

Monitoring and Reporting SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) Indicators

Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme

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Outline

- SDG 6 targets and indicators – a quick overview
- Current status and progress (global and OIC countries)
- Use of SDG 6 data
 - The SDG 6 data portal
 - Survey on SDG 6 data use
 - Discussion

Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6)

- [The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) was adopted by all UN Member States in 2015.
- At its heart are the [17 Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership.
- **SDG 6 “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”**
- SDG 6 has 8 targets, 12 core indicators on water and sanitation



6.1
Drinking
water

6.2
Sanitation
and
hygiene

6.3
Waste-
water and
water
quality

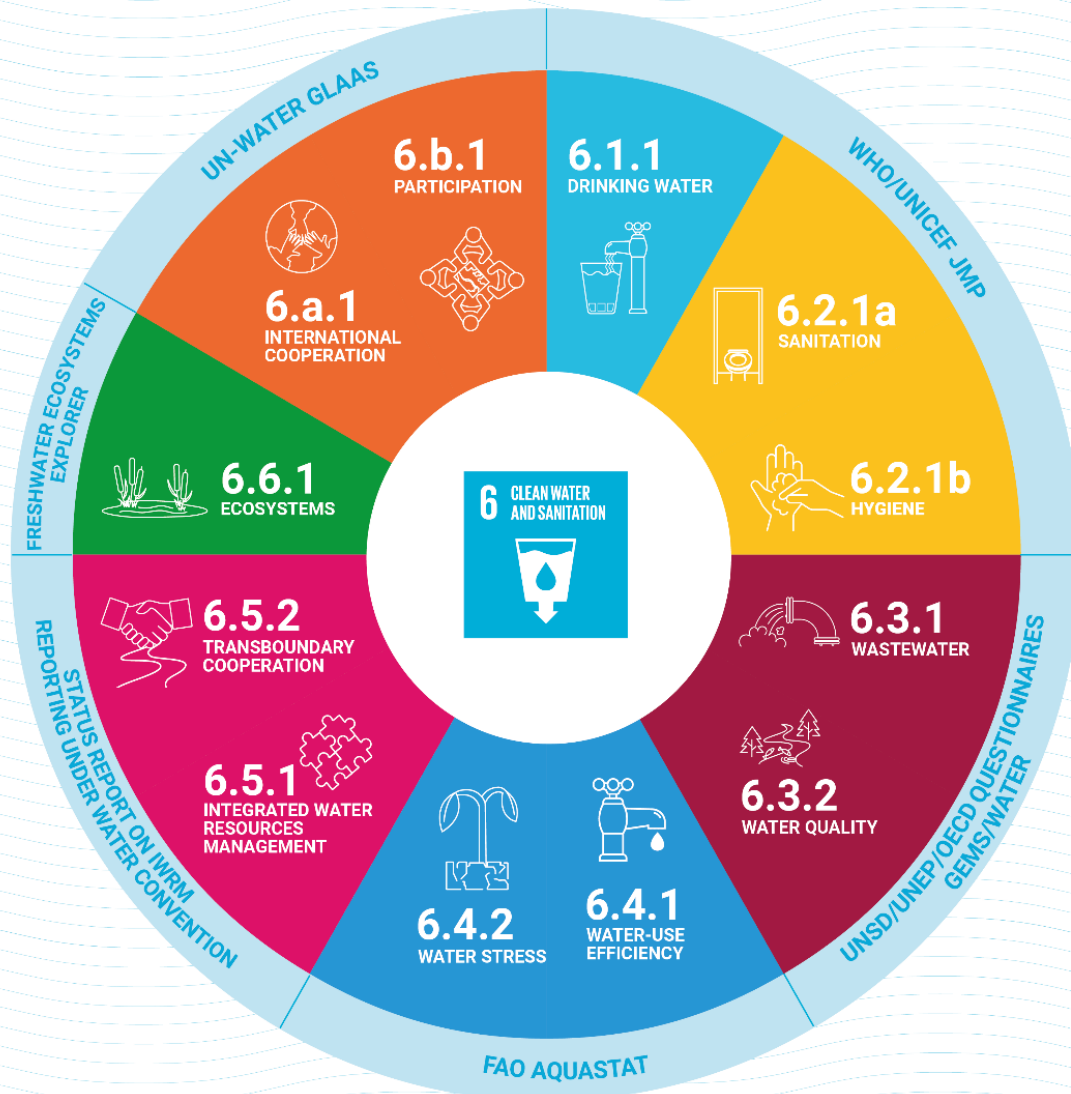
6.4
Water use
and
scarcity

6.5
Water
manage-
ment

6.6
Eco-
systems

6.a
Cooperation

6.b
Participation



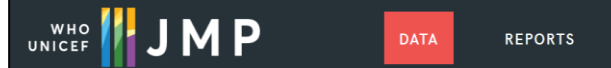
INDICATORS	CUSTODIANS
6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	WHO, UNICEF
6.2.1 Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water	WHO, UNICEF
6.3.1 Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated	WHO, UN-Habitat, UNSD
6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality	UNEP
6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time	FAO
6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources	FAO
6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management	UNEP
6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation	UNECE, UNESCO
6.6.1 Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time	UNEP, Ramsar
6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan	WHO, OECD
6.b.1 Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management	WHO, OECD

Roles and responsibilities for SDG 6 reporting

Flow of SDG 6 data from national to global level

- **Countries:** Collect and make available data for the purpose of global reporting
- **Custodian agencies:** Compile and verify country data, support countries in their monitoring efforts, develop methodologies
- **Regional mechanism:** Facilitate data transmission from national to global levels as appropriate
- **United Nations Statistics Division:** Publish data to inform HLPF
- **UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 (IMI-SDG6):**
 - Gathers custodian agencies for SDG 6 indicators, to ensure coherent and integrated efforts
 - Uploads and maintains the data on the [SDG 6 Data Portal](#), offering also multiple analysis and visualisation options

National databases and reports



Indicator-specific databases and progress reports



Global SDG Indicator Portal and Annual SDG Progress Report



UN-Water SDG 6 Data Portal and SDG 6 Synthesis and Summary Reports

What is the current reporting state? Are we observing progress?



