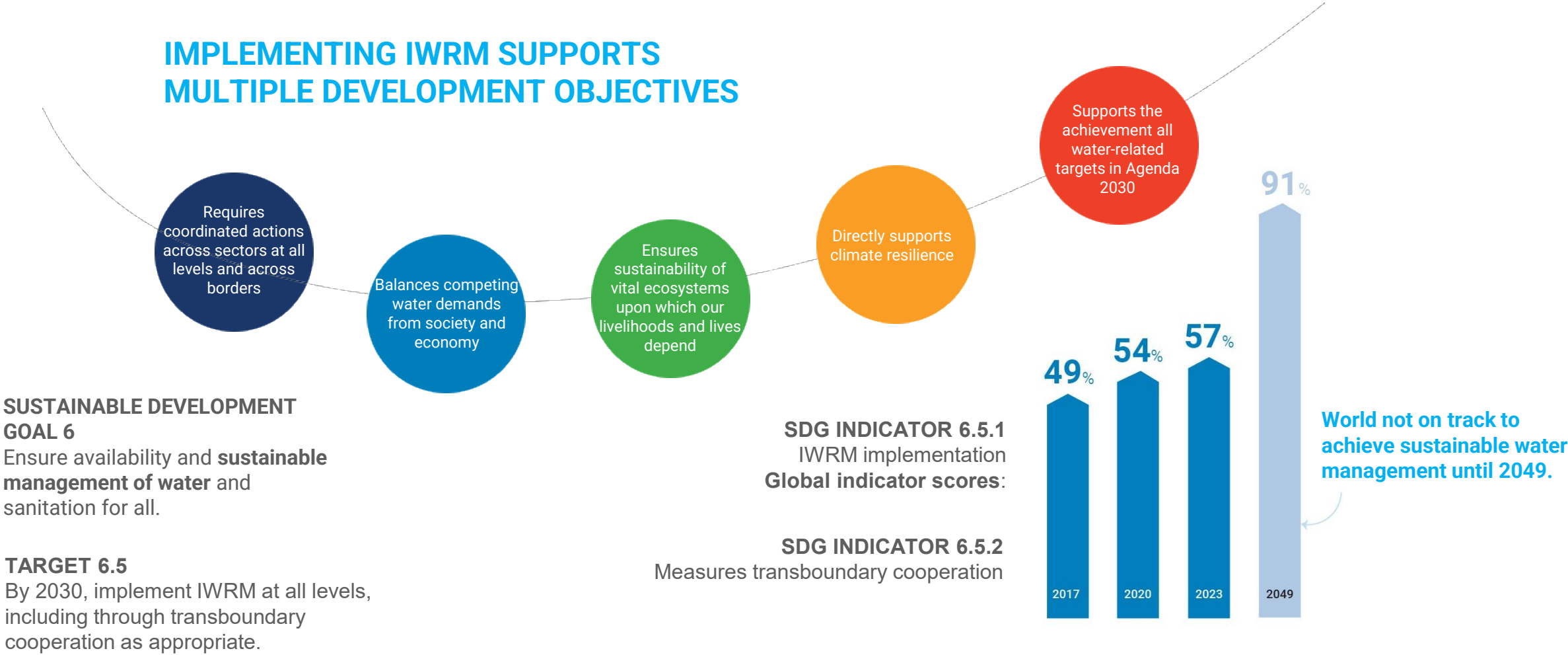


Progress on Implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management based on SGD Indicator 6.5.1 country reporting in 2023

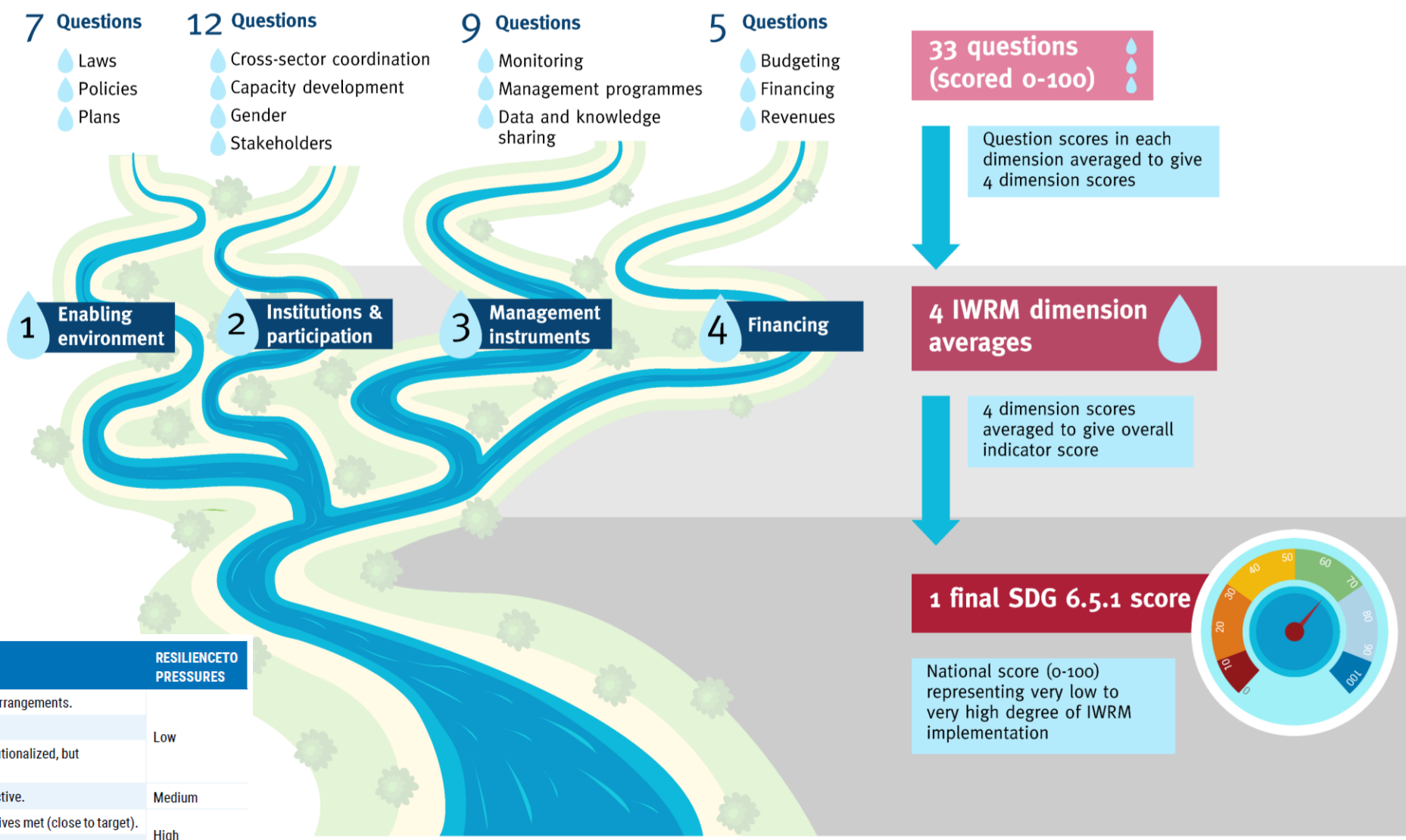
Presented by Global Water Partnership Southeast Asia (GWP-SEA)
in the Pan Asia International Water Law Training, 10 December 2025
UN ESCAP , Bangkok

Introduction

Implementing integrated water resources management (IWRM) is critical to achieve sustainable development.



