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

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Initial results of the 2\textsuperscript{nd} 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: \textbf{128} out of 153 countries submitted reports
⇒ Only \textbf{24 countries} report all transboundary surface waters and groundwaters covered by operational arrangements
⇒ Only additional \textbf{22 countries} with more than \textbf{70\%} of their waters covered by operational arrangement

Not on track

⇒ Progress must be \textbf{accelerated} to ensure that all transboundary basins are covered by operational arrangements by 2030
⇒ Insufficient knowledge on \textbf{groundwater} systems

Acceleration

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