UN WATER
INTEGRATED MONITORING INITIATIVE FOR SDG 6

2ND GLOBAL WORKSHOP ON INTEGRATED MONITORING OF SDG 6 ON WATER AND SANITATION

9 December 2021 and 8–10 February 2022, online

SUMMARY REPORT

Photo credit: Giulio Napolitano, FAO

List of content and workshop agenda

About the workshop

The main part of the global workshop took place over three half-days during 8-10 February 2022. The first of these three days focused on the results to the work in IMI-SDG6 so far during its second phase, and in particular on the experiences of countries monitoring the different indicators and collaborating across different national institutions. The second day moved beyond reporting and focused instead on how data are being/can be used for policy- and decision- making at various levels. And the third and final day was forward looking, discussing country needs to improved monitoring and reporting and how these needs might be addressed during the upcoming third phase of IMI-SDG6. It also included an interactive session where countries advised each other on specific questions/challenges each are facing in monitoring SDG 6 in their country.

An integral part of the workshop were the voluntary country assignments, in which the country monitoring teams were asked to convene ahead of the workshop and discuss the topics of the workshop from a national perspective. The overall objectives of the assignment were to encourage a cross-sectoral dialogue within each country, and also to enable more informed discussions in the February workshop.

The voluntary country assignment were introduced in a kick-off session in December 2021. This kick-off session included a presentation of the Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6, including the status of data submissions from countries and an overview of online resources available to countries. It then introduced the voluntary assignment for the country monitoring teams, with an explanation of the key elements to complete the assignment and coordinate work with other national focal points. The session was then concluded with a mini-training on how to communicate data efficiently, led by the Center for Environmental Science of the University of Maryland. This training focused on how to integrate effective visualizations into compelling narratives to clearly explain complex data.

All the sessions were offered twice each day, once in the morning in English/Russian/Arabic, and again in the afternoon in English/French/Spanish. This report merges the morning and afternoon offerings into a single summary taking both into account.

All workshop resources including agenda and presentations are available here → https://www.unwater.org/news/un-water-global-workshop-sdg-6-monitoring

1. Day 1 What have we achieved since 2018? Stock-taking of SDG 6 monitoring

1.1 Welcome

The 2nd global workshop was opened with a welcome address from Mr Gilbert F. Houngbo, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and UN-Water Chair. Mr Houngbo, although reminiscent of the personal connections of face-to-face meetings such as the 1st global workshop in 2017, emphasized that thanks to the online format, it had for the first time been possible to invite all monitoring focal points from every country in the world. He then shared the following key messages:

- For the first time and thanks to unprecedented levels of country reporting in 2020, water and sanitation data are available from almost all countries in the world; the data sadly confirms that the world is off track to achieving sustainable water and sanitation for all by 2030.
- Data has an important role to play, as policies and plans are more likely to receive political support and financial resources if they are supported by data; the data must however be translated into information and presented to policy and decision makers in a form they can act upon, not least during the 2023 High Level Political Forum in-depth review of SDG 6 and the UN 2023 Water Conference.
- In this light, there is an urgent need to increase national capacities for monitoring and reporting, especially in low-income countries; bringing together stakeholders and data from across sectors is a first step towards addressing data gaps and maximizing the value of data for policy and decision-making; both issues are the main focus of the Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 (IMI-SDG6).

Thereafter Mr Will Reidhead, Global Monitoring Officer of UN-Water introduced the expected outcomes of the workshop:

- Exchange of good practices on key topics
- Reflections and feedback on past work on SDG 6
- Identification of needs and priorities for future SDG 6 monitoring
- Dialogue between focal points within each country

1.2 Summary of the 2020 Data Drive – what are the results?

Following an ice-breaking exercise with all participants, Ms Maria Schade, Global Monitoring Specialist of UN-Water gave a brief overview of the reporting processes, capacity building support provided and resulting data availability, across all the SDG 6 global indicators:

- IMI-SDG6 brings together the UN agencies who are reporting on global progress towards SDG 6, to streamline data requests to countries and promote integration at all levels; one example of this is the focal point database, which helps both countries and UN agencies to keep track of all monitoring focal points within a country.
- The UN agencies are regularly (every 2 to 4 years) reaching out to country focal points with requests for data and capacity building support; the last global data drive took place in 2020. An overview of available support for each indicator is available here → https://www.unwater.org/our-work/integrated-monitoring-initiative-sdg-6
- In 2021, the average UN Member State was reporting on 8.3 (out of 12) SDG global indicators (compared to 0 in 2015 and 7.0 in 2019). All data are available here → https://sdg6data.org/

- In advance of the workshop, countries were asked to convene a meeting with all focal points, to complete a small voluntary assignment; by the time of the workshop, 30 countries had done so. All country assignments are available here → https://www.dropbox.com/sh/vqi10h81ypiyyye/AAD9qOcaS29MprQZc4Y8L3BSa?dl=0

1.3 Breakout groups for global indicators

The first set of breakout groups had the objective to allow participants to exchange their experiences monitoring each of the different global indicators, as well as on the reporting process and capacity building support. Each breakout group focused on a different global indicator and was facilitated by the UN custodian agenc(ies) for that indicator.

Group 611-621 (drinking water, sanitation and hygiene)

Representatives from different countries (e.g. Russia, Belarus, Estonia, Lithuania, Gambia, Mauritius, Seychelles, Turkey, Croatia, the State of Palestine, South Sudan, Liberia, Cambodia, Brasil) attended the breakout group sessions.

Clarifications were provided to the participants' questions regarding the disaggregation of the drinking water data into rural and urban and the calculation of the national estimates. It was recognised that there are data gaps on drinking water quality in the cases where households are using private water supply wells, as well as in federal countries where data are collected at the provincial level and not necessary combined at the national level (e.g. Brasil is one of the large provincial countries where some of the services are decentralised). In some countries this is rectified through the collection of information on drinking water quality via private household surveys (with representative household samples and trained staff - e.g. in Ecuador), while in other countries the regulators collect and analyse water samples from private water supplies to obtain water quality information. Gaps in water quality data are also evident in some countries (e.g. Liberia) due to the limited capacity of mandated authorities/regulators to collect data in rural and decentralized areas. So they rely on information from NGOs, but they have a conflict of interest since they are also involved in interventions for service delivery.

Monitoring and management of on-site sanitation systems is also challenging for many countries. It was nevertheless highlighted that safely managed sanitation services does not necessary mean sewage systems with UWWTPs exclusively; it is perfectly possible to have on-site systems that are built, upgraded and managed in a safe way. It was also clarified that at the monitoring of solid waste management and medical waste management are not an integrated part of the SDG 6.2 safely managed sanitation.

In some countries different authorities, bodies or Ministries may have oversights on different aspects of sanitation and/or drinking water (e.g. in Tanzania the Ministry of Water is concerned with sewerage infrastructure including conveyance and treatment, while issues of domestic toilets and septic tanks are managed by the Ministry of Health), which causes challenges on monitoring and reporting (e.g. they might be using different monitoring systems, different definitions, etc.). Data flow issues are also challenging. In South Sudan there are three levels of government (National, State, County), with the intermediate level (State) tasked with monitoring. The collection of the data is implemented by the different State actors, but the transfer/flow of these data to the National level is a big challenge. It is also challenging during the country consultations to bring in all the relevant parties/stakeholders to discuss the national estimates. It is thus very important to pursue all opportunities of coordination and cooperation among these bodies, with the National Statistics Office playing a key role in bringing these stakeholders together, both for SDG purposes, but most importantly for national planning

purposes. Harmonisation of the definitions and indicators used by these different stakeholders is needed, also an agreement of which of the data sources are the most reliable ones to be used on the national level for SDG reporting (e.g. in the case of Cambodia national partners rely on a flagship household income and expenditure survey rather than multi-survey regression as done by JMP, so it is important that the differences in these processes are clear).

Group 631 (wastewater)

Representatives from Algeria, France, Czechia, Lithuania, Austria, Palestine, UAE, Mauritius, France, Netherlands, Costa Rica, and Ghana participated across the morning and afternoon breakout group sessions. Several representatives shared their particular country contexts with regards to the development of their wastewater sector and experiences related to monitoring (Austria, Palestine, Netherlands, Costa Rica and Mauritius). There are a number of challenges regarding the monitoring/reporting of wastewater statistics, including for EU Member States implementing the EU wastewater directive which does not consider the volumetric flows. There are in general important needs to improve the capacity for monitoring, in terms of (in-person and local-level) training and coordination (multiple institutions/organisations working in silos), as well as of support towards national SDG 6 monitoring and for adapting the monitoring frameworks. (Waste)water monitoring is also in general not capturing the private sector flows and onsite disposal. Different countries mentioned the importance of having an adapted national policy for wastewater reuse which has a high potential also for the private sector.

