

GLOBAL AND REGIONAL EXPERIENCE FROM PAST TWO REPORTING EXERCISES ON SDG INDICATOR 6.5.2 AND ACCELERATION NEEDS

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**Workshop on Strengthening Legal and Institutional Arrangements for
Transboundary Water Cooperation and Data and Information Exchange
Beirut, Lebanon, 30-31 May 2023**





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SDG INDICATOR 6.5.2
TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION

Overview

- Global experience from 2017 and 2020
- Acceleration needs



Global experience: Overall 6.5.2 value



- Increase in response received and high level of engagement

129 out of 153 countries submitted reports in 2020 (108 in 2017)

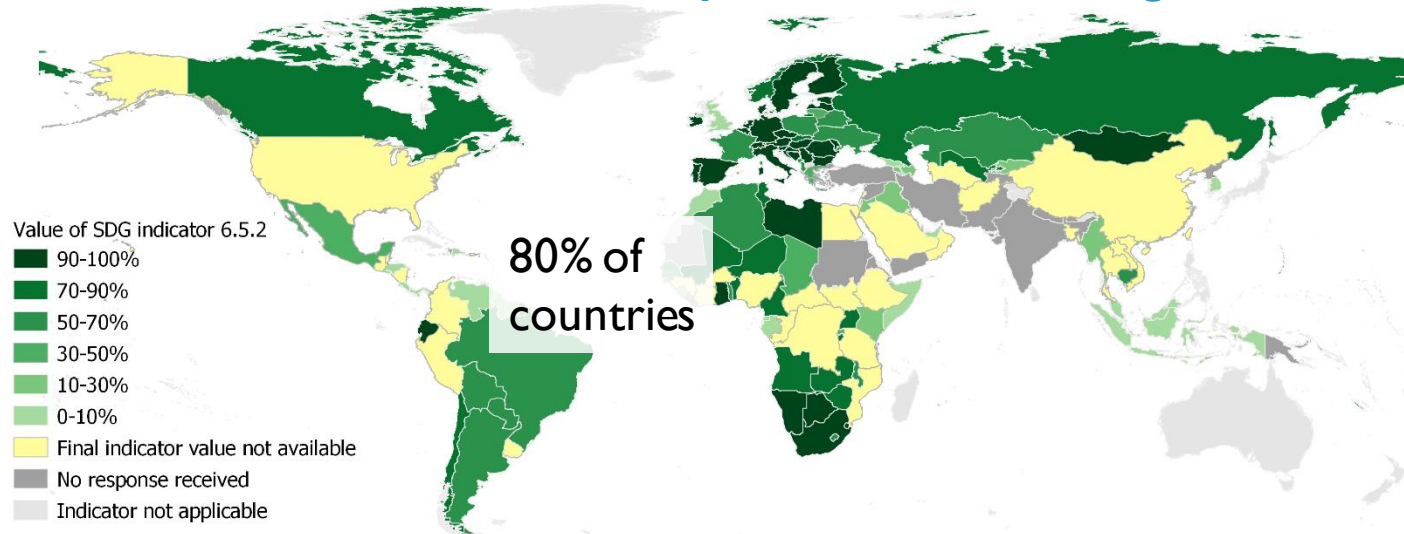
58 % average national percentage of transboundary basins covered by operational arrangements (103 out of 153 countries in 2022)

- Not on track

Only 24 countries report **all** transboundary surface waters and groundwaters covered by **operational arrangements**. And 32 have 90 % or more of their transboundary waters covered.

Progress must be **accelerated** to ensure that all transboundary basins are covered by operational arrangements by 2030

SDG Indicator 6.5.2 values and responses received during the 2nd exercise



Global experience: Aquifer and river and lake basin components

- 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 surface basins lack agreements**

Insufficient knowledge on groundwater systems, **BUT an unprecedented opportunity for countries to consider their transboundary aquifers:**

- contacts between institutions and new data gathered at national level;
- gaps identified, allowing prioritization;
- additional research carried out

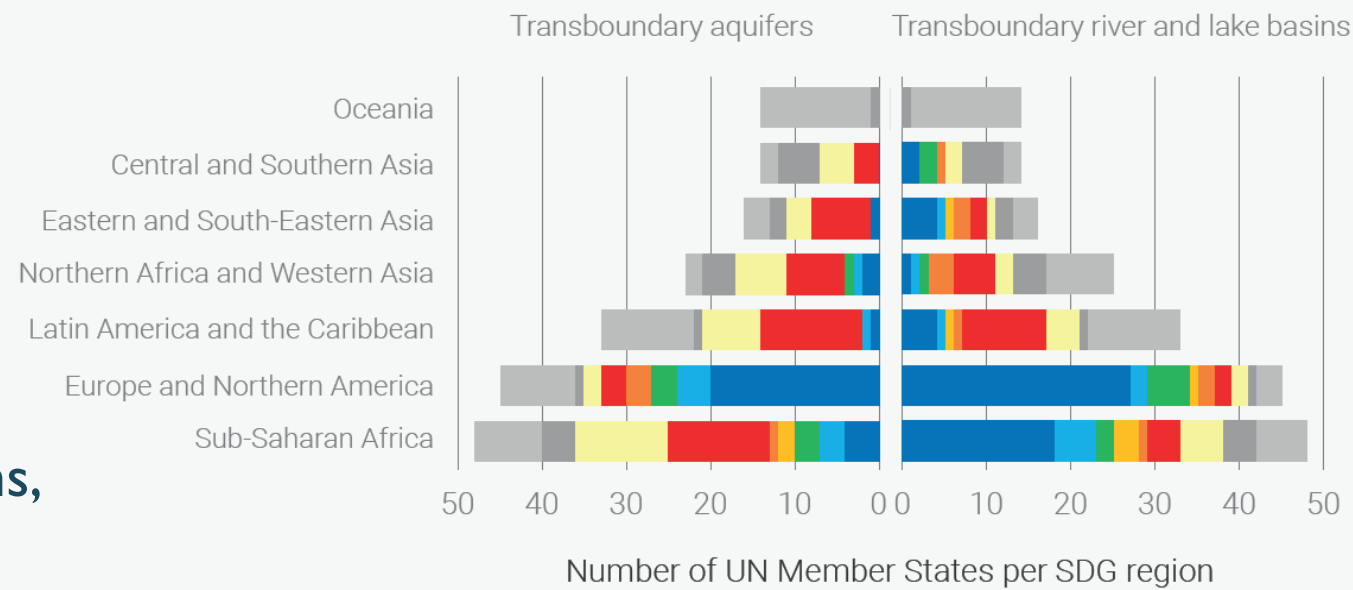
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- Very high 90-100%
- High 70-90%
- Medium high 50-70%
- Medium low 30-50%
- Low 10-30%
- Very low 0-10%
- Data under validation
- Data not available
- Not applicable

Positive impact

⇒ Reporting triggered **follow-up actions** in countries to **improve cooperation**



