

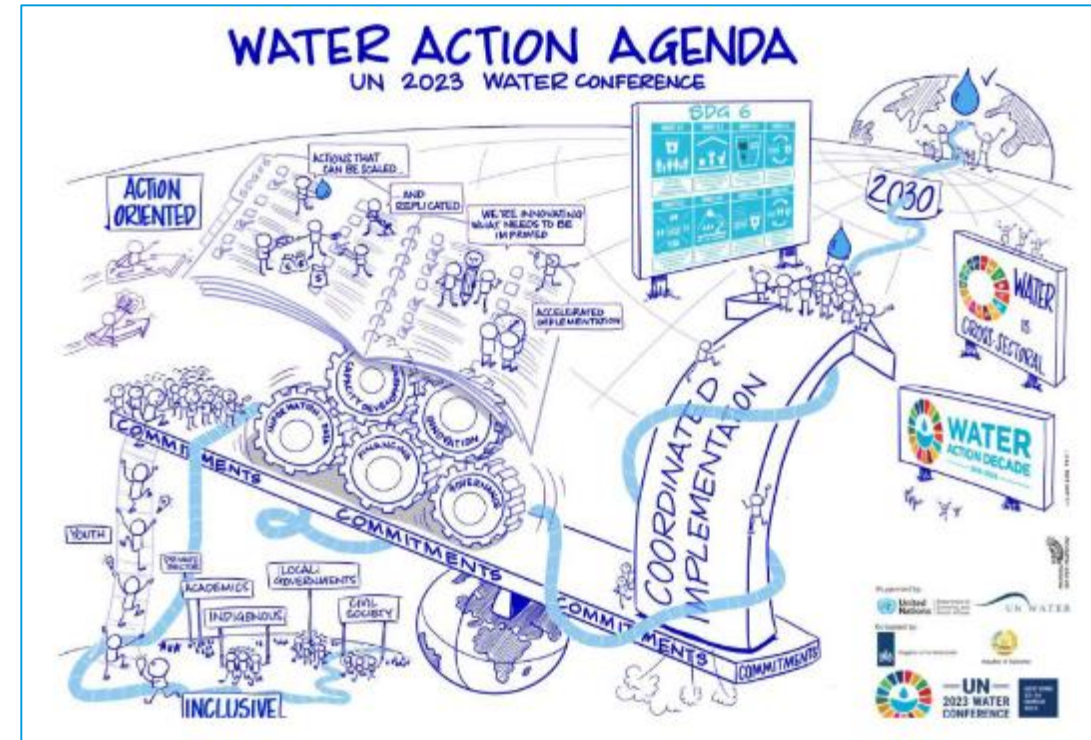
UN 2023 Water Conference Synopsis & Data's Role in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

