Progress on ambient water quality: Global indicator 6.3.2 updates and acceleration needs

Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

UN environment programme

GEMS Water

Housekeeping

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Webinar objectives

- Share the latest findings of the 2020 data drive
- Encourage participation by those who have not submitted yet
- Showcase the great progress made so far
- Outline actions needed to accelerate this progress to achieve Target 6.3 and Goal 6

Webinar outline

Agenda
Indicator overview
Key findings of the 2020 data drive
2021 Feedback process
Country perspective - Chile
Summary of capacity development resources
Outlook and future
Discussion session
Session summary and close

Poll question 1

SDG Target 6.3 starts with the words "*By 2030, improve water quality… "*. In your opinion, how likely is it that water quality will have improved in your country by 2030? (Single choice)
Choice = very unlikely / unlikely / neutral / likely / very likely

La cible 6.3 des ODD commence par les mots "D'ici à 2030, améliorer la qualité de l'eau...". À votre avis, quelle est la probabilité que la qualité de l'eau se soit améliorée dans votre pays d'ici 2030 ? (Choix unique)
Choix = très improbable / improbable / neutre / probable / très probable

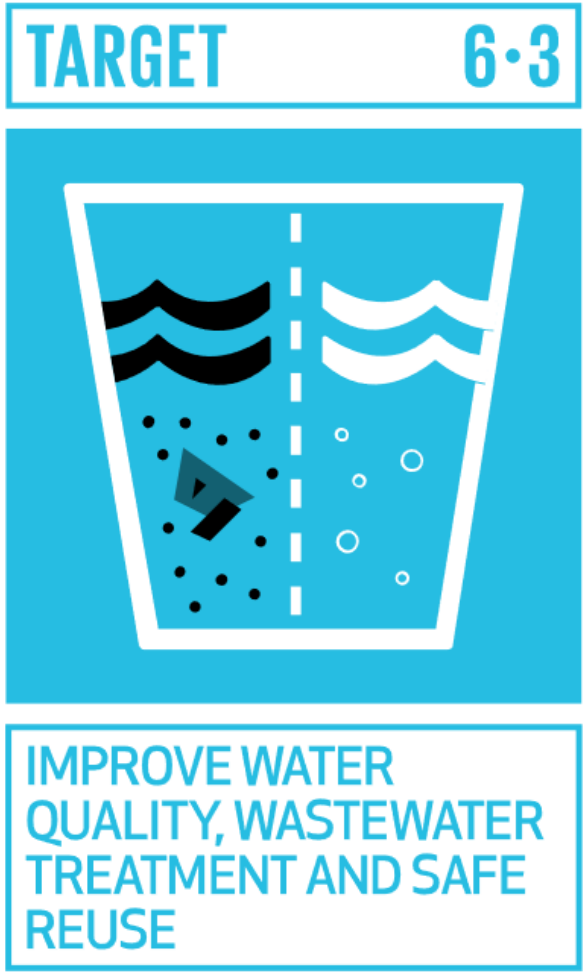
La meta 6.3 de los ODS comienza con las palabras "Para 2030, mejorar la calidad del agua...". En su opinión, ¿qué probabilidad hay de que la calidad del agua haya mejorado en su país en 2030? (Una sola opción)
Opción = muy improbable / improbable / neutral / probable / muy probable

Indicator overview

Target 6.3 and Indicator 6.3.2

By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally

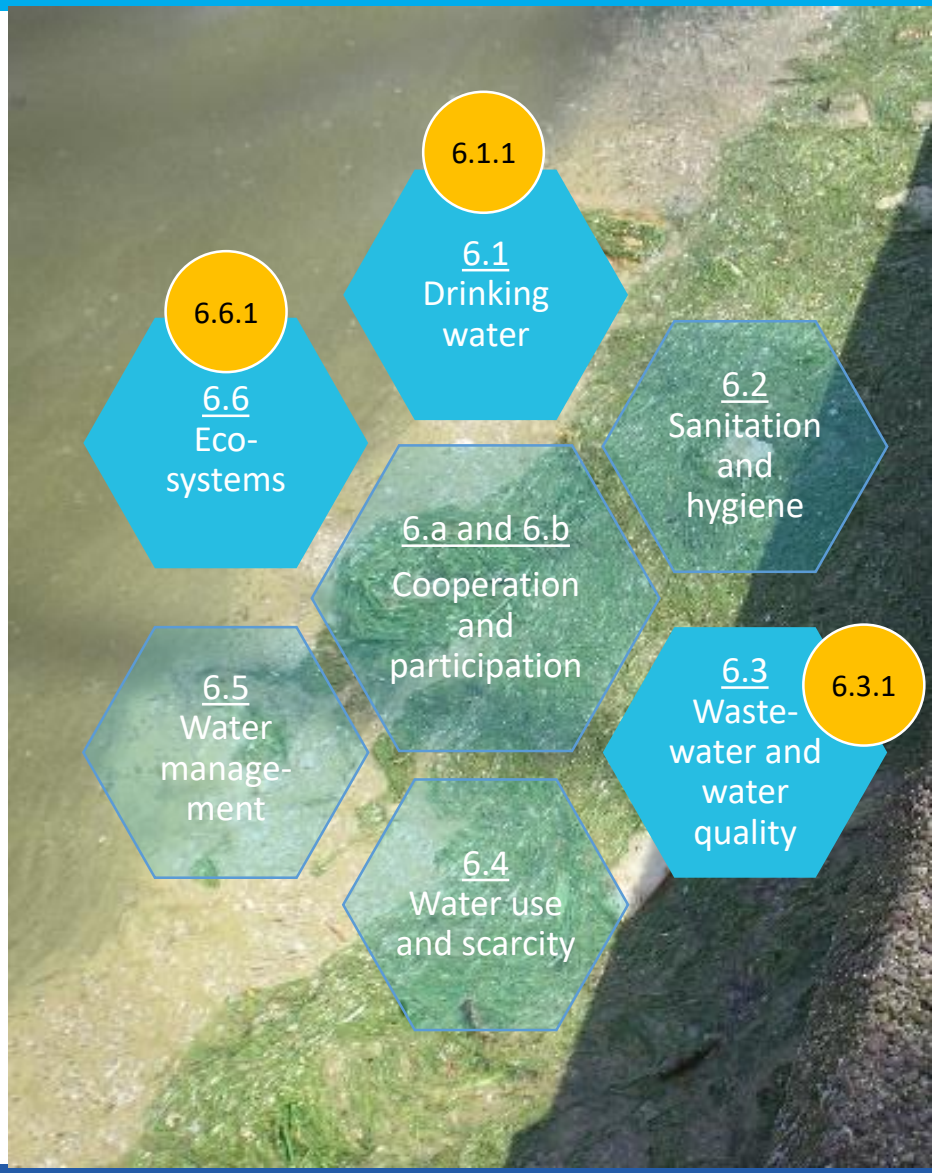
- Indicator 6.3.1 - Proportion of wastewater safely treated
- **Indicator 6.3.2 - Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality**



Indicator 6.3.2 supports water management at national level

No information, or inaccurate information, could lead to incorrect management actions, such as:

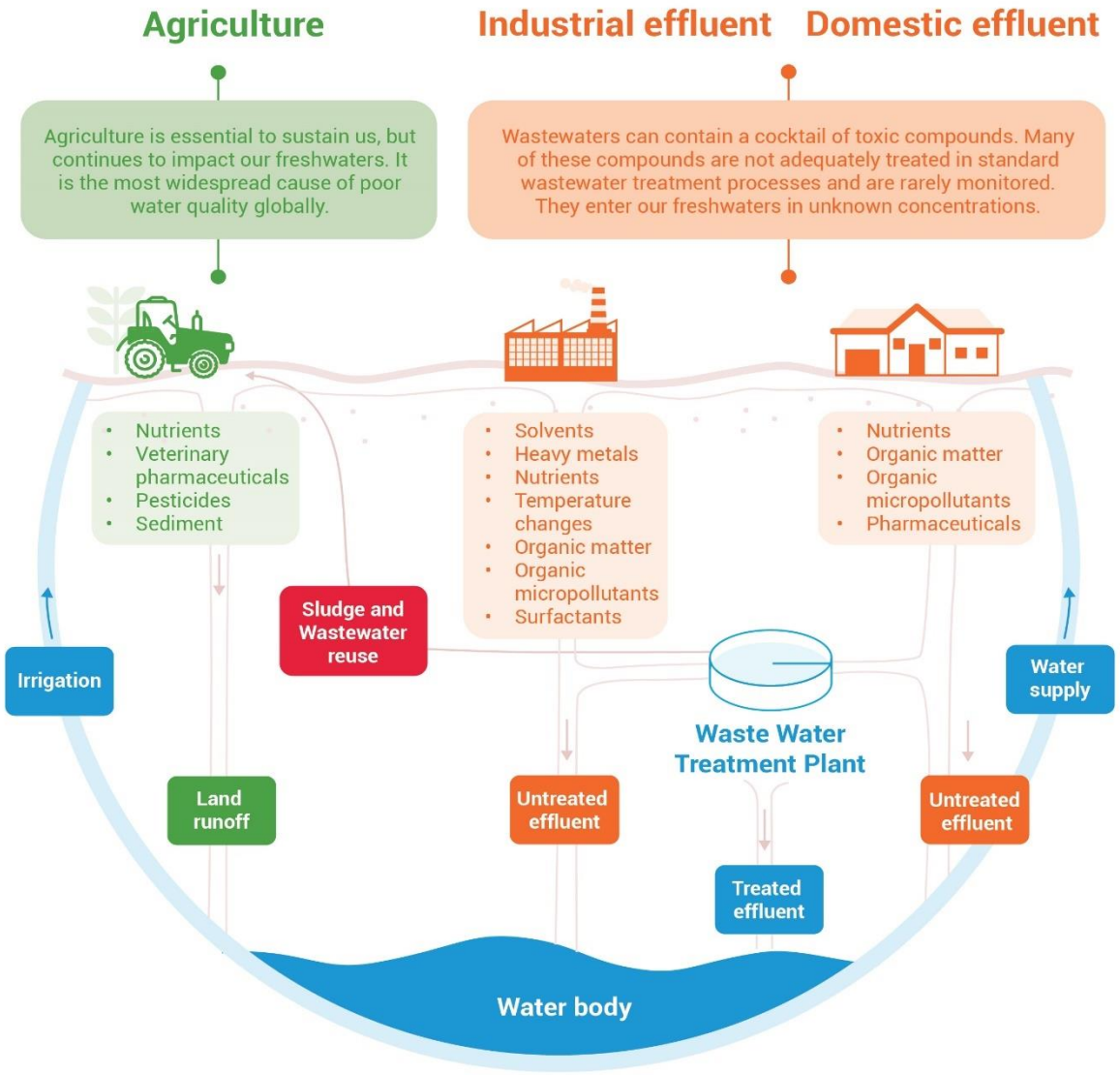
- Lack of appropriate controls on discharges to waterbodies
- Inadequate treatment to waters used for drinking water supplies
- Delayed or inadequate conservation or remediation of waterbodies and wetlands



Rationale for the indicator

Good ambient water quality does not damage ecosystem function or present a risk to human health

Supports a balanced ecosystem including fisheries	Requires minimum treatment before domestic, agricultural or industrial use	Safe for recreation, such as water contact activities



Methodology Description

Indicator 6.3.2 provides information on the current status of freshwater bodies, and how water quality changes over time. But you need:

Network of monitoring locations in designated water bodies

In-situ measurements and sample collection

a data management capacity

We have learnt that many countries have data gaps, and do not have a clear understanding of the quality of their freshwaters.