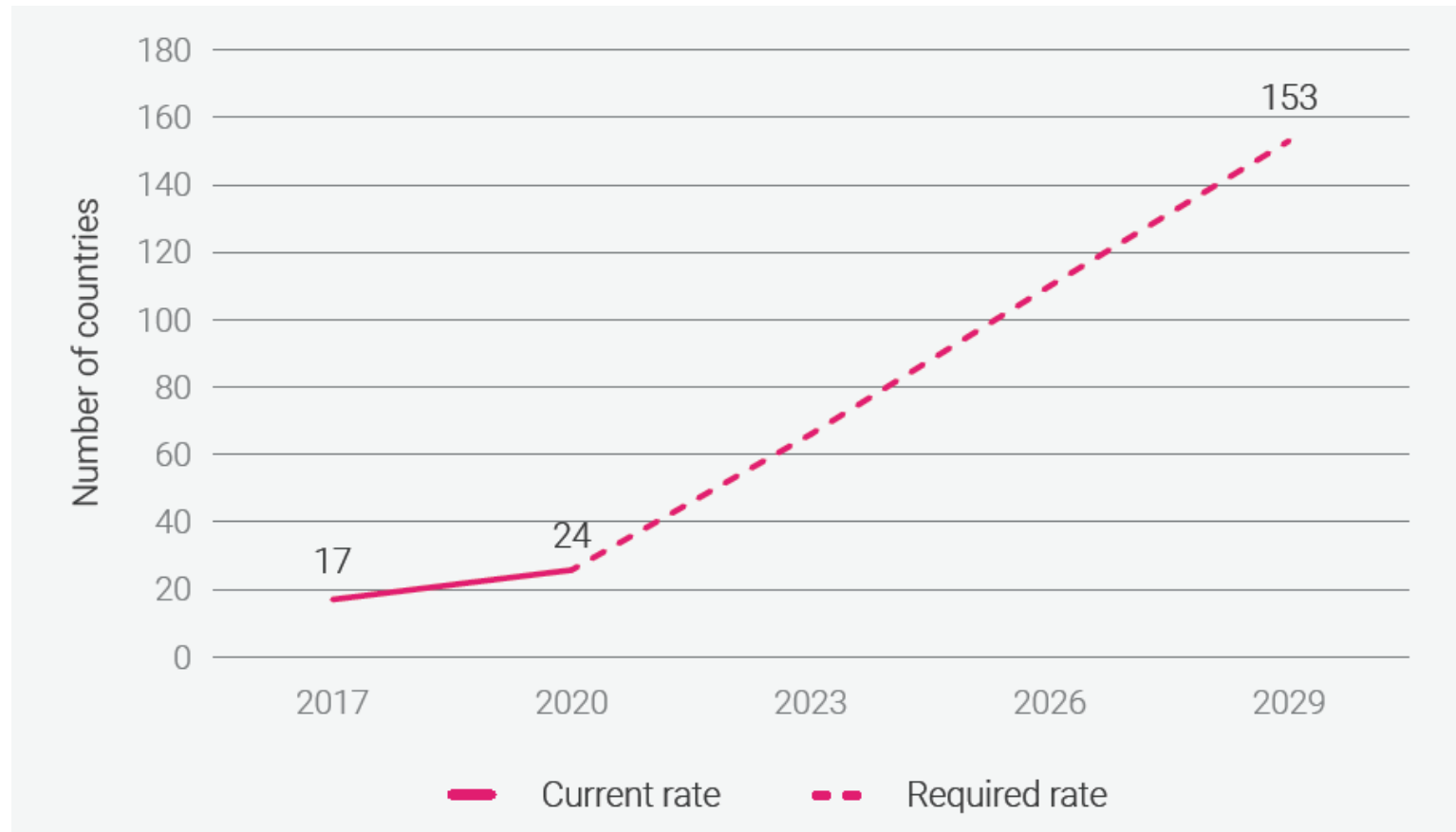
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- **Acceleration**

⇒ Building on the impetus offered by SDG 6.5.2 reporting process



Synergies between reporting and transboundary cooperation



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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**

SDG INDICATOR 6.5.2 TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION



Upscale capacity development

Capacity building is important for negotiating and implementing operational arrangements

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



Benefits of transboundary water cooperation for the overall sustainable development agenda

Multiple benefits of cooperation

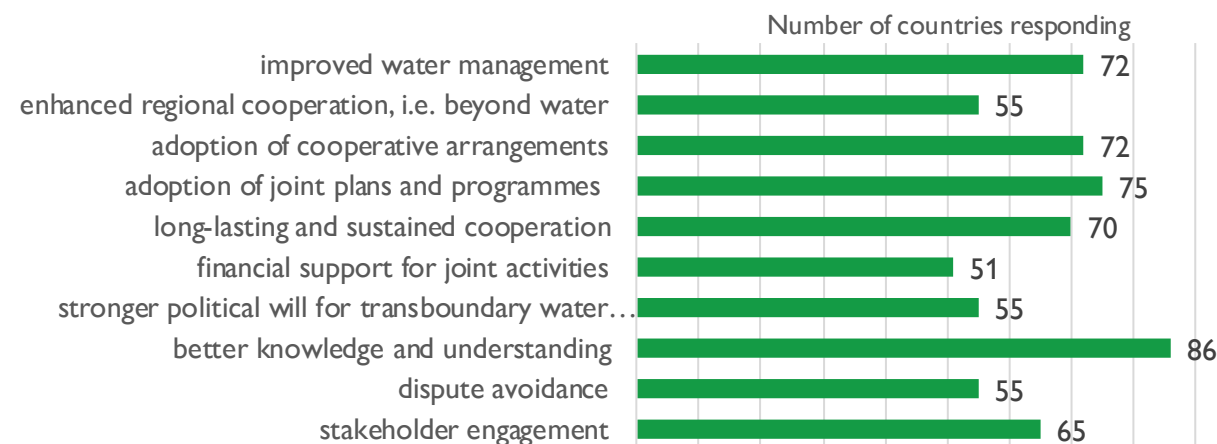
include peace, regional integration, sustainable development and environmental protection



The 6.5.2 reporting highlighted the key role of institutional arrangements for peace and conflict prevention:

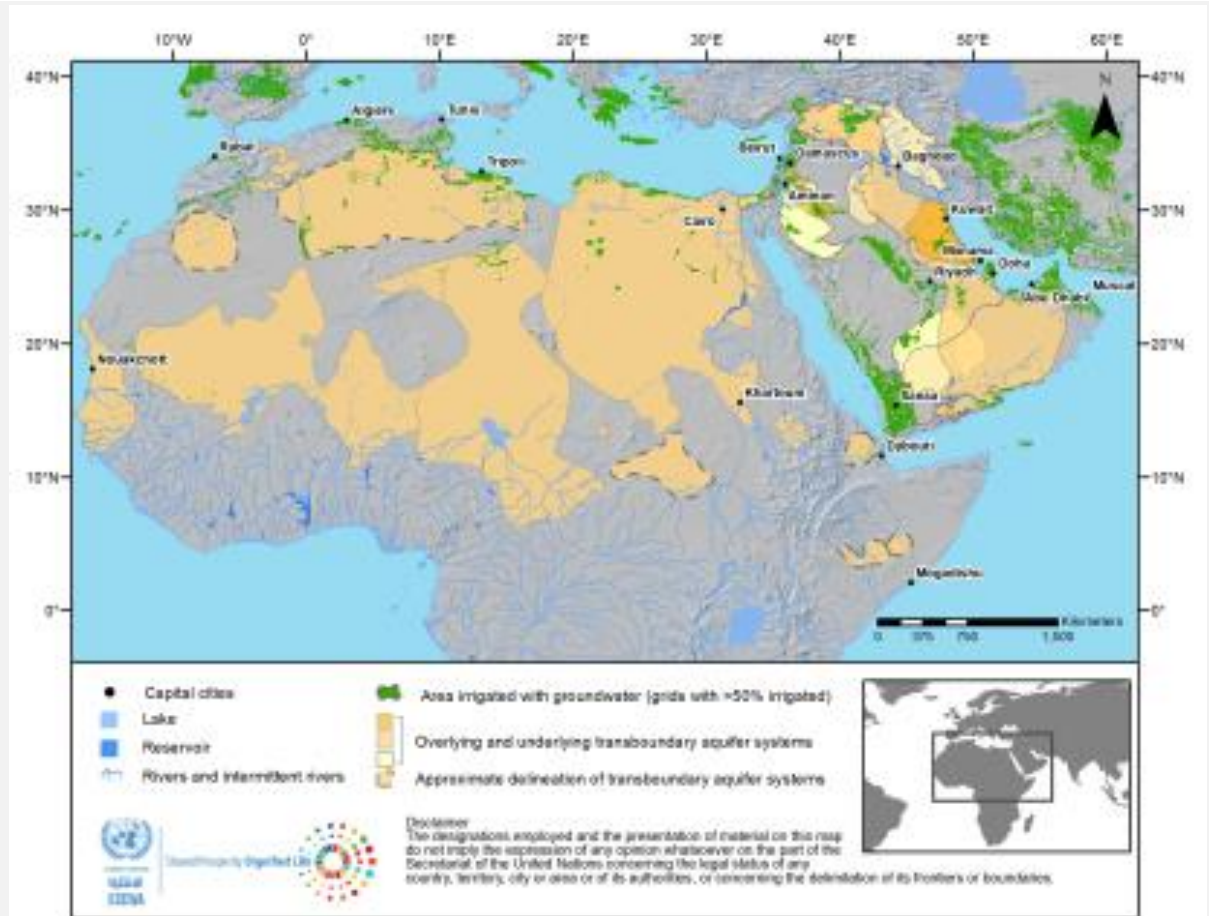
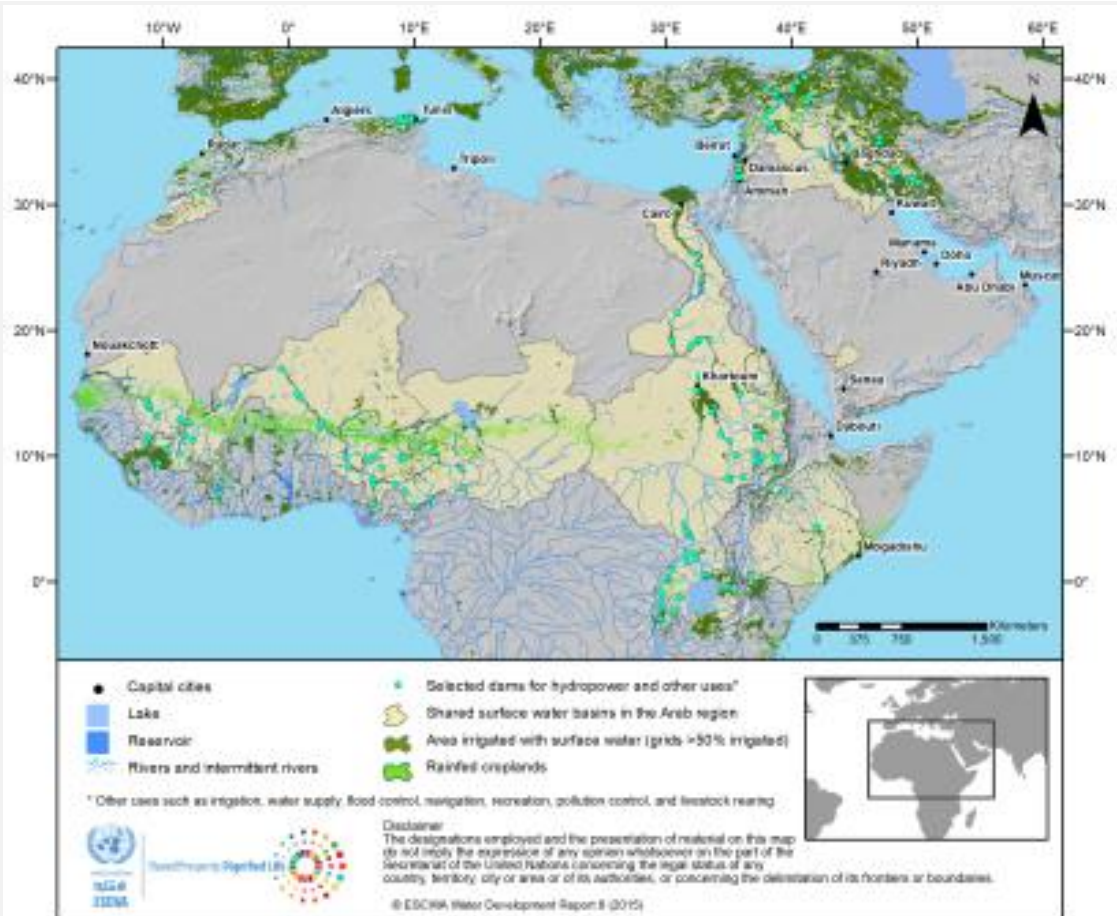
- dispute and conflict prevention is a subject of cooperation in water agreements or arrangement in 74% of responses
- settling of differences and conflicts is part of the joint body tasks and activities in 58% of responses

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



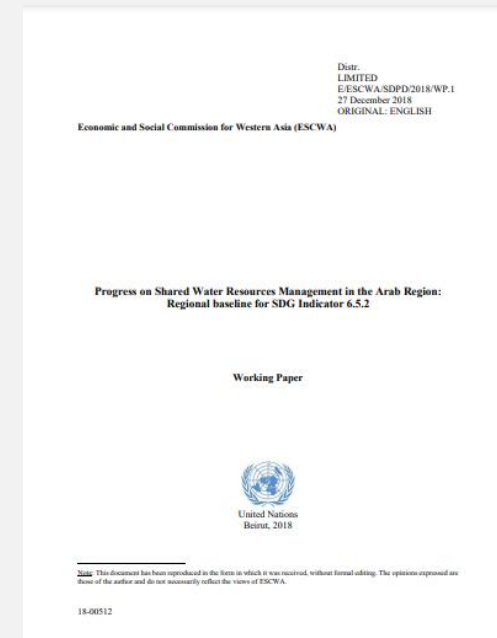
Transboundary water resources in the Arab region

In the Arab region, 21 countries, out of 22, share either transboundary river, lakes, or aquifers



Second Regional report for SDG indicator 6.5.2 on Transboundary Cooperation in Arab States

- Completed in Cooperation with UNECE and UNESCO
- Focuses on the need to accelerate progress for improving transboundary water cooperation in the Arab region.
- Helps to highlight the importance of cooperation and to address some of the data gaps previously identified.
- More Arab countries sharing transboundary basins submitted responses compared to 2017.
- On a positive note, not only the number of reporting countries has increased, but also the reporting quality has enhanced.

