



Progress on Transboundary Water Cooperation

Global baseline for SDG Indicator 6.5.2 and insight on 6.5.1

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Goal 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation

UNEP-DHI PARTNERSHIP
Centre on Water and Environment



6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation





Background on SDG indicator 6.5.2

- **Indicator 6.5.2:** Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation.
- Tier II indicator: reviewed at 5th IAEG-SDG meeting in 2017
- 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/co-ordinated water management plan, or joint objectives

Reporting process

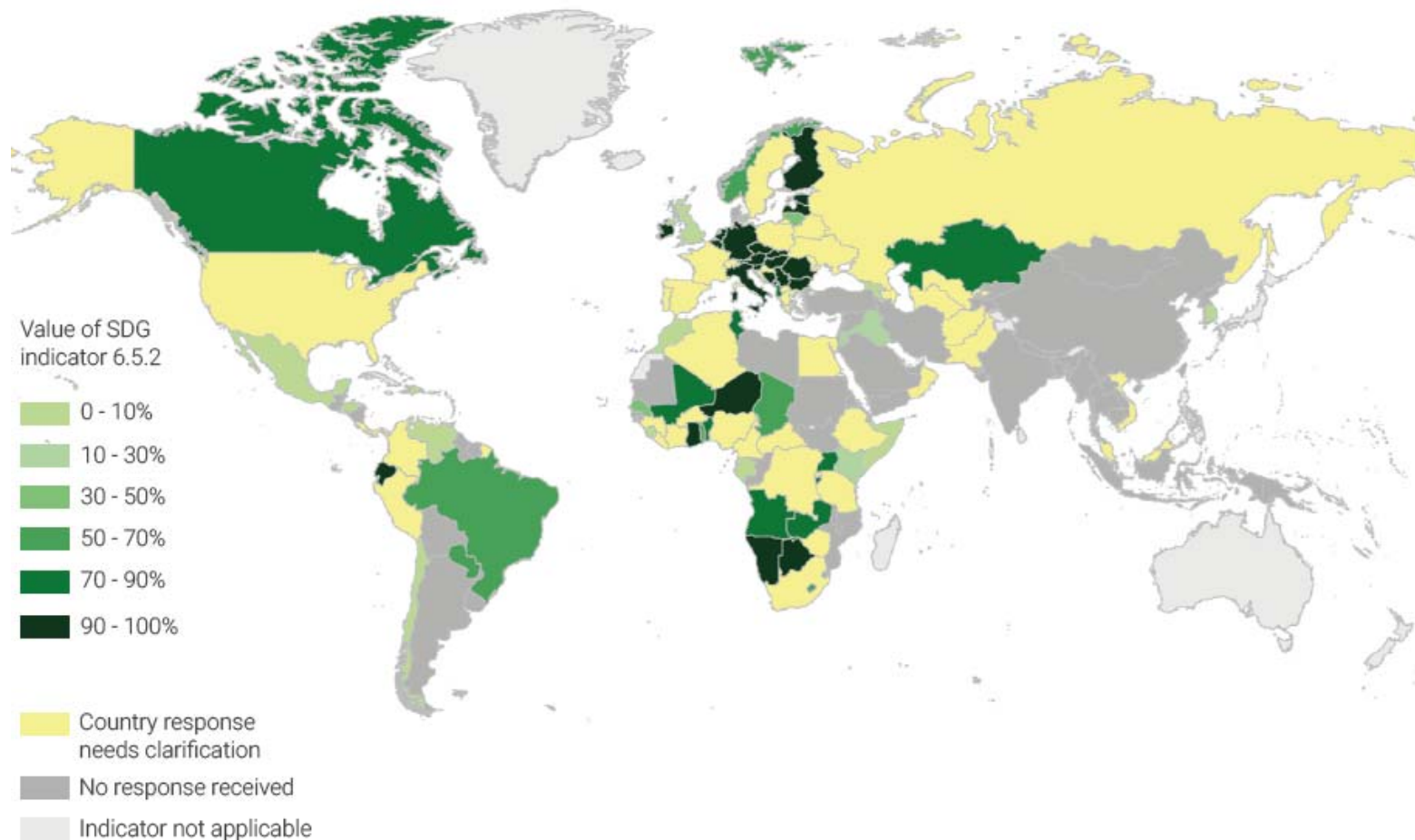


- Early 2017 - invitation for countries to report sent by UNECE and UNESCO
- Mid-2017 - deadline for submission of national reports
- Countries supported by a set of measures (step-by-step methodology, webinars, presentations at relevant meetings, dialogue with custodian agencies)
