



SDG Indicator 6.5.2

Monitoring – Results – Lessons Learned of the First Reporting Exercise at Global and Regional Levels

**Workshop on Supporting the monitoring and implementation of the SDGs in the Arab region:
Transboundary water cooperation SDG 6 Indicator 6.5.2**

Beirut, Lebanon, 5 March 2020

Chantal Demilecamps, UNECE



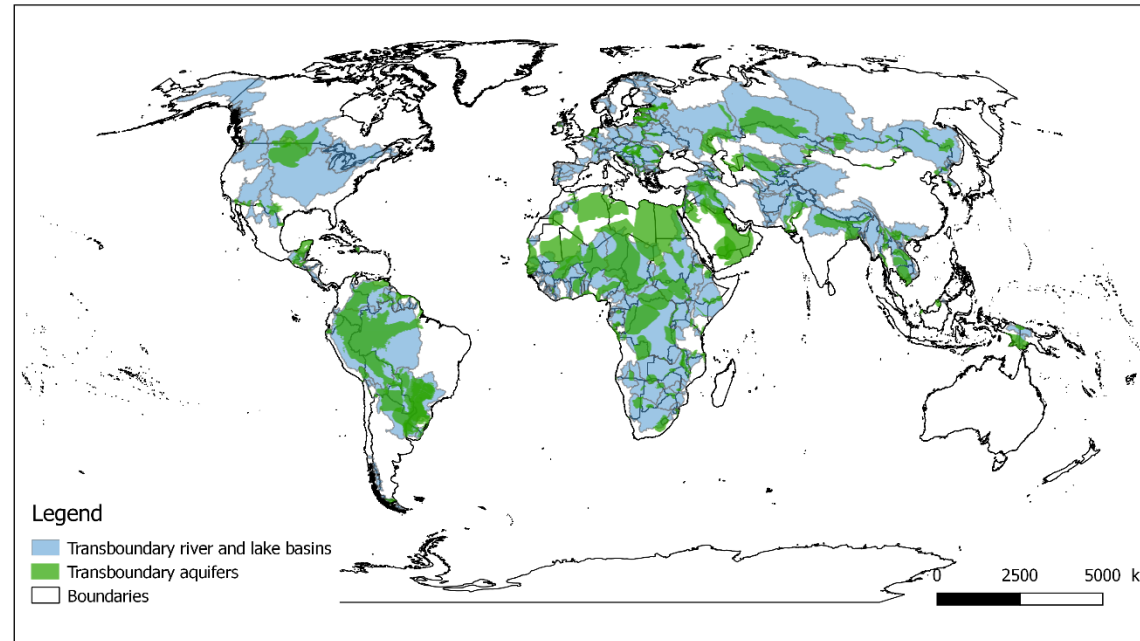
SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.



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



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

SDG indicator 6.5.2 - Example of a country report



- Link to report by a country on SDG indicator 6.5.2
→ what information is collected?



SDG indicator 6.5.2

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



Challenges faced during the 1st exercise to complete the template - 1

- Calculation of indicator 6.5.2.
 - **Area** of the basin to be used for the calculation, in particular for aquifers
 - Disregard of the fact that all the **operationality** criteria must be met (inconsistency of information in this section and the section on each transboundary basin)
 - Lack of **data**, especially with regard to aquifers and groundwater
 - Calculation of the indicator not taking groundwater into account
 - Sometimes indicator not calculated



Challenges faced during the 1st exercise to complete the template - 2

- Questions for each transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer (section II):
 - Sometimes only filled in for agreements in place
 - Aggregating responses from different basins/agreements instead of copying the questionnaire and providing different responses makes the report less understandable
 - Positive effect: sub-basin information, which is particularly useful for large sub-basins
 - Limited responses to open-ended questions => a missed opportunity to highlight achievements and challenges
- Report not signed by national authorities

Monitoring SDG indicator 6.5.2 : process



- Information on indicator 6.5.2 is collected every **3 years** by UNECE and UNESCO as co-custodian agencies (as other SDG6 indicators)
- Every year co-custodians submit data updates to the **United Nations Statistics Division**
- First data collection: 2017 => **Second exercise: 2020**
- **Ministers** responsible for waters officially addressed by UNECE and UNESCO
- Reports signed by competent authority