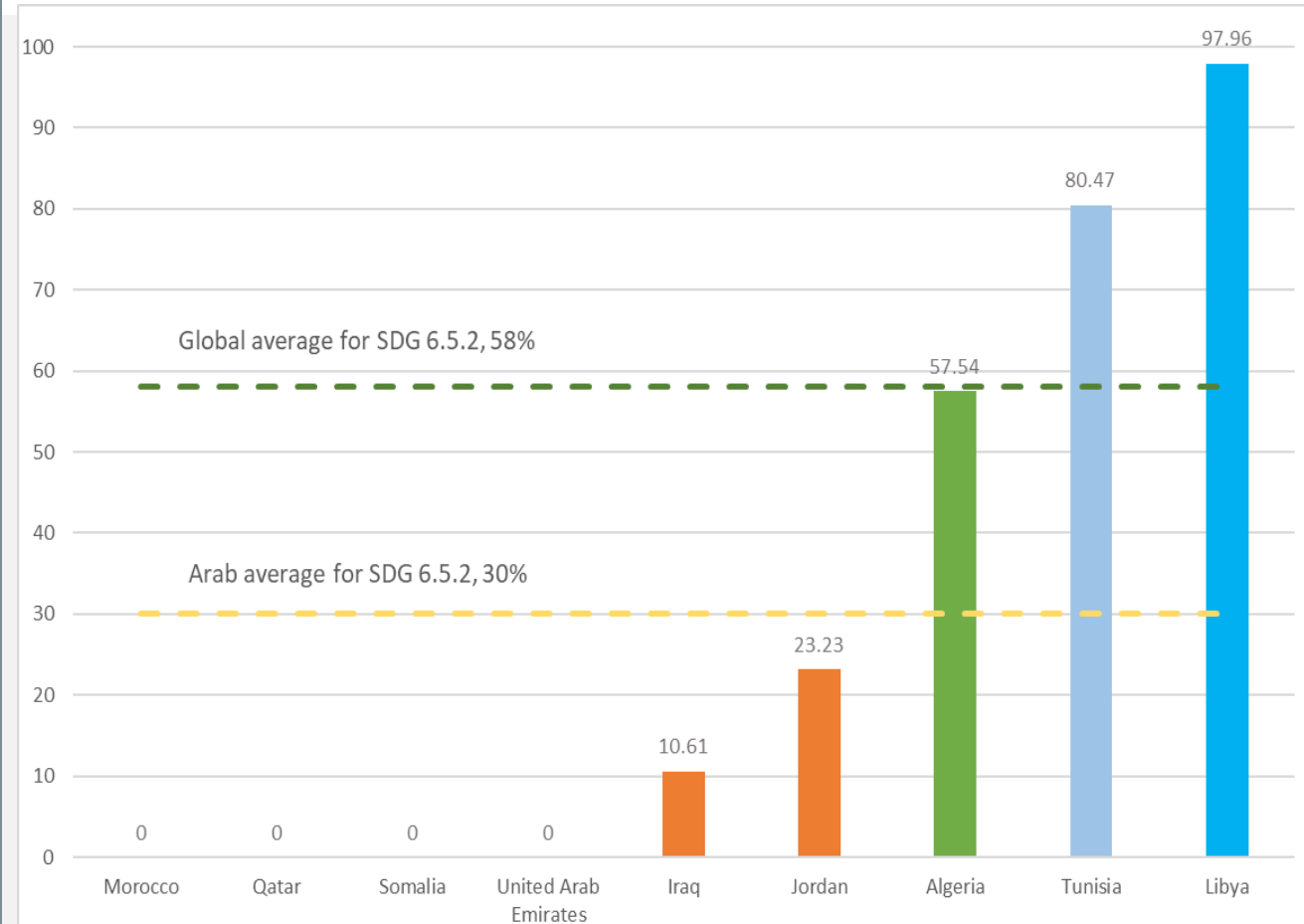


Transboundary cooperation in Arab States:
second regional report on SDG
indicator 6.5.2

