

Progress on Transboundary Water Cooperation

GLOBAL STATUS OF
SDG INDICATOR 6.5.2
AND ACCELERATION NEEDS

2021



SDG Indicator 6.5.2

2nd monitoring exercise 2020-2021

Results and key messages



Webinar: Launch of 2nd progress report

14 September 2021

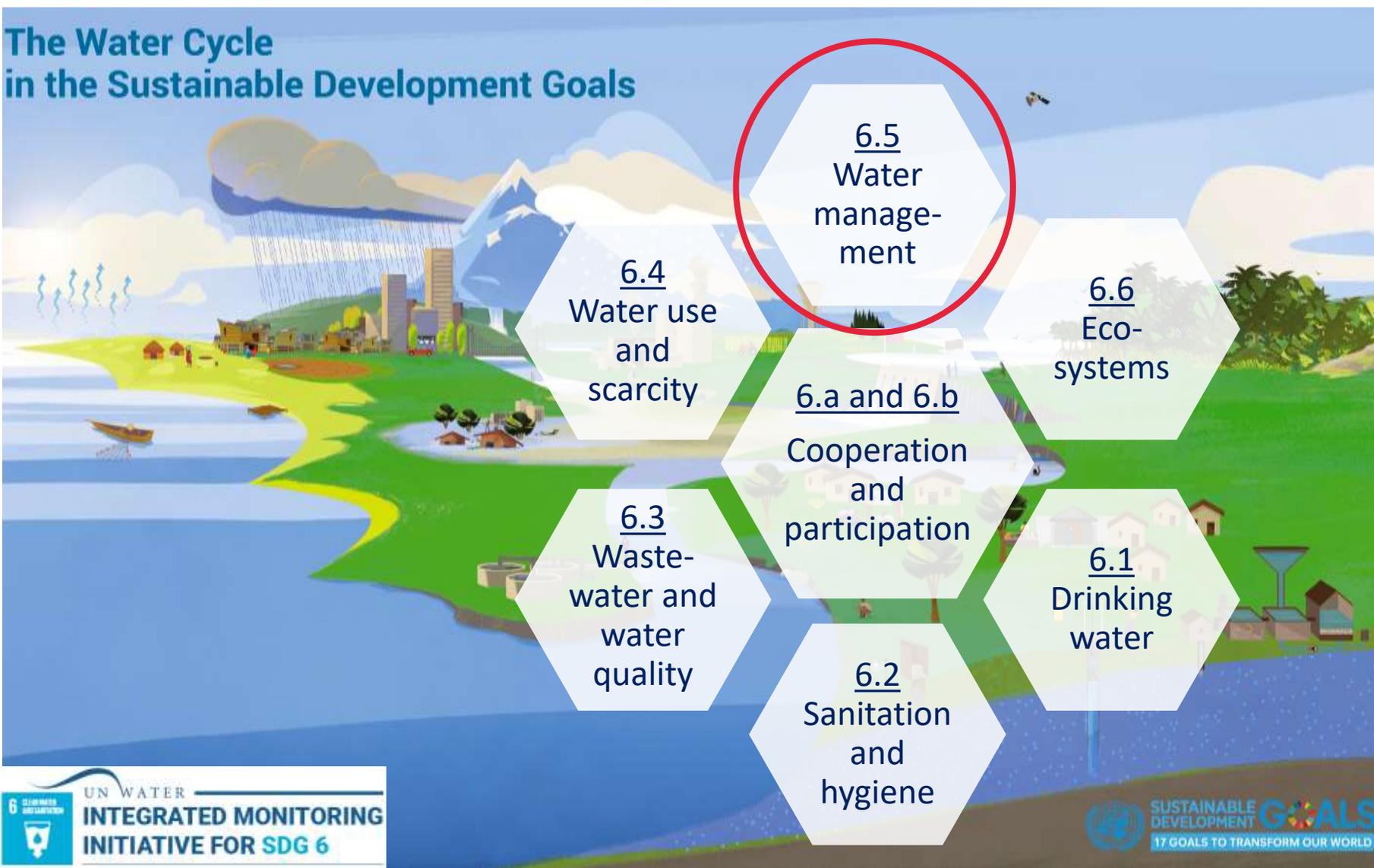
Sarah Tiefenauer-Linardon, UNECE

Aurélien Dumont, UNESCO IHP



SDG6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

The Water Cycle in the Sustainable Development Goals



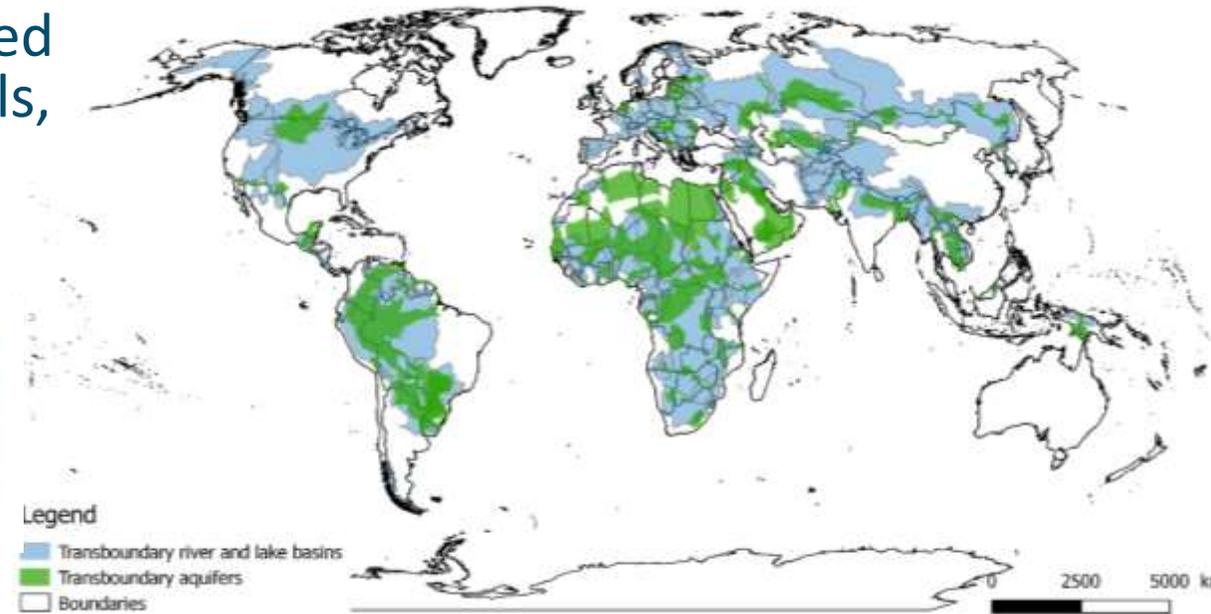
6.1.1	Safely managed drinking water services (WHO, UNICEF)
6.2.1	Safely managed sanitation services and hygiene (WHO, UNICEF)
6.3.1	Wastewater safely treated (WHO, UN-Habitat, UNSD)
6.3.2	Good ambient water quality (UNEP)
6.4.1	Water use efficiency (FAO)
6.4.2	Level of water stress (FAO)
