

# Data resources and key messages on SDG 6 for Regional preparatory meeting UN ECA

June 2022

# SDG 6 in Sub-Saharan Africa

## Drinking water

30 %

of the population in Sub-Saharan Africa uses a safely managed drinking water service (SDG indicator 6.1.1, 2020)

## Sanitation

21 %

of the population in Sub-Saharan Africa uses a safely managed sanitation service (SDG indicator 6.2.1a, 2020)

## Hygiene

26 %

of the population in Sub-Saharan Africa has a handwashing facility with soap and water available at home (SDG indicator 6.2.1b, 2020)

## Wastewater

28 %

of domestic wastewater in Sub-Saharan Africa is safely treated (SDG indicator 6.3.1, 2020)

## Water quality

71 %

of monitored water bodies in Sub-Saharan Africa has good ambient water quality (SDG indicator 6.3.2, 2020)

## Efficiency

13 \$/m<sup>3</sup>

is the value added from the use of water by people and the economy in Sub-Saharan Africa (SDG indicator 6.4.1, 2018)

## Water stress

6 %

of the renewable water resources in Sub-Saharan Africa is being withdrawn, after taking into account environmental flow requirements (SDG indicator 6.4.2, 2018)

## Water management

46 %

is the degree of implementation of integrated water resources management in Sub-Saharan Africa (SDG indicator 6.5.1, 2020)

## Transboundary

--- %

of transboundary basin area has an operational arrangement for water cooperation (SDG indicator 6.5.2, 2020)

## Ecosystems

23 %

of the water basins in Sub-Saharan Africa is experiencing rapid changes in the area covered by surface waters (SDG indicator 6.6.1, 2020)

## Cooperation

3182 m\$

is the amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance received by Sub-Saharan Africa in 2019 (SDG indicator 6.a.1)

## Participation

1.7

is the average number of sub-sectors (out of 6) with a high level of participation by communities in Sub-Saharan Africa (SDG indicator 6.b.1, 2019)

# SDG 6 in Northern Africa and Western Asia

## Drinking water

79 %

of the population in Northern Africa and Western Asia uses a safely managed drinking water service (SDG indicator 6.1.1, 2020)

## Sanitation

42 %

of the population in Northern Africa and Western Asia uses a safely managed sanitation service (SDG indicator 6.2.1a, 2020)

## Hygiene

91 %

of the population in Northern Africa and Western Asia has a handwashing facility with soap and water available at home (SDG indicator 6.2.1b, 2020)

## Wastewater

63 %

of domestic wastewater in Northern Africa and Western Asia is safely treated (SDG indicator 6.3.1, 2020)

## Water quality

--- %

of monitored water bodies in Northern Africa and Western Asia has good ambient water quality (SDG indicator 6.3.2, 2020)

## Efficiency

12 \$/m<sup>3</sup>

is the value added from the use of water by people and the economy in Northern Africa and Western Asia (SDG indicator 6.4.1, 2018)

## Water stress

74 %

of the renewable water resources in Northern Africa and Western Asia is being withdrawn, after taking into account environmental flow requirements (SDG indicator 6.4.2, 2018)

## Water management

60 %

is the degree of implementation of integrated water resources management in Northern Africa and Western Asia (SDG indicator 6.5.1, 2020)

## Transboundary

--- %

of transboundary basin area has an operational arrangement for water cooperation (SDG indicator 6.5.2, 2020)

## Ecosystems

18 %

of the water basins in Northern Africa and Western Asia is experiencing rapid changes in the area covered by surface waters (SDG indicator 6.6.1, 2020)

## Cooperation

1753 m\$

is the amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance received by Northern Africa and Western Asia in 2019 (SDG indicator 6.a.1)

## Participation

1.4

is the average number of sub-sectors (out of 6) with a high level of participation by communities in Northern Africa and Western Asia (SDG indicator 6.b.1, 2019)

# Explore the data (regional snapshots)

- Central and Southern Asia
- Eastern and South-Eastern Asia
- Europe and Northern America
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Northern Africa and Western Asia
- Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand)
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Australia and New Zealand



# Download the SDG 6 progress reports

- [Summary Progress Update 2021 \(SDG 6\)](#)
- [2021 Progress on Household Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene \(SDG 6.1.1 and 6.2.1\)](#)
- [2021 Progress on Wastewater Treatment \(SDG 6.3.1\)](#)
- [2021 Progress on Ambient Water Quality \(SDG 6.3.2\)](#)
- [2021 Progress on Water-Use Efficiency \(SDG 6.4.1\)](#)
- [2021 Progress on Level of Water Stress \(SDG 6.4.2\)](#)
- [2021 Progress on Integrated Water Resources Management \(SDG 6.5.1\)](#)
- [2021 Progress on Transboundary Water Cooperation \(SDG 6.5.2\)](#)
- [2021 Progress on Water-related Ecosystems \(SDG 6.6.1\)](#)
- [2019 National systems to support drinking-water, sanitation and hygiene \(SDG 6.a.1-6.b.1\)](#)  
(new report to be launched in December 2022)







UN WATER

## INTEGRATED MONITORING INITIATIVE FOR SDG 6

# SDG 6.1 DRINKING WATER

World Health Organization (WHO)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

