

Summary Progress Update 2021: SDG 6 – water and sanitation for all

MARCH 2021



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SDG 6 is to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030. Photo credit: UN Photo/Marie Frechon.

Foreword

Even before COVID-19 struck, the world was off track to meet Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) - the goal of ensuring water and sanitation for all by 2030. As you will see in this summary progress report, billions of people worldwide still live without safely managed drinking water and sanitation, even though both services have long been defined as human rights. Many water sources are drying up, becoming more polluted, or both. Water-intensive industry, agriculture and energy generation are growing to meet the needs of an expanding population.

Land is under greater pressure and ecosystems that provide water are disappearing. On top of this, climate change is making water more scarce and unpredictable, wreaking havoc and displacing millions of people. This report shows that we need to do more, much more quickly.

Achieving SDG 6 is a national responsibility. More than anything, politicians and policymakers at the national level need to set bolder priorities. We must make sure that decision makers are clear about the economic case: when we invest in water it has a catalytic effect on other areas such as health, education, agriculture and job creation.

For national action to be effective, it needs to include all parts of society. Everyone has a role to play. Dramatic gains in water and

sanitation are possible when governments, civil society, business, academia and development aid agencies pull together. And it will be essential to scale up this cooperation across countries and regions.

Last year, we launched the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, with the full backing of the United Nations family, to mobilize action across governments, civil society, the private sector and the UN to better align efforts, optimize financing and enhance capacity and governance.

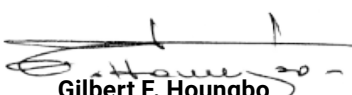
Making sure that there is water and sanitation for all people, for all purposes, by 2030 will help future-proof global society against the many and varied threats coming down the line. Our immediate, shared task is to establish safe water and sanitation services in homes, schools, workplaces and health care facilities. We must increase investment in water use efficiency, wastewater treatment, and reuse, while financing the protection of water-related ecosystems. And we must integrate our approaches, with improved governance and coordination across sectors and geographical borders.

This summary progress report makes an important contribution to one of the five accelerators in the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework: improving data and information. Based on the latest available data for many

indicators compiled during last year's 2020 Data Drive, this document will help base decision-making on reliable and up-to-date evidence to ensure the greatest possible gains.

The economic case for achieving SDG 6 is well known and beyond question. Ours is a battle for human health, dignity and opportunity.

Thank you for reading this document and for joining this critical effort. The COVID-19 pandemic reminds us of our shared vulnerability and common destiny. Let us "build back better" by ensuring water and sanitation for all by 2030.



Gilbert F. Houngbo

UN-Water Chair and President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development





Everyone has a role to play in ensuring sustainable water and sanitation for all. Photo credit: Ricky Martin/CIFOR, Creative Commons Attribution.

Introduction

SDG 6 is to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030

SDG 6 is critical to sustainable development. Safe drinking water and sanitation are human rights. Access to these services, including water and soap for handwashing, is fundamental to human health and well-being. They are essential to improving nutrition, preventing disease and enabling healthcare, as well as to ensuring the functioning of schools, workplaces and political institutions and the full participation in society of women, girls and marginalized groups.

SDG 6, however, goes far beyond water and sanitation services to cover the entire water cycle. Aside from domestic purposes, water is needed across all sectors of society, to produce food, energy, goods and services. These uses also generate wastewater which, if not properly managed, can spread diseases, and introduce excess nutrients and hazardous substances into rivers, lakes and oceans. Ultimately, as ecosystems provide water to society, a significant share of the water needs to stay within the ecosystems for them to remain healthy. Healthy ecosystems in turn safeguard the quantity and quality of freshwater, as well as overall resilience to human- and environmentally-induced changes.

The effects of climate change are often seen in changes in water availability, such as increasing water scarcity in some regions and flooding in others. Consequently, water is a key factor in managing risks related to famine, disease epidemics, migration, inequalities within and between countries, political instability and natural disasters. With limited water resources, it is important to fairly balance the water requirements of society, the economy and the environment. Also, most of the world's water resources are shared between two or more countries. As such, the development and management of water resources has an impact across transboundary basins, making cooperation essential.

All SDGs are interlinked. As a goal concerning the lifeblood of society and the planet, progress towards the eight SDG 6 targets has catalytic effects across the entire 2030 Agenda.¹

We only manage what we measure

The monitoring of progress towards SDG 6 is a means to successfully achieving all eight SDG 6 targets. Credible and timely water and sanitation data provide numerous social, economic, and environmental benefits in both public and private sectors, such as stronger political accountability

and commitment, as well as public and private investments. It also enables evidence-based policy-making, regulations, planning and investments at all levels, to ensure the most effective deployment of resources. The main beneficiaries of better data are countries.

The 2030 Agenda specifies that global follow-up and review “will be primarily based on national official data sources”. This report is based on country data, compiled and verified by the responsible United Nations organizations, and sometimes complemented by information from other sources.

Large data gaps still exist

The average UN Member State has data for about two thirds of the global indicators for SDG 6; 38 UN Member States have data on less than half of the indicators. While these global indicators are effective for communicating overall progress, more detailed data are needed for policy- and decision-making and planning at the national and subnational levels. Country focal points say data gaps result from too little technical capacity and too few human and financial resources. Examples include lack of monitoring infrastructure, lack of data management systems, low staff numbers and low expertise. Efforts to further increase national-level capacity for SDG 6 monitoring by developing technical and institutional capacity and infrastructure are urgently needed.

How do we accelerate action?

As identified in the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation, there are several bottlenecks impeding greater progress. Policy and institutional fragmentation between levels, actors and sectors means that decisions taken in one sector (e.g. agriculture, energy, health,

environment) often do not consider the impacts on water availability and water quality in other sectors, and that issues do not receive the necessary political attention. Funding gaps and fragmentation impede progress across levels, while data and information often are not available or not shared between sectors and across borders to effectively inform decision-making. Meanwhile, gaps in institutional and human capacity, especially at the level of local governments and water and sanitation providers, slows implementation of SDG 6 along with outdated infrastructure and governance models.

The SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, launched in 2020, aims to deliver fast results at an increased scale. The United Nations system and its multi-stakeholder partners, driven by country demand and coordinating through UN-Water, will unify the international community’s support to countries for SDG 6. Action will be driven by five accelerators:

1. **OPTIMIZED FINANCING** – Improved targeting, better utilization of existing resources and mobilization of additional domestic and international funding will lead to efficient service delivery and implementation.

Success looks like: Costed plans related to delivery of SDG 6 are fully funded.

2. **IMPROVED DATA AND INFORMATION** – Data generation, validation, standardization and information exchange will build trust so leaders can make informed decisions and increase accountability.

Success looks like: High-quality information on SDG 6 indicators is shared and easily accessible by any decision maker.

3. **CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT** – Inclusive human and institutional capacities at all levels will enable improved service levels, operating and maintenance technology, increased job creation in the water sector and the retaining of a skilled work force.

Success looks like: Skilled staff enhance sustainable implementation of SDG 6.

4. **INNOVATION** – Innovative practices and technologies will be leveraged and scaled up and ultimately lead to improved water resources and sanitation development and management.

Success looks like: Innovative practices and technologies for water and sanitation are leveraged at the country level.

5. **GOVERNANCE** – Cross-sector and transboundary collaboration, clear roles, stakeholder involvement and effective and inclusive institutions will make SDG 6 everyone's business.

Success looks like: Efficient mandates for SDG 6 delivery in all sectors are established, institutions are strengthened to deliver and intersectoral coordination mechanisms operate effectively.

LEARN MORE

SDG 6 monitoring and reporting: This report has been produced by the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative on SDG 6 (IMI-SDG6), which brings together the United Nations organizations that are formally mandated to compile country data on the SDG 6 global indicators. Through IMI-SDG6, the United Nations seeks to support countries in monitoring water- and sanitation-related issues within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in compiling country data to report on global progress towards SDG 6. An important part of this work is to provide standardized methodologies for monitoring the different indicators, to ensure that data are comparable across countries and over time. Learn more about SDG 6 monitoring and reporting here: www.sdg6monitoring.org

Indicator reports: This report provides an executive summary of the 2021 status of SDG 6, assessed through official country data on the global indicators for SDG 6. Each indicator covers a specific aspect of SDG 6, and to learn more about the status and progress on each of these aspects, we invite you to read the full indicator-specific reports. Progress updates on most of the indicators will be published in August 2021, based on country data compiled in 2020. Read all reports here: www.unwater.org/publication_categories/integrated-monitoring-initiative

Latest data: The SDG 6 Data Portal brings together data on all the SDG 6 global indicators and offers tailored options for visualization and analysis. Track overall progress towards SDG 6 at the global, regional and national levels here: www.sdg6data.org

6.1.1 DRINKING WATER

2.2 billion people



lacked safely managed drinking water services in 2017



6.2.1a SANITATION

4.2 billion people



lacked safely managed sanitation services, and 673 million people practised open defecation, in 2017



6.2.1b HYGIENE

3 billion people



lacked a basic handwashing facility with soap and water at home in 2017



6.3.1 WASTEWATER

Less than **50%** of domestic wastewater is safely treated in 24 out of the 75 reporting countries (most of the 75 are high-income countries)



6.3.2 WATER QUALITY

Lack of water quality data means over **3** billion people are at risk because the health of their rivers, lakes and groundwater is unknown



6.4.1 WATER-USE EFFICIENCY

Since 2015 water-use efficiency has increased by



6.4.2 WATER STRESS

2.3 billion people live in water-stressed countries



of which 721 million live in high and critically water-stressed countries

6.5.1 INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT

129 countries are not on track to have sustainably managed water resources by 2030

Globally, the current rate of progress needs to be doubled



6.5.2 TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION

Only **22** countries

reported that all the rivers, lakes and aquifers that they share with their neighbours are covered by operational arrangements for cooperation



6.6.1 ECOSYSTEMS

1/5 of the world's river basins are experiencing rapid changes in the area covered by surface waters



6.a.1 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Official development assistance (ODA) commitments to the water sector increased

11% from 2015 to 2019, but disbursements only rose by 3%



6.b.1 PARTICIPATION

Only **14** out of **109** countries report having high levels of participation by communities in water and sanitation decision-making



SDG 6 progress at a glance

The world is not on track to achieve SDG 6.

Billions of people worldwide still live without safely managed drinking water and sanitation, especially in rural areas and least developed countries; the current rate of progress need to quadruple to reach the global target of universal access by 2030.

For wastewater treatment and water quality, it is not possible to assess the global situation since country data are missing for large parts of the world, leaving billions of people at risk.

Water use has remained relatively stable at the global level during the last 10 years, and with 17 per cent of available water resources being withdrawn, the world as a whole is not considered water-stressed. However, this number hides stark regional differences: in some regions the level of water stress has increased by 35 per cent during the last two decades, and many countries withdraw all their renewable water resources or even rely on non-renewable resources that will eventually run dry.

When it comes to integrated water resources management (IWRM), the current rate of progress needs to double to meet the global targets, and only two SDG regions are on track to have all their transboundary water bodies covered by operational cooperation agreements.

One fifth of the world's river basins are experiencing rapid changes in the area covered by surface waters, indicative of flooding and drought events, which are associated with climate change.

Although official development assistance (ODA) commitments to the water sector increased slightly in recent years, this is mainly due to an increase in concessional lending, and the gap between actual disbursements and future commitments is growing.

Participatory procedures are increasingly recognized in national policies and laws whereas their implementation have been moderate.

Global target ¹	Global indicator ²	Number of countries with data ³	Baseline status ⁴	Latest status ⁵	Status summary and priority areas for acceleration ⁶
6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all (100%).	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	117	70% (2015)	71% (2017)	Achieving the SDG global target 6.1 by 2030 will require a four-fold increase in the current rate of progress. 7 out of 8 SDG regions are currently off track. 785 million people still lack even basic drinking water services. Among these, 8 out of 10 live in rural areas and nearly half live in Least Developed Countries. Since 2000, the number of people without safely managed drinking water in Sub-Saharan Africa has increased from 531 to 747 million.
6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all (100%) and end open defecation (0%), paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.	6.2.1a Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services	96	44% (2015)	45% (2017)	Achieving the SDG global target 6.2 by 2030 will require a four-fold increase in the current rate of progress. No SDG region is currently on track. 2 billion people still lack even basic sanitation services. Among these 7 out of 10 live in rural areas and 3 out of 10 in Least Developed Countries. 673 million people still practise open defecation and 61 countries still have open defecation rates >5%.
	6.2.1b Proportion of population with a handwashing facility with soap and water available at home	78	60% (2017)	60% (2017)	There are currently insufficient data to estimate global trends in access to basic handwashing facilities. Over half of the population in rural areas and nearly three quarters of the population of Least Developed Countries lack handwashing facilities with soap and water. In Sub-Saharan Africa 2 out of 5 people have no handwashing facility at all.
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 (-50%) and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.	6.3.1 Proportion of domestic wastewater flow safely treated	75	---% (2015)	---% (2015)	There are currently insufficient country data to estimate global status or trends. Data coverage is very poor outside of Europe and North America. Improving data coverage is an essential first step to accelerating efforts in wastewater collection and treatment.
	6.3.1 Proportion of industrial wastewater flow safely treated	2	---% (2017)	---% (2017)	There are currently insufficient data to estimate global status or trends. Data coverage is very poor. Improving data coverage is an essential first step to accelerating efforts in wastewater collection and treatment.
	6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality	89	---% (2017)	---% (2020)	There are currently insufficient country data to estimate global status or trends. Out of 48 countries reporting both in 2017 and 2020, 21 are on track to improve water quality. Urgent action is necessary to improve monitoring systems for both surface and groundwater and to define water quality standards. Ambient water quality needs improving regardless of national socio-economic status, including through transboundary cooperation.
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.	6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time	88	22.5 USD/m ³ (2015)	23.4 USD/m ³ (2017)	Most reporting countries have improved their water-use efficiency between 2015 and 2017. The global value increased by 4% between 2015 and 2017. Improved data coverage is needed to fully assess water-use efficiency. Accelerated efforts are especially needed in agriculture, the thirstiest economic sector.
	6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources	178	17.1% (2015)	17.3% (2017)	Globally and in 6 out of 11 SDG sub-regions, less than 25% of available water resources are being withdrawn, and they are not considered water-stressed. Within the Northern Africa and Western Asia region, many countries withdraw all their renewable water resources (100%) or even more (up to 1,000%), relying on non-renewable resources that eventually will run dry.

Global target ¹	Global indicator ²	Number of countries with data ³	Baseline status ⁴	Latest status ⁵	Status summary and priority areas for acceleration ⁶
6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels (100%), including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.	6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0–100%)	187	49% (2017)	54% (2020)	Despite some progress, three quarters of countries and 5 SDG regions are not on track to meet the global target. The current rate of progress needs to be doubled. Priority needs to be given to the 46% of countries with low and medium-low implementation of IWRM. Implementation levels are lowest in Latin America and the Caribbean, Oceania, Central and Southern Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa.
	6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation	87 (out of 153 sharing trans-boundary waters)	59% (2017)	59% (2020)	Only Europe, North America and Sub-Saharan Africa are on track to meet the global target and only 22 countries have met the target as of 2020. Many rivers, lakes and aquifers are lacking operational arrangements for water cooperation, especially in Latin America, North Africa and Western Asia, Central and Southern Asia, and Eastern and South-Eastern Asia.
6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.	6.6.1 Proportion of river basins showing high surface water extent changes	185	12% (2015)	21% (2020)	All seven SDG regions contain some river basins experiencing high change in the extent of their surface water. High increases and/or declines in surface water area are most notable in Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia, Central Asia and Southern Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Sub-Saharan Africa. Since 2000, mangroves have declined globally by 4.2%. Lake water with significant turbidity conditions is found in Western Asia and Northern Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean.
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.	6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance (ODA) received	144	8.98 billion USD (2015)	9.25 billion USD (2019)	Both commitments (+11%) and disbursements (+3%) of ODA to the water sector have increased in real terms during the 2015 to 2019 time period, including an additional US\$ 644 million to Sub-Saharan Africa. Disbursements for WASH have risen with 13% from 2015 to 2019 while disbursements for other water sector areas such as agricultural water resources and hydro-electric power have decreased by 10%. The increase in water sector ODA is mainly due to increases in concessional lending, e.g. by 82% in low income countries from 2015 to 2019, while ODA grants have increased only by 19% during the same time period.
6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.	6.b.1 Number of counties (or areas) with a high level of participation by users/communities, across sectors	109	1 (2016)	14 (2019)	Participatory procedures are increasingly recognized in national policies and laws while the levels of participation have seen moderate improvement. Approximately 6 out of 10 countries reported that human and financial resources were less than 50% of that needed to support community participation, indicating that increased resources are essential to accelerating progress.