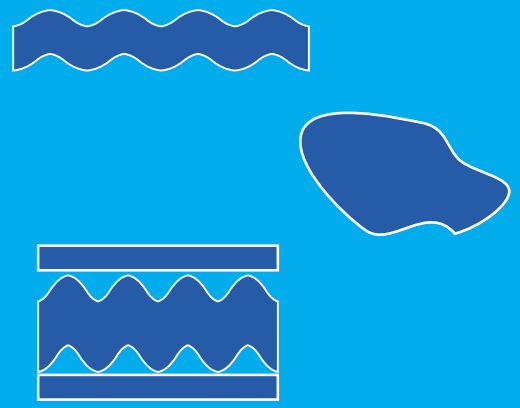
Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality

Waterbodies need to be defined within the country:

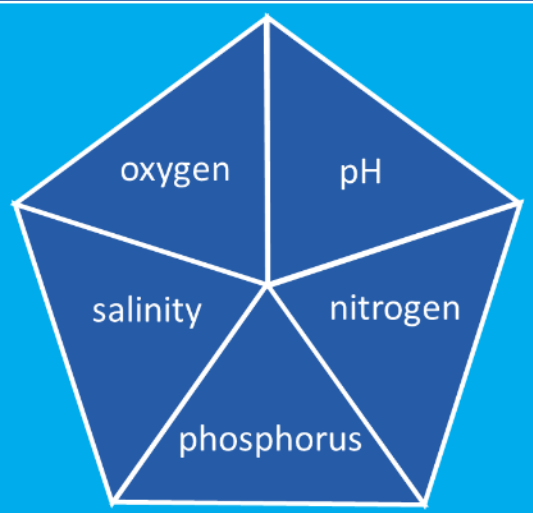
rivers,

lakes, and

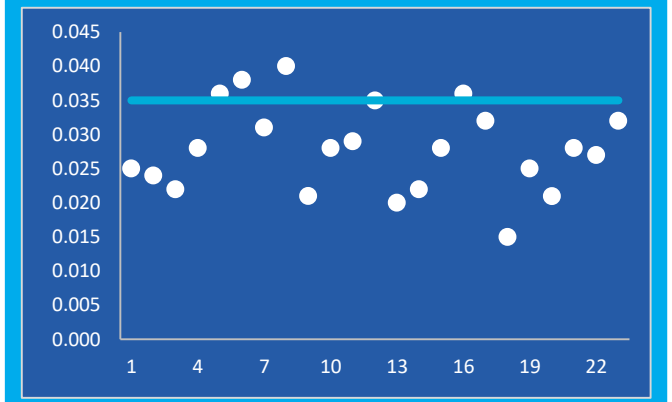
groundwaters



Water quality is classified by comparing measurements with **target values** for specific **parameters** from specific **parameter groups**



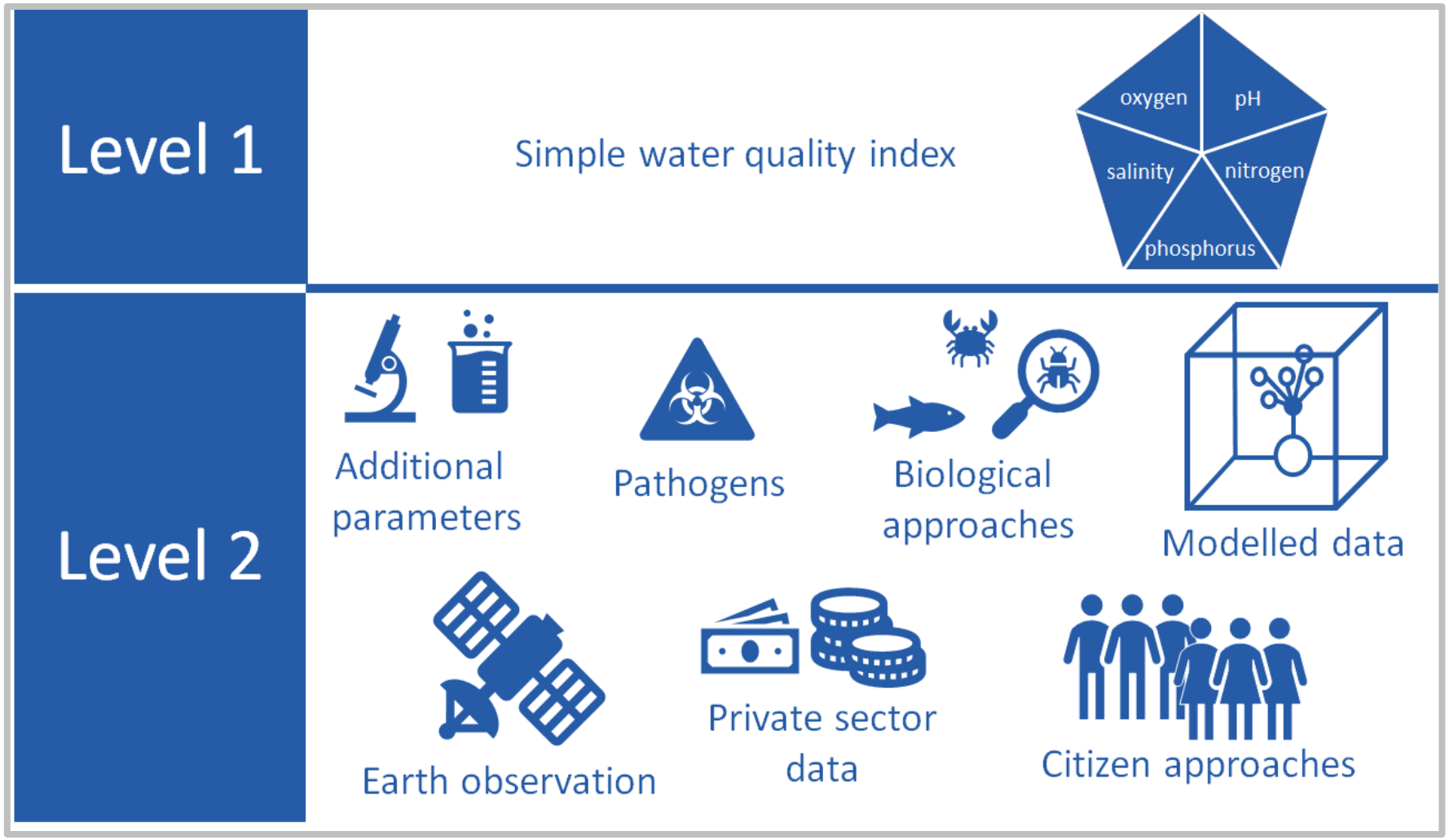
Good water quality represents at least **80%** compliance of measurements with target values



Level 1 and Level 2

Reporting is done initially at Level 1

There is the option to report at Level 2



Poll question 2

In your opinion – what is the greatest pressure on ambient water quality in your country? (Single choice)

a. Pollution from mining activities
b. Domestic wastewater effluent
c. Pollution from agriculture
d. Industrial wastewater effluent

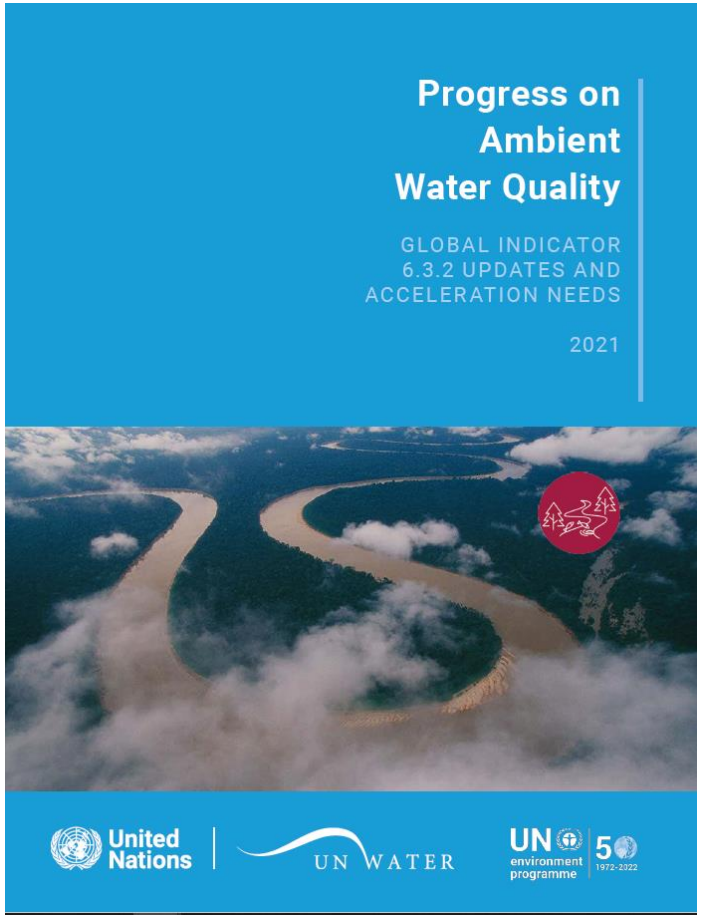
A votre avis - quelle est la plus grande pression sur la qualité de l'eau ambiante dans votre pays ? (Choix unique)

a. La pollution due aux activités minières
b. Les effluents d'eaux usées domestiques
c. La pollution d'origine agricole
d. Les effluents d'eaux usées industrielles

En su opinión, ¿cuál es la mayor presión sobre la calidad del agua ambiental en su país? (Una sola opción)

a. Contaminación por actividades mineras
b. Efluentes de aguas residuales domésticas
c. Contaminación procedente de la agricultura
d. Efluentes de aguas residuales industriales

Summary results of 2020 data drive

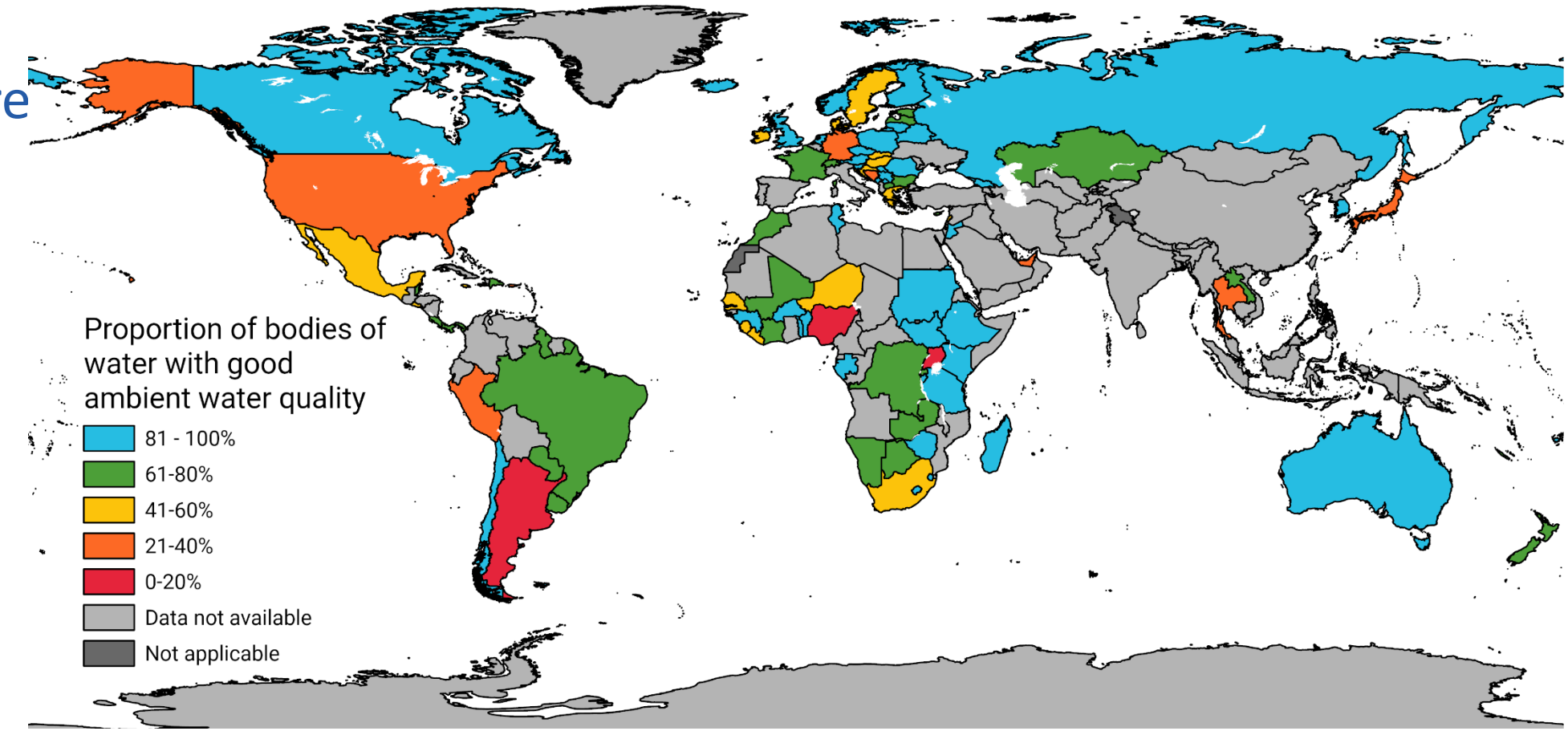


The report is now available in all UN languages

https://www.unwater.org/publications/progress-on-ambient-water-quality-632-2021-update/