## 6.1.1 Drinking water



- Only **39% of the population in Africa** had safely managed drinking water services in 2020
- Acceleration needed to achieve universal access to safely managed drinking water services by 2030: In **Africa**, efforts must increase twelve-fold (**current rate of progress x 12**)
- **No African countries** are on track to achieve universal access by 2030
- **411 million people** in Africa still lacked even a basic drinking water service in 2020
- Only **21 (out of 54) countries** had national estimates available for safely managed drinking water services in 2020



# SDG 6.2 SANITATION AND HYGIENE

World Health Organization (WHO)  
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)







## 6.2.1 Sanitation

- Only **27% of the population in Africa** had safely managed sanitation services in 2020
- Acceleration needed to achieve universal access to safely managed sanitation services by 2030: Efforts must increase twenty-fold (**current rate of progress x 20**)
- **No African countries** are on track to achieve universal access by 2030
- **779 million people** in African countries still lacked even a basic sanitation service in 2020
- **208 million people** in African countries still practised open defecation in 2020, 88% of them lived in rural areas
- Only **26 (out of 54) countries** had national estimates available for safely managed sanitation services in 2020

## 6.2.1 Hygiene



- Only **37% of the population in Africa** had basic hygiene services in 2020
- **Insufficient data** to estimate acceleration needed to achieve universal access to basic hygiene services by 2030
- Only **37 (out of 54) countries** had national estimates available for basic hygiene services in 2020
- **No African countries** are on track to achieve universal access by 2030





6

CLEAN WATER  
AND SANITATION



UN WATER

## INTEGRATED MONITORING INITIATIVE FOR SDG 6

# SDG 6.3 WASTEWATER AND WATER QUALITY

World Health Organization (WHO)

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)

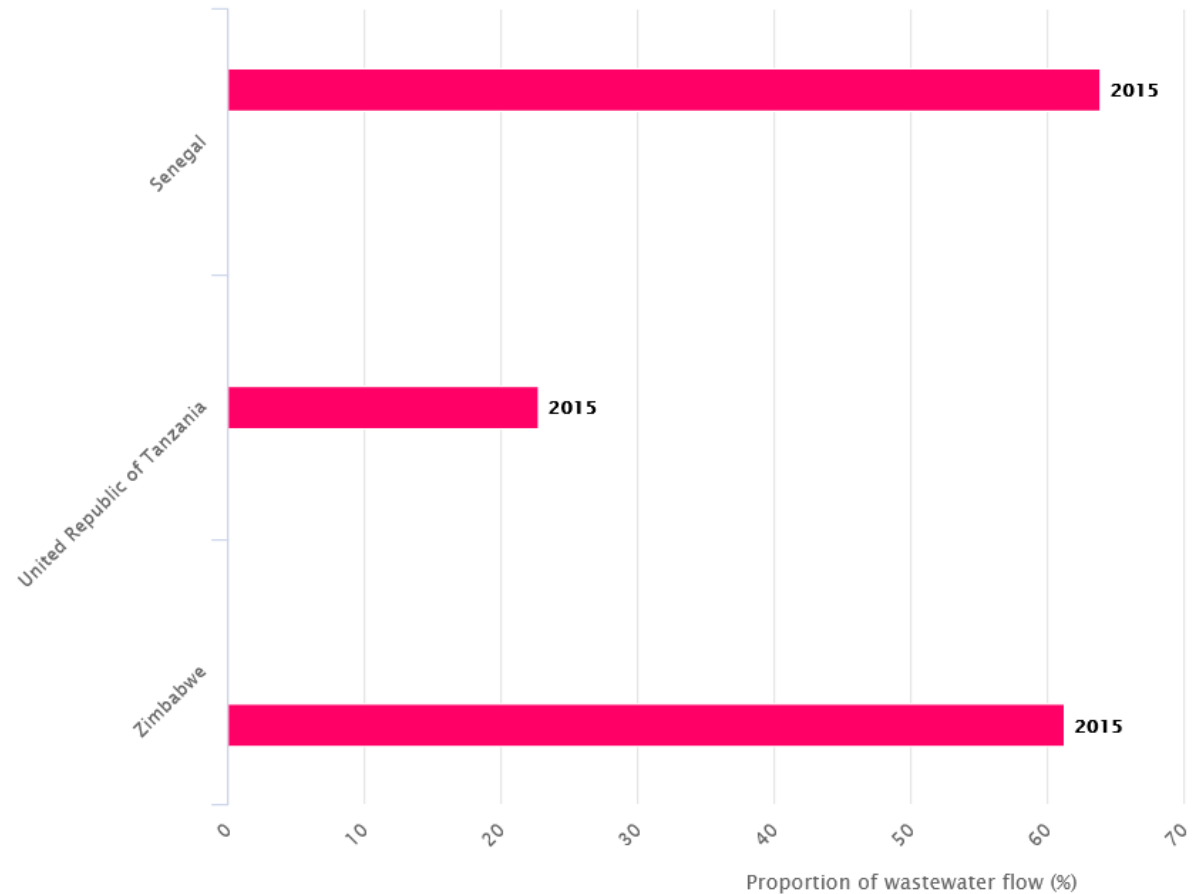
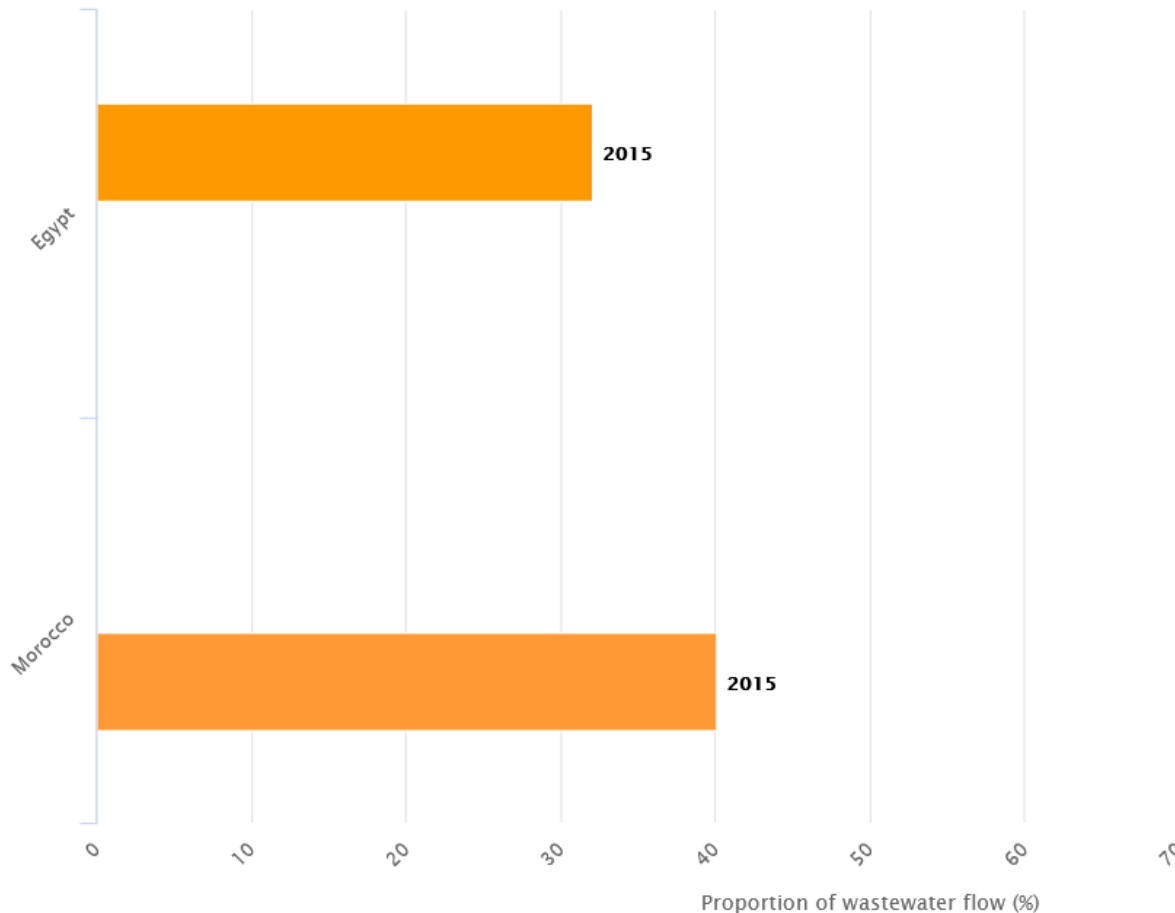
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)





