

Thematic Evaluation Series

Evaluation of FAO's contribution to Sustainable Development Goal 6 – “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”

Annex 2. Data collection methodology

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1. Introduction

1. This document outlines the data collection methodology taken by the evaluation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) contribution to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. It includes a brief description of the portfolio analysis leading to the selection of case studies for the regional and thematic assessments. Finally, the document discusses limitations to the data collection activities.
2. The evaluation mainly uses a mixed-method approach analysing both quantitative and qualitative data collected from both primary and secondary sources. The main data collection methods include desk reviews of relevant documentation, use of case studies, semi-structured interviews and two online surveys. Determining the scope of the evaluation was a challenge as FAO does not have specific programmes or initiatives with an explicit link to SDG 6. Hence, a portfolio analysis was conducted during the conceptual and inception phase of the evaluation to determine the evaluation scope and inform relevant data collection methods.

2. Portfolio analysis – FAO’s SDG 6-related projects

3. The portfolio analysis relied on the data from FAO’s Field Programme Management Information System (FPMIS) to determine the projects that may have some relevance to SDG 6. Between 2016 and 2020, FPMIS contained 4 927 active projects. The evaluation automated the selection of the projects that may be relevant to SDG 6 by utilizing the “R” programming language (R Foundation, n.d.) and the software RStudio (RStudio, n.d.). The software allowed to search for key elements (words and phrases) through the titles and objectives of the projects. The keywords used in identifying SDG 6-relevant projects in the database were extracted and translated to French and Spanish from the official description of SDG 6 indicators (UN, n.d.) with additional keywords used including ‘climate change’ and ‘resilience’.
4. From this method, a total of 529 projects (11 percent) were identified. These projects were subsequently reviewed by the evaluation team resulting in 246 projects (5 percent of the total portfolio) being validated and categorized as either being indirectly or directly relevant to SDG 6. Figure 1 shows a flow diagram summarizing the process described in the previous paragraphs.

Figure 1. Diagram of the identification of FAO’s SDG6-related projects



Source: Prepared by the evaluation team.

3. Data collection methodology

3.1 Regional assessments

5. Building upon the 246 projects identified above, the evaluation developed a set of criteria to select project case studies for the regional assessments. The use of case studies is intended to provide an in-depth understanding of how SDG 6-related activities have been formulated and implemented and, where possible, what the results of these activities have been. Recognizing varied challenges in the areas related to SDG 6 faced by different regions, the evaluation conducted five regional assessments to gain an understanding of the relevance and effectiveness of FAO in different parts of the world. The five regions are Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and Near East and North Africa. To select the country and project case studies for the regional assessments, the following criteria were adopted:
1. a balance of projects that are related to different SDG 6 targets;
 2. geographical distribution of project locations in each region considering a balance between key sub-regions;
 3. the project's budget size;
 4. the project's starting and completion dates;
 5. the project's sources of funding; and
 6. socio-economic conditions of the project's implementing country.
6. In accordance with the criteria, the evaluation team prepared a shortlist of country-specific and regional projects, which was then shared with the relevant FAO regional offices and assigned focal points for discussion and validation. The FAO regional offices also were instrumental in providing information on additional country-level and regional projects and normative activities related to SDG 6, which were not readily available in the FAO system. These non-project activities were included as selected case studies for each region as well. Based on the close consultations with the respective regional offices, 79 country-level and regional projects were selected as project case studies and eight countries selected as country case studies, as per below table.

Table 1. Select country case studies

Region	Number of project case studies (normative activities not included here)	Country case studies
Africa	21	The Niger, Somalia
Asia and the Pacific	34	Afghanistan, Cambodia and Pakistan
Europe	2	N/A
Latin America and the Caribbean	6	Dominican Republic and Panama
Near East and North Africa	16	Egypt

Source: Prepared by the evaluation team.

