



European Union Water Initiative National Policy Dialogue

**Initial results of the global reporting on SDG 6.5.2
on transboundary water cooperation**

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Background on SDG indicator 6.5.2



- **Indicator 6.5.2:** Proportion of **transboundary basin area** with an **operational arrangement** for water cooperation.
- Co-custodian agencies: UNECE and UNESCO
- SDG indicator framework adopted by the General Assembly in 2017
- **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/coordinated water management plan, or joint objectives



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: **129** 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

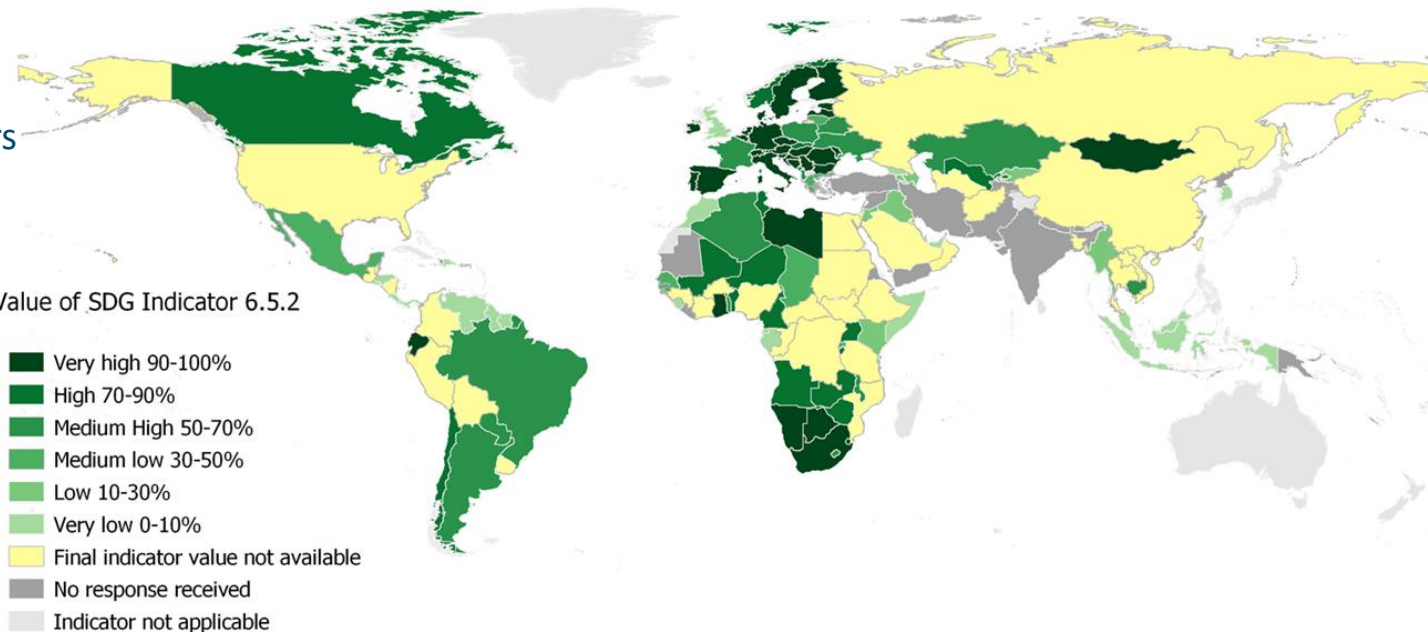
Not on track

- ⇒ 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

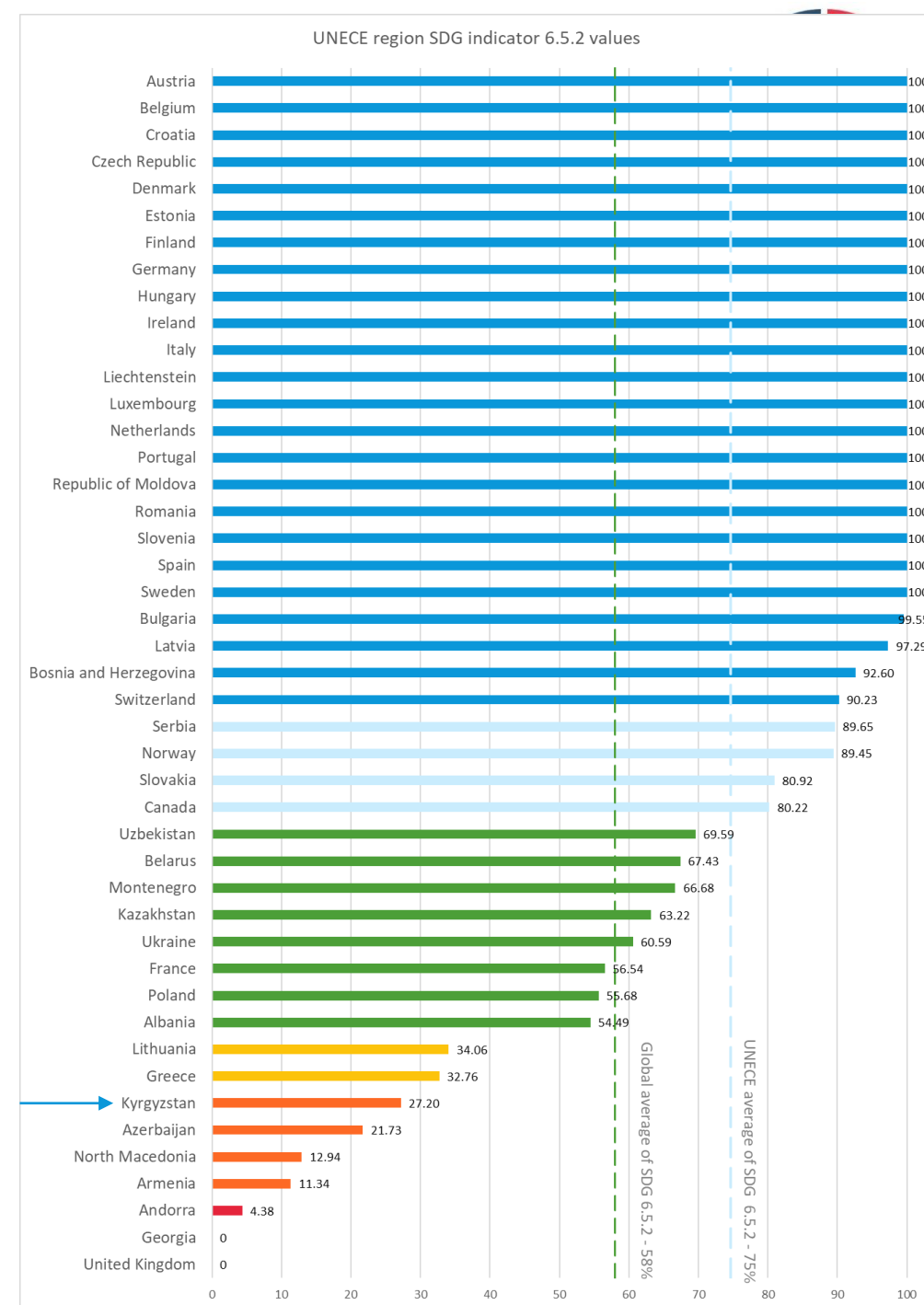
SDG Indicator 6.5.2 values and responses received as of 1 April 2021



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

UNECE region

- 1st reporting exercise – 2017 – Indicator 6.5.2 available for **29 countries** of the region (transboundary river & lake basins and aquifers),
 - **39 countries** provided accurate data for transboundary river & lake basins, and
 - **29 countries** for transboundary aquifers
- 2nd reporting exercise – 2020 – Indicator 6.5.2 available for **45 countries** of the region (transboundary river & lake basins and aquifers),
 - **46 countries** provided accurate data for transboundary river & lake basins, and
 - **45 countries** for transboundary aquifers
- Reporting enhanced in 2020 through
 - Stronger interaction with custodian agencies (advice, questions, draft reports)
 - High quality of reports
 - Coordination with riparians
 - Inclusion of aquifers: challenging but promising
- Enhance future reporting through
 - Improve **coordination and compatibility of national reports** among countries sharing transboundary aquifers, rivers and lakes
 - **Encourage the setting of national and basin targets** as a way to monitor progress on 6.5.2