6.5.1	Integrated water resources management (UNEP)
6.5.2	Transboundary basin area with water cooperation (UNECE, UNESCO)
6.6.1	Water-related ecosystems (UNEP, Ramsar)
6.a.1	Water- and sanitation-related official development assistance (WHO, OECD)
6.b.1	Participation of local communities in water and sanitation management (WHO, OECD)



SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.



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



Indicator 6.5.1 Degree of IWRM



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



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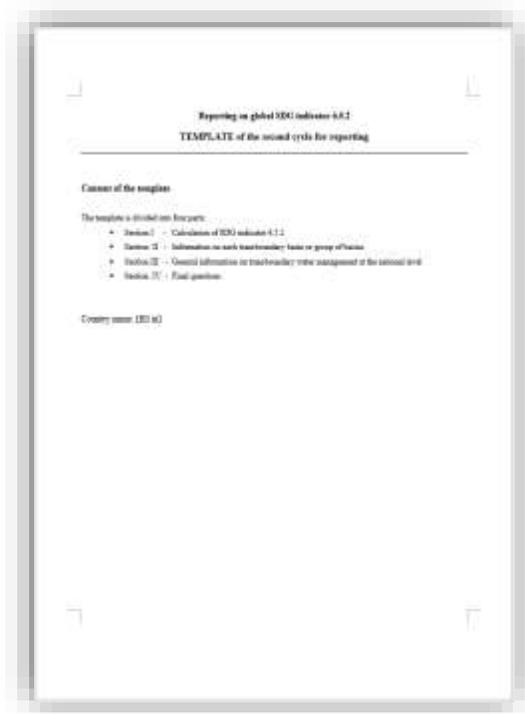
- **Most of the world's water resources are shared => cooperation required.**
- **The only SDG indicator on transboundary cooperation => important for other natural resources**