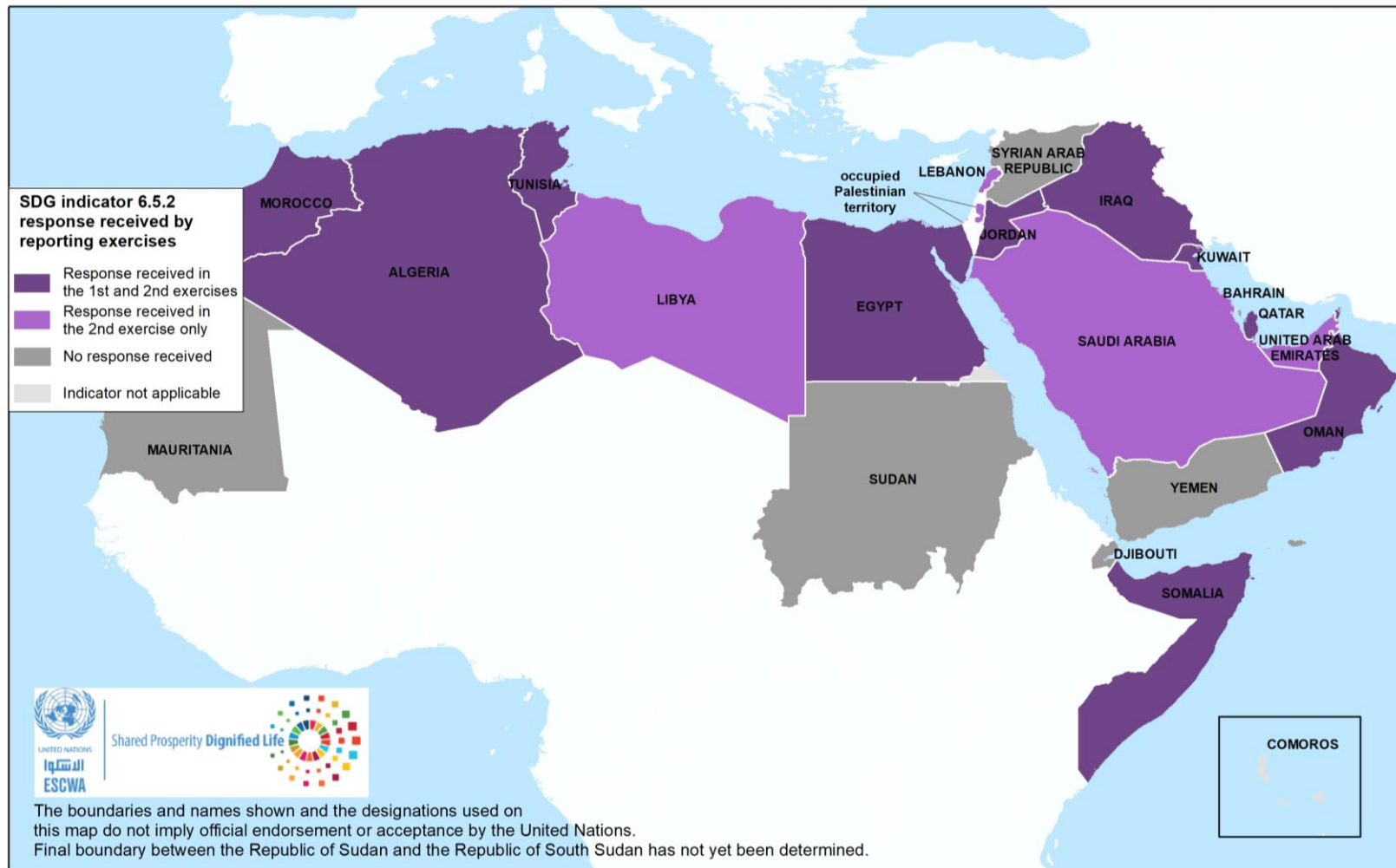


Progress between 2017 and 2020

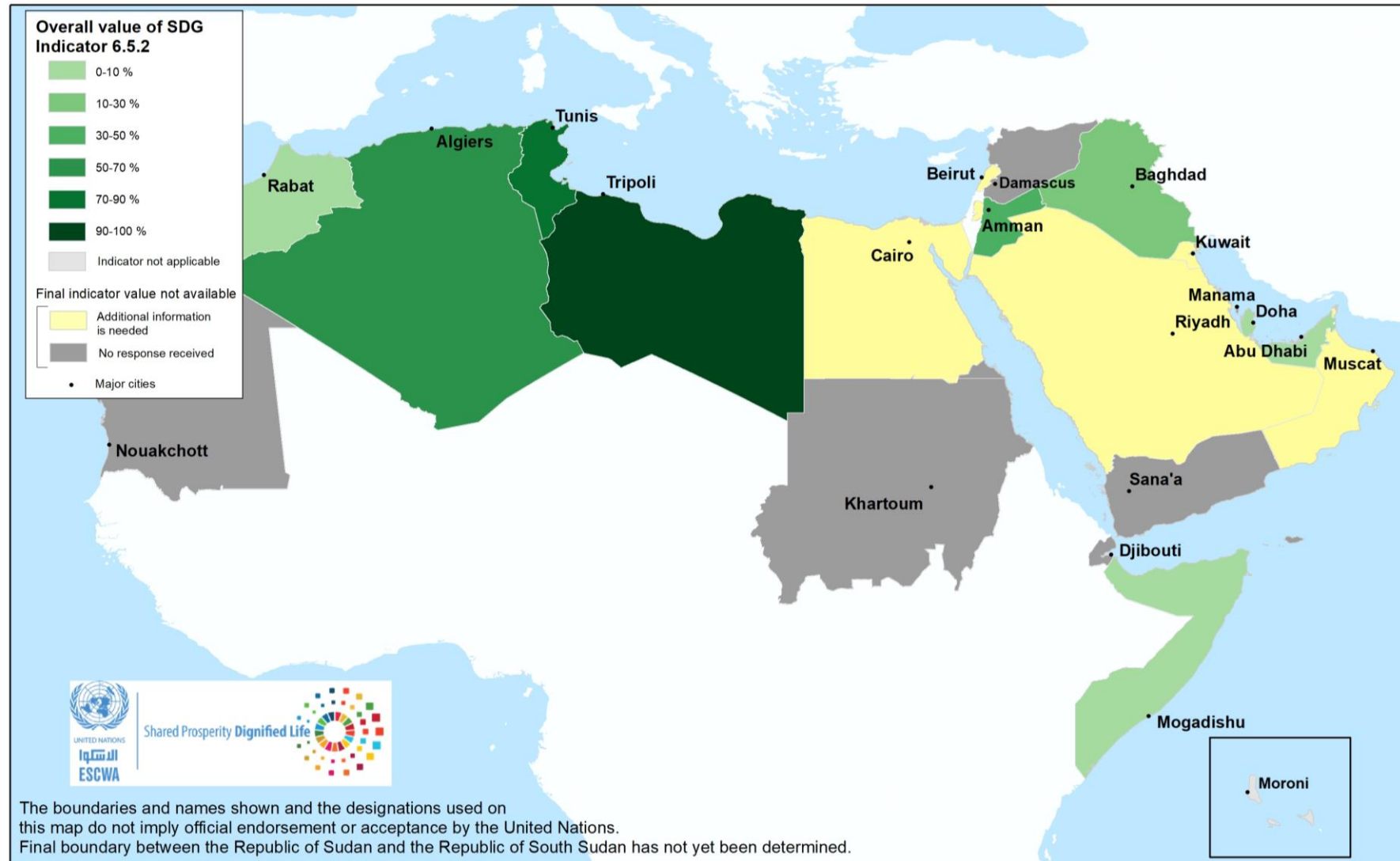
	2017- baseline	2020- 2 nd report
Number of countries that reported responses (out of 21 Arab countries that share rivers and aquifers)	10	15
Average score for the aquifer component	19%	30%
Average score for the river and lake basin component	13%	29%
Average score for SDG indicator 6.5.2	19%	30%



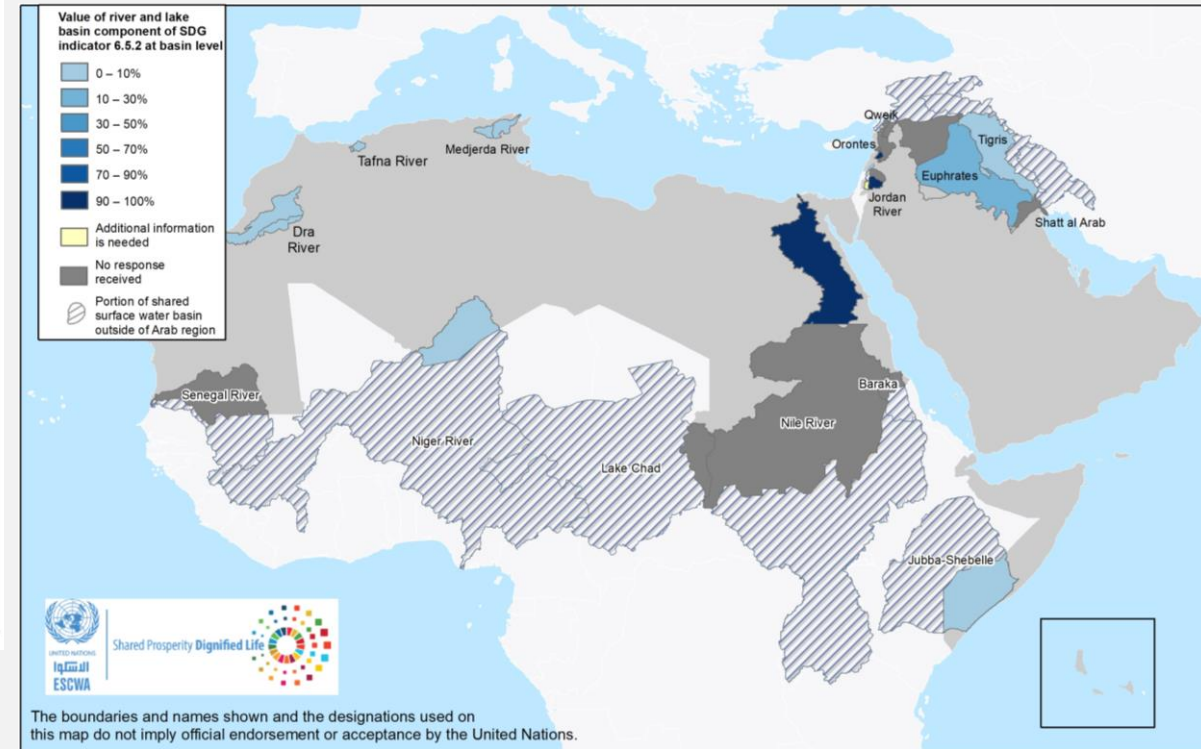
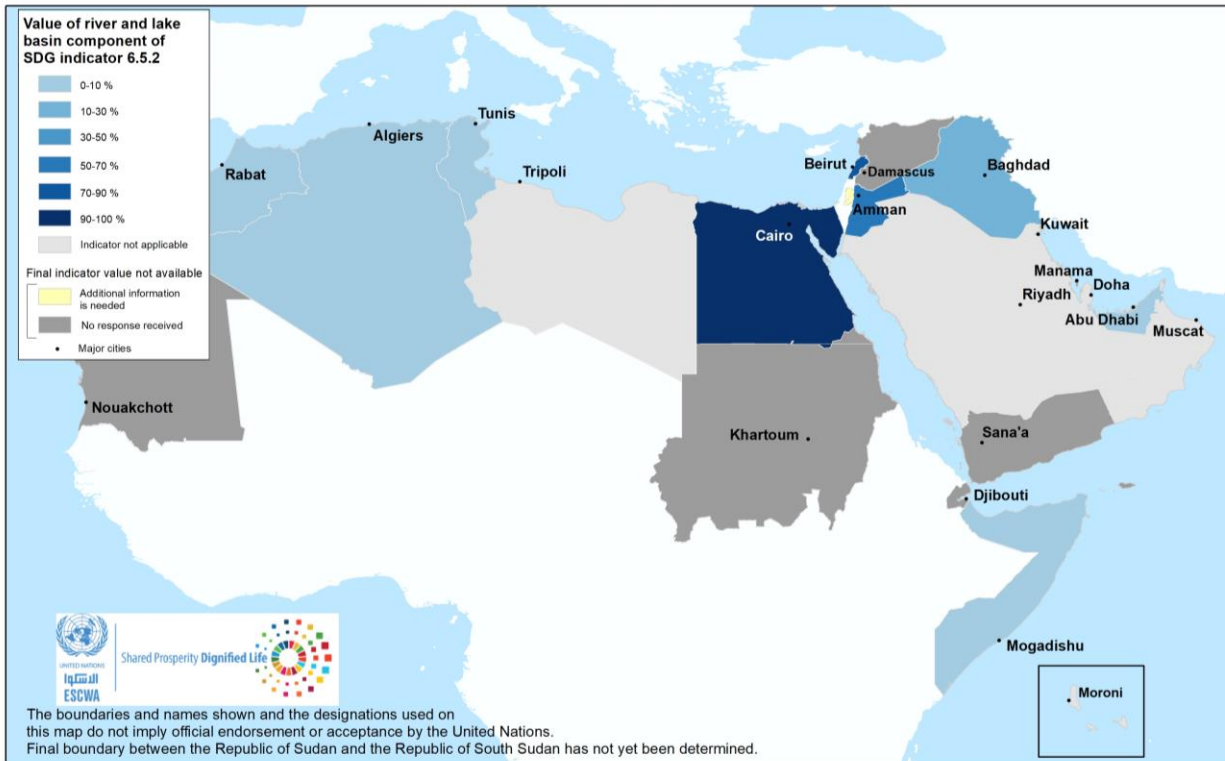
Reporting on Transboundary water Cooperation in the Arab Region indicator 6.5.2 (2020)



