Perspectives on the Water-related Sustainable Development Goals from the Arab Region

Expert group meeting on methodologies for meeting the water-related Sustainable Development Goals at the global, regional and national levels Amman, 22-23 March 2017

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia



UNITED NATIONS



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2000-2015 Millennium Development Goals MDG Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Target 7.A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources

- 7.1 Proportion of land area covered by forest (indicator)
- 7.2 CO2 emission, total, per capita and per \$1 GDP (PPP)
- 7.3 Consumption of ozone-depleting substances
- 7.4 Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits
- 7.5 Proportion of total water resources used
- Target 7.B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss
 - 7.6 Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected
 - 7.7 Proportion of species threatened with extinction

Target 7.C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

- 7.8 Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source
- 7.9 Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility

Target 7.D: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

7.10 Proportion of urban population living in slums

Plus national reporting until 2005 on the adoption of national IWRM plans



MDG+ Initiative Indicators

Water Supply

- Water Consumption
- Continuity of Supply
- Water Quality
- Distance to Source
- Tariff Structure
- Cost Affordability

Sanitation Services

- Treated Water Quantity
- Treatment Type
- Reuse
- Use after Treatment
- Tariff Structure
- Cost Affordabilty

Adopted in 2010 by the Arab Ministerial Water Council

Purpose was not only to consider access to drinking water and sanitation for hygiene, but also the *quantity, reliability, affordability, sustainability, and quality of service*.

Supply, sanitation & wastewater central to consider in water scarce environments.

These concerns largely reflected in SDG Goals & Targets

MDG+ Indicators: Water Supply



MDG+

MDG+ Indicators: Sanitation & Wastewater



SUSTAINABLE GOALS



All 17 SDGs are Water-related



Agiers Tunis Robat Tripoli Demascus Anman Kuwai Nouakchott Nouakchott Nouakchott







Water Availability Vulnerability Assessment Mid-Century (2046-2065)

Moderate climate scenario (RCP4.5)

DRAFT



Extreme climate scenario (RCP8.5)

Core interlinkages with SDG6 from an Arab Perspective: Pursuing Nexus Linkages



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Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

6.1 Universal, equitable, safe, affordable Drinking Water for all	 6.1.1 Population using safely managed drinking water convices
6.2 Adequate, equitable Sanitation &	6.2.1 Population using safely managed
6.3 Improve water quality, wastewater treatment, recycling & safe reuse	 6.3.1 Proportion of wastewater safely treated 6.3.2 Proportion of water bodies with good ambient water quality
6.4 Increase water-use efficiency; address water scarcity; reduce number of people suffering from water scarcity	 6.4.1 Change water-use efficiency 6.4.2 Level of water stress
6.5 IWRM, including transboundary water cooperation	 6.5.1 IWRM implementation level 6.5.2 Portion of basin area with operational arrangement for water cooperation
6.6 Protect & restore water-related ecosystems	 6.6.1 change in the extent of water- related ecosystems over time

SDG6.a and SDG6.b identify means of implementation for meetings these targets

Universal	Equitable	Safe	Affordable	Adequate	Treatment & reuse
Quantity	Reliability	Qua	lity Aff	ordability	Sustainability
6.1, 6.4	6.1, 6.4	6.1,	6.3	6.1	6.3, 6.4, 6.6

IAEG-SDGs, Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators (21 December 2016)

- **Tier 1:** Indicator conceptually clear, established methodology and standards available and data regularly produced by countries
- **Tier 2:** Indicator conceptually clear, established methodology and standards available but data are not regularly produced by countries
- **Tier 3:** Indicator for which there are no established methodology and standards or methodology/standards are being developed/tested.

As of 21 December 2016: The updated tier classification contains 230 indicators:

- 83 Tier I indicators
- **59** Tier II indicators
- 83 Tier III indicators
- **5** indicators that have multiple tiers (different components of the indicator are classified into different tiers).
- + 37 Additional indicators under consideration

IAEG-SDGs Class

https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/meetings/iaeg-sdgs-meeting-05/Tier_Classification_of_SDG_Indicators_21_Dec_2016.pdf

IAEG-SDGs, Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators

(21 December 2016) – for SDG6

Target	Indicator	Initial Proposed Tier (by Secretariat)	Possible Custodian Agency(ies)	Partner Agency(ies)	Updated Tier Classification (by IAEG-SDG Members)
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all					
6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	Tier I	WHO, UNICEF	UNEP, UN-Habitat	Tier I
6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations	6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water	Tier I	WHO, UNICEF	UNEP	Tier I
6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally	6.3.1 Proportion of wastewater safely treated	Tier III	WHO, UN-Habitat, UNSD	UNEP, OECD, Eurostat	Tier III
	6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality	Tier III	UNEP	UN-Water	Tier III
6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity	6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time	Tier III	FAO	UNEP, IUCN, UNSD, OECD, Eurostat	Tier III
	6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources	Tier I	FAO	UNEP, IUCN, UNSD, OECD, Eurostat	Tier II