Calculation SDG indicator 6.5.2

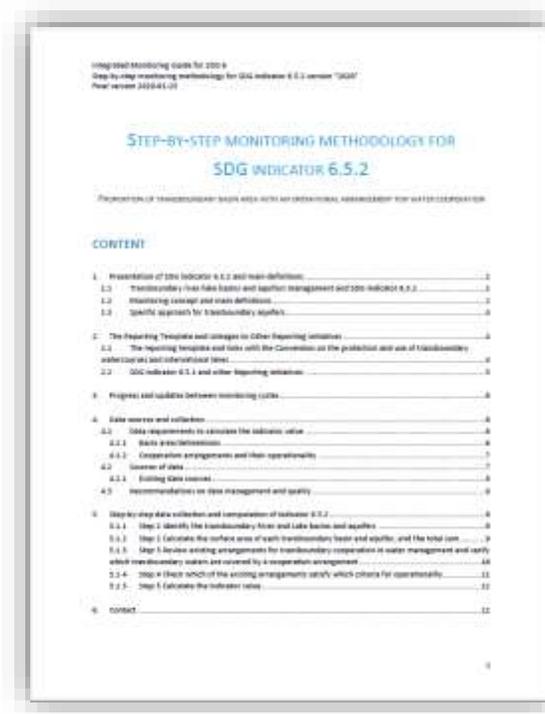


- What is an **‘operational’ arrangement**?
 - Treaty, convention, agreement or other formal arrangement
 - Joint body for transboundary water cooperation
 - Annual meetings
 - Annual exchange of data and information
 - Adoption of joint/co-ordinated water management plan, or joint objectives
- Two components necessary for indicator value
 - Transboundary River and lake basins
 - Transboundary aquifers

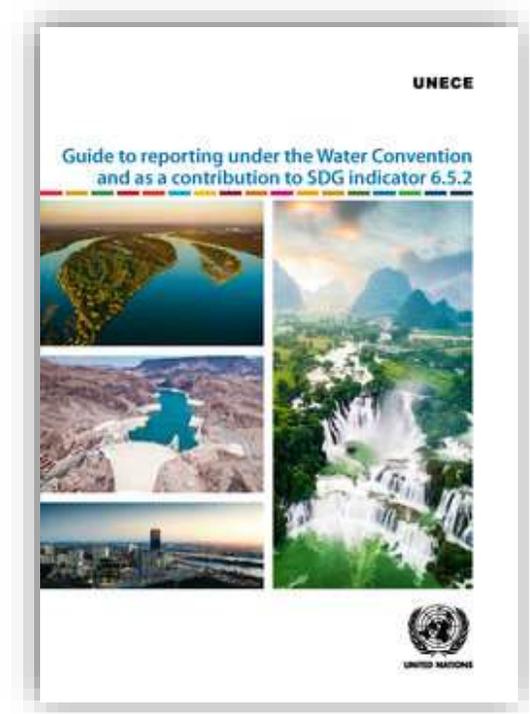
Guidance documents for national reports on SDG indicator 6.5.2



Template for the
2nd reporting exercise



Step-by-step methodology
for the calculation of the
value of SDG indicator
6.5.2 '2020 version'



Guide to reporting under
the Water Convention and
as contribution to SDG
indicator 6.5.2



SDG 6.5.2 Reporting process

- UNECE and UNESCO as co-custodian agencies
 - Collect information on indicator 6.5.2 **every 3 years** (as for other SDG6 indicators)
 - Ministers responsible for transboundary water officially addressed
- First data collection 2017 => second exercise in 2020 => third in 2023
- After the submission of the Reports UNECE and UNESCO **reviewed and analysed** the reports and supported countries to improve the quality of the reports so to ensure the accuracy of calculation of the indicator and comparability of data
 - ⇒ Extensive exchanges with Member States for clarification process
 - UNECE: river and lake basins
 - UNESCO: aquifers
- Every year in February – co-custodians submit national data updates to the UN Statistics Division