Group 632 (water quality)

This session sought input from participants on how to *mainstream water quality monitoring*. Baseline water quality information is still missing for around 50 percent of Member States, and for many countries the baseline was established on incomplete information or limited monitoring data. This means that many countries are unable to understand the impacts of present and past activities on water quality, and looking to the future, safeguarding water resources based on different climate change scenarios will be challenging.

A panel was convened for both the morning and afternoon sessions comprised of countries that represent various water quality monitoring situations globally. The morning session panel included Australia, Tunisia and Sierra Leone, and the afternoon panel included Liberia, South Africa and Uruguay. Unfortunately, Pakistan and Peru were not able to join on the day due to technical difficulties but provided input that is included below. Following a short recap of the indicator methodology by the 632 indicator team, each panellist was invited to describe their national situation and what is needed in their country to the mainstream water quality. This was followed by a group discussion with contributions invited from all participants that drilled down into some of the key points raised.

During the session it was recognised that each country is unique and faces specific challenges, and the question of mainstreaming water quality was discussed from the different national perspectives. The discussion points raised included training needs, awareness raising of the importance of water quality monitoring, institutional arrangements, policy actions, financial resources, and innovations needed. These points are summarised against each of the discussion questions below.

How to centralise water quality monitoring in water resource management?

- Collaboration between multiple agencies responsible for monitoring is key, and this collaboration must be based on clear communication and a common understanding of the causes of, and solutions to, water quality probleMs

- Clear communication channels between experts and non-experts are needed, such as using simple to understand water quality indices.
- To mainstream water quality monitoring at the national level, adaptation of the global indicator is necessary to ensure that it nationally relevant.

How to ensure that the information needed by governments to manage their water resources in the future is available?

- Water quality information should be made available to all stakeholders through centralised web-based portals that ensure timely access to local water quality information as needed.
- Open data sharing policies are essential.

Which steps can be taken to bring all countries up to a required level?

- Support is needed in many countries. Both capacity development and financial support is needed to enable and upgrade monitoring programmes
- Promotion of a "good water quality culture" within and between organisations, with greater enforcement of existing penalties for polluters is needed.
- Innovation is essential to help fill data gaps.

Group 641-642 (water use and scarcity)

The two breakout sessions for the indicators 6.4.1 and 6.4.2 were organized in a series of questions that the participants have been invited to answer, first in writing in a synthetic manner with one or two words in a Mentimeter poll, and then to specify and expand their thoughts verbally. Participants from 19 countries attended the two sessions.

During the subsequent discussions, the following themes emerged:

- Methodology

During the discussion, the need for support on the methodologies for these two indicators appeared to be a high priority. This has to do with both the main standard methods of assessing and computing the indicators, as well as the possibility of methodological refinement, linking with the capacity of designing better policies at national level. A particular issue raised concerns the methods and equipment for data collection, as in many countries this continues to be a major factor hampering the capacity of monitoring and reporting the SDGs.

- Capacity development

The participants expressed great satisfaction with their previous experiences of training and capacity development activities run by FAO and the other IMI-SDG6 agencies. About their expectations for the future, the interventions focused on the possibility of having capacity development activities on multi-scale use of the data, local management of water resources, methodological refinement and use of the data for decisions and policymaking. Finally, while appreciating the possibilities offered by remote activities, the participants expressed the hope that in-person workshops could be resumed, particularly at national level. The possibility of organizing field activities was also suggested.

- Policy support

The use of data for policy support has been mentioned among the main needs for the next phase in both groups. Although was not been possible to enter into the details of which kind of activities would be more advisable, the interest for the subject has been clearly expressed.

Group 651 (IWRM)

SDG 6 Indicator Focal Points and other relevant country representatives provided feedback on the SDG indicator 6.5.1 monitoring and reporting process, both on their experiences with the reporting process and the coordination of SDG 6.5.1 and overall SDG 6 reporting. To enhance coordination among SDG 6 indicators (and also other relevant national/ international frameworks), participants reflected that reporting mechanisms should be well embedded in existing national processes, aligned with national statistics offices and should benefit from high-level political support (inter-ministerial).

At the same time, countries also raised the need for further support for the SDG 6.5.1 reporting process, including to:

- Ensure that the monitoring and reporting processes at the national level are well-structured and actively facilitated, and measures are taken to ensure that data and inputs from all concerned stakeholders are taken into account in the reporting;
- Increase capacities (both human and financial) for SDG 6.5.1 reporting, including (sub-regional) workshops or processes to make sure that all stakeholders have the knowledge and capacity for reporting and data sharing, and awareness can be raised with broader water managers on the 2030 Agenda and SDG 6 monitoring and reporting, as many are not aware of the process;
- Use the reporting process to generate momentum for implementation, bridging to longer-term processes and generating sustainable partnerships for implementation.

Participants also acknowledged the tools, processes and assistance provided through the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme to address some of these needs. The Support Programme has assisted over 180 countries in monitoring and reporting on SDG 6.5.1 over both reporting cycles (2017 and 2020). At the same time, it has used the momentum and trust created during the SDG 6.5.1 reporting process as an entry point to assist more than 25 countries to date in identifying solutions through multi-stakeholder action planning and/or implementation of relevant actions to measurably enhance water security through an IWRM approach. The Support Programme has also helped facilitate cross-coordination across SDG 6 indicators – for instance by inviting overall focal points and relevant technical focal points to take part in 6.5.1 multi-stakeholder reporting and action planning workshops. Opportunities to use the Support Programme is currently to facilitate reporting and implementation on SDG indicators 6.3.2 and 6.6.1 are currently being investigated.

Group 652 (transboundary cooperation)

The SDG 652 break-out sessions offered an opportunity for countries to share their reporting experiences concerning data gathering issues, the national process for reporting, their co-ordination with neighbouring countries, and their interactions with the custodian agencies (UNECE and UNESCO). Participants were asked to consider what worked well in relation to the reporting process and what might be improved. They were also asked about how countries that have not yet reported might be encouraged to do so, and how reporting might be coordinated at the basin level. A further theme was the role of reporting in supporting transboundary water cooperation more broadly. Countries from multiple perspectives and regions participated in the sessions, including representatives from Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Ecuador, Georgia, Mexico, South Africa, and United States of America.

Both the morning and the afternoon session began with a brief overview of the reporting process and the key outputs, specifically, the number of countries reporting, global and regional

indicator values, and 2017-2020 trends. In the morning session a range of challenges and experiences were highlighted, including the difficulty of reporting where no formal operational arrangements are in place; the challenge of co-ordinating inputs across different government agencies; and the importance of the training, webinars and bilateral support offered by the custodian agencies. It was noted that such support should also highlight the value of reporting as a way to encourage non-reporting countries to report, and co-ordination between countries sharing a particular basin should be further supported. Similar themes were picked up by the participants in the afternoon session. Additional points that were highlighted included the importance of linking SDG 652 reporting with activities under the Global Environmental Facility's International Waters programme, as well as the support offered by other regional organisations; the bureaucratic challenges that federal states might face in submitting national reports; and the need to continue efforts to deepen the quality of data and reporting on transboundary aquifers.

Both sessions concluded with the custodian agencies providing an overview of next steps.

Group 661 (freshwater ecosystems)

During the global workshop, SDG 6.6.1 indicator focal points and SDG 6 overall focal points, residing in a variety of national institutions, provided feedback on the SDG indicator 6.6.1 monitoring and reporting process during the indicator breakout groups, specifically regarding their experience in receiving, understanding, and using the SDG 661 data - which is derived from satellite imagery and converted into statistics for national approval and use.

Prior to the interaction with participants, a presentation was provided to the focal points to provide a scene setting / understanding regarding the evolution of the SDG 661 indicator methodology, the availability of freshwater data, and accessibility to these data through the Freshwater Ecosystems Explorer online data portal.

One of the key objectives for UNEP was to solicit national focal point feedback on whether the SDG 661 data is both useful and applicable across different country contexts. The feedback provided was both insightful and relevant. Countries attending the SDG661 groups included Nigeria, Brazil, Moldova, Czech Republic, South Africa, Canada, Algeria, Tunisia, and Ghana.

Some of the key SDG 661 comments received from country participants on use of data were:

- Countries use the SDG 661 data for reporting and it fills data gaps on freshwater ecosysteMs Some countries were able to compare the available SDG 661 data with data they find in-country to support validation the global data products.
- Countries rely on the SDG 661 wetlands data, and this has facilitated national wetlands monitoring programmes to be considered/prioritised in some countries.
- Monitoring of rivers is still missing from the SDG 661 data products and countries need this data as monitoring rivers remains challenging to undertake accurately and at scale. One country has established a task team to look at river monitoring. It would be helpful if UNEP could provide data on river flows in all countries. This data is in demand.
- There is no quantitative target within Target 6.6 and the indicator is not adequately tracking progress at national and sub-national level. Countries would like to set their own targets, but this is a real challenge for them to undertake. Countries would benefit from having more data and information to guide and establish this national freshwater ecosystem target setting process. One target example would be 'degraded ecosystems are 100% protected as demonstrated by restored good water quality and quantity'.

