



Progress on Transboundary Water Cooperation

GLOBAL STATUS OF
SDG INDICATOR 6.5.2
AND ACCELERATION NEEDS

2021



UN WATER

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SDG Indicator 6.5.2

2nd monitoring exercise 2020-2021

Results and key messages



30 September 2021

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UN WATER

INTEGRATED MONITORING
INITIATIVE FOR SDG 6

SDG INDICATOR 6.5.2
TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION



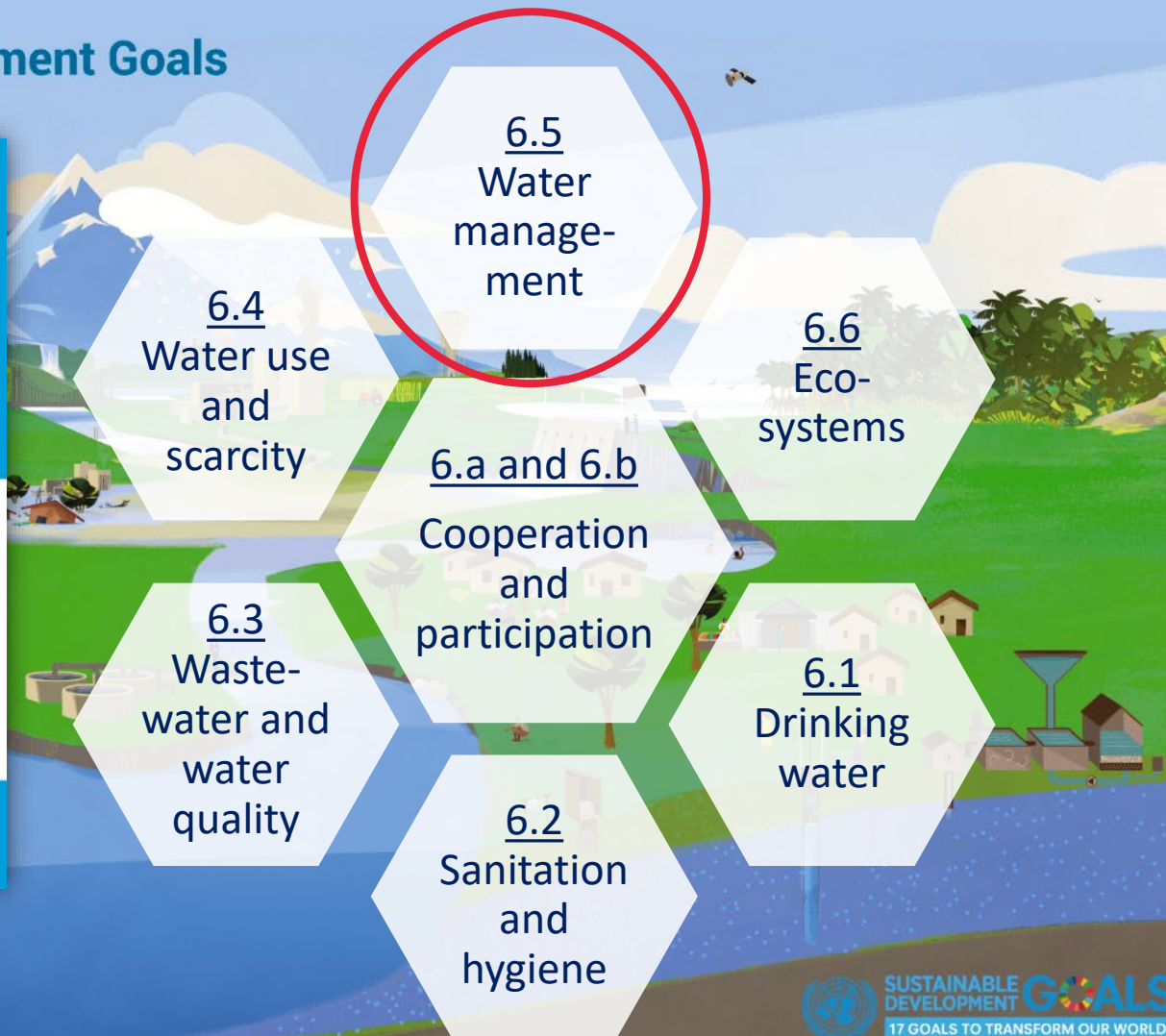
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SDG6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