Initial results of the 2nd reporting in 2020 on SDG6.5.2

Focus on Central Asia

- **5 out of 6** countries sharing water resources responded in 2020
 - 1 additional country, that did not respond in 2017, responded in 2020
- Indicator 6.5.2 overall value available for 3 countries in 2020, vs 1 country in 2017
- **None of the countries** have **all transboundary waters** covered by operational arrangements
 - Only 2 countries with all river and lake basins covered by operational arrangements
 - Lack of cooperation and of data available on aquifers

	Overall SDG indicator 6.5.2 value, in %	rivers and lakes component value, in %	aquifers component value, in %
Afghanistan	NA	51.66	NA
Kazakhstan	63.22	100	0
Kyrgyzstan	27.20	29.91	0
Tajikistan	No response	No response	No response
Turkmenistan	NA	66.02	NA
Uzbekistan	69.59	100	0

Value and uptake of reporting on transboundary water cooperation



National level

- Preparing the report with a consultative approach (nationally and with riparians) helps **raising attention and support** on the topic and incentive for countries to **improve cooperation**
- Interactions between co-custodians and countries, help identify data (gaps), improve knowledge and support cooperation

Transboundary level

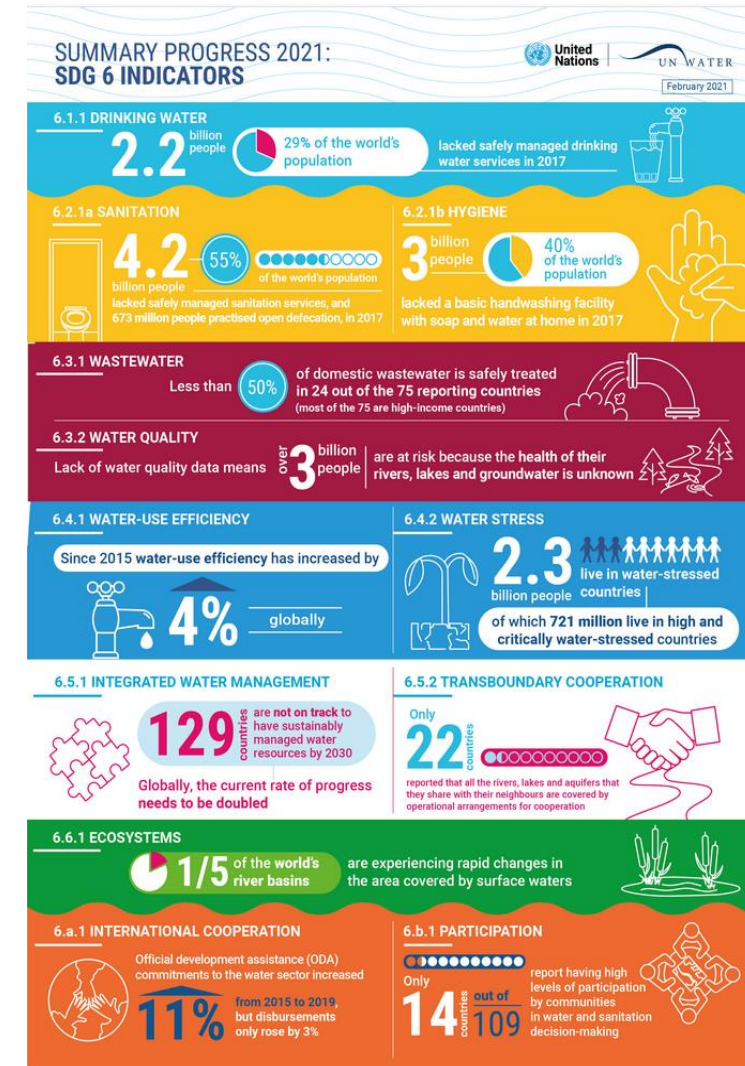
- Consultation on relations with riparians helps developing a **common understanding of challenges and opportunities** that can become a basis for discussion for next steps with riparians or basin organisations

