% of the global population) reported both volumes generated and receiving some level of treatment; only 42 countries (representing 12% of the population) reported on the level of treatment received. Among these 73 countries, 137 billion m3 of total wastewater was generated, and 103 billion m3 (76%) were treated. Among the 42 countries with similar data on levels of treatment, 59 billion m3 of total wastewater was generated, and 36 billion m3 (60%) were safely treated (i.e. secondary treatment or better).

This represents a large increase in data coverage from the previous global report, published in 2021, which compiled data on generation and treatment of total wastewater from 42 countries (representing 18% of the global population). This has resulted in a very different aggregate estimate of the proportion of total wastewater treated: from 32% in 2015 (as reported in the 2021 report) to 76% in 2022. This change in the SDG indicator value does however not reflect a significant increase in the flows treated, but rather an increase in data collection. There is moreover in general a higher reporting of wastewater treatment statistics over wastewater generation variables. There is thus limited scope for comparing the aggregate statistics in the two reporting, and in interpreting the evolution of the proportion of (safely) treated total and industrial wastewater.

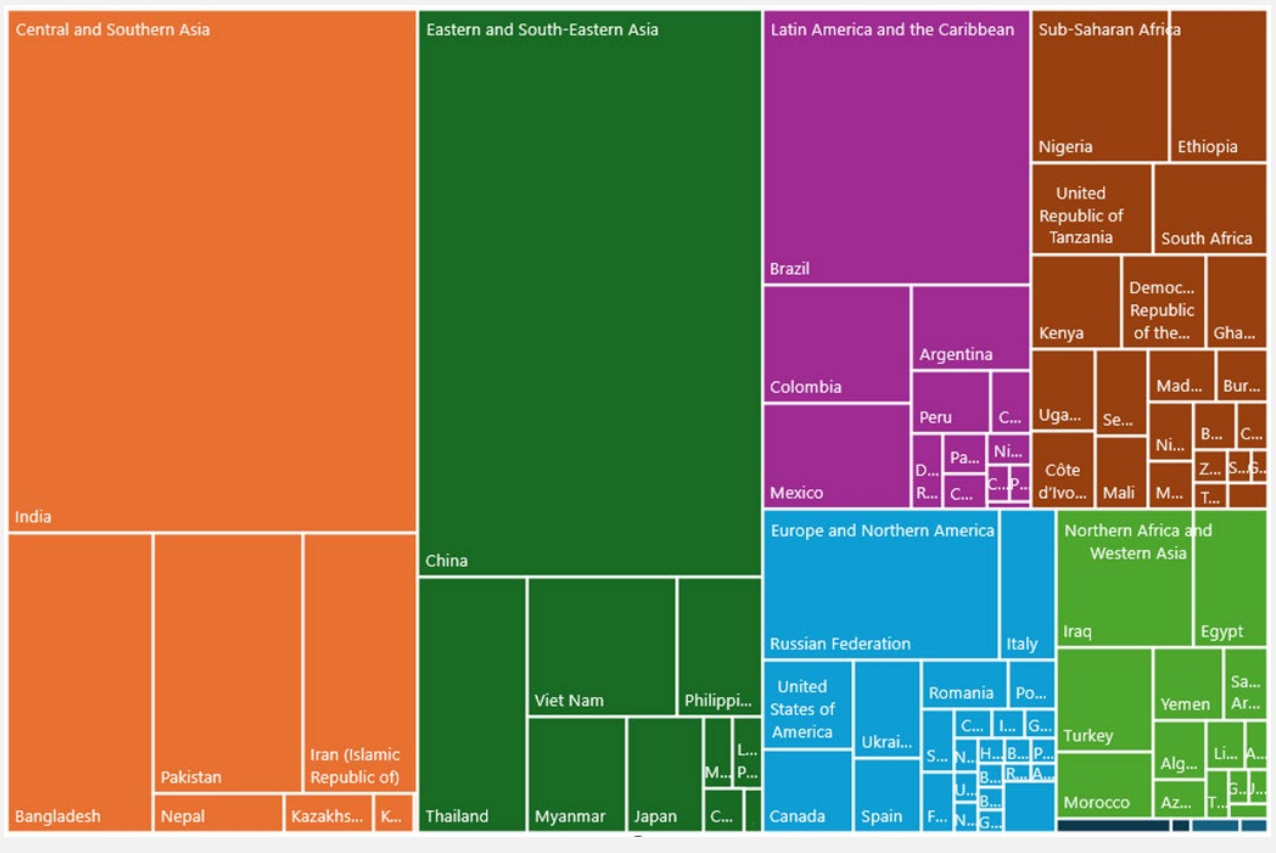
Globally, an estimated 268 billion m3 of household wastewater was generated in 2022. Of this, 155 billion m3 (58%) was safely treated (i.e. received secondary or better treatment, or was treated in compliance with local standards). Data were sufficientt to publish country estimates of the proportion of household wastewater safely treated for 140 countries and territories (including 129 UN Member States), representing 92% of global household wastewater flows. Regional estimates were published for all SDG regions and demonstrated a high degree of variability. Globally, an estimated 57% of all household wastewater was collected at centralized wastewater treatment plants, 24% was collected in septic tanks, and 19% was not collected. Of the flows in sewers, 82% were delivered to wastewater treatment plants and subsequently safely treated. Of the flows in septic tanks, 48% were safely treated (on the basis of adequate containment and system functionality, and emptying and safe delivery, treatment and/or disposal of fecal sludge.)

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.

The United States and China are the largest generators of household wastewater which is safely treated



India and China are the largest generators of household wastewater which is not safely treated



Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): Graham Alabaster, UN-Habitat; Richard 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

Where we have good data, water quality is degrading. Where data are limited, we simply don't know. This means that in many countries, early warning is impossible because the proximity to ecological 'tipping points' is unknown. Beyond these points, restoration measures are ineffective and the services provided by freshwater ecosystems fail

Information on 91,000 water bodies received in 2023 shows that in all world regions many rivers, lakes and aquifers are still in good condition – 56 per cent of water bodies assessed in 120 countries have good water quality. The number of countries reporting on this indicator continues to increase (up to 120 in 2023 from 71 in 2017 and 89 in 2020), but there are significant gaps in West Asia and North Africa that need to be filled. Trends between regions are apparent, with Central and Southern Asia reporting lower water quality than others, but there is no consistent trend over time globally.

This indicator shows that a country's economic status does not determine water quality, with both high and low GDP countries reporting both good and poor water quality (see Charts 1). But GDP does correspond to the amount of data available for reporting, with the lower GDP countries using fewer data points to classify far fewer water bodies. The 40 highest income countries reported on 75 per cent of the water bodies (71,000), and the remaining 80 countries reported on the remaining 25 per cent (20,000). The 27 lowest income countries reported data on an average of just 60 water bodies each. "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.