## 6.3.1 Wastewater treatment

- Data on total wastewater treatment are only available from 5 countries in Africa, and no country report data on industrial wastewater treatment



## 6.3.1 Wastewater treatment (domestic)



- Only 35% of domestic wastewater generated in Africa was safely treated in 2020
  - 59% of wastewater was generated by households with sewers and septic tanks
    - Households with pit latrines, or unimproved or no sanitation facilities, produce wastewater but these flows are not considered eligible to be 'safely treated'
  - Just 56% and 53% of sewer and septic tank flows were estimated to be safely treated, respectively.
- Only 23 (out of 54) countries had national estimates for safely treated domestic wastewater in 2020
  - Improved reporting of septic tank emptying and wastewater treatment data are needed to address data gaps

## 6.3.2 Ambient water quality



### Lack of data puts people at risk

Ambient water quality data are not routinely collected in most countries.

This means that water quality for **3 billion people** is unknown and these people could be at significant risk.

Data on water quality from developing countries lacks detail, with the indicator calculated using relatively few measurements and without suitable environmental water quality standards.

The lack of water quality data for

over **3** billion people

means that they are at significant risk because the health of their rivers, lakes and groundwater is unknown





## 6.3.2 Ambient water quality

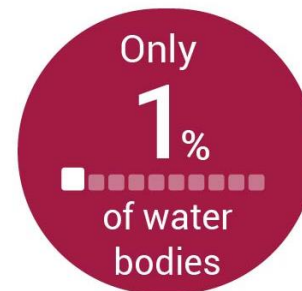


### Data gaps in low-GDP countries

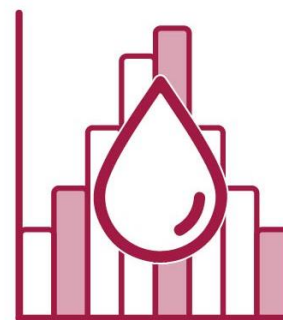
Over 75,000 water bodies were reported on in 2020, but over three-quarters of them were in 24 high-GDP countries.