IAEG-SDGs, Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators

(21 December 2016) – for SDG6 (continued)

Target	Indicator	Initial Proposed Tier (by Secretariat)	Possible Custodian Agency(ies)	Partner Agency(ies)	Updated Tier Classification (by IAEG-SDG Members)
6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate	6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0- 100)	Tier I	UNEP	UN Water, IUCN, Ramsar	Tier II
	6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation	Tier III	UNESCO, UNECE	UNECE, IUCN	Tier III
6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes	6.6.1 Change in the extent of water- related ecosystems over time	Tier III	UNEP	UN Water, IUCN, Ramsar	Tier III
6.a By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies	6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation- related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan	Tier I	WHO, UNEP, OECD	UN Water	Tier I
6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management	6.b.1 Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management	Tier I	WHO, UNEP, OECD		Tier I

Arab Consultations on Water-related SDGs

(supported under MDG+ Initiative)



- 1) Third Workshop of the MDG+ Initiative (Amman, 18-19 November 2015) attended by the chairs and vice-chairs of national monitoring teams;
- 2) Expert Group Meeting on the Water-related Sustainable Development Goals (Beirut, 12-13 April 2016) – attended by regional organizations, experts and the chairs of the ESCWA Committee on Water Resources and ESCWA Energy Committee to discuss which of the water-related SDG targets were of priority concern for the Arab region and possible mechanisms for follow-up on these targets;
- 3) High Level Meeting on the Water-related Sustainable Development Goals (Amman, 1-2 November 2016) attended by the chairs and vice-chairs of the National Monitoring Teams, their statistical focal points, members of the ACWUA Board of Directors, and regulatory bodies in Arab States, as well as international and regional experts;
- 4) Expert Consultation on the SDG 6 Indictors (Beirut, 21 December 2016) attended by the statistical representatives of Arab States serving on the IAEG-SDGs, and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- 5) AMWC Technical, Scientific & Advisory Committee Sessions (Cairo, Jan 2016, Oct 2016) with Arab member States and regional organizations

Summary of Operational Regional Recommendations

- 1) Continue collecting data on the MDG+ indicators by national monitoring teams, for uploading to the regional data platform managed by the MDG+ Unit;
- 2) Supporting country-level processes developed to **support monitoring and reporting on the SDGs through cross-sectoral arrangements**;
- 3) Ensuring effective monitoring and reporting on **wastewater treatment and reuse**, and encouraging reporting on the types of wastewater reuse pursued at the country level under the SDGs, as pursued under the MDG+ initiative;
- 4) Building the **statistical capacity of member states** to collect, calculate and vet datasets related to the SDG indicators;
- 5) Encouraging SDG monitoring at the subnational level, noting that efforts are underway to increase data reporting at the subnational level;
- 6) Developing scenarios that include **demographic projections** could assist the assessment of efforts to achieve the SDGs.



Summary of Regional Recommendations on SDG Monitoring & Reporting

- Encourage the achievement of the SDG targets, even if there are insufficient indicators and data to monitor progress, e.g., on drinking water affordability and intermittency for measuring equitable access;
- Support discussions aimed at elaborating and adopting an additional indicator to monitor the number of people facing water scarcity under SDG 6.4, taking into account the applied water scarcity threshold;
- Consider the differences between measuring water quantity and quality at the source compared with the point of consumption (e.g., at the household level) when determining water availability;
- 4) Clarify the **definitional differences between water stress and water scarcity** and consider how water budgets are calculated in Arab countries, i.e., consider whether to include **renewable and non-renewable water resources** and/or conventional and non-conventional water resources, such as desalinated water, brackish water used for desalination, treated wastewater for reuse, etc.;





Summary of Regional Recommendations on SDG Monitoring & Reporting (continued)

- 5) Pursue efforts to harmonize criteria and standards for defining secondary wastewater treatment, in view of efforts to encourage treated wastewater reuse;
- 6) Encourage reporting on the purpose and type of treated wastewater reuse pursued at the national level;
- 7) Consider data availability at the country level when prioritizing and classifying indicators to monitor and report upon at the global, regional and national levels, given that tier I indicators may not be tier I indicators for all countries;
- 8) Support processes that draw upon administrative records and data from utilities to inform monitoring and reporting on the SDG 6 indicators, particularly those related to access to water services, water quality, wastewater treatment and reuse;
- 9) Consider how advancements related to **desalination**, **treated wastewater reuse and water harvesting in** the region can be incorporated into monitoring and reporting on SDG 6
- 10) Review related efforts seeking to **define and measure water** scarcity and the economics of water scarcity.









Thank you!

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