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Results of the 2nd reporting in 2020 on SDG 6.5.2

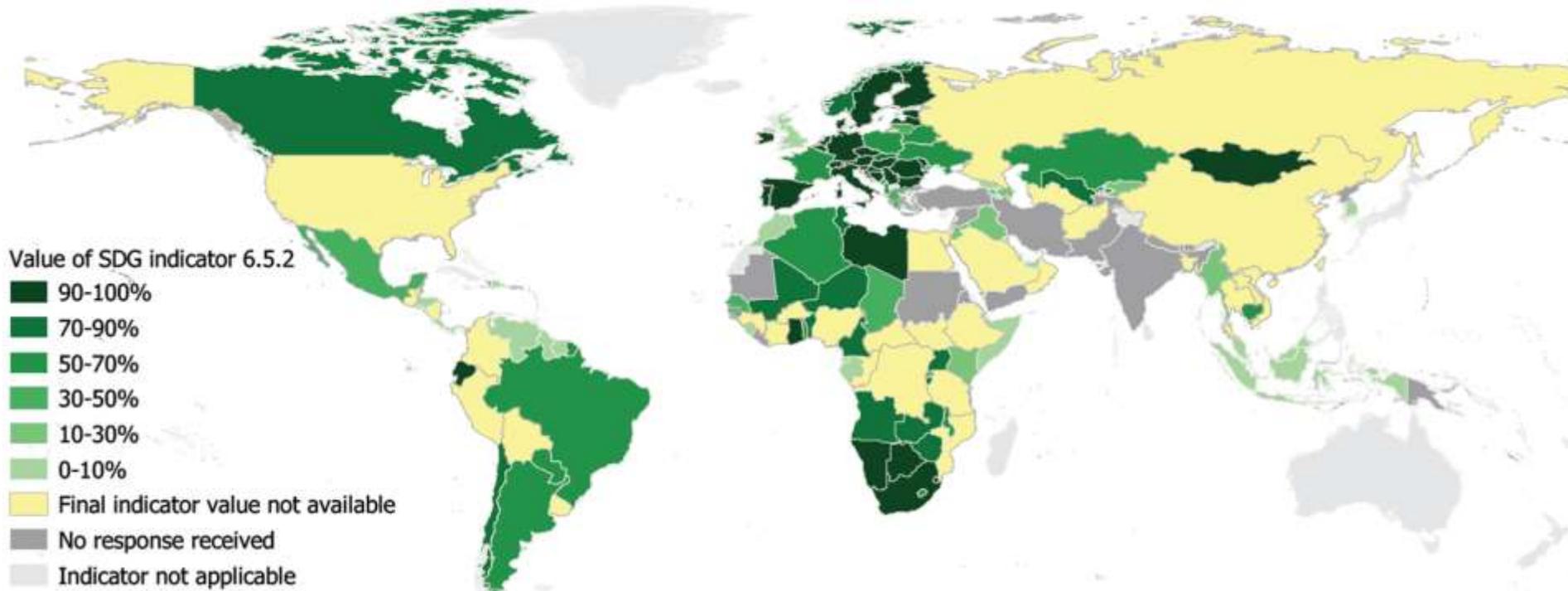
High levels of engagement

⇒ In 2020: **129** out of 153 countries submitted reports

However,

⇒ Only **24 countries** report **all** transboundary waters covered by **operational arrangements**