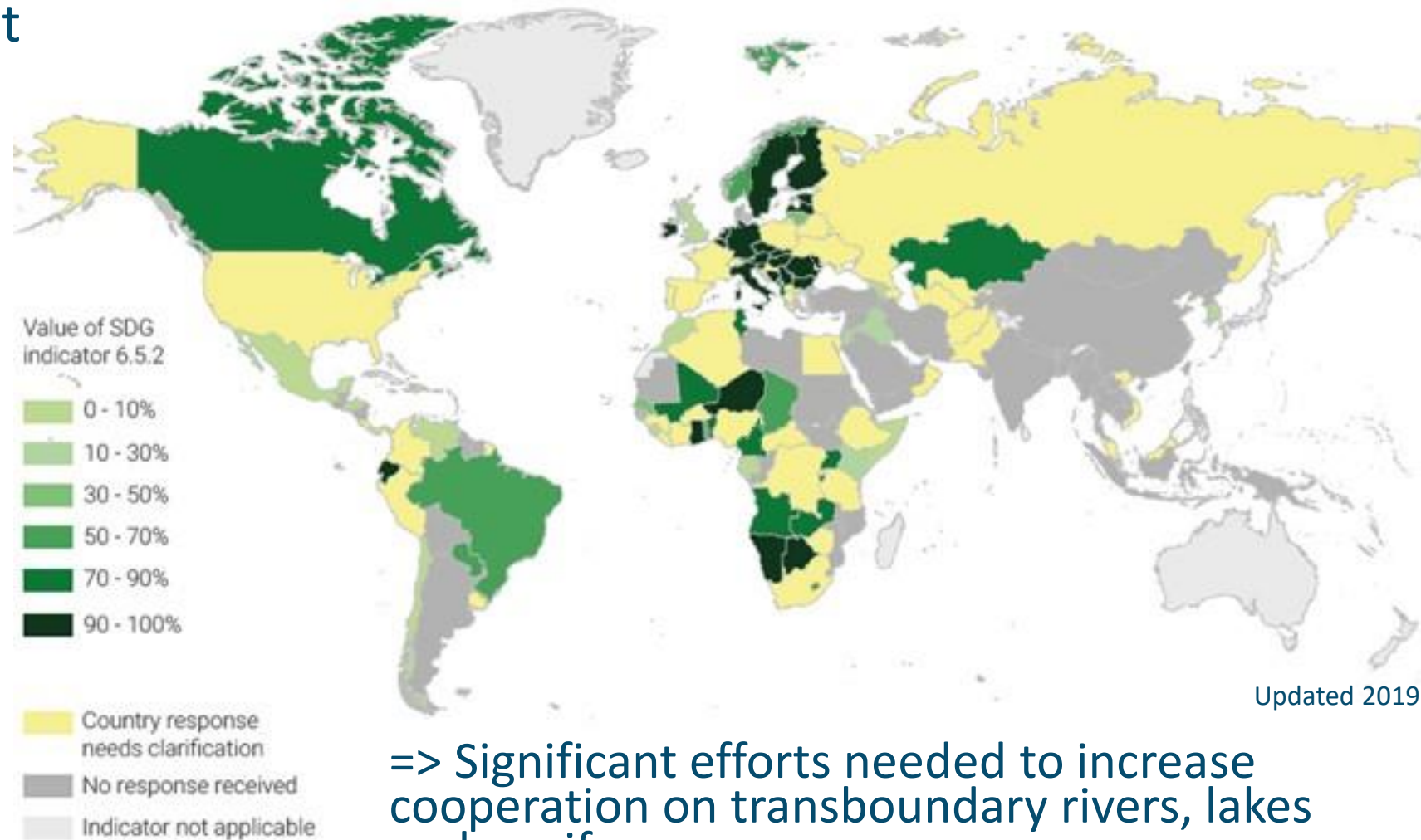
Results of the first reporting on SDG6.5.2 (2017-18)



108 country responses (out of 153 countries sharing transboundary waters)

59% = average national percentage of transboundary basins covered by operational arrangement in 2017/2018 (67 out of 153 countries)

Only **17 countries** with **all** transboundary waters covered by operational arrangements



=> Significant efforts needed to increase cooperation on transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers

Results of the first reporting on SDG 6.5.2 (2017-18)

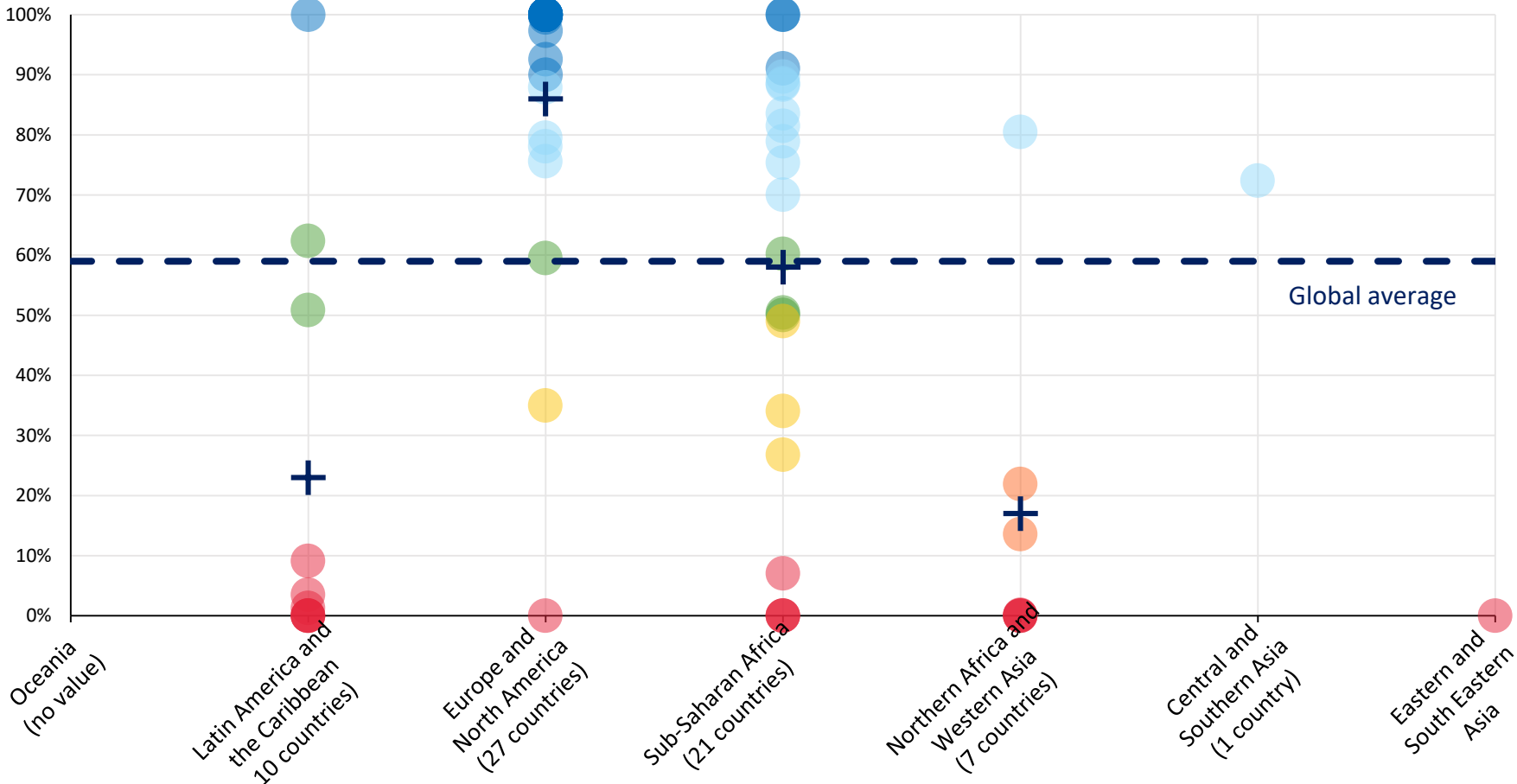
Regional comparison



	Europe and North America	Sub-Saharan Africa	Latin America and the Caribbean	Northern Africa and Western Asia	Central and Southern Asia	Eastern and South-eastern Asia	Oceania	World	Arab region (22 countries)
Percentage of countries sharing TBW	95.56	87.5	66.67	95.65	85.71	81.25	7.14	80.31	95.45%
Percentage of countries responding	93.02	78.57	63.64	54.55	41.67	30.77	0	69.68	42.86%
Average 6.5.2	86.06	58.3	22.72	16.58	72.36	0	0	59.16	19.32
Average indicator surface waters	81.37	72.78	27.67	11.3	70.32	14.22	0	63.28	13.17
Average indicator groundwaters	79.22	42.13	10	16.27	0	0	0	48.51	18.99