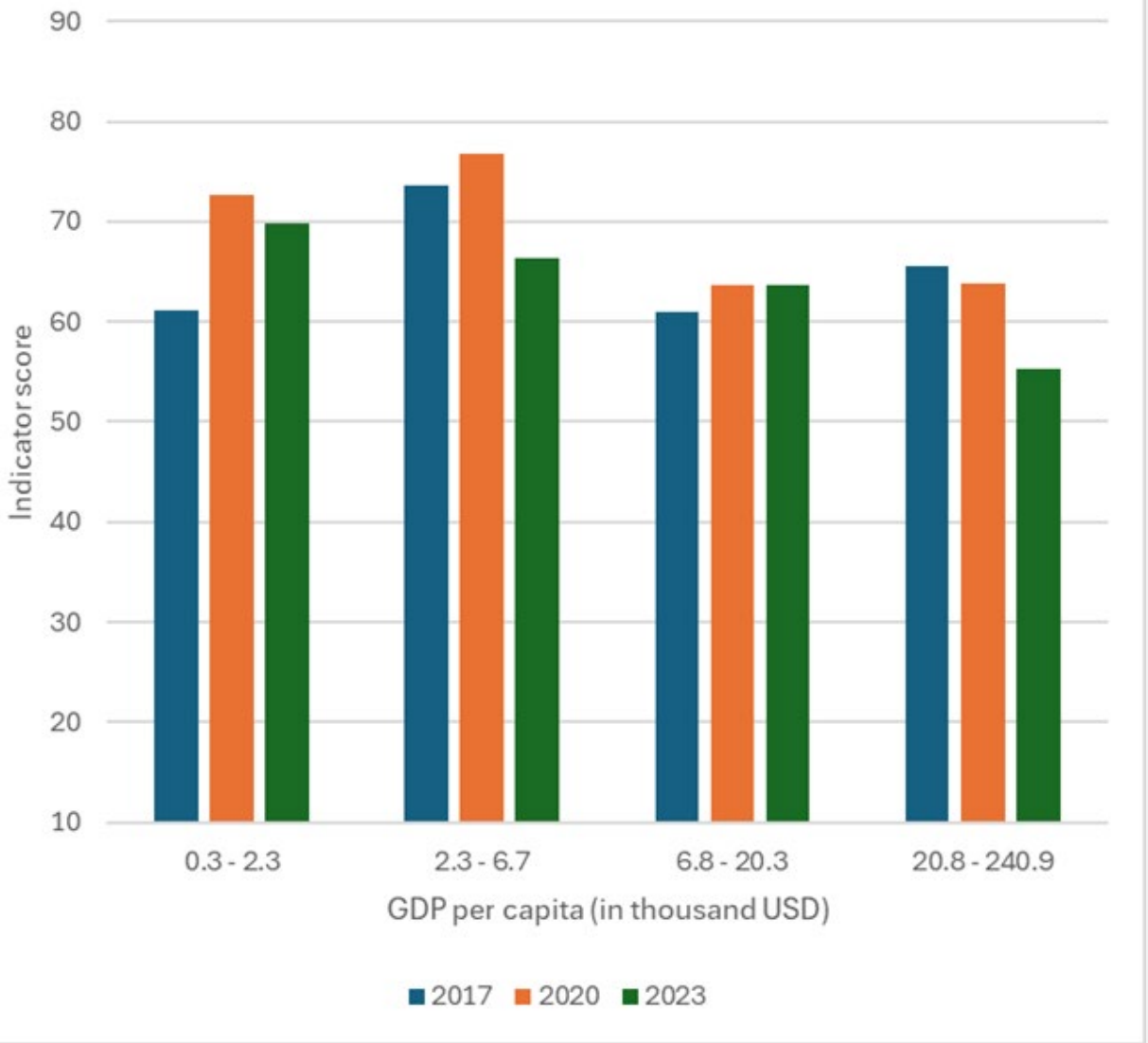
Through UNEP's country-engagement to support this SDG indicator, it is clear that in many countries the data are insufficient to provide national-level information for water resource management. This data gap means that providing early warning is impossible because we do not understand how the quality of our freshwaters is changing, and the degree of risk to those that rely on these unmonitored waters.

More countries included rivers in their indicator (101) with fewer countries including data on lakes and groundwaters (71 for both). This is problematic because in many countries groundwater often represents the largest share of freshwater in a country, and lakes are essential freshwater ecosystems that provide a multitude of essential services. Monitoring lakes and groundwaters is more technically challenging than rivers, and how to monitor them effectively is lacking in many countries. This is especially relevant given that intensive groundwater use increases salinisation and more frequent low water flows due to increased droughts weaken ecosystem resilience due to increased pollutant concentrations. This is a key capacity gap that needs to be filled.

Agriculture and untreated wastewater pose two of the greatest threats to environmental water quality globally and release excess nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) 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.

One worrying trend in the data is that high income countries that implement the most extensive monitoring programmes show that water quality is degrading since 2017. It is possible that a similar degrading trend is occurring globally, because wastewater treatment rates are lower in many low-income countries, but the data are insufficient to identify this trend.

Mean indicator score partitioned by gross domestic product per capita quartiles for 2017, 2020 and 2023 (per cent)



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- SDG Water Quality Hub: https://sdg632hub.org/

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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

Global Water Use Efficiency Rises, but Regional Disparities Persists

WUE rose from 17.4 USD/m3 in 2015 to 20.8 USD/m3 in 2021 worldwide, which represents a 19 % efficiency increase (Figure 1). Water use efficiency is strongly influenced by the economic structure of a country and the distribution of the use of water within the different economic sectors. In 2021, WUE estimates range from below 3 USD/m3 in economies that depend largely on agriculture to over 50 USD/m3 in highly industrialized, service-based economies. While there has been an increase in the global average of WUE, there has not been a change in the percentage of countries which exhibit a low WUE (less than 20 USD/m3), which is around 58 per cent of countries in the world (Figure 2).

Global values of WUE hide regional differences (Figure 3). Oceania and Northern America and Europe have the highest levels of WUE which are above the world average, while Central Asia and Southern Asia has the lowest. In terms of WUE growth rates between 2015 and 2021, the regions which show a greater growth are Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia, Central and Southern Asia and Oceania, while Latin America and the Caribbean is the only region to show a decrease in WUE (7 percent).