Regional and global levels

- 2nd Progress report on SDG 6.5.2
- 2nd Progress report on the implementation of the Water Convention
- SDGs Reports feed into political dialogue at regional and global level (i.e. HLPF, UN Statistical Division)

Acceleration needed

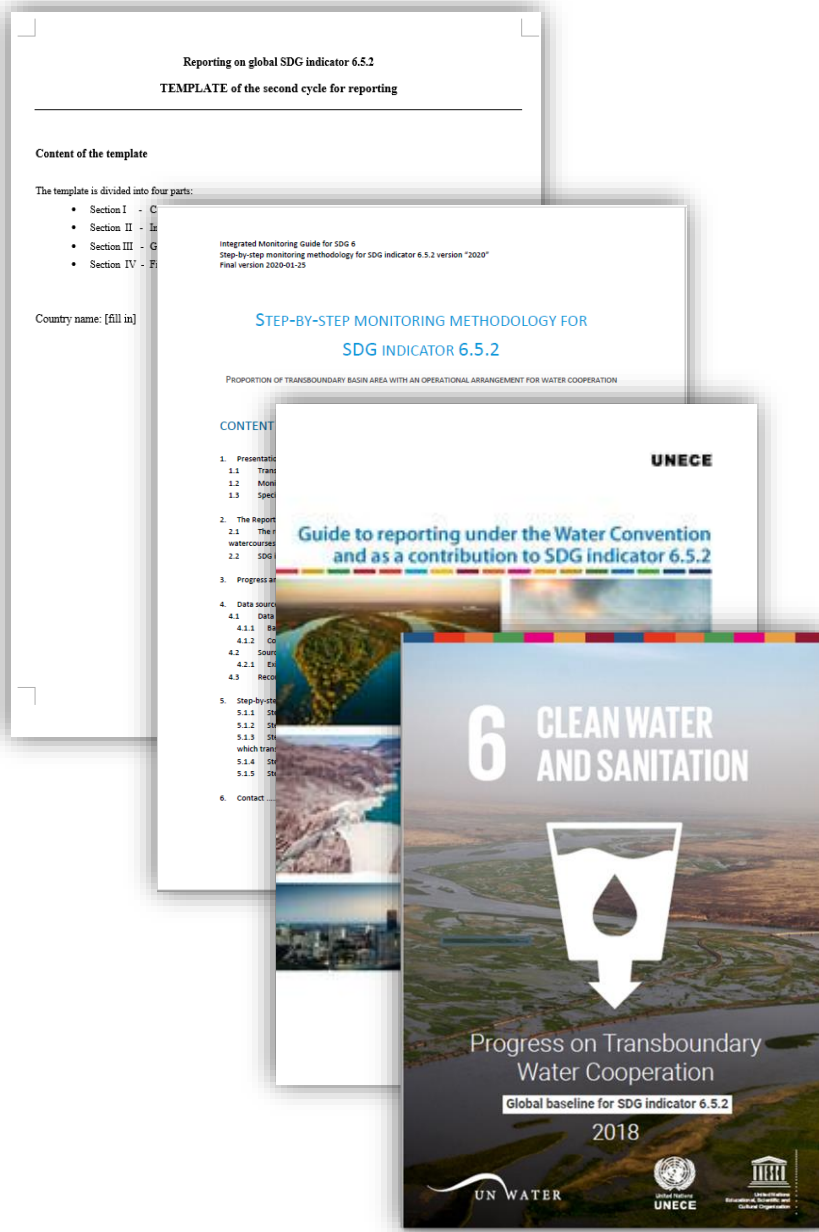
- ⇒ Reporting triggered follow-up actions in countries to improve cooperation
- ⇒ Need for capacity development, financing, data and information etc. and decisive political action is indispensable to achieve the target
- ⇒ Need for legal and intergovernmental frameworks



UNECE



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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Thank you!

6.5.2 Help Desk

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Further information

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

UNESCO: <https://en.unesco.org/themes/water-security/hydrology>

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

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