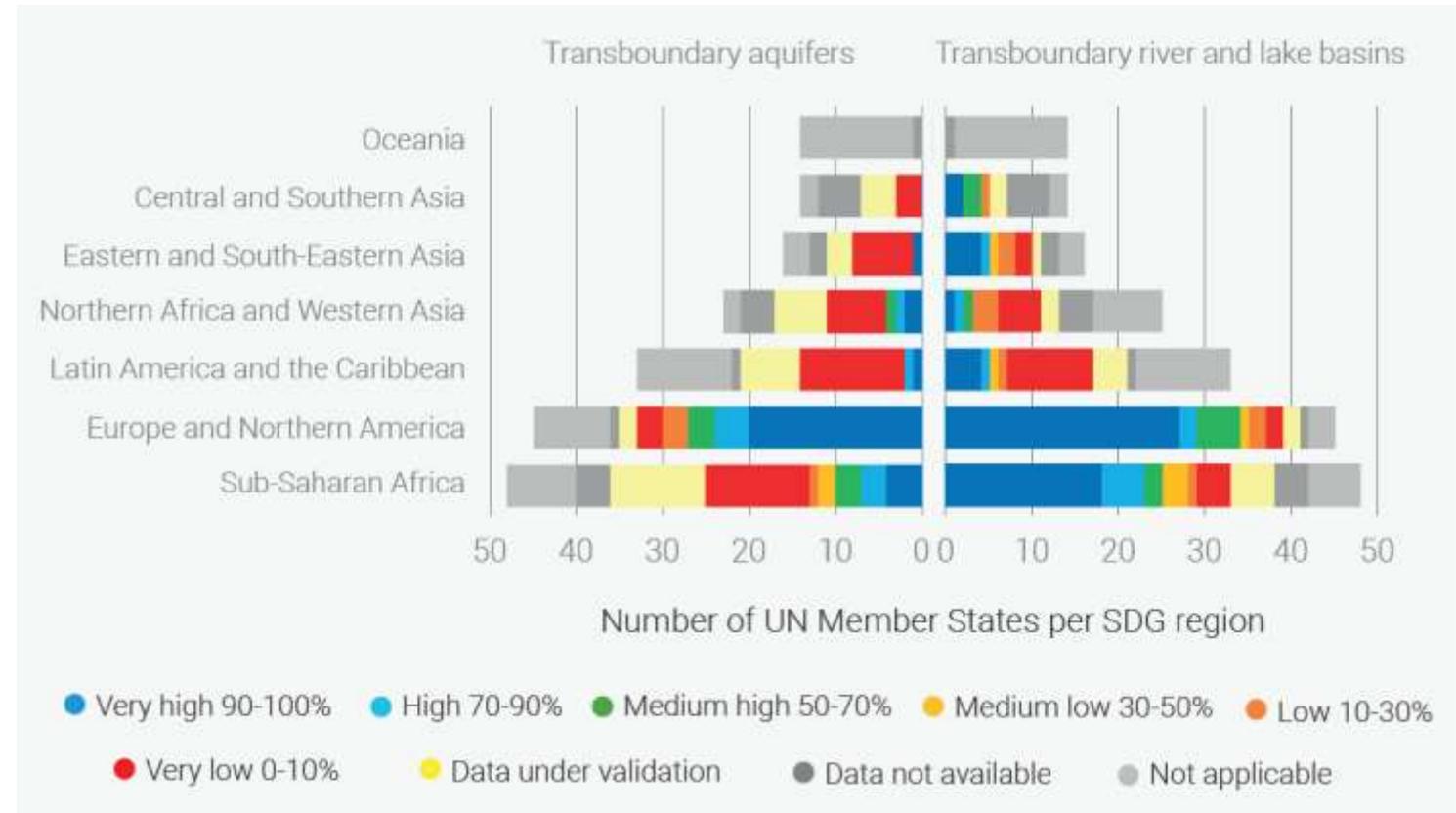
⇒ additional **22 countries** with **>70%** and **<100%**



Results of the 2nd reporting in 2020 on SDG 6.5.2 – 2



- Europe, North America and Sub-Saharan Africa show greatest levels of **progress**
- In Latin America and Asia, much more progress is needed for water cooperation
- At least **128 basins** reported **lack agreements**
- Insufficient knowledge on **groundwater** systems, despite an unprecedented opportunity for countries to consider their transboundary aquifers