In which areas would countries appreciate support?

- Determining which freshwater ecosystems are in a good state and which are in a poor state within their country. It is not clear how to determine this. This is of course a somewhat subjective determination and concerns a gap in being able to set thresholds and targets on the extent that ecosystems are changing.
- Contextualizing freshwater data and ecosystems changes. The freshwater data do not include complimentary data concerning driving forces of ecosystems change namely: population, land-use change and climate change.
- Support towards increased capacity and coordination focused on national and/or action planning would be very well received. Institutions are working in silos and action planning around [ecosystem management] is limited.
- Ecosystem management target setting and implementation of activities towards those targets. This could form a component of action plans.
- Laws, policies, and frameworks that support actions towards freshwater ecosystems management. This is recognised as long term.
- Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA-EA) was raised as it is being applied in some countries with the SDG661 having the potential to contribute to this approach where is it being applied in some countries.

Group 6a1-6b1 (capacity building/participation)
WHO, through the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS), is a co-custodian, along with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), for monitoring SDG Targets 6.a and 6.b on the means of implementation (MoI).

The break-out groups on the MoI brought together government focal points from Lithuania, Egypt, Ghana, Mexico, South Africa and Zimbabwe, as well as representatives from academia and international organizations. Following a brief presentation on the target and indicators themselves, the discussions focused on challenges to capture elements of the targets within the indicators, for example focusing on the capacity development aspect of 6.a.1. The importance of the narrative around the indicators to ensure the spirit of the targets is captured was noted. WHO emphasized that the UN-Water GLAAS country survey is the mechanism for countries to report on the MoI through WHO to the United Nations Statistical Division.

1.4 How to collaborate across sectors?

To kick-off the discussions, UN-Water invited representatives from several countries to share their lessons and strategies on how they achieved collaboration across sectors in their countries.

Morning session: Lessons and strategies on how to achieve collaboration across sectors in Japan, Sri Lanka, and Georgia
Mr Akihiro Shimasaki, International Coordination of River Engineering, Japan, shared the experience of Japan in terms of collaboration across sectors. To promote the implementation of the SDGs, Japan established the SDGs promotion headquarters headed by the Prime Minister and composed of all cabinet Ministers together with the SDGs promotion roundtable meeting composed of multiple stakeholders from the government, NGOs, NPOs, private sector and various organisations. Under this framework, the SDGs implementation guiding principles have been formulated as part of Japan's strategy for the SDGs. The Ministry of International Affairs and communication has a bridging role to build consensus on the methodologies of the SDG indicators. For example, for implementing water resource management, Japan uses data for

various reasons such as facility operation, project planning and disaster response. Economic analysis to show project efficiency is not possible without coordinated data. Daily monitoring and surveys after disasters are important to show if the project achieve the expected outcomes. Japan also uses the data to disseminate information to the public to show risks or progress. Coordination mechanisms are essential to collect data to show the progress to the public. The challenges in coordination: a decentralized statistical system can cause difficulties as different stakeholders can contribute to the same indicators. Coordination is thus required to identify which organisation would take indicators' responsibilities. Another challenge lies in ensuring understanding from stakeholders to their effort to develop data and metadata.

Mr Ananda Jayaweera, Solidaridad Network Asia, presented the case of Sri Lanka, noting that the Government addressed the transition to the SDCs by establishing a Sustainable Development Council and passing through the Parliament Sustainable Development Act. These central institutions acted as a body for coordination. Mr Jayaweera proceeded to describe the status of the different SDG 6 indicators. 6.1 and 6.2 remain the best established in Sri Lanka due to the long engagement with the WHO/UNICEF JMP. The Ministry of Water Supply adapted the methodologies for these indicators to include new provisions for measuring accessibility, availability, and quality, and included a consultation with stakeholders. The ministry also formulated national targets and milestones. The plan was to carry out a national census with the national statistical system, but this was postponed due to the pandemic. It is hoped to resume the census in 2022. Sri Lanka also participated in the 2018/19 GLAAS survey and convened a validation meeting with all stakeholders. The other SDG 6 indicators are less advanced and are in various stages of consultation and awareness raising amongst the relevant government departments. However, all the SDG 6 targets have been assigned to different government departments, and the outlook for the future progress is good.

Ms Gvantsa Sivsivadze, Water Division, Georgia presented the case of Georgia. In Georgia, the overall coordination process is administrated by the Government Administration of Georgia. At the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, there is a special division on Sustainable Development which coordinates the processes for the specific targets and indicators for implementation. For indicators reporting, the main goal is for the countries to implement the SDGs for 2030. Intersectoral collaboration for indicator 6.5.1. led to high political support at the national level. In 2020, during the second data collection for 6.5.1, to ensure a realistic picture of the achieved progress towards Integrated Resources Water Management (IWRM), in collaboration with National Water Partnership, Georgia applied to the IWRM support program, coordinated by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) under UNEP's guidance, which facilitated intersectoral collaboration and stakeholder consultations within the reporting. All stakeholders were involved in the reporting. Thanks to this successful process, indicator 6.5.1 was nationalized in Georgia in 2021. Georgia was able to integrate indicator 6.5.1 into two key strategic national documents; the National Environment Election Program and the Ten Years Strategy of the Government of Georgia. These documents are currently drafts that still need to go through stakeholders' consultation, but indicator 6.5.1 has been set as a key goal for Water Resources Management. Similarly to Sri Lanka, they set national targets to achieve in the coming years.

Afternoon session: Lessons and strategies on how to achieve collaboration across sectors in Brazil, Rwanda and Liberia

Mr Marcus Fuckner, National Water Agency (ANA), Brazil presented the experience of Brazil in terms of SGD 6 Monitoring. The organism responsible for coordination of all SDGs' data

production in Brazil is the Brazil Institute of Geography and Statistics. Monitoring of SDG 6 is an integrated work, but it needs leadership which is done by ANA in Brazil in cooperation with the UN custodian agencies and other involved institutions in Brazil. In 2019, Brazil integrated institutions and stakeholders in the SDG 6 data calculation process. In 2022, ANA will launch its second national report to communicate the results of SDG 6 indicators in Brazil to civil society. This report is produced in Portuguese, Spanish and English. The main message from Brazil is that more disaggregation is needed, institutions need to be better integrated and better communication is needed, databases need to be constantly improved and data gaps filled, further discussions with custodian agencies are essential and finally, there is a need to advance partnerships at the regional level with regional initiatives and communities.

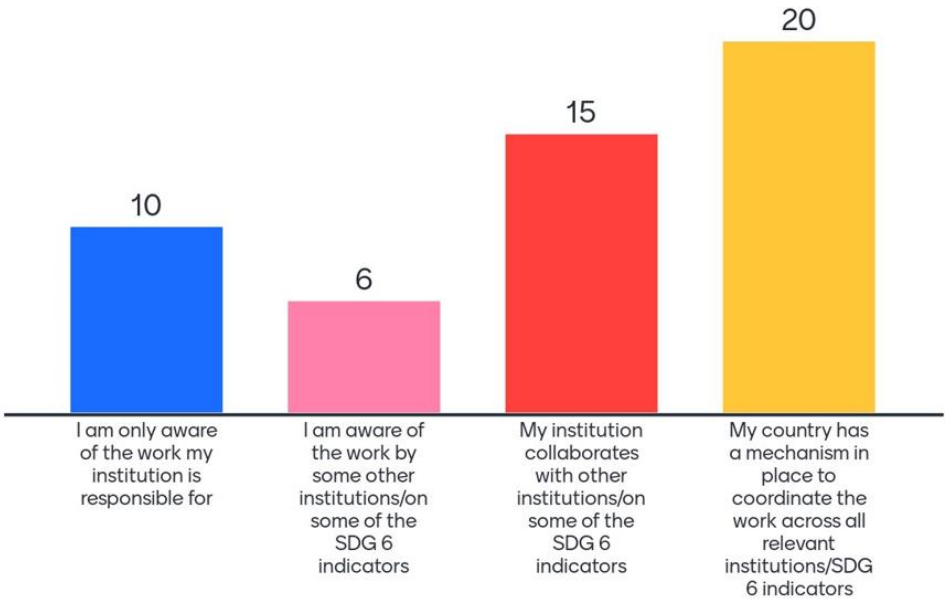
Ms Christine Niyotwambaza Hitimana, Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) briefly presented the experience of Rwanda. In Rwanda, a working group was set up in 2021 followed by a workshop during which focal points were nominated to work on the different indicators. This was set up to facilitate data collection, discussion, validation and reporting. Mr Eugene Caine, WASH Commission, Liberia shared a similar experience as Rwanda. With the reporting of 6.3.2, they realised the coordination could be strengthened and widened to other indicators. They are identifying institutions in country they can work with. UN-Water and UNEP provided a lot of support during the last years. Ms Rathna Kewal, Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment, Suriname replied their experience is similar to Brazil. In Suriname they have different ministries involved in the process of data collection and reporting. They have a working group in place, planning to have another one to deal with water resources.

