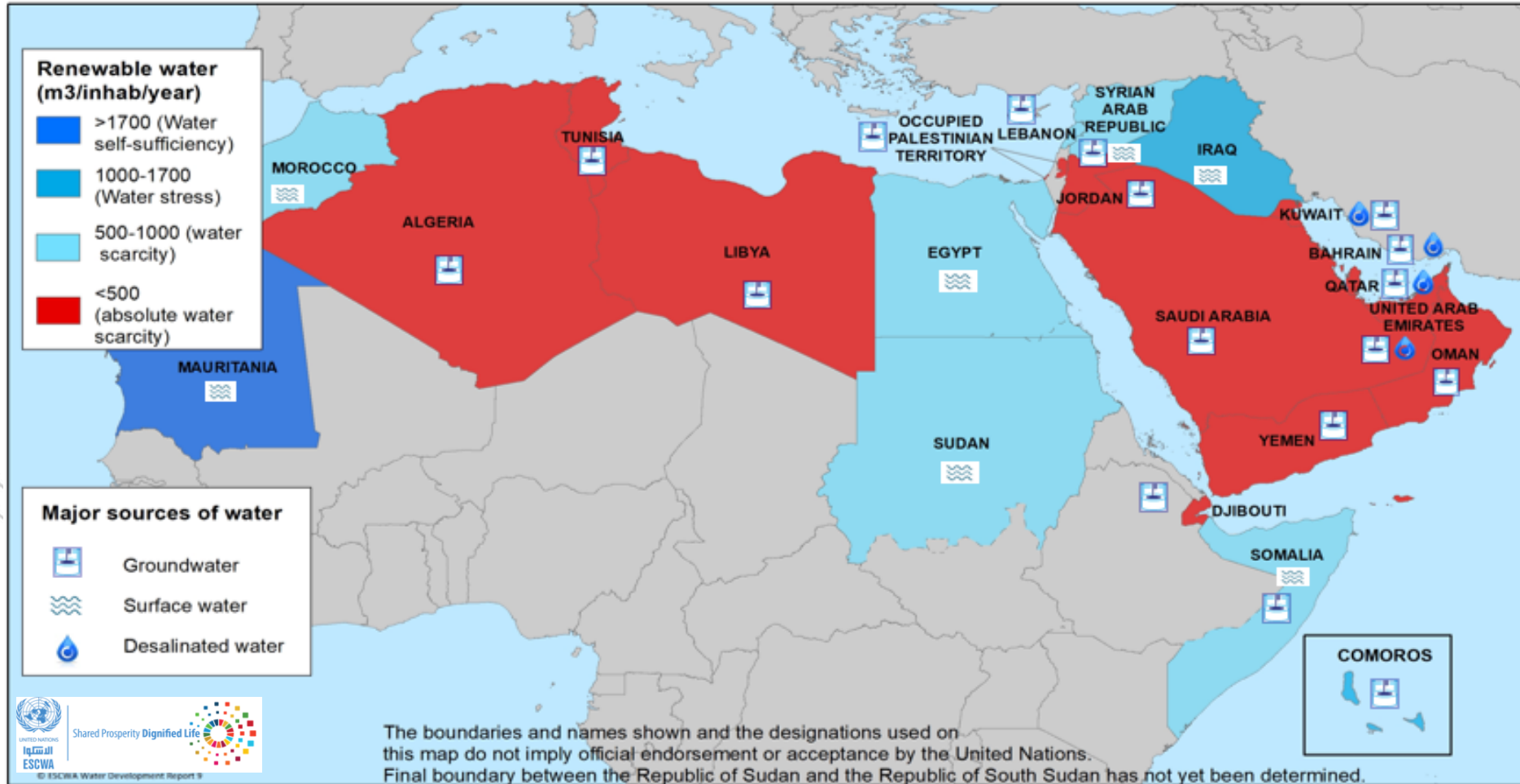


Status of Implementation of IWRM in the Arab Region, SDG Indicator 6.5.1

Ziad Khayat, Coordinator, IWRM for Improved Water Security, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA



Water Resources in the Arab Region: General Perspective



19 States are below the water scarcity threshold of 1000 m³/capita/year including 13 States below the absolute water scarcity threshold of 500 m³/capita/year

An aerial photograph of a large, turquoise-colored reservoir situated in a mountainous, arid landscape. The reservoir is surrounded by steep, rocky hillsides with sparse vegetation. In the foreground, there are some green fields and a small cluster of buildings with red roofs. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The text "Regional SDG indicator 6.5.1 key findings" is overlaid in white on the image.

Regional SDG indicator 6.5.1 key findings

SDG indicator 6.5.1 survey and reporting



1 indicator score

IWRM implementation (0-100)

4 dimensions

1. Enabling environment

2. Institutions & participation

3. Management Instruments

4. Financing

33 questions (national to basin/aquifer level)