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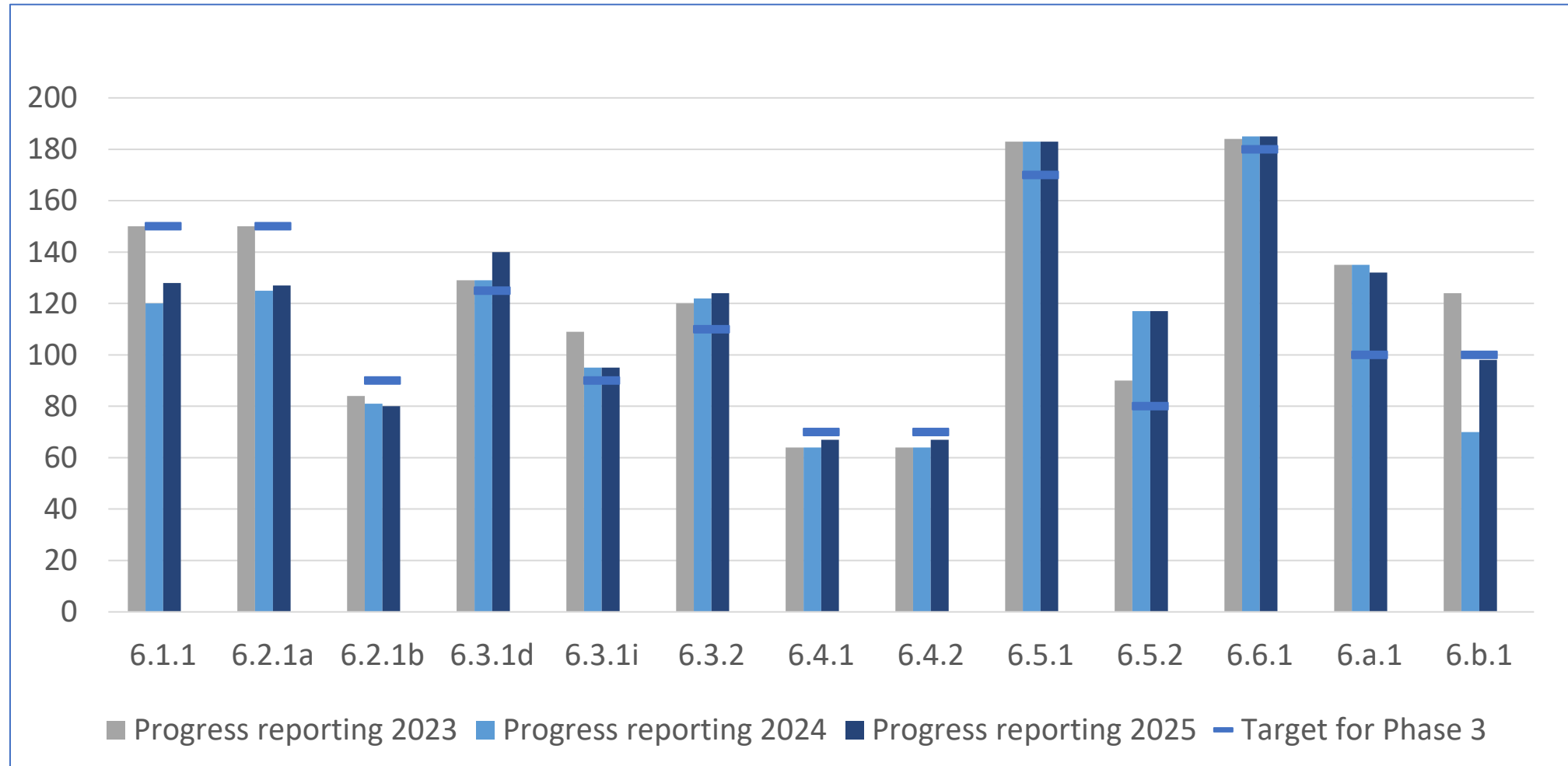
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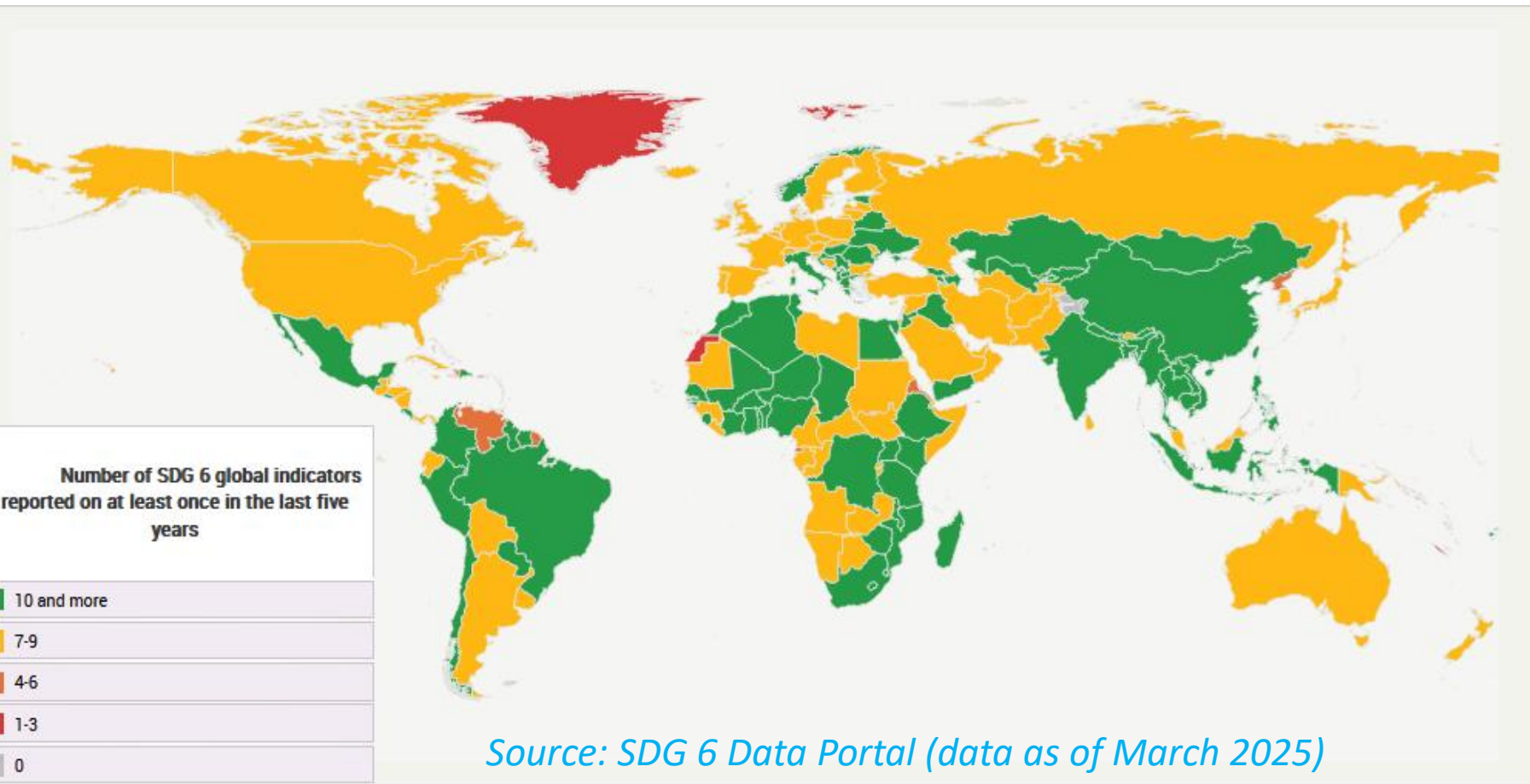
Number of UN Member States submitting validated data in 2023, 2024 and 2025

