2nd Global Workshop on Integrated Monitoring of SDG 6 on Water and Sanitation

8–10 February 2022, online

Questions for breakout groups discussions

This document outlines the questions that will be discussed in the different breakout sessions during the workshop, to help participants prepare and decide on which breakout group to join.

Day 1 Breakout groups on monitoring experience (by SDG 6 global indicator)

Exchange on monitoring experience for the different global indicators, including on the reporting process and capacity building support. All participants to choose which group to join. Below are the summaries provided by the UN custodian agencies introducing what will be covered in their sessions.

Group 611-621 (drinking water/sanitation)
This breakout session will briefly cover the definitions and methods for calculating the SDG indicators related to household water, sanitation and hygiene (safely managed drinking water services; safely managed sanitation services; and basic hygiene services). Countries are invited to share their experiences in filling data gaps through routine administrative data systems, or collecting data in household surveys and censuses.

Group 631 (wastewater)
This breakout session about the SDG indicator 6.3.1, which is the percentage of the flows of wastewater treated, aims to discuss the successes, solutions, challenges, good/bad lessons learned from your experience and knowledge about wastewater management in your countries at different levels (national, sub-national, basin, urban, and rural).

In your interventions, please provide as much details as possible, for example on the enabling environment, the possible barriers, the role of the private and public sectors, the financing, the institutional and coordination mechanisms, policy frameworks.

Group 632 (water quality)

How do we mainstream water quality monitoring? It was clear from the 2020 data drive for SDG indicator 6.3.2 that many governments do not have access to reliable water quality information. Baseline information is still missing for around 50 per cent of Member States, and for many countries the baseline is based on incomplete information, or limited monitoring data. This means that many countries are unable to understand the impacts of present and past activities, and cannot manage their water resources based on scenarios of the future.

This breakout session raises the question – how do we mainstream water quality monitoring?

- How do we centralise water quality monitoring in water resource management?
- How do we ensure that the information needed by governments to manage their water resources in the future is available?
- Which steps can we take to bring all countries up to the required level?

We invite participants to join us and share their experience of their engagement with this indicator and to learn about how others have managed to report given the challenges they faced, and we ask for input and ideas on what needs to be done to mainstream water quality monitoring.

Group 641-642 (water use/scarcity)

At first, the breakout group on indicators 6.4.1 and 6.4.2 will discuss the opinions of the country teams on the process of data collection and reporting as organized by FAO-AQUASTAT. In particular, feedback from participants will be sought regarding the clarity of the definitions of the various parameters and of the interrelations among them. Also, the operability of the AQUASTAT questionnaire will be considered, with the aim at identifying ways to make it more easy to use and useful for the data collection teams.

The second half of the session will be dedicated to discuss how FAO can provide capacity development support to the national teams, in order to make easier the data collection and reporting. Finally, the opportunity to concentrate some capacity development activity on specific technical issues will be discussed, such as the disaggregation of the indicators, the assessment of the Environmental Flows Requirements, and the economic implications of the indicator 6.4.1.

Group 651 (IWRM)

The essence of reporting on, and implementing, integrated water resources management (IWRM) is coordination and engagement across stakeholder groups, including SDG 6 focal points. We encourage the 6.5.1 technical focal points, but also the overall SDG 6 Focal Points to join the 6.5.1 breakout group, in which we plan to have a lively and open discussion on the following:

- Coordination: How can we enhance coordination across indicator Focal Points (FPs) to improve reporting on SDG 6.5.1 (and therefore SDG 6)? How did 6.5.1 FPs engage with other indicator FPs in 2020, and vice versa? How was the interaction with the Overall FPs? How can we improve the coordination of SDG reporting with other national/regional reporting processes? How can coordinated reporting support the implementation of IWRM (working towards 6.5.1 and SDG 6)?
- Support to reporting: What types of support would be helpful to you in the next reporting round? E.g. stronger mandate, sub-regional workshops, further guidance, capacity development, Community of Practice?

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- Implementing IWRM: How can the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme best help to accelerate the implementation of IWRM in your country? Country needs, technical support, funding requirements, strengthening political will.

Group 652 (transboundary cooperation)

This breakout session invites countries to share their reporting experience in terms of process (focal points identification, timeline, etc.) and arrangements that took place at national level to prepare the submitted report on SDG indicator 6.5.2. This might include general experiences related to data gathering for the indicator calculation, and specific issues, such as supplying information on transboundary aquifers.