Laws, policies, plans

Cross-sector coordination, capacity development, private sector, gender

Monitoring, efficiency, pollution, ecosystems, data sharing

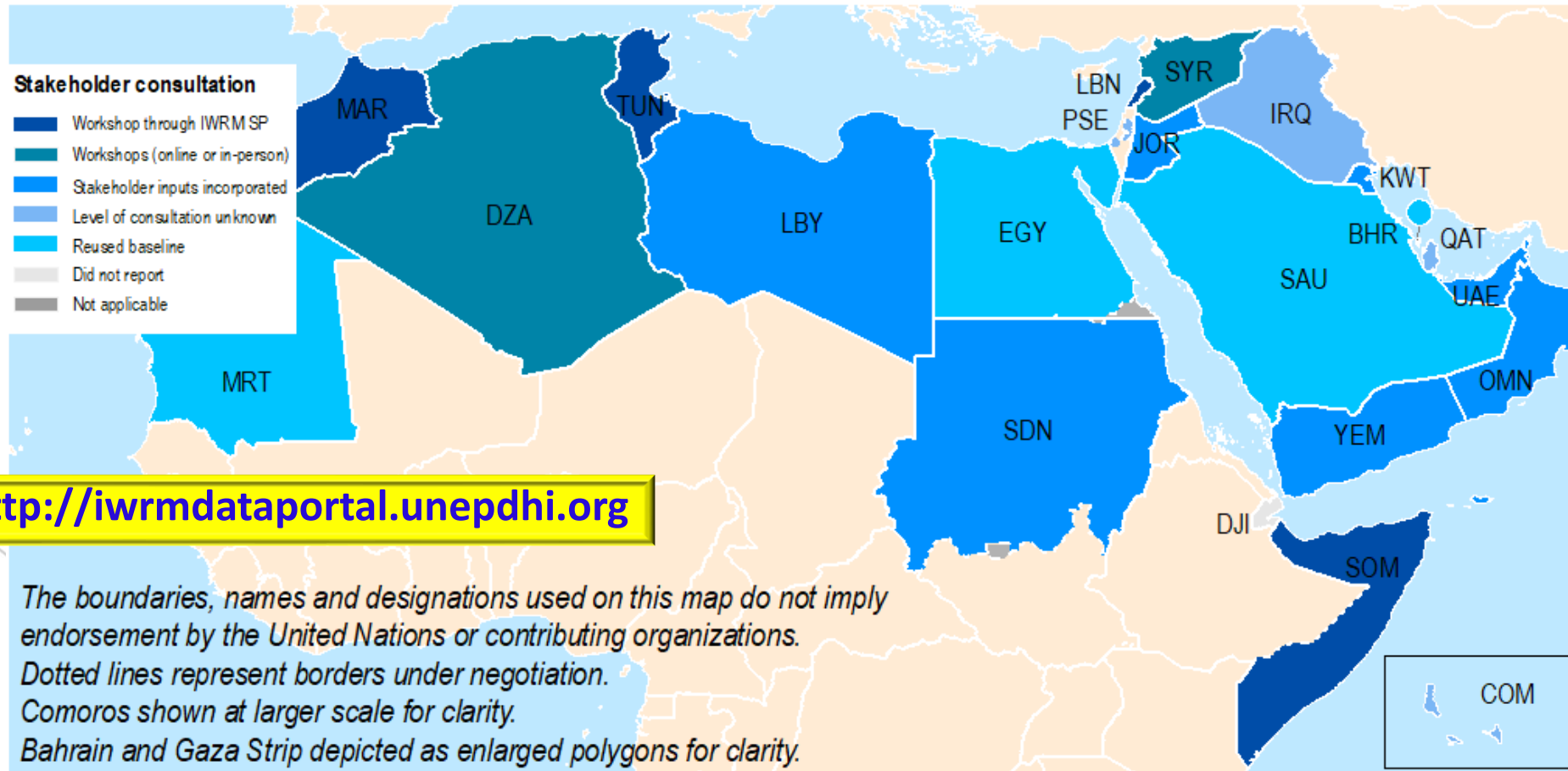
National / subnational budgets

1 National SDG 6.5.1 IWRM survey

National 6.5.1 Focal Point coordinates multi-stakeholder consultation process



Arab region 2020 reporting – SDG indicator 6.5.1



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