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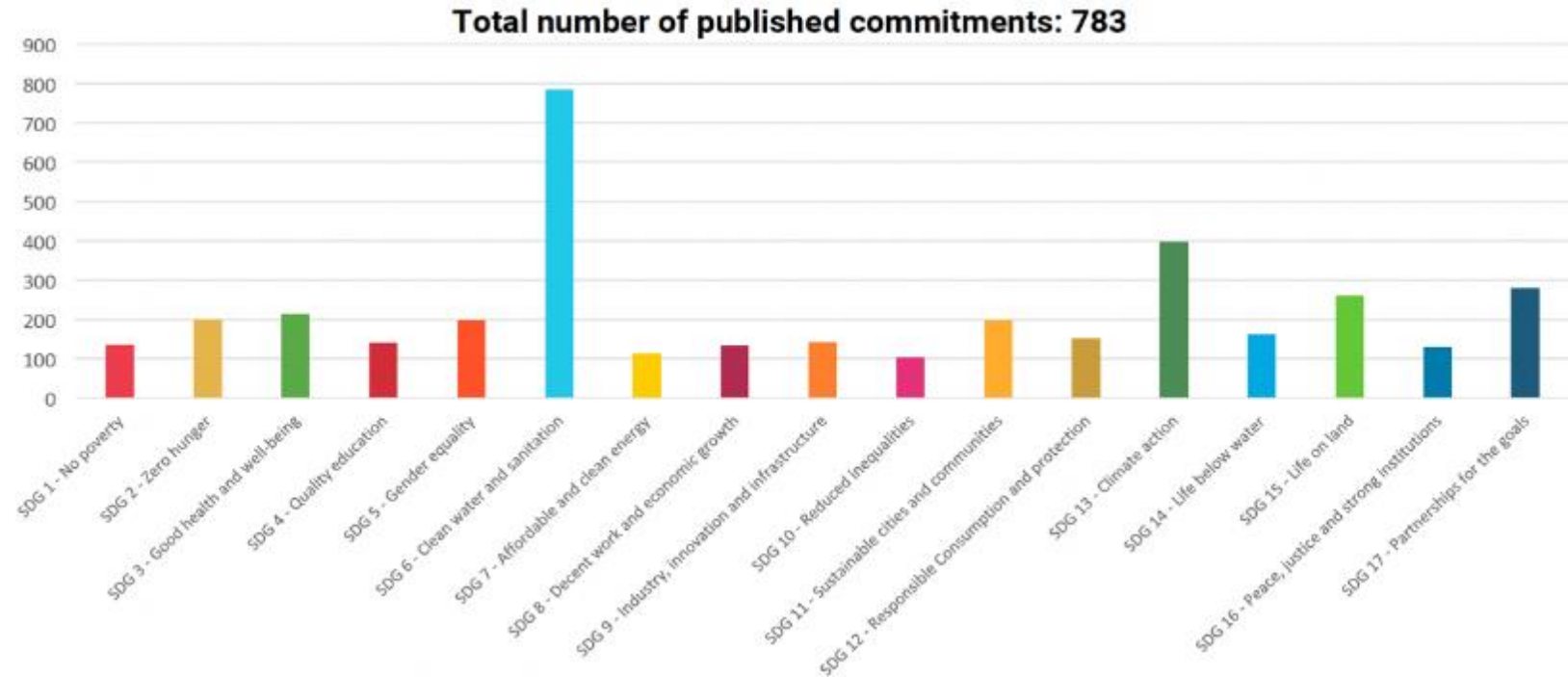
Summary

- The UN 2023 Water Conference took place from March 22-24 at the UN Headquarters in New York. Co-hosted by the Netherlands and Tajikistan, this landmark event, the first in a generation, aimed to unite Member States and stakeholders in advancing solutions for SDG 6 globally.
- Context: 2 billion without safe drinking water, 40% affected by water scarcity, and 90% of disasters being water-related.
- Interactive dialogues: Water for Health; Water for Sustainable Development; Water for Climate, Resilience, and Environment; Water for Cooperation; Water Action Decade
- Commitments: Governments, businesses, and civil society pledge billions to advance the global water agenda, with follow-up steps such as appointing a Special Envoy on Water and follow-up in key global summits and pursuing a UN System-wide strategy.
- Diverse Participation: Over 10,000 participants, both in-person and online, from sectors including agriculture, energy, environment, and water.
- SDG 6 Focus: Discussions on the fundamental human rights to water and sanitation, sustainable food systems, new global water information system, and climate resilience.
- [Blueprint for Acceleration](#): SDG 6 Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation 2023 aims to provide a strategic response to the outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference.
- Following the conference, the UN General Assembly passed the ["Water for Sustainable Development, 2018–2028"](#) resolution (document A/77/L.106).



Water Action Agenda. Commitments by thematic area

- UN 2023 Water Conference introduced the Water Action Agenda.
- Over 800 commitments captured by July 2023.
- Aims to accelerate progress for SDG 6 by 2030 in the Water Action Decade 2018-2028.
- Reflects global determination for coordinated action on water challenges.
- Builds on momentum from the conference.
- Open agenda to mobilize action across nations and sectors.
- Encourages [further commitments](#) from all stakeholders.