1 Refers to the eight targets under SDG 6 of the 2030 [Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

2 To ensure progress towards the 2030 Agenda and strengthen accountability, UN Member States have agreed to regularly report data on a [set of global indicators](#), including 12 indicators for SDG 6.

3 Number of countries, areas and territories with data available in the SDG global database that are no older than 2016. For indicators 6.3.2, 6.5.1 and 6.6.1, the number only includes UN Member States (193 in total).

4 The baseline year is the point in time from which progress is measured; in principle, the first year of the 2030 Agenda (2015) represents its baseline, but in practice, the specific baseline for each indicator will be established once enough country data are available to be globally representative (e.g. data from countries representing at least 50% of the global or regional population).

5 The latest year for which data exist varies, since the different indicators follow different data collection cycles – for some indicators it makes sense to report every to every second year, for others it is sufficient every three to four years.

6 See the individual indicator pages for more details on the current status and priority areas for acceleration. The seven SDG regions are Sub-Saharan Africa, Northern Africa and Western Asia, Central and Southern Asia, Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Oceania and Europe and Northern America.

6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services

Target 6.1 is: “By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.”

Indicator 6.1.1 monitors the proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services. A safely managed service is defined as an improved drinking water source that is accessible on the premises, available when needed, and free of faecal and priority chemical contamination. Improved water sources include piped water, boreholes or tubewells, protected dug wells, protected springs and packaged or delivered water.

Access to safe drinking water in homes, healthcare facilities, schools and workplaces effectively reduces water-borne disease and malnutrition, which are leading causes of death among children under five.

Billions have gained access. Since 2000, 1.6 billion people have gained access to safely managed drinking water services. Globally, seven out of ten people used safely managed drinking water services in 2017.

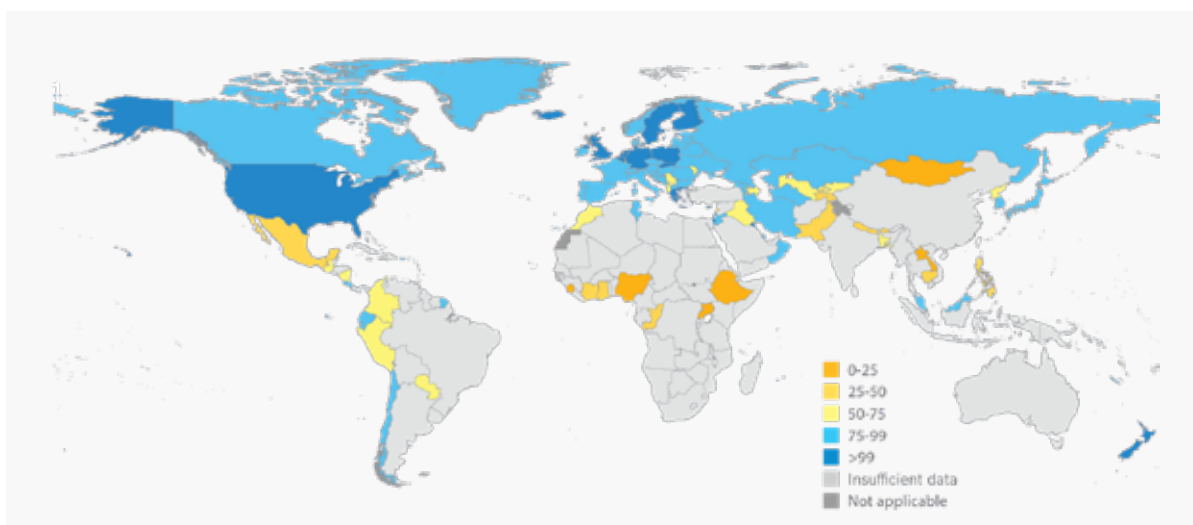


Figure 1: Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services in 2017 (%). Only 117 countries² had sufficient data – on accessibility, availability and quality of drinking water – to produce a national estimate for this indicator in 2017.



Leaving too many behind. 2.2 billion people – 29 per cent of the world’s population – still lacked drinking water services on premises, available when needed and free from contamination in 2017.

Most regions are off track. 7 out of 8 SDG regions are currently off track to achieve universal coverage by 2030. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the number of people lacking safely managed drinking water has increased by more than 40 per cent since 2000.

Rural and poor impacted most. 785 million people still lacked even basic drinking water services in 2017. Among these, eight out of ten lived in rural areas. Nearly half lived in Least Developed Countries.

The consequences of urban growth. The number of city inhabitants lacking safely managed drinking water has increased by more than 50 per cent since 2000.

Next steps: Achieving universal access to safely managed drinking water by 2030

will require a four-fold increase in current rates of progress, including a substantial increase in current levels of investment.

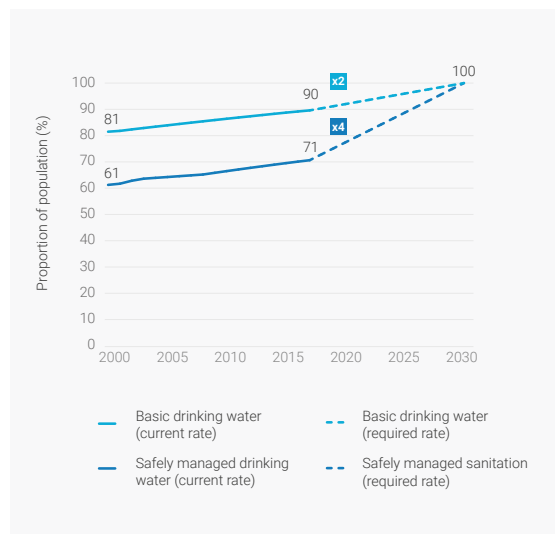


Figure 3: Progress required to reach SDG target 6.1 by 2030. Achieving universal access to basic drinking water by 2030 will require a doubling of current rates of progress, and achieving universal access to safely managed drinking water by 2030 will require a quadrupling of current rates of progress.

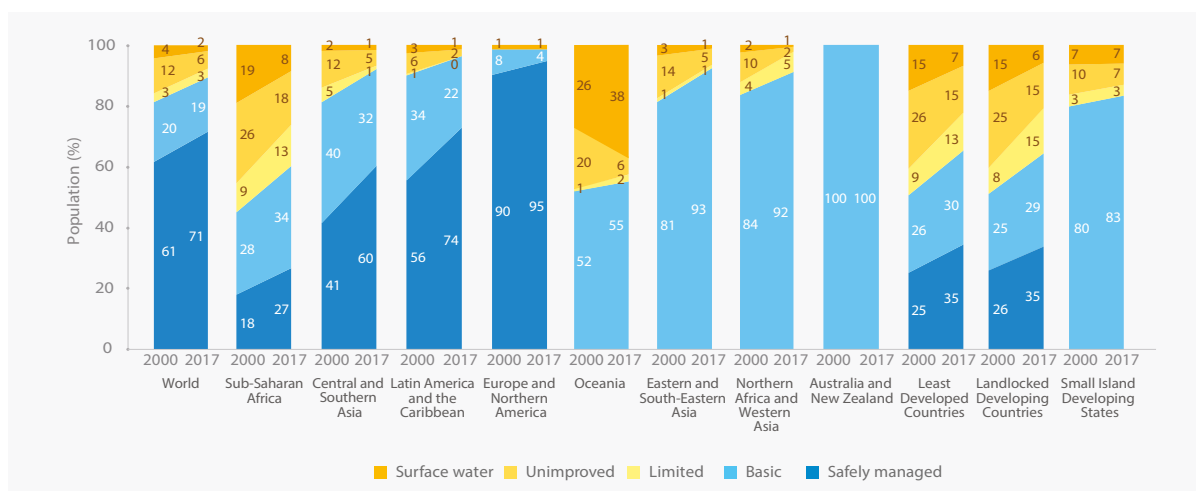


Figure 2: Progress on drinking water coverage 2000-2017 (%) in the world and by SDG region and country category. Globally, seven out of ten people used safely managed drinking water services in 2017. Four SDG regions had sufficient country data – on accessibility, availability and quality of drinking water – to produce a national estimate for safely managed drinking water.³ Only 117 countries had sufficient data – on accessibility, availability and quality of drinking water – to produce a national estimate for this indicator in 2017.

Data provider: World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

6.2.1a Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services

Target 6.2 is: “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 6.2.1a tracks the population using an improved sanitation facility, that is not shared with other households, and where the excreta produced are either:

- **treated and disposed of in situ,**
- **emptied and treated off-site,**
- **or transported through a sewer with wastewater and treated off-site.**

Improved sanitation facilities include flush/pour flush to piped sewer system, septic tanks or pit latrines; ventilated improved pit latrines, composting toilets or pit latrines with slabs. If the excreta from improved sanitation facilities are not safely managed then people using those facilities will be classed as having a basic sanitation service, or limited service if shared with other households.

Adequate sanitation and hygiene services at home, in education settings and workplaces are essential to make sure that women can participate in society on equal terms.

More than half still lack access. Since 2000, 1.7 billion people have gained access to safely managed sanitation, but 55 per cent of the global population still lacked access in 2017.

Progress must increase four fold. Achieving universal access to safely managed sanitation by 2030 will require a four-fold increase in current rates of progress.

Rural and poor impacted most. 2 billion people still lack even basic sanitation services in 2017. Among these, seven out of ten lived in rural areas and three out of ten lived in Least Developed Countries.

Open defecation still a big problem. 673 million people still practised open defecation and in 61 countries more than 5 per cent of the population practised open defecation in 2017.

Next steps: The world is on track to eliminate open defecation by 2030, but achieving universal access to basic sanitation by 2030 will require a doubling of current rates of progress, and achieving universal access to safely managed sanitation by 2030 will require a quadrupling of current rates of progress. This calls for a substantial increase in current levels of investment in sanitation services.

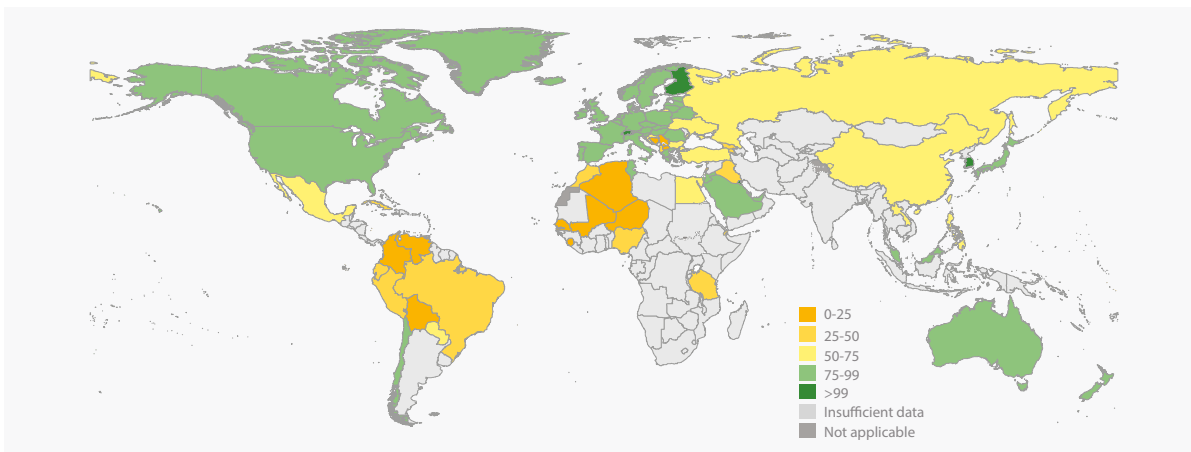


Figure 1: Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services in 2017 (%). Only 96 countries had sufficient data – on treatment and disposal of faecal sludge and sewage – to produce a national estimate for this indicator in 2017.

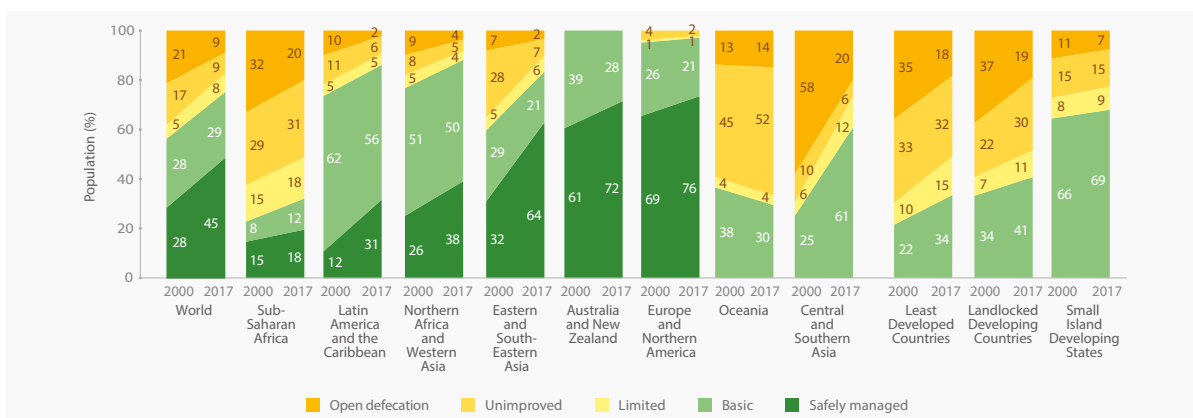


Figure 2: Progress on sanitation coverage 2000-2017 (%) in the world and by SDG region and country category. At the global level, four out of ten people used safely managed sanitation services in 2017. Six SDG regions had sufficient country data – on treatment and disposal of faecal sludge and sewage – to produce an estimate for safely managed services.⁴

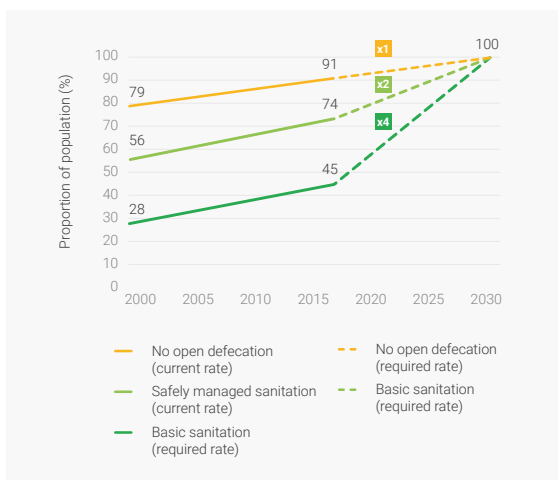


Figure 3: Progress required to reach SDG target 6.2 by 2030. Achieving universal access to basic sanitation by 2030 will require a doubling of current rates of progress, and achieving universal access to safely managed drinking water by 2030 will require a quadrupling of current rates of progress.

Data provider: World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

6.2.1b Proportion of population with a handwashing facility with soap and water available at home

Target 6.2 is: “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 6.2.1b tracks the proportion of population with a handwashing facility with soap and water on premises. Handwashing facilities may be fixed or mobile and include a sink with tap water, buckets with taps, tippy-taps, and jugs or basins designated for handwashing. Soap includes bar soap, liquid soap, powder detergent and soapy water.

Handwashing is a cost-effective intervention to improve public health by drastically reducing the spread of infectious diseases.

3 out of 5 people have access. 4.5 billion people had basic handwashing facilities with soap and water at home in 2017.

Leaving too many people behind. 3 billion people – 40 per cent of the world’s population – still lacked a basic handwashing facility with soap and water at home in 2017.