• <http://iwrmdataportal.unepdhi.org>

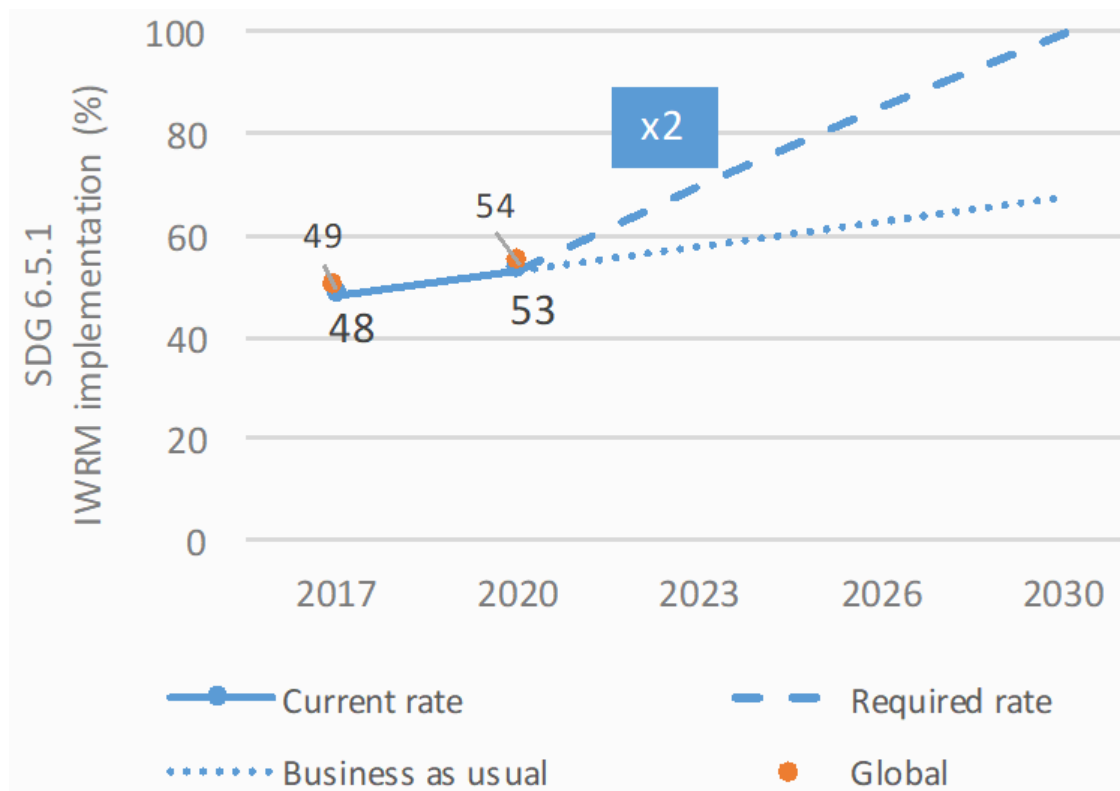
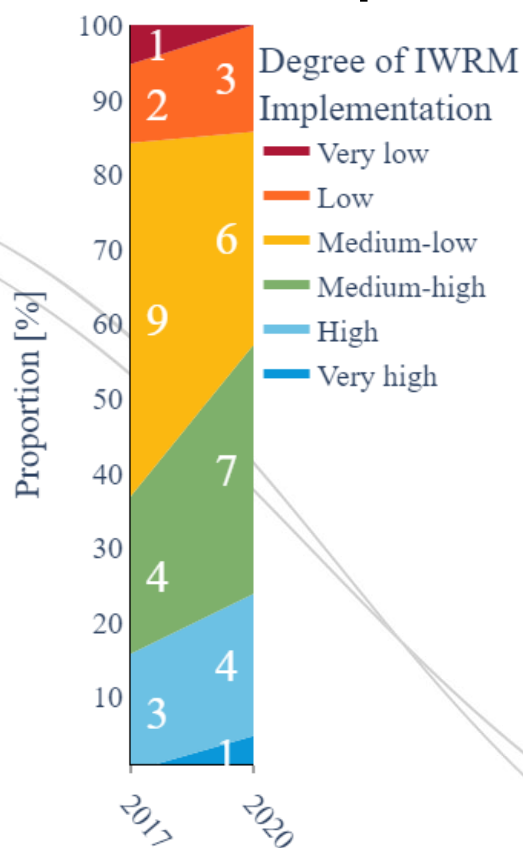
- ❑ Data from 21 Arab States.
- ❑ 15 have data for both 2017 and 2020.
- ❑ 4 re-used their baseline submissions.
- ❑ 2 submitted data for the first time.

Significant country participation despite COVID-19 pandemic and the other challenges.

Regional key findings

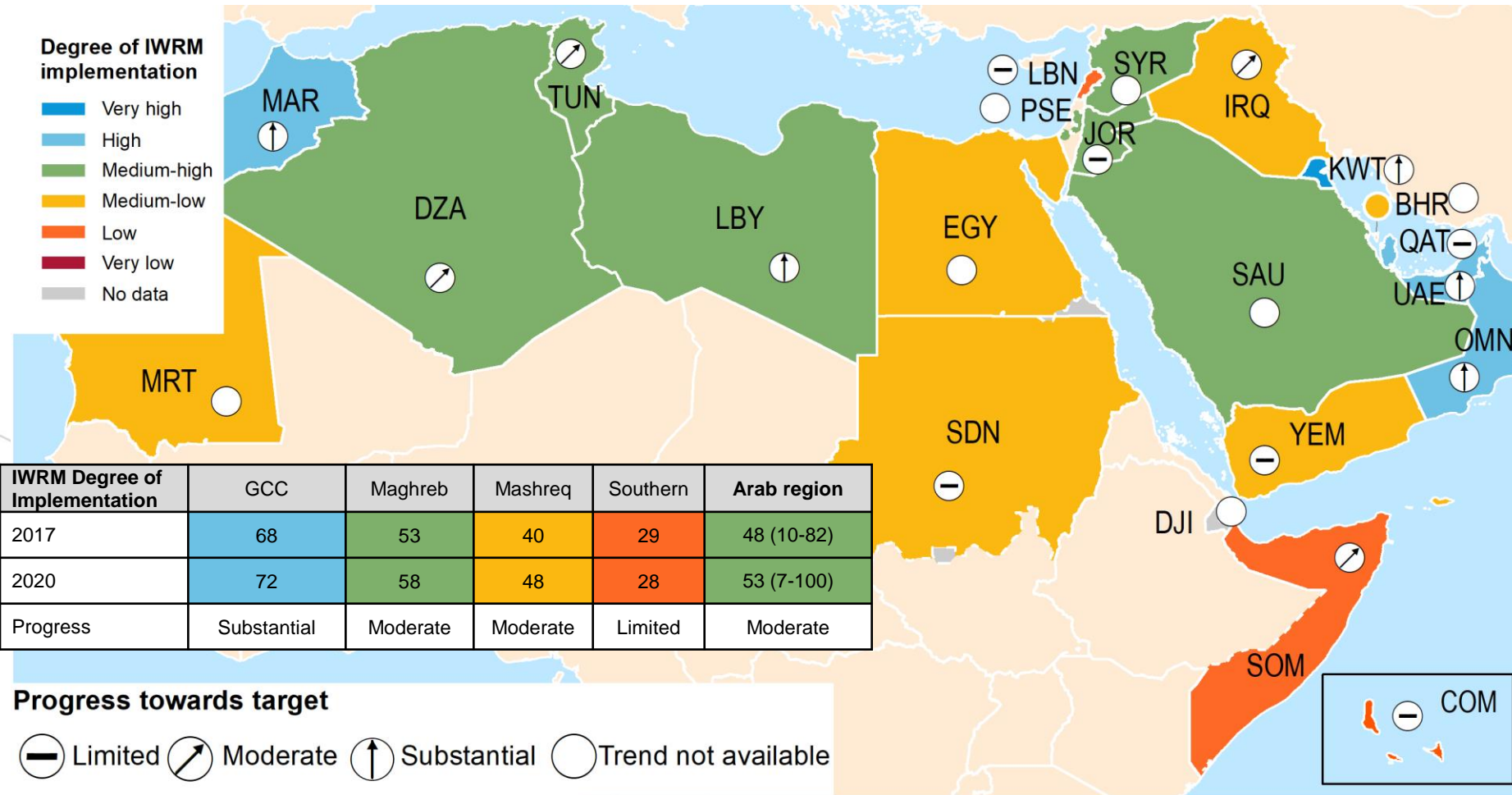
From 2017 to 2020:

- ❑ There was some progress in the implementation of IWRM (regional average increased from 48 to 53 - World: from 49 to 54).
- ❑ Rate of implementation needs to double to reach the 2030 target.



1.
The Arab region
is off-track to
reach SDG 6.5
target

Regional key findings



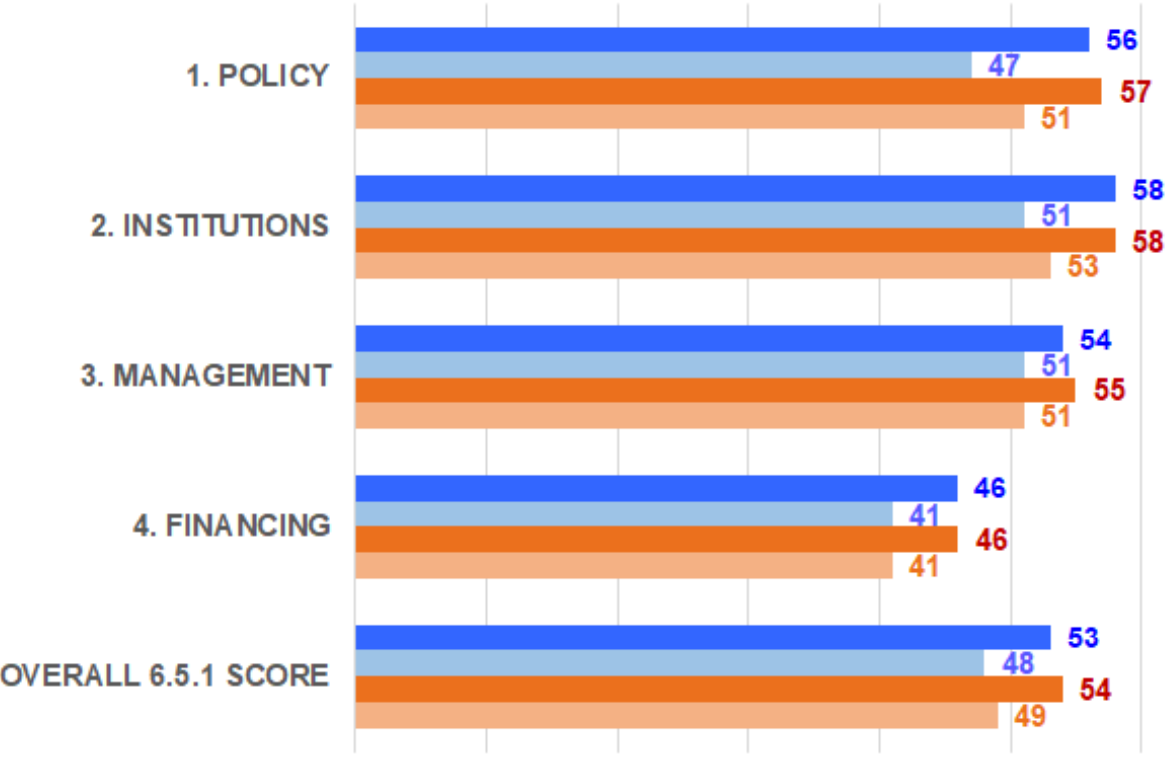
2.
Real and rapid
progress is
possible

Average: 53, medium-high (World: 54)



Progress and key findings on IWRM dimensions

Progress on IWRM dimensions



Averages and 2017-2020 progress levels close to the world.

Financing lags significantly behind (medium-low level).

Averages mask important differences between countries.



