

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Target number: 6.3

Indicator Number and Name: 6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality

Agency: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Has work for the development of this indicator begun?

Yes

Who are the entities, including national and international experts, directly involved and consulted in developing the methodology/and or data collection tools?

Experts from the GEMS/Water Global Programme Coordination Unit, Capacity Development Centre (University College Cork, Ireland) and Data Centre (Federal Institute of Hydrology, Koblenz, Germany) as well as the UNEP-DHI Centre and WHO Task Team are directly involved in the methodology development. Additionally, national experts from six GEMI proof-of-concept countries (Senegal, Jordan, Uganda, Peru, Netherlands and – foreseen - Bangladesh) are or will be consulted in testing and revising the methodology.

What is the involvement of or how do you plan to involve National Statistical Systems in the development of the methodology?

Representatives of the NSS are part of the national monitoring teams of the GEMI proof-of-concept testing and refining the methodology according to national capacities and organizational structures.

Please briefly describe the process of developing the methodology for the indicator

The methodology is based on a global water quality indicator previously developed by GEMS/Water that has been adapted to the concept of a monitoring ladder approach. This is meant to allow countries to monitor and report according to their respective capacities and step-wise improve monitoring and indicator reporting coverage as capacities evolve. The methodology is tested and refined through consultation with the GEMI proof-of-concept countries in 2016.

Please indicate new international standards that will need to be proposed and approved by an intergovernmental process (such as UNSC) for this methodology.

When do you expect the methodological work on this indicator to be completed?

End of 2016

Are data and metadata already being collected from the National Statistical System for one or more components of this indicator?

No

If yes, please describe:

N/A

How do you plan to collect the data?

- 1) Send questionnaire(s) to country
- 2) Obtain data directly from country database/website
- 3) Joint survey/compilation with national agency and international entity
- 4) Satellite images, remote sensing
- 5) Other: the main data source are nationally collected in situ water quality monitoring data which will be supplemented over time by remote sensing information where available and appropriate

If the indicator involves multiple components from different data sources, please describe how each individual component of the indicator will be collected here.

With what frequency is data expected to be collected?

On a yearly basis

Is there a process of data validation by countries in place or planned for this indicator?

Yes

If yes, please briefly describe:

Water quality data that institutions and line ministries provide to the NSS are expected to have undergone a national data validation process; data being made available to the UNEP Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS/Water) Programme will undergo a QA/QC check by the Data Centre at the Federal Institute of Hydrology.

Please note:

Under the UN-Water umbrella, a joint and collaborative monitoring effort under the GEMI project (Monitoring Water and Sanitation in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda) has been established which involves relevant UN entities and aims to ensure coherence in implementation of global monitoring and reporting for SDG 6 (namely targets 6.3 to 6.6) including “ambient water quality” indicator 6.3.2. Through the GEMI project an initial roll-out of the indicator is currently taking place in 6 Proof of Concept countries. Indicator 6.3.2 is conceptually clear, has an established methodology, builds on international standards and many countries are collecting the required information albeit not always on a regular basis. Therefore UNEP and UN-Water consider the indicator to be in the position to either be in or to move up to the Tier 2 category.