Rural and poorest impacted most. Over half – 55 per cent – of people in rural areas and nearly three quarters of the population of Least Developed Countries lacked handwashing facilities with soap and water in 2017. In Sub-Saharan Africa, two out of five people had no handwashing facility at all.

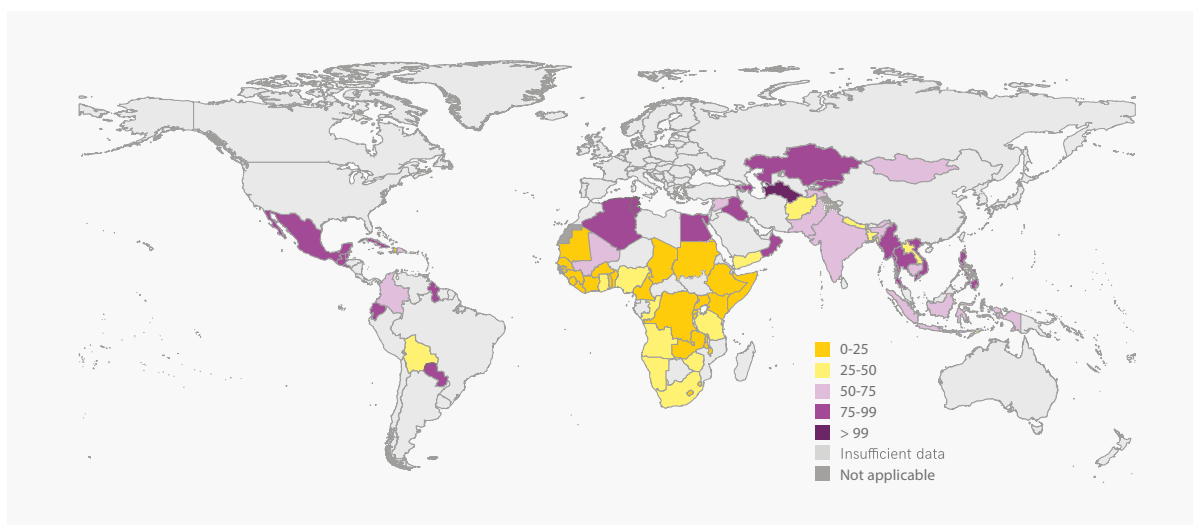


Figure 1: Proportion of population with basic handwashing facilities at home in 2017 (%). 78 countries had sufficient data to produce national estimates for this indicator in 2017.



Next steps: The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of hand hygiene for preventing and controlling the spread of infectious diseases. In order to

'build back better' and improve resilience, governments must accelerate their efforts to ensure hand hygiene for all.

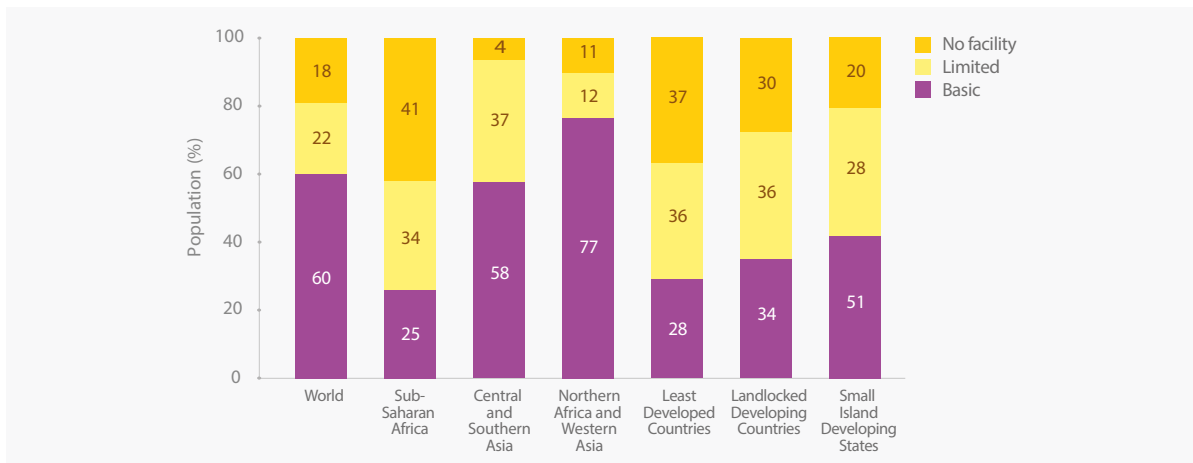


Figure 2: Handwashing coverage in 2017 (%) in the world and by SDG region and country category. Globally, three out of five people had basic handwashing facilities, and three SDG regions had sufficient country data to produce national estimates for this indicator in 2017.

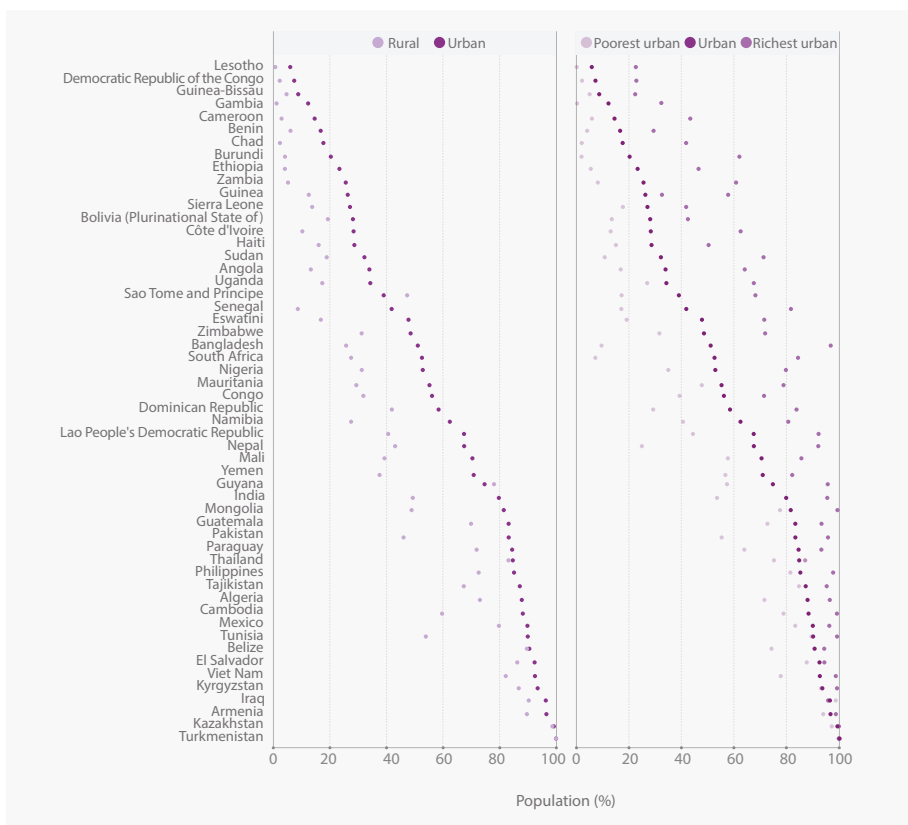


Figure 3: Inequalities in coverage of basic handwashing facilities between urban and rural and urban wealth quintiles, 2017. Coverage of basic handwashing facilities is higher in urban areas but there are significant gaps between the richest and the poorest.

Data provider: World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

6.3.1 Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flow safely treated

Target 6.3 is: “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 tracks the proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flow safely treated in compliance with national or local standards for its intended recipient (e.g. lake, river, ocean or soil) or further use (e.g. in agriculture). The household component includes both sewage and faecal sludge, treated on-site and off-site, and is monitored together with indicator 6.2.1 on sanitation.

Wastewater collection and treatment help protect freshwater systems, the oceans and also human health, as detrimental pathogens, nutrients and other types of pollution are prevented from entering the environment.

Insufficient data to assess global progress. Over the last 20 years, 90 countries have reported some wastewater statistics, but few report on both generated and treated wastewater flows. In 2015, 75 countries had sufficient data to produce estimates on the treatment of domestic wastewater, based on the reporting for indicator 6.2.1a. Most of these countries are high-income countries, representing only 26 per cent of the global population, and as such not

globally representative. In 2017, the proportion of industrial wastewater flow safely treated could only be calculated for two countries.

Too much uncollected wastewater. In the 75 reporting countries, only 80 per cent of domestic wastewater flow is collected: 71 per cent in sewers and 9 per cent in on-site facilities. Approximately two thirds of the world’s population use on-site facilities to collect their wastewater.

Too much untreated wastewater. In reporting countries, only 59 per cent of the domestic wastewater flow is safely treated, but the situation varies significantly across countries. In one third of the countries, more than 90 per cent is safely treated, whereas in another third of the countries, less than 50 per cent is safely treated. The untreated 41 per cent is let out into the environment without any treatment.

Disparities in treatment of wastewater from sewers and on-site facilities. In reporting countries, three quarters of domestic wastewater flow collected in sewers is safely treated. For domestic wastewater collected from on-site facilities, only one fifth is safely treated.

Industrial wastewater. Data on industrial discharges are poorly monitored and seldom aggregated at the national level; currently, only two countries in the world report on the proportion of industrial wastewater safely treated. In addition, data are available from



nine European countries but here information about the treatment level is missing, so it is not possible to assess if the treatment is safe; however these data show that the proportion of treated wastewater is relatively stable over the period of 2014 to 2018.

Next steps: Disaggregation of data on wastewater generation by source according to households, services and industry assists in identifying heavy polluters and consequently, in applying the 'polluter pays' principle to incentivize wastewater treatment and enforce water quality standards. As such, wastewater monitoring is an essential first step to accelerating investments in wastewater collection and treatment.

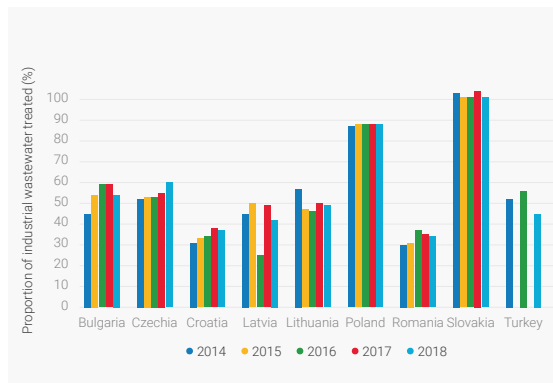


Figure 2: Proportion of industrial wastewater treated 2014-2018 (%).⁵ Data are only available for nine European countries, and it is not possible to assess if the treatment is safe.

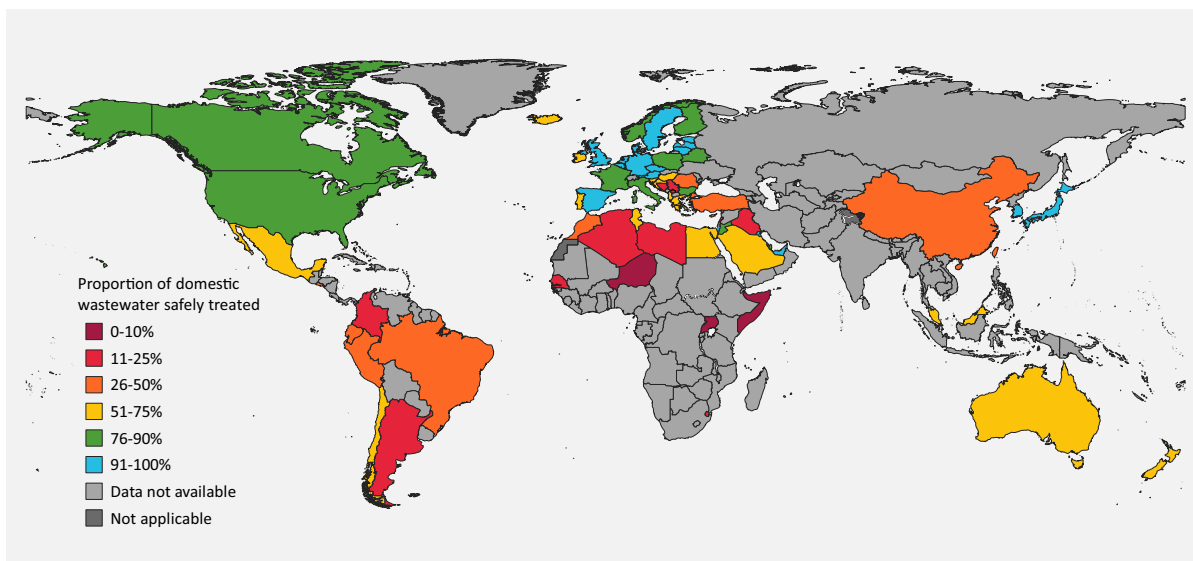


Figure 1: Percentage of safely treated wastewater flows from households in 2015 (%). In 24 of the 75 reporting countries, the percentage of safely treated wastewater from households is 50% or less.

Data provider: World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality

Target 6.3 is: “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 6.3.2 monitors the proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality, as per national and/or subnational water quality standards and based on measurements of five water quality parameters that inform on the most common pressures on water quality at the global level.

Investments in measures to protect, restore and monitor water quality have positive effects on both terrestrial and marine ecosystem health more broadly, and lower the costs for drinking water treatment.

Good water quality. In all world regions, and in low, medium and high income countries alike, many water bodies are still in good condition (see Figures 1 and 2). 60 per cent of water bodies – 44,937 out of 75,458 – assessed in 89 countries have good ambient water quality. Protection is easier than restoration, so efforts to protect these water bodies must be initiated now.

Positive trends for countries with robust monitoring systems. 21 of the 48 countries reporting in both 2017 and 2020 are on track to improve water quality. These are countries

that have a robust monitoring system in place, which supports the concept that monitoring is a prerequisite for positive management action.

Water quality threats. Although low, middle and high income countries alike also reported on bad water quality (see Figures 1 and 2), the underlying drivers are likely to be different and therefore will require specific actions. 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.

Building monitoring capacity. Water quality data are not collected routinely in a majority of countries. This means that over 3 billion people are at risk because the health of their freshwater ecosystems is unknown. Furthermore, data on water quality from developing countries lacked detail, with the indicator calculated using relatively few measurements and without suitable environmental water quality standards, which lowers the reliability of the reporting (see Figure 3).

Lack of groundwater data. Of the 89 countries with data, only 52 have 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.

Next steps: To protect water bodies and improve water quality, it is essential to urgently enhance farming management practices and increase

wastewater treatment, especially in regions with high population growth such as Africa.

As a first step towards accelerated policy action, capacity building and investments are needed in all regions to expand country monitoring networks and establish national water quality standards.

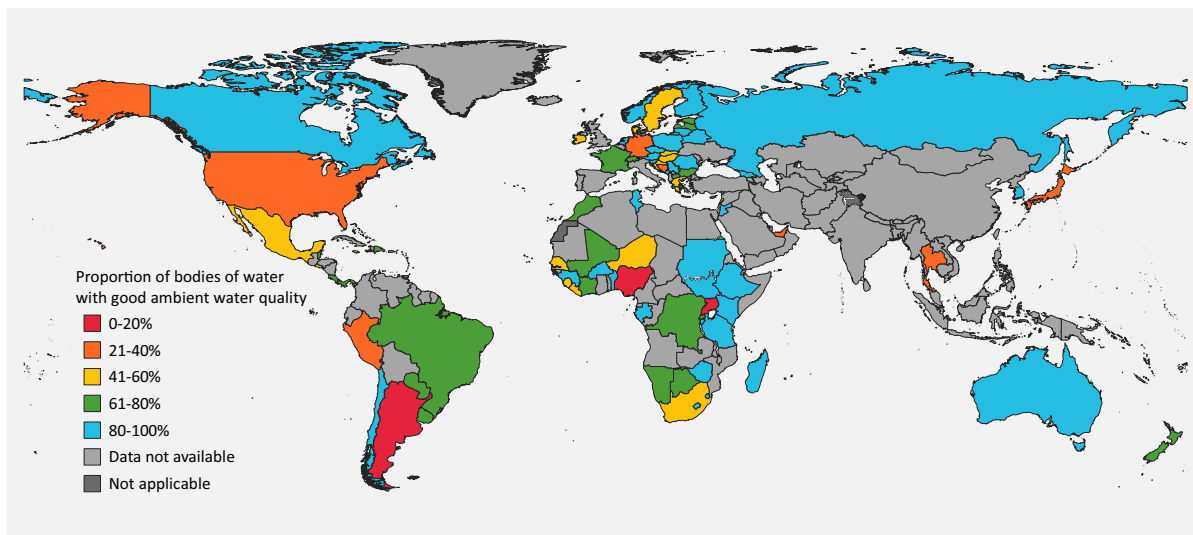


Figure 1: Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality, 2017-2020 (%). In 63 out of 89 reporting countries, 60 per cent or more of water bodies have good quality.