- Post sub-mission of national reports
 - UNECE and UNESCO reviewed and analysed reports
 - Exchanges with Member States for clarification process
 - UNECE: river and lake basins
 - UNESCO: aquifers
- February 2018 - national 6.5.2 data submitted to United Nations Statistical Commission
- National reports to be made available on line early 2019 (unless objection by country)

Initial results of the first reporting on SDG6.5.2



107 country responses
by March 2018 (out of
153 countries sharing
transboundary waters)



Initial results of the first reporting on SDG6.5.2

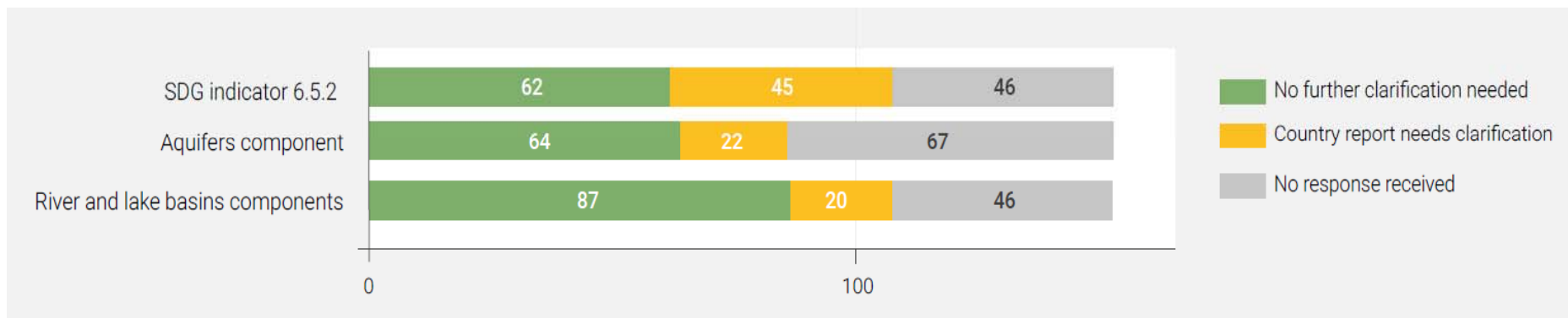


1st time countries submitted such information

High response rate: 70% of countries sharing transboundary waters responded

Quality of reports: indicator 6.5.2 calculation available for 60% of the responses

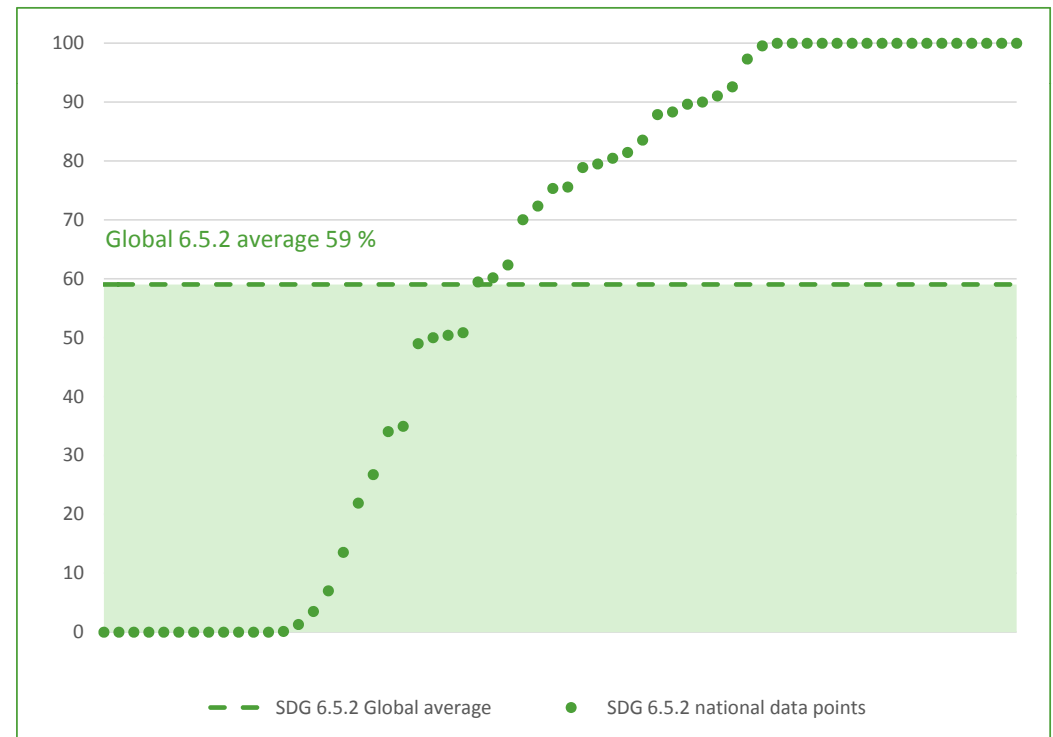
95% of the Parties to Water Convention submitted a report