The poorest **20 countries** reported on just over **1,000 water bodies**.

“More monitoring needed” can be an overused message, but a critically important one when people are using untreated water of unknown quality for drinking and domestic use.



where we have information are in the **20** lowest GDP countries



In low-GDP countries, there is an **urgent need** for **better data** on the **health** of rivers, lakes and groundwater

## 6.3.2 Ambient water quality



### Women are often most at risk

Millions of people around the world still lack access to improved water supply and rely on ambient water sources such as rivers, lakes and shallow borewells for their daily water needs.

If these water sources are polluted the people engaging in these activities, in general women and children, are risking their health and well-being.

Women in low-income countries are particularly impacted by **polluted ambient water**



Often responsible for fetching water, **this limits their schooling and income**





UN WATER

## INTEGRATED MONITORING INITIATIVE FOR SDG 6

# SDG 6.4 WATER USE AND SCARCITY

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)





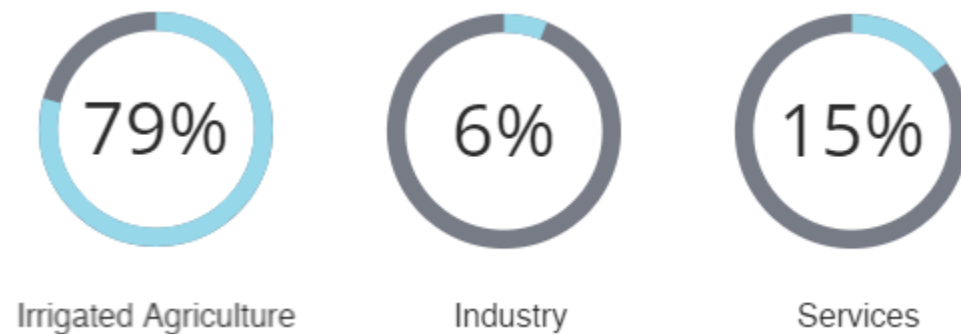
## 6.4.1 Water-use efficiency



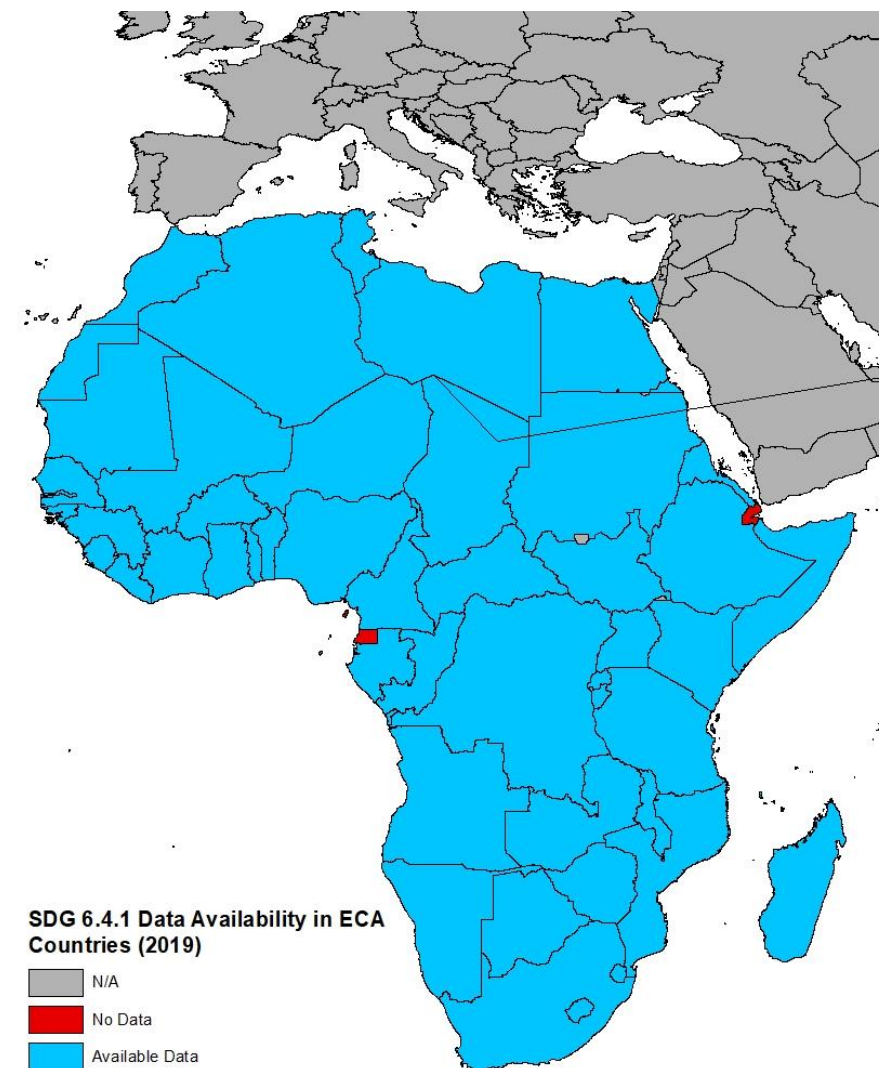
**8.9 \$/m<sup>3</sup>**

is the ratio of US Dollar value added to the volume of water withdrawals in the ECA region in 2019.