How is SDG 6.5.1 evaluated?



IWRM LEVEL (SCORES (%))	GENERAL INTERPRETATION	RESILIENCE TO PRESSURES
Very low (0-10)	Little to no sustainable water management arrangements.	Low
Low (11-30)	Arrangements being developed.	
Medium-low (31-50)	Arrangements generally approved and institutionalized, but limited implementation.	Medium
Medium-high (51-70)	Implementation started, but not always effective.	
High (71-90)	Some sustainable water management objectives met (close to target).	High
Very high (91-100)	Global target. Sustainable water resources management.	

Progress on implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management

Coordinated planning, management and financing needs to be prioritised in **40% of countries** which still have **limited capacity to balance competing demands** across sectors and cope with **increasing pressures, including climate change** (SDG 6.5.1 Global Progress 2024)

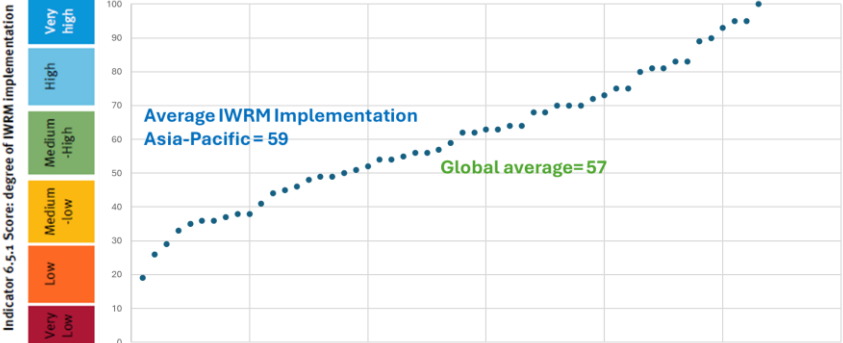
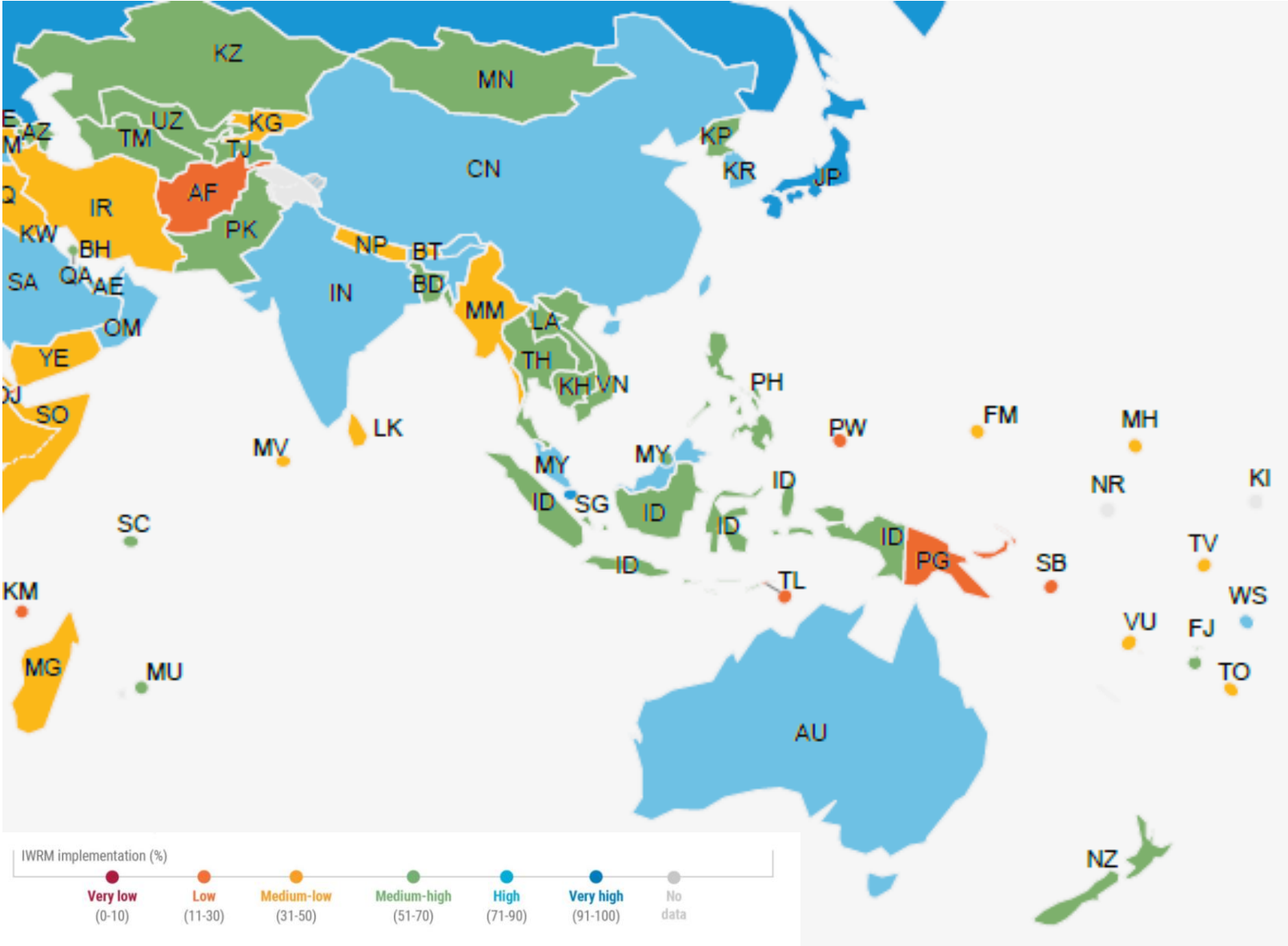
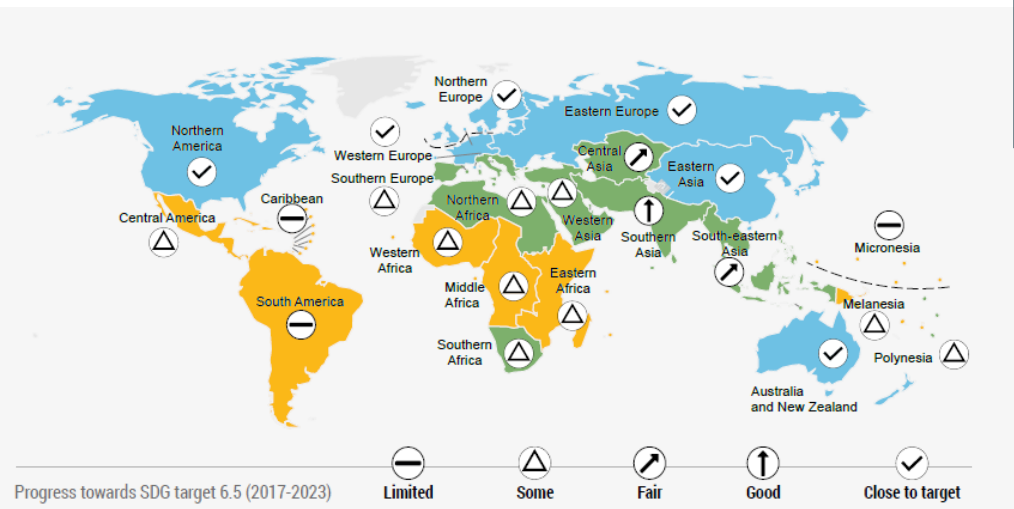