Figure 2: Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality in countries, compared to their gross domestic product per capita, 2017-2020; each dot represents a country. The reported water quality situation is not related to GDP.

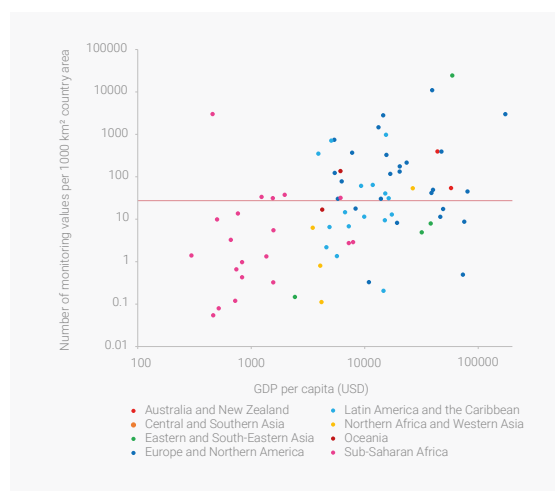


Figure 3: Number of monitoring values per country area reported by countries, compared to their gross domestic product per capita, 2017-2020; each dot represents a country. Countries with a low GDP generally based their national reporting on fewer data.

Data provider: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time

Target 6.4 is: “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 tracks the change in water-use efficiency over time, measured as the ratio of dollar value added to the volume of water used. It considers water use by all economic activities, with a focus on agriculture, industry and the service sector. Increasing water-use efficiency over time means decoupling a country’s economic growth from its water use, for example, by using less water in agriculture and production processes through new technology, and by reducing water losses in municipal distribution networks.

Increasing water-use efficiency, for example by repairing leaking water distribution systems, using less thirsty crops and investing in new technology, results in more sustainable food and economic production systems. Water savings are also often associated with energy savings, as less water need to be extracted, treated, transported and heated.

Global improvement. Between 2015 and 2017, water-use efficiency increased by about 4 per cent globally, to 23.4 USD/m³.

Data scarcity. The estimation above is based on data from 88 countries, representing 59 per cent of the global population. Lack of data remains one of the main constraints to assess water-use efficiency.

Lagging behind. In 20 countries, water-use efficiency decreased between 2015 and 2017.

Next steps: Innovation, both technical and non-technical, is the key to reducing the pressure of a growing economy on available water resources. This is particularly important in agriculture, the thirstiest economic sector, where new crop varieties, efficient irrigation systems and improved 'rain-fed' cultivation could increase water-use efficiency.

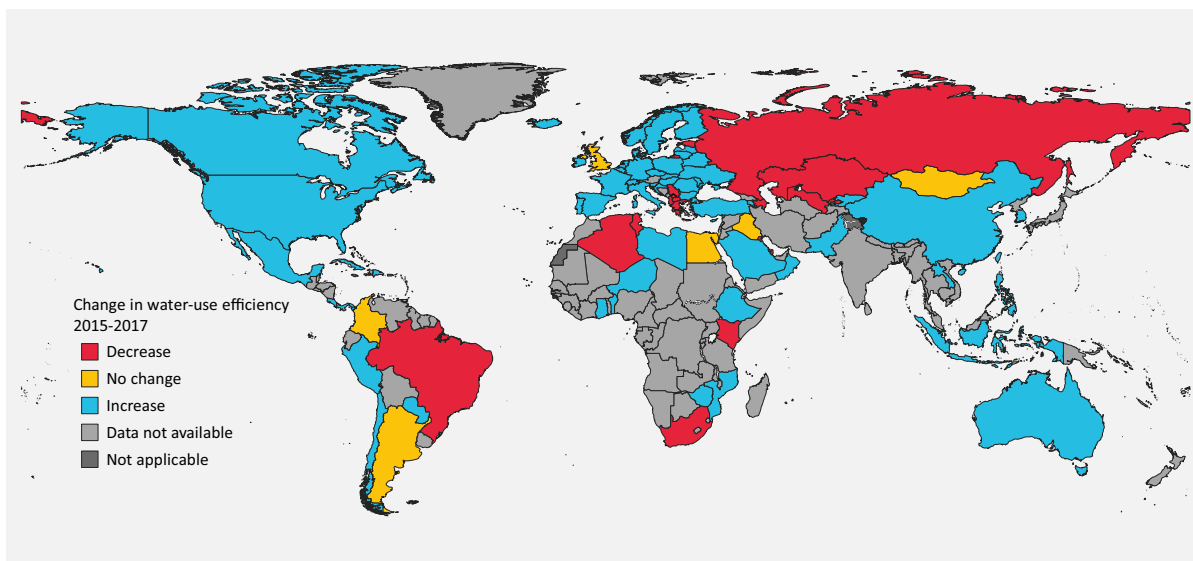


Figure 1: Change in water-use efficiency between 2015 and 2017.⁶ Data are available for 88 countries.

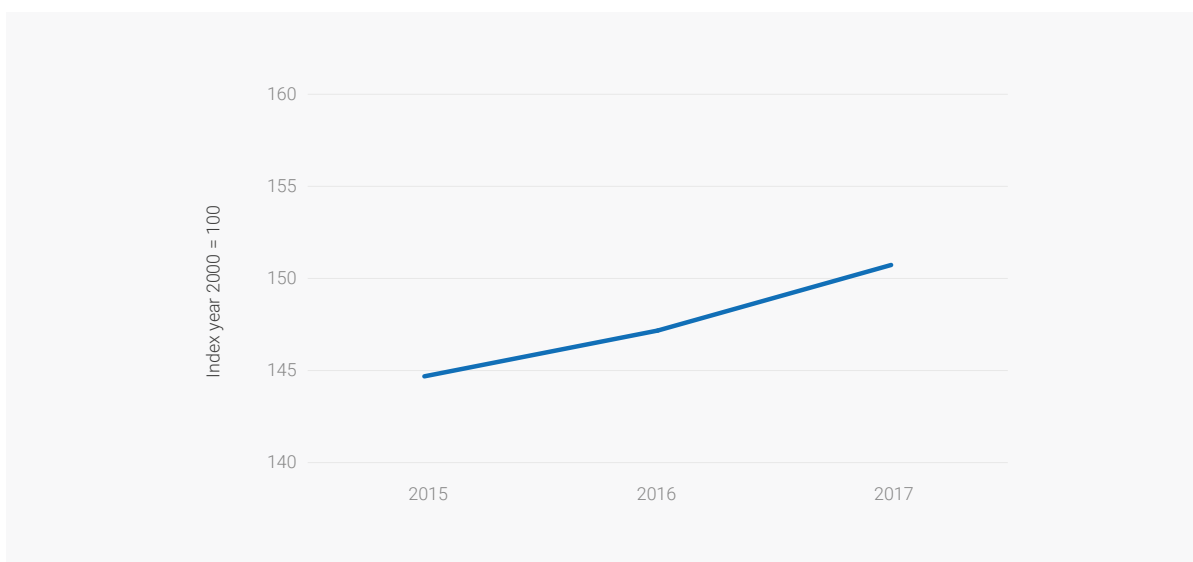


Figure 2: Global trend in water-use efficiency (index year 2000 = 100). Between 2015 and 2017, global water-use efficiency increased by 4 per cent. The global trend is based on data for 88 countries, representing 59 per cent of the global population.

Data provider: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

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

Target 6.4 is: “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 6.4.2 tracks how much freshwater is being withdrawn by all economic activities, compared to the total renewable freshwater resources available. When a territory withdraws 25 per cent or more of its renewable freshwater resources it is said to be ‘water-stressed’. The monitoring of environmental water requirements encourages consideration for ecosystem health when available water resources are being allocated.

Improving farming systems will help reduce the demand for water and alleviate the pressure on ecosystems. Healthy ecosystems are in turn essential to stabilize the water cycle, allowing more recharge for aquifers and a steadier runoff in surface streams.

Unsustainable usage. Within the Northern Africa and Western Asia regions, many countries withdraw all their renewable water resources (100 per cent) every year, or even more (up to 1,000 per cent), and rely on non-renewable resources to meet their water needs, some of which will eventually run dry, such as groundwater extracted from confined aquifers.

A global problem. At the global level, 17.3 per cent of total renewable freshwater resources available are being withdrawn. However, this value hides large regional variations. Five out of 11 regions have water stress values above 25 per cent, including two regions with high water stress and one with extreme water stress.

Slight improvements, considerable deteriorations. Between 2000 and 2017, 3 out of 11 regions slightly reduced their water stress, whereas 2 increased their water stress considerably.

Thirsty agriculture. 72 per cent of all water withdrawals are used by agriculture, 16 per cent by municipalities for households and services, and 12 per cent by industries.

Lack of reporting. Globally, over the past 10 years, 84 countries – 42 per cent of reporting countries – are not consistently reporting water stress data, most of them in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Next steps: In addition to efficient water distribution systems and a sustainable agriculture, reuse of wastewater must be a key strategy in reducing water stress, together with water saving technology throughout the economy and awareness campaigns to reduce the use of water in households.

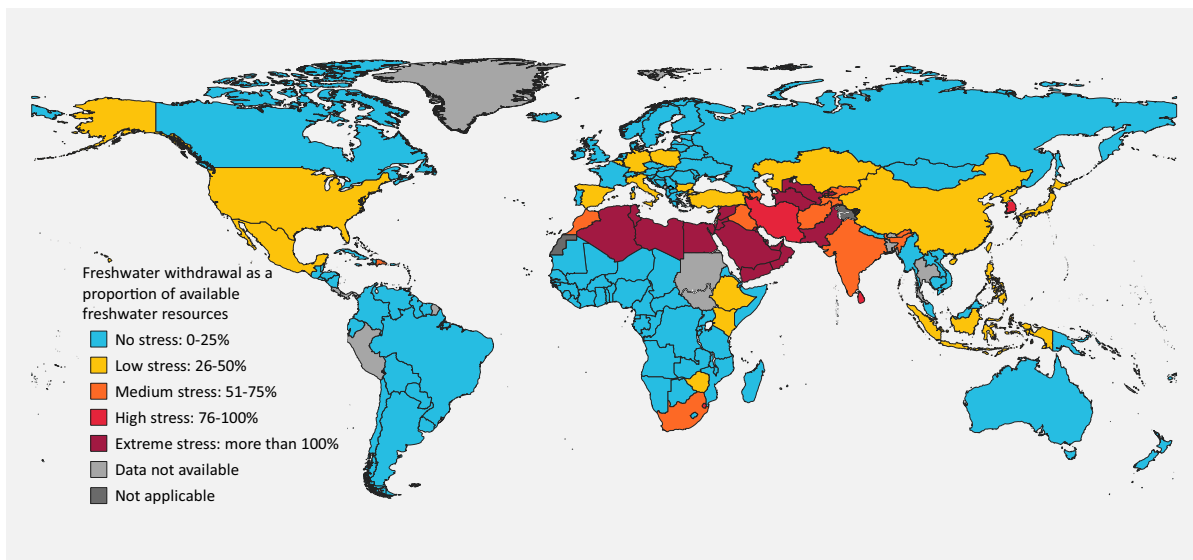


Figure 1: Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources in 2017 (%).

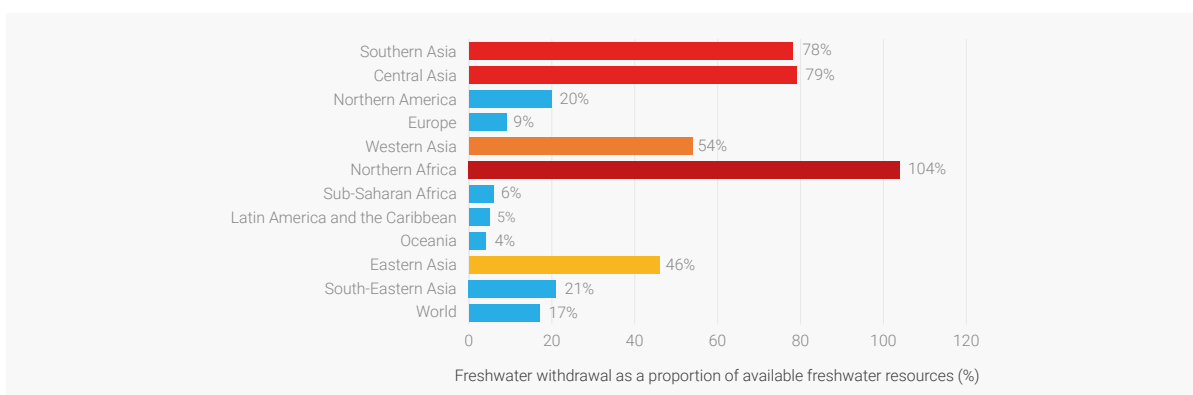


Figure 2: Level of water stress in 2017, by region and globally. Five out of eleven regions have water stress values above 25 per cent, denoting low, medium, high or extreme water stress.

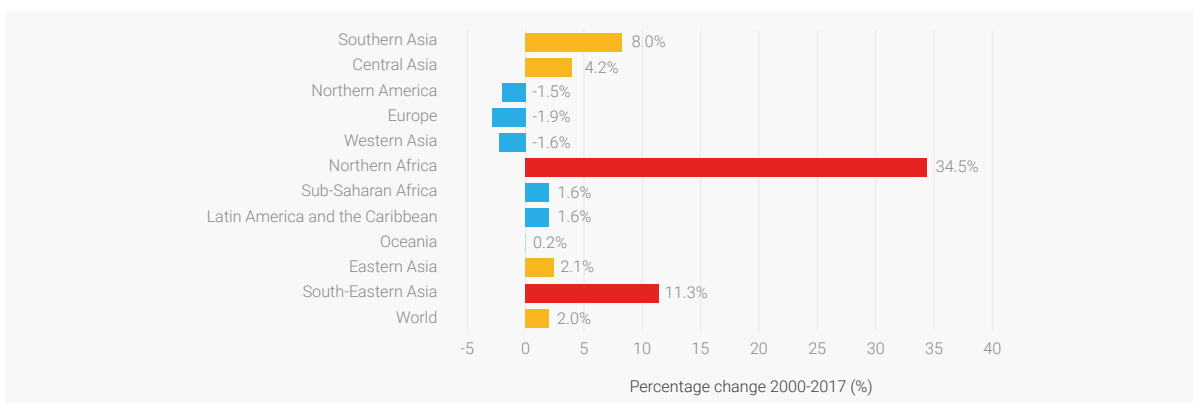


Figure 3: Change in the level of water stress between 2000 and 2017, by region and globally. Only three regions reduced their water stress during this period.

Data provider: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0–100)

Target 6.5 is: “By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.”

Indicator 6.5.1 tracks the degree of integrated water resources management (IWRM) implementation, by assessing the four key dimensions of IWRM: enabling environment, institutions and participation, management instruments and financing.

Sustainable, integrated water resources management is vital for long-term social, economic and environmental well-being – the three pillars of the 2030 Agenda – and helps to balance competing water demands from across society and the economy.

The world has made some progress. Many countries have strengthened IWRM laws, developed policies, and reinforced institutions, putting them in a position to scale up implementation, and supporting progress towards many other SDG targets. However, implementation efforts must intensify, particularly in the 87 countries with lower IWRM implementation (orange and yellow in Figure 1). Many of these countries are rapidly developing, and can be found in Latin America and the Caribbean, Oceania, Central and Southern

Asia, and Africa, and a failure to accelerate steps towards IWRM seriously threatens their ability to sustain their development.