Summary results from 2020 data drive

- 97 submissions
- Over 100 % more than in 2017
- Gaps in Central and Southern Asia and Arab Region



UN Water Data Portal for all SDG 6: https://www.sdg6data.org/

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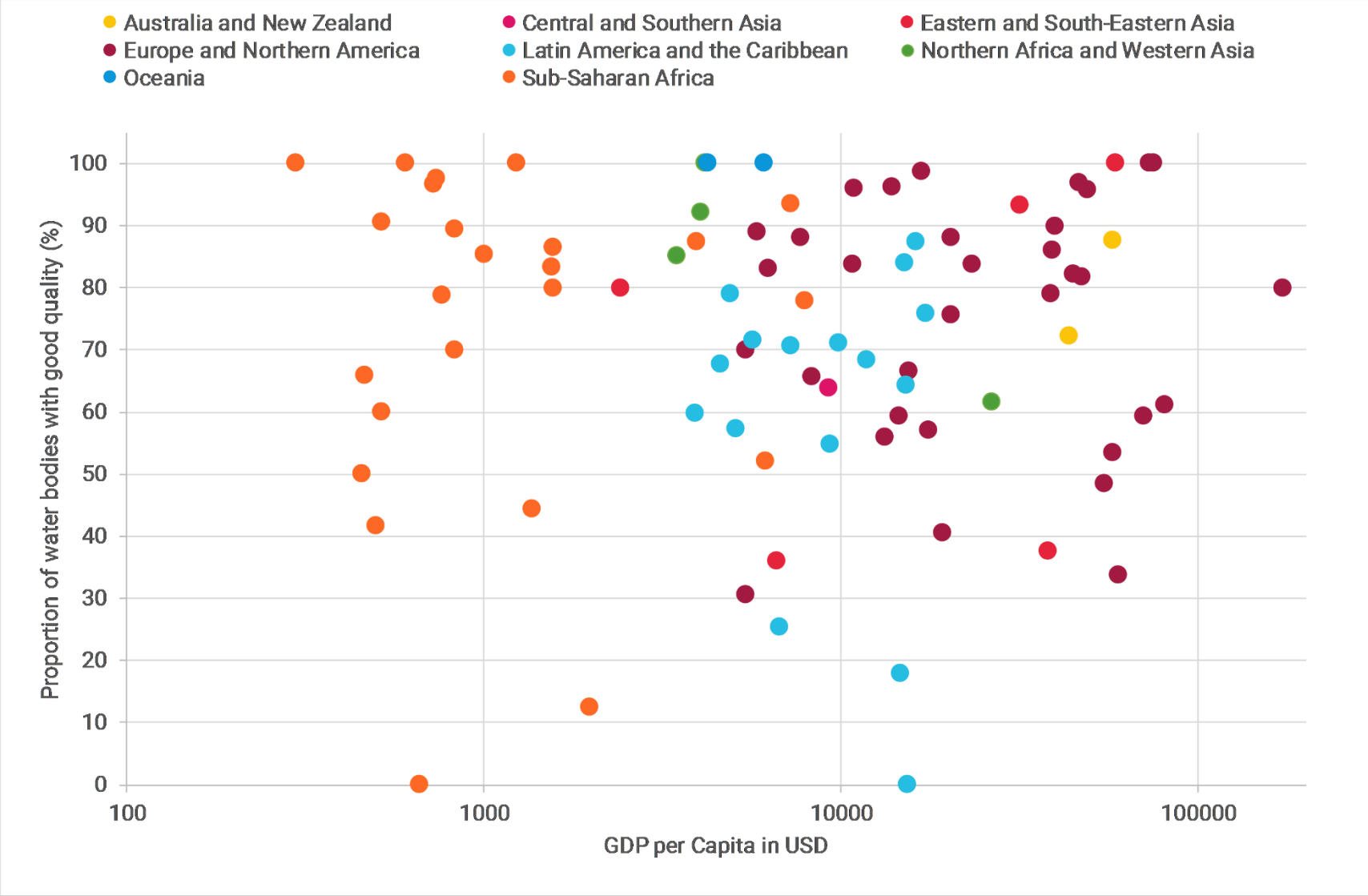
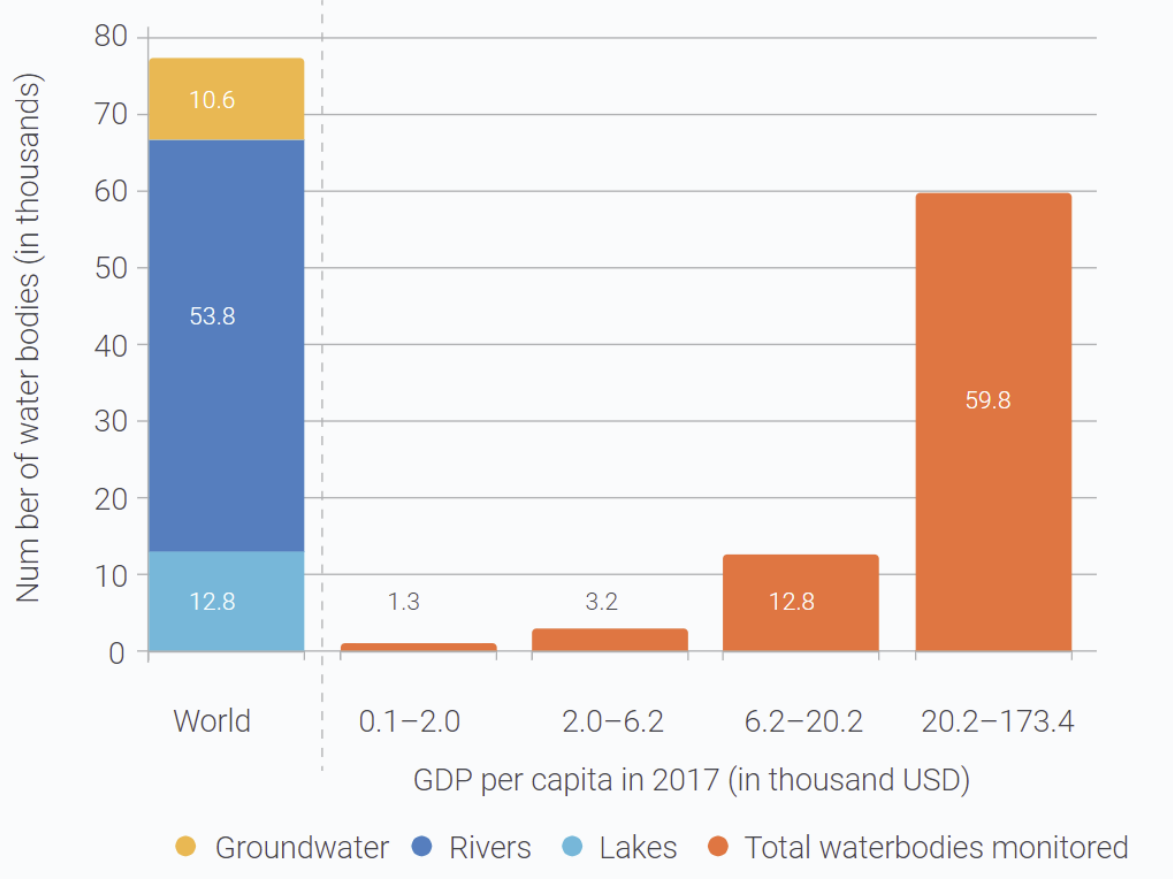
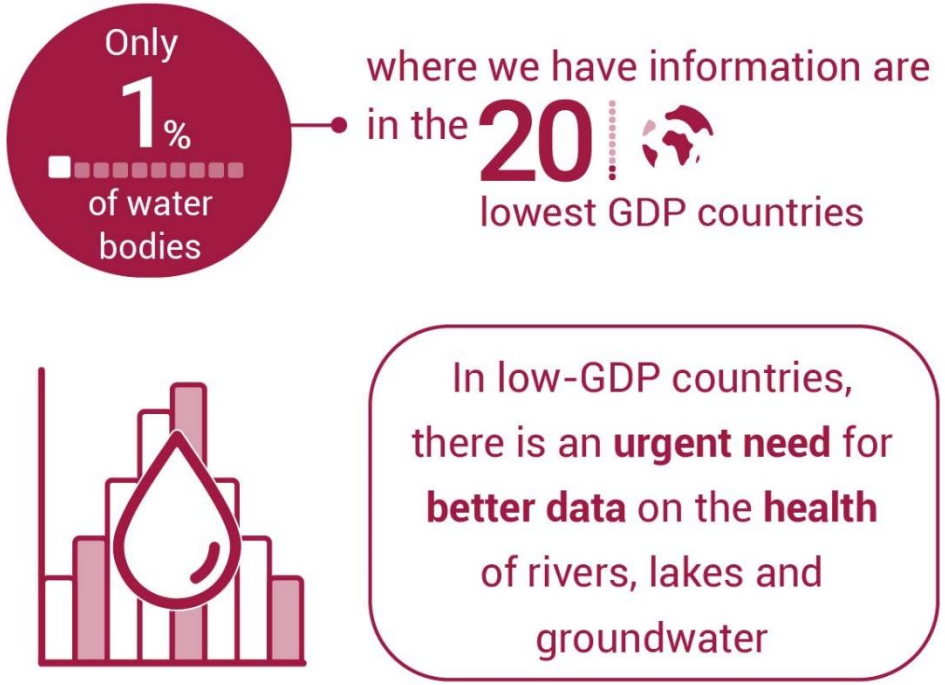
Summary results from 2020 data drive