FIGURE: DISTRIBUTION OF SDG INDICATOR 6.5.1 SCORES IN ASIA-PACIFIC, BASED ON 54 REPORTING COUNTRIES in 2023

FIGURE: IWRM IMPLEMENTATION PER COUNTRY IN ASIA, 2023 OR MOST RECENT (SDG INDICATOR 6.5.1)



IWRM regional and subregional scores and progress

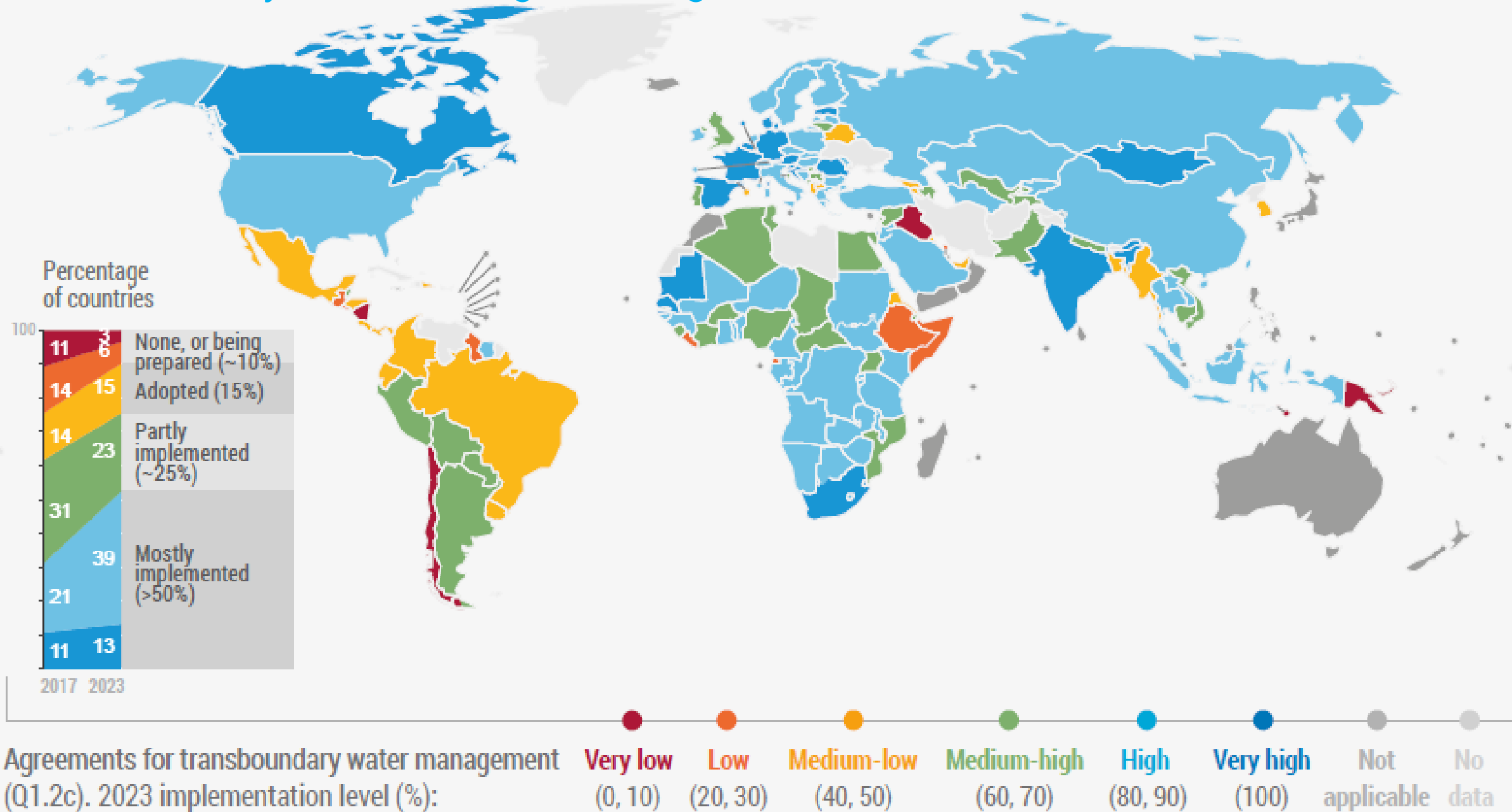


SDG REGION ²¹	SDG 6.5.1 SCORE			PROGRESS ²²	SDG SUBREGION	SDG 6.5.1 SCORE			PROGRESS
	2017	2020	2023			2017	2020	2023	
Latin America and the Caribbean	35	37	39	Limited	Central America	31	31	39	Some
					Caribbean	37	39	40	Limited
					South America	35	39	38	Limited
Oceania	39	43	42	Limited	Melanesia	30	38	37	Some
					Micronesia	36	43	37	Limited
					Polynesia	49	52	53	Some
Sub-Saharan Africa	40	46	49	Some	Middle Africa	29	37	42	Some
					Western Africa	42	44	48	Some
					Eastern Africa	43	51	50	Some
					Southern Africa	50	55	57	Some
Central and Southern Asia	37	43	55	Good	Southern Asia	37	41	56	Good
Northern Africa and Western Asia	55	60	64	Some	Central Asia	38	47	53	Fair
					Northern Africa	49	56	57	Some
Eastern and South-Eastern Asia	52	62	66	Fair	Western Asia	57	62	66	Some
					South-Eastern Asia	46	57	62	Fair
					Eastern Asia	64	72	79	Close to target
Europe and Northern America	67	72	75	Close to target	Southern Europe	58	64	66	Some
					Eastern Europe	58	66	74	Close to target
					Northern Europe	73	77	79	Close to target
					Western Europe	87	88	89	Close to target
					Northern America	ND	77	75	Close to target
Australia and New Zealand	72	77	74	Close to target	Australia and New Zealand	72	77	74	Close to target
World	49	54	57	Some					