– target reached for a majority of the indicators, and already exceeded for eight indicators



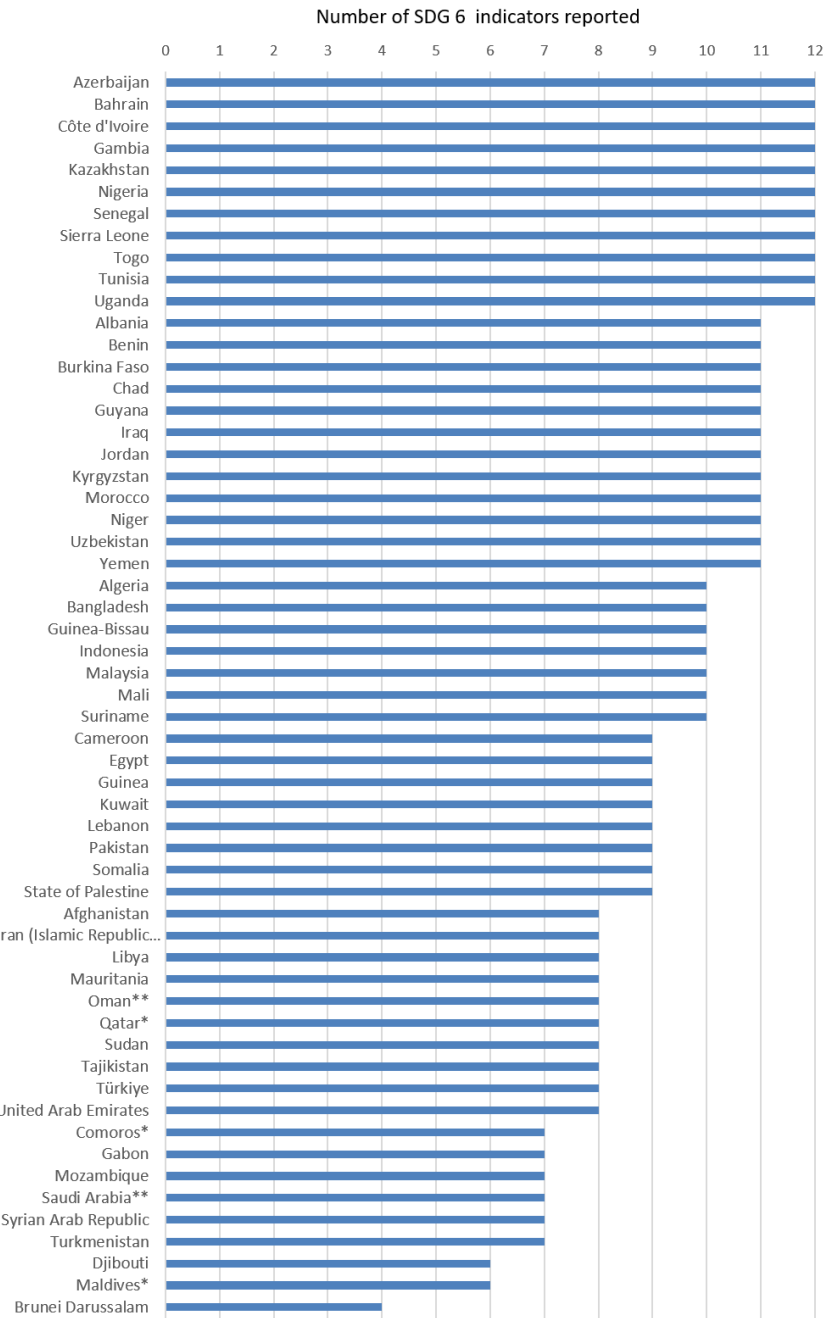
Current coverage of data

Global Average: 8.9 indicators reported



What began as fragmented reporting systems have evolved into an increasingly coherent global water information system.

Compared to 2015–2019, the average number of countries reporting SDG 6 data in 2023–2024 has increased by approximately 60%, while the average number of indicators reported per country has grown from 5 to 8.9 out of 12.