SDG regions breakdown of the level of transboundary water cooperation



● SDG indicator 6.5.2 (67 countries)
+ Regional average of SDG indicator 6.5.2 (based on the number of countries indicated for each region)

SDG6.5.2 in the Arab region

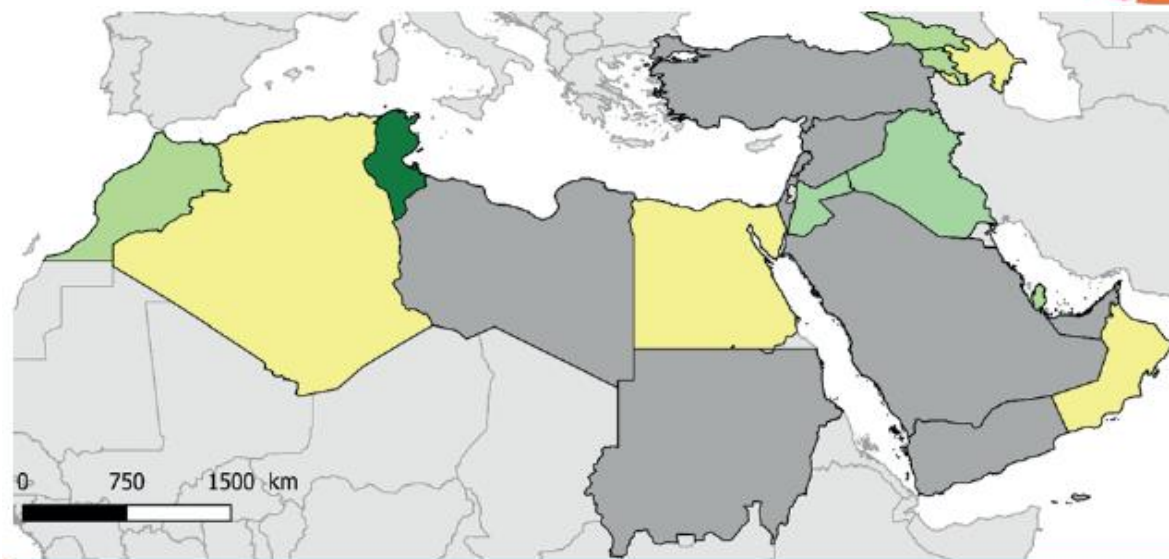


Country Name	Indicator value surface waters (rivers and lakes)	Indicator value aquifers	Indicator value overall	Response received
Algeria	0	NA	NA (not available)	yes
Bahrain				no
Djibouti				no
Egypt	NA	NA	NA	yes
Iraq	17.34	0	13.55	yes
Jordan	61.69	13.91	21.91	yes
Kuwait	N (not relevant)	NA	NA	yes
Lebanon				no
Libya				no
Mauritania				no
Morocco	0	0	0	yes
Oman	N	NA	NA	yes
Qatar	N	0	0	yes
Palestine				no
Saudi Arabia				no
Somalia	0	0	0	yes
Sudan				no
Syrian Arab Republic				no
Tunisia	0	100	80.47	yes
United Arab Emirates				no
Yemen				no

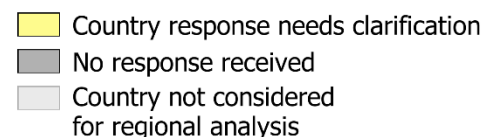
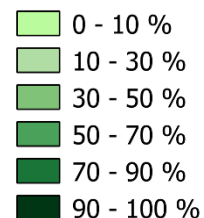
SDG 6.5.2 - Northern Africa and Western Asia



- Responses received from 12 out of 21 countries sharing transboundary waters in Northern Africa and Western Asia
- 6.5.2 indicator available for 7 countries with an average value of 17% of basin area covered by operational arrangements
- Operational arrangements for aquifers outnumber those covering river and lake basins, with an average national proportion of 16% and 11% respectively.