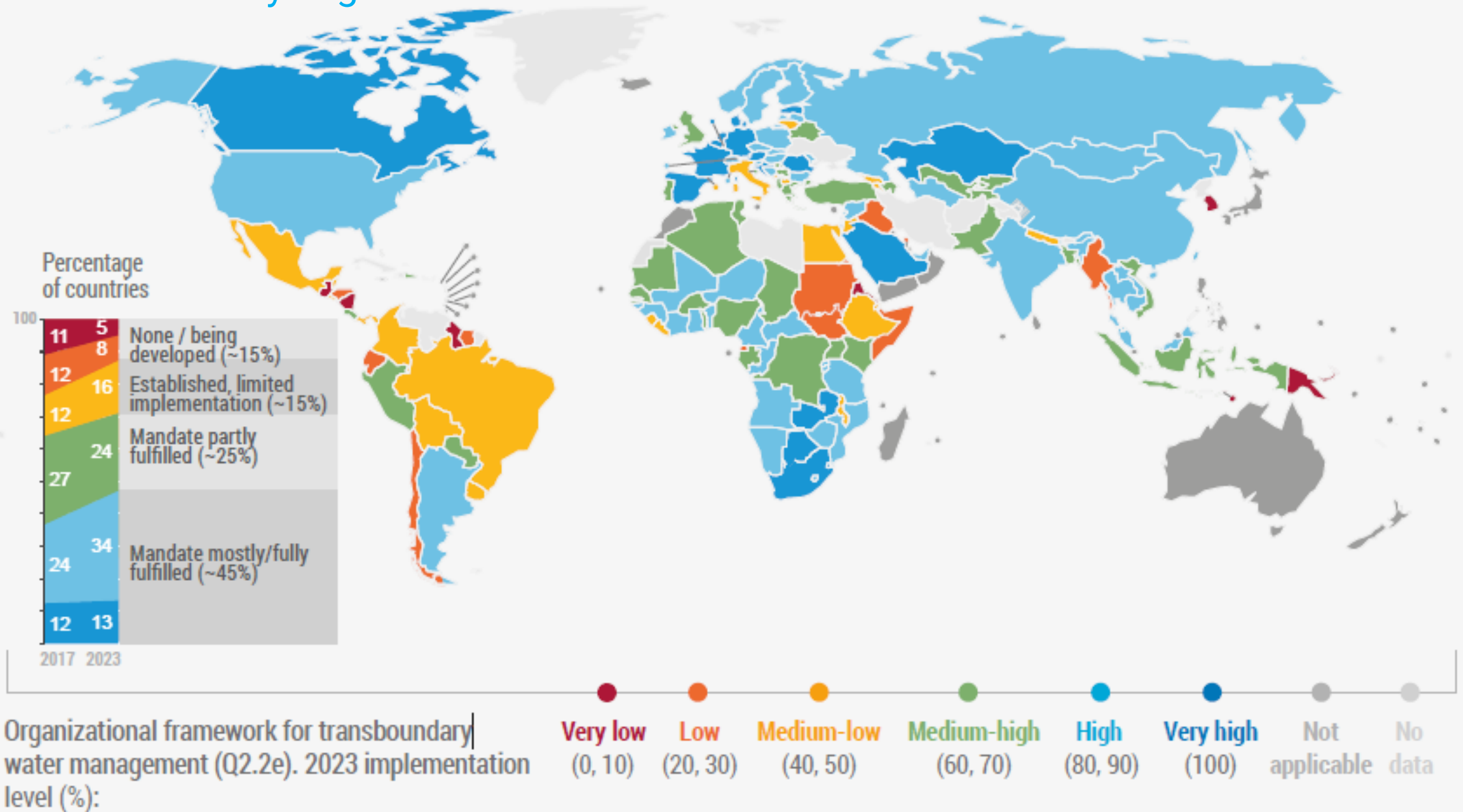
Transboundary questions in 6.5.1 survey

IWRM Dimension	6.5.1 transboundary survey question	6.5.2 topic
1. Enabling environment	Agreement (1.2c)	Operational arrangement ... including coordinated water management plan / joint objectives
2. Institutions / participation	Organizational framework (2.2e)	Joint body or mechanism
3. Management instruments	Data and information sharing (3.2d)	At least annual exchanges of data and information
4. Financing	Financing (4.2c.)	Not specified in main criteria, but partially covered in additional questions

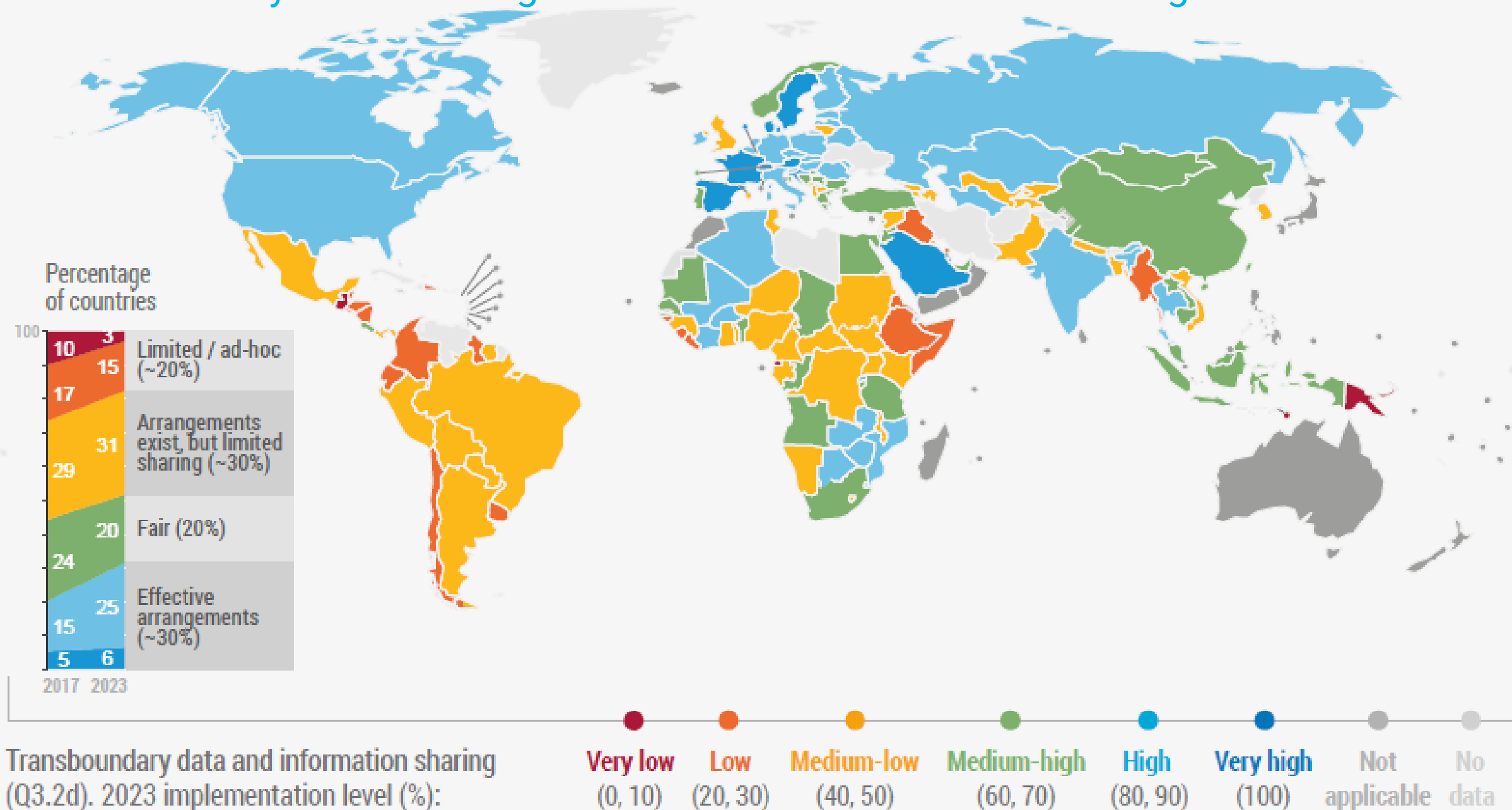
Transboundary Water Management Agreement