Insufficient progress. Although most countries are advancing their level of implementation (Figure 2), this has only resulted in a modest increase of 5 percentage points in the global average implementation of IWRM (up from 49 to 54 percentage points from 2017 to 2020) (Figure 3). The rate of progress needs to double. 129 countries are not on track to hit the target, jeopardizing the likelihood of achieving sustainably managed water resources by 2030. These countries span most levels of human development, can be found in most regions, and many are rapidly developing.

Next steps: To implement IWRM at all levels by 2030, countries must build on their 6.5.1 multi-stakeholder monitoring processes to understand main barriers and identify priority action areas to accelerate progress. Although the UNEP/GWP SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme has supported 72 countries with national review efforts so far, only 11 countries have developed and begun implementing action plans. Overall, to achieve the global target, the current rate of implementation needs to double.

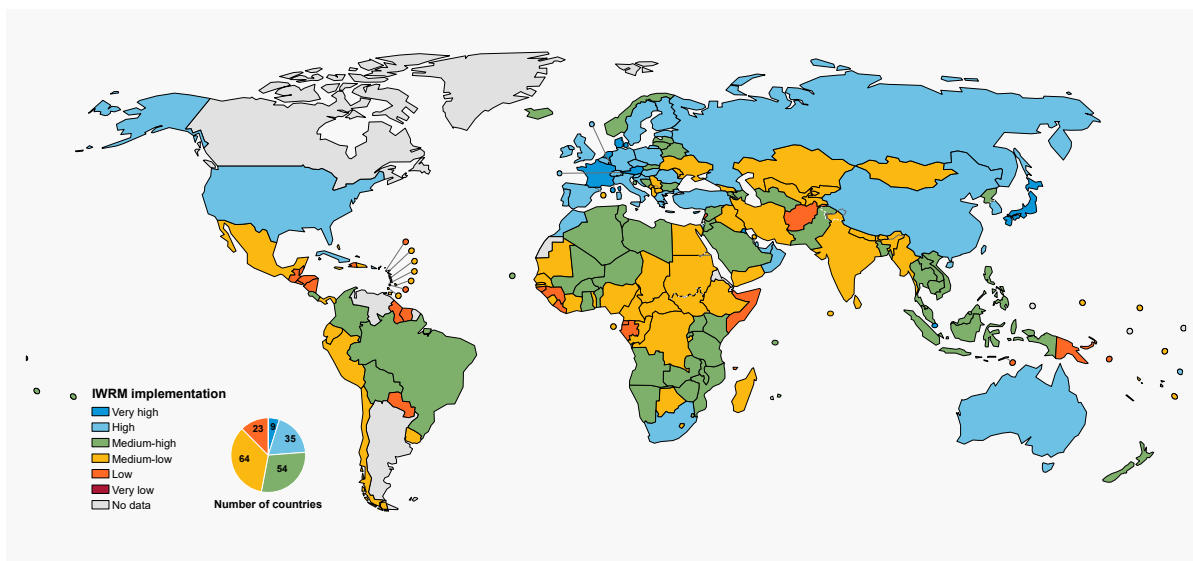


Figure 1: Degree of IWRM implementation, 2020. 186 countries have reported on the indicator in the past five years.

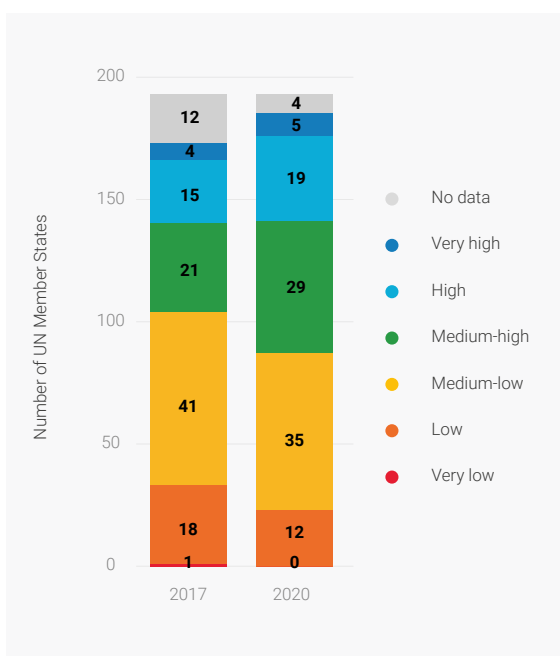


Figure 2: Number of countries per IWRM implementation level in 2017 and in 2020. Most countries are advancing their level of implementation.

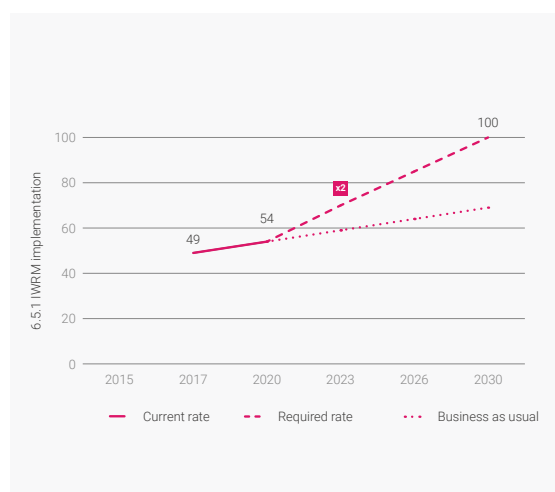


Figure 3: Current and required global rate of implementation of IWRM. To achieve the global target, the rate of implementation needs to double.

Data provider: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

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

Target 6.5 is: “By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.”

Indicator 6.5.2 looks at the area of a country within transboundary basins and assesses the extent to which that area is covered by operational cooperation arrangements. Transboundary basins are river, lake and aquifer systems shared between two or more countries. Arrangements are “operational” when there is a joint body, meetings between countries take place and information is exchanged at least once per year, and joint or coordinated management plans or objectives for the basin(s) have been set.⁷

Transboundary water cooperation plays a crucial role in supporting wider regional integration, peace and sustainable development, as well as in tackling regional security challenges or in supporting climate change adaptation.

High levels of engagement. In 2020, 128 out of 153 countries sharing transboundary basins submitted national reports on the status of their cooperative arrangements. The reporting offered an unprecedented opportunity to raise awareness and start to address data gaps, particular in relation to transboundary aquifers, while also identifying further priorities for national capacity development.

In some instances, this has given countries the impetus to negotiate new cooperative arrangements. The indicator value is now available for 87 countries.

Arrangements for water cooperation.

An average of 59 per cent of countries’ transboundary basin areas have an operational arrangement for water cooperation. Only 22 countries reported that all their transboundary basins are covered by cooperation arrangements. An additional 22 countries have high levels of cooperation. Transboundary cooperation is particularly advanced in Europe, North America and Sub-Saharan Africa. In Latin America and Asia, despite notable exceptions, many transboundary basins are still lacking operational arrangements for water cooperation.

Next steps: Countries must accelerate progress in adopting cooperative arrangements so as to enable water for all and capitalize on the catalytic role transboundary water cooperation can have across SDGs. Where operational arrangements are lacking, identifying and advancing key factors of operability, such as holding regular meetings and exchanging data between countries, can result in ‘quick wins’ that accelerate target achievement with sometimes minimal efforts.

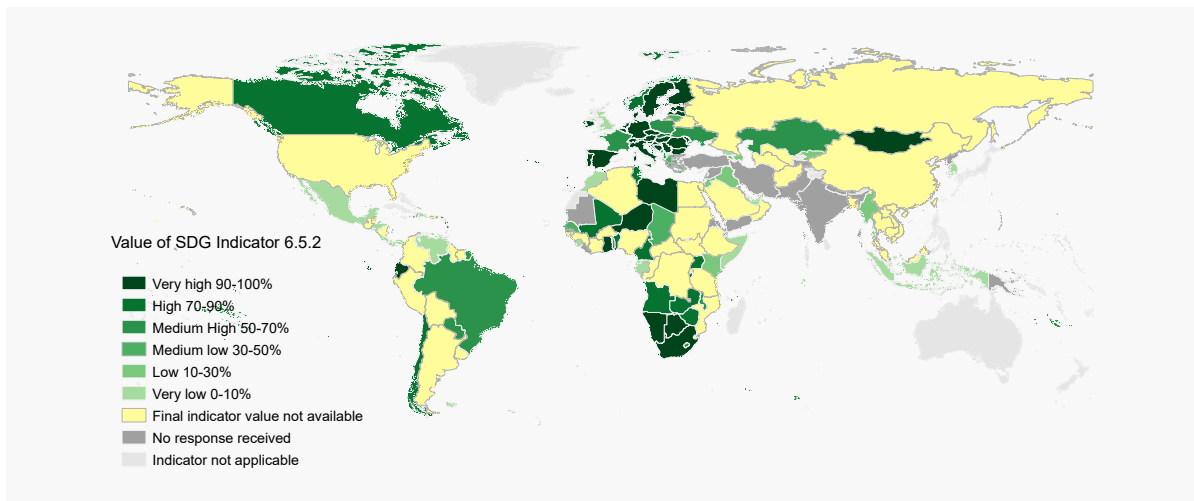


Figure 1: Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for cooperation, 2017-2020 (%) (as of 26 January 2020). 153 countries share transboundary basins and the proportion of basins covered by operational arrangements in each country varies significantly.

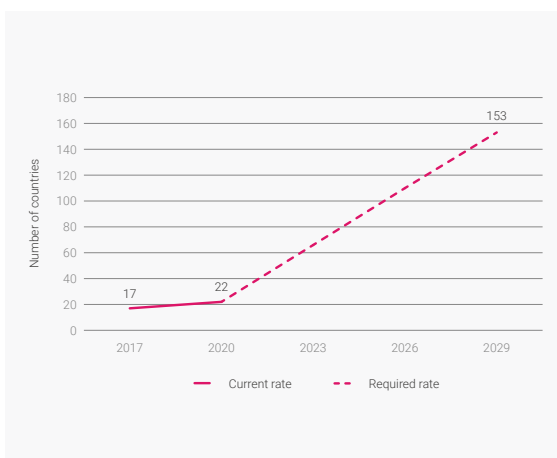
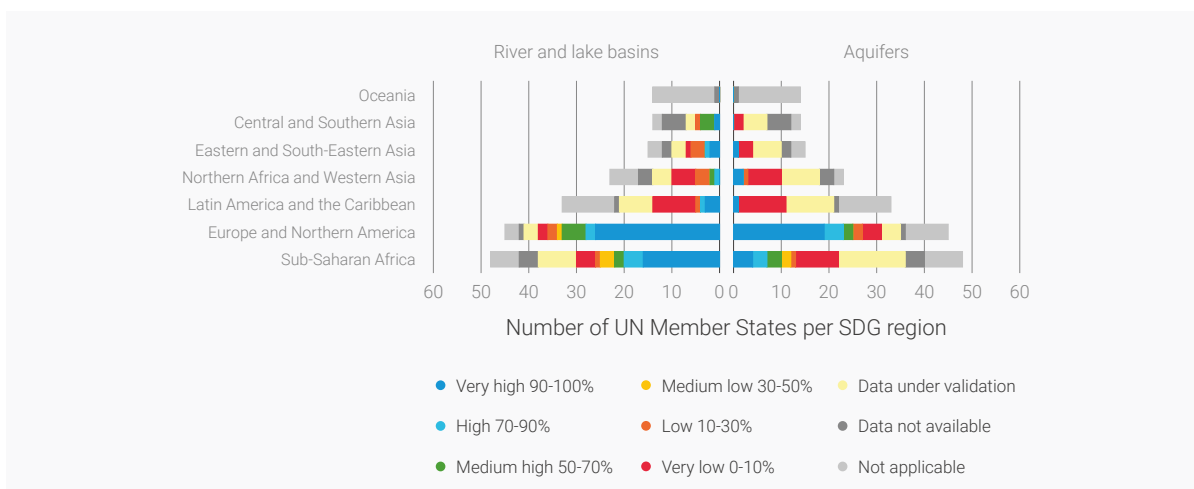


Figure 2: Number of countries sharing transboundary waters in each SDG region, by level of transboundary water cooperation, for river and lake basins and aquifers, 2017-2020. Countries in Europe, North America and Sub-Saharan Africa are best placed to have all transboundary basins covered by operational arrangements by 2030.

Figure 3: Number of countries that have all transboundary waters covered by operational arrangements – current and required rates. Significant acceleration is needed to have all transboundary waters covered by operational arrangements by 2030.

Data provider: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

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

Target 6.6 is: “By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.”

Indicator 6.6.1 tracks changes over time in water-related ecosystems. Earth observations are used to determine changes to surface water bodies, such as lakes, large rivers, flooded wetlands and reservoirs. Recent advances in analyzing satellite imagery have also enabled global datasets on lake water quality, coastal mangroves and inland wetland areas. Knowing if and why changes in the extent of water-related ecosystems are occurring is important for water managers to ensure that ecosystem services continue to be provided.

Protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems will mitigate and strengthen resilience to climate change, for instance, wetlands trap carbon from the atmosphere and protect coastal areas from storm surges and inland areas from both floods and droughts by retaining water.

Rapid changes in freshwater ecosystem services. The changes tracked in the area of freshwater within river basins reveal that over a fifth of the world’s basins⁹ have recently experienced either rapid increases in their surface water area indicative of flooding, a growth in reservoirs and newly inundated land;

or rapid declines in surface water area indicating drying up of lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, floodplains and seasonal water bodies.

Poor lake water quality. 21 million people, including 5 million children, live within a 5 km radius of lakes with high turbidity (water cloudiness) and are likely to rely on their water for various purposes. High turbidity can indicate water pollution, as the large volume of suspended particles provide attachment places for pollutants such as metals and bacteria. As such, lakes with high turbidity can adversely impact human and ecosystem health. Of the 2,300 large lakes assessed⁹ nearly a quarter of them recorded high to extreme turbidity readings in 2019.

Steady loss of coastal and inland wetlands. More than 80 per cent of wetlands are estimated to have been lost since the pre-industrial era. Currently only 10-12 million km² are estimated to remain. The area covered by coastal mangroves has declined globally by 4.2 per cent since 1996.

Next steps: Given the massive loss of all types of water-related ecosystems over the last centuries, together with the rapid changes seen over the last decade, countries need to act now. Existing efforts to protect and restore water-related ecosystems must be urgently scaled up and accelerated.

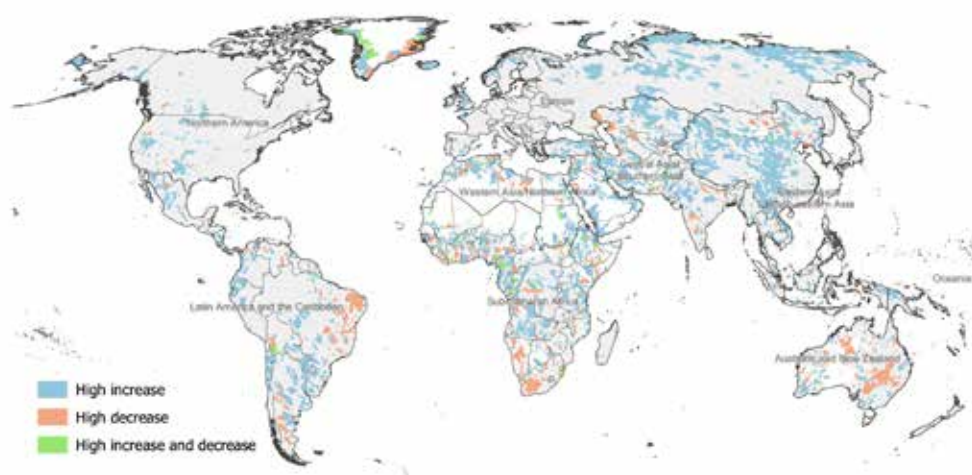


Figure 1: River basins experiencing either high increase or decrease in area of surface water within the last five years (2015-2019) compared to 2000-2019. Areas observed with high increases correspond to a growth in reservoirs and inundated/flooded land areas, while decreasing surface water areas correspond with known drought locations. The observed surface water changes may also be indicative of climate change accelerating the drying out of lakes in arid regions and the expansion of lakes from increased glacial melting and increased rainfall.