Figure 1: Progress in global Water Use efficiency (WUE) from 2015 to 2021

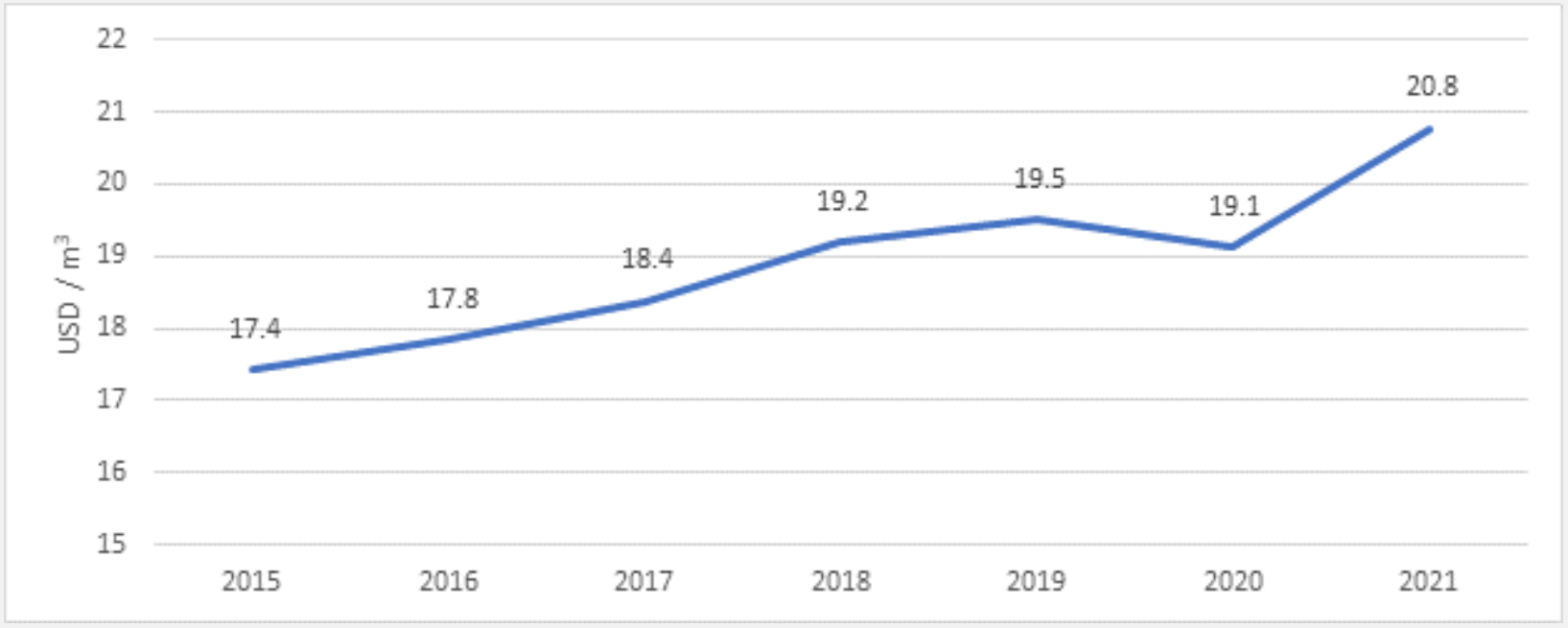


Figure 2: Change in the percentage of countries by WUE range from 2015 to 2021

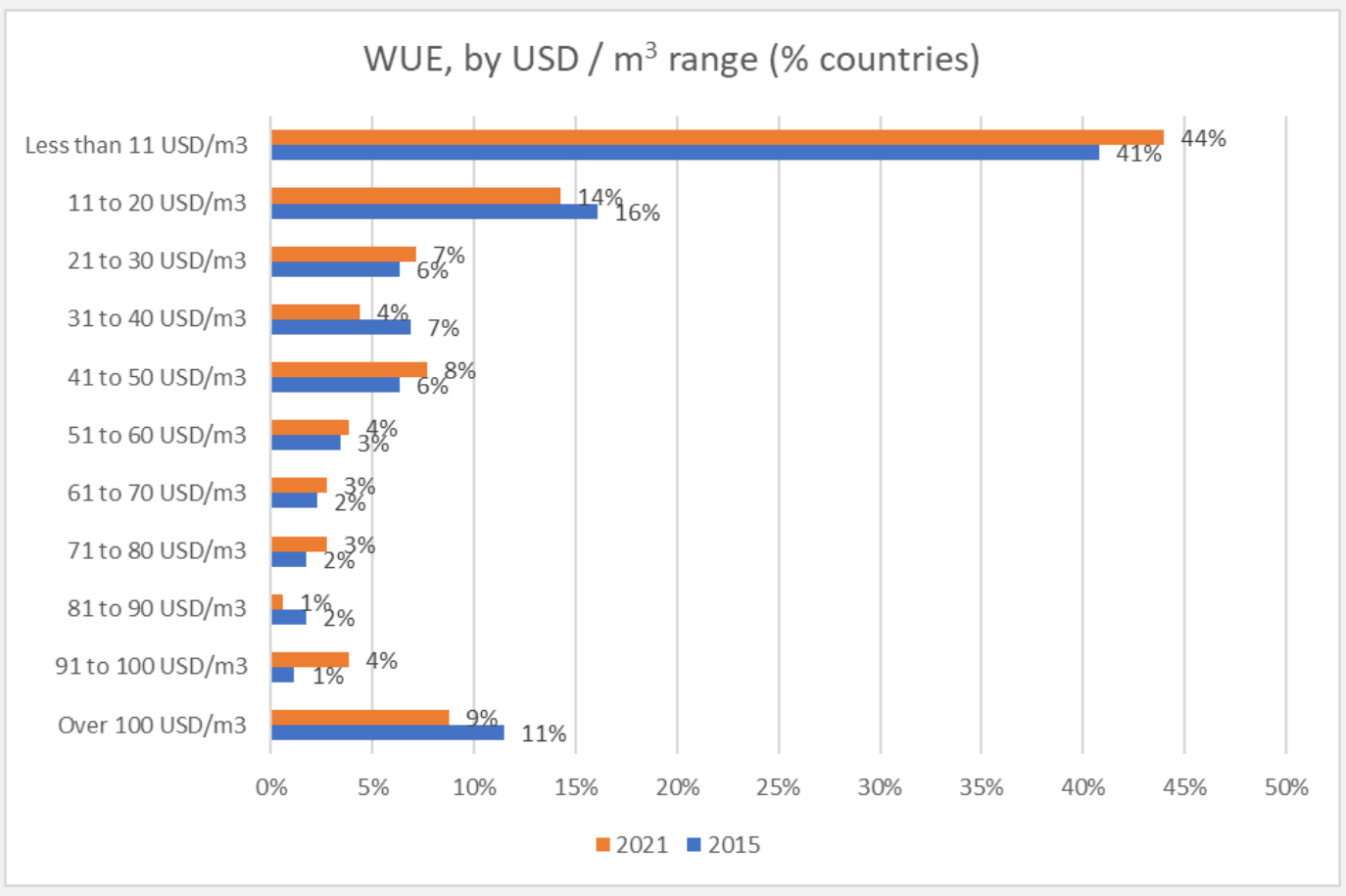
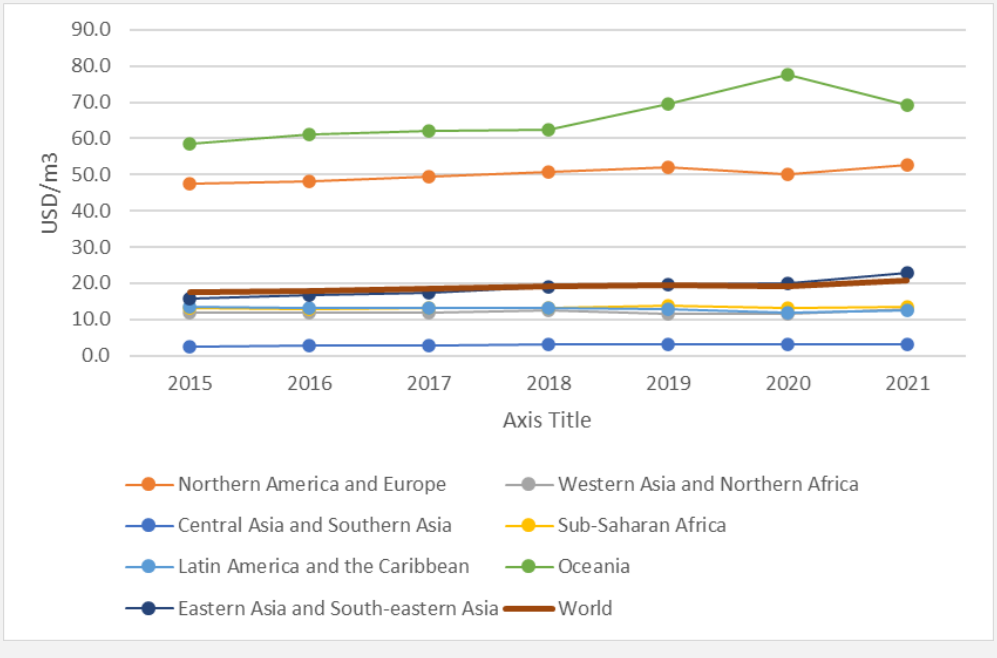


Figure 3: Progress in WUE (USD/m3) by region (2015 – 2021)



All economic sectors have seen an increase in their WUE since 2015. In 2021, the industrial sector has a WUE equivalent to 37.2 USD/m^3, the services sector 111 USD/m^3 and the agriculture sector 0.7 USD/m^3. WUE in agriculture has had the greatest increase (36%) from 2015, compared to the industrial sector (31%), and service sector (6.3%) (Table1).

Table 1

Sectoral WUE	2015	2021	Percentage change 2015 - 2021
WUE Agriculture (USD/m^3)	0.5	0.7	35.6%
WUE Industry (USD/m^3)	28.4	37.2	30.8%
WUE Services (USD/m^3)	104.4	111.0	6.3%

The improvement of WUE can be driven by an increase in the sectoral Gross Value Added (GVA) or/and a decrease in the sectoral water use. Data on the global water use between 2015 and 2021 show that there has been a slight decrease in global water withdrawals (0.1 percent). There has been an increase of 10 percent in the use of municipal water and a decrease of 6.5 percent in the use of industrial water use and 0.6 percent in agriculture (Table 2).

Table 2

	2015	2021	Percentage change 2015 - 2021
Agricultural water withdrawal [10^9 m3/year]	2871.7	2855.5	- 0.6 %
Industrial water withdrawal [10^9 m3/year]	642.217	600.6	- 6.5 %
Municipal water withdrawal [10^9 m3/year]	477.7	528.3	10.6 %
Total water withdrawal [10^9 m3/year]	3992.4	3990.2	- 0.1 %

In terms of the sectoral GVA data, all sectors show an increase in the GVA globally.

GVA (current US$)	2015	2021	Percentual change 2015 - 2021
GVA - Agriculture	3.21 E+12	4.2 E+12	31.2 %
GVA - Industry	1.8 E+13	2.4 E+13	29.7 %
GVA - Services	5 E+13	6.4 E+13	27.9%

Countries are implementing different strategies to improve the water use efficiency such as the modernization and rehabilitation of municipal water infrastructure to reduce water leakages, investment on more efficient irrigation systems and better agricultural practices or the use of non-conventional waters (wastewater reuse). The reduction in the industrial water use reflects an improvement of water efficiency in the cooling process of thermal power plants.