Good and poor water quality reported in all world regions

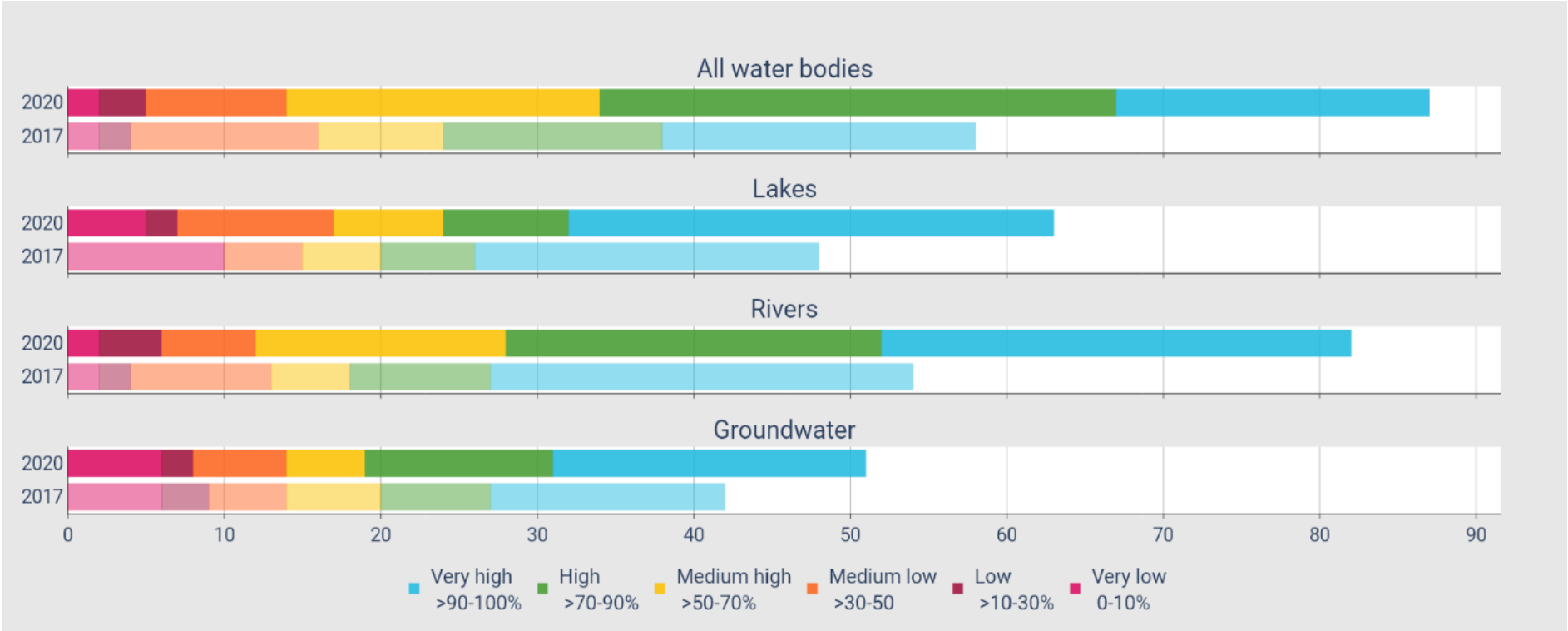


Richer countries used more data to calculate their indicator





Fewer countries reported on groundwaters compared with surface waters



Poll question 3

In your opinion, please select the action most urgently needed to improve water quality in your country? (Single choice)

a. Increase the amount of wastewater treated
b. Improve wastewater treatment technologies
c. Improve agricultural management practices
d. Enforce existing legislation designed to protect water quality
e. Address industrial pollution
f. Address pollution associated with mining activities
g. Strengthen water quality monitoring and assessment programmes.
h. Raise awareness and importance of water quality issues with the general public

À votre avis, veuillez sélectionner l'action la plus urgente pour améliorer la qualité de l'eau dans votre pays ? (Choix unique)

a. Augmenter la quantité d'eaux usées traitées
b. Améliorer les technologies de traitement des eaux usées
c. Améliorer les pratiques de gestion agricole
d. Appliquer la législation existante visant à protéger la qualité de l'eau
e. S'attaquer à la pollution industrielle
f. S'attaquer à la pollution liée aux activités minières
g. Renforcer les programmes de surveillance et d'évaluation de la qualité de l'eau.
h. Sensibiliser le grand public aux problèmes de qualité de l'eau et à leur importance.

En su opinión, seleccione la acción que se necesita con mayor urgencia para mejorar la calidad del agua en su país. (Una sola opción)

a. Aumentar la cantidad de aguas residuales tratadas
b. Mejorar las tecnologías de tratamiento de aguas residuales
c. Mejorar las prácticas de gestión agrícola
d. Aplicar la legislación existente destinada a proteger la calidad del agua
e. Abordar la contaminación industrial
f. Abordar la contaminación asociada a las actividades mineras
g. Reforzar los programas de control y evaluación de la calidad del agua
h. Sensibilizar al público en general sobre la importancia de la calidad del agua

Feedback process 2021

Feedback and review

2018 feedback process:

- To maximise global participation,
- enhance the national relevance of indicator 6.3.2, and to
- ensure that submissions are globally comparable

2021 feedback process:

- increase the impact of the indicator;
- increase global participation;
- improve the information it provides; and,
- ensure that countries have the requisite information to support actions aimed at improving water quality by 2030.

https://www.ucc.ie/en/media/research/watercapacitydevelopmentcentre/CDC_SDGTechnicalFeedbackProcessReport_20191008.pdf

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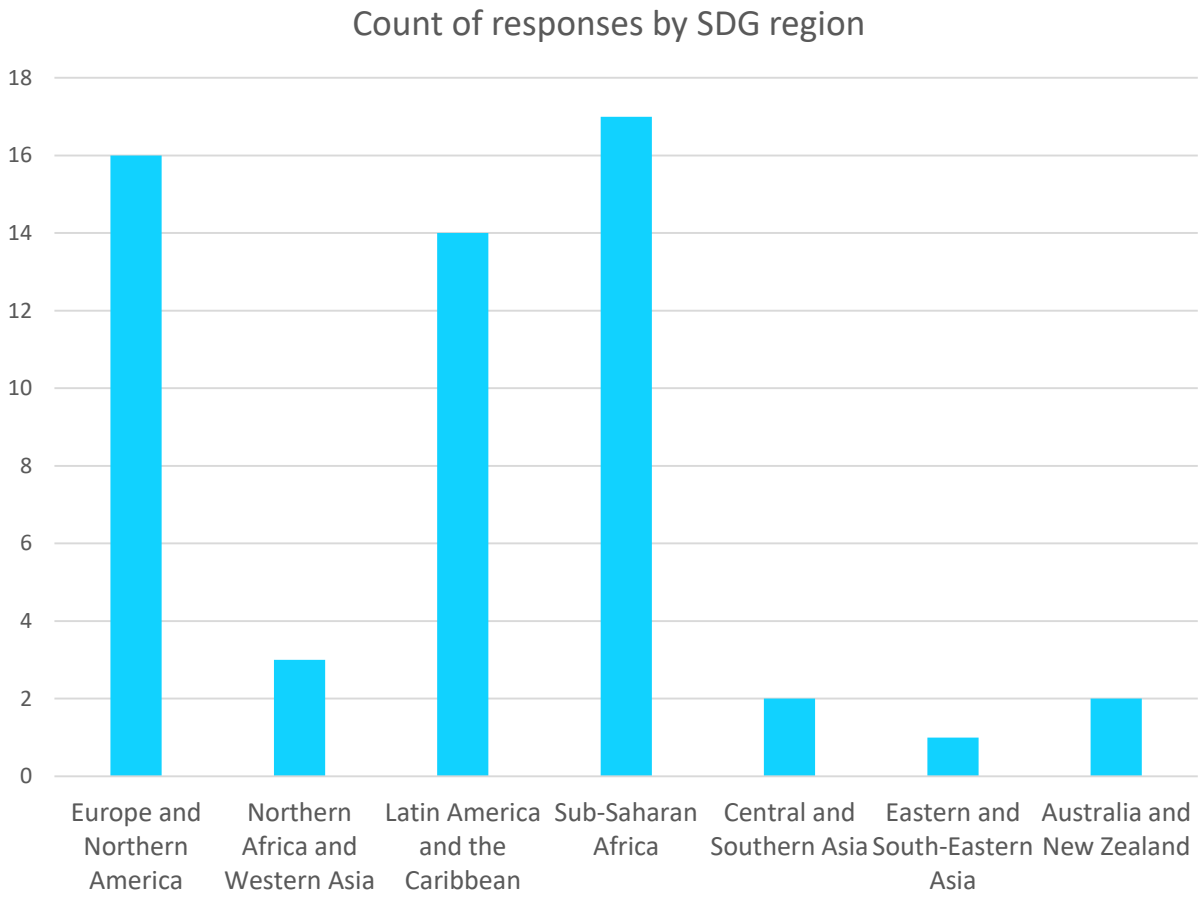
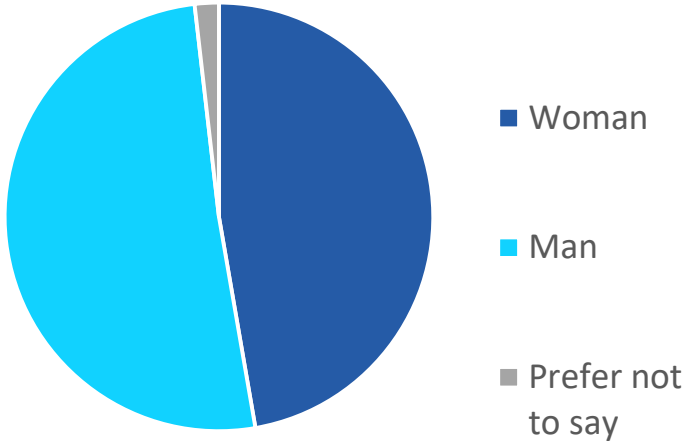
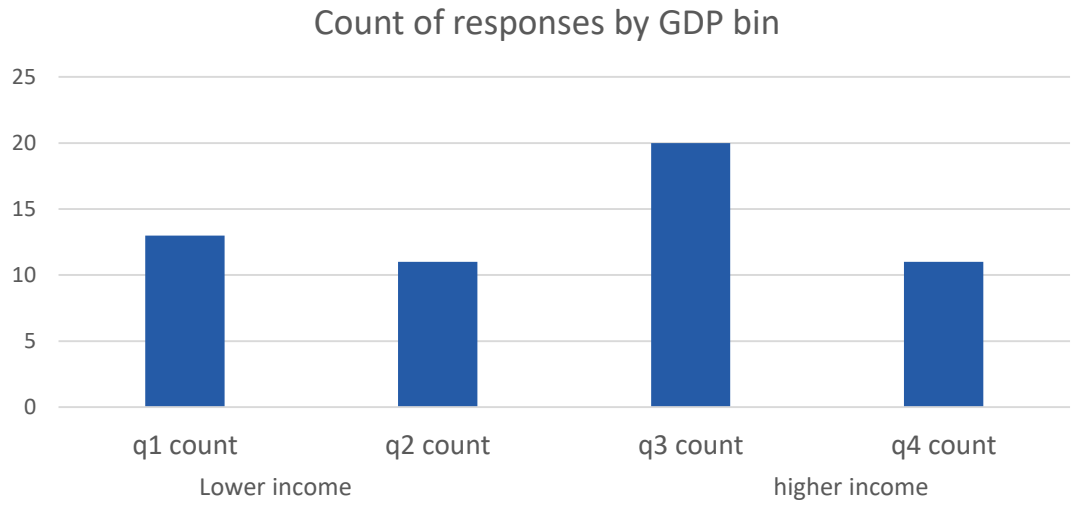
Feedback and review

