



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP: MONITORING AND REPORTING OF SDG 6.4 TARGET (WATER USE AND SCARCITY) IN THE NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA REGION

13–14 December 2023 - Cairo, Egypt



Concept Note

6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION





Background and rationale

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Within the framework of this Agenda, FAO is working with member countries to ensure that the use of water in agriculture will be more efficient, productive, equitable and respectful of the environment. This means producing more food using less water, building the resilience of farming communities to cope with floods and droughts, and promoting innovative water technologies and governance models.

Freshwater scarcity is a main challenge in the Near East and North Africa Region (RNE) exacerbated by population growth, climate change, urbanization and conflict. Achieving SDG 6 is a key objective to ensure economic and social development of the region. In particular, it is important to monitor SDG target 6.4, which addresses water use and scarcity,. This target is monitored through two indicators.

Indicator 6.4.1, change in water use efficiency over time in all economic activities (USD/m³). It has been designed to address the economic component of target 6.4. This indicator should show the impact of economic growth on the use of water resources.

▮ Indicator 6.4.2, level of water stress (%): freshwater withdrawal in proportion to available freshwater resources, after taking into account the required environmental flows.

▮ As the custodian agency for these indicators, FAO supports the efforts of the countries in monitoring target 6.4 on water use and scarcity. This is done through AQUASTAT, FAO's global water and agriculture information system. AQUASTAT data is obtained through a network of national correspondents who compile a questionnaire including all data necessary for the calculation of SDG target indicators.

Expected Outcomes

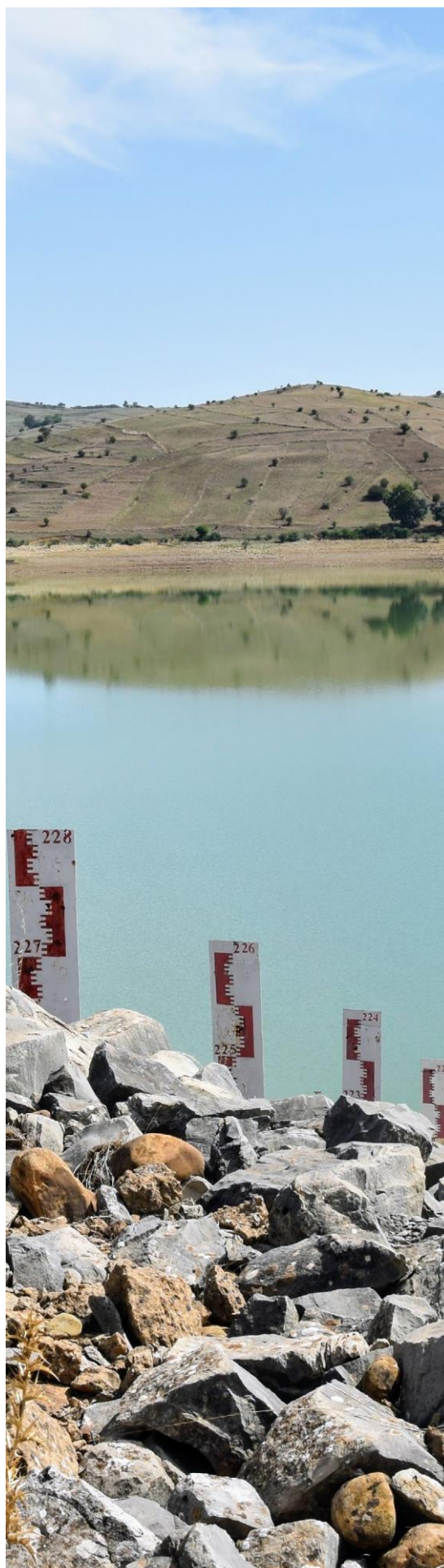
Countries in the Near East and North Africa region strengthen their capacities to collect water data, report, monitor and analyze SDG indicators 6.4.1 and 6.4.2 and use them effectively for the implementation of public policies related to agriculture, water and climate change agendas.

Increase in the response rate of AQUASTAT questionnaire in RNE countries (current response rate in North Africa is very low around 25%).

Intervention Strategy

The following intervention will be supported by the following current initiatives, taking advantage of synergies for collaborative work:

- ❑ **FAO's global Water and Agriculture Information System (AQUASTAT)** which collects, analyzes and provides free access to more than 180 variables and indicators by country since 1960. AQUASTAT monitors and reports the progress of SDG 6.4 target indicators on water stress and the efficiency of water use.
- ❑ **FAO Regional Initiative on Water Scarcity (WSI)**, which has been formulated to support the countries of the NENA Region to cope with one of their most striking challenges: the pursuit of food and water security, for a sustainable social and economic development, under an unprecedented severe escalation of water scarcity.
- ❑ **[The inter-Regional Technical Platform on Water Scarcity \(iRTP-WS\)](#)**, as a hub for partnerships, exchange, and E-learning, that contributes to the development and dissemination of innovative approaches, methods, and digital tools to address water, food and climate security operational challenges and systemic risks.
- ❑ The **Arab Forum for Sustainable Development (AFSD)** is the primary regional mechanism for the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab region. It brings together Arab Governments and sustainable development stakeholders to discuss progress, review national and regional experiences, and consider the latest developments and implementation mechanisms of the 2030 Agenda at the national and regional levels. The AFSD report sets out key messages emanating from regional dialogue on the opportunities and challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda in Arab countries and delivers them to the annual global High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).
- ❑ The **Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)** is working with Governments and international partners to build the capacity of its member States to better monitor, assess and address water scarcity challenges in the region. ESCWA is supporting the efforts of the Arab Water Council to implement its