Storyline authors(s)/contributor(s): FAO

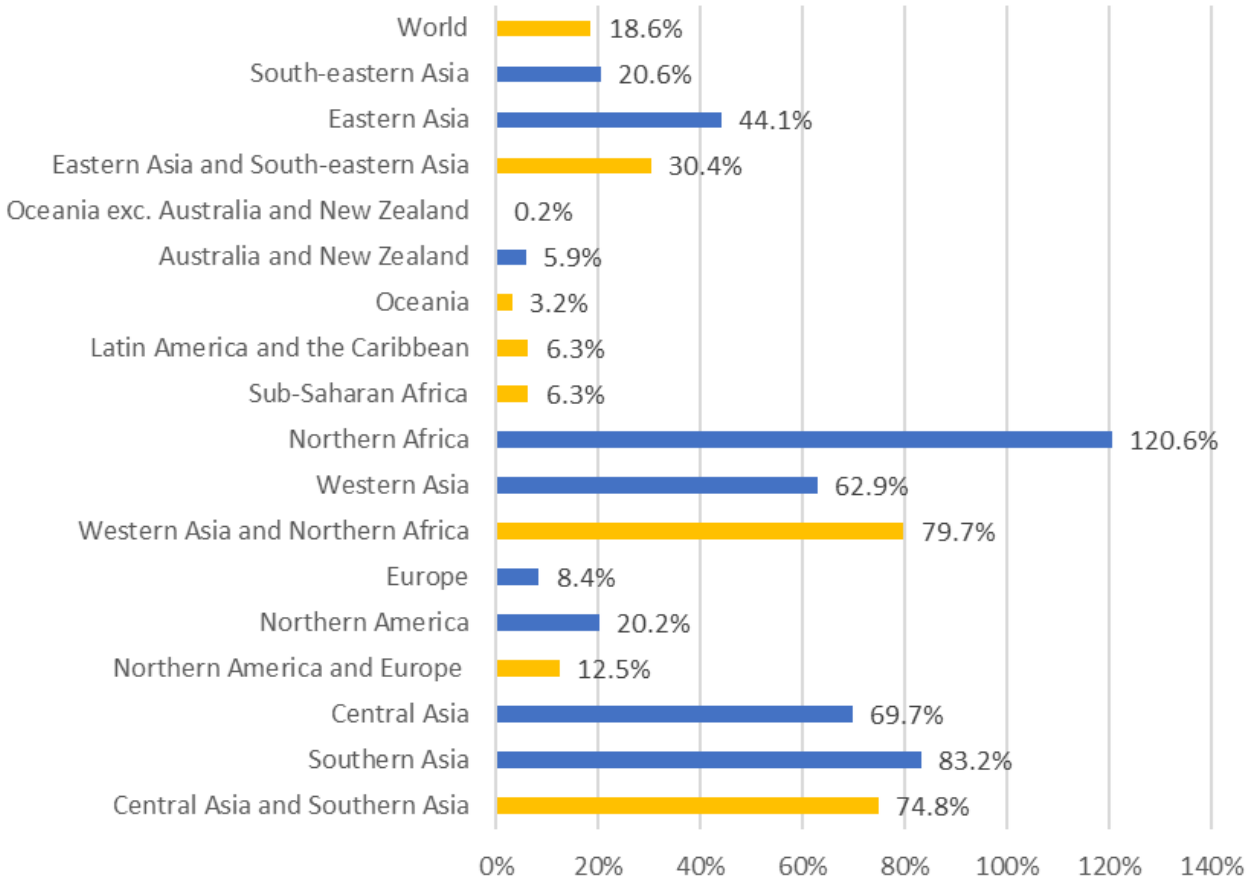
Custodian agency(ies): FAO

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

Water stress, a growing global challenge

The SDG 6.4.2 indicator 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 global level, SDG indicator 6.4.2 reached a safe level of 18.6 percent in 2021 but this masks substantial regional variations. In 2021, Southern Asia and Central Asia has high levels of water stress and Nothern Africa has critical water stress (Figure 2). Since 2015, water stress levels have increased at global level by 3 %. At regional level, the increase in the water stress level has been significant in Western Asia and Northern Africa, which besides having a critical level of water stress, shows also an increase in the indicator by almost 12% (Figure 3)

Figure 2: Level of water stress by SDG region and sub-region (2021)



Note on Figure 2: Yellow shows data at global level and by region, blue shows data by sub-region

Figure 3: Change in the level of water stress by region (2015 – 2021)

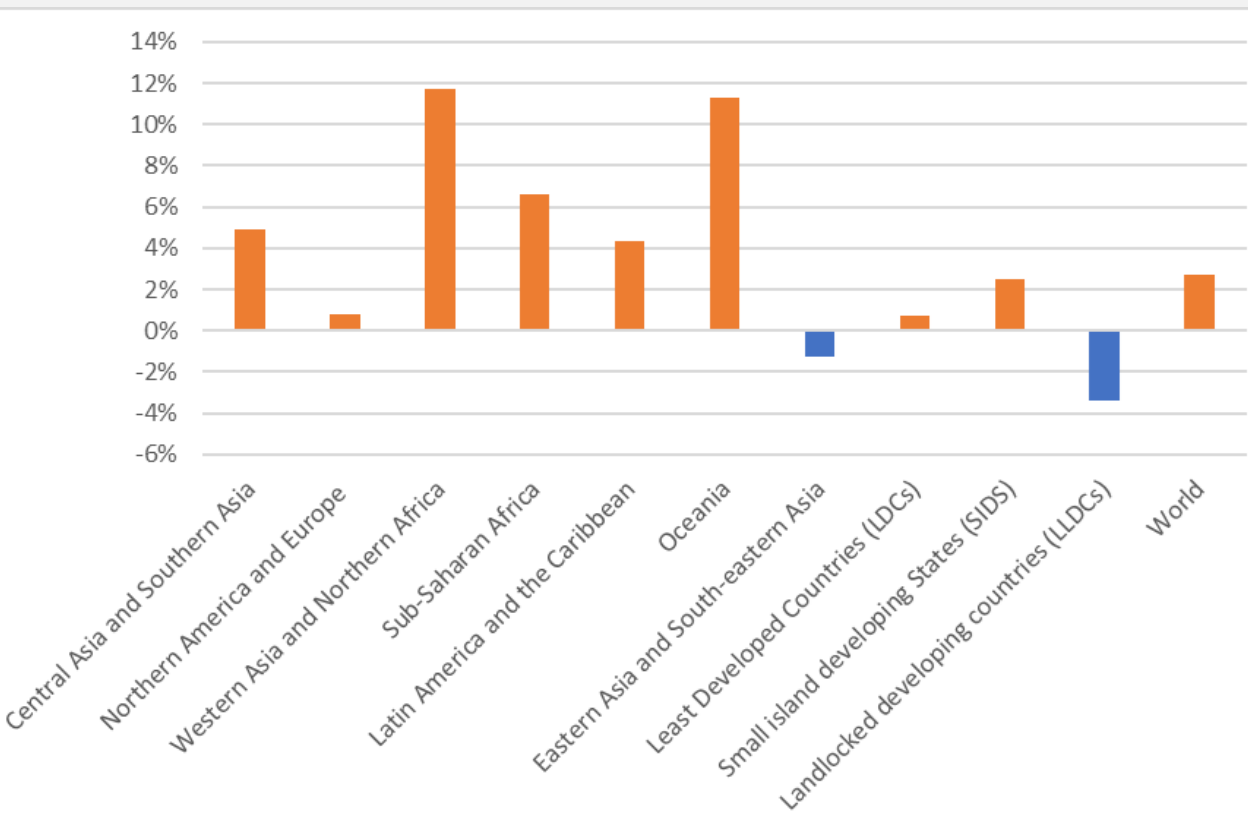


Table 1 shows the contribution of the different economic sectors to the total water stress level. At global level, agriculture is the dominant sector in terms of of freshwater withdrawals representing 72 % of the total freshwater water withdrawals in 2021, followed by the Industrial sector with 15% and the Service sector with 13 % of total freshwater withdrawals.

Table 1: Contribution of the different sectors to the water stress level

	2015	2021
Contribution of the agriculture sector to the total water stress level (%)	13.0	13.3
Contribution of the Industrial sector to the total water stress level (%)	2.9	2.8
Contribution of the Services sector to the total water stress level (%)	2.2	2.5
World Water stress level (%)	18.1	18.6

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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

Coordinated water resources management across sectors builds resilience to multiple crises, including climate change

To build resilience to multiple crises, including climate change, it is essential to apply a systemic, cross-sector and cross-border approach to water management. Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) allows countries to do this. More specifically, IWRM encourages decision-makers to consider trade-offs and synergies, and engage with stakeholders at all levels. IWRM also helps countries deliver on many water-related SDGs and other environmental goals and frameworks, such as the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Global Biodiversity Framework.

Unfortunately, global progress on implementing IWRM (indicator 6.5.1) remains slow – 49% in 2017, 54% in 2020, 57% in 2023 – and not on track to reach the 2030 target (91%). Progress needs to accelerate in most countries, particularly in those that face the greatest challenges.

The main barriers reported by countries are: (1) lack of coordination between sectors and stakeholders; and (2) insufficient financial, institutional and technical capacity, for example to design and implement plans, enforce regulations and maintain monitoring networks.

To address these barriers, countries identify the top priorities as: (1) strengthening institutional coordination mechanisms within and outside the water sector; (2) building institutional and technical capacity to carry out their priority work; and (3) increasing funding through improved revenue raising, national budget increases, and external funding from development partners, including climate financing.

