



2nd Global Workshop on Integrated Monitoring of SDG 6 on Water and Sanitation

9 December 2021 and 8–10 February 2022, online

Concept

Version 29 November 2021

Purpose and expected outcomes

The overall purpose of the workshop is to provide a platform for country focal points and UN custodian agencies to take stock of the efforts to date to report on progress towards SDG 6, to look at next steps for using SDG 6 data, and to prepare for future work on SDG 6 monitoring and reporting.

More specifically, the expected outcomes of the workshop are the following:

- Dialogue between all focal points within each country, to strengthen and mainstream an inter-sectoral monitoring process
- Exchange of good practices on key topics including data use and communication to inform national policy
- Reflections and feedback on past work on SDG 6 monitoring including the 2020 Data Drive and associated support from IMI-SDG6
- Identification of needs and priorities for future SDG 6 monitoring at various levels, including for the next phase of IMI-SDG6 (2023-2026)

Target audience

The primary target audience of the workshop is the national experts involved in the monitoring and reporting of SDG 6 data to the United Nations, including:

- Indicator-specific focal points (who typically compile and submit a country's data on specific SDG 6 indicators)
- Overall focal points (who typically keep track of a country's SDG 6 data submissions and encourages coordination and collaboration across indicators)
- SDG contacts in national statistical offices (who typically has overall responsibility for a country's SDG reporting)

The main benefit of the online format of workshop is to – for the first time – bring all these focal points together at the same time.

Also participating in the workshop are representatives from the eight UN agencies that are appointed as custodians of the 11 global indicators under SDG 6 and the UN-Water Technical Advisory Unit, i.e., the partners of IMI-SDG6.



Further, various UN agencies and international organisations are invited to participate in the workshop, based on their engagement in water and sanitation data compilation, reporting and use at global, regional and national levels. Likewise, a number of regional organizations as well as development partners are also invited.

Format

The online workshop will start with a kick-off session in December 2021, followed by three consecutive sessions in February 2021. The sessions are designed to achieve the above-mentioned outcomes and to be as interactive as possible within the constraints of a virtual workshop. They will include a mix of country and UN presentations, breakout groups with country rapporteurs, panel discussions and polls.

To accommodate for the different time zones and languages, there is one set of sessions in the CET morning, with simultaneous translation into Arabic and Russian, and a repeat set of sessions in the CET afternoon, with simultaneous translation into French and Spanish; focal points for each country will be invited to one set of sessions, to ensure that all focal points within the country attend the same session. The kick-off session is 1 hour long, each of the other sessions are 2 hours long.

Session	Date	Times for sessions offered in English, Arabic, Russian	Time for sessions offered in English, French, Spanish
Kick-off session + optional data communication training	Thursday 9 December 2021	8:00-09:00/10:00 CET	16:00-17:00/18:00 CET
1. Stock-taking SDG 6 monitoring to date	Tuesday 8 February 2022	8:00-10:00 CET	16:00-18:00 CET
2. Data for policy and communication	Wednesday 9 February 2022	8:00-10:00 CET	16:00-18:00 CET
3. Needs and priorities for the future	Thursday 10 February 2022	8:00-10:00 CET	16:00-18:00 CET

Voluntary country assignment

In the kick-off session in December, countries will receive a voluntary assignment, which they are encouraged to complete ahead of the regular workshop sessions, **by 31 January 2022**. The main objectives of the assignment are to create a cross-sectoral dialogue at the country level and to enable more informed discussions in the workshop.

The assignment consists of questions on three topics, directly linked to the topics discussed in the workshop. As part of the assignment, countries are encouraged to convene a meeting with all the focal points within the country, to jointly respond to these questions. The submitted responses will feed into the workshop and be shared on <https://www.sdg6monitoring.org/> to inspire other countries in their work. The responses will also help IMI-SDG6 to design its third phase of work.

More information will be given at the kick-off session, along with ample time to ask questions. The template with the questions will be circulated in advance of the kick-off session. On request, we are happy to put focal points in touch with other focal points in their country. On <https://sdg6data.org/> focal points can see all indicator data submitted by their country.



List of topics in the assignment:

- Reflections on past work on SDG 6 monitoring including the 2020 Data Drive (input to Session 1)
- Use of data to inform national policy (input to Session 2)
- Needs and priorities for future SDG 6 monitoring (input to Session 3)
- Ideas and examples for communicating SDG 6 data (input to session 2)

Background

Framework for targeting today's most urgent issues

In September 2015, Heads of State from around the world gathered in New York to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This includes SDG 6, which seeks to “ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”. The SDGs provide a framework for governments to develop policies and programmes to target today's most urgent issues, and for civil society to hold governments to account. Country ownership is clearly highlighted across the 2030 Agenda, and inspired by the global ambition of the SDGs, countries need to set their own targets that take national circumstances into account.