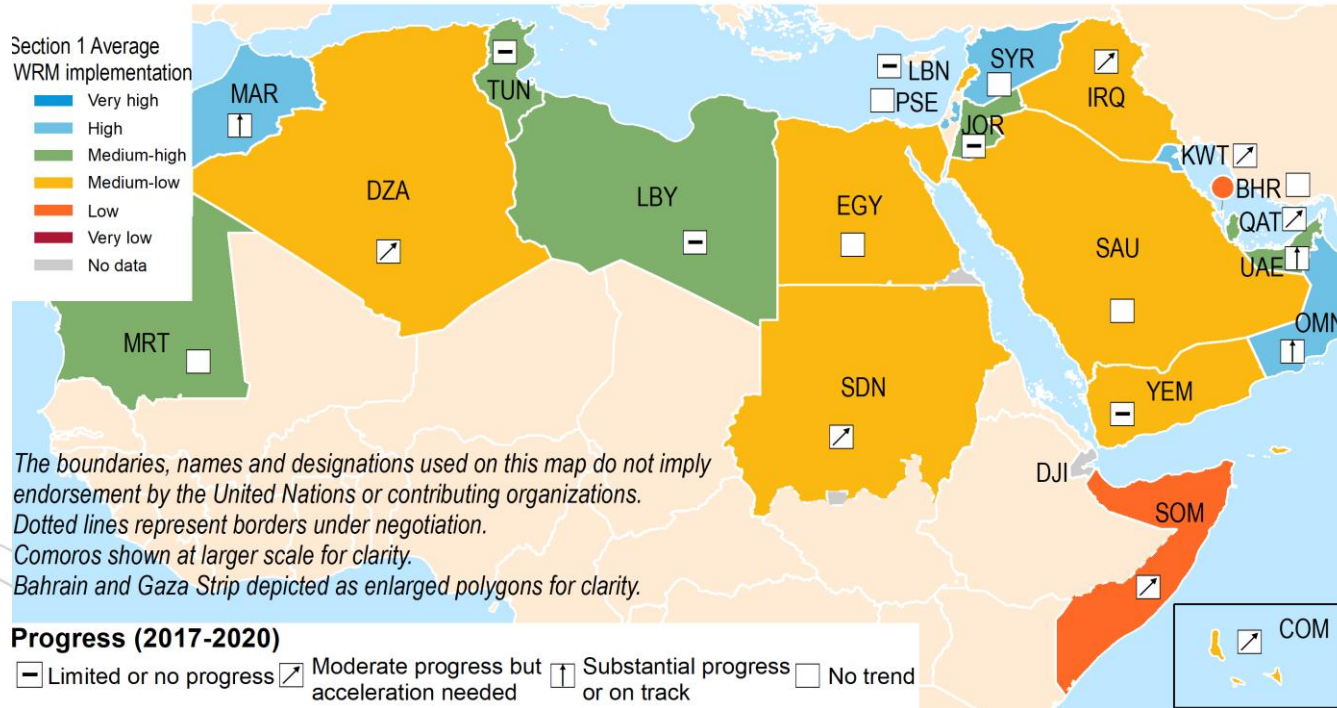
Increase financial resources and improve revenue raising for water services.

Average implementation of the 4 dimensions of IWRM in the Arab region and the world.



Dimension 1: Enabling Environment

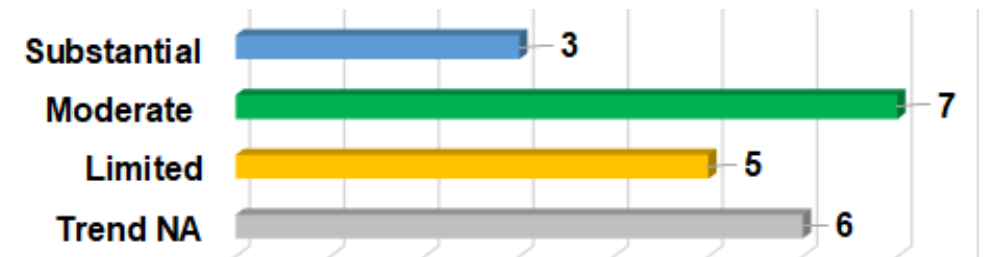
Developing and implementing laws, policies and plans



👍 6 elements (51-61, medium-high level).

👎 Transboundary agreements (46, medium-low level).

👍 Progress between 2017 (47) and 2020 (56).