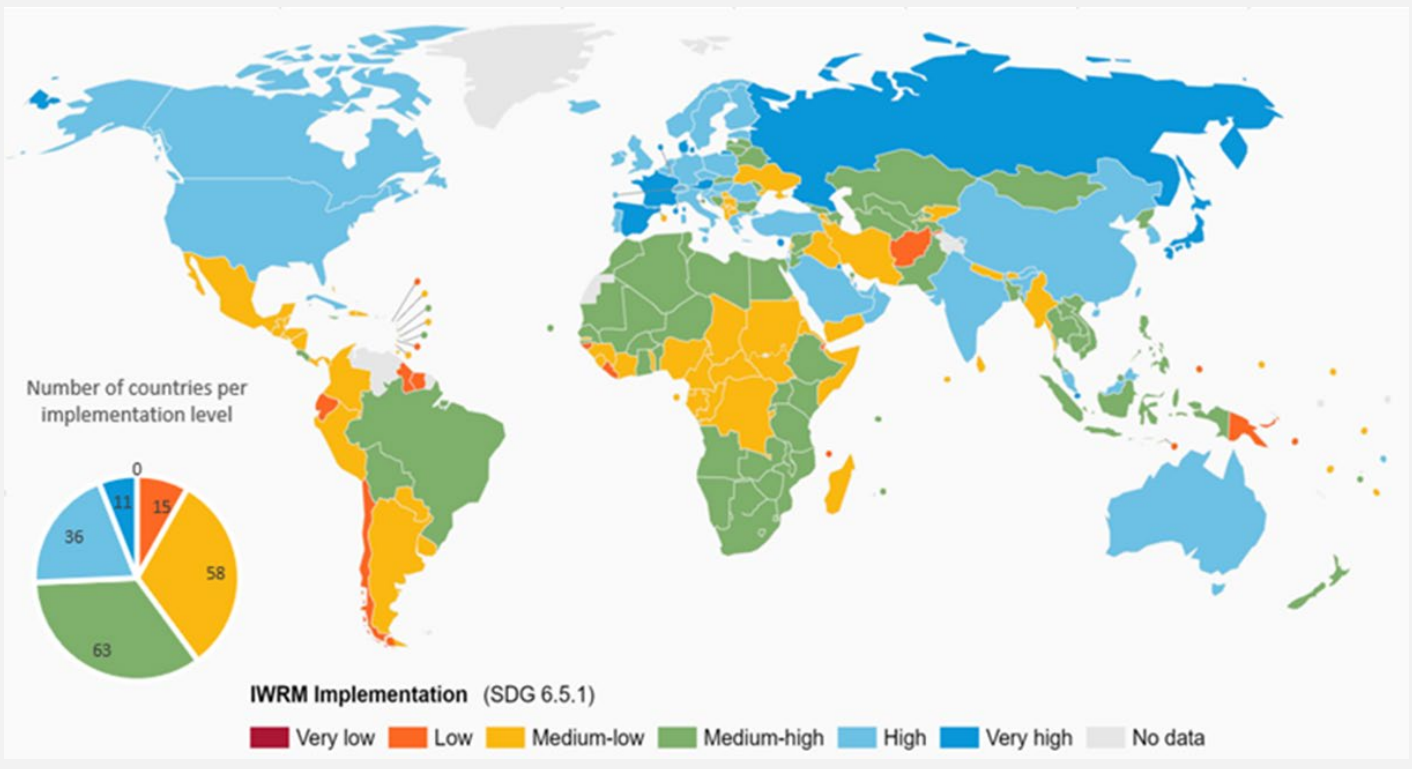
To unlock progress on IWRM implementation, countries point out that they need to advance on their "enabling environment", namely updating legal frameworks, policies and plans to boost coherent action across sectors to achieve their objectives. Many countries see greater leadership from ministries of planning and finance to engage on water mangement issues as critical to facilitating policy alignment, coordinated planning and investments (e.g. Eswatini, Nepal).

Coordinating water resources management in response to climate change across sectors is also critical, given the significance of water in climate change adaptation and mitigation. The inclusion of water issues in climate planning and financing presents a strong opportunity for countries to speed up sustainable development (e.g. Lebanon, Bahamas). As integrated climate-water action is gaining political momentum, as demonstrated by increasing attention on water at COP27, COP28 and UNEA-6, it is important that practical steps are taken to make a real difference (e.g. Mexico, Thailand).

Country reporting on indicator 6.5.1 in 2023 shows some progress in areas such as disaster risk reduction, irrigation and water-use efficiency, ecosystems and biodiversity, gender and poverty reduction, but nowhere near enough to achieve the global target. The better news is that many countries are putting integrated frameworks in place, such as new IWRM policies and water-related laws (e.g. Chile, Sierra Leone), new cross-sector institutional arrangements (e.g. Kazakhstan, Nicaragua), and management instruments for sustainable and efficient water use (e.g. Colombia, Maldives). Some countries have shown that applying practical frameworks, such as the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus approach can accelerate cross-sectoral management of water and natural resources in support of SDGs such as 2, 6, 7, 15 (e.g. Egypt, Jordan).

Europe tends to have high levels of IWRM implementation, with a key enabler being the EU Water Framework Directive (2000). Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, and Northern Africa and Western Asia, have medium-high IWRM implementation. The other regions are below the global average, with Latin America and the Caribbean and Oceania, particularly off track. Notably, each region contains countries with a range of IWRM implementation levels, showing that successful implementation is not solely a result of socioecomic development (e.g. Bolivia, Burkina Faso and Lao PDR).

Level of IWRM implementation in 2023.



Note: Countries with higher IWRM implementation are more resilient to multiple crises such as climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

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

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Custodian agency(ies): UNEP

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

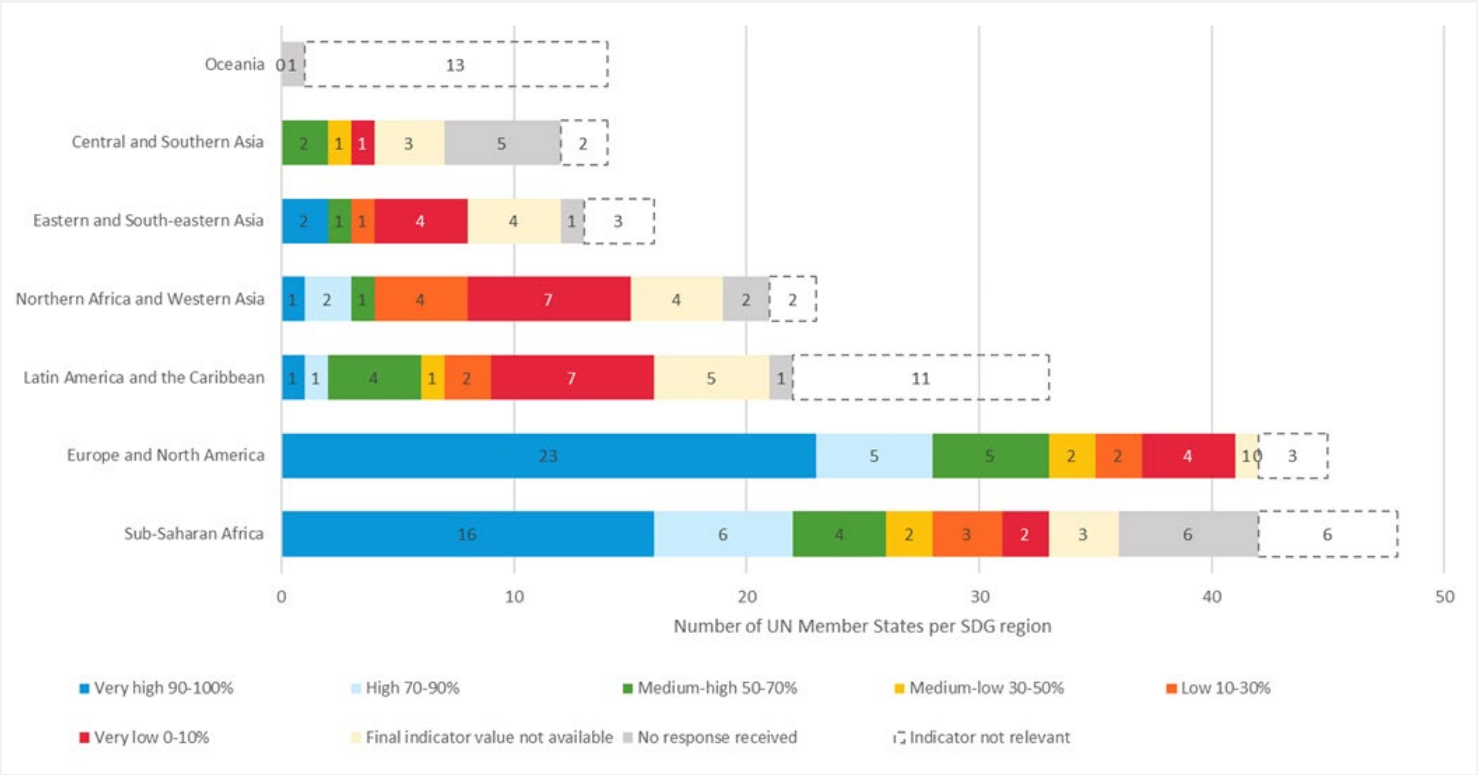
Transboundary water cooperation is key to progressing sustainable development and addressing climate change at scale but more effort is needed to realise its full potential