The Water Cycle in the Sustainable Development Goals



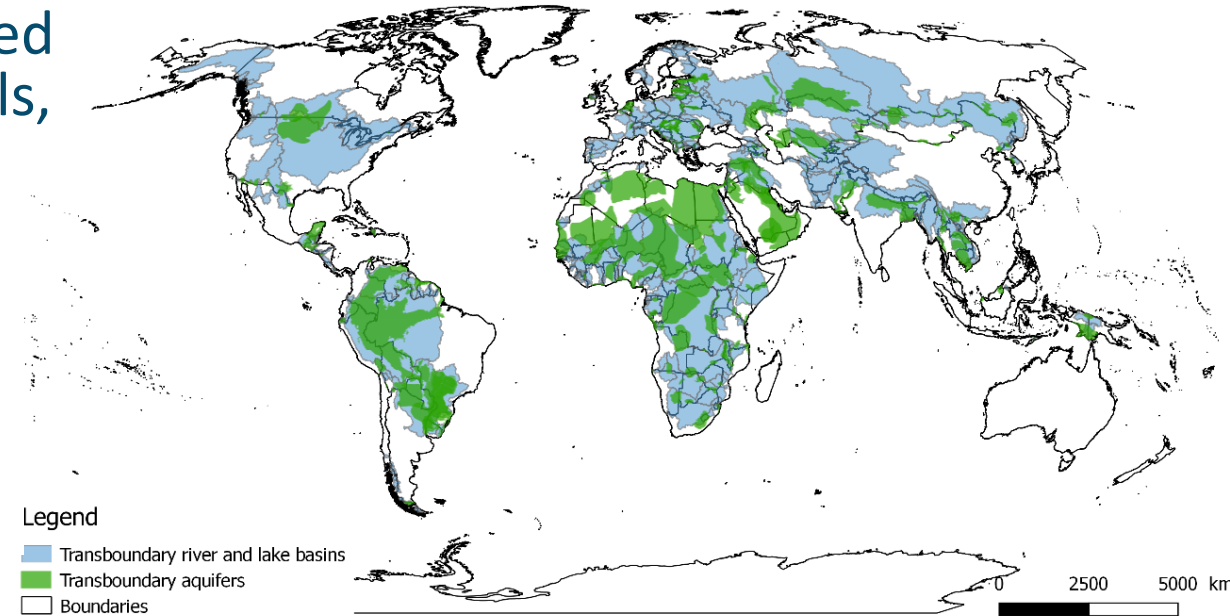
6.1.1	Safely managed drinking water services (WHO, UNICEF)
6.2.1	Safely managed sanitation services and hygiene (WHO, UNICEF)
6.3.1	Wastewater safely treated (WHO, UN-Habitat, UNSD)
6.3.2	Good ambient water quality (UNEP)
6.4.1	Water use efficiency (FAO)
6.4.2	Level of water stress (FAO)
6.5.1	Integrated 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**