Commitments by entity, with examples

Member States:

- The US: Invest up to \$49 billion for climate-resilient water and sanitation infrastructure.
- Vietnam: Ensure all households have clean running water by 2030.
- African Union Commission: Mobilize US\$30 billion/year by 2030 to bridge Africa's water investment gap.

Multilateral Banks:

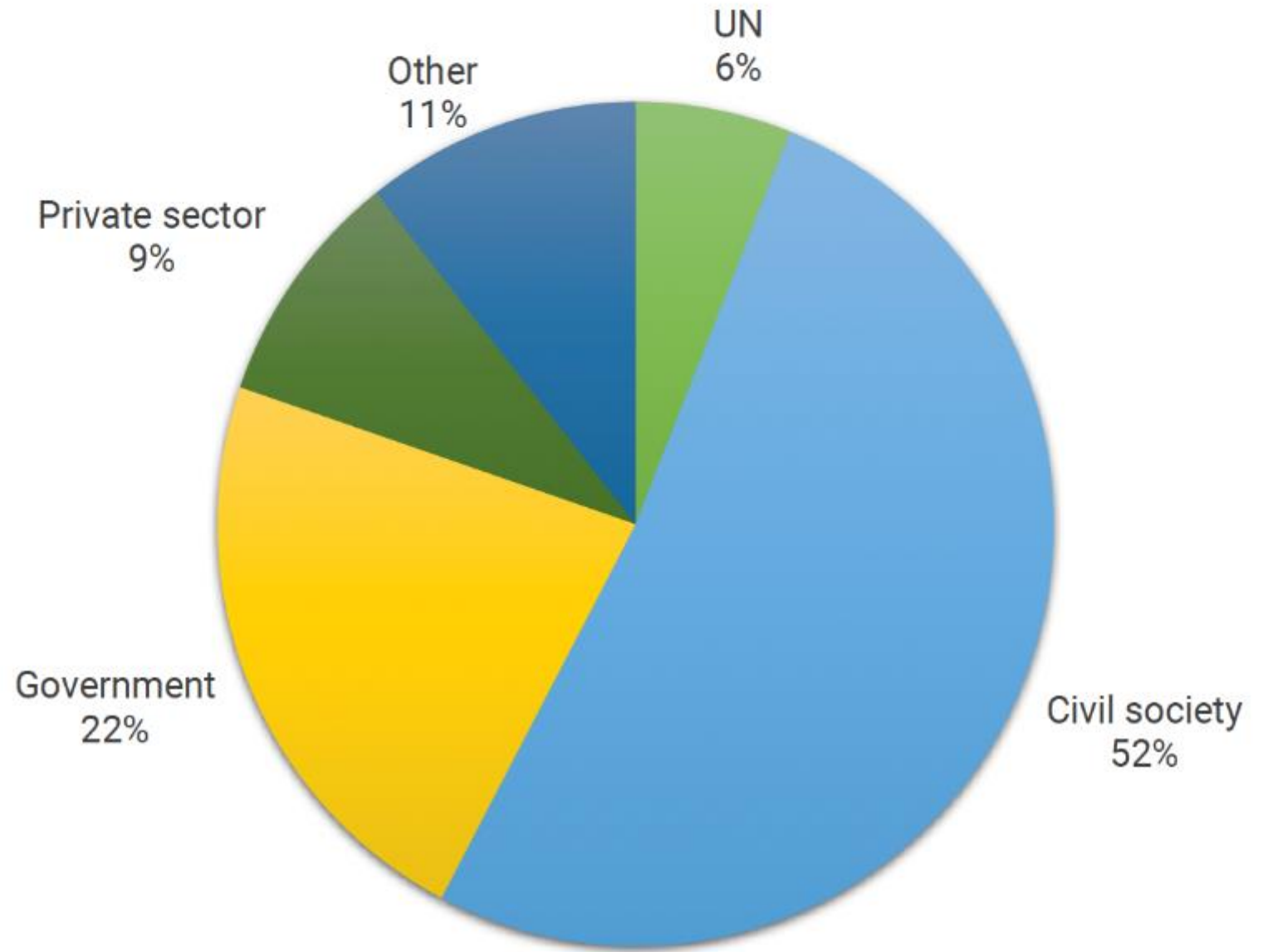
- Asian Development Bank: Invest \$11 billion in the Asia-Pacific water sector and \$100 billion globally by 2030.