Initial results of the first reporting on SDG6.5.2



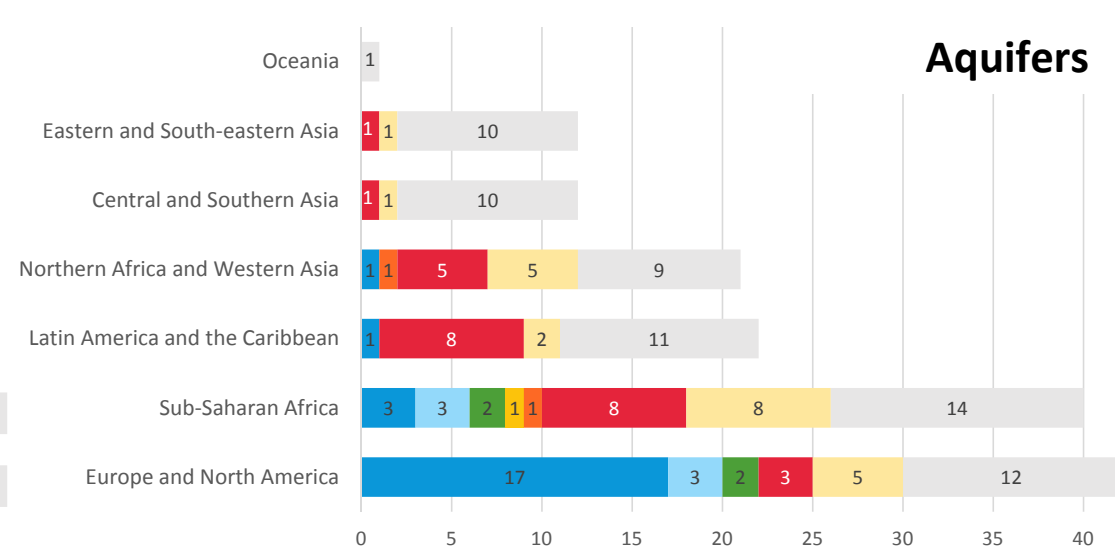
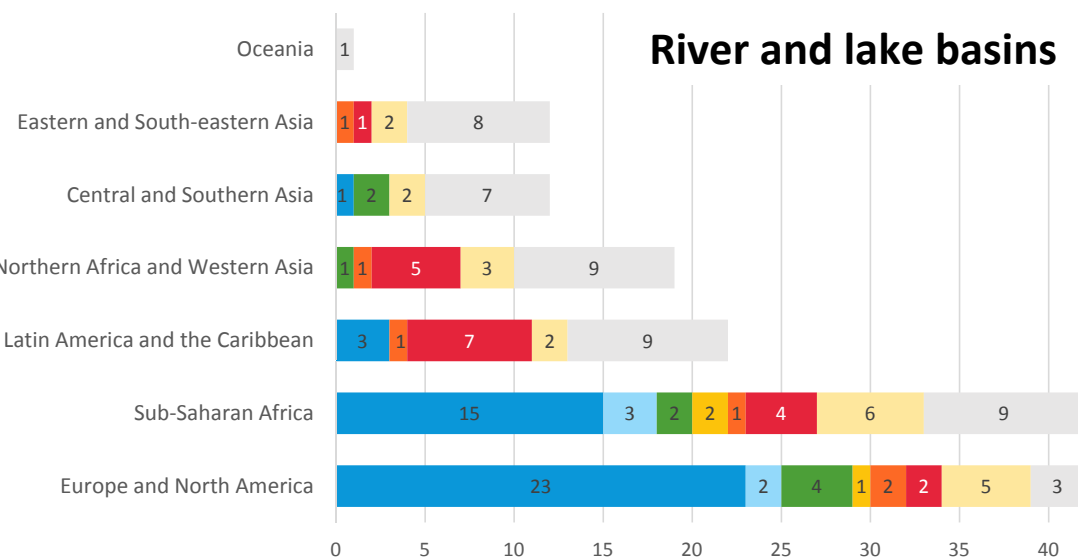
- 59% = average of the national percentage of transboundary basins covered by an operational arrangement in the period 2017/2018, (62 out of 153 countries)
- Only 17 countries with all transboundary waters covered by operational arrangements
- Significant effort needed to ensure that operational arrangements cover all transboundary waters, especially aquifers



