



SDG indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary water cooperation & health issues

Global workshop on building climate-resilience through improving water
management and sanitation at national and transboundary levels

29-31 March 2021

Sarah Tiefenauer-Linardon
Reporting Officer, UNECE



Initial results of the 2nd reporting in 2020 on SDG 6.5.2

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

High levels of engagement

- ⇒ In 2020: **128** out of 153 countries submitted reports
- ⇒ Only **24 countries** report **all** transboundary surface waters and groundwaters covered by **operational arrangements**
- ⇒ Only additional **22 countries** with more than **70%** of their waters covered by operational arrangement

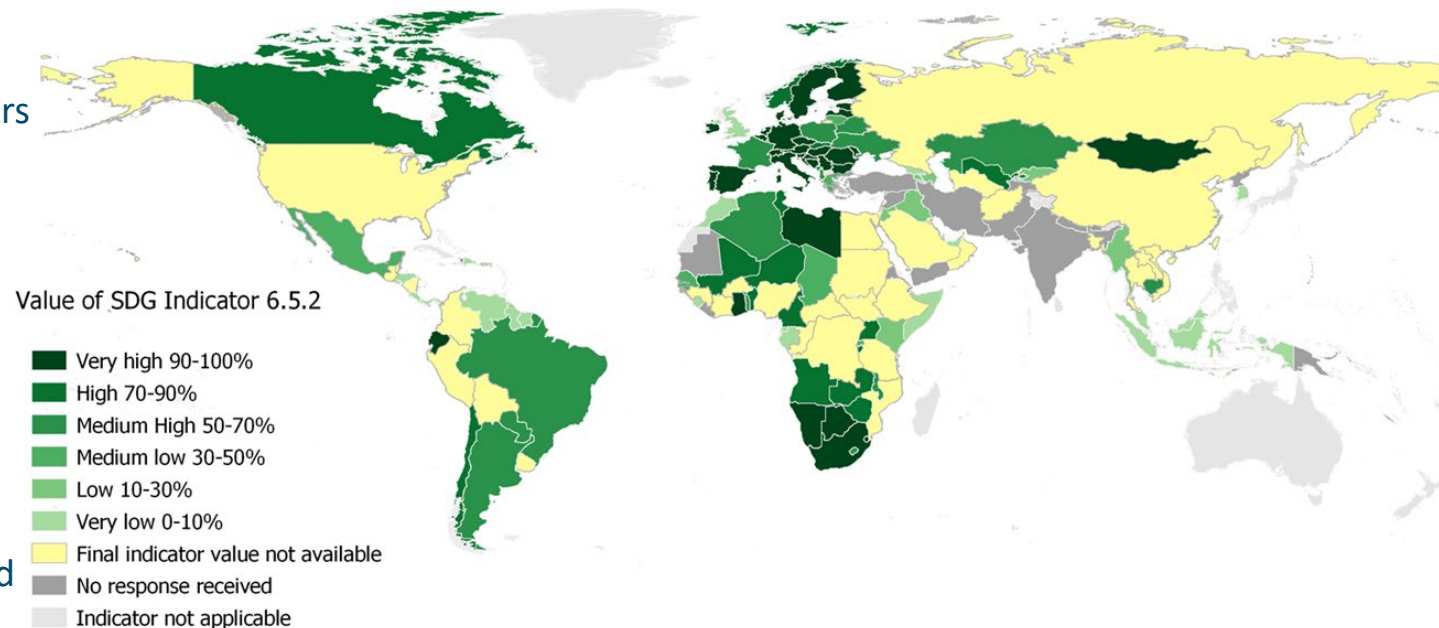
Not on track

- ⇒ Progress must be **accelerated** to ensure that all transboundary basins are covered by operational arrangements by 2030
- ⇒ Insufficient knowledge on **groundwater** systems

Acceleration

- ⇒ Reporting triggered **follow-up actions** in countries to **improve cooperation**
- ⇒ Capacity development, financing, data and information etc. and decisive political action needed to achieve the target

SDG Indicator 6.5.2 values and responses received as of 1 March 2021



References to health issues in the SDG6.5.2 reports

Work, achievements and challenges related to health and sanitation



Agreements

- Sect. II, Q° 2d, is “human health” included in the **topics** of cooperation of the agreement
 - Approx. 20% of the responses for surface waters responded positively
 - Aquifers
 - 2002 NWSAS Consultation Mechanism
 - 2007 Convention on the protection, use, recharge and monitoring of the French-Swiss Genevese aquifer
- Countries reported health in the **achievements** of the implementation of the agreements
 - BiH Sava, Croatia Danube: joint operation of the water supply and sanitation systems jointly constructed and operated by riparian countries and systems that are crossing across state’s borders
 - Costa Rica Sixaola: binational health campaigns and care programmes
 - Finland: improved water quality, for outdoor recreation, for drinking
 - France: Coordination of domestic sanitation measures

References to health issues in the SDG6.5.2 reports

Work, achievements and challenges related to health and sanitation



Joint bodies/mechanisms for cooperation

- Subsidiary bodies on health (Sect. II Q°3f).
 - Angola: Cuvelai basin: The Water, Sanitation and Health Management Committee
 - France: Maroni basin: Working groups on the economy and health
- Countries reported health in the **achievements** of the implementation of the joint body
 - Rwanda: Lake Victoria water supply and sanitation program

References to health issues in the SDG6.5.2 reports

Work, achievements and challenges related to health and sanitation



Countries referred to health/sanitation under different questions in open text

- Exchange of information
 - Croatia, Senegal: data collected and exchanged on health issues
 - Benin, Niger basin: evaluating surface water and groundwater pollution levels, in order to prevent health risks linked to water or which may affect public health
- Use of joint water quality standards
 - Thailand : initiative that ensures the maintaining of acceptable water quality in the Mekong: water quality monitoring and emergency responses
- Measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution
 - Benin: Art 24 of the Niger Basin Water Charter contains provisions for managing emergency situation in the interest of public health
- Difficulties
 - COVID-19 pandemic: Albania, Chad, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Malawi, Romania