Arab Strategy for Water Security in the Arab Region to Meet the Challenges and Future Needs for Sustainable Development (2010- 2030). ESCWA is supporting regional reporting on and monitoring of progress in achieving water- related SDGs.

Participants:

The workshop is addressed to AQUASTAT and SDG 6.4 indicators country focal points in RNE countries. The workshop will also include regional and national representatives from NGOs, Academia, research organizations and inter-governmental organizations specialized in the field of water scarcity.



Workshop agenda

DAY 1 Wednesday 13 December – METHODOLOGY AND DATA COLLECTION PROCESS FOR THE CALCULATION OF SDG 6.4 TARGET INDICATORS.

Time	Item	Presenter
8.30 - 9.00	Registration of participants	
Opening Session		
Moderator: Mohamed Al-Hamdi, FAO-RNE		
9.00 - 9.30	Workshop Opening	FAO RNE / Cairo
9.30 - 10.00	Global SDG 6 Monitoring Process	Patricia Mejias, AQUASTAT Coordinator
10.00 - 10.30	Introduction to SDG 6 and SDG 6.4 target indicators	Patricia Mejias, AQUASTAT Coordinator
10.30 - 11.00	Water and Agriculture priorities in the Arab Region	FAO Water Scarcity Initiative Team (WSI)
Group Photo and Coffee break (11.00 - 11.15)		
Session II		
Moderator: Heba Al-Hariry, FAO-RNE		
11.15 - 11.45	AQUASTAT and the indicators monitoring process	Patricia Mejias, AQUASTAT Coordinator
11.45 - 12.15	Status of the SDG 6.4. indicators Monitoring in RNE	Patricia Mejias, AQUASTAT
12.15 - 12.45	Open Discussion	
Lunch (12.45 - 13.45)		
Session III		
Moderator: Hichem Charieg, FAO-RNE		
13.45 - 15:00	Country presentations on the data collection process for SDG 6.4. Monitoring (Part I) – Egypt, Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Libya, Yemen and Oman	Countries
Coffee break (15:00 - 15:15)		
Session III (Continued)		
Moderator: Mohamed Abdallah, FAO-RNE		
15.15 - 16.00	Country presentations on the data collection process for SDG 6.4. Monitoring (Part II) – Jordan, Morocco, Lebanon, Qatar, Tunisia and Mauritania	Countries
16.00 - 17:00	Discussion about the common priorities and challenges in the Monitoring, reporting, analysis and use of SDG 6.4. indicators.	Countries

DAY 2 Thursday 14 December – DATA NEEDS FOR SDG 6.4. TARGET INDICATORS

Time	Item	Presenter
Session IV		
Moderator: Hichem Charieg, FAO-RNE		
08:30 - 09.00	Wrap-up of Day 1	FAO-RNE
09.00 - 09.30	Total Renewable Freshwater Resources Assessment	Patricia Mejias, AQUASTAT Coordinator
9.30 - 10.00	Water use data	Patricia Mejias, AQUASTAT Coordinator
10.00 - 10.15	Irrigation data	Patricia Mejias, AQUASTAT Coordinator
10.15 - 10.45	Estimation of the Environmental Flow requirements	Riccardo Biancalani, Project Coordinator (virtual)
Coffee break (10.45- 11.00)		
Session V		
Moderator: Mohamed Abdallah, FAO-RNE		
11.00 - 11.10	Disaggregation of SDG 6.4.2.	Michela Marinelli , Environmental Analist (virtual)
11.10 - 11.30	Case study disaggregation of SDG 6.4.2 - Algeria	Nabil, Algeria (virtual)
11.30 - 12.30	Country presentation on good practices and lessons learnt in water data estimation (TBC)	Countries
Lunch (12.30 - 13.30)		
Session VI		
Moderator: Heba Al-Hariry, FAO-RNE		
13.30 - 14.30	AQUASTAT questionnaire and calculation of SDG 6.4 indicators	Patricia Mejias, AQUASTAT Coordinator
14.30 - 15.00	Open Discussion	
Coffee break (15.00 - 15.15)		
Session VII		
Moderator: Mohamed Al-Hamdi, FAO-RNE		
15.15 - 16.00	Working groups: Proposals to improve SDG 6.4 indicator monitoring	Countries
16:00 - 16:30	Work Plan for the monitoring of SDG 6.4 indicators	Countries
16.30 - 17.00	Workshop conclusions and next steps	All participants