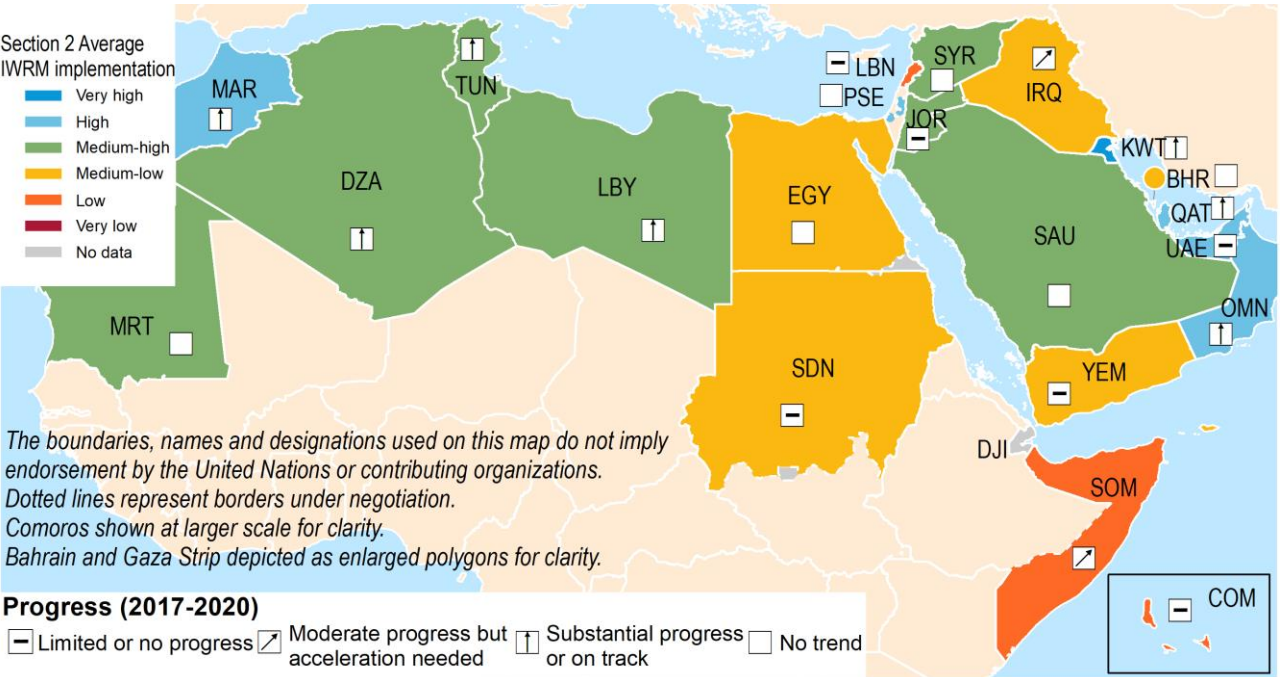


Average: 56, medium-high - World: 57)

- ❑ Enabling environments are in place at national level and need acceleration.
- ❑ Capacity and knowledge to be transferred from central governments to local authorities, basin entities, water users, private sector, ...
- ❑ More attention to transboundary water and inter-cooperation to support Southern sub-region.



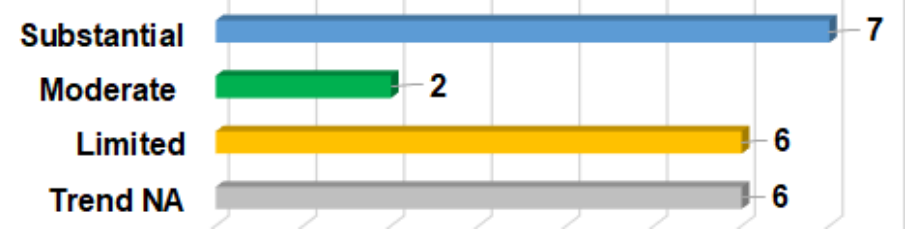
Dimension 2: Institutions and stakeholder engagement



Average: 58, medium-high - World: 58)

GCC	Maghreb	Mashreq	Southern	Arab region
78	63	51	32	58 (19-100)

- Cross-sectoral coordination (70).**
- Participation of vulnerable groups (36).**
 - Enhance identification/consideration and involvement in decision making;
 - set up policies/legal frameworks for effective participation;
 - provide special funding.
- Progress between 2017 (51) and 2020 (58).**

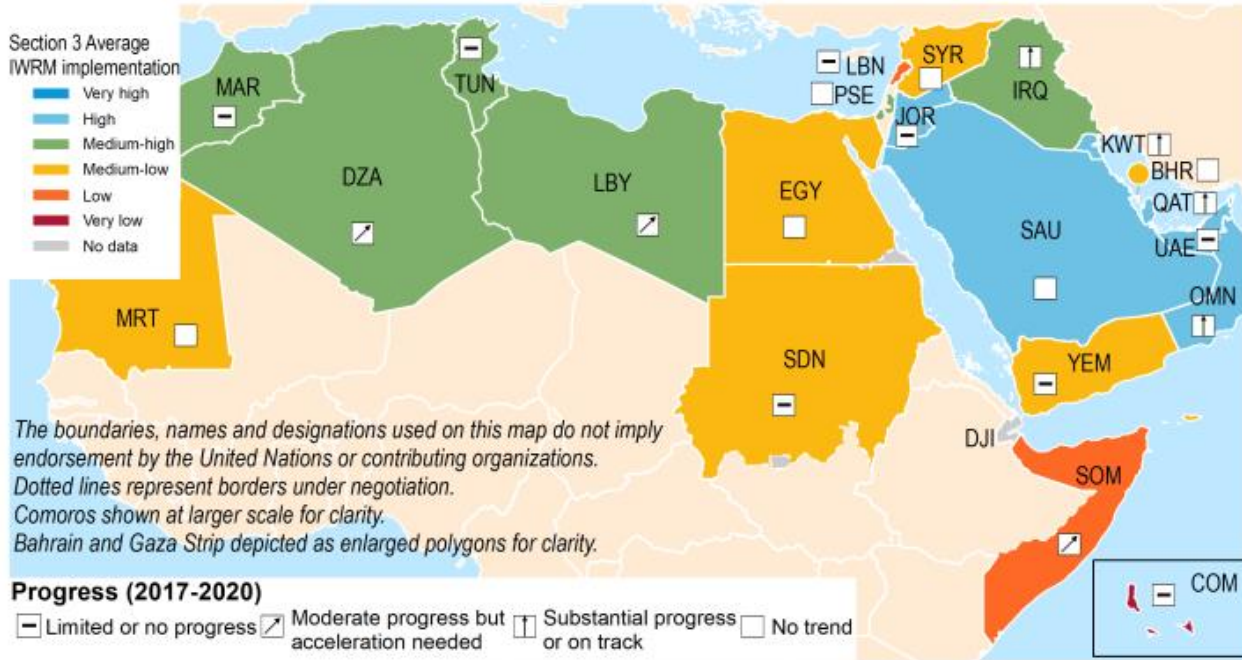


Countries need to expand private sector participation.

Disparities between countries (19-100) and sub-regions (32-78):

Strengthen cooperation to disseminate good practice and share experiences.