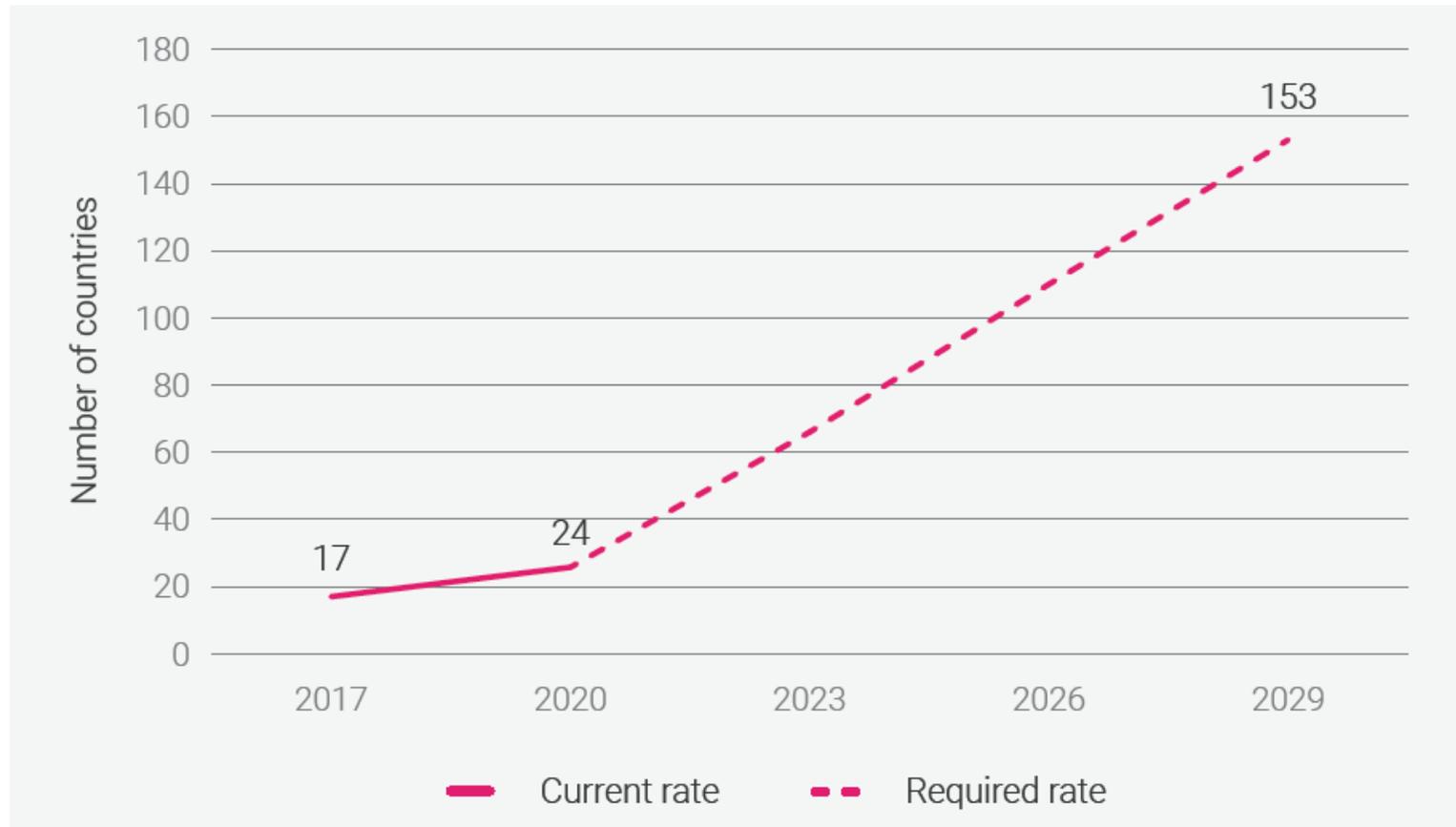




Results of the 2nd reporting in 2020 on SDG 6.5.2 – 3

- **Acceleration**

⇒ Building on the impetus offered by SDG 6.5.2 reporting process





Value and uptake of reporting on SDG6.5.2

National level

- Preparing the report with a consultative approach helps **raising attention and support** on the topic

Transboundary level

- Consultation on relations with riparians helps developing a **common understanding of challenges and opportunities** that can become a basis for discussion for next steps with riparians or basin organisations