Value of SDG Indicator 6.5.2

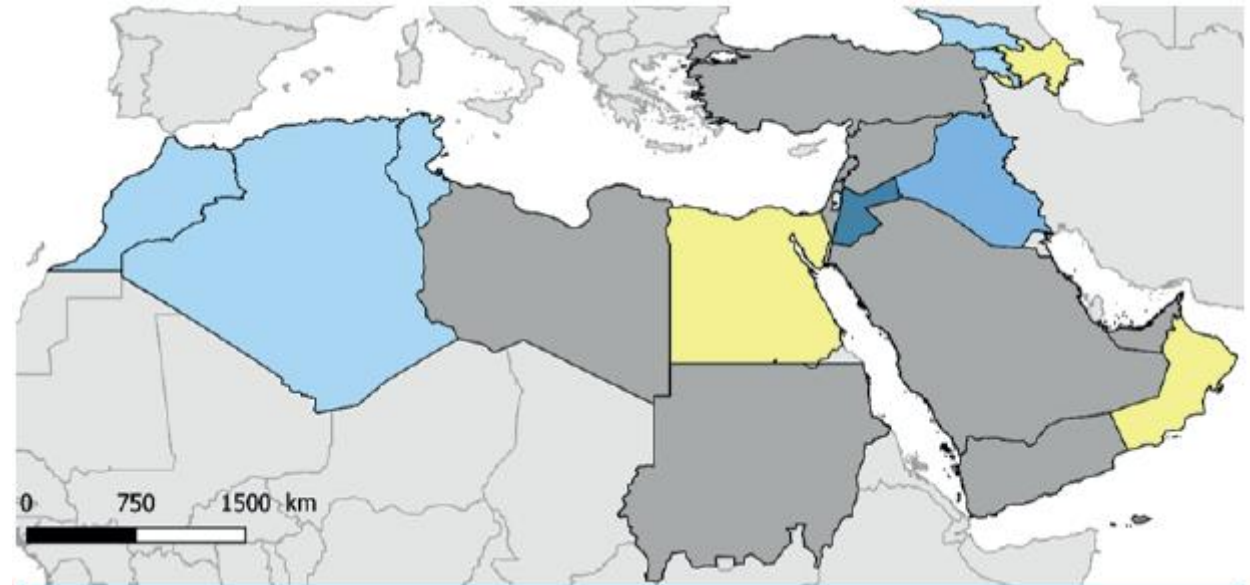


SDG 6.5.2 Northern Africa and Western Asia

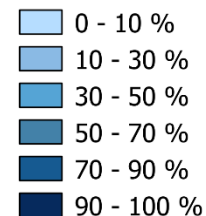
Surface waters



- Possible to calculate SDG6.5.2 for river and lake basins for 7 countries in Northern Africa and Western Asia
- Indicator for river and lake basins is lower than overall indicator, ie., 11%
- 1 country (Jordan, 61.7%) has the highest percentage in operational arrangements in place for river and lake basin component, followed by only 1 country already in the lower quantile (Iraq, 17.3%).
- For other 5 countries, less than 10% covered by operational arrangements