Results of the 2nd reporting in 2020 on SDG 6.5.2



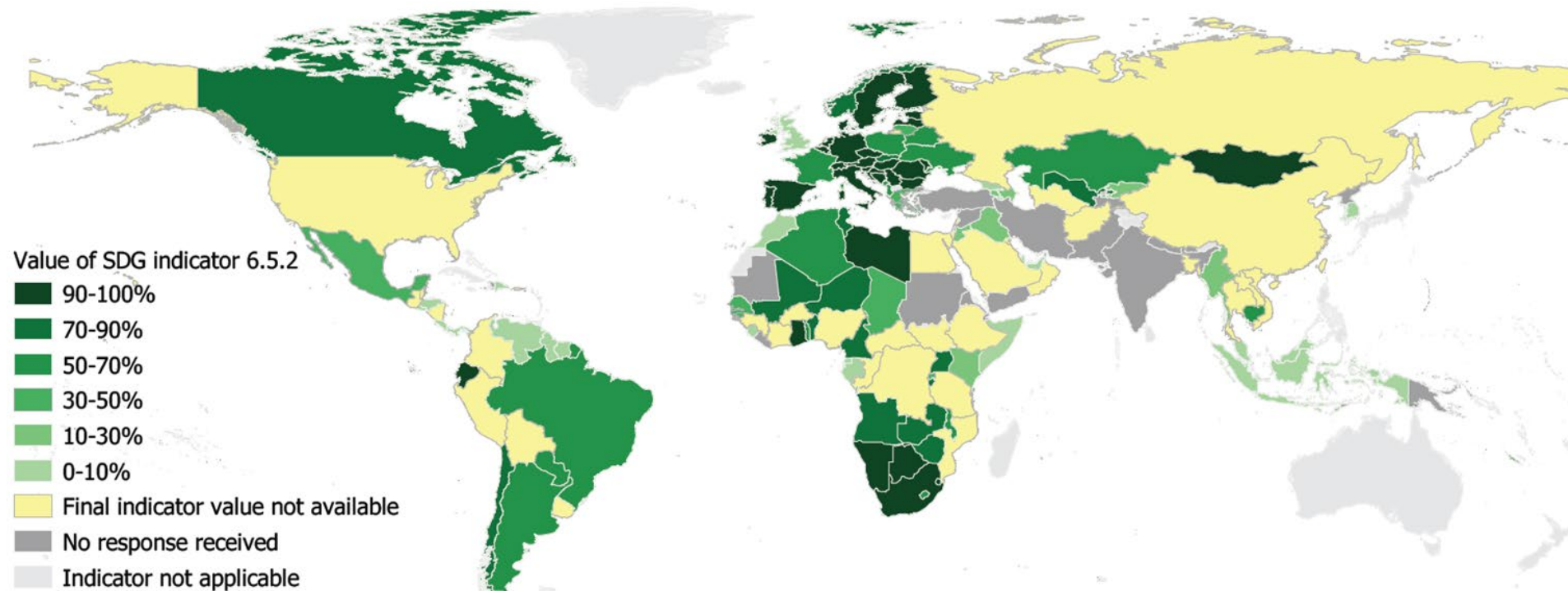
High levels of engagement

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

However,

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

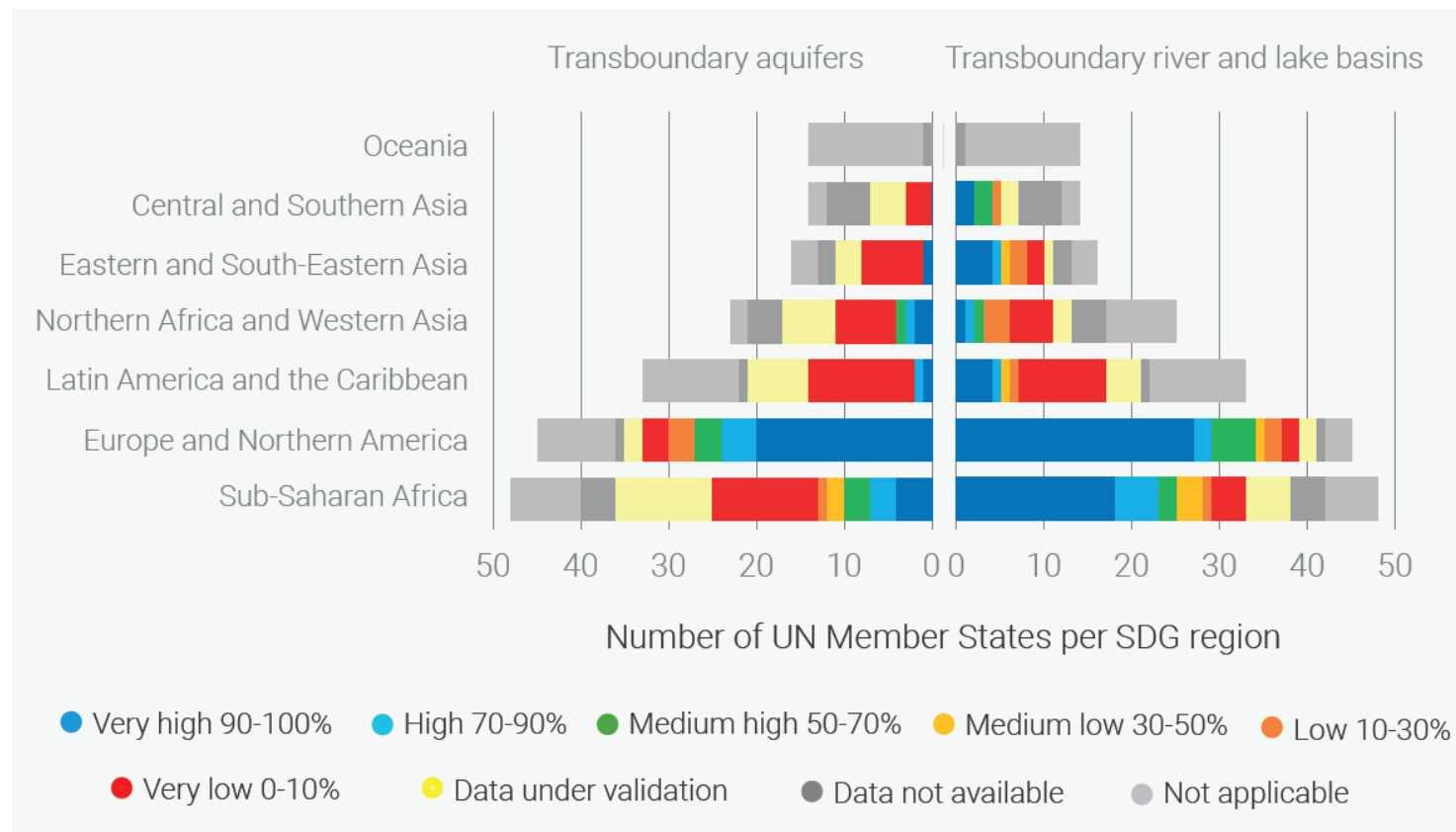
⇒ Additional **22** countries with **>70%** and **<100%**



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



- Europe, North America and Sub-Saharan Africa show greatest levels of **cooperation**
 - In Latin America and Asia, much more progress is needed for water cooperation
 - At least **128 reported basins lack agreements**
 - Insufficient knowledge on **groundwater** systems, despite an unprecedented opportunity for countries to consider their transboundary aquifers
 - **Acceleration**
- ⇒ Building on the impetus offered by SDG 6.5.2 reporting process



Recent developments in the negotiation of arrangements for transboundary water cooperation (2017–2020)



- Countries are continuing to negotiate, adopt and develop arrangements for transboundary water cooperation
- Countries noted that they were in the process of negotiating or updating agreements

Since the 1st reporting exercise:

new arrangements signed

Stampriet Transboundary Aquifer System; Loes; Aral Sea

Aral Sea

Ganges-Brahmaputra, Irrawaddy, Mekong and Salween; Danube; Struma; Buzi

Mekong

arrangements that entered into force

Ural; Dniester

Guarani Aquifer



2017



2018



2019



2020



Value and uptake of reporting on SDG6.5.2



National level

- Preparing the report with a consultative approach helps **raise awareness and increase support** for the topic