Private Sector:

- Starbucks, Ecolab, Gap Inc., Reckitt, and DuPont: Collaborate with the U.S. Government to invest \$140 million in the Water Access Fund aiming to provide water and sanitation for 5 million people.

NGOs:

- World Vision: Invest \$2 billion by 2030 to enhance water sanitation, and hygiene services in 50 countries.



UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2023 Main messages

- Pour in more funds and use existing finances more efficiently and effectively, through better enabling environments and reformed global development finance architecture.
- Fill the data gaps to enhance decision-making and reduce inequalities, by strengthening national statistical systems, combining data sets from all stakeholders and promoting novel technologies and standardization.
- Invest in the workforce to attract, train and retain workers, especially women and youth, through collaboration between education and employers and national assessments to determine skills for emerging technologies.
- Boost innovation through supportive policies and customizing innovations to local contexts
- Maximize cooperation across sectors and national borders, to make management effective and support social cohesion and international peace

[Blueprint for Acceleration: SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2023](#)



Data and SDG 6

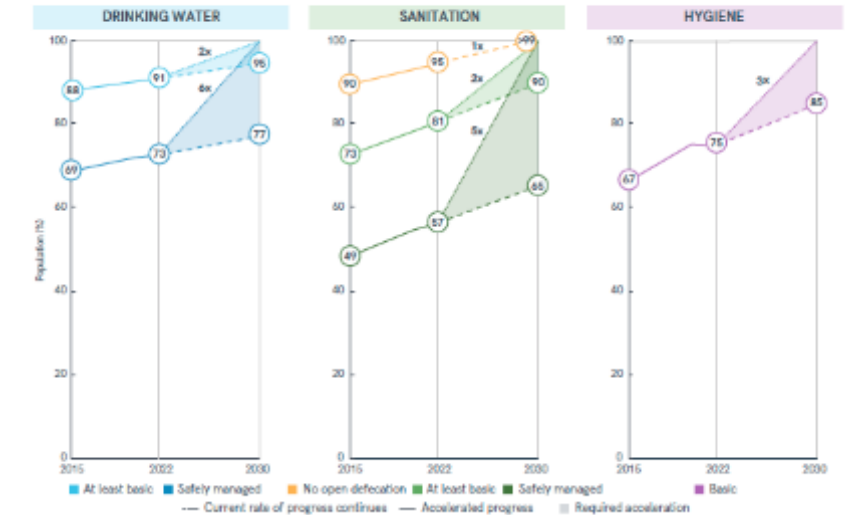
- The 2030 Agenda advocates for better data systems to monitor inequalities globally.
- Reliable water and sanitation data bolsters decision-making for SDG 6.
- While SDG targets are global, national governments customize them based on local circumstances. However, many countries still don't have SDG baselines for some indicators.
- Supporting countries to integrate SDG targets into national plans and utilize diverse data sources is essential.
- The UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative aids countries in tracking WASH issues and reporting on SDG 6 progress.
- The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework focuses on rapid, large-scale results, addressing progress through five key accelerators: financing, **data**, capacity development, innovation, and governance.



Data and SDG 6 – Where do we stand?

- SDG 6.1 & 6.2: As of 2022: 2.2 billion people lack safe drinking water; 3.5 billion lack safe sanitation; and 2 billion lack basic hygiene. Historical rates of progress would need to increase by 6x, 5x, and 3x to reach 100% in 2030.
- SDG 6.3: Only 58% of household wastewater safely treated, data lacking on industrial wastewater; 60% water bodies have good ambient quality.
- SDG 6.4: Water use efficiency up by 10% (2015-2018); 733 million in highly water-stressed nations.
- SDG 6.5: 107 countries off-track for sustainable water management; only 32 have over 90% coverage of transboundary waters arrangements.
- SDG 6.6: 67% of 1900's wetlands lost; 20% river basins changed rapidly in recent years.
- SDG 6.a: Aid for water and sanitation dropped 5%, from \$9.8 billion to \$9.2 billion (2017-2020).
- SDG 6.b: Two-thirds of countries show community participation in water decisions; only 14 report high collaboration levels.
- SDG 11.5: Disaster events expected to rise 40% by 2030; 1/3 of global lands may face moderate drought by 2100.