Dimension 3: Management Instruments



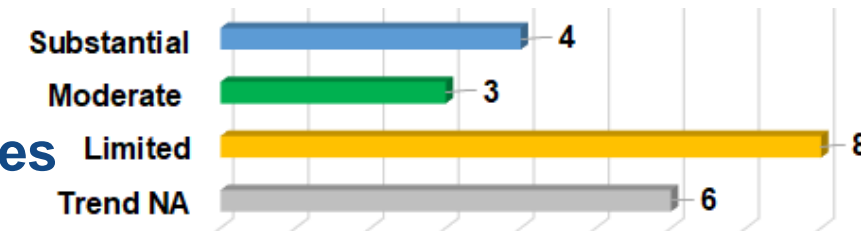
- 👍 All elements in upper medium-low or medium-high levels (46 to 65).
- 👎 Ecosystems (47), basins (48), aquifers (49) and transboundary water (46).
- 👍 Invest in effective data/information sharing systems at the national and regional levels to monitor water availability, use and quality.
- 👍 Progress between 2017 (51) and 2020 (54)
- ⚠️ Accelerate IWRM implementation rates to meet 2030 objectives.

Average: 54, medium-high - World: 55)

👎 **Gap between countries (10-90) and sub-regions (27-75).**

👍 **Greater coordination and experience sharing between countries within the framework of regional organizations and LAS.**

👍 **All countries need to be equipped with the right MIs to monitor the evolving water situation and increase use efficiency of the increasingly scarce water resources.**



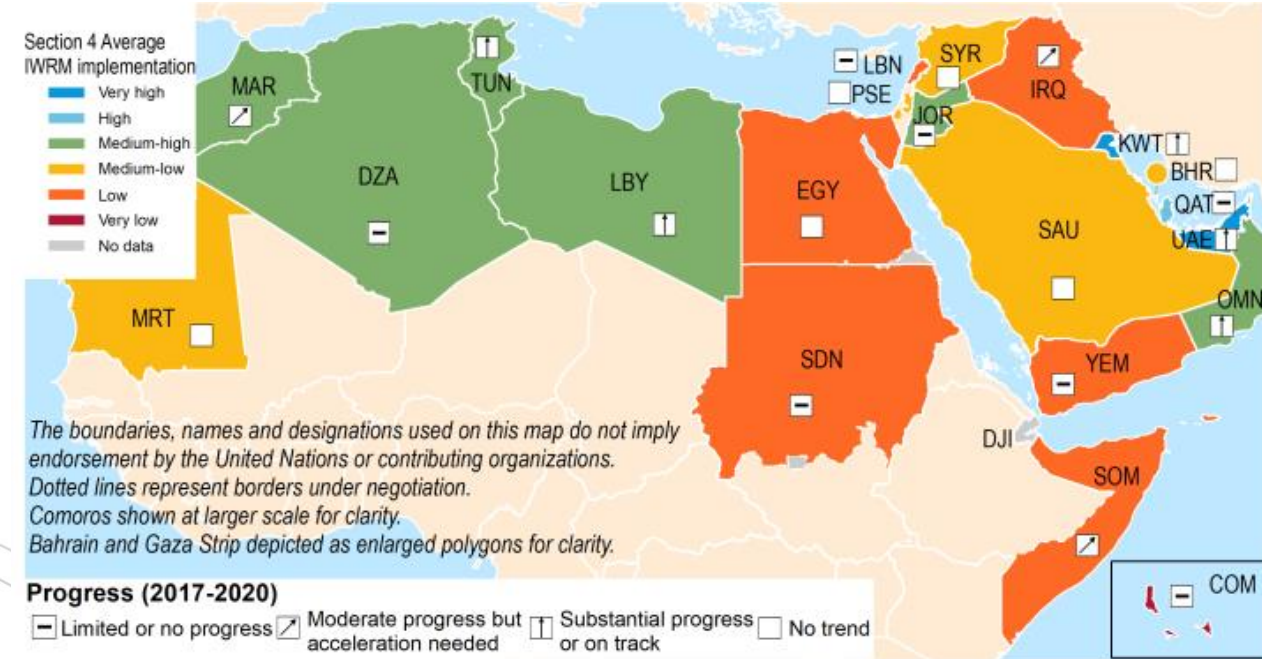
Dimension 4: Financing



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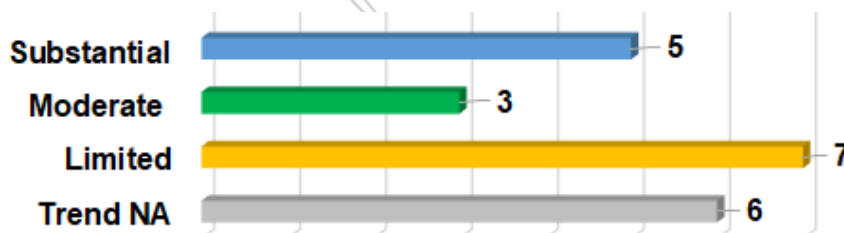


- 🗑️ **Lowest average score (46, medium-low) of the four IWRM dimensions.**
- ⚠️ **Success of IWRM implementation tightly linked to budgeting and financing.**
- 🗑️ **Diversification of financial resources, combining public and other financing sources (including private investment) and revenues raising (tariffs and fee recovery for water services and use).**

Average: 46, medium-low - World: 46)

👍 **Progress between 2017 (41) and 2020 (46).**

Budget allocation for infrastructure better at national (53) compared to subnational, basin or transboundary (37) levels.