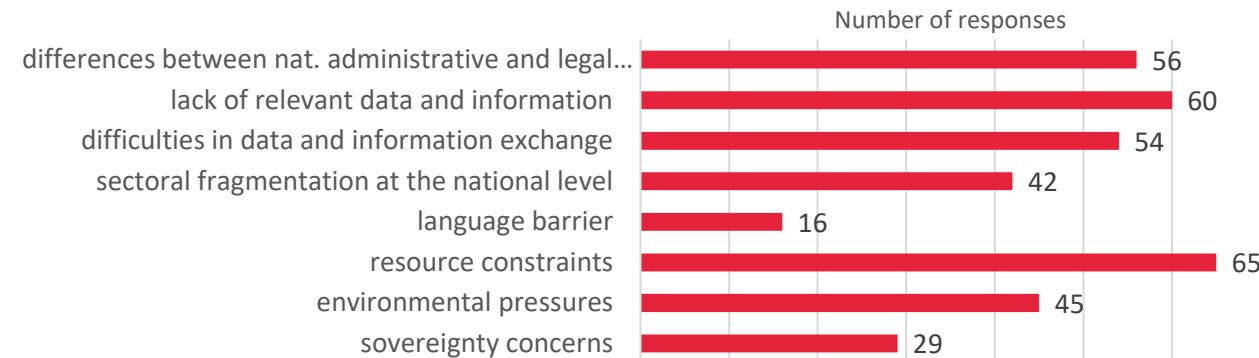
Transboundary level

- Consultations with riparians help to develop a **common understanding of the challenges and opportunities** for further discussion of next steps with riparians and basin organisations

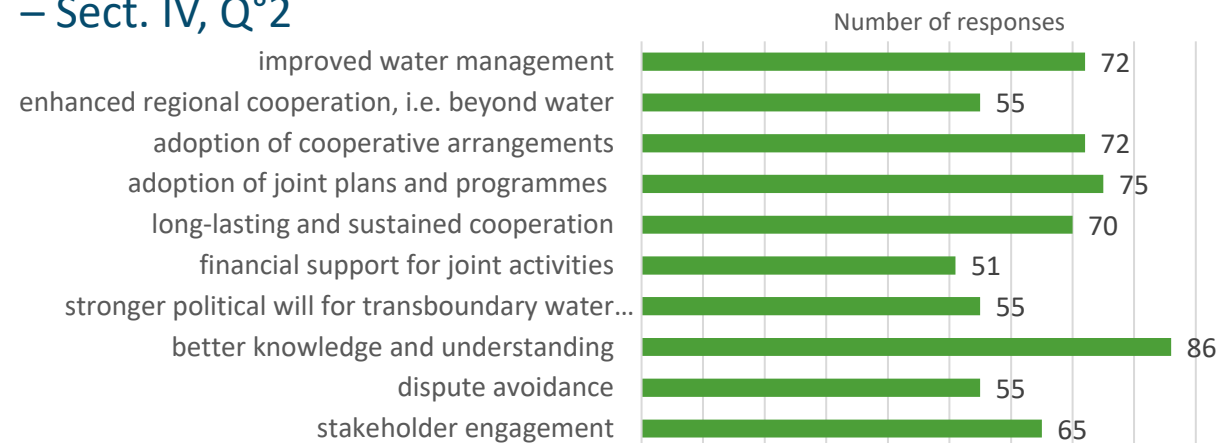
Regional and global levels

- Second 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



Upscale capacity development

Capacity building is important for negotiating and implementing operational arrangements

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**

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

Suggested future work on reporting within UNECE in collaboration with UNESCO



- **2023:** 3rd reporting exercise for SDG 6.5.2 and the Water Convention for Parties
 - data collection, validation,
 - analysis, preparation of global reports on indicator 6.5.2 and on the implementation of the Convention
- Development of an online reporting system
 - Preparation of related training materials
- Global, regional webinars or workshops and targeted support provided by co-custodian agencies
 - Further improve the response rate
 - Enhance the quality of the reports received – additional countries with indicator values available
 - Improve coordination of the report at river, lake or basin level
 - Share experience on how to use the data from the reporting
- Reinforce coordination with partners
 - assist countries in designing road maps and committing to concrete actions to foster transboundary cooperation

=> Contribute to SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework and to the 2023 UN Conference on the International Decade for Action

Upcoming events

- 📍 UNESCO Transboundary Aquifers conference
6-8 December 2021
- 📍 World Water Day 2022 on
Groundwater: making visible the invisible
- 📍 9th World Water Forum March 2022
- 📍 2023 UN Conference on the Water Action Decade



Thanks for listening!