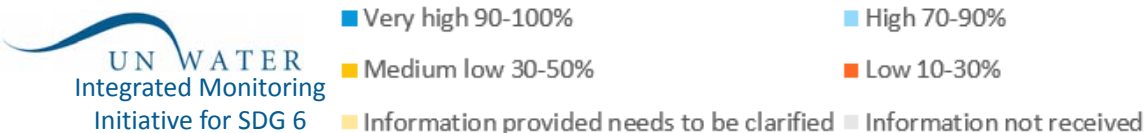
Initial results of the first reporting on SDG6.5.2



Regional breakdown of the number of countries sharing basins and level of transboundary water cooperation (based on SDG6.5.2 indicator)



The average of the national percentage of transboundary basins covered by an operational arrangement is 64% for rivers and lakes basins and 48% for aquifers.



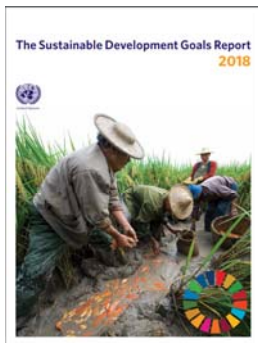
Initial uptake of SDG6.5.2 data



6.5.2 data critical to ensuring transboundary water cooperation accurately and sufficiently reflected in SDGs framework

Data already provided input to:

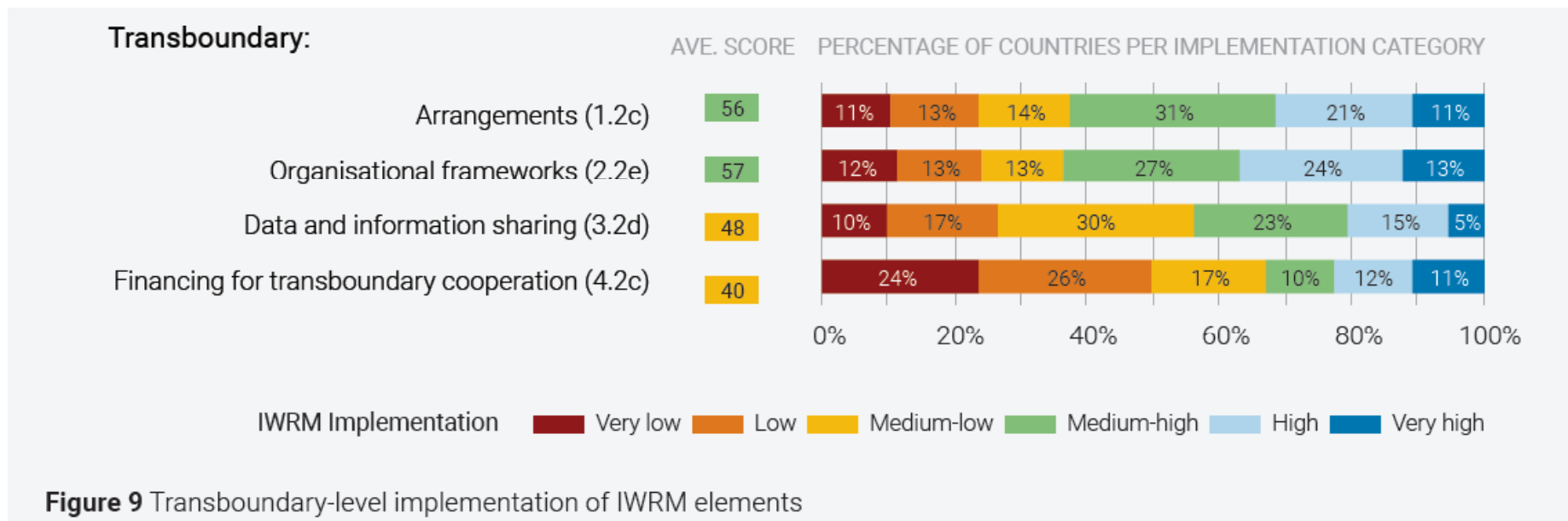
- SDG6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation – joint position of UN family on global status of SD6
- Feed into High-Level Political Forum on SDGs, 9-28 July 2018
- 2018 UN SDG Report highlighting progress made in support of 2030 Agenda and gaps that remain
- UN Statistical Commission SDG database (For first time, national data on 6.5.2 included alongside data on all SDG indicators)
- UNECE-UNESCO SDG indicator 6.5.2 report published by UN-Water (Launched at Stockholm World Water Week (August 2018) and eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, Astana, Kazakhstan (October 2018))



WATER
Monitoring
SDG 6



Comparison with SDG indicator 6.5.1



- **132 countries** reported on the transboundary questions for 6.5.1
 - 1/3 reported “high to very high” implementation of arrangements and organisational frameworks
 - 1/5 reported “high to very high” levels for data & information sharing and financing arrangements
- Cross-reference with SDG indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary cooperation, and future harmonisation of reporting approaches between the two indicators, would re-enforce both.



Comparison with SDG indicator 6.5.1

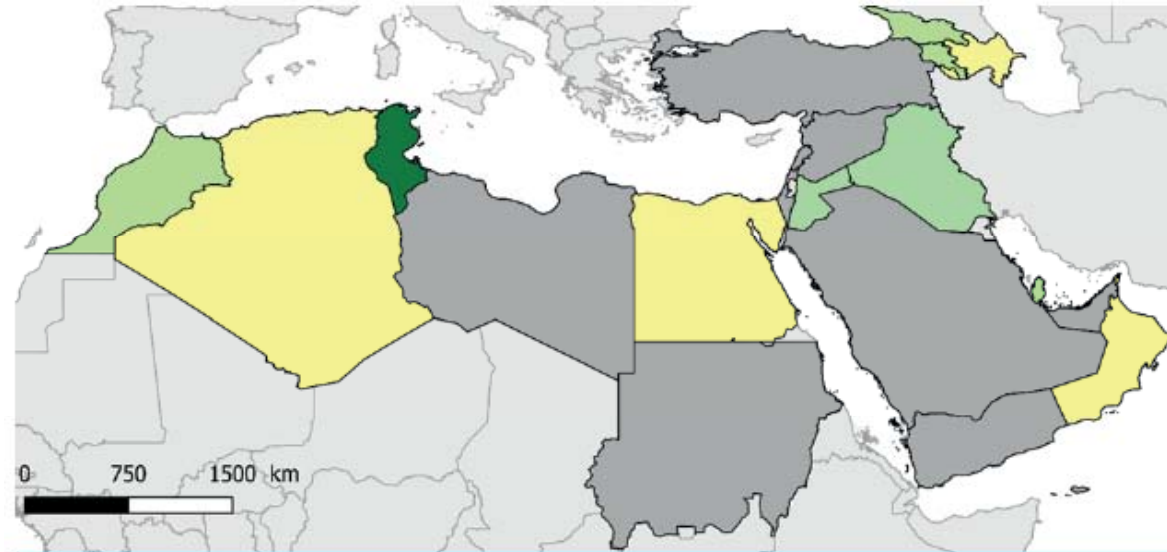
Table 3 General interpretation of transboundary implementation categories for four questions