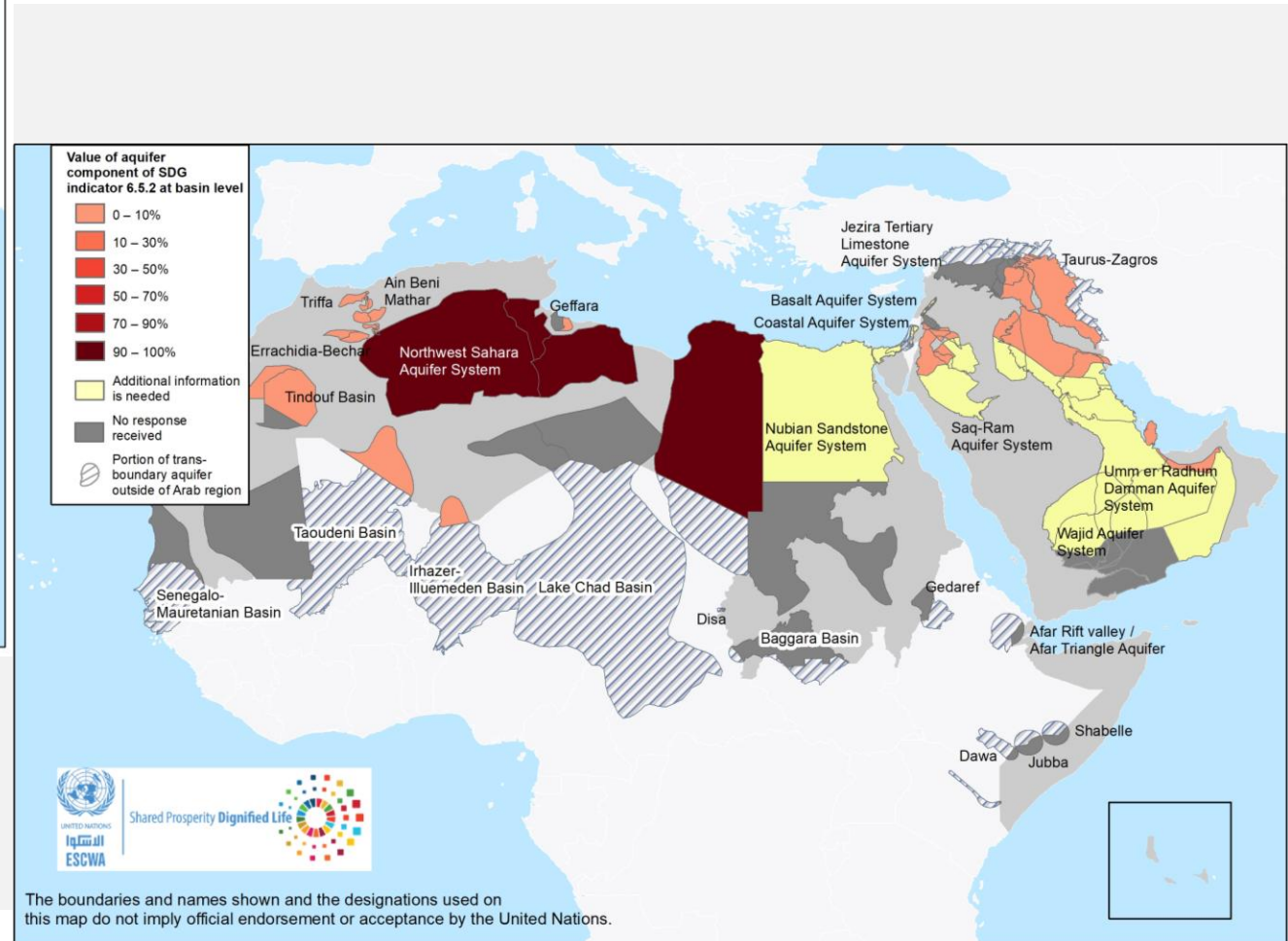
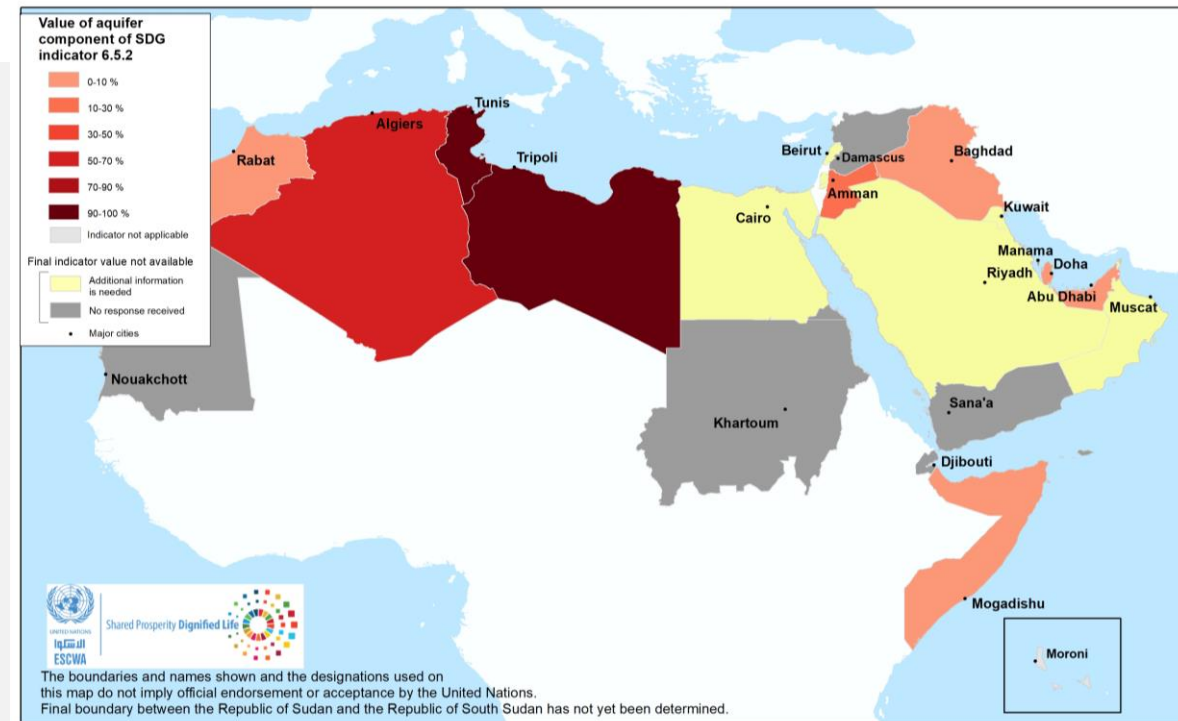
National level of cooperation on transboundary water