Water use efficiency data are available for **52** countries out of **54**



Agriculture remains by far the largest user of water in ECA region, yet it contributes by only **3%** to the regional GDP





## 6.4.2 Level of water stress

**12.9 %**

is the ratio between ECA freshwater withdrawals and the region total renewable freshwater resources in 2019

Water stress data are available for only **53** countries and territories out of **54**



**16%**

of the ECA population  
lives in conditions of high  
to critical level of water  
stress



**42%**

of ECA population  
lives in urban areas

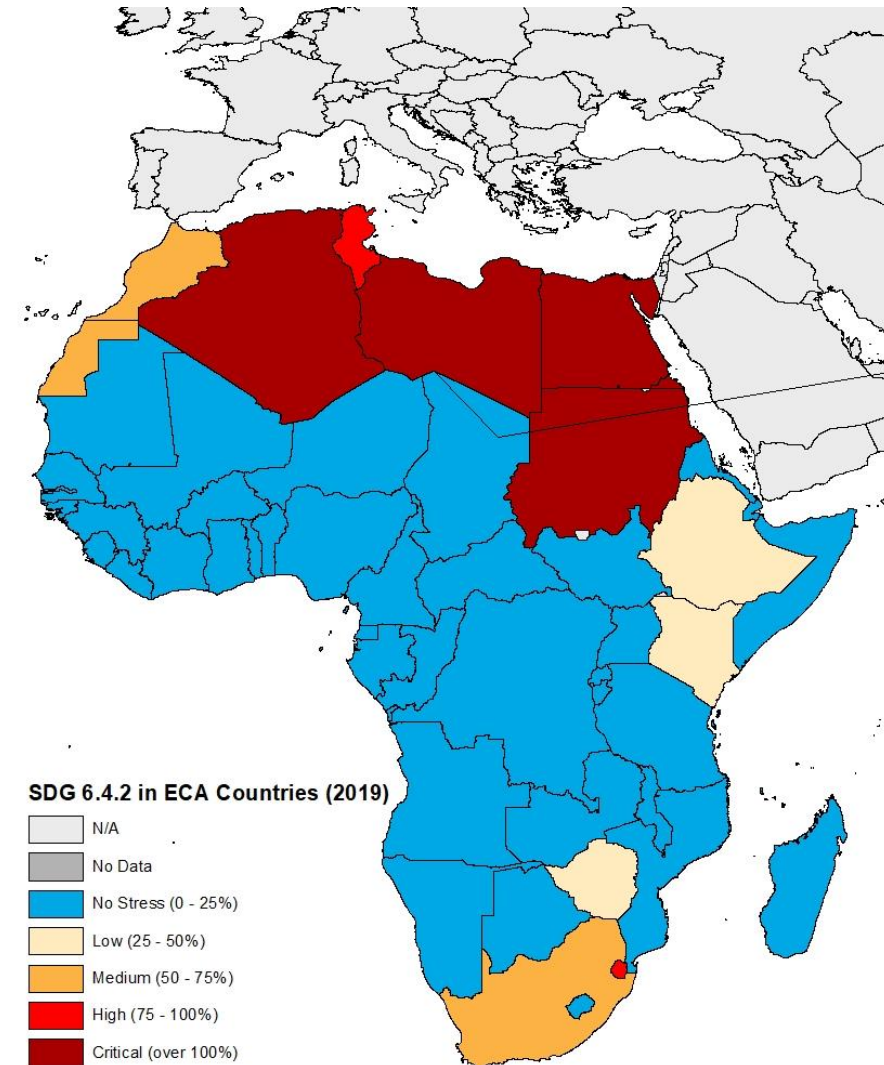


**79%**

of ECA renewable  
freshwater resources  
are used for irrigation

In 2019, **16%** of ECA population was living in conditions of high to critical water stress, which means

**206** million people had their water access and availability challenged, not only to meet the basic needs for drinking and sanitation, but also to cover the demands of other sectors, especially in urban areas.