	Very High	High	Medium-high	Medium-low	Low	Very low
Arrangements / organizational frameworks / data and info sharing	Fully implemented, mandates fully fulfilled.	Mostly implemented, mandates mostly fulfilled	Partly implemented, mandates partly fulfilled.	Adopted	Being developed	None
Financing arrangements	Agreed contributions fully met.	Funding more than 75% of agreed contributions.	Funding less than 75% of agreed contributions.	Funding less than 50% of agreed contributions.	Adopted	None

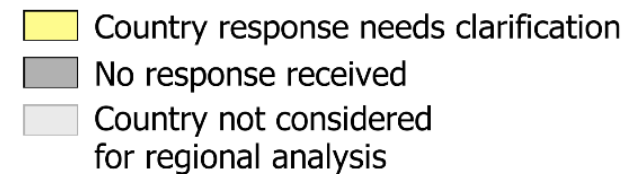
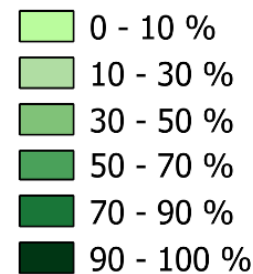
SDG 6.5.2 and Northern Africa and Western Asia



- 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



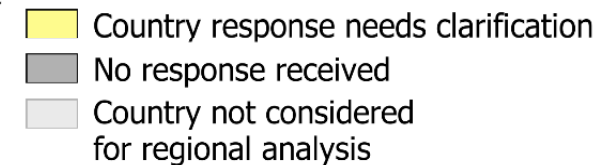
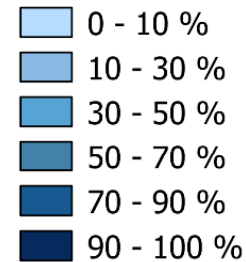
SDG 6.5.2 and River and Lake Basins in Northern Africa and Western Asia



- Possible to calculate SDG6.5.2 for river and lake basins for 7 countries in Northern Africa and Western Asia
- 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



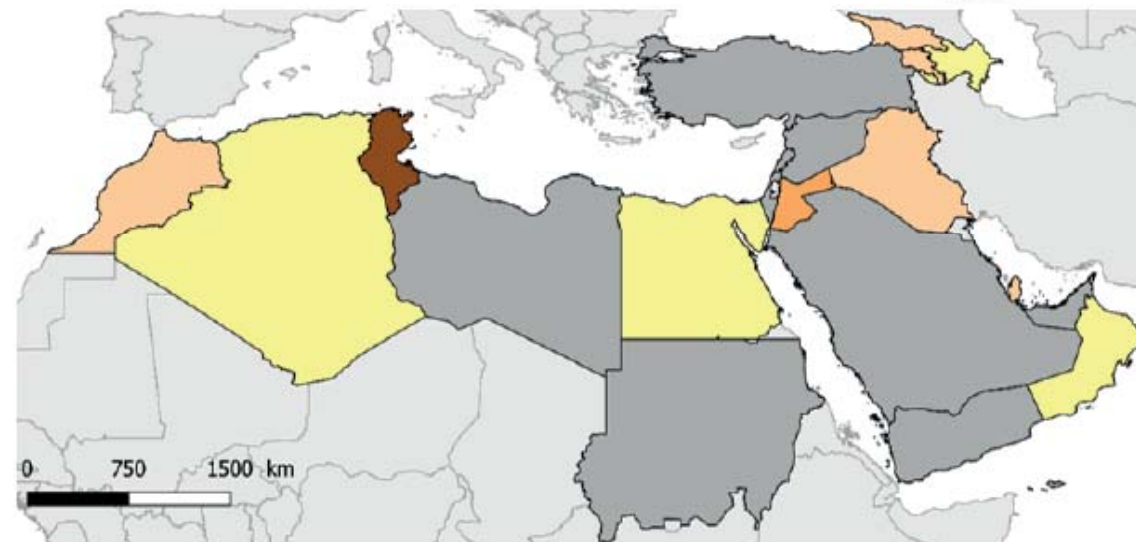
Value of river and lake basin component of SDG indicator 6.5.2