Analysis of responses – 55 in total

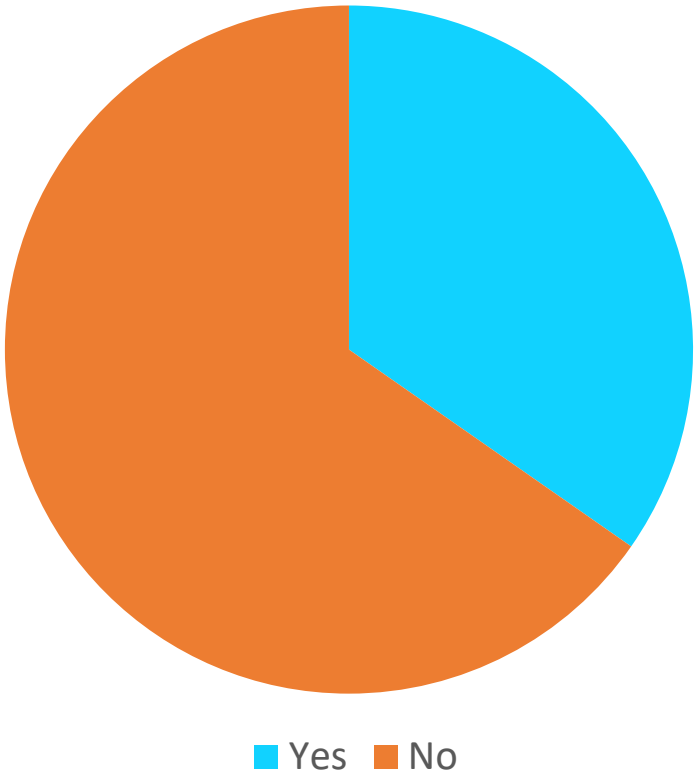


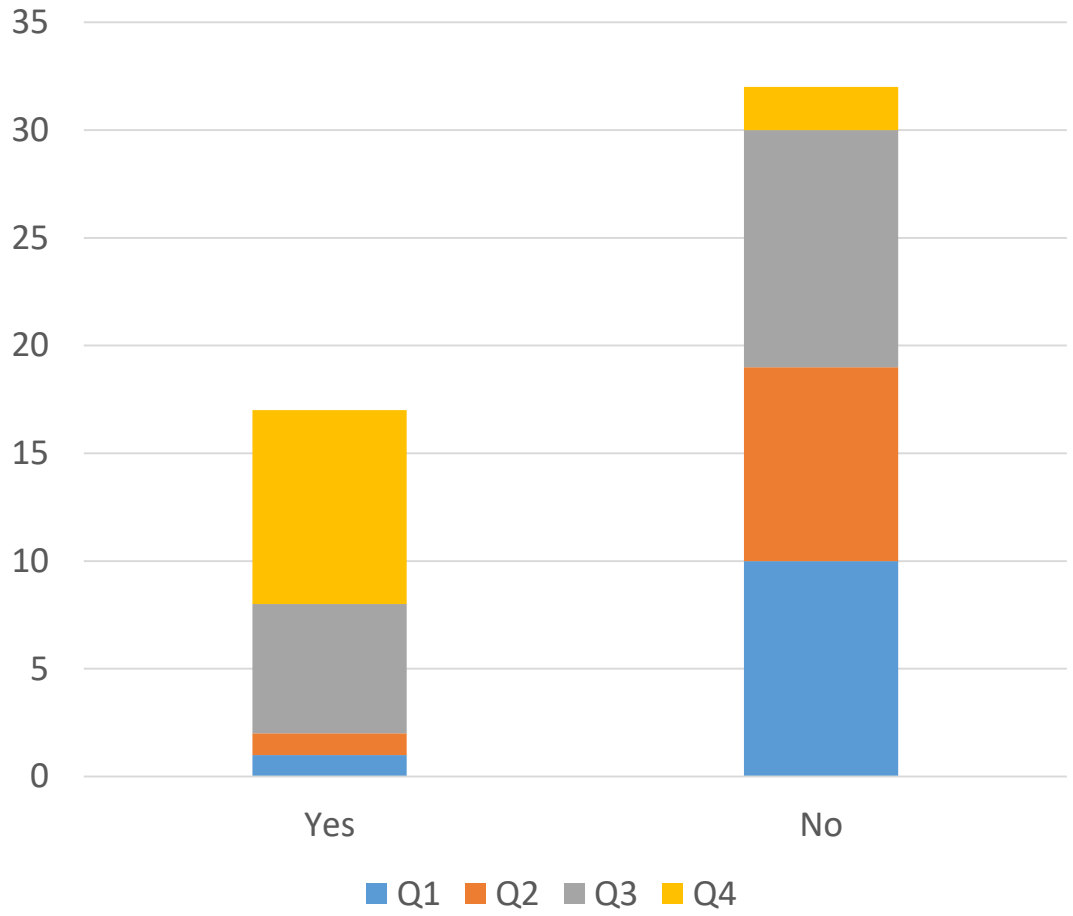




Feedback and review

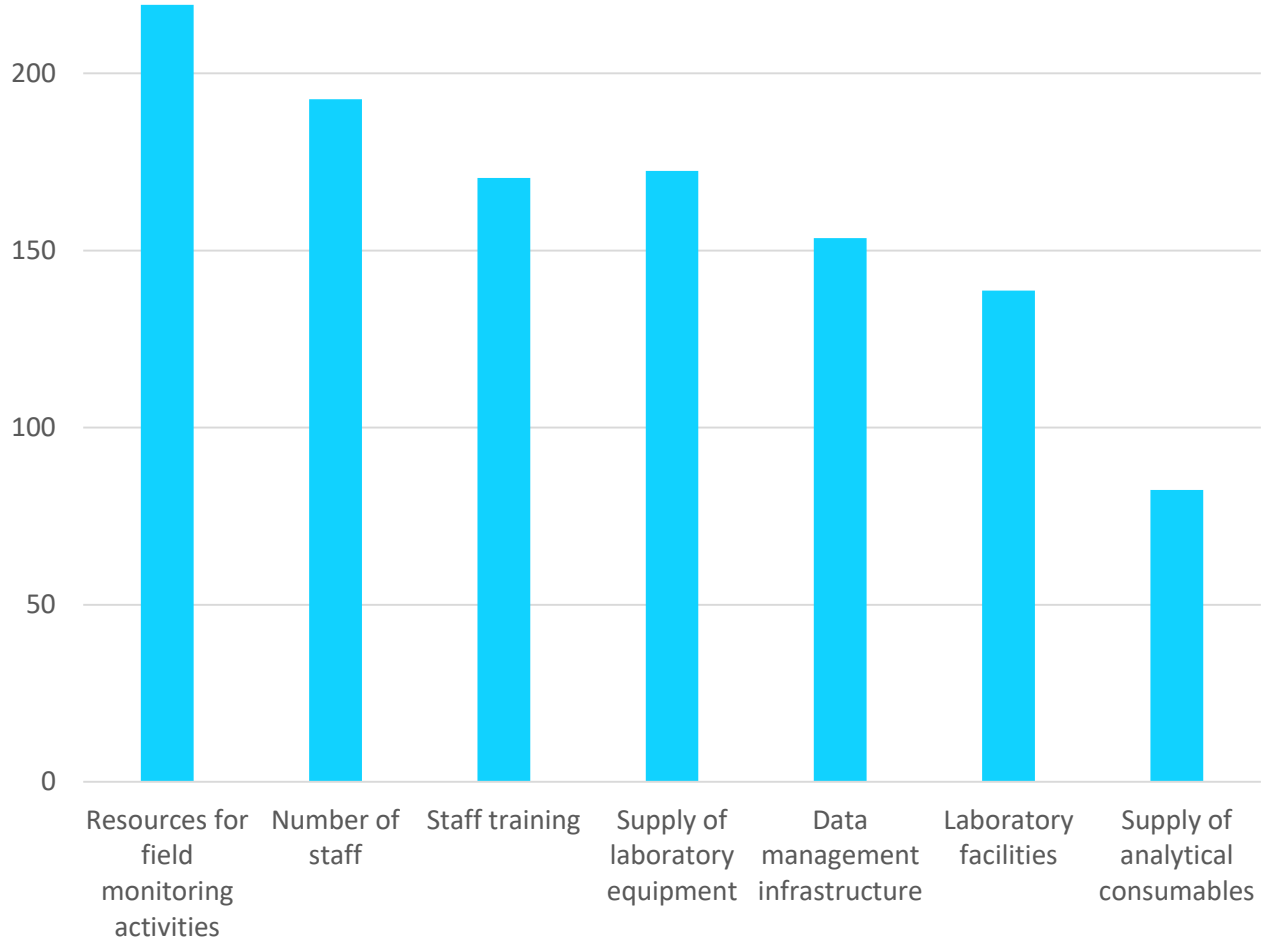
Are water quality monitoring and assessment programmes suitably funded in your country?