The Chair highlighted that from the experience shared, coordination across ministries is an important factor, noting that a leading institution that coordinates the collaboration is essential. It was further asked to the panellists “how could collaboration be strengthened across ministries from their experience?” Brazil replied that in their case, there is no formal agreement but a roadmap or framework for technical cooperation between institutions would be useful. Liberia agreed with Brazil to bring the process at the institutions level. Suriname supported the previous comments adding that institutional capacity building is essential. Rwanda identified three elements to increase collaboration across sectors; institution capacity development, increased communication and sharing of information. Mr Kreplah of Liberia highlighted the importance to link SDG 6 monitoring to national goals monitoring to attract political attention. A comment from the chat highlighted that it is easier for agencies and institutions to collaborate but more challenging within ministries due to hierarchies. Mr Choura of Tunisia shared that it is important to share a common language between ministries. Exchange of good practices are useful. Ms Bouhlel of UNU-INWEH introduced their online platform for countries to collaborate to gather data to identify gaps across SDG indicators.

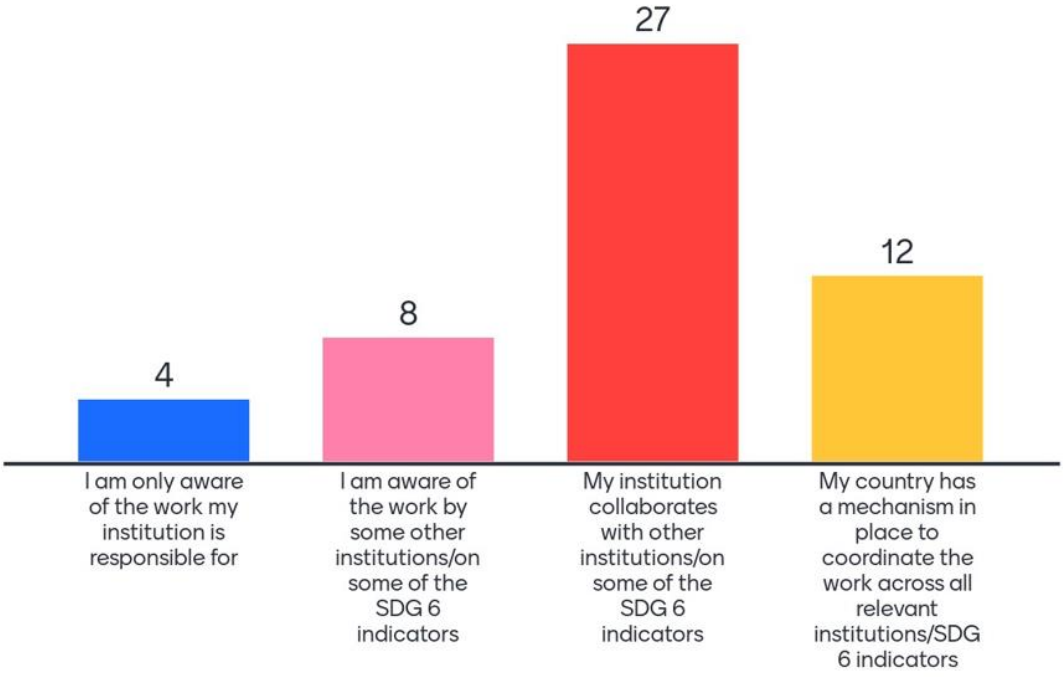
Poll question to participants

To conclude the discussion about the collaboration across institutions, the Chair posed two questions to the participants by online poll.

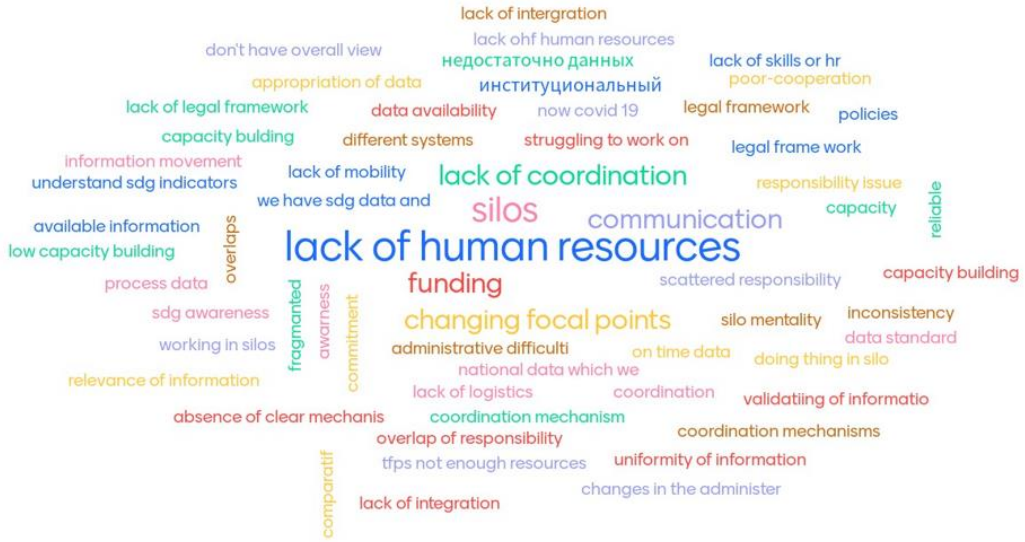
Question 1: How well does the collaboration across institutions/indicators work in your country? Responses from the morning session (51 participants taking the poll).



Question 1: How well does the collaboration across institutions/indicators work in your country? Responses from the afternoon session (51 participants taking the poll).



Question 2: What are the main challenges for collaboration across institutions/indicators in your country? Responses from the morning session (45 participants taking the poll).



Question 2: What are the main challenges for collaboration across institutions/indicators in your country? Responses from the afternoon session (58 participants taking the poll).

1.5 Day 1 session highlights

To wrap up the first morning of the global workshop, Mr Biancalani of FAO summarised the main issues that have been identified in the sessions:

- Need for coordination within country monitoring teams which would help internal planning.
- Coordination training is essential to ensure coordination within country.
- Establishing national targets which can be different from the global targets. This could be achieved by Voluntary National Reviews for countries to highlight national targets.
- Support for national monitoring: municipality trainings to bring SDGs to the ground.
- Policy support is needed.
- Support needed in the reporting process.

Mr Alabaster of UN-Habitat shared the main challenges and outcomes identified during the afternoon of the first day:

- Issue of cross coordination across indicators, which could be addressed by having a leading organisation to strengthen coordination within a country.
- There is a need for high level political support in countries. Many indicators experience challenges in collecting data which in most cases comes from area not being regulated. Water data cannot be looked on its own but in the context of other data.
- In terms of reporting mechanisms, difficulties were identified in adapting existing monitoring methods into the new SDG 6 framework. It is essential to develop a longer-term perspective on what data is going to be used for.
- No mechanism in place to aggregate data for national government processes.
- Capacity building is needed at national level, but it is essential that it also reaches the local level.
- Capacity development is needed so methodologies can be better understood. There is a need to look at synergies between countries and on how similar experiences can be shared. Resources are needed such as hardware to develop capacity development.

2. Day 2 From data to policy

2.1 Welcome

High-quality data enable evidence-based policy- and decision-making, ensure accountability and transparency, and attract political commitments and public and private investments. In this light, the purpose of day 2 was to look at the next steps for using the collected data to inform policy, including how to communicate the data in a way that make it actionable for various audiences.

2.2 How are policy-makers and decision-makers using data? Case studies from global, national and sub-national levels

To set the context for the discussions in the subsequent breakout groups (session 2.3), country representatives presented a set of case studies on how they use data.

The use of data for national planning and implementation in Uganda

Mr Callist Tindimugaya, Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda provided an overview of the use of integrated data for various purpose in Uganda. He started by highlighting the institutional structure for monitoring in the country, with task teams for each target and indicator, and himself as the overall national coordinator. Thanks in part to this structure, data are streamlined into national processes. One example is the use of SDG 6 data during the update of the National Water Policy, in particular for highlighting gaps for wastewater and water quality, water use efficiency and water scarcity. Another example was the mainstreaming the SDG 6 global indicators into the sector performance monitoring framework and annual sector performance report, which support national monitoring and planning processes. Sector investment plans estimate budgetary needs to fill the gaps identified by the data. He also highlighted that data show the need for integration across the goal, in particular at the catchment level.