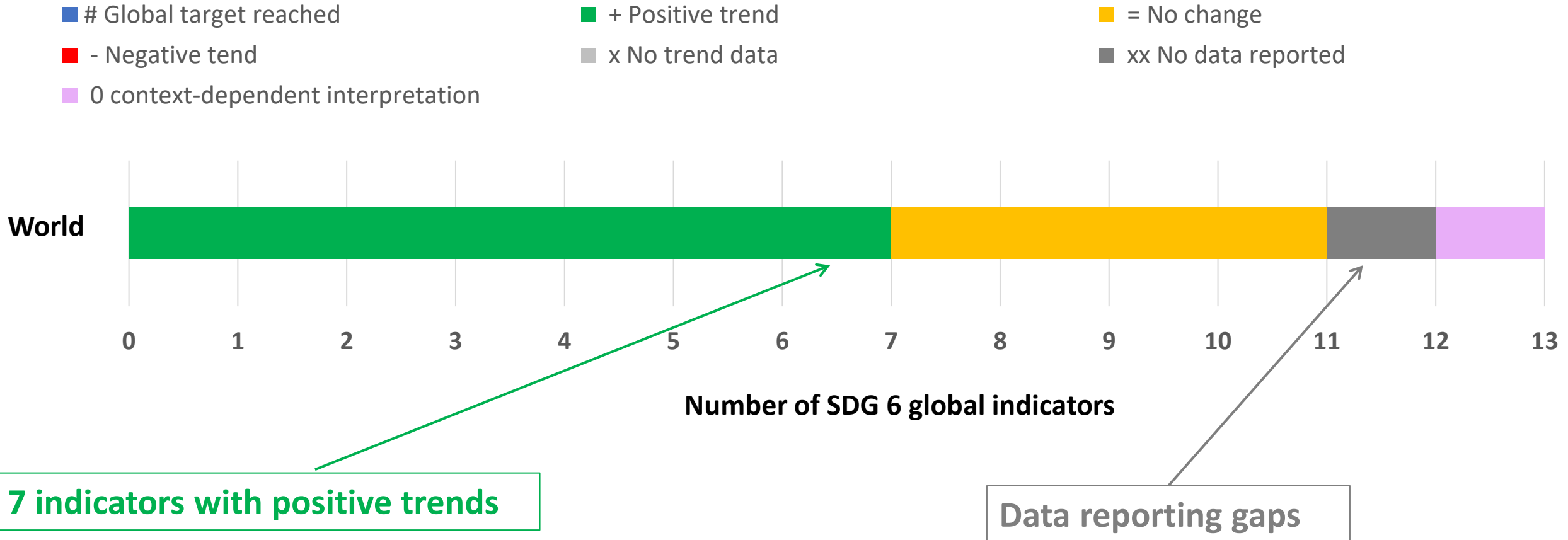
OIC MS reporting in 2024

How many indicators have the OIC MS reported?

10 and more SDG 6 indicators	30
7 – 9 SDG 6 indicators	24
4 – 6 SDG 6 indicators	3
1 – 3 SDG 6 indicators	0
0 SDG 6 indicators	0

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Average:
9.5 indicators reported

Summary progress on SDG 6 global indicators (SDG baseline compared to latest status)

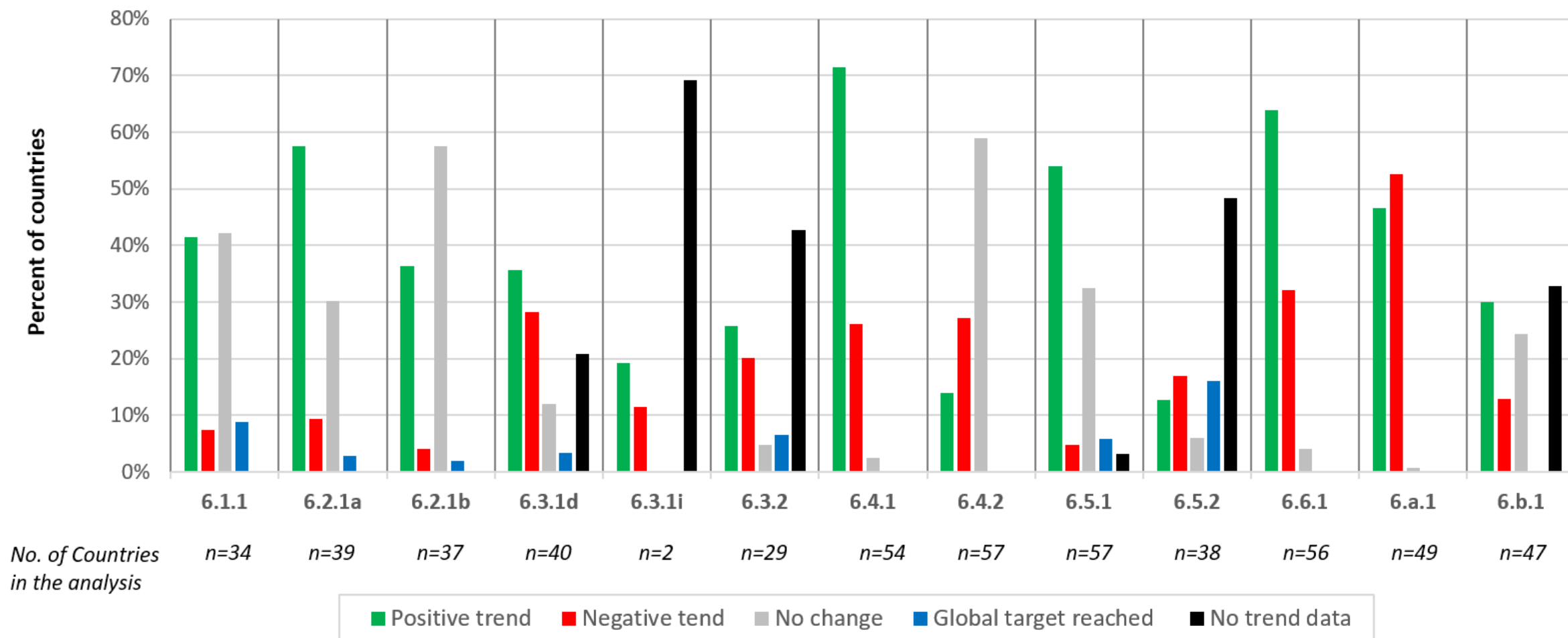


Summary progress on SDG 6 global indicators (SDG baseline compared to latest status)