UN WATER

## INTEGRATED MONITORING INITIATIVE FOR SDG 6

# SDG 6.5 WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

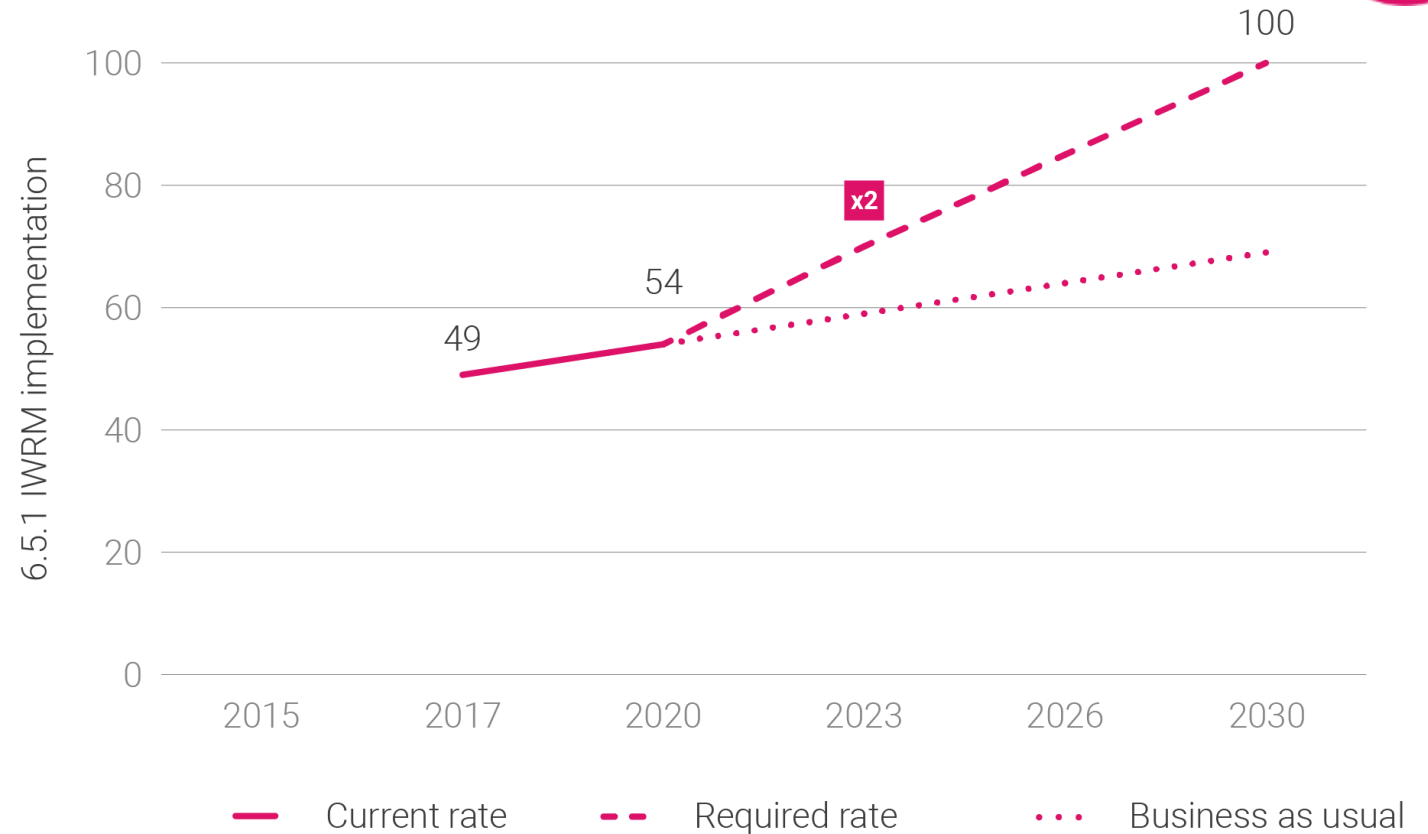
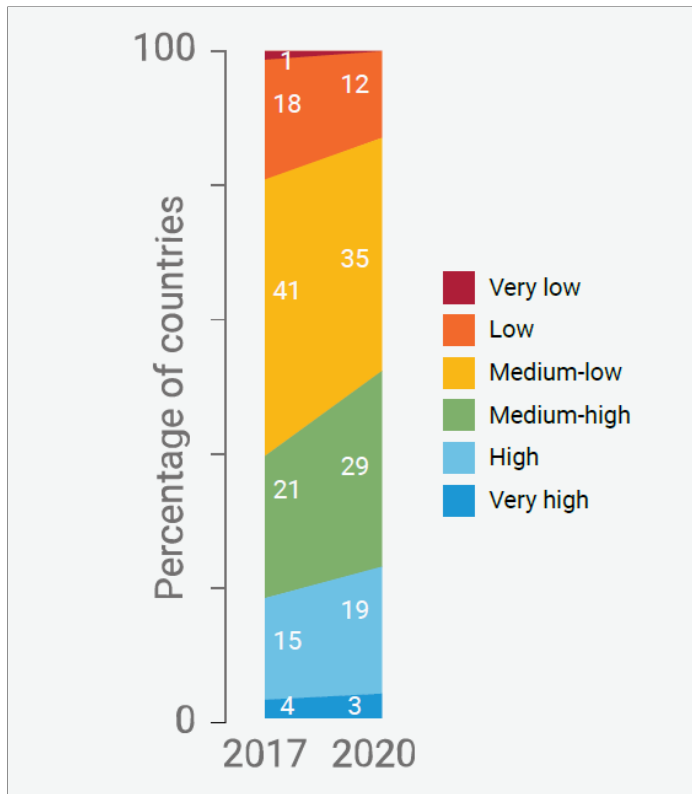
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)