How data help plan, implement and maintain water supply systems in rural areas in India

Mr Pradeep Singh, Department of Drinking water and Sanitation, India, shared the experiences in India of using data to inform drinking water supply implementation in the country. In 2019 the government announced a new policy ('Jal Jeevan Mission' or JJM) with the ambitious objective of ensuring that every household in India has access to drinking water by 2024, an increase above the starting level of 17%. The JJM operational goal is closely aligned with SDG target 6.1. A core pillar of the JJM is it's 'digital vision', which includes continuous monitoring at the household and village level, transparency, and data driven decision-making. The program makes use of a range of data-driven digital tools to ensure efficiency and equity in coverage of water supply infrastructure, in particular, a sensor-based internet of things to measure quantity, quality & regularity of water supply in villages; dashboards at the village level to monitor water supply in terms of quantity, quality and regularity along with a public grievance redressal mechanism; and domestic portable water quality testing devices and field testing kits for community surveillance.

How data help protect ecosystems and livelihoods in the in Tanzania

Ms Estella Mgala, Ministry of Water, Tanzania, described how data are being used in the Eastern Arc Mountains in Tanzania to sustainably manage natural resources, maintain ecosystem services and improve livelihoods at the basin level. The project was a national implementation modality, jointly funded by the Government of Tanzania, GEF and UNDP and included a range of interventions including capacity building of water user associations, river monitoring, forest restoration, and alternative income generation. After a five-year period, a number of impacts

could be observed, including 22,000 hectares of land restored/directly under sustainable land management practices, a decrease in sediments in Ruvu River by 20% and in Zigi River by 35%, and a 20% increase in mean annual river flow rate of Ruvu river and 21% increase in Zigi.

Use of SDG indicators for water and sanitation policy and planning in Tunisia

Mr Abderrahman Ouasli, Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and fisheries, Tunisia gave an example of how his country uses the SDG indicators for national level policy and planning. He noted that Tunisia has taken several steps to institutionalize the 2030 framework, and that 80 percent of the SDG targets have been captured in the country's five-year development plan. Within the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries, a monitoring committee has been created, to participate in the reporting on the SDG indicators and to – based on the data – formulate financial needs as well as action plans. They have also engaged in an UNU-led project on SDG 6 policy support, allowing different government agencies to work together on an integrated database which has resulted in strengthened cooperation and communication between decision-makers and scientific researchers.

How environmental and economic accounting support SDG 6 progress in Colombia

Ms Elena Rodríguez Yate, National Statistics Department, Colombia, explained how the system of environmental and economic accounting (SEEA) can support SDG 6 progress, by helping countries balance water availability and use. More specifically, the system organizes existing water data (together with other environmental, economic and social data), to allow for the tracking of water flows from the environment to the economy and from the economy back to the environment. This is very valuable to formulate effective environmental, economic and social policies, taking interlinkages into account. In Colombia, the outcomes have for example been used to promote a circular economy in the national development plan, to strengthen inter-institutional coordination in the national policy for green growth and to improve governance in water and wastewater management.

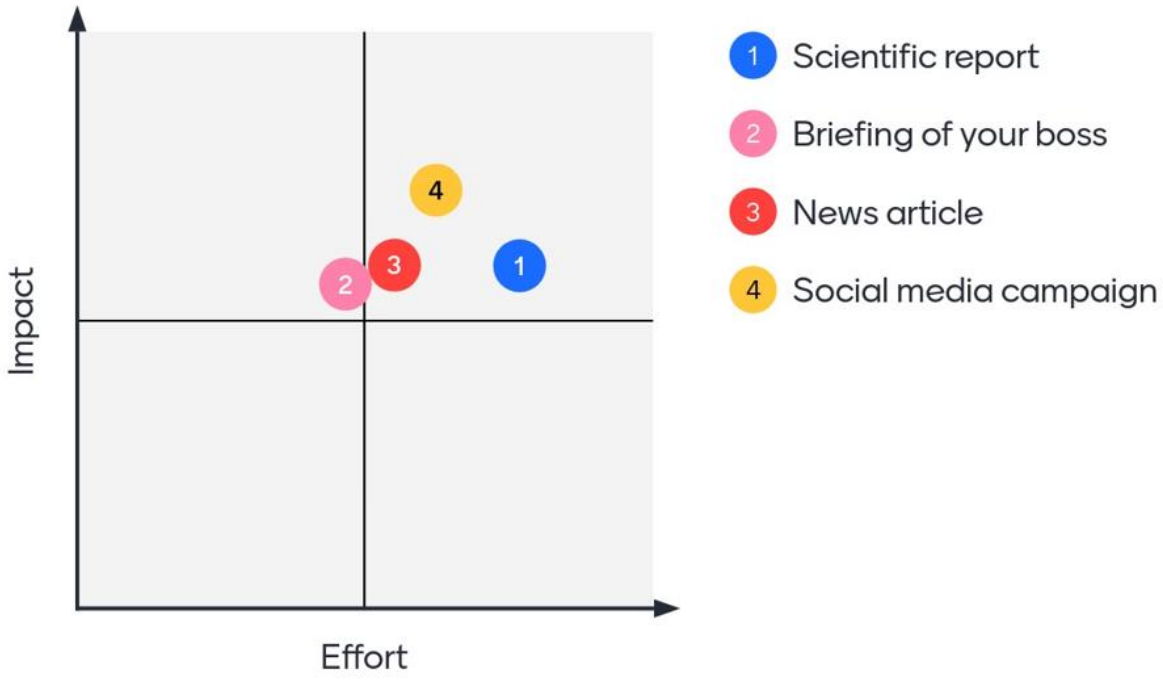
Analysis and dissemination of SDG indicators in Italy

Ms Simona Ramberti and Ms Giovanna Tagliacozzo, Italian National Institute of Statistics, provided a case study of the analysis and dissemination of SDG indicators in Italy, noting that they have 354 statistical measures related to the SDGs, of which 135 directly correspond to the global indicators and the others are either similar to the global indicators and/or important for the national context. The SDGs have served as a model for the National Sustainable Development Strategy as well as a Post-COVID-19 National Recovery Plan. SDG data are used to follow-up on these plans, and to this end, annual progress reports are published, including infographics and online interactive graphics. To increase the usefulness of the data, there is ongoing work to improve data disaggregation and the SDG 6 data are currently available at municipality, region and province. → https://www.istat.it/en/archivio/266473

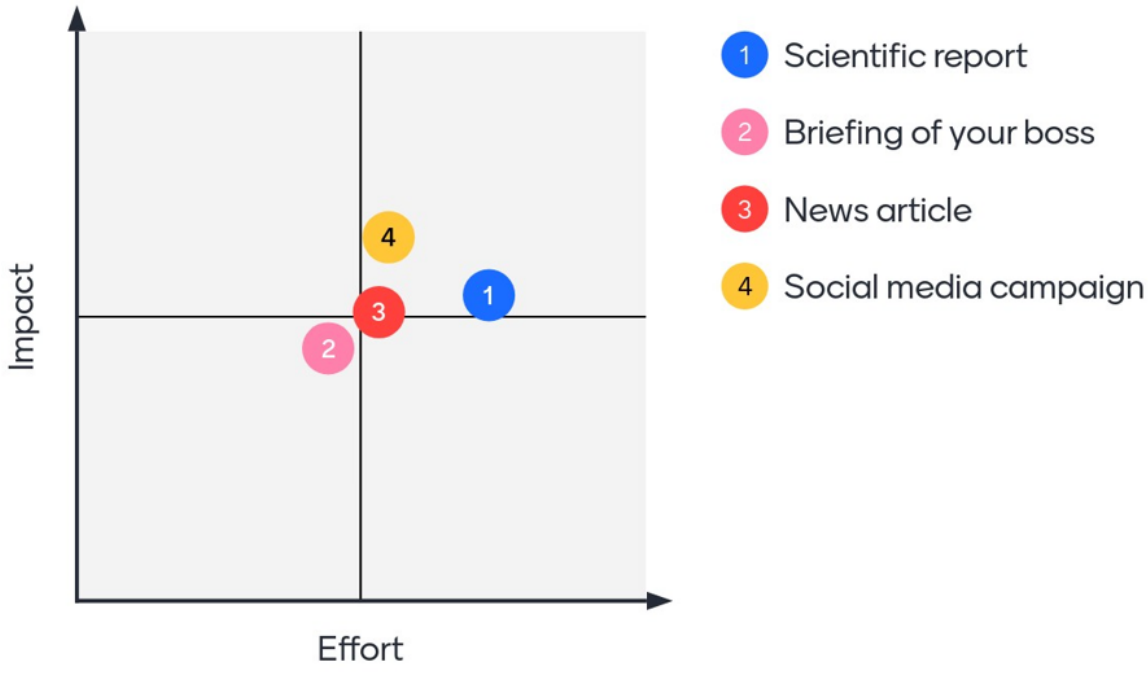
Poll question to participants

Following on the case studies of data use for policy in these countries, the moderator posed two questions to the participants by online poll.