Achieving SDG WASH targets by 2030 will require a three- to sixfold increase in current rates of progress



6.3.1

58%

of domestic wastewater was safely treated in 2022.

129 Member States had data on domestic wastewater in 2022, whereas few report on total and industrial wastewater.

Data gaps and implications (6.3.1)

- Questionnaires (UNSD, OECD, Eurostat) are frequently not completed, or key variables are not included in completed forms
- WHO produces statistics on **domestic wastewater** generation and treatment
 - Drawing on questionnaires but also other national data sources coming from line ministries, regulators, NSOs etc.
 - Updates in 2021 and 2023 (reference year 2022); narrative report to be published in 2024 indicator report with UN-Habitat
 - Data gaps exist on faecal sludge treatment from on-site sanitation facilities, independent regulatory data, especially for non-sewered services, is lacking, and only a minority of countries report proactive sanitation/wastewater regulatory action.
- UN-Habitat produces statistics on **industrial and total wastewater** generation and treatment
 - Drawing exclusively on questionnaires
 - Last update in 2021 (reference year 2015)
 - Currently collecting data to be published in 2024 indicator report with WHO
 - Large data gaps on industrial wastewater generation and treatment.

Data-related insights from UN 2023 Water Interactive Dialogues

- **Water for Health:** Disaggregated data on water, sanitation, and hygiene crucial for informed decisions and targeting vulnerable groups. Public data on drinking water and sanitation is pivotal for transparency; yet, significant data gaps exist in financials, healthcare facilities, and sanitation.
- **Water for Sustainable Development:** Rising water scarcity trends; reliable data is vital for valuing water and fostering trust in its services valuation. Advances in data storage and innovative practices can support water management and conservation.
- **Water for Climate, Resilience, and Environment:** Emphasis on enhanced water monitoring; however, significant data gaps exist, including on groundwater and hydrology. A global water information system, emphasizing open, inclusive, interconnected data, can further understanding and action on water challenges.
- **Water for Cooperation:** Limited data exchange between governments and the private sector, despite the latter's significant role. Sharing data across communities, sectors, and nations is key for trust-building and effective decision-making.
- **Water Action Decade:** Persistent data shortage on water-related Goal indicators, affecting national and global assessments. Universal data access, transparency, and modernized data practices are emphasized to address challenges and support effective decision-making.

Thank you

For more information, please contact:

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This presentation
has been designed
to be **ACCESSIBLE**,
for a positive and
inclusive user
experience for all.

Annex



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HEALTH
FOR ALL

Interactive Dialogue 1: Water for Health

- Reliable data on water, sanitation, and hygiene is essential for informed policies and targeting vulnerable groups.
- Accurate monitoring is needed to address challenges like climate change, resilience of infrastructure and WASH-related burden of disease.
- The 2021-2022 UN-Water survey observation indicates a lack of public water reports, emphasizing that public data boosts accountability.
- There's a significant gap in consistent hygiene data, though it is improving.
- A concerning issue is the data gaps in faecal sludge treatment, especially for non-sewered services. Additionally, only a few countries demonstrate proactive regulatory action.
- Schools and healthcare facilities often lack necessary water and sanitation data, though it is improving. Other settings, like prisons, are lacking.
- From a statistical perspective, a majority globally lack official data on wastewater treatment, with only a small portion of wastewater being treated before release.
- In the financial aspect, there are pronounced data gaps in water, sanitation, and hygiene.
- It's recommended that governments institutionalize data collection, stress transparency, and ensure data relevance to equality and development partners shift their focus to metrics that prioritize service resilience and inclusiveness.
- Proposed actions include establishing standardized government data collection, ensuring public reporting, and putting an emphasis on monitoring systems. A key point to consider is the need to share public health surveillance data to improve water, sanitation, and hygiene services and to prevent outbreaks.