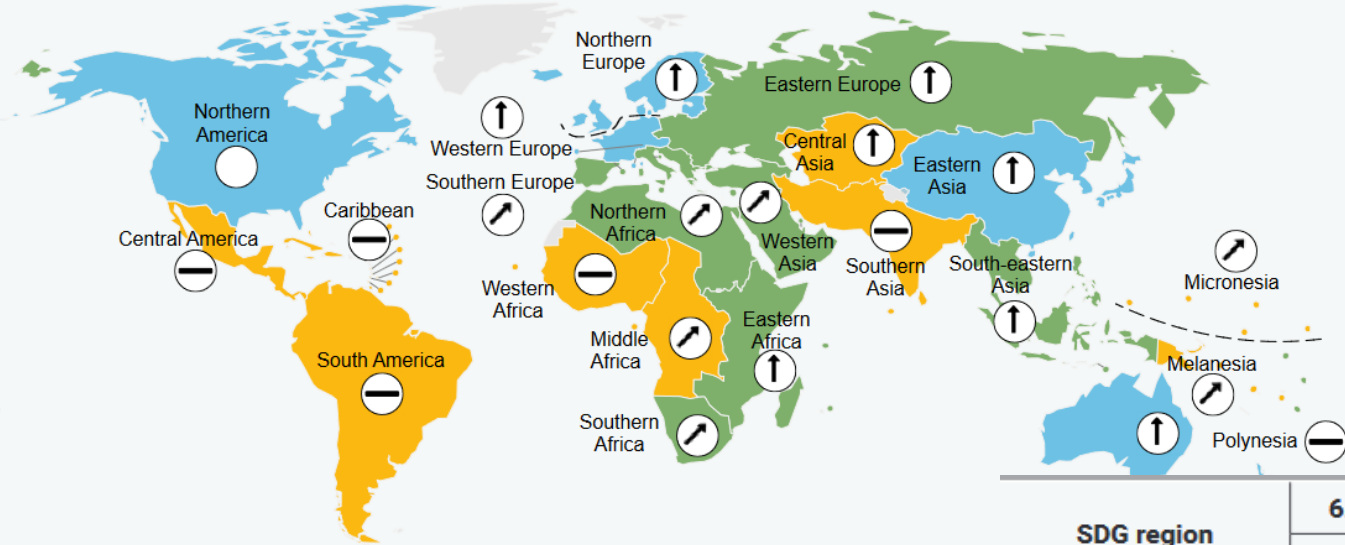
## 6.5.1 Integrated water resources management



The global score on indicator has increased by 5 points since 2017, but we are moving too slow.

**To achieve the target by 2030, the rate of progress of IWRM implementation needs to double.**

## 6.5.1 Integrated water resources management



IWRM implementation level in 2020 (SDG indicator 6.5.1)

Very low Very low Low Medium-low Medium-high High Very high No data

Progress towards SDG target 6.5 (2017–2020)

Limited Moderate Substantial Trend not available

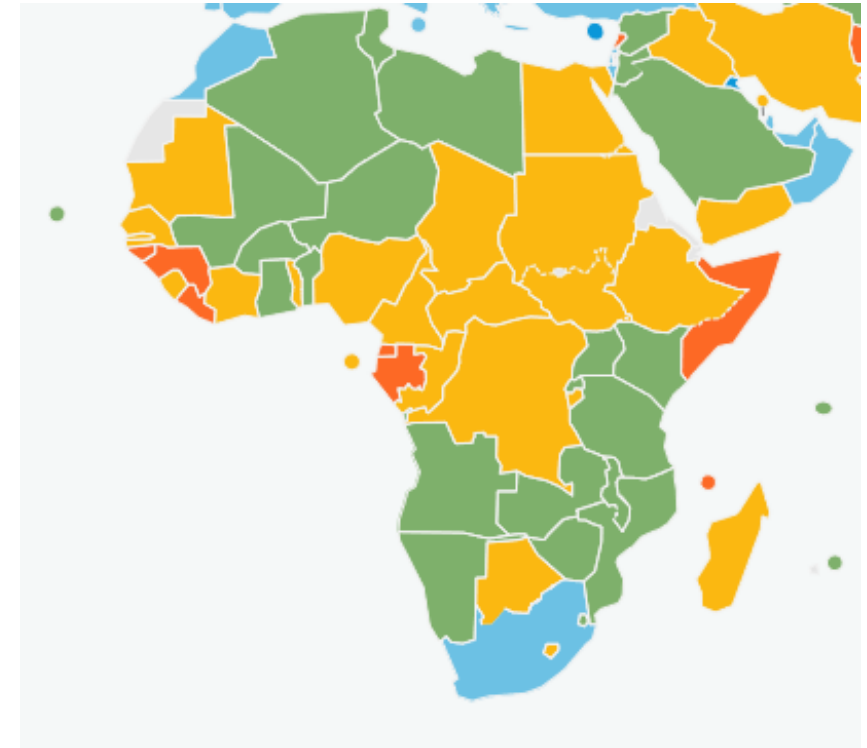
| SDG region                       | 6.5.1 score |      | Progress | SDG subregion   | 6.5.1 score |      | Progress    |
|----------------------------------|-------------|------|----------|-----------------|-------------|------|-------------|
|                                  | 2017        | 2020 |          |                 | 2017        | 2020 |             |
| Sub-Saharan Africa               | 40          | 46   | Moderate | Middle Africa   | 29          | 37   | Moderate    |
|                                  |             |      |          | Western Africa  | 42          | 44   | Limited     |
|                                  |             |      |          | Eastern Africa  | 43          | 51   | Substantial |
|                                  |             |      |          | Southern Africa | 50          | 55   | Moderate    |
| Northern Africa and Western Asia | 55          | 60   | Moderate | Northern Africa | 49          | 54   | Moderate    |
|                                  |             |      |          | Western Asia    | 57          | 62   | Moderate    |