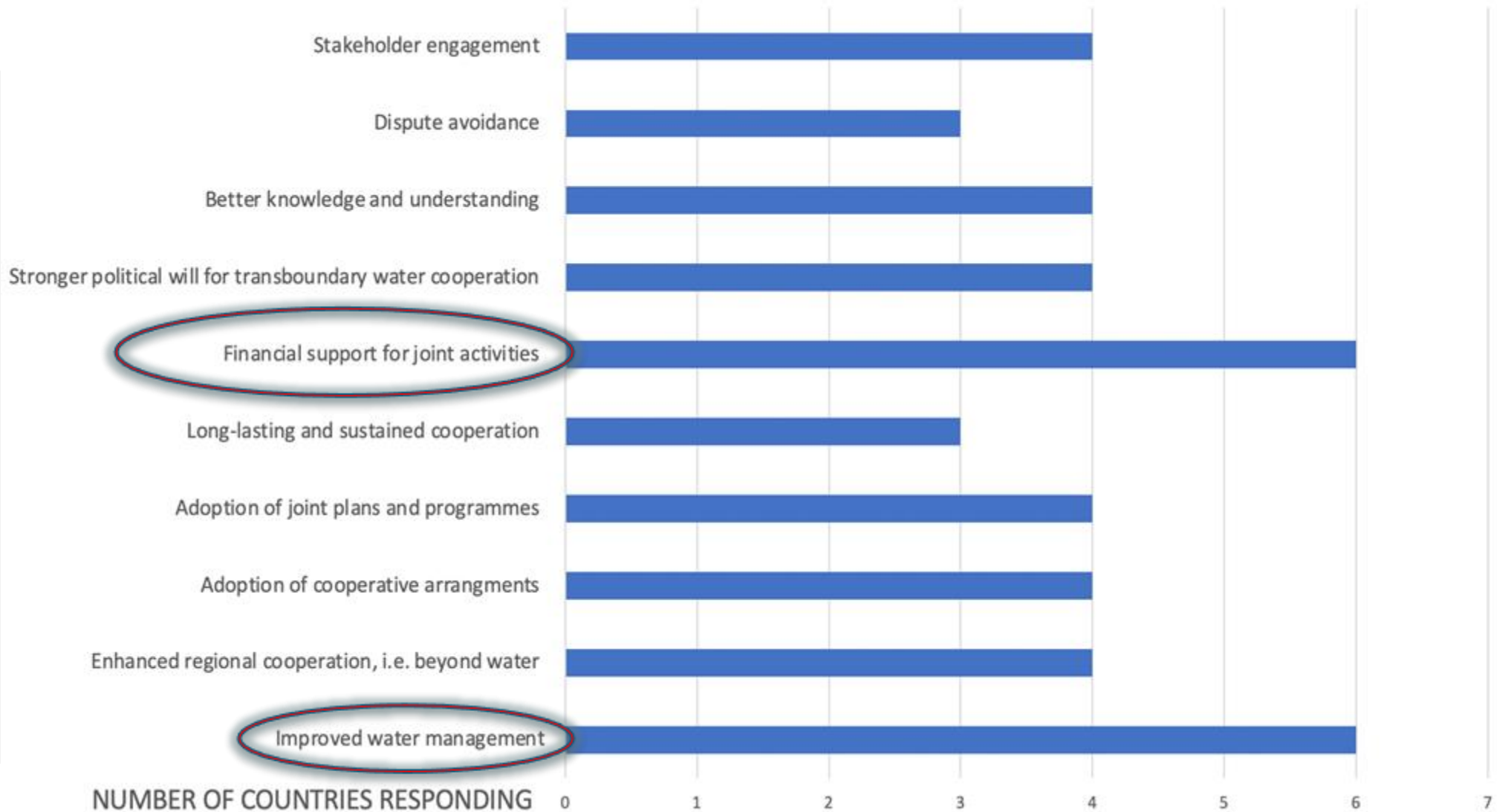
Transboundary river and lake basin level cooperation in the Arab region



Transboundary aquifer level cooperation in the Arab region



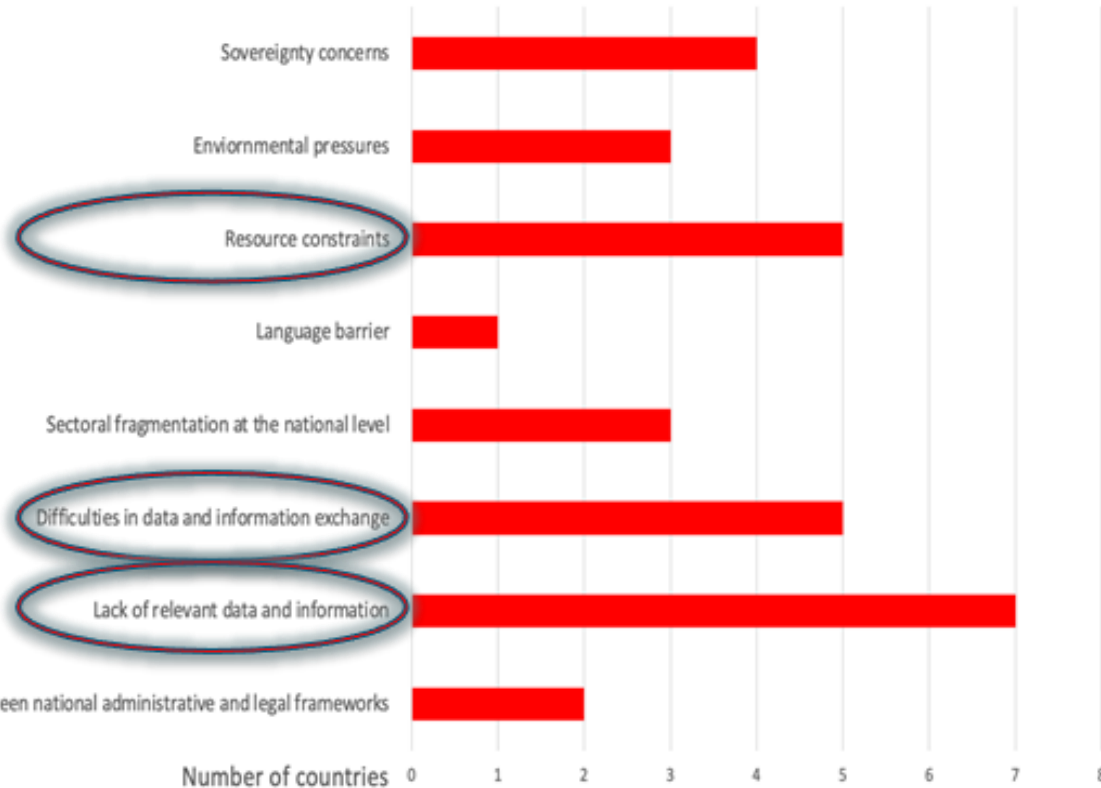
Main achievements reported by Arab countries in cooperating on transboundary waters



Main challenges related to cooperation and implementation

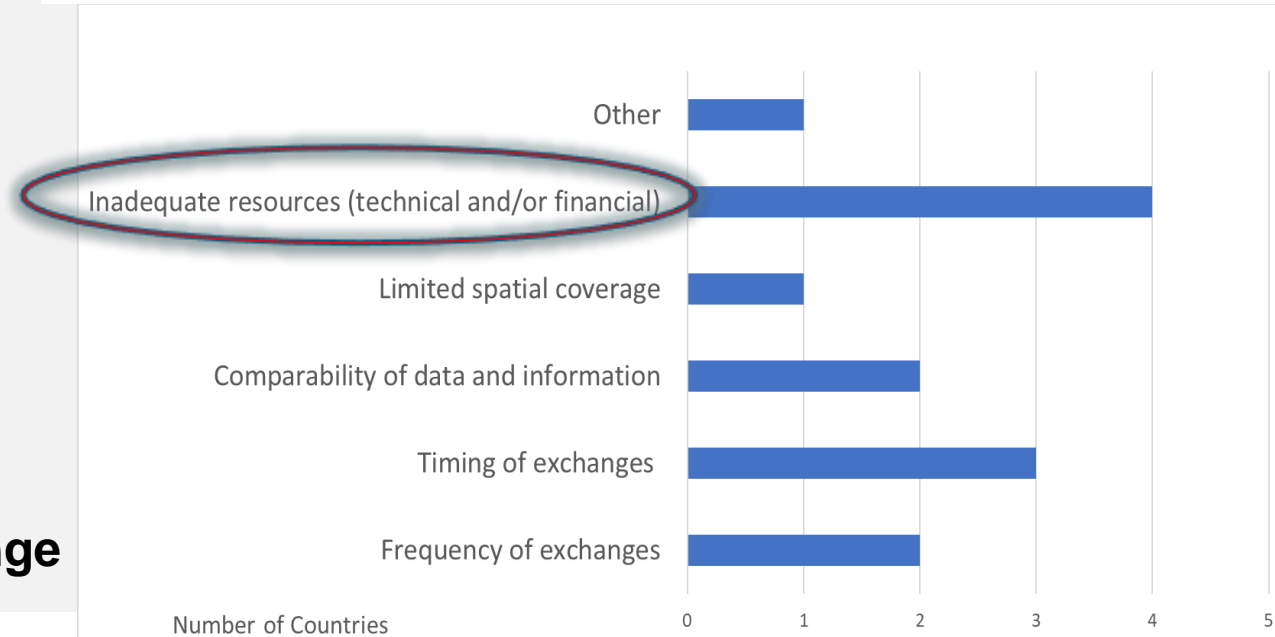


Main challenges reported by Arab countries in cooperating on transboundary waters