Transboundary water cooperation holds huge potential for accelerating sustainable development, addressing climate change, and responding to multiple crises. Over many decades, countries around the world have proven that coming together to cooperate over shared rivers, lakes and aquifers generates multiple benefits, the scale of which can never be rivaled by unilateral action. This is evident within the context of climate change, which places additional stresses on both water quantity and quality, and causses more frequent and intense extreme events and disasters. Operational arrangements, and their joint bodies, such as basin organizations, provide a foundation upon which countries can address shared challenges in a coordinated way and at scale, for example through joint alarm system systems and adaptation strategies. Transboundary cooperation on adaptation can make adopted measures more efficient and effective. Conversely, unilateral climate action, despite best intentions, risks maladaptation and harmful impacts if not coordinated at the basin scale. Transboundary water cooperation is also important for mitigation efforts designed to transition away from fossil fuels to clean energy, and the extraction and processing of metals, minerals and other natural resources used to produce renewable technologies.

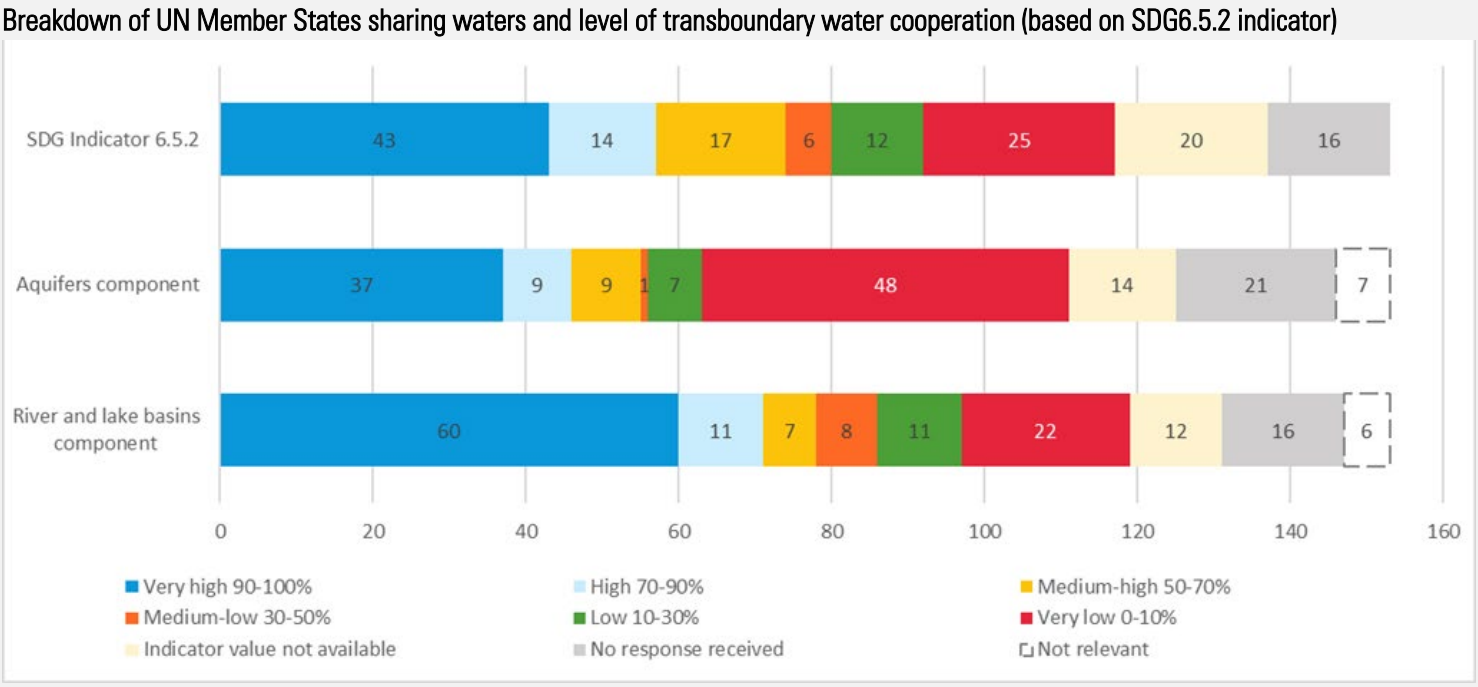
However, there is a huge need to accelerate efforts: just under 43% of countries report that none of their transboundary rivers, lakes or aquifers have an alarm system for floods, 63% of countries report that there is no alarm system for droughts, 59% of countries report that there is no joint climate change adaptation strategy in place for any of their transboundary basins, and 64% of countries report that they do not have a joint disaster risk reduction strategy in place for any of their transboundary basins .

While operational arrangements for transboundary water cooperation are key to progressing sustainable development and addressing climate change, only 43 countries sharing transboundary waters have 90% or more of their transboundary waters covered by such arrangements. Data analyzed at the regional level highlights good levels of cooperation on transboundary waters in Europe and North America, and Sub-Saharan Africa, where 39 out of 84 countries sharing transboundary waters have 90% or more of their waters covered by operational arrangements. There have been notable developments in Sub-Saharan Africa where 16 countries were able to report having 90% of their transboundary basins covered by operational arrangements in 2024 compared to five countries in 2020. There has also been encouraging progress in both addressing knowledge gaps and progressing cooperation on transboundary aquifers, as evidenced through the adoption of the 2021 Ministerial Declaration on the Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin. However, much more progress is needed, particularly in Asia, Latin America and North Africa. Only two countries in Asia, one country in Latin America and one country in North Africa have 90% or more of their waters covered by operational arrangements. Since 2020 only around ten new arrangements for transboundary water cooperation have been adopted for river and lake basins, and aquifers previously lacking an operational arrangement. In some basins cooperation has even regressed in the past three years. Ensuring that all transboundary basins are covered by operational arrangements by 2030 will therefore require a significant acceleration in progress.