Feedback regarding the support and guidance offered by the custodian agencies will be sought, such as related to the understanding of methodology and the accessibility of supporting documents, the availability and use of the help desk, as well as insights from bilateral exchanges with custodian agencies and capacity building events during the report submission and validation phases.

As the national teams involved in the 6.5.2 process are often also directly involved in wider transboundary water cooperation activities, the relevance of the indicator process and template for informing such activities, or potentially triggering them, will be discussed. The possibility to conduct analysis at a basin scale, and explore opportunities to harmonise reported information by countries will also be discussed. Ultimately, this will focus the discussion on next steps and therefore feed into the following sessions of the global workshop.

Group 661 (ecosystems)

Turning freshwater data into action - Indicator 6.6.1: Healthy freshwater ecosystems, providing good quality water in sufficient quantity, are foundational resources that drive development opportunities across sectors. A revolution in the use of satellite based data for SDG monitoring allows us to now track changes to freshwater ecosystems at high resolution. In this SDG 6.6.1 breakout group, we invite all interested participants to join UNEP in an interactive, moderated, group discussion to explore the following questions:

Given there exists freshwater data for all countries depicting long term statistical trends at national and river basins scales – how can UNEP better support countries to make this data more 'actionable'; to increase its relevance and understanding; advancing its uptake into decision making processes within countries? How can we mainstream action? Freshwater ecosystem action plans can provide a roadmap for consensus and action, what experiences can be shared on how to achieve good action planning? What kind of country support is required to turn freshwater data into action?

Group 6a1-6b1 (capacity building/participation)

In this breakout group, participants will learn about and discuss their experiences with the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS). After a brief introduction to GLAAS and indicators 6.a and 6.b, participants can ask questions, share their experiences with GLAAS and suggest ways to improve monitoring for 6.a and 6.b.

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Day 2 Breakout groups on use of data (by region/language)

Exchange of regional experiences on the use of data for policy- and decision-making. Country participants are pre-registered for the groups. International participants to choose which group to join (all groups have interpretation into English).

Discussion questions
- Are the data on the SDG 6 indicators disseminated among relevant national institutions? In which ways are the data disseminated?
- Are the institutions who prepare the indicators/data regularly consulted by the government/parliament when relevant laws are in the making?
- Can you describe any specific case where the SDG 6 indicators have been used to inform a policy process?

Day 3 Real time consulting in breakout groups, only for session 08.00-10.00 CET (Eastern Hemisphere, English, Arabic and Russian)

The purpose of this session is for the presenting participants (the 'Client') to get advice from the other workshop participants (the 'Consultants') on a key question or challenge they are facing. All participants to choose which group to join.

Question from Fiji (SIDS challenges)
- What steps can Small Island Developing States (SIDS) take to strengthen their water and sanitation monitoring in light of their unique challenges?

Question from Lesotho (Data from water users)
- How can countries access data from different stakeholders?

Question from South Africa (Gender)
- How can SDG 6 data be used to mainstream gender in water and sanitation policies?

Question from Tunisia (Sharing between countries)
- In what different ways can countries benefit from the expertise from other countries or other regions?

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Day 3 Real time consulting in breakout groups, only for session 16.00-18.00 CET (Western Hemisphere, English, French and Spanish)

The purpose of this session is for the presenting participants (the 'Client') to get advice from the other workshop participants (the 'Consultants') on a key question or challenge they are facing. All participants to choose which group to join.

Question from El Salvador (Citizen data)

- Should communities and civil society be involved in the monitoring of water and sanitation, and which incentives and tools can help them to carry it out?

Question from Liberia (Water quality)

- What steps can a country take to expand its water quality monitoring and data management?

Question from South Africa (Gender)

- How can SDG 6 data be used to mainstream gender in water and sanitation policies?

Question from Netherlands (Extreme water events)

- Which additional steps and equipment are necessary for monitoring programs in the context of extreme water events?

Day 3 Breakout groups on needs and priorities (by level of SDG 6 reporting)

Interactive exchange on needs and priorities for SDG 6 monitoring and reporting, based on level of SDG 6 reporting. Country participants are pre-registered for the groups. International participants to choose which group to join.

Discussion questions

- Which are the main areas that you would like to see improve for future monitoring, reporting and utilization of SDG 6 data in your country?
- At what level and within which sectors should the different needs be addressed?
- What could be done by whom to meet these needs?

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