Value of river and lake basin component of SDG indicator 6.5.2

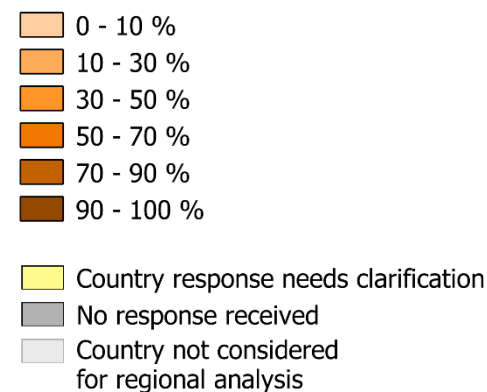
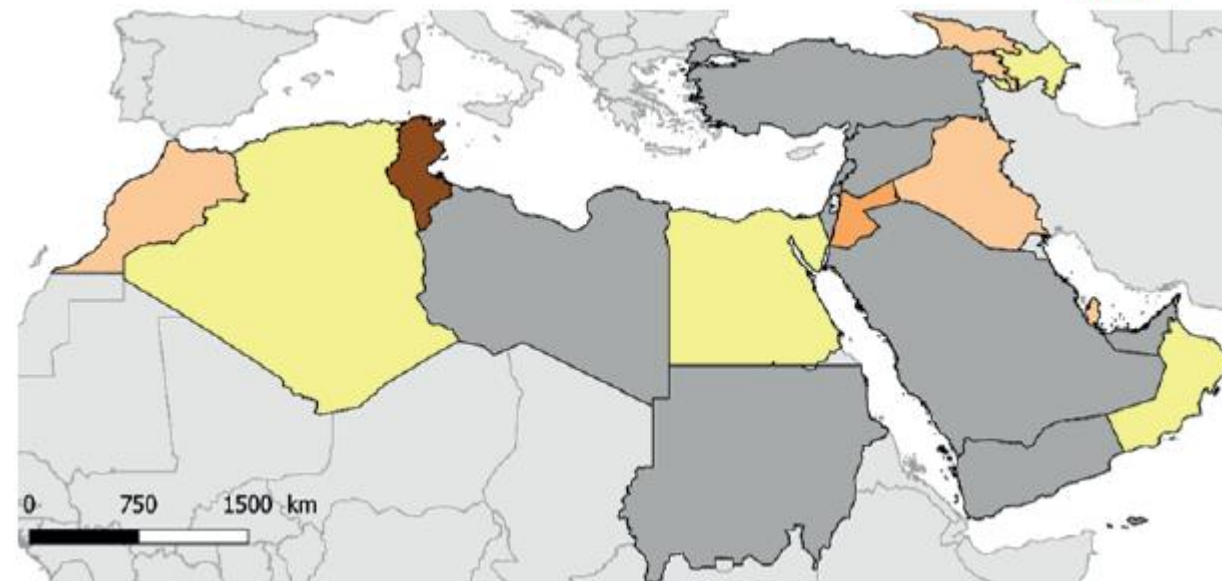


Country response needs clarification (yellow)
No response received (grey)
Country not considered for regional analysis (light grey)