The global and regional average scores can mask significant differences in national scores even within sub-regions. However, at the regional level, **significant efforts are needed particularly in sub-Saharan Africa to advance IWRM implementation.**

## 6.5.1 Integrated water resources management



1. Strengthening **political will** for IWRM implementation
2. **Cross-sectoral coordination** and management activities
3. Dedicated **budgeting for IWRM activities** and more efficient and coordinated use of existing resources
4. **Institutional and human capacity** need to be enhanced and retained
5. Reforms need to be underpinned by **robust legal frameworks**



**Real and rapid progress is possible**

5 key areas emerge as common priorities for advancing IWRM in many countries





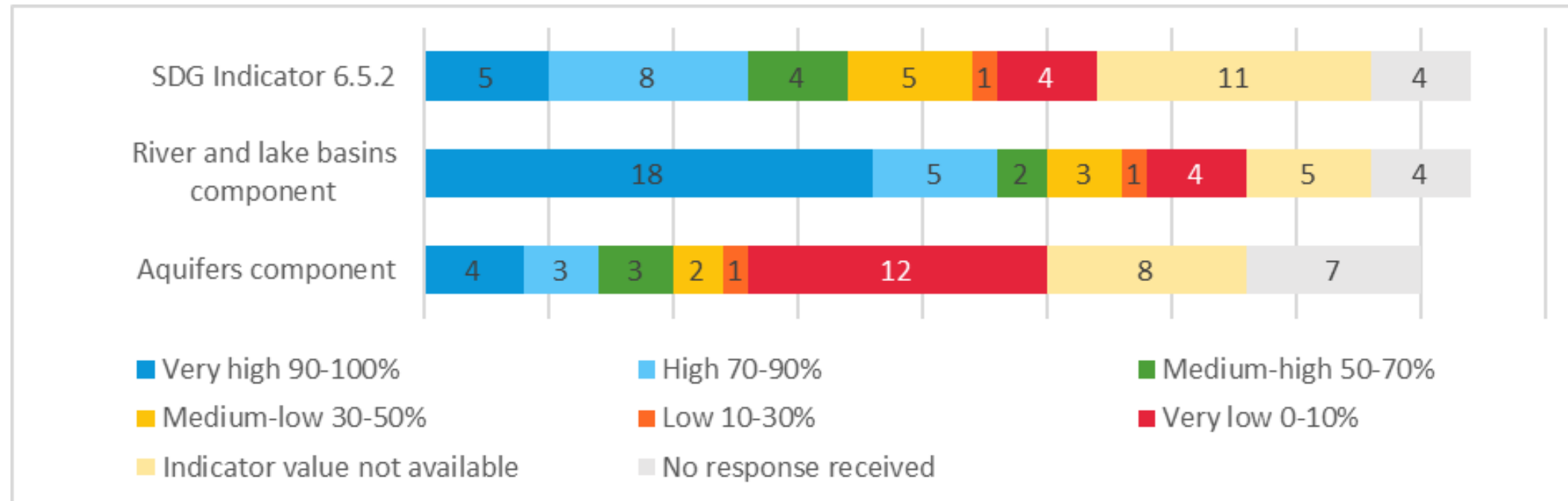
## 6.5.2 Transboundary water cooperation

- **38 out of 42 countries** sharing water resources **responded** to the exercise
  - 33 countries provided sufficient data to calculate the SDG indicator value for transboundary rivers & lakes, and 27 countries for transboundary aquifers; overall indicator value could be calculated for 27 countries
- **Relatively high value for overall water cooperation** (60%) is due to existing operational arrangements for major rivers, while huge acceleration is still needed regarding shared aquifers
  - 18 countries have  $\geq 90\%$  of their shared rivers & lakes covered by arrangements while only 4 countries reported high level of arrangements for shared aquifers
- There may be opportunities to **capitalise on existing watercourse arrangements to better account for transboundary aquifers** (e.g. Stampriet Aquifer, Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer)
- The water cooperation and reporting benefit from **SADC and AMCOW concerted efforts** as well as the **UNECA's report** on Progress on transboundary water cooperation in Africa



## 6.5.2 Transboundary water cooperation

- Number of countries in Sub-Saharan African sharing transboundary river, lakes and aquifers and breakdown of SDG 6.5.2 indicator values



An aerial photograph showing a wide, winding river flowing through a vast, green landscape. The river is surrounded by lush vegetation and some small islands. In the foreground, a village with many small houses and colorful roofs is visible, situated near the river. The sky is overcast with soft clouds.

6

CLEAN WATER  
AND SANITATION



UN WATER

## INTEGRATED MONITORING INITIATIVE FOR SDG 6

# SDG 6.6 FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)





UN WATER

## INTEGRATED MONITORING INITIATIVE FOR SDG 6

# SDG 6.A INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

World Health Organization (WHO)

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)





UN WATER

**INTEGRATED MONITORING  
INITIATIVE FOR SDG 6**

# SDG 6.B LOCAL PARTICIPATION

World Health Organization (WHO)