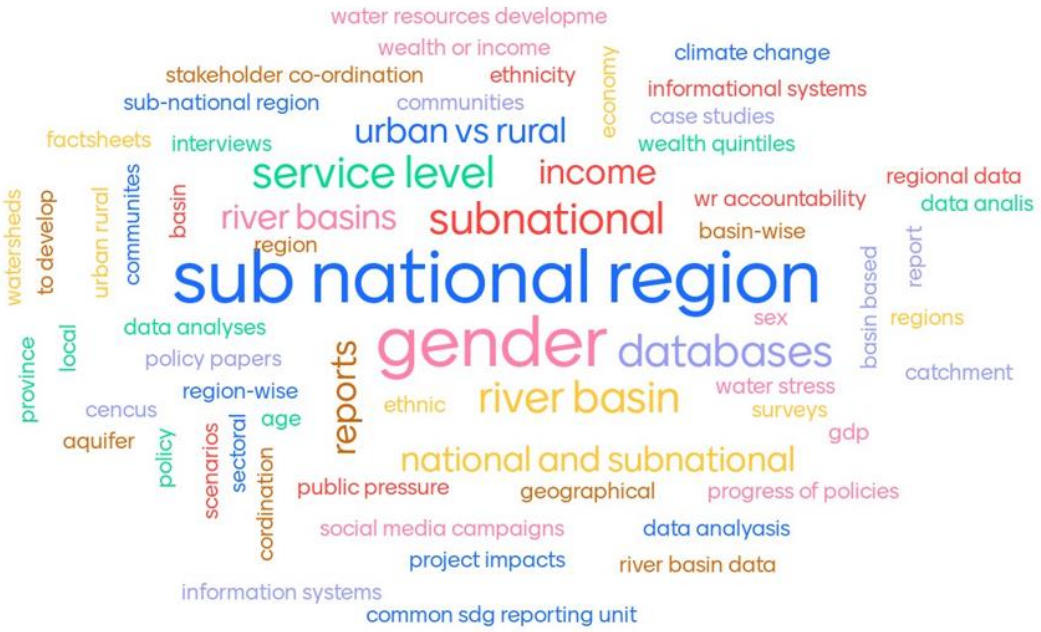
Question 1: How would you rate these data communication products (effort vs impact)? Responses from the morning session (39 participants taking the poll).



Question 1: How would you rate these data communication products (effort vs impact)? Responses from the afternoon session (44 participants taking the poll).



Question 2: What types of data disaggregation would benefit policy processes in your country? Responses from the morning session (49 participants taking the poll).



Question 2: What types of data disaggregation would benefit policy processes in your country? Responses from the afternoon session (40 participants taking the poll).

2.3 How to improve data uptake? Presentation of highlights from the breakout groups

Mr Florian Thevenon of UN-Habitat shared the examples of India and Georgia on data dissemination, with tools developed so the data can be accessible for all through dashboards and national portals. Ms Iulia Trombitcaia of UNECE reported the examples of the Russian Federation and Belarus who also mentioned their national portal as a use of data dissemination for SDGs. In Belarus, a dedicated portal for SDG 6 is in place. The Russian Federation is also publishing a yearbook on the SDGs which serves as an additional channel of communication to national authorities and to the public. Mr Tom Slaymaker of UNICEF shared the example of the

State of Palestine who has been working with NSOs to produce reports on specific topics such as wastewater, potable drinking water which were submitted to the counsellor ministers for discussion on policies and strategies for achieving the SDGs. Ms Beryl Oyuke, Water Resources Authority, Kenya, highlighted that every country has different levels on which the data flows from national to more local levels. South Africa shared their experience with a database containing all data providing an open resource available to everyone. Mr Biancalani of FAO shared the idea that it could be useful to have payable data so they are taken for their value. Mr Warner of UNEP shared the experiences of Romania and Switzerland where in the latter, the SDGs allowed for the extra push towards a national water scarcity assessment which represents a good example of how the SDGs can help feed national processes.

Mr Florian Thevenon of UN-Habitat shared the importance of some products for communication such as the synthesis report on SDG 6 prepared by Brazil which can be useful to give more visibility to the target. Coordination in the reporting process was also emphasized which can allow for a better uptake of the data. A lack of coordination in the reporting process was mentioned by several countries as a side that needs to be improved. Technical people are willing to establish coordination, but it can be challenging without political will. Ms Marina Takane of WHO shared the examples of Tunisia and Niger on how they share disseminated data nationally through annual national reports and meetings. These annual meetings include all stakeholders in the domains and serve to discuss the data and results. This information also serves the budgeting process and sector and sub-sector planning. Mr Riccardo Biancalani of FAO mentioned the importance to have opportunities to improve the mechanisms in place or to create mechanisMs A couple of countries suggested to give a new boost to these processes to improve the engagement of the political parts. Ms Danka Thlamenierovia of Slovenia shared the importance of the timing of the use of data and the use of data for drafting strategies and by donor agencies to prioritize the support needed. Some indicators are difficult to translate in a meaningful way to policy makers which could be due to a lack of data or data interpretation.

2.4 Great water and sanitation communication – Presentation of examples from countries that showcase good practices for communicating data.

During the kick-off session of the workshop in December 2021, participants received training in how to effectively communicate water data to different audiences, and as part of the voluntary country assignment, countries were asked to share examples on how they are doing this. Professor Bill Dennison from the University of Maryland recalled from the training that effective communication and engagement with a wide range of audiences is key to solving environmental problems, and that there is a variety of ways to achieve this goal. To this end he summarized some of the key tips for effective communication and data preparation:

- Context is key, tell your audiences WHY they should care about the issue
- Use a narrative structure following this template: ... AND ... BUT ... THEREFORE …
- Use storytelling with a cause and an effect, a timeline and people
- Simplify and avoid jargon without ‘dumbing it down’
- Visual elements are very important, and to improve them:
    - Use active titles to tell the audience what they are looking at (self-contained visuals)
    - Consider how the users perceive the visuals (e.g. colours)
    - Eliminate unnecessary information (‘chart junk’ or ‘map clutter’)
    - If the visual is in a report, make sure to integrate your visual with the text

Mr Dennison then presented a wide range of good examples from the received country assignments, which included cover art, universally understandable icons, culturally sensitive icons, using colours and fonts to distinguish different types of content or different scales, photos and especially those with people, timelines with icons to explain processes, stand-alone charts with active titles, interactive maps, traffic light colours to convey message without user needing to read the numbers (status and trends), conceptual diagrams explaining complex relations, annotations on photos to guide the eye, comparison with other countries. Lastly, he encouraged participants to share their work, to get inspired and learn from each other.

2.5 Day 2 session highlights

Ms Tiefenauer-Linardon of UNECE presented the highlights of the morning session, starting by thanking the participants for providing great and diverse examples on how data can inform policies. A lot of examples of how the data are being shared were provided by different countries. A lot was said on how the data flow within the country depending on the country organisation. The importance of the SDG data for other reporting was highlighted for processes such as Voluntary National Reviews. It is useful to make the data better known and to improve the understanding of the underlying challenges in order to level up contribution at national and international levels. The communication experts provided some great tips to communicate data with a lot of visual examples used by countries to share information in a meaningful way. Baseline data and progress are important aspects to feed into upcoming milestones, such as the UN 2023 Water Conference. Sharing countries experiences is crucial to create a basis for dialogue which is needed in the water nexus.

Mr Aurélien Dumont of UNESCO presented the highlights of the afternoon session. Emphasis was made on the alignment of national frameworks with SDG 6, and the role of the statistical offices was shown with the example of Italy which are central actors of the SDG monitoring. Examples of communication products, tools and platforms were shared. Breakout groups showed the importance of annual reports and meetings for sharing and publishing data. The importance of sub-national disaggregation was highlighted. Challenges such as the improvement of existing mechanisms and engagement at the political level were shared. Reflections on how to use the indicators for action were also shared throughout the day. This echoes the acceleration framework for SDG 6 which will be key in the coming years. It is important to link the reporting and monitoring of SDGs indicators will voluntary national reviews undertaken by Member States.

3. Day 3 Needs and priorities for the future

3.1 Welcome

Mr Tom Slaymaker of UNICEF presented a few reflections from the morning sessions of the first two days of the workshop. There has been an overall improvement in the availably and quality of national data in many countries and increased awareness of new types of available data to monitor the SDGs. At the same time, large data gaps remain. Day 1 discussed mainly the lessons learned and the challenges associated with coordination across different parts of the government. Examples of establishment of multi stakeholders consultation mechanisms to bring people together were shared. Efforts to gradually harmonize and standardize the indicators were presented. The different discussions showed that collection is often decentralized, and aggregation of data represents a challenge. On Day 2, interesting examples from different countries were shared on how to move from data to policy. The importance of data to inform national program was highlighted. During the breakout groups, a lot of different ways to disseminate data were presented, with examples on how the data could be packaged, the different national platforms in place. There is a lot of progress in collecting data to assess the baseline situation but there are still challenges with the timeline and frequency of reporting. In many cases, there are insufficient data to understand the trend. The quality of the data is not always fully standardized or verified so there is still some work to do on this aspect. A lot of countries agreed on the need of higher resolution data to allow disaggregation by gender, river basin, subnational regions etc. To transform data into useful information remains an ongoing challenge and there is often a disconnection between technical people and decision makers. Great ideas for presenting data were shared but ultimately, it is the quality of data that will determine how useful it is.