SDG 6.5.2 - Northern Africa and Western Asia Groundwaters



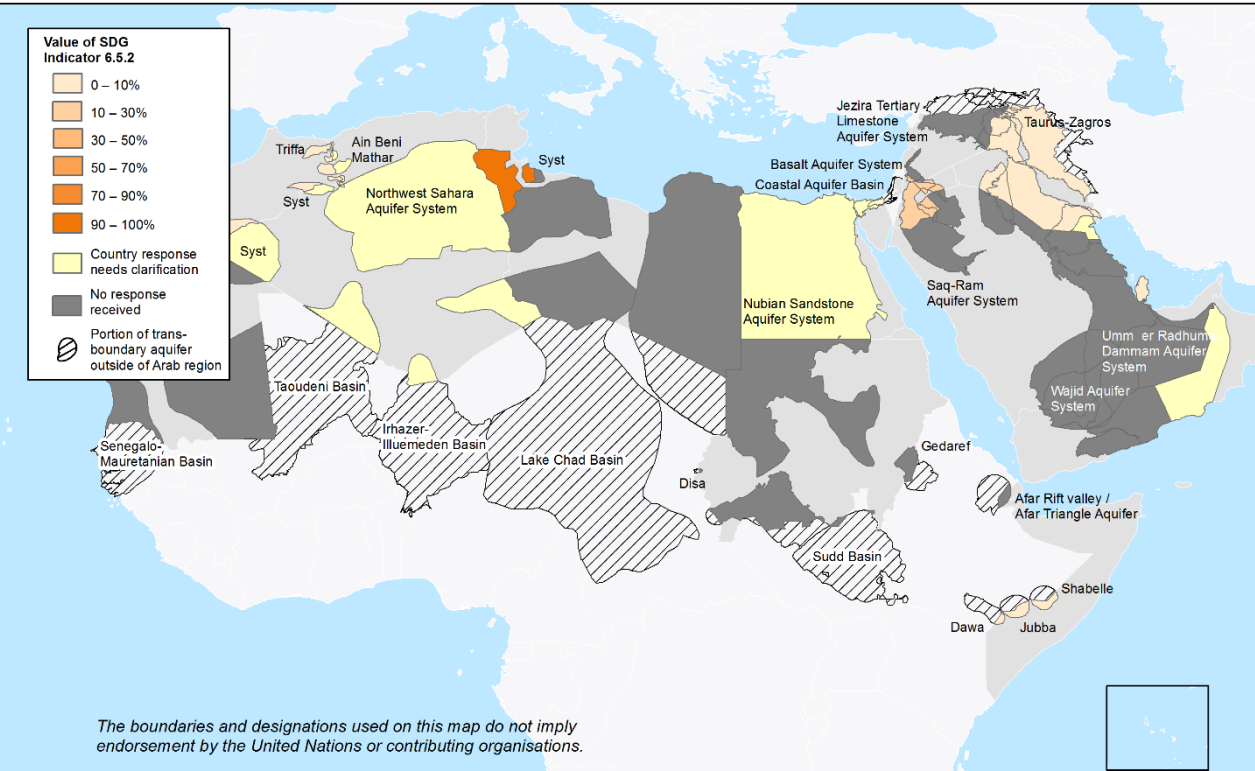
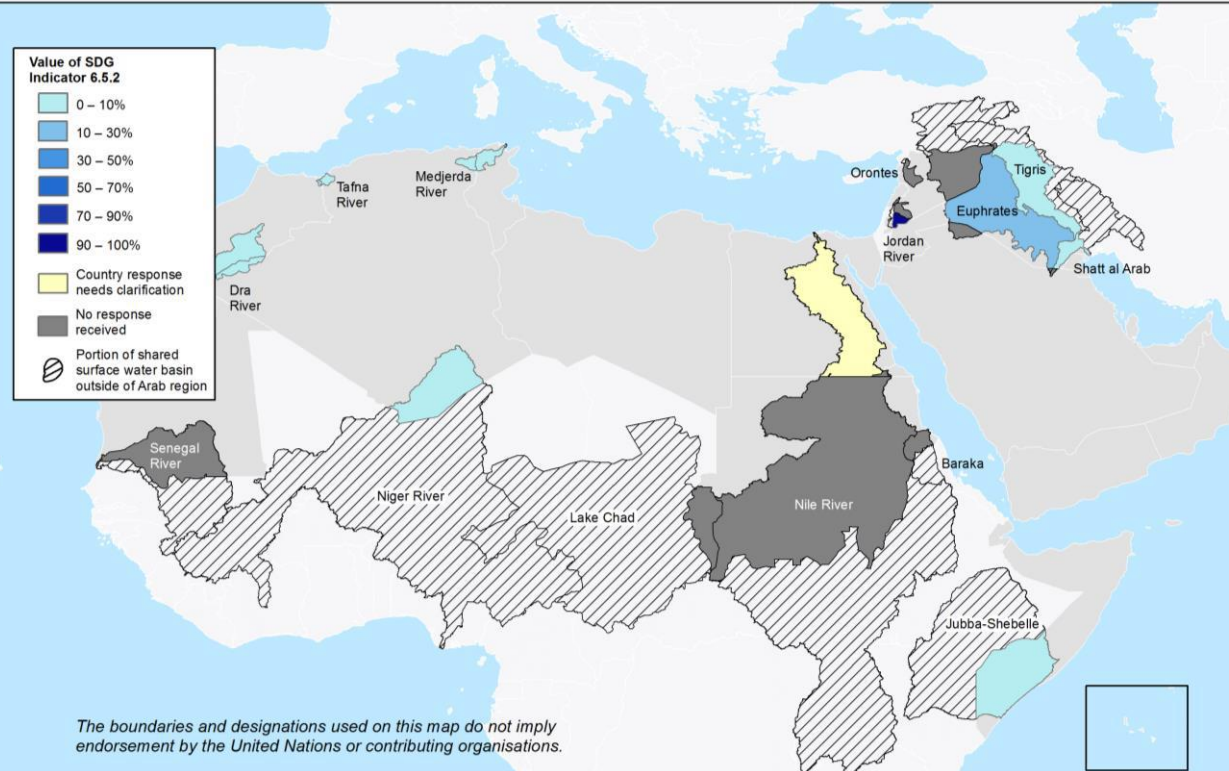
- Possible to calculate SDG6.5.2 for transboundary aquifers for 7 countries in Northern Africa and Western Asia
- Average indicator for transboundary aquifer is very close to overall indicator, ie., 16%
- 1 country (Tunisia) with arrangements for all transboundary aquifers, followed by 1 country (Jordan) with 13.9% while other 5 countries reported less than 10% of aquifer area covered by operational arrangements