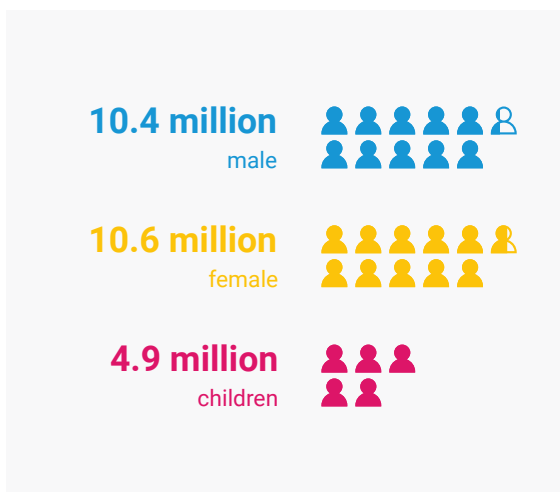


Figure 2: Number of people living within a 5 km radius of lakes with high turbidity.¹¹

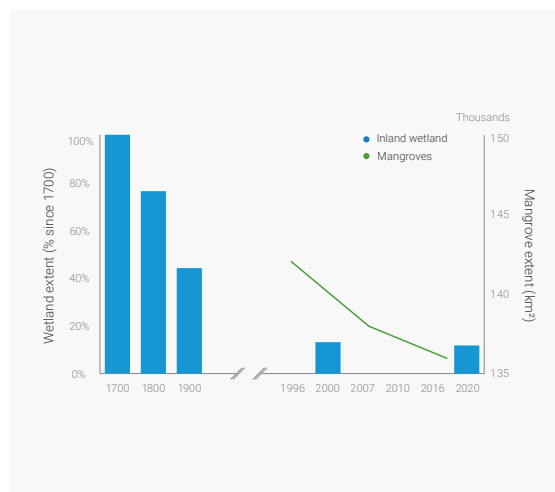


Figure 3: Change in global area of wetlands (% change compared to 1700) and mangroves (km²).

Data provider: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

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

Target 6.a is: “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 tracks the amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance (ODA) that is included in a government-coordinated spending plan. ODA includes both grants and concessional loans with a grant element of at least 25 per cent. A government-coordinated spending plan is defined as a financing plan/budget at the national or subnational level, clearly assessing the financial resources available and the strategies for financing future requirements.

Currently, data are only available on the amount of ODA disbursed and committed to water and sanitation-related sectors,¹⁰ which include drinking water and sanitation, water resources management (also in agriculture and hydropower), policy and administration and education, as well as disaster risk reduction and waste management. ODA is a means for implementing all aspects of SDG 6, including through investments in other sectors such as agriculture and energy and education.

Development assistance is increasing.

From 2015 to 2019, ODA disbursements to the water sector increased 3 per cent from US\$ 9.0 to US\$ 9.2 billion. In the same time period, ODA commitments to the water sector rose 11 per cent.

Gaps in commitments and disbursements are growing.

In 2016, the gap between ODA funds committed and those disbursed for the water sector had narrowed to US\$ 100 million. In 2019, this gap had grown to over US\$ 2.6 billion. Several factors can influence the lag in disbursements including 1) limited capacity to disburse or absorb aid funding, 2) procedural complexities for aid disbursements or procurement, and/or 3) the length of time to carry out infrastructure-related, multi-year commitments.

Sub-Saharan Africa receives one third of water sector ODA.

In 2019, Sub-Saharan Africa received the largest share of ODA disbursements for the water sector of any SDG region (34 per cent). The disbursements to the region increased from US\$ 2.5 billion in 2015 to US\$ 3.2 billion in 2019, including an increase of 66 per cent in aid to large water and sanitation systems and a 15 per cent increase in aid for water sector policy and administrative management.



Increases in ODA disbursements mostly via concessional loans. For low-income countries, concessional lending in the water sector has increased 82 per cent from 2015 to 2019 (to US\$ 1.4 billion), while ODA grants have increased only 19 per cent during the same time period.

Most water sector ODA goes to drinking water and sanitation. ODA disbursements specifically for drinking water and sanitation comprised 63 per cent of total water sector ODA in 2019 (US\$ 6.0 billion).

ODA disbursements for water sector policy and administrative management decreased by 6 per cent from 2015 to 2019 (to US\$ 1.0 billion).

Disbursements for other water sector areas such as agricultural water resources and hydro-electric power have decreased by 10 per cent in the same time period.

Next steps: Increasing external aid commitments for water is essential to support national investments for SDG 6, to meet growing demands and extend services to the most vulnerable populations.

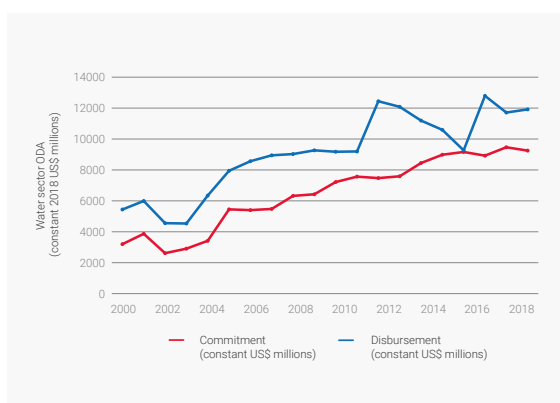


Figure 1: Development ODA disbursements and commitments to the water sector, 2000-2019. Since 2015, ODA commitments increased by 11 per cent, whereas actual disbursements increased more slowly by 3 per cent to US\$ 9.2 billion.

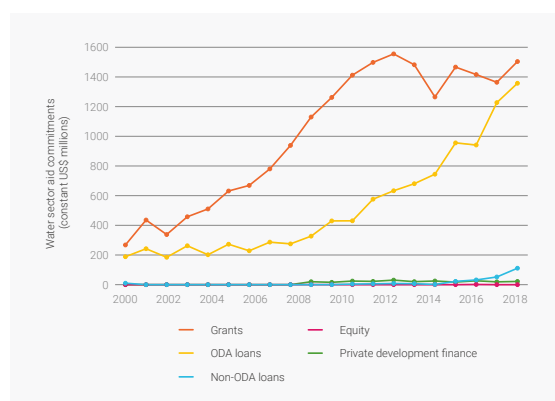


Figure 2: Development of aid flows for the water sector in low income countries, 2000-2019. Grants and ODA loans count as ODA. In recent years, more and more ODA is disbursed as loans.

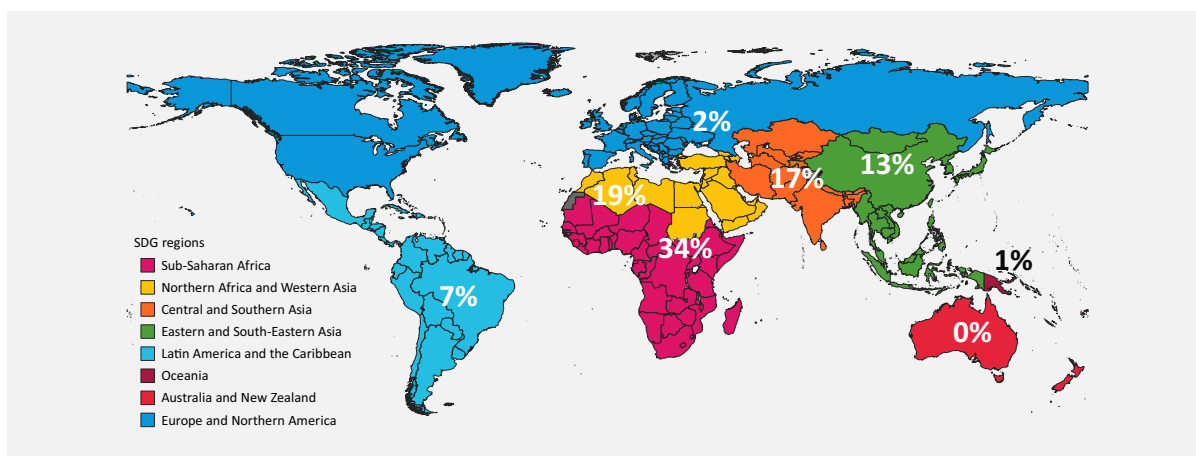


Figure 3: Percentage of global water sector ODA directed to each SDG region in 2019 (%). The remaining 7 per cent of water sector ODA is targeted to sector or multi-country programmes.

Data provider: World Health Organization (WHO) and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

6.b.1 Participation of local communities in water and sanitation management

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

Indicator 6.b.1 tracks the participation of local communities in water and sanitation management within a country, by looking at the existence of procedures in law or policy for participation, as well as the actual level of participation.

Participation is referred to as a mechanism by which individuals and communities can meaningfully contribute to management decisions.

The data on the indicator can be disaggregated by six sub-sectors: drinking water (rural and urban), sanitation (rural and urban), hygiene promotion and water resources planning and management.

Participation of users and communities helps ensure sustainable solutions for all aspects of SDG 6 and contributes to wider reductions in inequality within and among countries, including gender inequalities.

Procedures for community and user participation in laws or policies. Two thirds of the 109 reporting countries have participation procedures that are defined in laws or policies in all water and sanitation sub-sectors. Fewer than half of the reporting countries have laws or policies that specifically mention women’s participation for rural sanitation or water resources management.

Level of community and user participation. Across all sub-sectors, only 14 out of 109 countries report high levels of community and user participation for collaborative management and decision-making. For rural drinking water and sanitation and water resources management, most countries report medium levels of user and community participation. This entails users and communities that are occasionally or regularly consulted, but not to the extent of collaboration or representation in decision-making processes.

Human and financial resources are lacking. The implementation of participation procedures under SDG 6 is limited by a lack of financial and human resources. Approximately 6 in 10 countries reported that human and financial resources were less than 50 per cent of what is needed to support community participation. The situation is especially



critical in rural areas, where over three quarters of countries report insufficient financial resources to support participation.

Next steps: While many countries have established participation procedures in

laws or policies, the implementation of these procedures still lags behind. To accelerate progress, further efforts are needed to establish regular fora and other opportunities for participation, as well as financial resources to support activities at the local level.

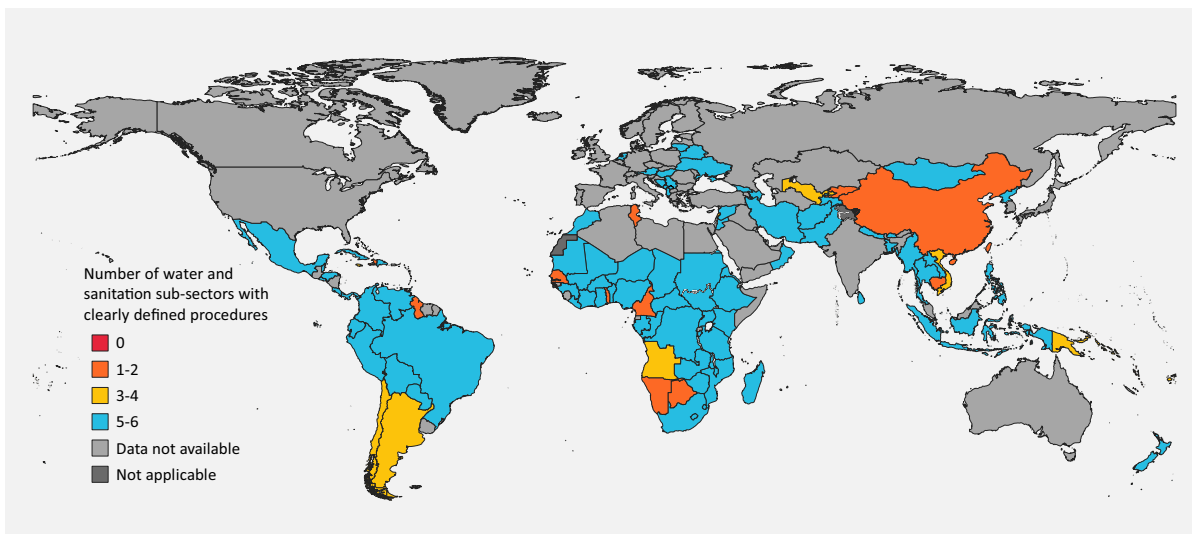


Figure 1: Number of water and sanitation sub-sectors with clearly defined procedures in law or policy for participation by communities and users, 2012-2019. Sub-sectors include rural and urban drinking water, rural and urban sanitation, hygiene promotion and water resources planning and management.

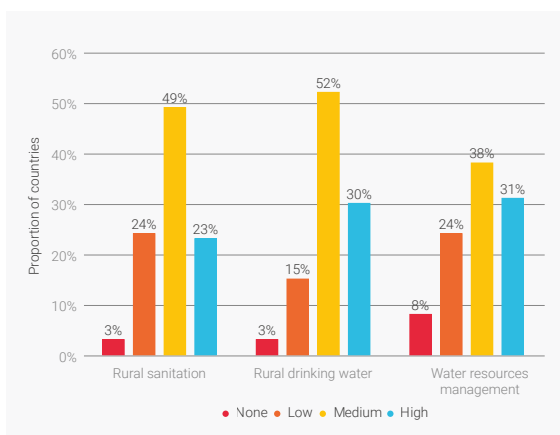


Figure 2: Proportion of countries reporting high, medium and low levels of participation by users and communities by sub-sector.¹²

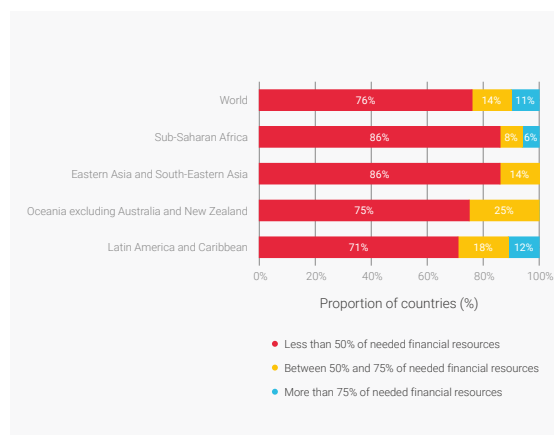


Figure 3: Sufficiency of financial resources to support participation of users and communities for rural sanitation and drinking water services, globally and by SDG region.¹³

Data provider: World Health Organization (WHO).

Annex: World, region and country data on SDG 6 global indicators

This table presents the latest available data on the 12 global indicators for SDG 6, for all countries, areas and territories as well as for the SDG regions and the world. Region and world data are aggregates based on country data, and can only be made if sufficient country data are available.

The table presents both the current status as well as the trend. The current status is the latest available data for a specific country and indicator; due to different data collection cycles across the indicators, the year of the latest available data differs.

The trend is the change in status over time, where (+) signifies a positive change with regard to the global target, (-) signifies a negative change and (=) no change. To indicate a trend it is necessary to have at least two data points from two different years.

An empty cell means that a specific country has not reported any data on a specific indicator to the United Nations, or that the validation process has not yet been concluded. A cell marked (n/a) means that a specific indicator is not applicable for a specific country.

Additional information about specific indicators:

6.1.1: Latest data available are from 2017; data from 2019 will be published later in 2021. Trend is measured as change in indicator value (status) between 2000 and 2017; changes of less than 1 percentage point are displayed as no change. The indicator value should increase to reach the global target (100%).

6.2.1a: Latest data available are from 2017; data from 2019 will be published later in 2021. Trend is measured as change in indicator value (status) between 2000 and 2017; changes of less than 1 percentage point are displayed as no change. The indicator value should increase to reach the global target (100%).

6.2.1b: Latest data available are from 2017; data from 2019 will be published later in 2021. Trend is measured as change in indicator value (status) between 2000 and 2017; changes of less than 1 percentage point are displayed as no change. The indicator value should increase to reach the global target (100%).

6.3.1 Domestic: Latest data available are from 2015; data from 2019 will be published later in 2021. No trend data available (data only available for one year). The indicator value should increase to reach the global target.