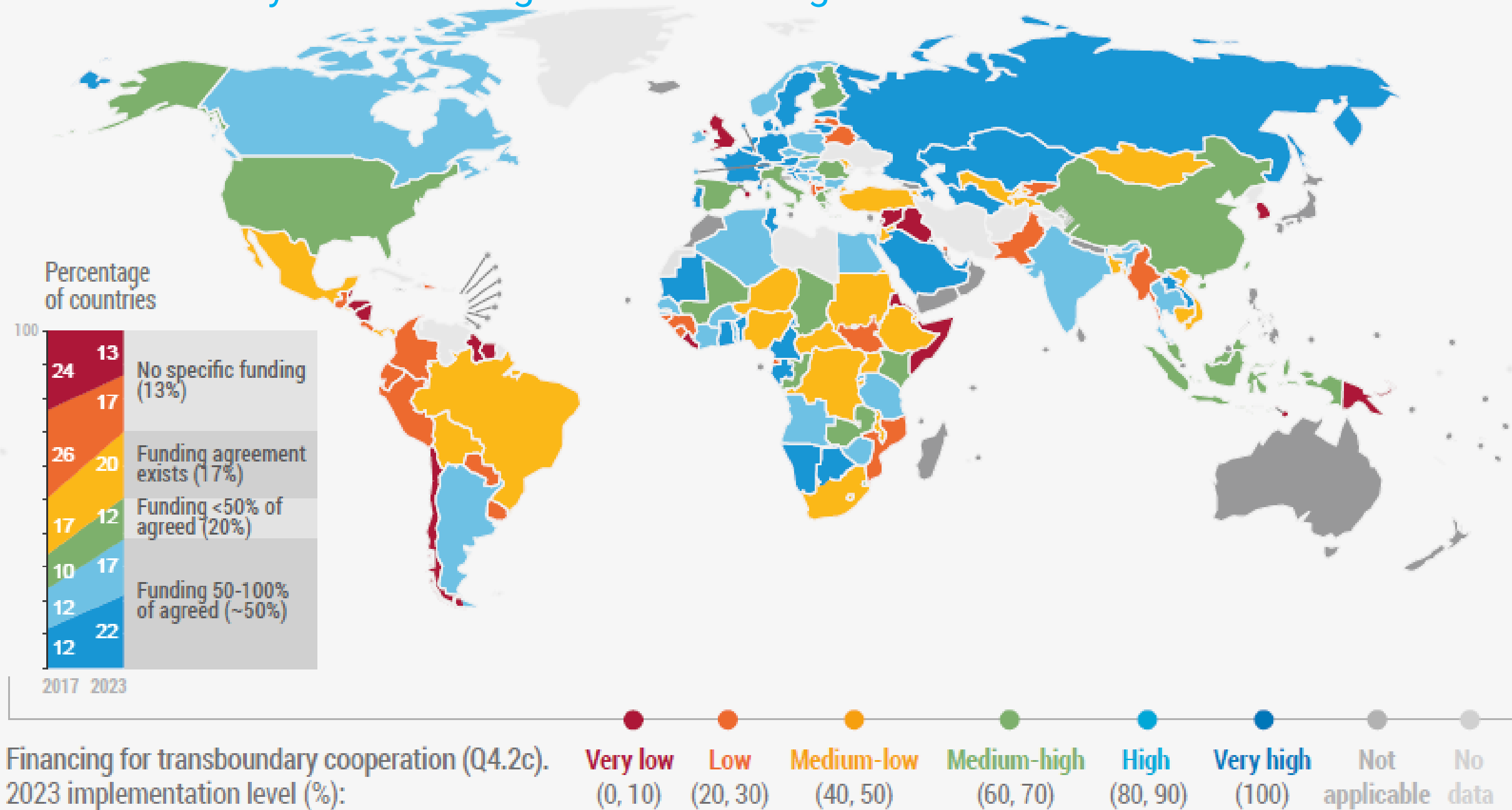
Transboundary Organizational Framework



Transboundary Water Management Data and Information Sharing

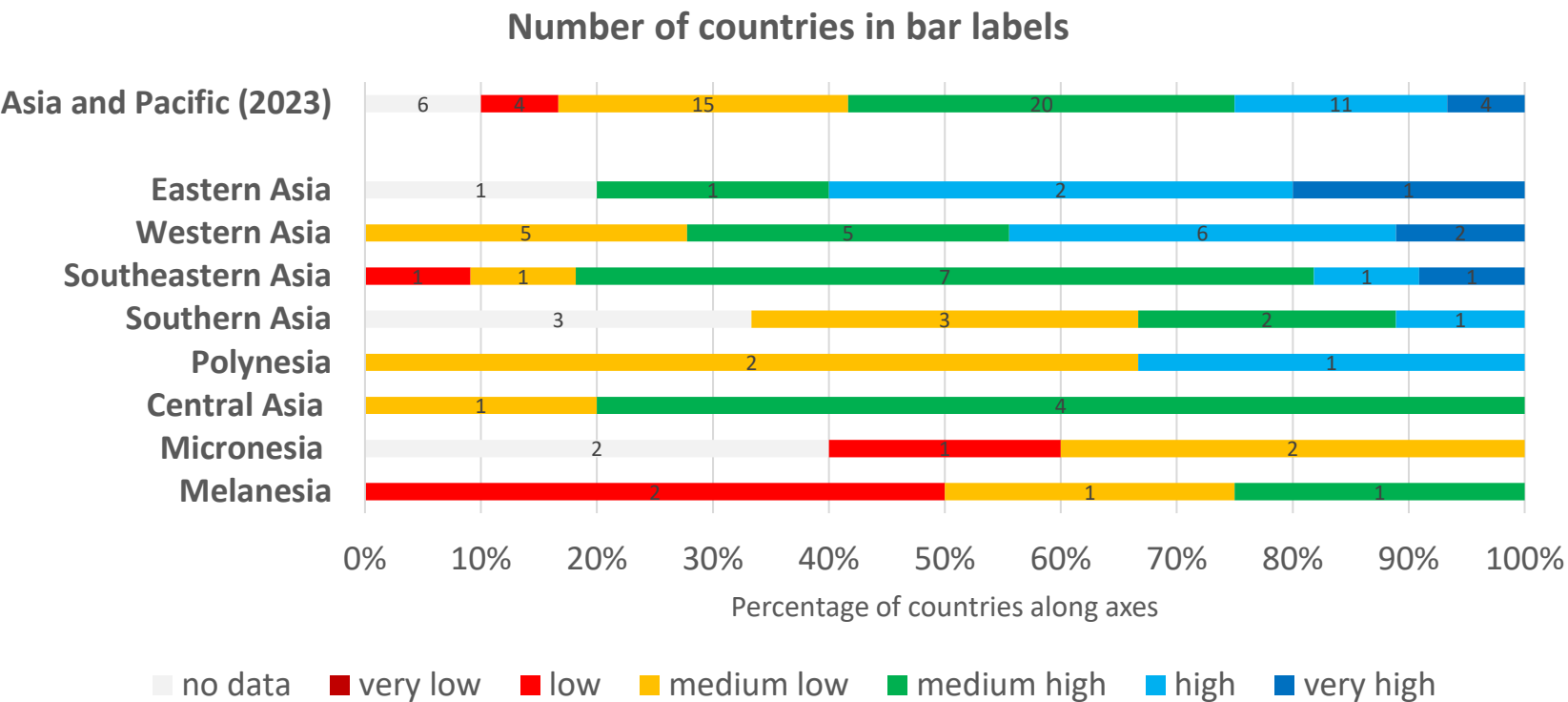


Transboundary Water Management Financing



Key Message 1: Priority Countries

FIGURE: IWRM AVERAGE SCORE ACROSS SUBREGIONS IN ASIA-PACIFIC AND NUMBER OF COUNTRIES BASED ON STATUS OF IWRM IMPLEMENTATION IN 2023



19 countries in Asia and the Pacific are still in **low and medium-low** implementation of IWRM
6 countries needs support in the country reporting

Actions needed:

- 1. Prioritize countries with low and medium-low IWRM implementation
- 2. Coordinated planning and management is needed, in partnerships, at all levels.