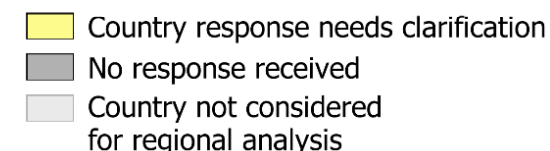
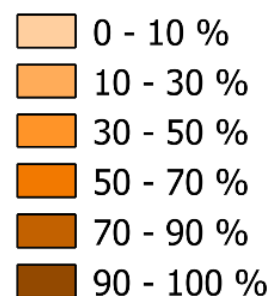
SDG6.5.2 and Aquifers in Northern Africa and Western Asia



- Possible to calculate SDG6.5.2 for transboundary aquifers for 7 countries in Northern Africa and Western Asia
- Average indicator for transboundary aquifers: 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



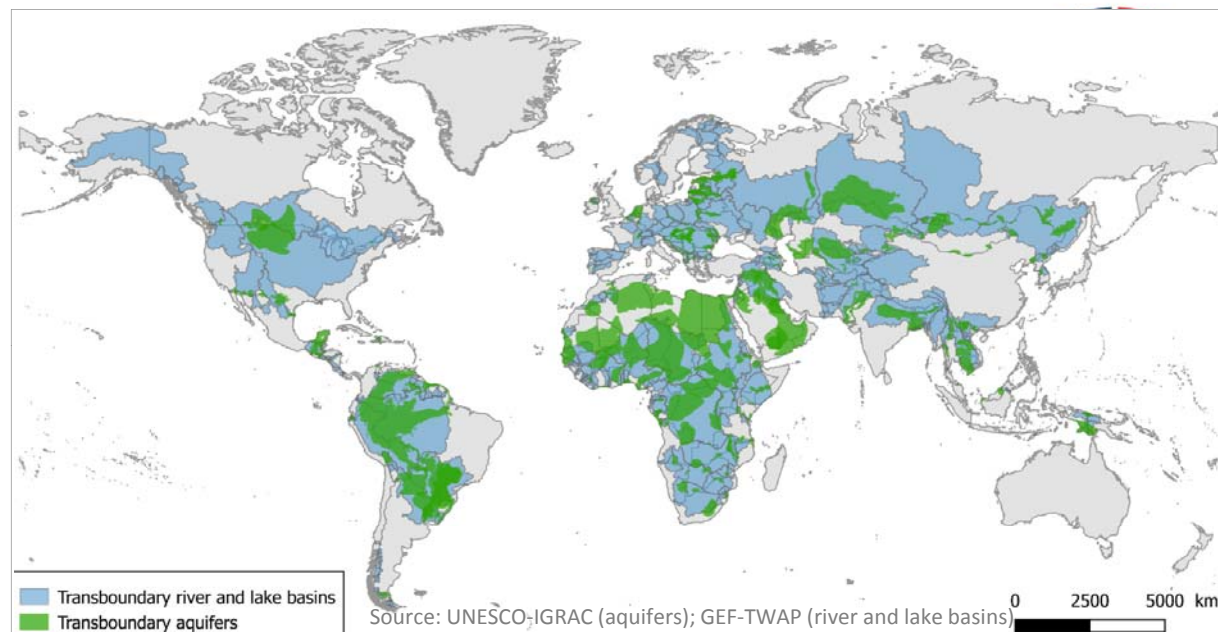
Value of aquifer component of SDG indicator 6.5.2



Key messages

- As only target in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development explicitly referring to transboundary cooperation, target 6.5. can play a catalytic role across multiple SDGs and targets.
- In some regions and basins, significant **progress** has been made to develop transboundary water cooperation through operational arrangements

⇒ “Europe and Northern America” and “Sub-Saharan Africa” show greatest levels of progress



BUT... we are **not on track** to achieve target 6.5 - progress must be accelerated to ensure that all transboundary basins are covered by operational arrangements

Cooperation on transboundary **aquifers** represents a particular challenge



Conclusions

- SDG indicator 6.5.2 reporting = first country-led global process of reporting on transboundary water cooperation
- Next reporting cycle: End of 2019 invitation to report / 30th June 2010 deadline for reporting
- 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



Thanks for listening!

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