→ <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

To ensure progress towards the SDGs and strengthen accountability, United Nations Member States also developed a set of global indicators and committed to regularly report data on these indicators. The full SDG indicator framework includes about 230 indicators, of which 11 track progress towards SDG 6.

→ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/>

UN support on SDG 6 monitoring: IMI-SDG6

Through the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 (IMI-SDG6), the United Nations seeks to support countries in monitoring these 11 indicators and to compile country data to report on global progress towards SDG 6. IMI-SDG6 brings together the United Nations organizations that are formally mandated to compile country data on the SDG 6 global indicators¹, and builds on ongoing monitoring initiatives. The joint effort enables synergies across organizations as well as a harmonization of methodologies and requests for data. At the national level, IMI-SDG6 also promotes intersectoral collaboration and consolidation of existing capacities and data across organizations.

→ <https://www.sdg6monitoring.org/>

Two rounds of global compilation of country data

Since the adoption of the SDGs, there have been two coordinated global data compilation exercises including all 11 SDG 6 indicators, taking place in 2017 and 2020. During these ‘data drives’, the United Nations organizations contacted their respective country focal points with requests for data,

¹ Partners of IMI-SDG6 are UNEP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNECE, FAO, UNESCO, WHO and WMO.



while offering different types of support, such as monitoring methodologies, helpdesks, webinars and workshops. While the first data drive in 2017 focused on establishing a baseline for SDG 6, the second data drive in 2020 placed an emphasis on raising the capacities at national level to monitor and report on SDG 6.

→ <https://www.sdg6monitoring.org/2020-data-drive/>

1st Global Workshop to share experiences and review results

To conclude the first data drive, IMI-SDG6 organized the 1st Global Workshop on SDG 6 Monitoring in November 2017 in The Hague in the Netherlands. The workshop was attended by a total of 162 people, including overall focal points from 74 Member States as well as United Nations organizations and other international and regional partners. The workshop provided an opportunity to share experiences and review results from the data collection, and to learn and prepare for future monitoring. As such, the workshop provided valuable advice for the planning of the 2020 data drive and associated capacity building support.

→ <https://www.unwater.org/global-workshop-monitoring-sdg-6/>

→ <https://www.unwater.org/publications/summary-report-global-workshop-for-integrated-monitoring-of-sustainable-development-goal-6-on-water-and-sanitation/>

Results of 2020 data drive: we must accelerate

Having completed the second data drive in 2020, despite the challenges of the ongoing pandemic and thanks to heroic efforts of all country monitoring focal points, water and sanitation data are now available from almost all countries in the world. Based on this data, global progress updates were published in 2021 for nine of the indicators as well as for the whole of SDG 6. These progress updates sadly confirm the tendency first reported on in 2018: we remain off track to achieve sustainable water and sanitation for all by 2030. Thanks to the new data it has also been possible to see trends for the first time for many of the indicators. These trends demonstrate the need for significant acceleration, in some cases by as much as four times.

→ https://www.unwater.org/publication_categories/sdg6-progress-reports/

→ <https://sdg6data.org/>

Evidence base for global follow-up and review

While countries remain the main beneficiaries of credible and timely water and sanitation information, the reported SDG 6 data provide the evidence base for follow-up and review at global and regional levels. This includes the annual United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and especially its next in-depth review of SDG 6 in 2023, as well as the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action (2018-2028) in March 2023. The latter is preceded by a comprehensive preparatory process, initiated with the high-level meeting convened by the President of the General Assembly on 18 March 2021.

→ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>

→ <https://sdgs.un.org/2023-un-conference-water-action-decade>



Next steps for IMI-SDG6

In 2023, IMI-SDG6 enters its third phase. While support to countries on SDG 6 monitoring and reporting remains at its core, the focus will increasingly shift towards data use and policy integration. To help plan for this phase, IMI-SDG6 is currently undergoing an external review, in which country focal points will be asked to provide feedback on the work to date. In addition to being a means for learning and exchange between countries and an opportunity to discuss data use for policy, the 2nd Global Workshop will also be an important platform to help identify needs and priorities for future SDG 6 monitoring at various levels.