SDG 6.5.2 in the Arab region

- **Low rate of responses:** 10 out of 21 countries sharing waters Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Somalia, Tunisia
- **Limited information** (not only because of the low number)
 - discrepancies and contradictions
 - On the designation of the shared water body (Calculation of SDG indicator 6.5.2)
 - Information on each transboundary basin or group of basins



Lessons learned - 1



- **Identifying appropriate national focal point for transboundary water issues and mobilizing networks at national level**
 - Able to build upon existing knowledge and relationships
 - Water Convention and IHP national focal points
 - Dynamic nature requires periodic review
- **Some reports were prepared through extensive coordination**
 - Different approaches to gather, collect and report information
 - Countries created national committee, organized national workshops, designated experts responsible for the coordination of the process
 - Opportunity to strengthen national coordination, cooperation and data-sharing between national institutions but statistical offices were rarely involved
 - At national or transboundary level (with neighbours or within joint bodies)

Lessons learned - 2



- **Timeliness of report submission**

- Reports submitted well after deadline after several reminders
- Limits the time available to review and analyse the reports

- **1st reporting cycle confirmed the soundness of the indicator**

- High level of responses: 70% of countries sharing transboundary waters responded

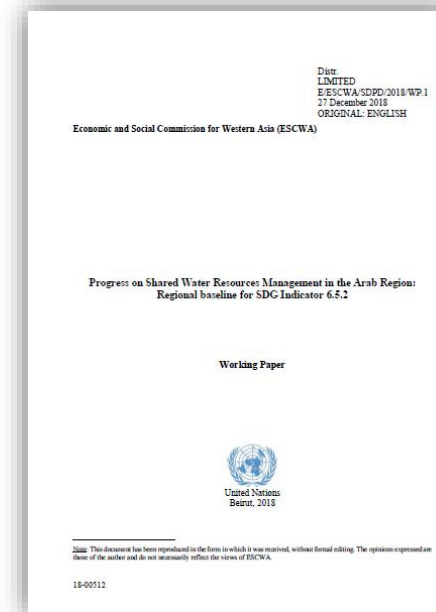
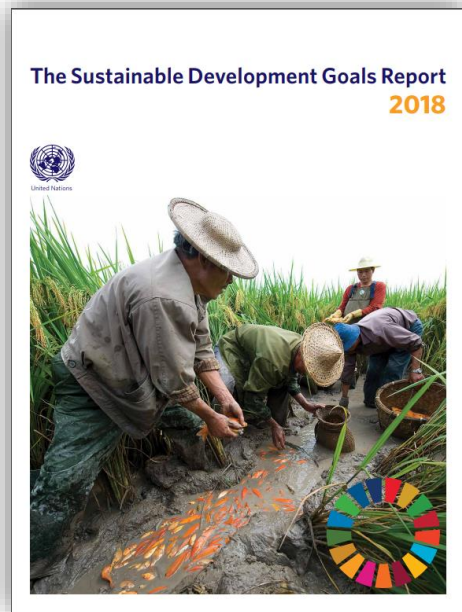


SDG 6.5.2 Key messages

- SDG6.5.2 **first** country-led global process of reporting on transboundary water cooperation
- **Enhance** future reporting through coordinating national responses, addressing data gaps and improving response rate
 - Encourage all countries in the Arab region to report and submit it
 - Explore opportunities to partner with regional organizations and initiatives to promote and support reporting
 - Address data gaps particular in relation to transboundary aquifer data
- Encourage the setting of national and basin **targets** as a way to monitor progress on 6.5.2
- Draw upon global **Water Conventions** and ILC Draft Articles on Transboundary aquifers to support development of arrangements
- Improve **financing** for transboundary water cooperation and capacity building



Further information on the results



UN-Water
SDG6 Data
Portal:
www.sdg6data.org



Thanks for listening!

Contacts

transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting@un.org
transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting@unesco.org

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