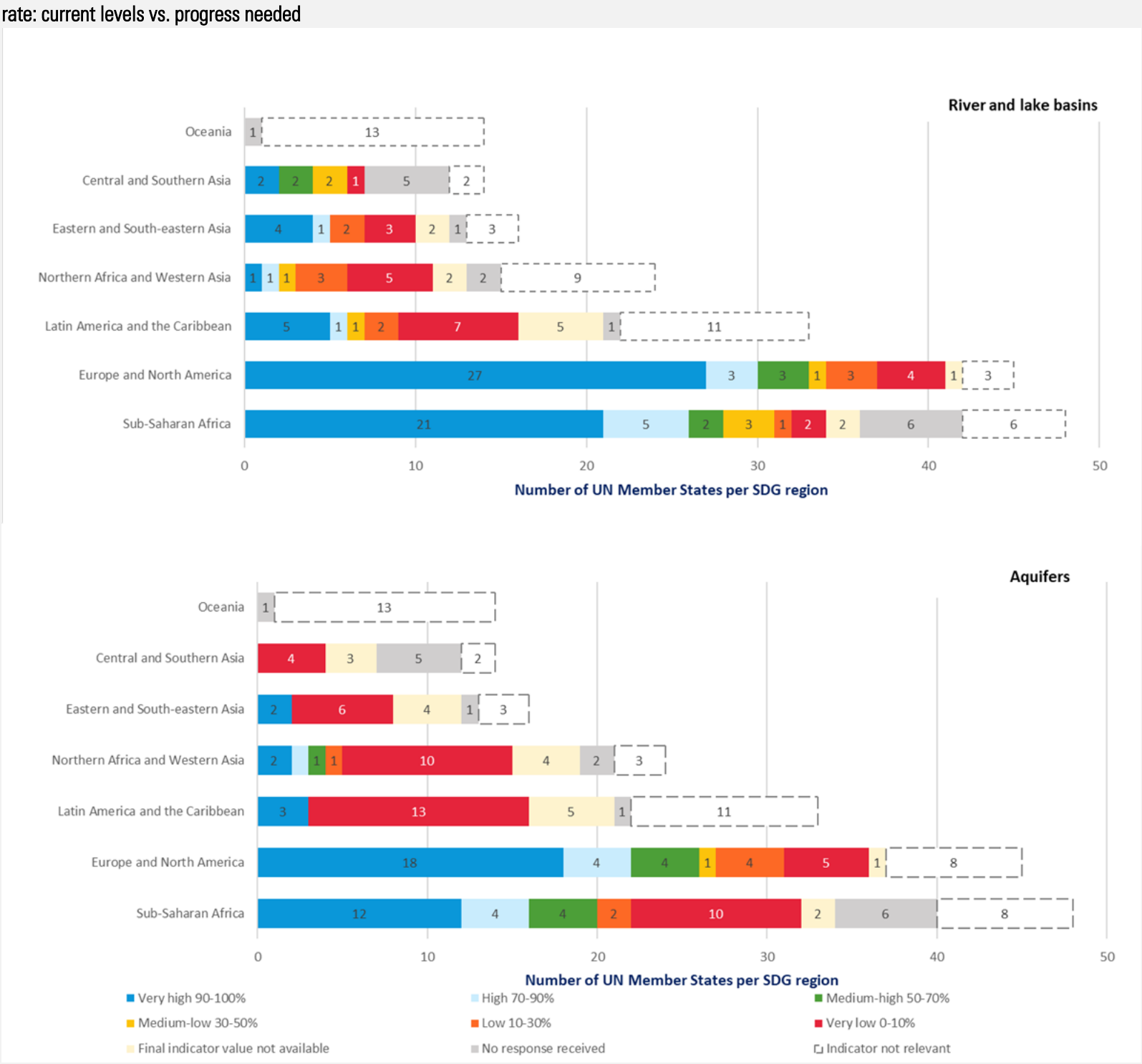
Number of UN Member States per SDG region and breakdown of SDG 6.5.2 values (river and lake basins and aquifers)



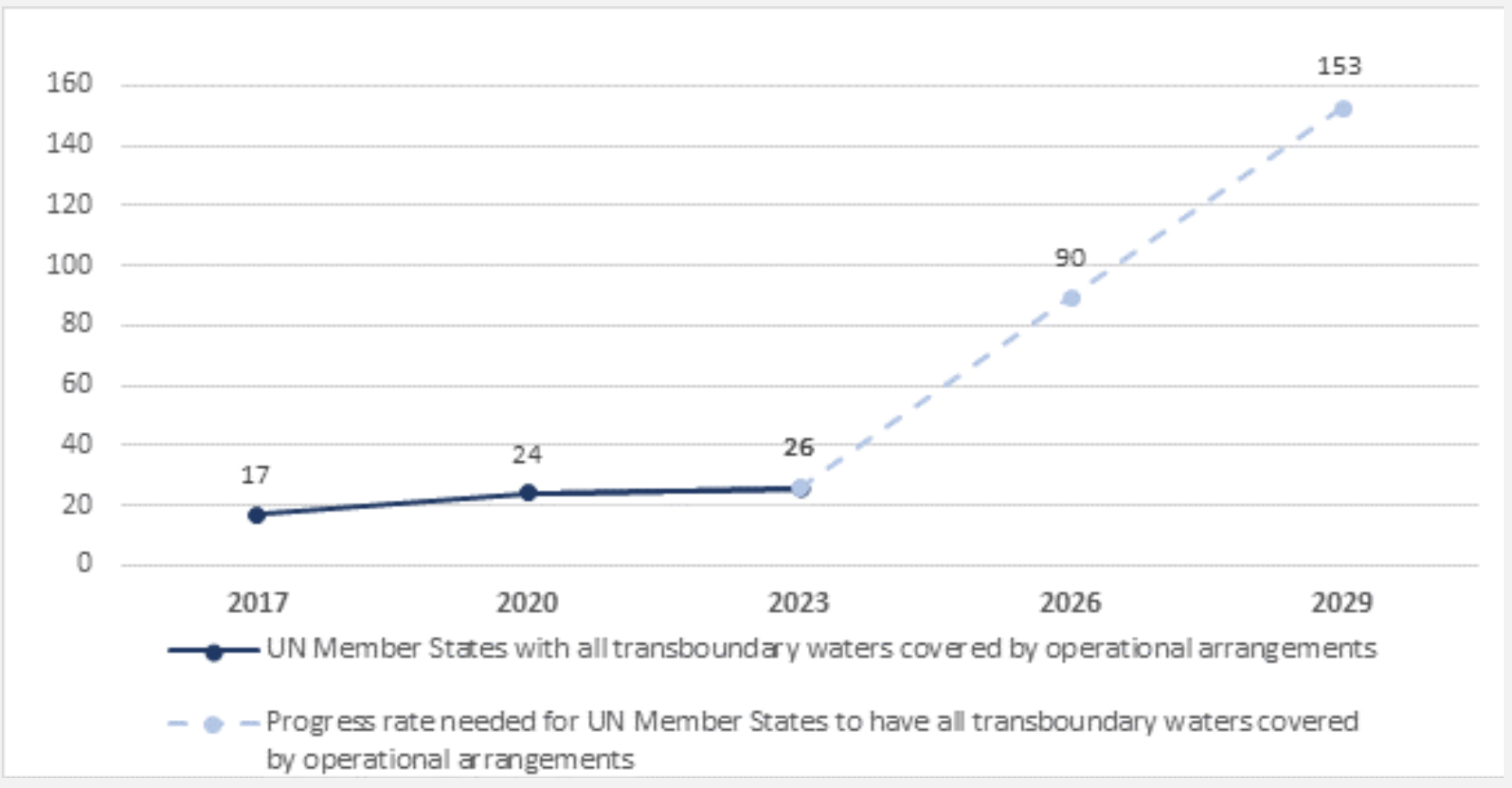
Breakdown of UN Member States sharing waters and level of transboundary water cooperation (based on SDG6.5.2 indicator)



Number of UN Member States per SDG region and breakdown of SDG 6.5.2 values by component (river and lake basins component & aquifers component); Chart 4 title: Number of countries with all transboundary waters covered by operational arrangements and SDG indicator 6.5.2 response rate: current levels vs. progress needed



Number of UN Member States with all transboundary waters covered by operational arrangements under SDG indicator 6.5.2: current levels and progress needed



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- UN-Water SDG6 monitoring: https://www.sdg6monitoring.org/indicator-652
- UNECE 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

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Custodian agency(ies): UNESCO-IHP, UNECE