Key Message 2: Insufficient Financing

Insufficient finance constrains the implementation of integrated water resources management, **limiting institutional capacity, monitoring networks**, and the application of **management instruments**.

Subregion	Score per IWRM dimensions			
	Enabling Environment	Institutions and Participation	Management Instruments	Financing
Melanesia	32	44	46	27
Micronesia	37	44	43	25
Central Asia	52	51	58	48
Polynesia	55	62	55	37
Southern Asia	60	60	54	51
Southeastern Asia	68	63	63	56
Western Asia	70	68	64	59
Eastern Asia	87	82	77	68
Asia and Pacific (2023)	62	62	60	52

Action needed:

1. Develop and implement revenue raising and cost recovery arrangements.
2. Investments in water management and infrastructure support other economic sectors.
3. Coordinated actions will have greater impact than if they are undertaken separately
4. Governments should consider financing systems appropriate to their national circumstances.

Key Message 3: Coordinate on Climate

Using IWRM approaches — cross-sector, participatory management at the basin scale — in climate change adaptation efforts, **presents a great opportunity to build resilience** to climate change impacts.



Action needed—

1. Coordinate planning and management between sectors, through an IWRM approach, to better adapt to the impacts of climate change.
2. Use climate financing for implementing coordinated water management and cross-sector climate resilience projects.

Key Message 4: Political Commitments

Political commitments at the global level for sustainable water management have **never been higher**, but they have **not been matched** by the required **finance or action** on the ground.

Recognizing **IWRM** approaches as being relevant to **achieving other development objectives**, including **energy and food security**, is **critical to** accelerating progress on **sustainable development**.



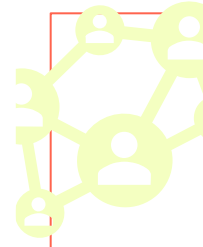
Action needed:

1. Make the case for, and advocate, the value of implementing IWRM at the highest national level, to achieve multiple development objectives.
2. Mainstream IWRM into other sector actions, such as those to secure food and energy security, climate resilience and water supply and sanitation.

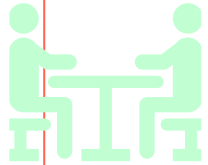
Key Take Away



1. SDG 6.5.1 results should be used as a strategic entry point for national reforms.



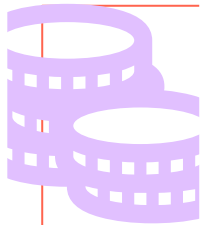
2. Stronger regional cooperation is essential



3. Transboundary cooperation must improve to manage shared risks



4. Integrating climate and water planning is a critical opportunity



5. Countries need to diversify funding—through domestic budgets, water-user revenue, climate finance, and regional or basin-level mechanisms.



6. Evidence-based decision-making requires stronger monitoring

More information on SDG 6.5.1 country reporting is available in IWRM Data Portal

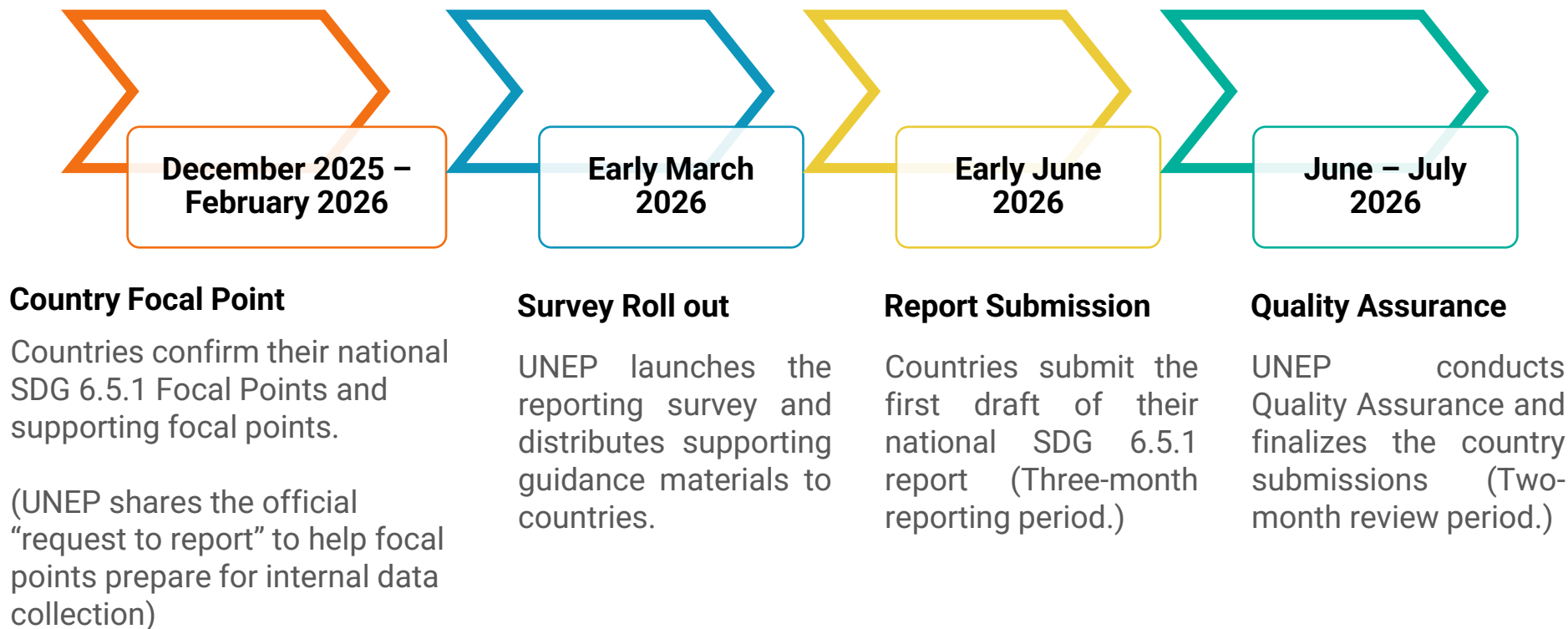
SDG 6.5.1 Global Report <https://iwrmdataportal.unepdhi.org/publications/global-reports>

SDG 6.5.1 2023 result: <https://iwrmdataportal.unepdhi.org/publications/results>



Overview of Process and Support For 2026 SDG 6.5.1 reporting SDG 6 Support Programme