	Global Level	OIC Member States
Positive trends (progress)	7 6.1.1, 6.2.1a, 6.2.1b, 6.4.1, 6.5.1, 6.6.1, 6.b.1	4 6.4.1, 6.6.1, 6.5.1, 6.2.1a
No change	4 6.3.1d, 6.3.2, 6.4.2, 6.5.2	2 6.4.2, 6.2.1b
Negative trends (regression)	0	1 6.a.1
Insufficient data (no data reporter, or no trend data)	1 6.3.1i	4 6.3.1i, 6.5.2, 6.3.2, 6.b.1
Context-specific or inconclusive	1 6.a.1	2 6.1.1, 6.3.1d

SDG 6 trends in the OIC Member States

Trends per country and global indicator



Key messages

Global Level:

- **Progress is gaining pace in many areas – but not fast enough everywhere. At the regional level, progress is observed across the majority of the global indicators in SDG regions, except in Latin America and the Caribbean, Australia and New Zealand, and Oceania.**
- **LLDC, LDC and SIDS scores are significantly below or below the world average for 6 out of 11 indicators (6.1.1, 6.2.1a, 6.2.1b, 6.3.1, 6.3.2, 6.5.1)**
- **Trajectories show partial attainment by 2030 – full realization remains within reach if progress accelerates**

OlC Examples of significant country progress

Important to learn from examples of significant country progress

- **Uzbekistan:** water stress falling from **169% in 2017 to 123% in 2022**, reflecting reductions in freshwater withdrawals supported by water-saving irrigation, digitalization and wider water-sector reforms. [UN-Water Country Acceleration Case Studies, [Uzbekistan, 2026](#)]
- **Saudi Arabia:** IWRM implementation increasing from **57% in 2017 to 83% in 2023**, alongside domestic wastewater treatment reaching **85% in 2022**. [UN-Water Country Acceleration Case Studies, [Saudi Arabia, 2025](#)]
- **Jordan:** access to safely managed drinking water increasing from **53% in 2000 to 86% in 2022**, the fastest improvement reported in Western Asia. [UN-Water Country Acceleration Case Studies, [Jordan, 2024](#)]
- **Pakistan:** access to handwashing facilities with soap and water increasing from **44% to 74% in rural areas and from 74% to 90% in urban areas between 2017 and 2020**. [UN-Water Country Acceleration Case Studies, [Pakistan, 2022](#)]
- **Senegal:** transboundary water cooperation strengthening substantially, with the share of transboundary basin area covered by operational arrangements increasing from **35% in 2020 to 100% in 2023**, following expanded cooperation on shared groundwater as well as rivers and lakes. [UN-Water Country Acceleration Case Studies, [Senegal, 2022](#)]

How are SDG 6 data used?



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The SDG6 Data Portal <https://sdg6data.org/en>

Welcome to the United Nations

العربية 中文 English Français Русский Español ?



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UN WATER

Home

Snapshots

Maps

Charts

Tables

Data lab

About

How to use



Welcome to the UN-Water SDG 6 Data Portal

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Sustainable Development Goal 6 on water and sanitation (SDG 6)

Indicators and spatial scales - selection

Indicators

- All SDG 6 indicators, including disaggregation + additional indicators
- Economic, social and environmental

Spatial scales

- World
- Different types of regional groupings
- Country (or area)
- Water basins

Snapshots

- Global, Regional, Country

The image shows a user interface for selecting SDG 6 indicators and spatial scales. It consists of two main panels, each with a 'Submit' button and a 'Reset' button.

Left Panel:

- Header: Select a specific country (or areas) or region to display data for, or the whole world
- Tabs: World, Region, Country (or area), Basin (Region is selected)
- Search box: SDG regions
- List of regions with checkboxes:
 - ☐ Australia and New Zealand
 - ☐ Central and Southern Asia
 - ☐ Eastern and South-Eastern Asia
 - ☐ Latin America and the Caribbean
 - ☐ Europe and Northern America
- Header: Select an indicator to display data
- Indicator categories: Water, Economy, Society, Environment (Water is selected)

Right Panel:

- Header: Select a specific country (or areas) or region to display data for, or the whole world
- Tabs: World, Region, Country (or area), Basin (World is selected)
- Search box: World
- Header: Select an indicator to display data
- Indicator categories: Water (selected)
 - Drinking Water
 - 6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water service (%)
 - Safely managed service
 - Overall
 - National (selected)
 - Urban
 - Rural
 - On premises

6.3.1 Proportion of wastewater safely treated (%) > Household > Total ✕

Country > Japan ✕

Country > Romania ✕

type here..

6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good status

Indicator Snapshots

Global Status

Drinking water

73%

of the world's population uses a safely managed drinking water service (SDG indicator 6.1.1, 2022)

Sanitation

57%

of the world's population uses a safely managed sanitation service (SDG indicator 6.2.1a, 2022)

Hygiene

75%

of the world's population has a handwashing facility with soap and water available at home (SDG indicator 6.2.1b, 2022)

Wastewater

58%

of the world's domestic wastewater is safely treated (SDG indicator 6.3.1, 2022)

Water quality

56%

of the world's monitored water bodies has good ambient water quality (SDG indicator 6.3.2, 2023)

Efficiency

21\$/m³

is the value added from the use of water by people and the economy at the global level (SDG indicator 6.4.1, 2021)

Water stress

19%

of the world's renewable water resources is being withdrawn, after taking into account environmental flow requirements (SDG indicator 6.4.2, 2021)

Water management

57%

is the degree of implementation of integrated water resources management (IWRM) at the global level (SDG indicator 6.5.1, 2023)

Transboundary

59%

of the world's transboundary basin areas has an operational arrangement for water cooperation (SDG indicator 6.5.2, 2023)

Ecosystems

21%

of the world's water basins is experiencing rapid changes in the area covered by surface waters (SDG indicator 6.6.1, 2020)