Interactive Dialogue 2: Water for Sustainable Development

- Increasing trends in water scarcity, including in transboundary areas.
- Reliable data crucial for properly valuing water, currently often lacking.
- Importance of data generation, validation, and exchange for trust in water services valuation.
- Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem Nexus relies on comprehensive data on water sources, needs, and downstream transboundary use.
- Sparse global data on water quality and groundwater due to weak monitoring capacities.
- Need for more investment in national-level water data collection; challenges posed by diverse institutions involved.
- Advances in cloud storage and metadata standards boost data-sharing and interoperability in the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem Nexus.
- Innovative data practices, including water accounting, can enhance water management and conservation.
- Potential advancements include open-access tools, earth observation satellites, AI, and citizen science.

Interactive Dialogue 3: Water for Climate, Resilience, and Environment

- Need for improved monitoring/data management for water quantity and quality at all scales.
- 2021 report reveals lack of verified hydrological data; strengthening hydro-meteorological services crucial.
- SDG 6 targets can address data challenges; systematic capacity building vital for using diverse data sources.
- Inadequate risk knowledge affects early warning systems; better analyses and loss tracking needed.
- Urgent demand for better groundwater and cryosphere data.
- Water data is often fragmented, unverified; 67% of 101 countries don't share hydrological data.
- Equitable water access requires solid data and risk knowledge; potential for a global water info system.
- Water systems should be open and interconnected; transparent, harmonized data sharing crucial.

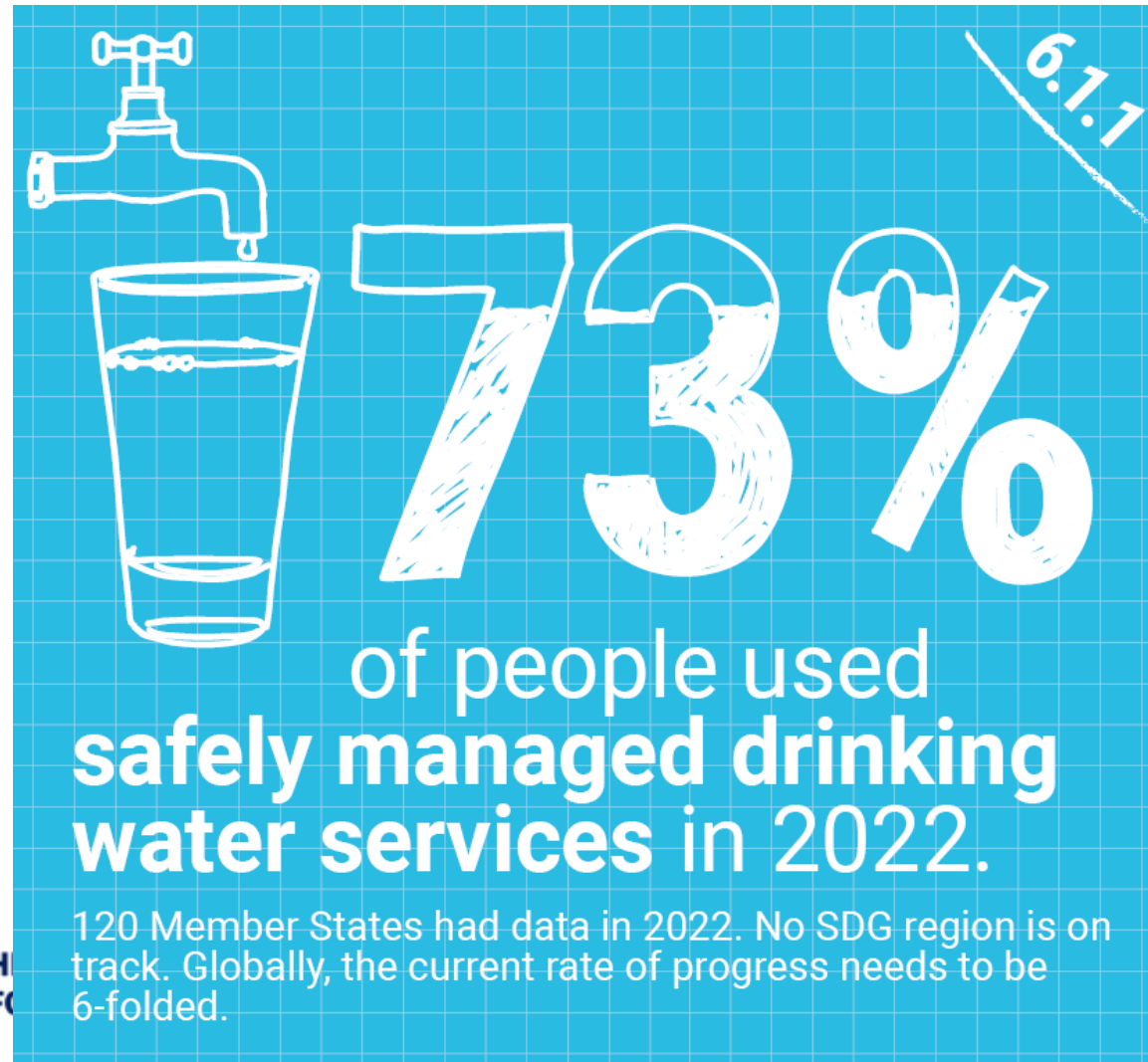
Interactive Dialogue 4: Water for Cooperation