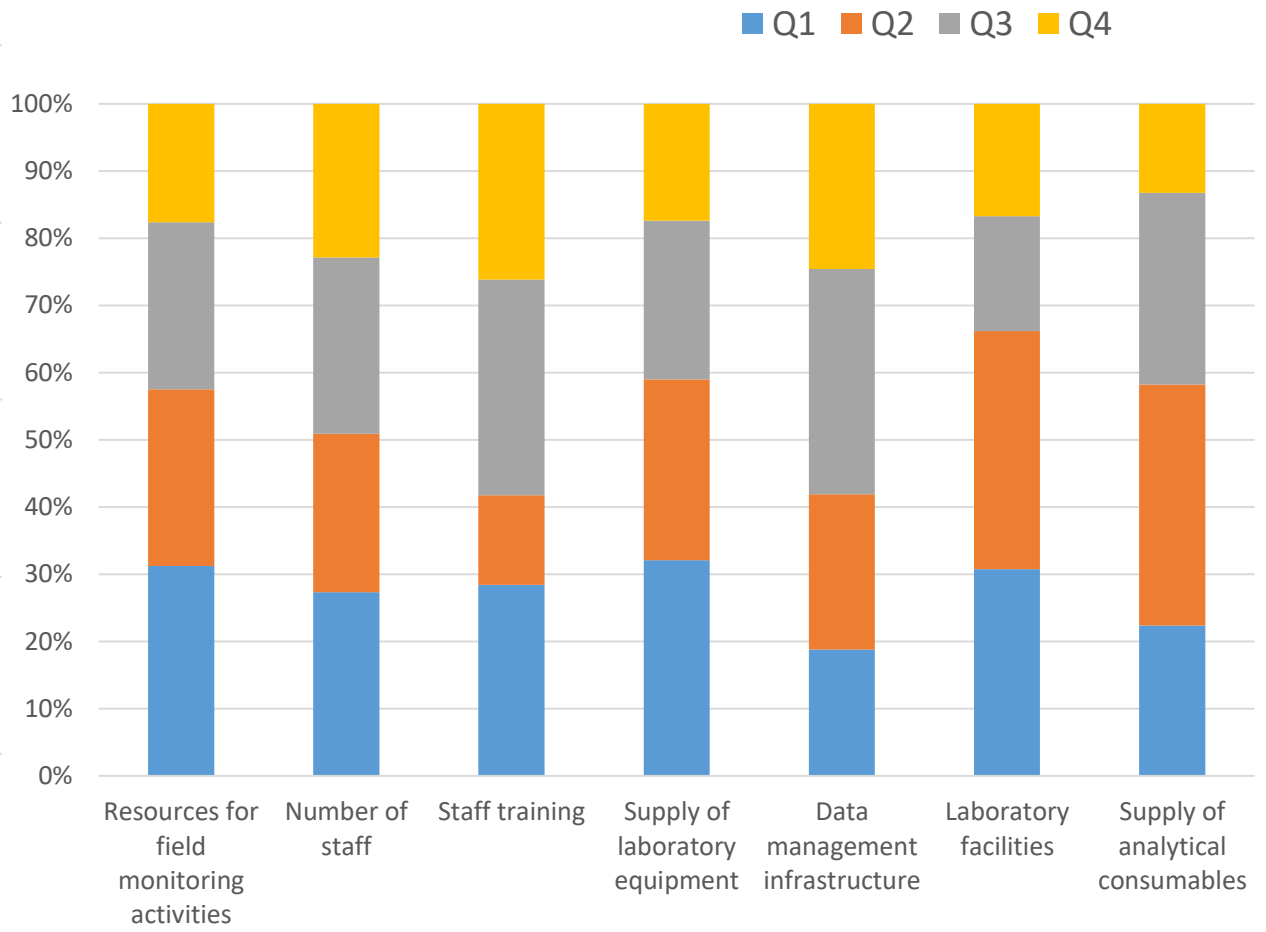




Feedback and review

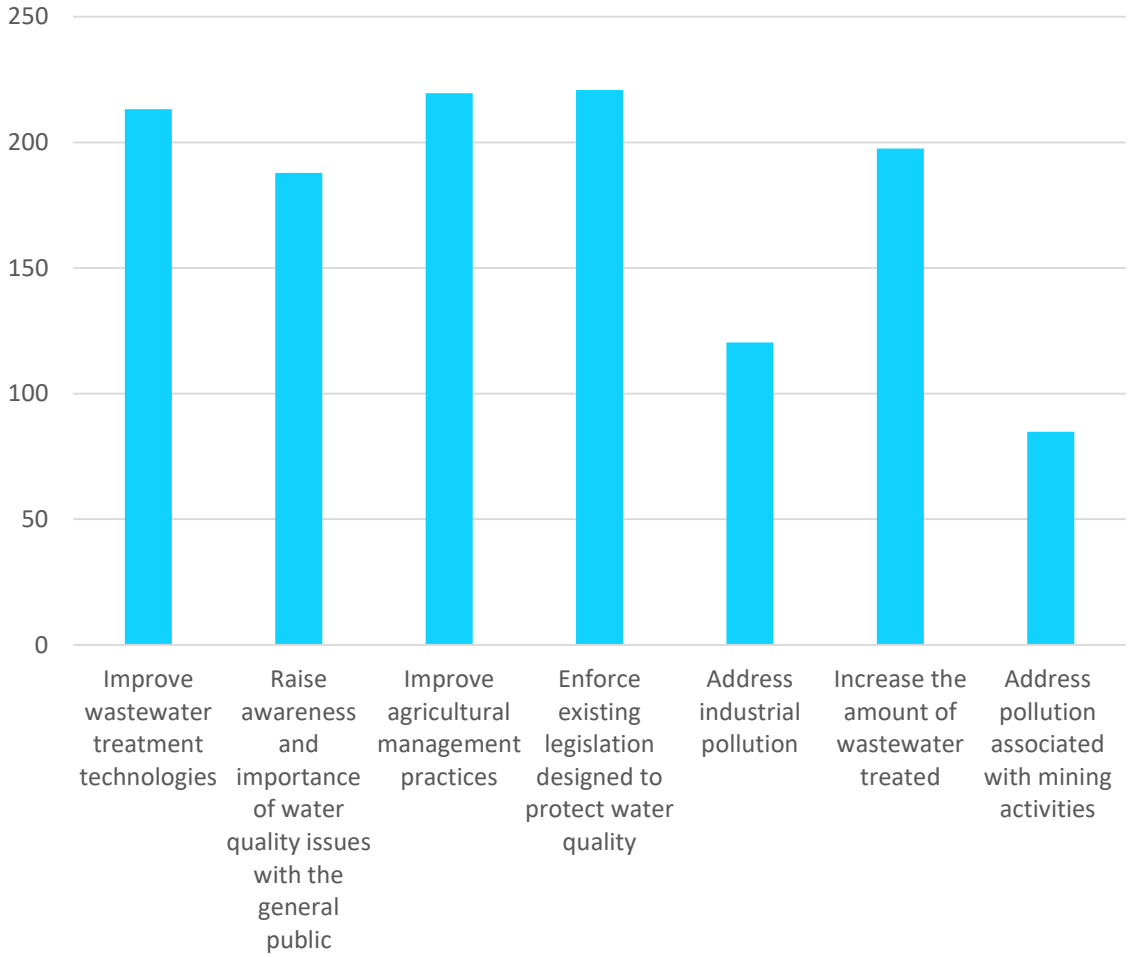
Please rank the areas that need support most urgently to report for SDG indicator 632?

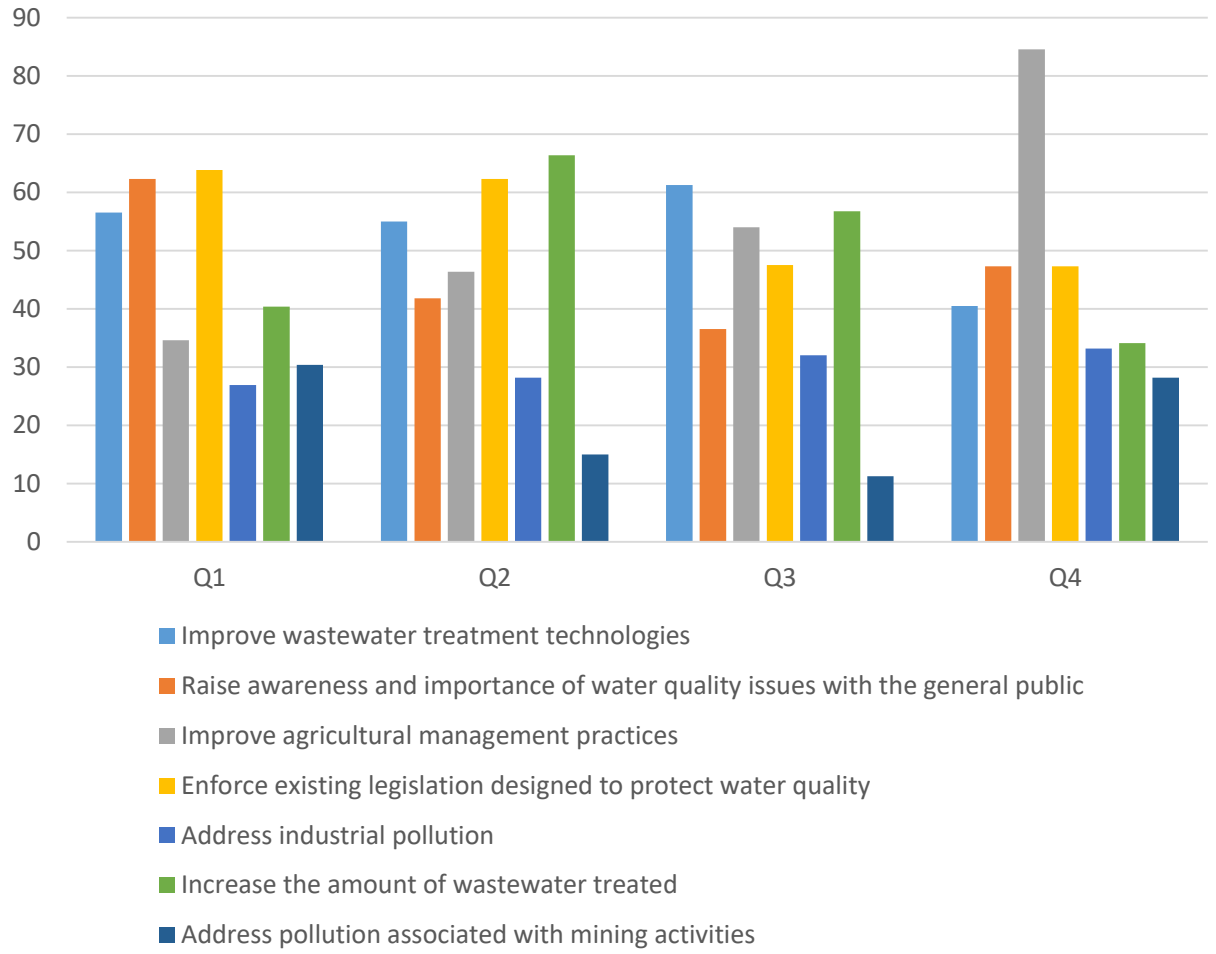




Feedback and review

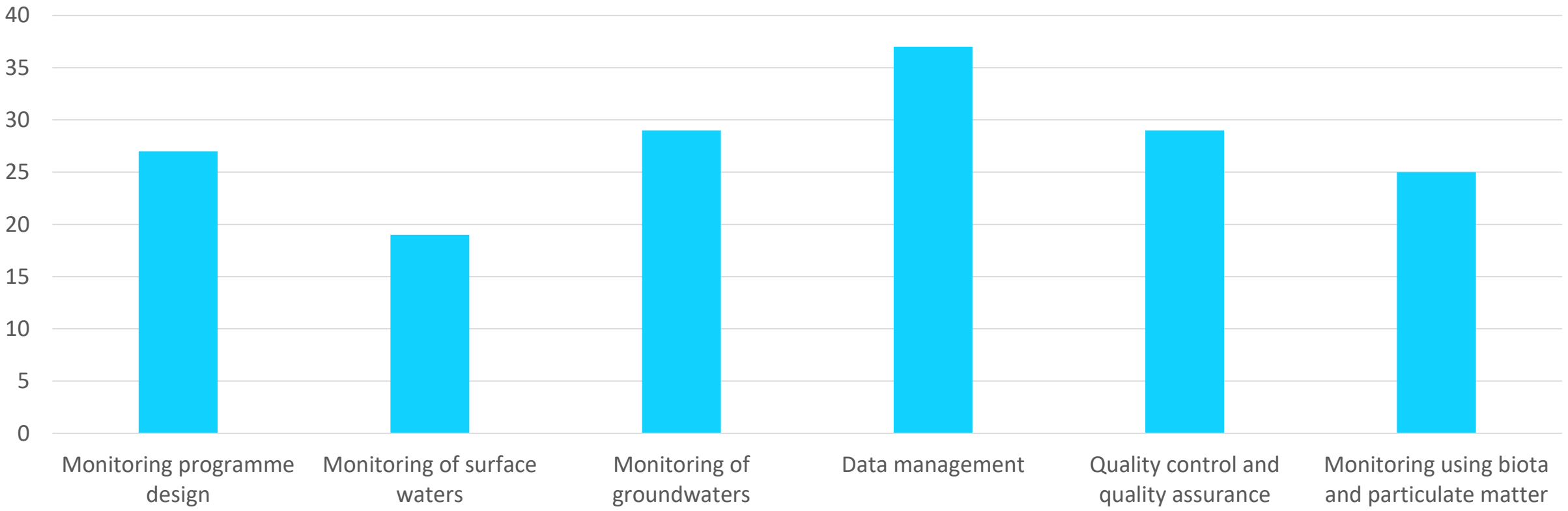
In your opinion, please rank (by dragging) the action most urgently needed to improve water quality in your country?





Feedback and review

To improve ambient water quality monitoring and assessment in your country, which area of training needs to be addressed most urgently? (Multiple answers possible. Please use "other" box to elaborate).



Indicador 6.3.2 – Experiencia Chilena

- **Ministerio de Obras Públicas Dirección General de Aguas (DGA)**
- 1. **Planificar el desarrollo** del agua en las fuentes naturales.
- 2. Ejercer la **policía y vigilancia** de las aguas en los cauces naturales de uso público y acuíferos.
- 3. **Investigar y medir** el agua y **monitorear calidad y cantidad** para su conservación y protección.
- Monitoreo de agua:
  - Red fluviométrica
  - Red de niveles
  - Red de glaciología
  - Red de sedimentos
  - **Red de Calidad**
  - **Superficial= 755**
  - **Subterráneas = 865**

Indicador 6.3.2 – Experiencia Chilena

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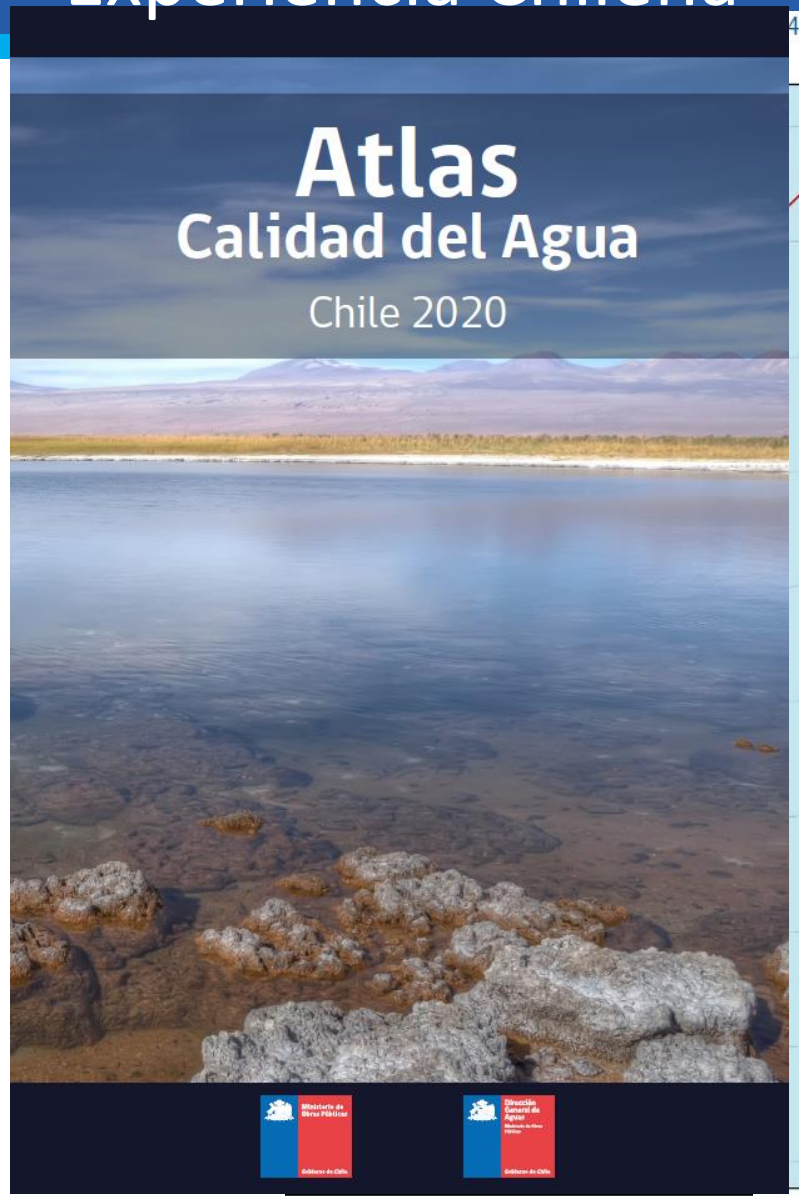