Cooperation

9.1b\$

Participation

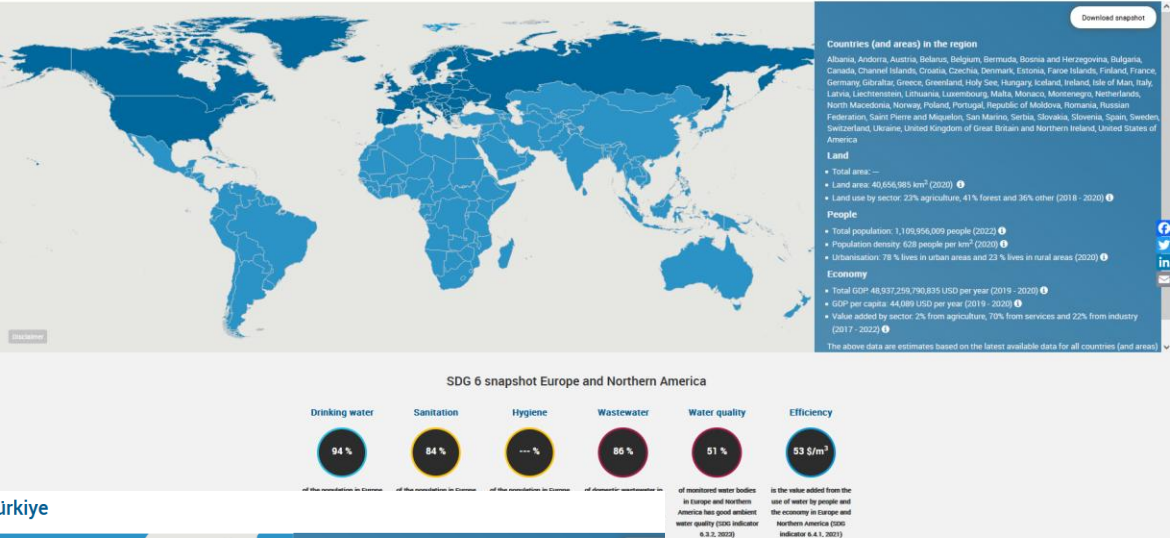
+

There are 11 global indicators to track progress towards SDG 6. The global estimates are based on country data, comparable, sometimes complemented by data from other sources. For some indicators, there are not enough countries.

Country snapshot

Regional snapshot

Europe and Northern America



Türkiye



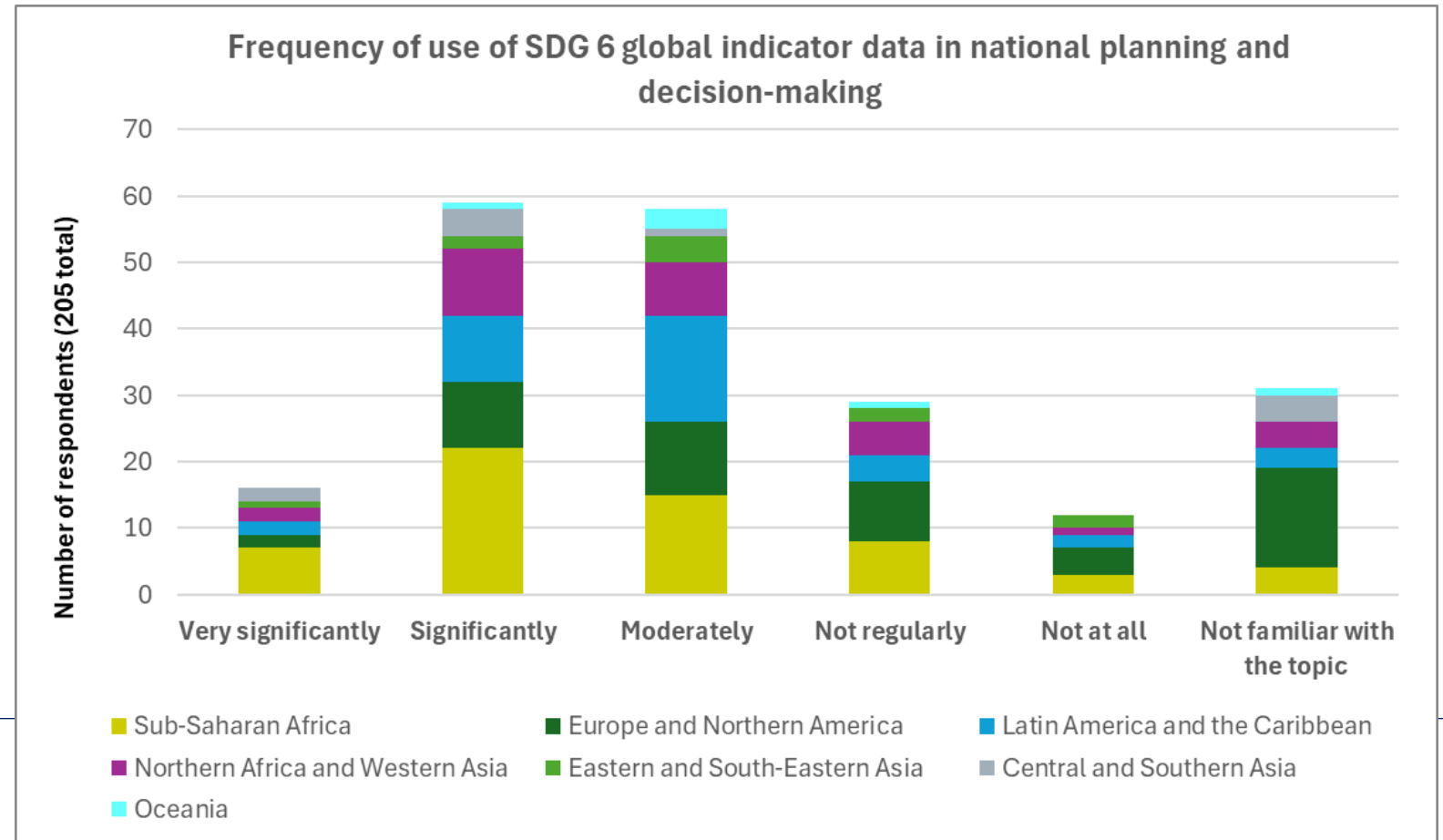
SDG 6 snapshot in Türkiye



SDG 6 Data Use

- Q41. **How often** is SDG 6 global indicator data used in national planning and decision-making?