2026 SDG 6.5.1 Country Reporting Timeline



Technical Capacity Support on 6.5.1 reporting

All countries have access to all supporting materials, including:

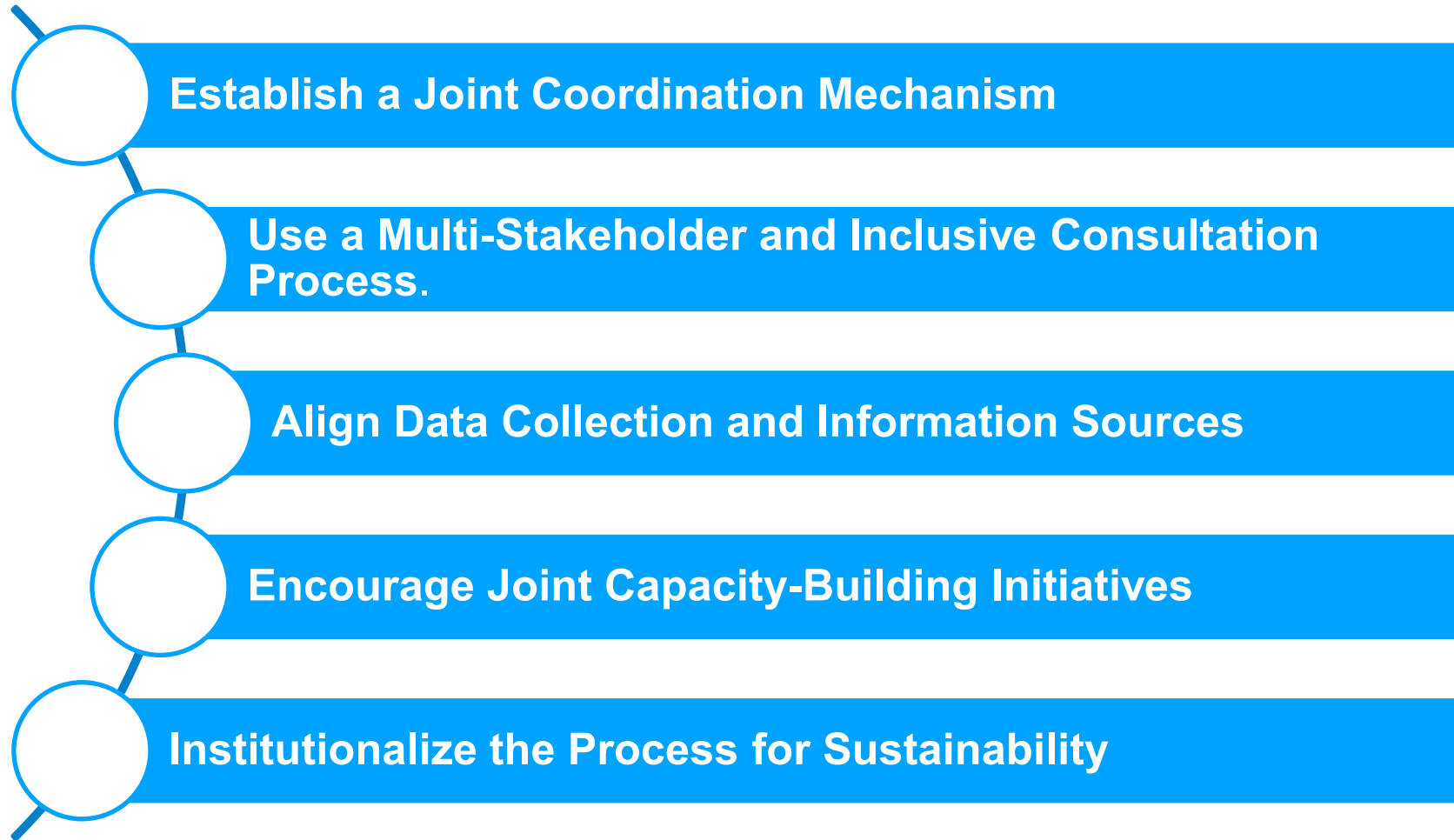
1. 6.5.1 Monitoring Guide
2. Training of Facilitators Course for SDG 6.5.1 (self-paced online course, approx. 4hrs) <https://cap-net.org/sdg-6-iwrm-support-program/#>
3. 1-page survey overview (recommended for familiarization with the survey)
4. Stakeholder consultation manual
5. Indicator calculation template
6. Online version of survey (for in-country consultations only, not official submission).

All this will be available on the IWRM Data Portal (from late Feb 2026):

<https://iwrmdataportal.unepdhi.org/data-collection>

UNEP 6.5.1 Help Desk: throughout the process, the Help Desk is available to answer questions, and provide guidance and support to Focal Points and colleagues on any aspect of reporting. Via email or online meetings as needed.

Coordinating SDG 6.5.1 IWRM and SDG 6.5.2 Monitoring at country level



SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme

Assists governments and other stakeholders in

Stage 1

Identifying
Challenges



Assisting countries to identify the country's main water and climate-related challenges by bringing together stakeholders to monitor progress towards SDG 6.5.1

Stage 2

Developing
Action Plans



Assisting countries and stakeholders to develop IWRM Action Plans to address the identified challenges