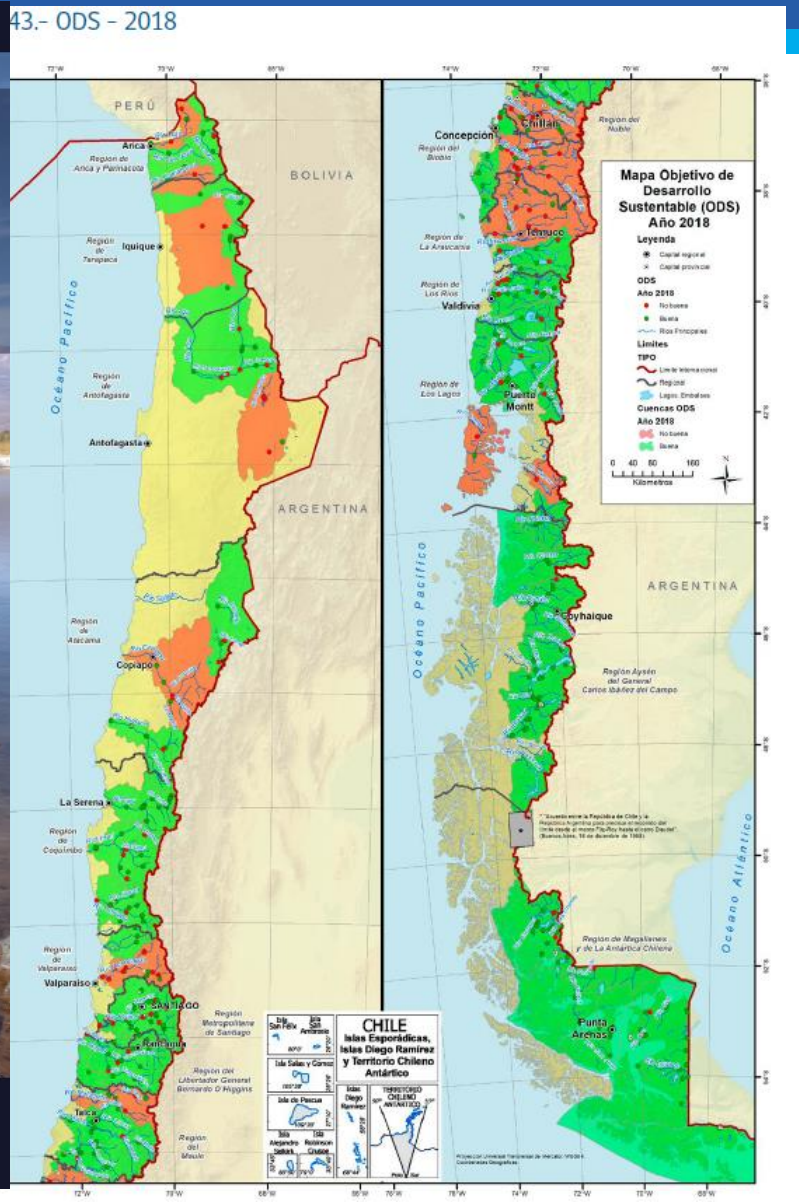

https://communities.unep.org/display/sdg632/Documents+and+Materials?preview=/32407814/38306675/CEDEUS-DGA-Implementation%20of%20SDG%20Indicator%206.3.2%20in%20Chile-v2020.pdf

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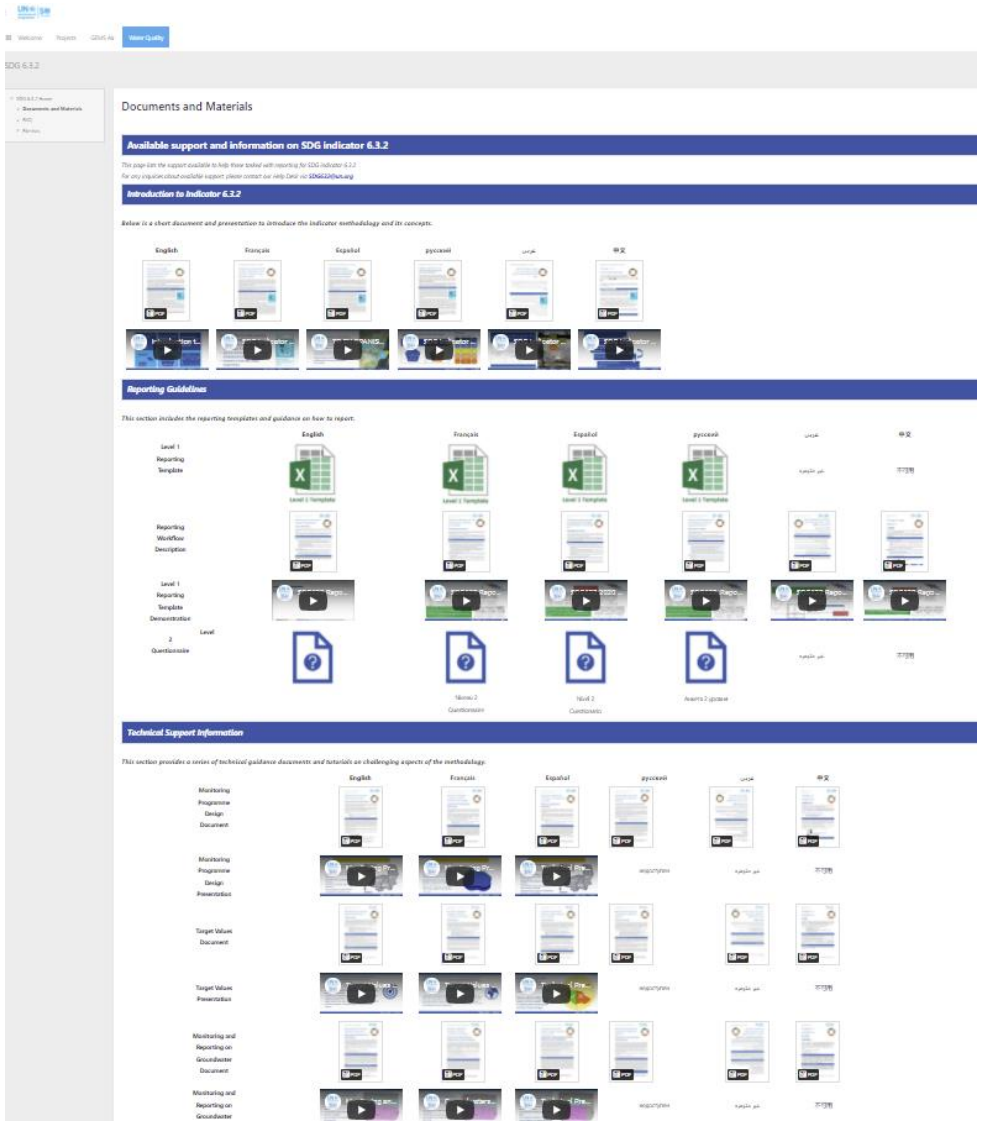
Supports in place and look to the future

Available Support Options: Indicator Support Platform

SDG 6 Support Platform

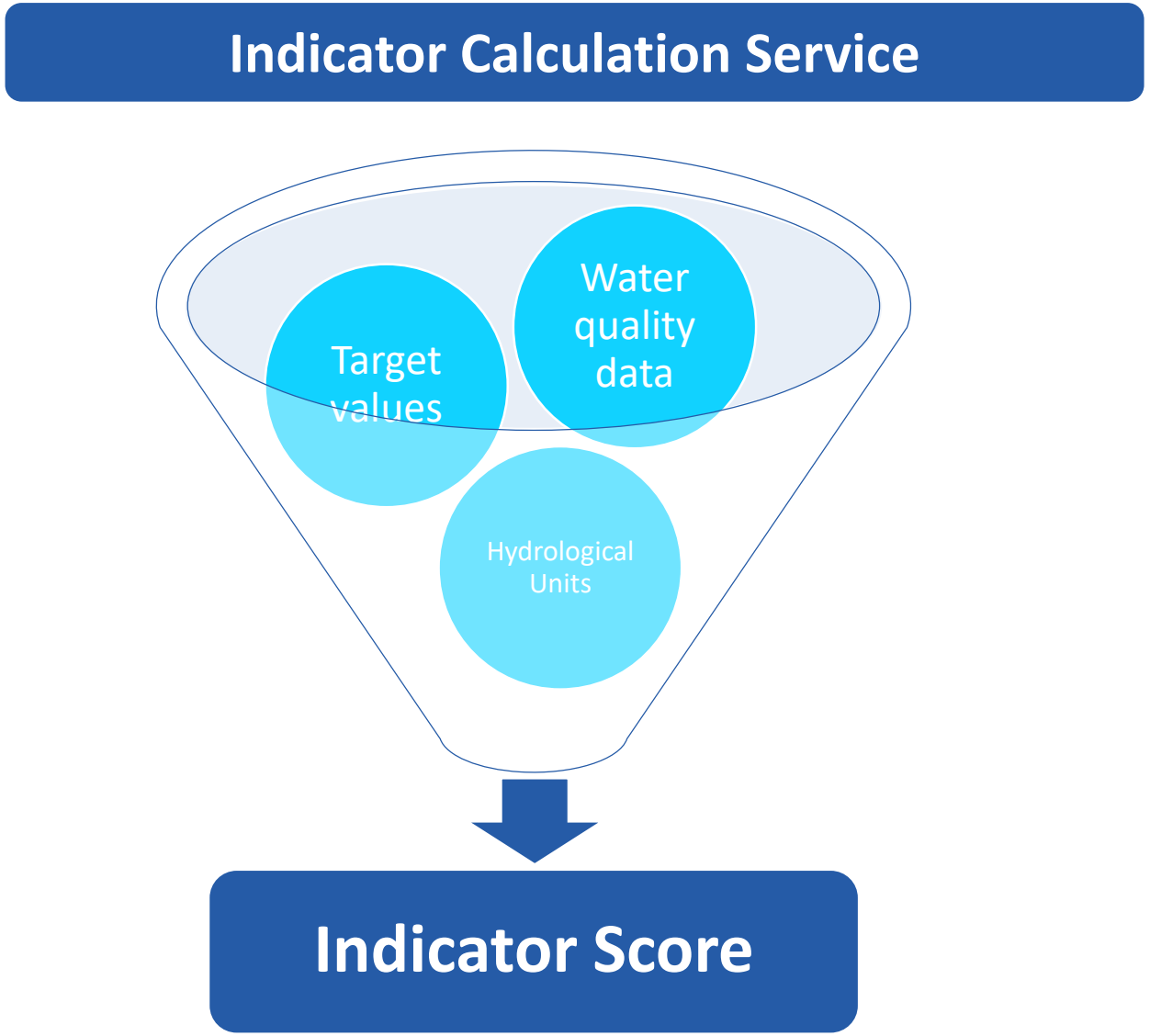
- Introduction to Indicator 6.3.2
- Technical Guidance Documents and videos
- Detailed Level 1 Reporting Workflow Description
- Case studies
- Helpdesk function at sdg632@un.org
- Bilateral teleconferences



https://communities.unep.org/display/sdg632/Documents+and+Materials

Available Support Options: Indicator Calculation Service

Countries can also choose to have their indicator score calculated on their behalf by the GEMS/Water