6.3.1 Industrial: Latest data available are from 2017. No trend data available (data only available for one year). The indicator value should increase to reach the global target.

6.3.2: Latest data available are from 2020 (2017 for a few countries). Trend is measured as change in indicator value (status) between 2017 and 2020; changes of less than 1 percentage point are displayed as no change. The indicator value should increase to reach the global target.

6.4.1: Trend is measured as change in indicator value (status) between 2015 and 2017; changes of less than 1 per cent are displayed as no change. The indicator value should increase to reach the global target.

6.4.2: Trend is measured as change in indicator value (status) between 2015 and 2017; changes of less than 1 percentage point are displayed as no change. The indicator value should not increase/decrease to reach the global target.

6.5.1: Trend is measured as change in indicator value (status) between 2017 and 2020; changes of less than 5.5 degree points are displayed as no change. The indicator value should increase to reach the global target (100).

6.5.2: Latest data available are from 2020 (2017 for a few countries). The indicator is only applicable for countries with transboundary water basins; (n/a) signifies that the indicator is not applicable. Trend is measured as change in indicator value (status) between 2017 and 2020; changes of less than 1 percentage point are displayed as no change.

The indicator value should increase to reach the global target (100%).

6.6.1: Trend is measured as change in indicator value (status) between the period 2015-2019 and the period 2000-2019; changes of less than 1 percentage point are displayed as no change. Changes are indicative of floods and droughts and may warrant local assessments to determine the cause and need for interventions.

6.a.1: Trend is measured as change in indicator value (status) between 2018 and 2019; changes of less than 5 per cent are displayed as no change. The indicator value should increase to reach the global target.

6.b.1: Trend is measured as change in indicator value (status) between 2016 and 2018. The indicator value should increase to reach the global target; six is the total number of sub-sectors: urban sanitation, rural sanitation, urban drinking water, rural drinking water, hygiene, and water resources management.

Legend:

+ Positive trend

- Negative trend

= No trend

ANNEX

WORLD, REGION AND COUNTRY DATA ON SDG 6 GLOBAL INDICATORS

World, SDG region, country, area and territory	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using a handwashing facility with soap and water (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of domestic wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of industrial wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality (%)		6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time (USD/m ³)		6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources (%)		6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0–100)		6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation (%)		6.6.1 Proportion of hydrological basins showing high surface water extent changes (%)		6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance (ODA) received (million 2017 USD)		6.b.1 Number of sub-sectors with a high level of participation by users/communities		
	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status
World	71	+	45	+	60										17	=	54	+			21	-	9250	=	1.2	+	
Sub-Saharan Africa	27	+	18	+	25										5.8	-	46	+			23	-	3182	+	1.7	+	
Angola					27										1.9	=	61	+	78.9		43	-	23	-	0		
Benin					11						89		24	+	0.98	=	68	=	83.3	+	41	-	54	-	2	-	
Botswana											78	+			2	=	48	+	100	=	12	+	0.19	+	6	+	
Burkina Faso					12						98				7.8	=	66	=			42	-	166	+	5	+	
Burundi					6						100				10	=	47	+	88.3		13	=	90	+	1	+	
Cabo Verde															8.4	=	62	=	n/a				6.9	-			
Cameroon					9										1.6	=	40	+	88.6		47	-	154	+	0		
Central African Republic															0.34	-	37	+			9	=	7.7	-	0		
Chad					6										4.3	=	37	=	44.4	-	7	+	23	-	1		
Comoros															0.83	=	20	-	n/a		100	-	10	+	0		
Congo	45	+			48										0.03	=	43	+			39	-	13	-	0		
Côte d'Ivoire	37	+			19						80				5.1	+	40	+					31	-	1	+	
Democratic Republic of the Congo					4						66				0.23	=	32	=			18	-	132	-	0	=	
Djibouti			36	+											6.3	=					100	-	45	+			
Equatorial Guinea															0.18	=	23	=	0		64	-	0	-			

ANNEX

WORLD, REGION AND COUNTRY DATA ON SDG 6 GLOBAL INDICATORS

World, SDG region, country, area and territory	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using a handwashing facility with soap and water (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of domestic wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of industrial wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality (%)		6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time (USD/m ³)		6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources (%)		6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0–100)		6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation (%)		6.6.1 Proportion of hydrological basins showing high surface water extent changes (%)		6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance (ODA) received (million 2017 USD)		6.b.1 Number of sub-sectors with a high level of participation by users/ communities		
	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status
Eritrea															11	=					30	-	4.2	+	3		
Eswatini					24		13				88				78	=	59	+			44	-	2.9	-	6		
Ethiopia	11	+			8						97		4.4	+	32	-	41	+			29	-	276	+	4	+	
Gabon											94				0.5	=	29	+	0		50	-	0.63	-	0		
Gambia					8										2.2	=	31	=	45.3	-	0	=	1.8	+	1		
Ghana	36	+			41								28	+	6.3	-	57	+	91.1	=	30	=	72	+	4	+	
Guinea					17						81				0.88	=	25	=			21	-	31	+	1	+	
Guinea-Bissau					6										1.5	=	19		n/a		73	-	5.8	+			
Kenya					25						87	+	11	-	33	-	59	+	26.8		23	-	204	-	3	+	
Lesotho					2						100	+			2.6	=	45	+	50		20	-	8.4	-	3	+	
Liberia					1						50				0.26	=	15	=			50	-	27	-	6	+	
Madagascar											91	=			11	=	38	=	n/a		8	-	48	+	0	=	
Malawi					9										18	=	55	+	61.4		15	-	89	+	0		
Mali			19	+	52						70				8	=	52	=	75.3		11	-	128	-	1	+	
Mauritania					43										13	=	47	=			10	+	92	+	2		
Mauritius													18	+	22	+	68	=	n/a				3.1	+			
Mayotte	84																				100	-					
Mozambique													7.9	+	1.8	-	62	+			24	-	133	+	2	+	

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WORLD, REGION AND COUNTRY DATA ON SDG 6 GLOBAL INDICATORS

World, SDG region, country, area and territory	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using a handwashing facility with soap and water (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of domestic wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of industrial wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality (%)		6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time (USD/m ³)		6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources (%)		6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0–100)		6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation (%)		6.6.1 Proportion of hydrological basins showing high surface water extent changes (%)		6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance (ODA) received (million 2017 USD)		6.b.1 Number of sub-sectors with a high level of participation by users/communities		
	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status
Namibia					45						79				0.86	=	53	-	100		24	+	2.5	-	0		
Niger			10	+			5				60		2.5	+	7.5	-	53	=	89.6		7	=	161	+	0		
Nigeria	20	+	27	+	42						12	-			9.7	-	44	+			38	-	244	+	0	=	
Réunion	96	=																					0				
Rwanda					5						79	+			6.1	=	66	+			20	-	50	+			
São Tomé and Príncipe					41										1.9	-	33	+	n/a		0	=	6.5	-	0		
Senegal			21	+	24		20				44	=			12	=	50	=	35.2	+	26	-	167	-	0	=	
Seychelles																	55	+	n/a		0	=	0		0		
Sierra Leone	10	+	13	+	19						42				0.5	=	36	+	7		22	-	30	-			
Somalia					10		1								25	=	22	+	0	=	25	-	18	+			
South Africa					44						52	+	15	-	62	-	71	+	94.9		26	-	97	+	0	=	
South Sudan											100						43	=			16	=	38	-	4	+	
Togo					10										3.4	=	34	=	60.2	=	22	-	16	-	0	=	
Uganda	7	+			21		5				0	-			5.8	-	62	=	84.9	+	17	-	132	-	4		
United Republic of Tanzania			25	+	48						85	+			13	=	54	=			33	-	234	+	2	=	
Zambia					14										2.8	=	58	+	70		20	-	87	-	6	+	
Zimbabwe					37						83	+	4	+	31	+	63	=	69.9		12	-	17	-	1	-	

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WORLD, REGION AND COUNTRY DATA ON SDG 6 GLOBAL INDICATORS

World, SDG region, country, area and territory	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using a handwashing facility with soap and water (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of domestic wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of industrial wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality (%)		6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time (USD/m ³)		6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources (%)		6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0–100)		6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation (%)		6.6.1 Proportion of hydrological basins showing high surface water extent changes (%)		6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance (ODA) received (million 2017 USD)		6.b.1 Number of sub-sectors with a high level of participation by users/communities				
	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	
Northern Africa and Western Asia			38	+	77										68	-	60	+			18	=	1753	-	1.4	+			
Algeria			18	=	84			18					14	-	138	-	54	+			11	+	7.8	+					
Armenia	86	+	48	=	94								3.3	+	58	=	52	+	11.3	+	33	=	6.6	-					
Azerbaijan	74	+			83								3.7	-	56	=	57	-	21.7		18	-	96	-	0	-			
Bahrain	99	=	96	=					100				76	+	134	+	39	=			100	-	0						
Cyprus	100	+	75	=				37				61	=	59	+	30	-	93	=	n/a		0	=	0					
Egypt			61	+	90			58					4.4	=	117	=	42	=			18	-	357	=					
Georgia	80	+	27	+								92				5.9	=	44	+	0	=	13	-	48	-	0	=		
Iraq	59	+	41	+	95			21					4.8	=	54	+	38	+	13.5		20	-	93	=					
Israel	99	=	94	+				91					126	=	103	+	85	=			8	=	0						
Jordan	94	=	81	+				80				100	+			100	=	64	=	23.2	+	35	-	309	=	0			
Kuwait	100	=	100	=				100					102	-	3851	-	94	+			60	=	0						
Lebanon	48	+	22	+				13				50		26	+	59	-	25	-			25	+	124	-	0			
Libya			26	-				17					3.8	+	817	-	60	+	98		10	-	2	+					
Morocco	70	+	39	+				42				79				51	+	71	+	0	=	30	=	236	+	5			
Oman	90												40	+	117	-	79	+			20	-	0			0			
Qatar	96	=	96	+				79					196	-	432	-	81	=	0		67	-	0						

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WORLD, REGION AND COUNTRY DATA ON SDG 6 GLOBAL INDICATORS

World, SDG region, country, area and territory	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using a handwashing facility with soap and water (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of domestic wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of industrial wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality (%)		6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time (USD/m ³)		6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources (%)		6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0–100)		6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation (%)		6.6.1 Proportion of hydrological basins showing high surface water extent changes (%)		6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance (ODA) received (million 2017 USD)		6.b.1 Number of sub-sectors with a high level of participation by users/ communities			
	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend
Saudi Arabia			78	+			70						28	+	883	+	57	=			14	+	0					
State of Palestine													31	+	41	+												
Sudan					23							86				34	-			19	+	64	+	0				
Syrian Arab Republic					71										124	=	56				33	-	27	+	4			
Tunisia	93	+	78	+	79		67				85		7.7	-	121	-	60	+	80.5	=	21	=	113	-	0			
Turkey			65	+			36						14	+	45	-	72	=			40	-	51	+				
United Arab Emirates			96	+			98				40				1708	+	79	=	0		29	-	0					
Western Sahara																					7	+	0					
Yemen					50										170	=	36	=			22	-	101	+				
Central and Southern Asia	60	+			58										71	=	43	+			27	-	1620	-	1.5	+		
Afghanistan					38										55	=	12	=			11	+	152	+	4	+		
Bangladesh	55	=			35												58	+			25	-	340	+	3	+		
Bhutan	36	+															33	=			12	=	22	+	2	-		
India					60										66	+	45				22	-	380	-				
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	92	=													81	=	40	-			43	-	1.4	+	0			
Kazakhstan	90	+			99				0.3				7.1	-	31	-	46	+	63.2	-	33	-	1.1	+				
Kyrgyzstan	68	+			89								0.8	+	50	=	31		27.2		24	-	15	+	0	=		

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WORLD, REGION AND COUNTRY DATA ON SDG 6 GLOBAL INDICATORS

World, SDG region, country, area and territory	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using a handwashing facility with soap and water (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of domestic wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of industrial wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality (%)		6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time (USD/m ³)		6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources (%)		6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0–100)		6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation (%)		6.6.1 Proportion of hydrological basins showing high surface water extent changes (%)		6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance (ODA) received (million 2017 USD)		6.b.1 Number of sub-sectors with a high level of participation by users/ communities			
	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend
Maldives					96										16	=	42	+	n/a					8	-	0	=	
Nepal	27	+			48										8.3	=	37	=					17	-	149	+	1	-
Pakistan	35	-			60								1.4	+	123	-	56	+					33	-	187	-	0	=
Sri Lanka															91	=	47	+	n/a				0	=	148	-	3	
Tajikistan	48	+			73										69	+	46						6	-	63	-	1	+
Turkmenistan	94	+													144	=	64						25	-	0.008			
Uzbekistan	59	+											1.1	-	169	-	48	=					26	-	152	+	2	+
Eastern and South-Eastern Asia					64										31		62						30		1188		0.4	
Brunei Darussalam															3.5	=	70		0				0	=	0			
Cambodia	26	+			66										1	=	59	+					27	-	182	+	0	=
China													21	+	43	=	80	+					37	-	87	+	1	+
China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region	100	+			92	=																	0	=				
China, Macao Special Administrative Region	100	+																					0	=				
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	67	-													28	=	63	+					26	=	1.5	+	0	

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WORLD, REGION AND COUNTRY DATA ON SDG 6 GLOBAL INDICATORS

World, SDG region, country, area and territory	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using a handwashing facility with soap and water (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of domestic wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of industrial wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality (%)		6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time (USD/m ³)		6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources (%)		6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0–100)		6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation (%)		6.6.1 Proportion of hydrological basins showing high surface water extent changes (%)		6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance (ODA) received (million 2017 USD)		6.b.1 Number of sub-sectors with a high level of participation by users/ communities		
	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status
Indonesia					64								3.7	+	30	-	66	+	1.2		27	-	133	+	0		
Japan	98	=	99	+				98				38	=			37	=	95	=	n/a		3	-	0			
Lao People's Democratic Republic	16	+	58	+	50								1.7	+	4.8	-	62	+			30	-	79	+	3	+	
Malaysia	93	=	89	+				72							3.4	+	63	+			15	-	28	+			
Mongolia	24	+			71								22	=	3.4	+	45	=	100		20	-	25	=	0	=	
Myanmar					79										5.8	=	33	+	20		18	-	142	+	0	=	
Philippines	47	+	52	+	78								3.4	+	28	-	56	=	n/a		9	-	95	-	0	=	
Republic of Korea	98		100	+				98				93	+	49	+	85	=	76	+	0	=	6	-	0			
Singapore	100	=	100	=				100				100	=			83	+	100	=	n/a		0	=	0			
Thailand					84							36						53				11	-	3.1	+	0	=
Timor-Leste					28										28	=	14	=	n/a		50	-	4.1	+	0	-	
Viet Nam					86										18	=	52	+			40	-	409	-	0	=	
Latin America and the Caribbean	74	+	31	+											5.4	-	37	=			24	-	612	-	0.7	-	
Anguilla																			n/a		0	=	0		0		
Antigua and Barbuda												0			8.5	+	35	=	n/a		0	=	1.2	+	0		
Argentina								23				18		14	=	10	-					29	-	21	-	0	=
Aruba																			n/a		100	-	0				