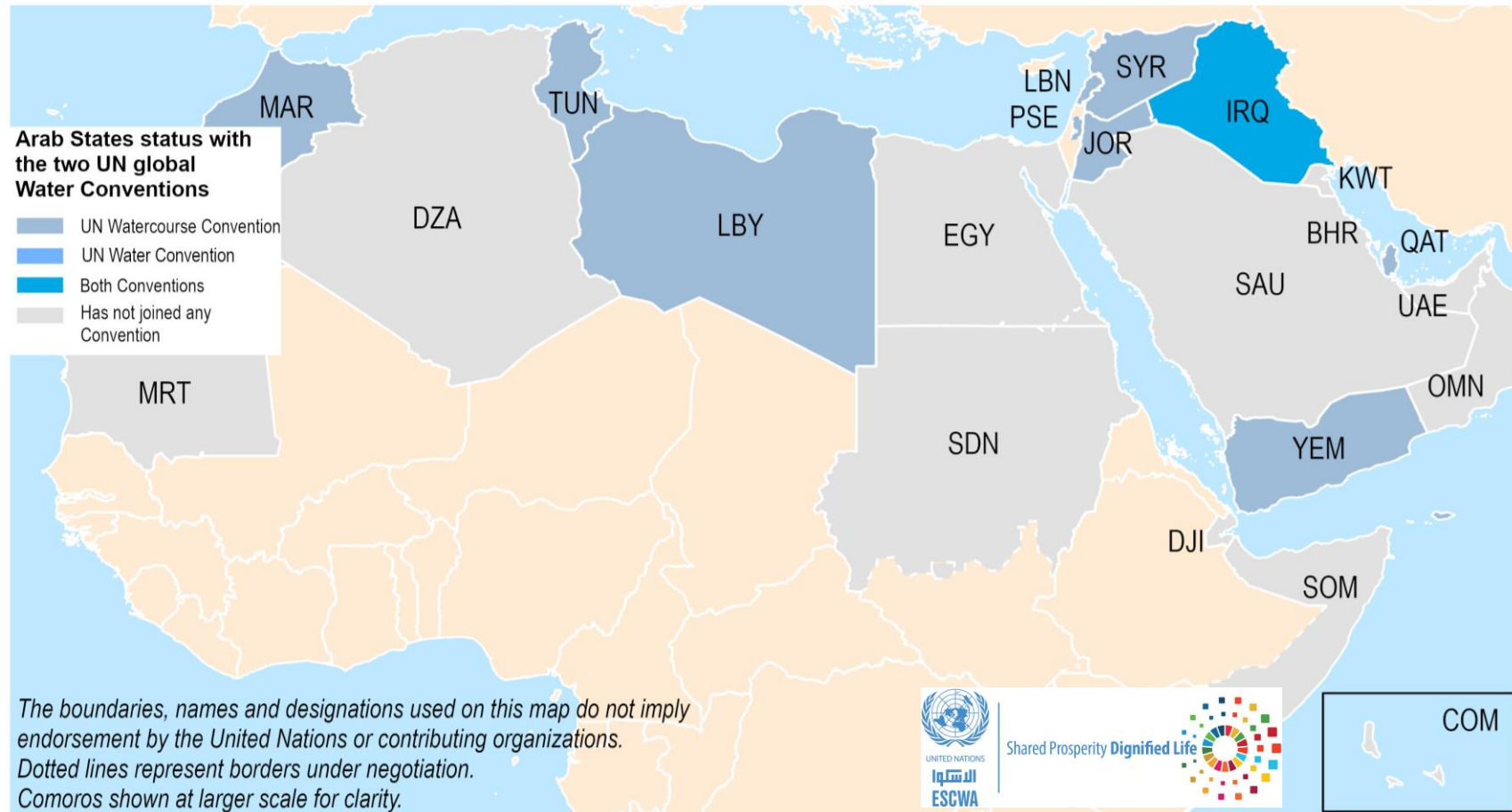


Main challenges to data exchange

- Information on transboundary waters, which is needed to enhance cooperation, is either not sufficiently available or available but not easily accessible.
- This is especially seen for transboundary groundwater resources



Arab States status with the two United Nations Global Water Conventions



Key messages

- Accelerating cooperation on transboundary waters is a long process that requires understanding and communication between stakeholders.
- Any progress in transboundary water cooperation requires:
 - Improving understanding of transboundary water resources, especially groundwater resources,
 - Allocating the necessary funding,
 - Improving access to information,
 - Improving monitoring while making use of innovative technologies,
 - Mainstreaming cooperation at the institutional level, through the authorities responsible for cooperation and management of shared water resources
- Continuous efforts in joint projects implementation for the conservation and monitoring of water resources will facilitate the establishment of transboundary cooperation bodies.
- Benefiting from global frameworks or regional processes as guidelines for cooperation.
- Using unconventional finance such as climate adaptation funds for transboundary settings

Thanks for listening!



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6.5.2 Helpdesk



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UNESCO:

transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting@unesco.org

Further information on Indicator 6.5.2

UNECE



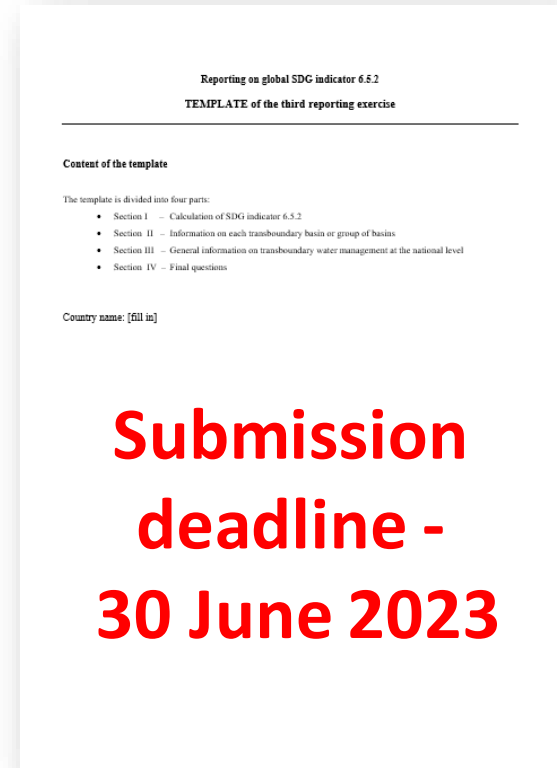
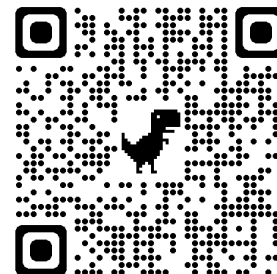
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UN-Water SDG 6
Monitoring



SDG 6 Data Portal



**Submission
deadline -
30 June 2023**



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