Available Support Options: Optional Target values

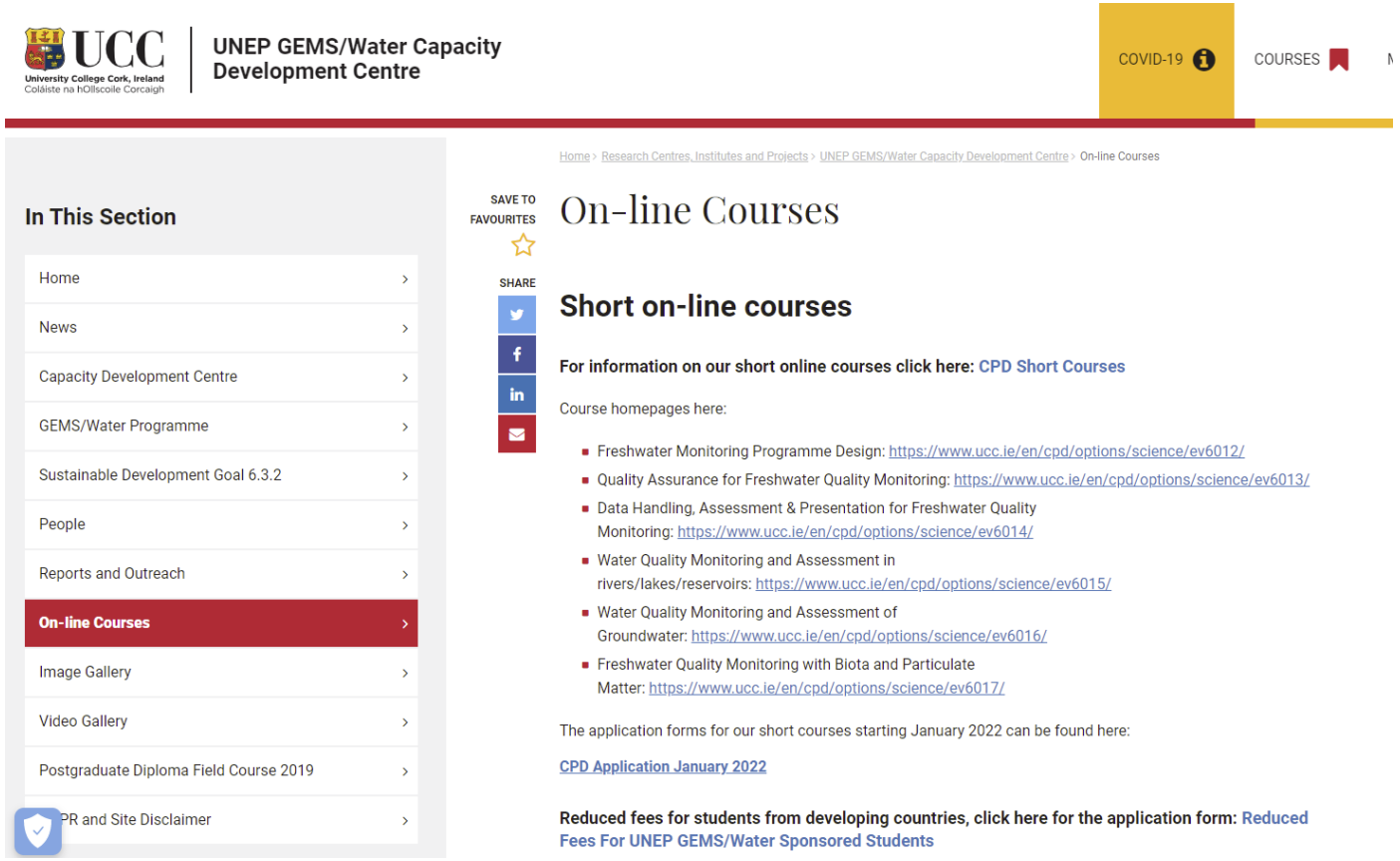
Parameter Group	Parameter	Target type	Rivers	Lakes	Groundwaters
Acidification	pH	range	6 – 9	6 – 9	6 – 9
Salinity	Electrical conductivity*	upper	500 µS cm^{-1}	500 µS cm^{-1}	500 µS cm^{-1}
Oxygenation	Dissolved oxygen	range	80 – 120 (% sat)	80 – 120 (% sat)	-
Nitrogen	Total Nitrogen	upper	700 µg N l^{-1}	500 µg N l^{-1}	-
	Oxidised nitrogen	upper	250 µg N l^{-1}	250 µg N l^{-1}	250 µg N l^{-1}
Phosphorus	Total phosphorus	upper	20 µg P l^{-1}	10 µg P l^{-1}	-
	Orthophosphate	upper	10 µg P l^{-1}	5 µg P l^{-1}	-

* For EC a better approach is to use a deviation from normal rather than specific numerical value

Available Support Options: GEMS/Water Capacity Development Centre

The GEMS/Water Capacity Development Centre has:

- engaged with 107 countries
- the online courses and *in situ* workshops have reached 126 people from 43 countries alone
- The postgraduate diploma and master's degree courses have been undertaken by 35 students to date

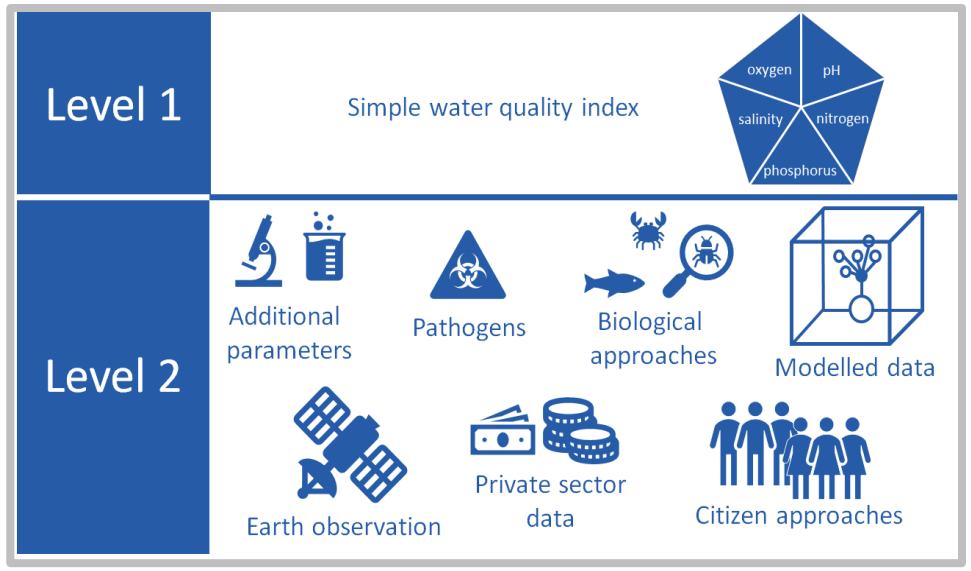


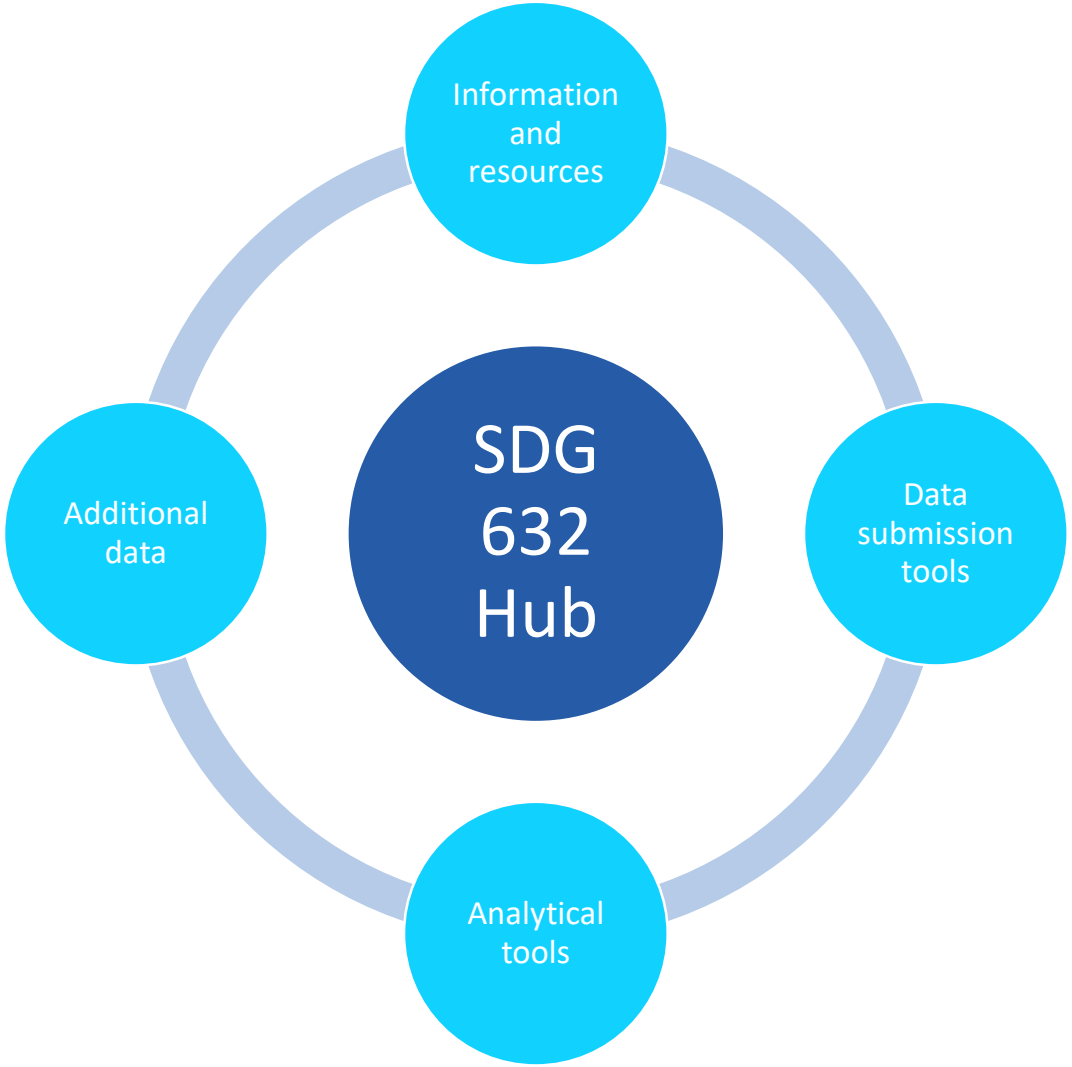
GEMS/Water Capacity Development Centre - https://www.ucc.ie/en/gemscdc/

Outlook and Way Forward

Improve the reporting workflow,

- Incorporate feedback into indicator implementation
- Design and deliver the *SDG 632 Online Hub*
- Continue to collect **Level 1** indicator data
- Start to collect **Level 2** indicator data





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Discussion Session

- What are the challenges faced by country focal points to report, and how can UNEP help to overcome these?

- Design of *SDG 632 Online Hub* – which features are most needed?

Summary and closing remarks

- Information on water quality is essential for management
- Significant progress already:
  - Many more countries engaging
  - New monitoring programmes being developed
  - Many countries developing their own ambient water quality standards for the first time
- We know there are gaps and need to:
  - continue to build capacity to monitor and assess water quality
  - promote data access and sharing between organisations and countries
- Protection is easier than restoration, so efforts to protect water bodies in good condition should be initiated now
- Improving farming management practices, and the rate and type of wastewater treatment are essential if water quality is to be improved

Thank you

Indicator 6.3.2 Support Platform
https://communities.unep.org/display/sdg632/SDG+6.3.2+Home

Helpdesk SDG632@un.org

Report: Progress on ambient water quality: https://www.unwater.org/publications/progress-on-ambient-water-quality-632-2021-update/

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