



# Status of SDG 6 implementation

# Regional Forum on Sustainable Development 2023 for the UNECE region 30 March 2023



# SDG 6.1 DRINKING WATER

World Health Organization (WHO) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

## 6.1.1 Drinking water



- 96% of the population in Europe and Northern America had safely managed drinking water services in 2020
- Acceleration needed to achieve universal access to safely managed drinking water services by 2030: efforts must increase two-fold (current rate of progress x 2)
- **20 countries** have already achieved universal access (>99%) by 2020
- 10 million people still lacked even a basic drinking water service in 2020
- **48 (out of 53) countries** had national estimates available for safely managed drinking water services in 2020



# SDG 6.2 SANITATION AND HYGIENE

World Health Organization (WHO) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

### 6.2.1 Sanitation



- **78% of the population in Europe and Northern America** had safely managed sanitation services in 2020
- Acceleration needed to achieve universal access to safely managed sanitation services by 2030: efforts must increase six-fold (current rate of progress x 6)
- **5 countries** have already achieved universal access (>99%) by 2020
- **27 million people** still lacked even a basic sanitation service in 2020
- **44 (out of 53) countries** had national estimates available for safely managed sanitation services in 2020

# 6.2.1 Hygiene



- Insufficient data to produce regional estimates for basic hygiene services in Europe and Northern America in 2020
- Insufficient data to estimate acceleration needed to achieve universal access to basic hygiene services by 2030
- 2 countries had already achieved universal access (>99%) by 2020
- Only 2 (out of 53) countries had national estimates available for basic hygiene services in 2020



# SDG 6.3 WASTEWATER AND WATER QUALITY

World Health Organization (WHO) United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

### 6.3.1 Wastewater treatment (total)

- Data on <u>total</u> wastewater treatment are available from 17 countries in Europe and Northern America.
- The proportion of generated wastewater that receives treatment ranges from verly low (10%) to very high (100%).



## 6.3.1 Wastewater treatment (industrial)

• Data on <u>industrial</u> wastewater treatment are only available from 10 European countries.



## 6.3.1 Wastewater treatment (domestic)



• 80% of domestic wastewater generated in Europe and Northern America was safely treated in 2020.



### 6.3.2 Ambient water quality







Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality (%)

Data not available

Not applicable



## 6.3.2 Ambient water quality



#### Alignment with existing reporting frameworks is essential

Countries in Europe and North America already have water quality reporting frameworks in place. Aligning SDG indicator 6.3.2 with these existing frameworks is essential to:

- reduce reporting burden; and,
- avoid mixed messages.

This work is already underway – but more is needed. UNEP is working with:

- EEA and DG Env in Europe (pilot project completed in 2020 and being updated in 2023 to align with WFD);
- US EPA; and,
- ECCC in Canada

"More monitoring needed" can be an overused message, but a critically important one when people are using untreated water of unknown quality for drinking and domestic use.



# SDG 6.4 WATER USE AND SCARCITY

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

## 6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency



- In Europe and Northern America, water-use efficiency increased by 9 % between 2015 and 2019. This increase has taken place across ALL economic sectors.
- 51.6 \$/m3 is the ratio between the value added to the volume of water withdrawn in Europe and North America (in 2019). This is almost 3 times higher than the world average.
- Industrial water-use efficiency increased by 7.7 % between 2015 and 2019, to 21.3 \$/m3. Almost half of the region's water withdrawal is used by industry.
- Municipal water-use efficiency increased by 8.0% between 2015 and 2019, to 222.9 \$/m3. Municipality use accounts for one fifth of the region's water withdrawal.
- Water-use efficiency in agriculture increased by 1.4% between 2015 and 2019, to 0.3 \$/m3. A third of the region's water withdrawal is used for agriculture.



## 6.4.2 Level of water stress



- In Europe and Northern America, 12.5% of total renewable freshwater resources are withdrawn for economic activities (in 2019), indicating no water stress at the regional level.
- However, this value masks national and sub-national variations, for example there are water basins in Northern America that are affected by high levels of water stress.
- Both total renewable water resources per capita and total freshwater withdrawals per capita decreased by 1 % between 2015 and 2019.





# SDG 6.5 WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

### 6.5.1 Integrated water resources management





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### 6.5.1 Integrated water resources management



"SDG" Region	6.5.1 score		Sub-region	6.5.1 score	
	2017	2020		2017	2020
Europe and Northern America	67	72	Southern Europe	58	64
			Eastern Europe	58	66
			Northern Europe	73	77
			Western Europe	72	77
			Northern America	-	77



#### 6.5.2 Transboundary water cooperation



- **High level of country engagement in the region: 41 out of 42 countries** sharing water resources participated in the reporting process, and **39 countries** provided sufficient data to calculate the SDG indicator value for transboundary rivers, lakes and transboundary aquifers
- **Compared to other regions, Europe and Northern America is the most advanced** in terms of transboundary water cooperation, and most likely to have all their river and lake basins covered by operational arrangements by 2030
  - → 27 countries have operational arrangements covering 90% or more of their river and lake basins
  - → 20 countries reported very high level of cooperation on its shared aquifers
- **Transboundary water cooperation is encouraged** (e.g., 1992 Water Convention and EU Water Framework Directive) and there is **a long tradition of entering into arrangements** (e.g., Maas, Rhine, Danube Conventions and US-Canada treaties)
- Although some countries could not report on the area of their transboundary aquifers, they stated that they are covered by cooperation arrangements that apply to all transboundary waters. More specific information on shared groundwater and aquifers is expected during the next round of global reporting in 2023.

6.5.2 Transboundary water cooperation



 Number of countries in Europe and Northern America sharing transboundary river, lakes and aquifers and breakdown of SDG 6.5.2 indicator values





# SDG 6.6 FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

#### 6.6.1 Freshwater ecosystems



Map of river basins with an observed high increase and loss of available surface water (area)

Map of large lakes affected by water quality – eutrophication and turbidity



No changeHigh increaseHigh decrease

Data shows changes occurring in available surface water within river basins during recent 5 years (2015-19) compared with last 20 years (2000-19). Increase in surface water area associated with flooding and inundation. Decreased surface water associated with loss of permanent water bodies and extended drought. Climate and land use change are recognised drivers of surface water changes.



Affected by: Trophic State Index (TSI) Turbidity (TUR) Both TSI/TUR Data shows proxy water quality indicators of high to extreme levels of trophic conditions and turbidity within large lakes in last 3 years (2017-19) compared to 5-year reference period (2006-10).



# SDG 6.A INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

World Health Organization (WHO)

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

#### 6.a.1 International cooperation





Not part of selection



# SDG 6.B LOCAL PARTICIPATION

World Health Organization (WHO)

#### 6.b.1 Local participation



# 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