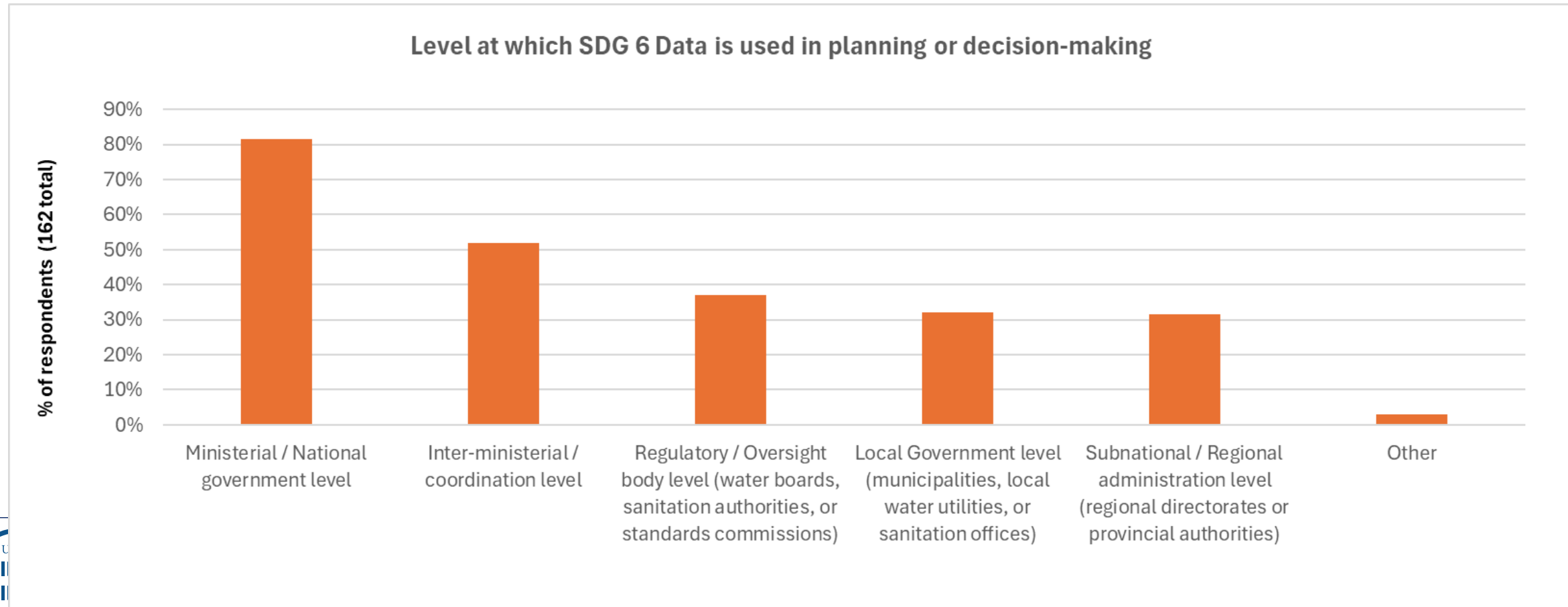
Data from 205 replies to the IMI-SDG6 Mid-term Review Survey



SDG 6 Data Use

- Q42. **At what level** are you using SDG 6 data in planning or decision-making?

Data from 162 replies to the IMI-SDG6 Mid-term Review Survey



SDG 6 Data Use

- Q43. For what **specific types of use**?



Data from 161 replies to the IMI-SDG6 Mid-term Review Survey

SDG 6 Data Use

- Q44. **Specific examples** of how SDG 6 global indicator data informed a recent policy or decision

Synthesis from 68 replies to the IMI-SDG6 Mid-term Review Survey

Analysis of the 68 data use examples shows that SDG 6 data have generated value across four interlinked dimensions:

- ✓ **Governance** is the most common entry point, with indicators informing policy reform, institutional coordination, and basin-level management.
- ✓ **Financial value** follows closely, as SDG 6 data is used to prioritise investments and justify resource allocation.
- ✓ **Equity gains** emerge where disaggregated indicators reveal underserved rural, indigenous, or remote populations.
- ✓ **Resilience value** is evident, particularly through water-quality monitoring, ecosystem protection, and climate adaptation planning.

Together, these dimensions illustrate how SDG 6 data functions not merely as a reporting tool, but as a systemic enabler of evidence-based decision-making.

Data-to-Policy

SDG6 Indicators

Data-to-Decision Pathway

Policy Impact / Value

6.1.1 / 6.2.1

6.3.1

6.3.2

6.4.1 / 6.4.2

6.5.1

6.5.2

6.6.1

6.a

6.b

Policy & Legal Alignment

Data-identified gaps and trends inform policy reviews, target-setting, and legal or strategic updates

Investment Planning & Resource Allocation

Data (coverage, safely managed services, deficits) used to prioritize investments, infrastructure planning, donor funding

IWRM & Basin Cooperation

Indicators are used as diagnostic tools to assess governance, data and cooperation gaps, triggering basin planning, coordination mechanisms, and transboundary cooperation

Operational Standards, Monitoring & Preparedness

Indicators are used to inform regulatory or standard-setting decisions, expand monitoring systems, and guide risk reduction frameworks. Data highlights operational weaknesses requiring technical or institutional responses.