- 25% of countries have limited data exchange with the private sector, despite its role in water management.
- Sharing data across communities, sectors, and nations enhances decision-making and trust.
- The EU's Water Framework Directive showcases the importance of data alignment and joint monitoring, though states face challenges in data handling.
- Bolstering data-driven water cooperation decisions is urgent across all levels.
 - Support global initiatives like UN-Water's Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 and WMO's data exchange policy.
 - Harmonize data collection and exchange across all levels, with emphasis on long-term investment.
 - Transboundary data cooperation, such as the triennial indicator 6.5.2, can boost trust where structures are lacking.
 - Implement information systems and online platforms for data management, ensuring public access.

Water Action Decade: Data and Information

- Consistent data lack on water-related Goal indicators, with recent data often outdated.
- For equitable "leave no one behind" approaches, data disaggregation (by household, gender, age) is necessary.
- Many countries face challenges in data gathering, emphasizing a need for technical capacity boosts and interdepartmental coordination.
- Efficient national water data collection, like the UN-Water Monitoring Initiative for Goal 6, is pivotal. This should be complemented by cross-sectoral systems, citizen science, Indigenous methods, and regular data reviews.
- Universal data access is key. Stakeholders should easily access water-related data, with transparency in reporting and incentives for major user disclosures.
- Quality and timely data access aids policymakers, but translating data for evidence-based planning is equally important.
- There's a call to review and revise past water data practices, potentially incorporating traditional knowledge.
- Significant local-level data gaps hinder planning, especially in cities. Governments should strengthen local capacities while navigating challenges like bureaucracy.
- Comprehensive information about water (quality, quantity, risks) is essential. Emphasis on high-quality, timely data access, integrating public, citizen science, and Indigenous inputs for inclusive systems.

SDG 6.1 DRINKING WATER

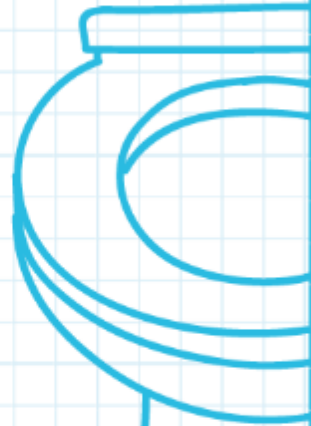



SDG 6.2 SANITATION AND HYGIENE

6.2.1a

57%

of people used **safely managed sanitation services** in 2022.