- 🗑️ **Disparities between countries (7-100) and sub-regions (32-78):**
- 👍 **More knowledge and experience-sharing initiatives and even financial support between the good-performing countries and those that need to improve their implementation level.**

An aerial photograph of a large, turquoise-colored reservoir situated in a mountainous, arid landscape. The reservoir is surrounded by dry, rocky terrain with sparse green vegetation. In the foreground, there are some buildings and a road. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The text "Regional Priorities and Strategic Actions to Move Forward" is overlaid in white, bold font across the center of the image.

Regional Priorities and Strategic Actions to Move Forward

Progress on regional priorities

Average implementation scores across the four IWRM dimensions for aquifer and transboundary water management

Groundwater		Transboundary				
3.2b Management instruments		1.2c Arrangements	2.2e Organizations	3.2d Data sharing	4.2c Financing	Average
49		46	54	46	40	47

- Develop aquifer management instruments and up-scale dedicated financing.
- Establish transboundary arrangements with their neighbours and/or speed up implementation of those that exist.
- Better monitor and manage transboundary water resources through data and information-sharing arrangements
- Accelerate progress on SDG indicator 6.5.2 through improving implementation rates for transboundary water resources to be on track for achieving the 2030 SDG objectives.





Regional recommendations - Way forward

Strengthening political will

- Communicate the value of IWRM concepts at high government and strategic levels
- Involve finance ministers as champions for IWRM implementation
- Mitigate the effect of potential political turmoil on IWRM implementation

Coordinating financing and leveraging climate financing

- Improve coordinated finance mechanisms for the water sector at the national level to attract additional funding
- Increase access to climate finance for the water sector

Ensuring coherent governance within and across sectors

- Improve the enabling environment
- Strengthen coordination within and outside the water sector
- Make public participation inclusive
- Leverage private sector participation

Making public participation inclusive

- Involving civil society, local stakeholders and water users
- Increase efficiency and enforce regulation and accountability for the sustainable management
- Strengthening of regulation frameworks and public authorities' capacity to deal with PSP contracts



Regional recommendations - Way forward

Improving availability & access to data & information

- Expand and modernize national monitoring of water availability
- Systematize data and information sharing within countries
- Prioritize transboundary data and information sharing between countries

Building capacity and engaging research

- Improve human capacity
- Leverage innovative practices and technologies for water and sanitation

Leveraging innovation and technologies

- Engage in innovation beyond technology
- Promote fit-for-purpose technologies

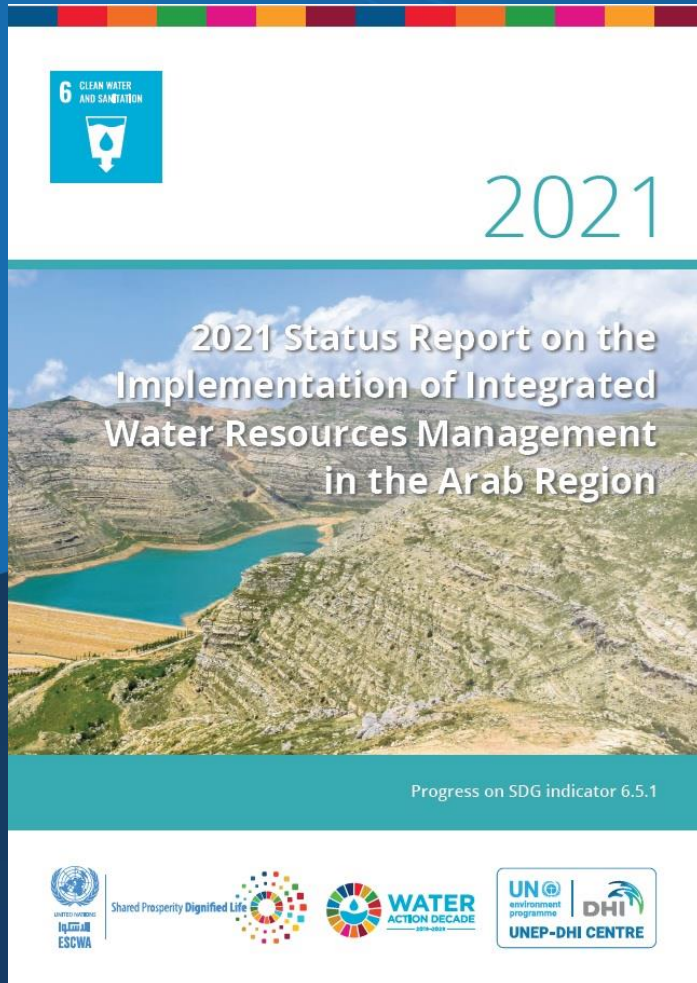
Unleashing youth potential & reaching gender equality

- Promote gender equality in national constitutions and legal frameworks
- Bridge the gap between gender policies or strategies and practice
- Measure true progress through monitoring and evaluation
- Build capacity and technical expertise in gender issues

Progress on the 3rd Reporting Round

- The third round of reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.1 will conclude at the end of October 2023 which will provide a good indication if lessons learned from the first two rounds have been implemented in the Arab region and the rate of implementation of IWRM has increased.
- Based on the submission tracker for the 22 Arab countries:
 - Submissions received from 8 countries: Comoros, Iraq, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Somalia, United Arab emirates while Yemen reused its 2020 response.
 - 6 countries are in the reporting progress
 - 8 countries have not answered





Thank You

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