

Monitoring of SDG target 6.4

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

MDG+ Initiative

High level meeting on the water-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Amman, Jordan, 1-2 November 2016

SDG target 6.4

- SDG-6.4: By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.

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SDG target 6.4 – Indicators

- FAO is custodian agency for the indicators of the SDG target 6.4:
 - 6.4.1: Change in water use-efficiency over time
 - 6.4.2: Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal in percentage of available freshwater resources
 - 6.4.3 – *Number of people affected by water scarcity/stress (proposed)*

6.4.1 - Purpose/use of the indicator

- It provides information on the efficiency of the economic and social usage of water resources, i.e. the value added generated by the different main sectors of the economy (agriculture, industry, services) while using water
- The weighted sum of the three sectoral efficiencies provides a measure of overall water efficiency in a country
- It provides incentives to improve water use efficiency through all sectors, highlighting those sectors where water use efficiency is lagging behind

6.4.1 - Interpretation of Indicator

- Water use efficiency is strongly influenced by the economic structure and the proportion of water use intensive sectors
- A lower water use efficiency primarily means that the economic and industrial structure of the country is water use intensive. A less water use intensive economy would show a relatively high water use efficiency.
- The change in water use efficiency is influenced by both 'real' improvements and deteriorations, as well as by changes in economic and industry structure.
- Key message: Increasing values in time series indicate decoupling of the economic growth from water use. It does not necessarily indicate decline in total water use or a reduction of the impact of water use (see water stress – Indicator 6.4.2)

6.4.2 - Purpose/use of Indicator

- It shows the degree to which freshwater resources are being exploited to meet the country's water demand
- It measures a country's pressure on its water resources and the challenge on the sustainability of its water use
- It tracks progress in regard to “sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity”, i.e. the environmental component of target 6.4

6.4.2 - Interpretation of the indicator

- It shows to what extent freshwater resources are already used, and signals the importance of effective supply and demand management policies
- It can also indicate the likelihood of increasing competition and conflict between different water uses and users in a situation of increasing water scarcity
- Increased water stress, shown by an increase in the value of the indicator, has potentially negative effects on the sustainability of the natural resources and on economic development
- Low values of the indicator indicate that water does not represent a particular challenge or limiting factor for economic development and sustainability
- Spatial disaggregation of this indicator at subnational level is particularly important to increase its meaningfulness and usefulness for policy purposes

Thank you

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