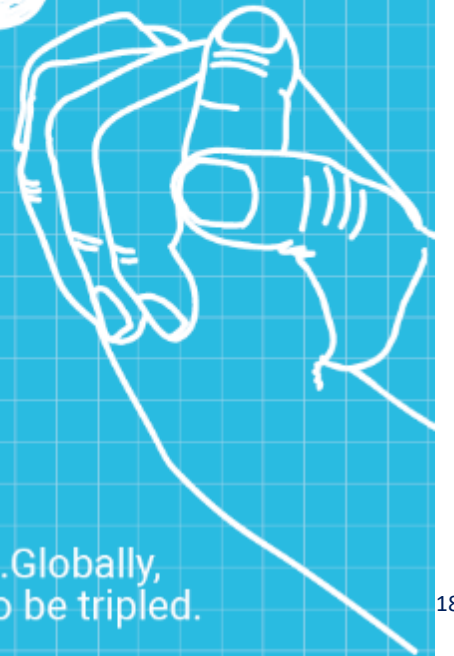


 125 Member States had data in 2022. No SDG region is on track. Globally, the current rate of progress needs to be 5-folded.

6.2.1b

75%

of people had a **handwashing facility at home** in 2022.



81 Member States had data in 2022. Globally, the current rate of progress needs to be tripled.

SDG 6.3 WASTEWATER AND WATER QUALITY

6.3.1

58%



of domestic wastewater was safely treated in 2022.

129 Member States had data on domestic wastewater in 2022, whereas few report on total and industrial wastewater.

6.3.2

60%



of monitored water bodies have good ambient water quality.

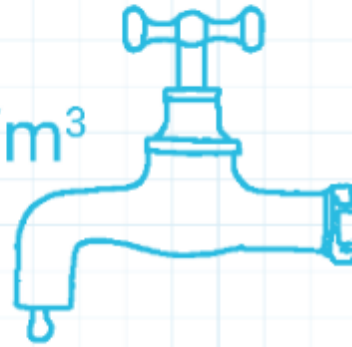
95 countries had data in 2020, but often based on few measurements and not covering all water bodies.

SDG 6.4 WATER USE AND SCARCITY

Water-use efficiency
has increased by

9%

to 19 USD/m³
between
2015 and
2020.



6.4.1

18%

of available water resources
are being withdrawn, with
extreme disparities.

6.4.2

168 countries had data in 2020. Most reporting countries and all economic sectors have improved.

178 countries had data in 2020. Extremely high water stress within North America and Western Asia regions.

SDG 6.5 WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

The global average level of **integrated water resources management** implementation is

54%



6.5.1

186 countries had data in 2020. 5 SDG regions are off track. Globally, the current rate of progress needs to be doubled.

24 countries

have all their **transboundary basin area** covered by operational arrangements.

6.5.2

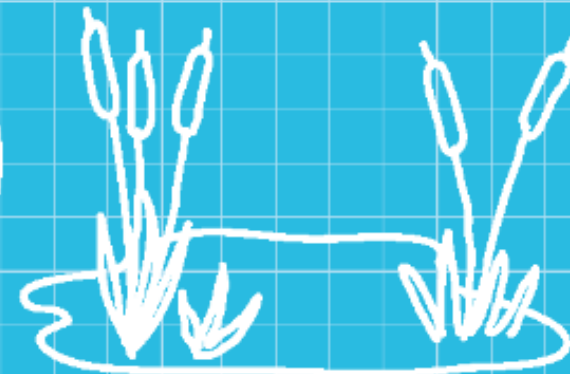
102 countries had data in 2020, of 153 that share transboundary waters. Only North America and Europe is on track.

SDG 6.6 FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS

There are high surface
water extent changes in

21%

of water basins.



6.6.1

SDG 6.A INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Water- and sanitation-related
official development
assistance has decreased by

15%

to US\$7.8
billion
between
2015 and
2021.



6.a.1

SDG 6.B LOCAL PARTICIPATION

25%



of countries report high participation by communities in **planning and management for rural drinking-water and water resources management.**