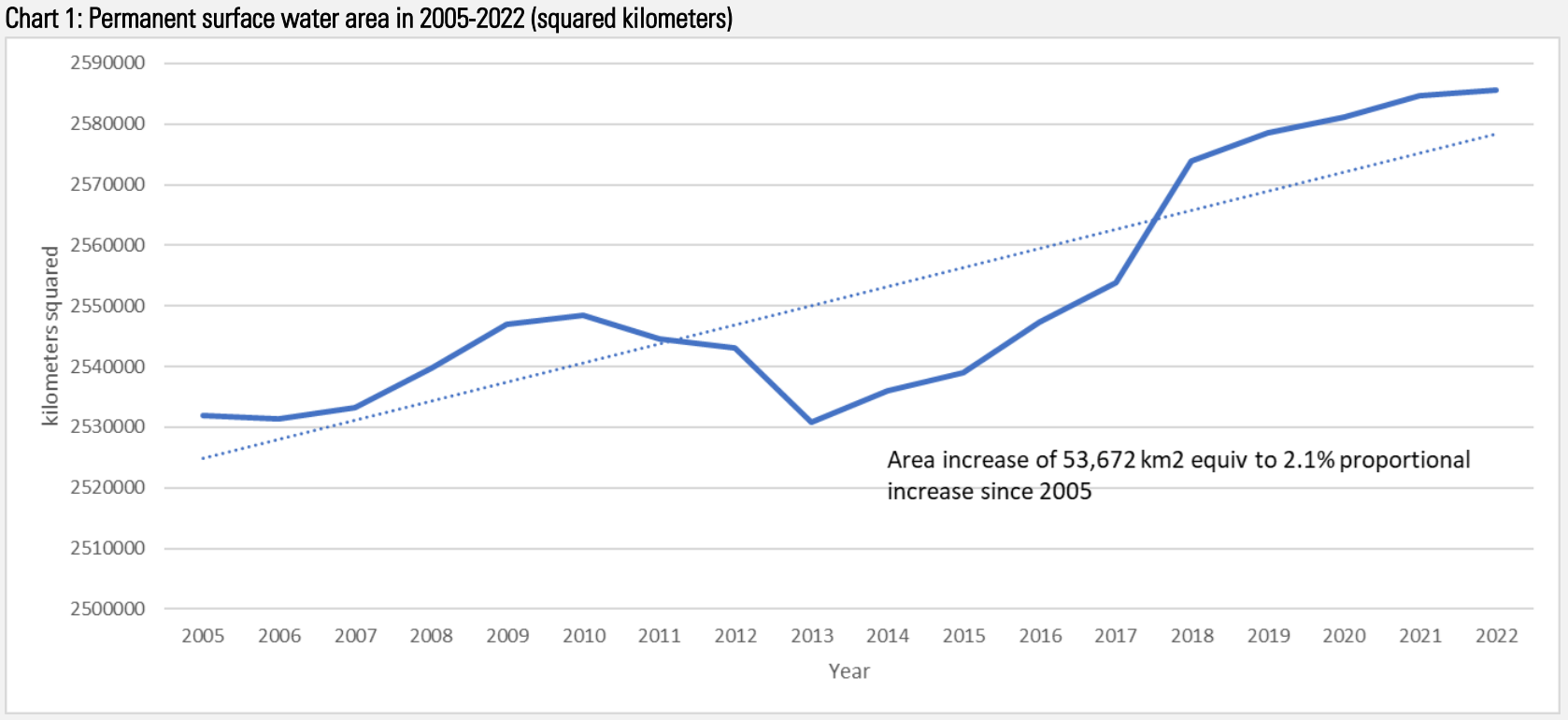
Target 6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

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

The world has experienced a net increase in permanent surface water between 2005 and 2022

To analyse the extent of permanent water bodies at the global level, the annual extent of permanent water bodies from 2005 to 2022 have been mapped globally using millions of Landsat satellite images. The trend line across the 5-year running mean shows the world has experienced a net increase in permanent surface water area of 53,672 square kilometers, or 2.1 per cent, since 2005 (see chart 1). Much is of the increase in permanent water comes from climate change and reservoir filling. While the global net-gain in permanent water is positive, it is important to recognize that the global data also include losses of permanent water linked to droughts and increased water demand in some regions, notably Australia and New Zealand, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Central Asia.

Chart 1: Permanent surface water area in 2005-2022 (squared kilometers)



Additional resources, press releases, etc. with links:

- Freshwater Ecosystems Explorer: https://www.sdg661.app/

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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

Water sector ODA increases to 8.5 billion USD but reaches a historical low as a percentage of sector allocable ODA across all sectors

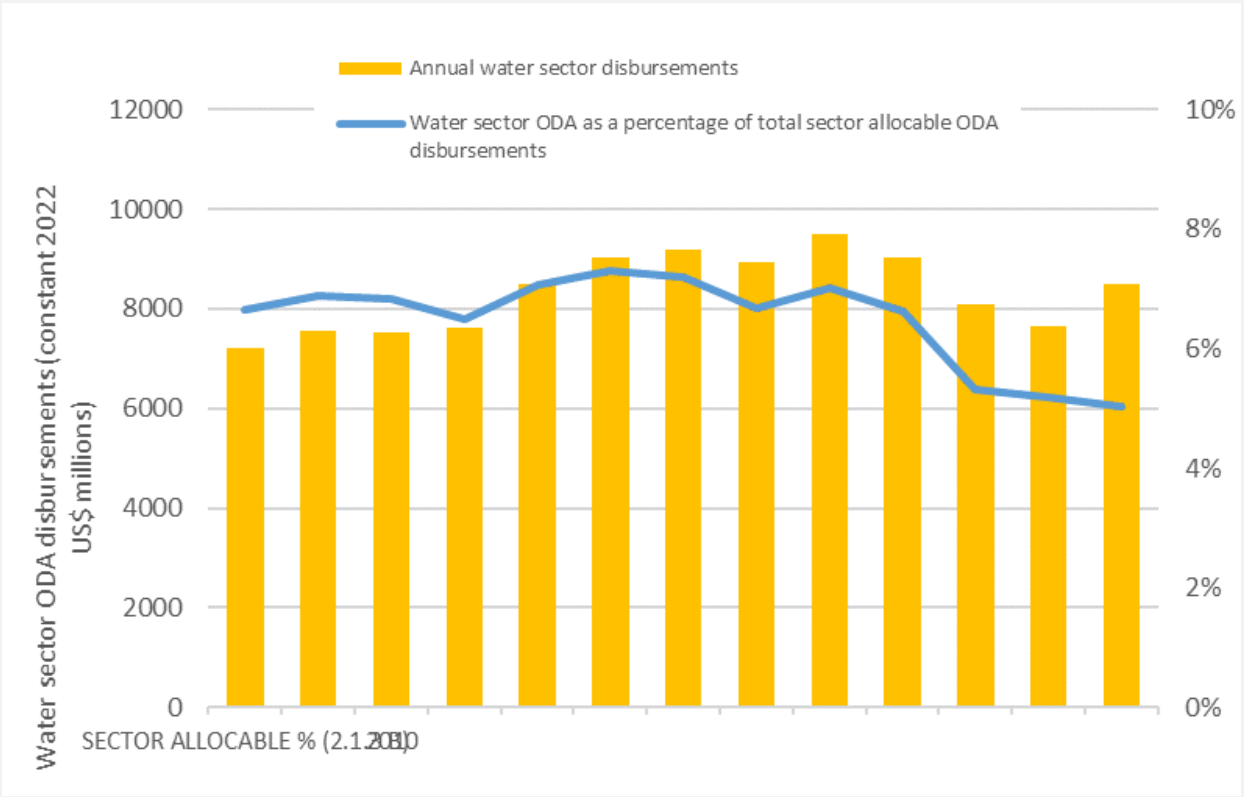
Official Development Assistance (ODA) disbursements to the water sector increased between 2021 and 2022 by 10% to 8.5 billion USD, reversing a declining trend seen over the past five years. ODA commitments also showed an increase of 15% to 10.8 billion USD. The increase in water sector disbursements between 2021 and 2022 are due to increases in support to large and basic water supply and sanitation projects (increase of 489 million USD), sector policy (increase of 284 million USD), and hydro-electric power plants (increase of 142 million USD), and were due primarily to increases in ODA loans (by 12%) rather than grants (increase by 7%).

While total ODA has increased in response to crises, water sector ODA disbursements as a percentage of sector allocable ODA across all sectors has decreased to 5.0% in 2022, a historical low, continuing a declining trend accelerated since 2020 and the COVID pandemic. The aid sectors/areas that have seen large increases between 2021 and 2022 include support for refugees in donor countries (154% increase, by US$ 19.7 billion), government and civil society (57% increase, by US$ 9.3 billion), and general budget support (49% increase, by US$ 6.5 billion).

Donors with increasing levels of ODA since 2015 for the water sector include France (554 million to 836 million constant 2022 USD), EU institutions (744 million to 968 million constant 2022 USD), and the International development association (1.48 billion to 1.62 billion constant 2022 USD). Emerging donors for the water sector include the Central American Bank for Economic Development (0.5 million in 2020 to 128 million constant 2022 USD in 2022), Kuwait (65 million in 2015 to 167 million constant 2022 USD), and the Green Climate Fund (5 million in 2017 to 75 million in 2022). With the exception of EU institutions and the Green Climate Fund, over three quarters of the ODA being provided by these donors is in the form of ODA loans.

Regional ODA disbursements to Western Asia and Northern Africa showed the largest increase between 2021 and 2022 from 1.3 to 1.8 billion USD, a 41% increase. Latin America and the Caribbean (531 million USD to 769 million USD) and Sub-Saharan Africa (2.37 billion USD to 2.55 billion USD) also saw substantial increases in ODA disbursements over the same time period, while Central Asia and Southern Asia (1.5 billion USD to 1.3 billion USD) and Eastern Asia and South-Eastern Asia (1.1 billion USD to 1.0 billion USD) showed substantial decreases. Sub-Saharan Africa continues to hold the largest regional share at 30% of water sector ODA disbursements.

Water sector ODA disbursements: total and as a percentage of sector-allocable ODA



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Custodian agency(ies): WHO, OECD

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

Custodian agency(ies): WHO, OECD