Governance

Stronger institutions and coordination

Finance

Better-targeted investments

Equity

Reduced inequalities in access and use

Resilience

Increased resilience to climate and water risks

SDG 6 Data Use

• Q44. **Specific examples** of how SDG 6 global indicator data informed a recent policy or decision

Selected examples from 68 replies to the IMI-SDG6 Mid-term Review Survey

Governance

- Revision of national water and sanitation policies to reflect SDG 6 targets
- Updating of national water policies and water laws
- Inclusion of SDG 6 indicators in National Development Plans
- Use of SDG 6 data in HLPF Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)
- Use of indicators in UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks
- Increased willingness to accede to UN Water Conventions

Finance

- Prioritisation of rural water supply rehabilitation based on 6.1.1 gaps
- Mandate to utilities to reach 90% treated water access using SDG 6 data
- Allocation of EU Cohesion Funds for water infrastructure
- National sanitation and faecal sludge management investment plans
- Identification of financing deficits for decentralised water structures

Equity

- Development of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) action plans
- Strengthening transboundary cooperation in River Basins
- Basin-level planning where national averages were insufficient for equity-focused decisions

Resilience

- Development of National Ambient Water Quality Standards using 6.3.2
- Expansion of national water quality and integration into RBMPs monitoring
- Alignment of the national water monitoring system with European and international requirements
- Strengthening Water Safety Plans following the identification low “safely managed” scores
- Catchment restoration to reduce erosion, turbidity, and sedimentation
- Integration of SDG 6 data into climate resilience and adaptation strategies
- Improved ability to assess environmental flows and water-stress

Key challenges limiting the use of SDG 6 data

- **Data findability, availability:** Data are often being unknown or not findable by end-users
- **Data accessibility:** Data silos and fragmented ownership limit access; restrictions and administrative barriers prevent seamless data sharing
- **Limited integration into decision-making:** Existing datasets are often underutilized because
 - they are not designed for, nor easily integrated in policy and planning applications - e.g. SDG monitoring processes disconnected from planning and budgeting cycles
 - lack sub-national or basin-level disaggregation (national aggregates mask local inequalities and hotspots)
 - the lack of user-friendly visualization and decision-support tools (e.g. dashboards) makes it difficult for stakeholders to extract actionable insights
 - limited analytical capacity of stakeholders for interpreting SDG data
 - limited translation of data into actionable insights (e.g. absence of trigger thresholds linked to policy responses) and/or
 - limited incentives for cross-sectoral data sharing and use

SDG 6 Data Use – Discussion Questions

1. Uses of SDG 6 data: For which purpose are you using SDG6 data in OIC Member States?

Policy or strategy development or revision	Disaster preparedness and/or disaster risk reduction frameworks
Setting or updating national/subnational targets	Climate resilience planning and/or climate adaptation strategies
Regulatory or standard-setting decisions (e.g., water quality, service provision)	HLPF Voluntary National Reviews
Prioritizing investments, infrastructure planning or budgeting	UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks
Monitoring of national development plans or SDG strategies	Advocacy or awareness-raising
International reporting or donor coordination	Other (specify)

SDG 6 Data Use – Discussion Questions

2. Enablers: Which are the main enablers that support effective SDG 6 data use?

(e.g., strong leadership, coordination mechanisms, technical capacity, skilled staff, data platforms, visualization and communication tools, donor engagement, external support)

3. Barriers, and Gaps: Which are the main barriers or gaps that limit effective SDG 6 data use?

(e.g., data availability, fragmented datasets, methodological inconsistencies, data relevance, limited technical capacity, weak demand for data, political constraints)

5. How to enhance the dissemination of SDG 6 data via NSOs?

What additional support, tools, or partnerships would **help strengthen the consistent and effective use** of SDG 6 data? **How can NSO support this effort?**

Available support to countries

Guidance on data collection and reporting

- Monitoring methodologies
- Good practices for country monitoring systems
- Data collection process and timeline

Face-to-face support

- Country visits/technical consultations
- Regional/sub-regional workshops
- International meetings

Data and progress reporting

- SDG 6 Data Portal
- Indicator-specific data portals
- Earlier indicator progress and synthesis reporting

Online support

- Helpdesk (email, phone, video conference)
- Database with country overall and technical focal points (available for country focal points)
- Webinars
- E-learning courses and tutorials
- Newsletters with regular updates about activities
- Collection of country experience on SDG 6 monitoring and reporting

<https://www.unwater.org/our-work/integrated-monitoring-initiative-sdg-6>

UN-WATER INTEGRATED MONITORING INITIATIVE FOR SDG 6 (IMI-SDG6)



Learn more about all SDG 6 global indicators

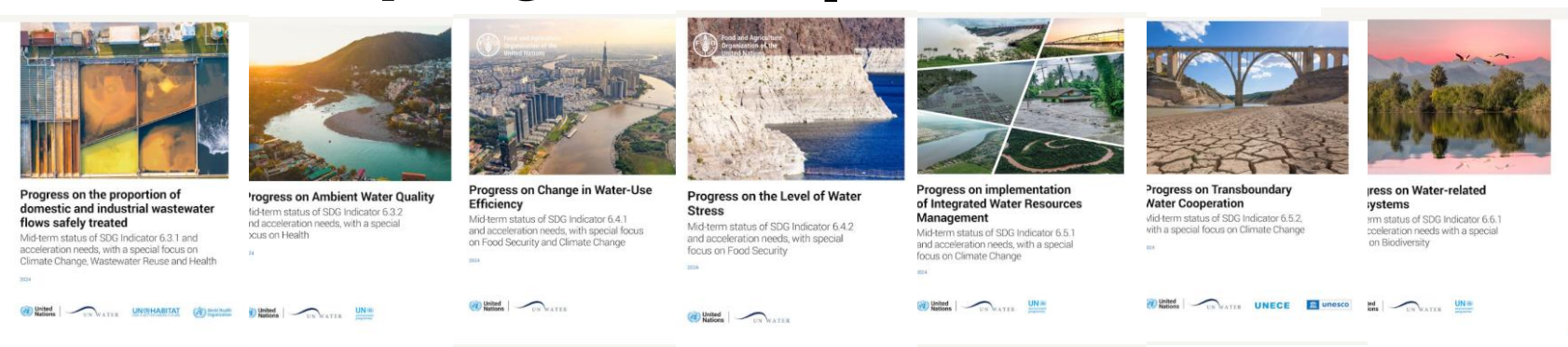
<https://www.sdg6monitoring.org/>

- Discover the methodologies
- See the timeline for country reporting
- Get support from IMI-SDG6 and learn from other countries

<https://www.sdg6data.org/>

- Track progress on water and sanitation – globally, regionally and nationally
- View, analyse and download data through maps, charts and tables
- Discover how SDG 6 links to other SDGs

2024 progress reports



To
download:



2026 & 2025 progress reports



2026 Synthesis Report

