Reporting on transboundary aquifers: Challenges and tools

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

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592 transboundary aquifers worldwide
Cooperation on transboundary aquifers: 1st reporting

Value of aquifer component of SDG indicator 6.5.2

- 0 - 10%
- 10 - 30%
- 30 - 50%
- 50 - 70%
- 70 - 90%
- 90 - 100%

- Country response needs clarification
- No response received
- Indicator not applicable
Transboundary aquifers in the Arab states region
Reporting on transboundary aquifer during the 1st phase
# Reporting on transboundary aquifer during the 1st phase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Surface water component (%)</th>
<th>Aquifer Component (%)</th>
<th>SDG indicator 6.5.2 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>61.7</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>21.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>80.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Northern Africa and Western Asia**

![Bar chart showing percentages of SDG indicator 6.5.2](chart.png)

- **Very high 90-100%**
- **High 70-90%**
- **Medium high 50-70%**
- **Medium low 30-50%**
- **Low 10-30%**
- **Very low 0-10%**

**Information provided needs to be clarified**

**Information not received**

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**UNESCO**

Supporting the monitoring and implementation of the SDGs in the Arab region:

Transboundary water cooperation SDG 6 Indicator 6.5.2
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In: Progress on Shared Water Resources Management in the Arab Region: Regional baseline for SDG Indicator 6.5.2
Challenges faced during the 1\textsuperscript{st} reporting exercise

Absence of reporting under SDG Indicator 6.5.2, but information reported under SDG Indicator 6.5.1:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Shared water body</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>North Western Sahara Aquifer System (Algeria, Tunisia), Nubian Sandstone Aquifer System (Chad, Egypt, Sudan) (Note that these two arrangements were mentioned in the reporting under SDG indicator 6.5.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>Saq-Disi aquifer (Jordan) (This arrangement is mentioned in the reporting under SDG indicator 6.5.1 and by Jordan under SDG indicator reporting 6.5.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>Nubian Sandstone Aquifer System (Chad, Egypt, Libya) (The arrangements and initiatives for these two shared water bodies were mentioned in the reporting under SDG indicator 6.5.1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Challenges faced during the 1st reporting exercise

- Assumed equivalence between water scarcity and water (in)security
- Insignificant use of transboundary aquifers
- Superposition of aquifers, scientific uncertainty (data) + multiple counting of areas
Good practices and lessons learnt

Some reports are the product of extensive coordination:
- Different approaches to group, collect and report information
- Opportunity to strengthen national coordination, cooperation and data sharing
- Impact in terms of visibility and increased awareness of national and cross-border issues

Reported information:
- Wealth of data that had never been transmitted before
- Groundwater data is a particular challenge
- Long-term process to make the best use of international sources
How to improve the reporting: tools and materials

Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme Information System on transboundary aquifers

How to improve the reporting: tools and materials

First comprehensive indicator-based global assessment of status and trends in transboundary aquifers
How to improve the reporting: tools and materials
How to improve the reporting: tools and materials


Transboundary Aquifers of the World (2015)

The 2015 Map of Transboundary Aquifers of the World (2015 TBA Map) shows the information presently available on the occurrence and extent of Transboundary Aquifers worldwide. There are now 592 identified transboundary aquifers (including 226 transboundary ‘groundwater bodies’ as defined in the European Union Water Framework Directive, EU WFD, underlying almost every nation).

The map is based on the most recent results of an inventory of many projects of many
How to improve the reporting: tools and materials


Supporting the monitoring and implementation of the SDGs in the Arab region: Transboundary water cooperation SDG 6 Indicator 6.5.2
Online data and information about aquifers:
- Delineation
- Physical characteristics
- Hydrogeological parameters
- Georeferenced items

- Technical support from the agencies

1. **Commends** to the attention of Governments the draft articles on the law of transboundary aquifers annexed to its resolution 68/118 as **guidance for bilateral or regional agreements and arrangements for the proper management of transboundary aquifers**;

2. **Encourages** also the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO to continue its contribution by **providing further scientific and technical assistance** upon the consent of the recipient State and within its mandate;
Thank you for your attention