ANNEX

WORLD, REGION AND COUNTRY DATA ON SDG 6 GLOBAL INDICATORS

World, SDG region, country, area and territory	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using a handwashing facility with soap and water (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of domestic wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of industrial wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality (%)		6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time (USD/m ³)		6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources (%)		6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0–100)		6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation (%)		6.6.1 Proportion of hydrological basins showing high surface water extent changes (%)		6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance (ODA) received (million 2017 USD)		6.b.1 Number of sub-sectors with a high level of participation by users/ communities			
	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend
Bahamas																	34	=	n/a		0	=	0					
Barbados															88	=	46	=	n/a		100	-	0		0		0	=
Belize					90						79				1.3	=	21	=	n/a		0	=	1.3	+	0		0	
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)			23	+	25										1.2	=	52	=			16	-	146	+	0		0	=
Brazil			49	+			34				71	+	22	-	3.1	-	63	+	62.4		21	-	42	=	2		2	+
Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba																			n/a		50	-						
British Virgin Islands																			n/a		0	=	0		0		0	
Cayman Islands																					100	-	0					
Chile	99	+	77	+			73				84	-	6.4	+	9	=	32	+	87.2	+	34	-	0		1		1	+
Colombia	73	+	17	+	65		23						19	=	1.8	-	57	+			14	-	16	=	2		2	+
Costa Rica	94	+									68		16	+			51	+	9		58	-	13	+	0		0	-
Cuba			44	+	85								12	+	24	-	82	=	n/a		20	=	17	-	1		1	+
Curaçao																				n/a								
Dominica															10	-	47	+	n/a		100	=	0.3	-				
Dominican Republic					55						71		7.5	+	50	-	36	=	0		0	=	2.4	+	2		2	+
Ecuador	75	+	42	=	81		44								6.8	=	38	=	100		63	-	51	-	1		1	-
El Salvador					91		29				60	+			13	=	23	=	0.1	+	20	-	11	-	0		0	=

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WORLD, REGION AND COUNTRY DATA ON SDG 6 GLOBAL INDICATORS

World, SDG region, country, area and territory	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using a handwashing facility with soap and water (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of domestic wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of industrial wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality (%)		6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time (USD/m3)		6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources (%)		6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0–100)		6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation (%)		6.6.1 Proportion of hydrological basins showing high surface water extent changes (%)		6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance (ODA) received (million 2017 USD)		6.b.1 Number of sub-sectors with a high level of participation by users/ communities			
	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)																						0	=	0				
French Guiana	91	+																				21	-	0				
Grenada	87	+													7.1	-	31	+	n/a			100	-	0.36	+			
Guadeloupe	97																					0	=	0				
Guatemala	56	+			77										5.7	=	21	=				17	-	20	-			
Guyana					77										3.3	+	19	=	n/a			14	=	4.7	-	0	=	
Haiti					23										13	=	30	=	n/a			0	=	46	=	0	=	
Honduras															4.6	=	25	=	0	=		25	-	47	+	0	-	
Jamaica											57	-	8.6	-	12	=	50	+	n/a			0	=	0.38	-	3	+	
Martinique	99	=																				100	=	0				
Mexico	43	+	50	+	88			52				55		13	+	33	-	42	-	1.3		24	-	2.4	+	1	+	
Montserrat																				n/a		100	-	0.007	-			
Nicaragua	52	+													2.7	=	30					47	-	69	+			
Panama											64		47	+			33	=	9.1			62	-	21	+	2	-	
Paraguay	64	+	58	+	80						72		9	+	1.8	-	27	=	50.9	=		50	-	30	+	0	=	
Peru	50	+	43	+			39				25	-	11	+			41	+				9	-	50	-	0	=	
Puerto Rico	94	+	33	=									30	-	20	+			n/a			0	=	0				

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WORLD, REGION AND COUNTRY DATA ON SDG 6 GLOBAL INDICATORS

World, SDG region, country, area and territory	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using a handwashing facility with soap and water (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of domestic wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of industrial wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality (%)		6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time (USD/m ³)		6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources (%)		6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0–100)		6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation (%)		6.6.1 Proportion of hydrological basins showing high surface water extent changes (%)		6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance (ODA) received (million 2017 USD)		6.b.1 Number of sub-sectors with a high level of participation by users/ communities		
	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status
Saint Kitts and Nevis																	23	=	n/a		0	=	0				
Saint Lucia																	40	=	n/a		100	-	0.21	-			
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines															7.9	+	24		n/a		100	-	0.08				
Sint Maarten (Dutch part)																			n/a								
South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands																											
Suriname															4	=	23	+	n/a		12	-	1.1	+			
Trinidad and Tobago														57	-	20	-	34	+	n/a		0	=	0		0	
Turks and Caicos Islands																					0	=	0				
United States Virgin Islands																			n/a		100	-	0				
Uruguay											76				9.8	=	34				37	-	0				
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)			24												7.5	-			3.5		16	-	0.4	+	2	-	
Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand)															0.15	=	43	=			43	-					
American Samoa	13	=																	n/a				0				
Cook Islands																			n/a				1.8	-			
Fiji											100	=			0.3	=	56		n/a		50	-	21	+	2	-	

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WORLD, REGION AND COUNTRY DATA ON SDG 6 GLOBAL INDICATORS

World, SDG region, country, area and territory	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using a handwashing facility with soap and water (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of domestic wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of industrial wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality (%)		6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time (USD/m3)		6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources (%)		6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0–100)		6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation (%)		6.6.1 Proportion of hydrological basins showing high surface water extent changes (%)		6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance (ODA) received (million 2017 USD)		6.b.1 Number of sub-sectors with a high level of participation by users/ communities			
	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend
French Polynesia																				n/a				0				
Guam	100	=																		n/a		100	-	0				
Kiribati																				n/a		100	=	5.1	+			
Marshall Islands					83						100						36	=	n/a		100	-	2.1	+	0			
Micronesia (Federated States of)																	49	+	n/a		50	-	1.5	+				
Nauru																				n/a		0	=	0.18	+	0		
New Caledonia	97	+																		n/a		33	-	0				
Niue	97	-																		n/a				0.011				
Northern Mariana Islands	90	+																		n/a		100	-	0				
Palau							18													n/a		100	-	7	=			
Papua New Guinea															0.13	=	19	-	n/a		36	-	29	-	0	=		
Pitcairn																								0				
Samoa	59	+	48	=							100						75	=	n/a				8	-				
Solomon Islands					36												30	=	n/a		70	-	17	+	0	-		
Tokelau																								0				
Tonga																	35	=	n/a				1.1	=				
Tuvalu			6				4										45	=	n/a		0	+	0.026	-	5			

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WORLD, REGION AND COUNTRY DATA ON SDG 6 GLOBAL INDICATORS

World, SDG region, country, area and territory	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using a handwashing facility with soap and water (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of domestic wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of industrial wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality (%)		6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time (USD/m ³)		6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources (%)		6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0–100)		6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation (%)		6.6.1 Proportion of hydrological basins showing high surface water extent changes (%)		6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance (ODA) received (million 2017 USD)		6.b.1 Number of sub-sectors with a high level of participation by users/ communities			
	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend
Vanuatu	44	+			25											45	+	n/a		100	-	4.8	+	0	=			
Wallis and Futuna Islands																							0.012	-				
Australia and New Zealand			72	+											7.2	-	77	=			20	+	0		0	=		
Australia			76	+			70				88		72	+	6.4	+	88	=	n/a		21	+	0					
Christmas Island																												
Cocos (Keeling) Islands																												
Heard Island and McDonald Islands																												
New Zealand	100	+	89	+			73				72	-			8	-	65	+	n/a		5	=	0		0			
Norfolk Island																					0	=						
Europe and Northern America	95	+	76	+											12	+	72	+			15	-	194	+	2.9	+		
Åland Islands																												
Albania	70	+	40	+			67						6.7	-	7.1	+	47	=	54.5	-	11	=	48	+	6	+		
Andorra	91	=	100	+			100				86	-					36	=	4.4		100	-	0					
Austria	99	+	97	=			96				82	+			9.6	=	91	=	100	=	10	-	0		0			
Belarus	95	+	81	-			84				89		32	+	4.6	+	54	+			6	-	3.2	+	1	+		
Belgium	100	=	97	+			98						104	+	49	+	82	=	100	=	25	-	0					
Bermuda																							0					

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WORLD, REGION AND COUNTRY DATA ON SDG 6 GLOBAL INDICATORS

World, SDG region, country, area and territory	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using a handwashing facility with soap and water (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of domestic wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of industrial wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality (%)		6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time (USD/m ³)		6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources (%)		6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0–100)		6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation (%)		6.6.1 Proportion of hydrological basins showing high surface water extent changes (%)		6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance (ODA) received (million 2017 USD)		6.b.1 Number of sub-sectors with a high level of participation by users/communities		
	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status
Bosnia and Herzegovina	89	+	22	+			23				31	+			2.7	-	53	-	92.6	=	0	+	27	+	6	+	
Bulgaria	97	=	64	+			75				66	-	7.9	+	42	+	69	+	99.6	=	8	=	0				
Canada	99	=	82	+			75				82		42	+	3.7	+			87.9		4	-	0				
Channel Islands	92		90																								
Croatia	90	+	58	=			60				56		59	+	1.5	-	90	=	100		5	=	0				
Czechia	98	+	94	+			95				88	+	108	+	25	+	80	=	100	=	0	=	0				
Denmark	97	+	95	+			96				53		367	+	20	-	95	=			14	-	0				
Estonia	93	=	97	+			92				76	-	11	-	19	=	85	=	100	=	0	=	0				
Faroe Islands																					0	=					
Finland	100	+	99	=			86				97	=	110	+	16	=	80	=	100	=	8	-	0				
France	98	+	88	-			88				79	-	84	+	23	+	100	=			5	-	0				
Germany	100	=	97	+			99				39		129	+	34	+	89	=	100	=	0	+	0				
Greece	100	+	90	+			51				41	-	15	-	23	-	86	=	32.8		14	-	0				
Greenland	97	+	95	+																	32	-	0				
Hungary	90	+	96	=			50				59	+	24	+	7.8	+	75	=	100	=	0	=	0		0		
Iceland	100	+	82	+			70						57	+	0.39	-	69	+	n/a		88	-	0				
Ireland	97	+	82	+			69				59	-	354	+	3.6	=	81	=	100		78	-	0				
Isle of Man	97																				100	-					

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WORLD, REGION AND COUNTRY DATA ON SDG 6 GLOBAL INDICATORS

World, SDG region, country, area and territory	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using a handwashing facility with soap and water (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of domestic wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of industrial wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality (%)		6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time (USD/m ³)		6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources (%)		6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0–100)		6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation (%)		6.6.1 Proportion of hydrological basins showing high surface water extent changes (%)		6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance (ODA) received (million 2017 USD)		6.b.1 Number of sub-sectors with a high level of participation by users/communities		
	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status
Italy	95	+	96				90					49	+	30	=	77	+	100		8	-	0					
Latvia	95	+	86	+			91				67	+	134	+	1.1	+	62	=	97.3	-	0	=	0				
Liechtenstein	100	=	100	=			99				80	=					72	=			0	=	0				
Lithuania	92	+	91	+			97				99	=	148	+	1.9	+	61	=	34.1	-	0	=	0		2	+	
Luxembourg	100	=	97	+			99								3.8	+	89	=	100	=	0	=	0				
Malta	100	=	93	=			100						161	+	85	-	86	+	n/a		100	=	0				
Monaco	100	=	100	=			100										94	=	n/a		0	=	0				
Montenegro	94										88	-					35	=	79.5		20	=	9.1	-	0		
Netherlands	100	=	97	=			100				96	=	44	+	15	+	92	=	100	=	0	=	0		2		
North Macedonia	81	-	17	+							70	+	10	-	13	+	33	+	12.9		0	=	12	-			
Norway	98	-	76	+			80				100	=	129	+	2	+	68	=	89.5	+	41	-	0				
Poland	99		93	+			77				96	+	44	+	35	+	74	+	55.7		4	-	0				
Portugal	95	+	85	+			64						17	+	18	=	72	=	100		8	=	0				
Republic of Moldova	73	+											6.2	+	12	=	46	+	100	+	0	=	8.5	-			
Romania	82	=	77				39				84	+	23	+	6.3	-	77	=	100	=	17	-	0				
Russian Federation	76	+	61	+							96	=	19	-	4.1	+	88	+			22	-	0				
San Marino	100	=	77	=			78										66	=			0	=	0				
Serbia	75	=	25	-			24				83		5.6	-	6.1	-	36	+	89.7	-	21	-	48	+	6	=	

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WORLD, REGION AND COUNTRY DATA ON SDG 6 GLOBAL INDICATORS

World, SDG region, country, area and territory	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)		6.2.1 Proportion of population using a handwashing facility with soap and water (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of domestic wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.1 Proportion of industrial wastewater flow safely treated (%)		6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality (%)		6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time (USD/m3)		6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources (%)		6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0–100)		6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation (%)		6.6.1 Proportion of hydrological basins showing high surface water extent changes (%)		6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance (ODA) received (million 2017 USD)		6.b.1 Number of sub-sectors with a high level of participation by users/ communities		
	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status	Trend	Status
Slovakia	100	+	83	-							57	-	146	+	2.4	+	61	=	80.9	-	0	=	0				
Slovenia	98	+	83	+			64				84	+	43	+	6.3	=	87	+	100	=	18	=	0				
Spain	98	=	97	+			90						36	+	43	+	87	=	100		19	+	0				
Sweden	100	=	93	=			94				48	+	192	+	3.4	+	86	=	100	+	19	-	0				
Switzerland	95	+	100	+							61	-	390	+	7.6	+	81	=	90.2		0	=	0				
Ukraine	92	+	68	+									7.8	+	11	+	39	=	60.6		1	=	38	+	6	+	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	100	=	98	=			97						316	=	14	=	79	=	0		65	-	0				
United States of America	99		90	+			90				34		42	+	28	=	77				11	-	0				

Endnotes

- 1 UN-Water (2016) [Water and sanitation interlinkages across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).
- 2 All statistics for SDG 6.1.1 and SDG 6.2.1 refer to countries, areas and territories.
- 3 Safely managed service: Drinking water from an improved water source which is located on premises, available when needed and free from faecal and priority chemical contamination. Basic service: Drinking water from an improved source, provided collection time is not more than 30 minutes for a roundtrip including queuing. Limited: Drinking water from an improved source for which collection time exceeds 30 minutes for a roundtrip including queuing. Unimproved: Drinking water from an unprotected dug well or unprotected spring. Surface water: Drinking water directly from a river, dam, lake, pond, stream, canal or irrigation canal.
- 4 Safely managed service: Use of improved facilities which are not shared with other households and where excreta are safely disposed in situ or transported and treated off-site. Basic service: Use of improved facilities which are not shared with other households. Limited service: Use of improved facilities shared between two or more households. Unimproved: Use of pit latrines without a slab or platform, hanging latrines or bucket latrines. Open defecation: Disposal of human faeces in fields, forests, bushes, open bodies of water, beaches and other open spaces or with solid waste.
- 5 Eurostat (2020) [Ratio between the industrial wastewater discharged after treatment and the generation of wastewater by industry except the part collected by urban wastewater collection systems](#)
- 6 Increase: increase in water-use efficiency by more than 1%. Decrease: decrease in water-use efficiency by more than 1%. No change: increase/decrease in water-use efficiency by less than 1%.
- 7 "Arrangement" captures bilateral or multilateral treaties, conventions, agreements or other formal arrangements between countries that provide a framework for cooperation on transboundary water management. "Joint body" may comprise any institutional structure or mechanism between two or more countries, such as a river basin organization, a basin commission and a bilateral committee.
- 8 4,111 out of a total of 19,426 basins. The indicator compares changes during the last five years with changes during the last 20 years.
- 9 The estimated total number of large lakes (10-100 km²) is 23,839. Source: Verpoorter, C., T. Kutser, D. A. Seekell, and L. J. Tranvik (2014), A global inventory of lakes based on high-resolution satellite imagery, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 41, doi:10.1002/2014GL060641.
- 10 Source population distribution data: www.worldpop.org
- 11 Commitment: a firm obligation, expressed in writing and backed by the necessary funds, undertaken by an official donor to provide specified assistance to a recipient country or a multilateral organisation. Disbursement: release of funds to or the purchase of goods or services for a recipient; by extension, the amount thus spent; disbursements record the actual international transfer of financial resources, or of goods or services valued at the cost to the donor.
- 12 Levels of participation: None: No communication between government and communities/users on policy, planning and management; Low: Communication – information on policy, planning and management is made available communities/users; Medium: Consultative – Government authorities occasionally or regularly request information, experiences and opinions of communities/users; High: Collaborative or representative – regular opportunities for communities/users to take part in relevant policy, planning and management processes.
- 13 Only includes SDG regions for which data cover at least 50 per cent of the population (n=94 countries).



**United
Nations**



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