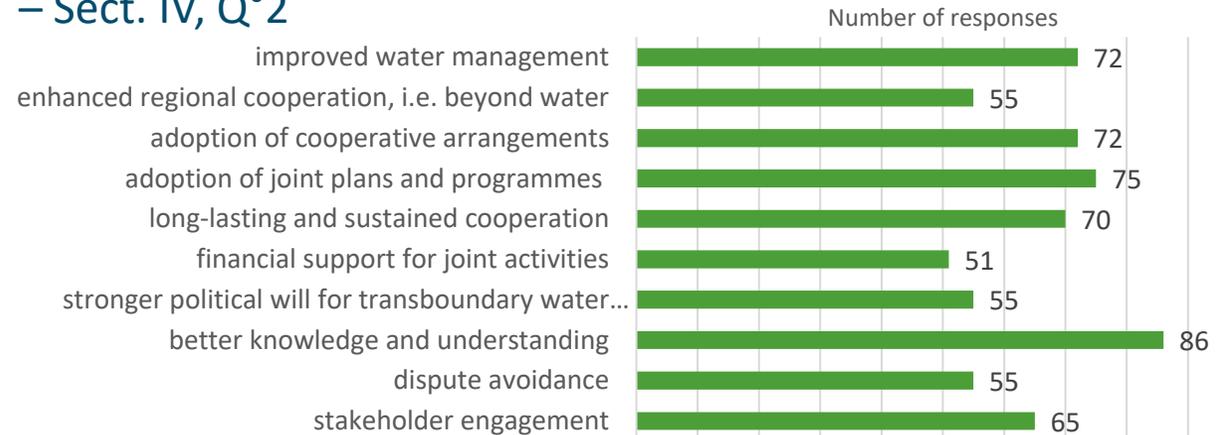
Regional and global levels

- 2nd Progress report on SDG 6.5.2
- SDGs Reports feed into political dialogue at regional and global level (i.e. HLPF, UN Statistical Division) and towards the 2023 United Nations Water Conference

Main challenges faced by countries in cooperating on transboundary waters – Sect. IV, Q°1



Main achievements in cooperating on transboundary waters – Sect. IV, Q°2

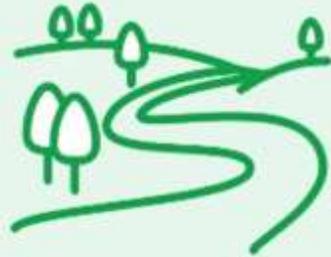


Key areas to accelerate progress on transboundary water cooperation – 1



Multiple benefits of cooperation

include peace, regional integration, sustainable development and environmental protection



Address Data Gaps



There has been **strong country engagement** in the monitoring exercise, but data remains a challenge, particularly for transboundary aquifers and countries with no **SDG indicator value**



Upscale capacity development

Capacity building is important for negotiating and implementing operational arrangements

Key areas to accelerate progress on transboundary water cooperation – 2



Strengthen legal frameworks



The water conventions and the draft articles on transboundary aquifers offer a solid basis upon which to **revise or negotiate** new arrangements

Leveraging and mobilizing expertise

There is a need to **upscale and coordinate** the activities of international organizations to **provide targeted support** to countries



Building political will

addressing **structural barriers** and finding **innovative financing mechanisms** is needed to address current financing shortfalls



SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework



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Next steps: countries, custodian agencies and partners



Preparing for the next data drive in 2023

- Discuss the coordination of the reports among neighbouring countries
- Reduce the data gaps, especially regarding aquifer
- Global, regional webinars or workshops and targeted support provided by co-custodian agencies

Upcoming events

- 9th Meeting of the Parties of the Water Convention 29 Sept-1 Oct 2021
- UNESCO ISARM conference 6-8 December 2021
- World Water Day 2022 on groundwater
- 9th World Water Forum March 2022
- 2023 UN Conference on the Water Action Decade

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Thanks for listening!

6.5.2 Help Desk

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2nd Progress report on SDG 6.5.2

www.unwater.org/publications/progress-on-transboundary-water-cooperation-652-2021-update

Further information

UNECE: www.unece.org/water/transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting.html

UNESCO: https://en.unesco.org/themes/water-security/transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting

UN-WATER SDG6 monitoring: www.sdg6monitoring.org/indicator-652

UN-WATER SDG6 data portal: www.sdg6data.org/indicator/6.5.2



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