Mr Rick Johnston of WHO presented a few reflections from the afternoon session of the first two days. Day 1 took stock of the progress that has been made in SDG 6 monitoring: with a steady improvement in the quality and availability of national data, the awareness of SDG targets and indicators has increased, and many countries updated their national monitoring systems, although, many countries still have many data gaps. The lessons learned and challenges in achieving coordination were discussed, with good coordination examples from countries such as Liberia, Rwanda and Suriname. There has been lot of progress establishing multi stakeholders' consultation mechanisms in many countries together with a gradual harmonization and standardization of indicators across different government departments. Data collection is often decentralized and aggregation of data for national monitoring remains a challenge. Examples of challenges in collecting quality data at local scaled were shared. Day 2 talked about moving from data to policy. Interesting examples from Tunisia and Italy were shared. Tunisia had a cooperation program between the government and the UN to support SDG reporting which resulted in 9 out the 11 indicators being addressed in annual plans and budgets. In Italy, the statistical organization collaborates with the relevant technical institutions and updates the SDG 6 database every six months and produces annual reports. The breakout groups highlighted the numerous ways of disseminating data as well as examples of data being used to inform national policies and strategies. Many countries are producing annual reports and dedicated SDG dashboards. The communication examples shared reminded of the importance of not only producing viable data but also communicating it to key audiences. A lot of progress was made towards collecting data for baseline processes. Challenges were highlighted about collecting data at the local level and compiling it so it can be used at regional and national levels from planning. Some countries were able to establish baselines but not trends to measure improvement and progress. Most countries highlighted the need for high-

resolution data and for disaggregation. Transforming data into useful information remains a challenge as there is often a disconnect between technical people and decision makers. It is important to bridge the gaps and building capacity at local level to produce data so that data is timely and accessible to decision makers when they need it.

3.2 Real-time consulting in breakout groups – Help four countries address a specific challenge they (and others) are experiencing

Lesotho: How can countries access data from different stakeholders?

Ms Nthati Toae, Department of Water Affairs, Lesotho, asked participants for advice on how to encourage the integration of water resources data that have been collected by different entities. She noted that her organisation's mandate is to develop, update and monitor the implementation of water policy, legislations and strategy, and to coordinate all water sector management activities. Within the ministry, one department is responsible for data collection, which includes both own data collection (e.g. on quantity and quality of surface and groundwater and water rights allocation) as well as the compilation of data from different water users (e.g. on domestic distribution, international transfer and rivers in the vicinity of diamond mines). However, the transfer of data between different entities is challenging, due to the lack of a central database, the need for proper authorization from all parties and long bureaucratic procedures. GWP noted that, in their experience, rather than looking at one big central database, it might be more feasible and efficient to ensure the interoperability of existing databases (which also would maintain the ownership within the different entities). In terms of incentives, options mentioned included highlighting the higher cause, licensing agreements, or ultimately financial incentives. South Africa picked up on the importance of licensing agreements, as agreement on how the data can be used by whom helps build trust. Uganda reported on similar challenges. Mauritius emphasized the need to address the issue in a collaborative manner, and that focal points from across entities need to advocate for the importance of data and build trust. It was noted that an ongoing dialogue between data producers could help create trust.

El Salvador: 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?

Mr Roberto Ceron, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, El Salvador, asked participants for advice on how to better involve communities and civil society in water monitoring. He noted that El Salvador has 126 sites to monitor surface water quality, 256 sites to monitor surface water quantity/flow (of which 131 are automated and 125 need to be manually checked), 158 wells for groundwater monitoring (which are manually registered twice a year), and 8 stations for monitoring the lagoons. However, this coverage is not sufficient to credibly capture the situation in the whole country, which is why they have been trying to involve different organisations as well as civil society in the monitoring effort. So far they have been providing tools for groundwater monitoring to some communities, with mixed experience on data quality, and questions that remain include which tools that are the best and how to effectively transfer the data from the communities all the way up to the policy makers. UNEP noted that they have worked on this in several Latin America countries, and identified community training and the use of smart phones and dedicated apps as success factors. It was further noted that universities are strong partners, as they have experts, labs and also manpower through their students, and that for example Chile has made good experiences on this with regard to groundwater monitoring. Mr Ceron added that El Salvador is working with both public and private universities along these lines, and also suggested that the general school

curriculum includes more focus on water and sustainable development, so to sensitize the general population about the issues. Mexico noted that citizen science will become more and more important following the pandemic, as governments may have changed their priorities and reduced funds for official monitoring. Sierra Leone together with UNEP has been testing different methods for combining official and citizen water quality data for the purpose of SDG reporting, and the results may be useful for other countries to learn from. Also Bolivia is working on citizen water data, although work remains to ensure good quality data, for which additional funds will be necessary. South Africa further highlighted the importance of data quality and credibility. Panama, through its transparency ministry, has been working on improving the trust in official data among the general public, by publishing all data including metadata on a public portal. Publishing metadata provides an estimate of the quality of data, which not only is necessary for data analysis and use, but may also serve as an advocate for further data quality improvements.

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

Mr Ronald van Dokkum, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, the Netherlands, asked participants for advice on how to respond to the impacts of climate change on the monitoring system. The Netherlands, which usually has plenty of water, has due to climate change seen a number of draught periods as well as changes in the meteorological seasons in recent years, which impacts the existing monitoring systeMs For example, the draughts resulted in such low river flows that the measurement devices were no longer in water but hanging in the air, making all measurements unusable. And while the monitoring schemes often are set to capture results within a specific season (e.g. to support agricultural management), with the creeping seasons these results are no longer reliable. Italy noted the importance to also consider the water-related indicators under SDG 1, 11 and 13 and the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, and explained that the Italian National Institute of Statistics is collaborating with the Italian Ministry of the Environment to produce data on e.g. floods, draughts, landslides, population and areas under risk, tropical nights and air temperature. All water management entities in the country are asked to provide data on water variability and critical issues on a monthly basis, and this request will also be extended to other sectors; however, it was also recognized that some of the reporting is based on estimations rather than actual measurements. Monaco, who has considerable water inflows from France and Italy, highlighted the importance of transboundary cooperation and coordination. Switzerland also recognized the importance of transboundary cooperation when it comes to information and knowledge transfer, and explained that under the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine there is a special working group that looks at low flow issues. WMO suggested that the underlying assumptions about how a hydrological body reacts may have to be reassessed in the light of climate change, and that the monitoring systems and prediction models would have to be updated accordingly.

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

Mr Samuela Buadromo, Bureau of Statistics, Fiji led the discussion on this question. As background, he noted that the Fiji National Water Authority is the agency in charge of water quality monitoring and that the Fiji Bureau of Statistics is currently compiling SDG 6 statistics using the System of Environmental Economic Accounts (SEEA) water framework. There are a number of challenges in Fiji affecting monitoring. These include unavailability of data, data gaps, time constraints, technical limitations, lack of awareness of SDG 6, lack of collaboration between

focal points, climate change, and a big disparity in urban vs rural water availability. Regarding the lack of collaboration between focal points, he suggests a meeting in Fiji with all focal points to identify gaps and to plan to fill them.

The Marshall Islands noted a challenge that they face is the travel and logistics required to reach the outer islands to collect data. Micronesia noted a similar logistical challenge, and highlighted that many of the departments in the country working on SDG 6 had little or no data and made decisions based on rough estimates. They also highlighted that their NSO currently does not have the mandate to collect environmental statistics, but now with the SDGs, they will have a mandate. Another challenge specific to small island states affecting Micronesia is sea level rise contaminating wells with salt water. The government is considering using water catchments, but needs data to fund these projects.

FAO concluded the session noting the importance and uniqueness of the challenges affecting SIDS, and highlighting that FAO will therefore be targeting support specifically to SIDS in the future.

South Africa: How can SDG 6 data be used to mainstream gender in water and sanitation policies?
Ms Petunia Ramunenyiwa, Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), South Africa provided the background of this session. She began by highlighting the current policy environment for gender mainstreaming in South Africa. All authorities must demonstrate equality in water provision. In 2007 an Eight Principle Action plan was launched by the Public Service and Administration on gender mainstreaming, and the National Development Plan also plays attention to gender equality and women's empowerment. For water and sanitation, monitoring is the responsibility of the Department of Water and Sanitation and the national statistics office. However, water data are not disaggregated by gender. On the positive side, DWS has recently initiated the process for monitoring of gender for water and sanitation. Ms Ramunenyiwa also noted that South Africa has joined the IMI-SDG6 group of gender experts, which is a great opportunity to learn from other experts.

In summary, in South Africa, the frameworks and policies in place, as is goodwill, but still need to be implemented. How can this be done?