6.5.2 Help Desk

transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting@un.org

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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

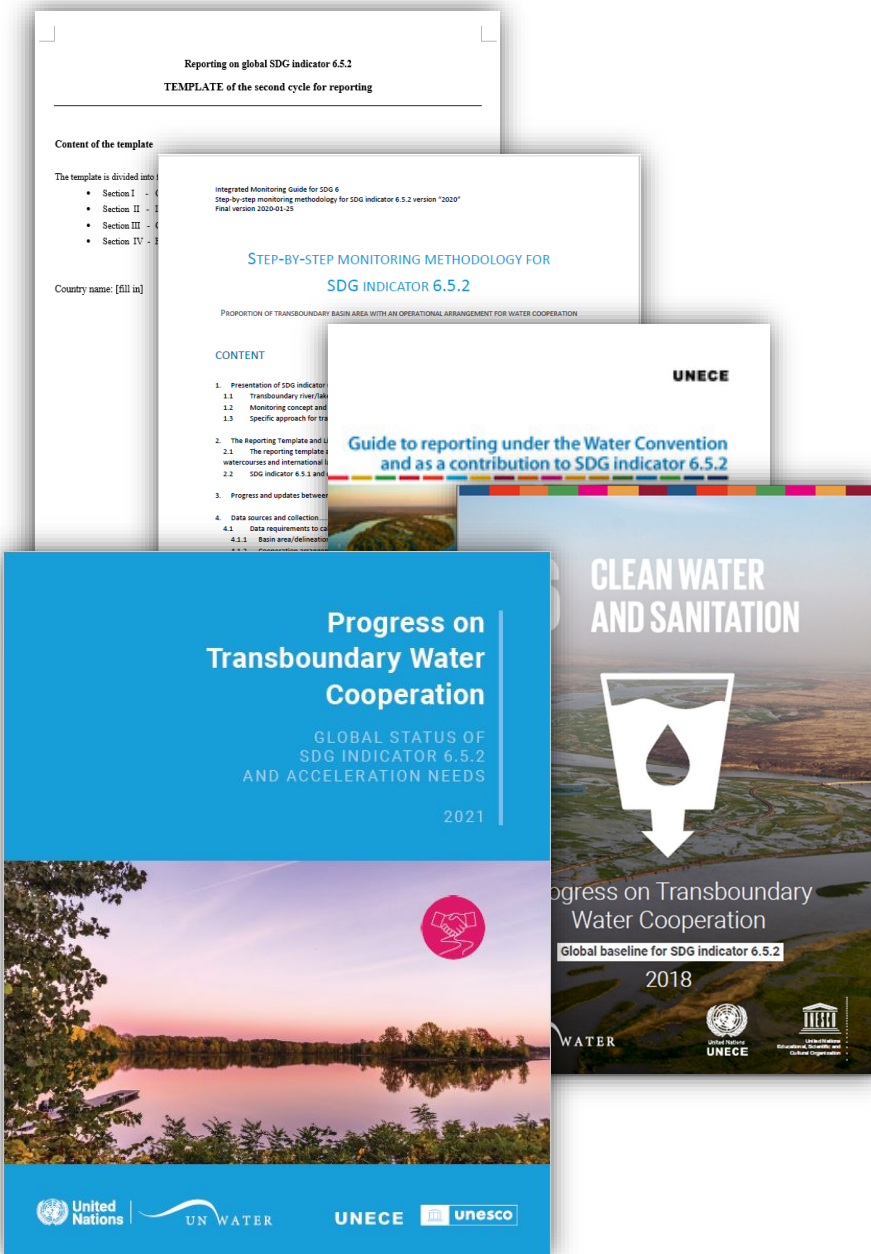
UNECE:

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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