Stage 3

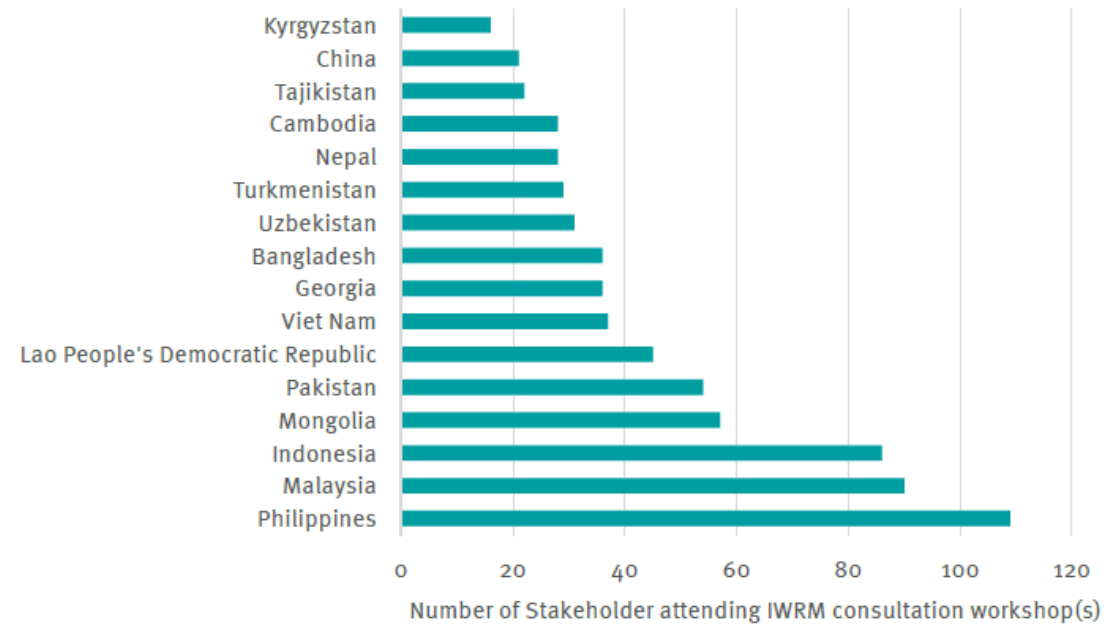
Supporting
Implementation



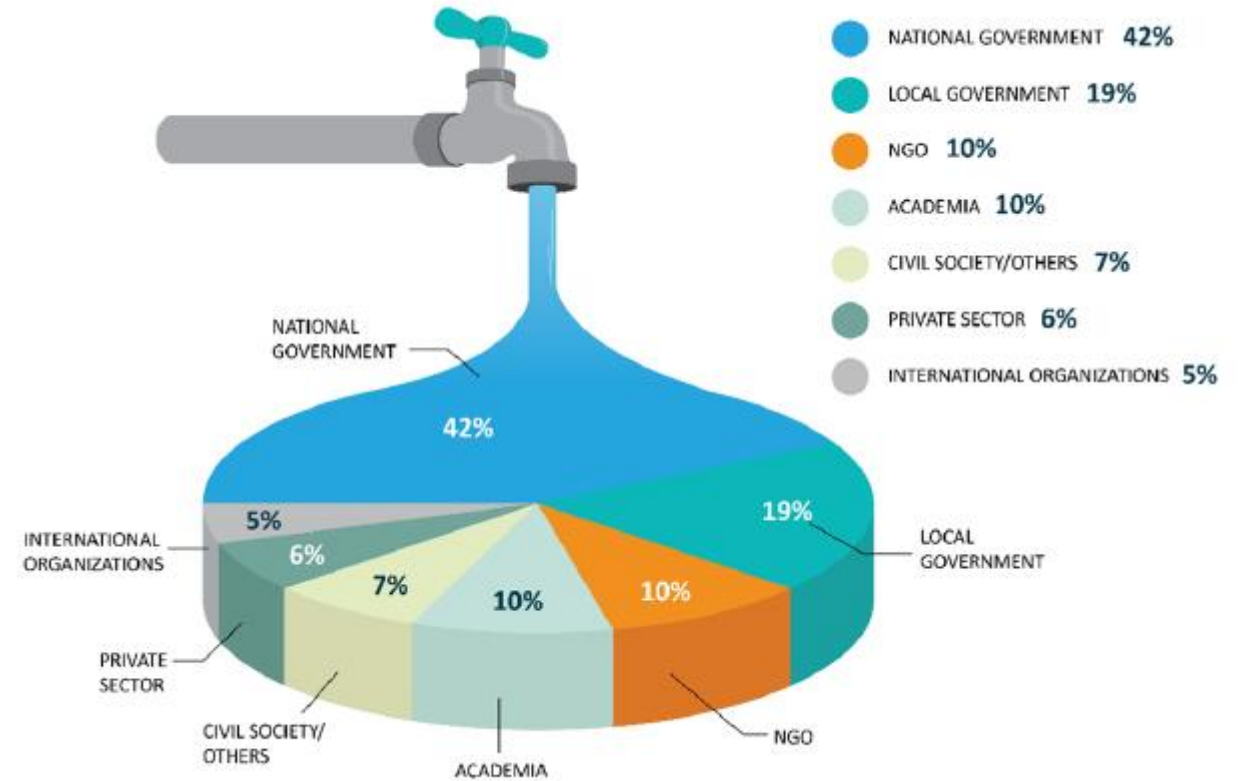
Accessing implementation support for the Action Plans

Stage 1: Assisting Countries in Identifying SDG 6.5.1 Progress

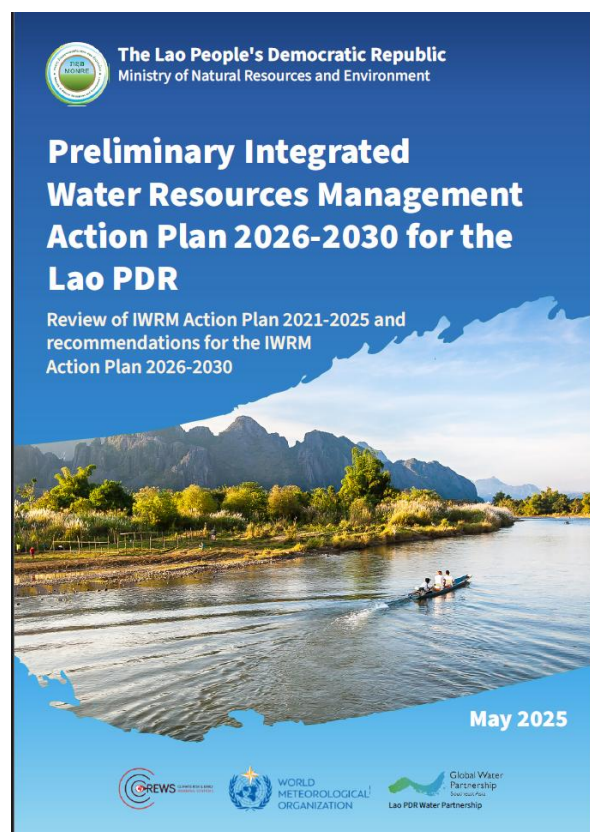
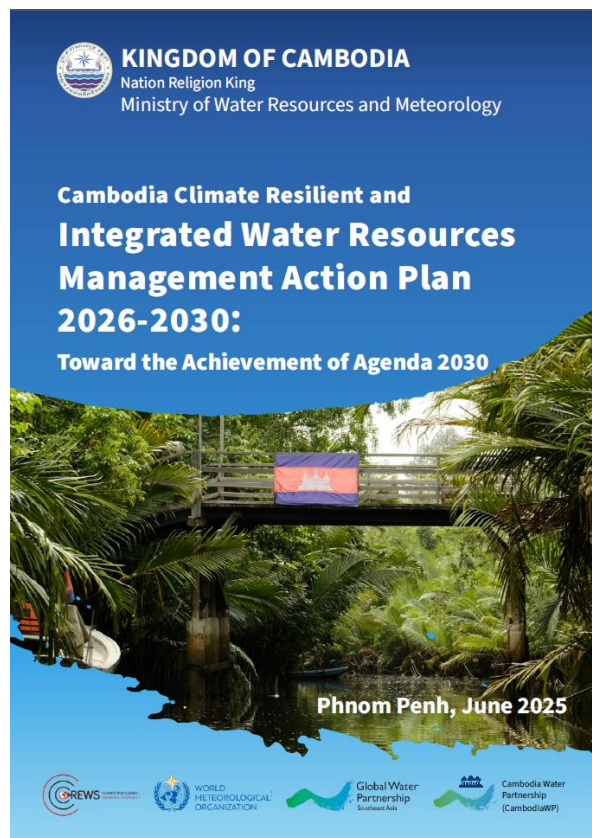
Multi-stakeholder Consultation Process in Asia countries on the 2020 SDG 6.5.1 Country Reporting



Source: Global Water Partnership, 2020



Stage 2: Assisting countries in developing Water and Climate Action Plan



<https://iwrmdataportal.unepdhi.org/publications/iwrm-action-plans>

More information on SDG 6 Support Programme

<https://iwrmdataportal.unepdhi.org/support-programme>