Palestine has had similar experiences, noting that there are many problems to include gender issues in water and sanitation projects. However, this has recently been demanded by donors who are requesting that projects demonstrate how they reach different groups of people. For one project, they began by performing a holistic situation analysis of the entire sector to know which are the affected groups. After this study, a specialised national panel with focal points in multiple ministries was convened to prioritise issues of importance including budgets to reach all communities. This resulted in a strategy for 2032 and an action plan for its implementation. Thus, the government has undertaken gender mainstreaming. It also established gender units in all ministries related to water and sanitation. South Africa acknowledged the relevance of this example, and highlighted that it will be interesting to see how it is followed up.

GWP Southern Africa has done a gender analysis of five countries looking at the extent to which water policies are using a gender ladder. In Zambia, most water policies are mainstreaming gender, but need indicators to know the extent. GWP's shared vision for gender equality and social inclusion will include indicators for gender, and this will need to align with SDG gender indicators.

South Africa closed the session noting that it hopes to use its three gender experts who are collaborating with IMI-SDG6 to influence gender mainstreaming into the eight SDG 6 targets in South Africa.

Tunisia: In what different ways can countries benefit from the expertise from other countries or other regions?

Mr Choura Abdeljabbar, Ministry of Agriculture, Tunisia provided background on twinning, which is a tool used by the European Commission since 2016 to build the institutional capacity in partner countries. As part of the EC twinning programme, starting in 2018, Tunisia created a roadmap for the establishment of the project and then made an initial public offering to identify European water sector partners. The project aimed to look for solutions for the overexploitation of groundwater resources and water quality degradation, which were seriously limiting the development of Tunisia.

The objectives of the project were to strengthen human and institutional capacity of actors in the water sector, and the project was a collaboration between the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources, and Fisheries of Tunisia and the Governments of France and Belgium over a 36-month period.

One expected outcome of the project was to coordinate the interventions across government departments to better manage water resources, including a strategy with all stakeholders that was operationalised with an annual workplan. Other outcomes included the creation of a body of inspectors, increased awareness in the public, and the creation of local monitoring committees.

Keys to success of the twinning were found to include mutual engagement of the partners, close collaboration, transparency and flexibility, expert competences, and close relations and friendly working relationships.

During the followup discussion, the Palestine Bureau of Statistics noted that coordination at the national level is very important before going to the international level. In Palestine there is national level coordination led by the Palestine Water Authority working with a range of other departments interested in water and sanitation. The group has one vision with one national report on SDG 6, which has resulted in a very good experience for coordination and has then facilitated regional collaboration and collaboration with the UN agencies.

3.3 Phase 3 of the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG6 – Presentation of initial ideas for the third phase of IMI-SDG 6 (2023-2026)

Will Reidhead, Global Monitoring Officer of UN-Water, kicked off the final set of working sessions with an overview of some of the initial ideas being considered by IMI-SDG6 for its upcoming third phase. As per its long-term vision, Phase 3 would see the IMI-SDG6 well-established and better integrating global and regional water and sanitation monitoring efforts. At the same time it will see increased mainstreaming of integrated monitoring activities within the broader SDG monitoring framework at country level. It would also focus on analytical work and build further national sustainability for this process by linking it with country-level policy and investment decisions.

In the months to follow the global workshop, IMI will be going through a process of consultation and planning, resulting in a logframe and strategy for Phase 3. In line with this vision, and noting that there is an overarching need to move from a focus on generating data to a focus on how data are used by different audiences, the following are possible areas of focus for the phase:

- Increased use of data for policymaking and investment decisions
- National target setting
- Strengthening country integration and collaboration across ministries
- Making global indicator data more useful for policy through disaggregation and contextualisation
- More sophisticated analysis including interlinkages
- Expanded Data Portal functionalities
- Inputs to the UN 2023 Water Conference and the HLPF in-depth review of SDG 6

The workshop participants were requested to consider these ideas and others in the final set of breakout groups as well as their own needs and priorities for SDG 6 monitoring and reporting in the coming four years.

3.4 Breakout groups on future needs

Ms Fiona Gore of WHO and Ms Sarah Tiefernauer-Linardon of UNECE opened the discussion by highlighting a few important points raised during the earlier sessions. As raised by Fiji, there is still lack of awareness on the SDGs and work needs to be done to raise awareness. There are existing mechanisms that contribute to SDG 6 reporting, including the various tools used by the UN custodian agencies as part of IMI-SDG6. But it is very important to to ensure that data is actionable. The questions for the discussion were presented and discussed:

- 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?
    - Palestine brought up the challenge of producing data from different sources as they have the national levels and the service providers for example. Service providers have their own agenda for collecting specific data.
    - In South Africa, integration of data is needed as many teams are involved in the reporting and policy making decision. The data is not yet utilised optimally, a lot of engagement is needed to better use the data.
    - In Mauritius, there is a database containing national data. Different kind of data are used for SDG 6, such as household survey data, sensors data but also administrative data where challenges remain. The template sent by UN-Water for the monitoring exercise is very useful to identify loopholes.
    - Mexico highlighted the importance of integrated monitoring to raise awareness to policy makers and the whole citizenship with important messages such as the importance of washing hands during the pandemic.
    - Brazil highlighted the importance of countries taking ownership of disaggregated data. In a large country such as Brazil, averages can hide useful information and regional data are essential.
    - Peru highlighted the need to focus on indicators that require more effort.
    - In Senegal, regional and sectoral coordination needs to be strengthened.
    - In Italy, they will keep working on the gaps and partial indicators. Disaggregation will be extended, with work on interlinkages between indicators with new methodology. Linking with other frameworks such as extreme events and disasters.
- At what level and within which sectors should the different needs be addressed?
    - Importance of focusing on human resources. Multidisciplinary people are needed to address the technicalities of the field.

    - Data quality is essential - robust and reliable data are essential to show effectiveness.
    - Useful to identify and address where vulnerable populations are so policies can target these populations.
- What could be done by whom to meet these needs?
    - A conversation with each country is needed to support them in applying technologies to collect the data in a reliable way.
    - Voluntary country reports are needed but support to countries in terms of skills and resources might be needed to produce such reports.
    - A set of useful tools for visualisation of data could be compiled for countries to use to present data in an impactful and actionable way to convey a convincing message to ministries and heads of government.
    - Outside help from organisations such as Country Water Partnerships could be useful to help bring data from a national to a more local level.
    - A portal or website to discuss countries' difficulties on the ground would be useful for countries to exchange experiences.
    - It is important to bridge the gap between data collection and data use in a meaningful way.
    - Statistical tools are needed to work on disaggregated data.
    - Consultations with stakeholders are essential to properly use data and to manage the different SDG 6 indicators.
    - Useful to differentiate data in time and space to allow better indicator understanding by decision makers.
    - Integrate indicators of SDGs 11 and 13 with SDG 6 for the case of extreme weather cases.
    - Assistance from institutions on how to collect the data would help countries to address specific issues in countries.

3.5 Workshop summary and closing

Will Reidhead, UN-Water, gave a short recap of the week, thanking participants for the excellent discussions and expressing his gratitude for the work of the SDG 6 monitoring focal points since 2015. He shared some of the highlights of the sessions and some of the main points that he saw emerging from the workshop as a whole. Finally, using the example of air pollution in Delhi, India, he underscored just how much water is linked to the entire sustainable development agenda and the importance of having reliable data to discover and demonstrate those linkages for use in policy.

He then handed over to Mr Klaus Leroch, Austrian Development Agency and Mr Pierre Kistler, Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation for the final closing.

Mr Leroch and Mr Kistler highlighted several areas where they felt the integrated monitoring of SDG 6 can provide real value to countries and to the global community. The first such area is more holistic policies. Water and sanitation policy by its very nature needs to take into account a number of interrelated issues including supply, consumption, resource management, and environment, and to involve a wide range of sectors and stakeholders. A comprehensive data set allows for better informed policy and investment decisions that account for synergies and trade-offs between them.

The second area where monitoring adds value is stronger accountability. A holistic and regular supply of data enables greater transparency and reduces the incidence of waste and corruption.

Thirdly, good monitoring and use of data can help us to ensure that we leave no one behind: Data disaggregation, a key principle of SDG monitoring, will help to identify the populations with unmet needs and higher levels of risk and to target policies and investments to reach those who most need it.

Integrated monitoring also promotes more efficient use of monitoring resources. IMI-SDG6 promotes synergies across UN agencies and harmonisation of methodologies and requests for data, leading to reduced reporting burden. At the national level, it aims to promote intersectoral collaboration and consolidation of existing data sources and capacities across agencies.

And finally, Mr Leroch and Mr Kistler noted that coming together like we have this week leads to better learning across countries. A stronger global data set using common methodologies provides a common language for learning and sharing across countries, and can serve as a platform for bringing together countries to discuss issues of water and sanitation implementation.

Annex 1. List of participants

Country representatives

Honorific, name, title and organisation as per the webinar registration, country name as per the UN M49 spelling.

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