7. The exhaustive list of the project case studies can be found in Appendix 1 of this document.

3.1.1 Key informant interviews (FAO personnel and partners)

8. Following consultation and validation received from FAO regional offices and evaluation focal points at headquarters, the evaluation team conducted virtual semi-structured interviews with relevant stakeholders, mainly with FAO personnel in decentralized offices, national project counterparts and identified stakeholders on SDG 6-related areas, such as the private sector, donors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and a limited number of project beneficiaries.

9. For these means, the evaluation team prepared an interview protocol following the main evaluation questions for each group of interviewees.

3.2 Thematic assessments

10. At a second stage of the data collection methodology and analysis, ten thematic assessments were conducted as follows:
 - i. water supply, sanitation & hygiene (SDG 6.1 & 6.2);
 - ii. water quality & pollution (SDG 6.3);
 - iii. water monitoring (FAO custodian role) (SDG 6.4);
 - iv. irrigated agriculture (SDG 6.4);
 - v. other agricultural water management (SDG 6.4);
 - vi. governance: institutions, integrated water resources management (IWRM), transboundary waters and partnerships (SDG 6.5 & cross-cutting);
 - vii. ecosystems and biodiversity conservation (SDG 6.6);
 - viii. climate change, disaster management and resilience (cross-cutting);
 - ix. participation, gender and equity (cross-cutting); and
 - x. FAO structure & operations (cross-cutting).
11. The thematic assessments made use of the data and analysis from regional assessments and examined additional ten interregional and global projects and other normative activities and initiatives. Additional semi-structured interviews mainly with FAO personnel at headquarters and key international partners were also conducted by the evaluation team.

3.3 Online surveys with FAO personnel and external partners

12. Following the regional and thematic assessments, the evaluation launched two online surveys to gather additional feedback on FAO's work towards achieving SDG 6 and to fill any potential evidence gaps. The two separate surveys targeted on the one-hand FAO personnel and on the other hand FAO external partners. From 10 to 25 February 2022, both surveys were internally shared with FAO directors at headquarters and regional offices and externally with communities of practice and selected partners.
13. Both surveys were published in English, French and Spanish and, in total, collected feedback from 77 external partners and 166 FAO personnel. The results of this exercise contribute toward validating the evaluation findings and serve as a means of triangulating with other data collected throughout the evaluation. The survey results can be found in Appendix 2 of this document.

3.4 Limitations

14. Several limitations were identified during both the selection of SDG 6-related projects and the data collection process:

3.4.1 Portfolio analysis

15. The automated process to identify SDG 6-related projects is limited to the extent the relevant information is available on FAO's platform. Since FAO did not tag projects with relevant SDGs (this practice only started in January 2022), the process had to be based solely on project titles and objectives. This may have caused some projects to slip through the selection process. To minimize this limitation, the team carried out consultations with the relevant headquarters and regional

colleagues to ensure that key projects were not missed. As a result, a few additional projects were added to the shortlisted projects.

3.4.2 Data collection

16. Several identified case studies could no longer be conducted due to the ongoing crisis in specific countries.
17. The evaluation team encountered some difficulties in reaching external partners, as many were not aware of FAO's work on SDG 6 and preferred not to participate in interviews.

3.4.3 General limitations

18. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the evaluation followed a remote data collection process, and thus was unable to conduct in-person interviews nor visit project sites. This created limitations regarding the evidence that could be collected in some areas and for some projects.

References

R Foundation. n.d. What is R? In: *R Foundation*. Vienna. <https://www.r-project.org/about.html>

RStudio. n.d. RStudio Team. In: *RStudio*. Boston, United States of America. <https://www.rstudio.com/>

UN. n.d. Sustainable Development Goal 6 on water and sanitation (SDG 6). In: UN. New York, United States of America. <https://www.sdg6data.org/>

Appendix 1. List of project case studies

Africa

Location	Project Symbol	Title	Start Date (DD-MM-YY)	End Date (DD-MM-YY)	Budget (USD)
Cameroon	TCP/CMR/3603	Schéma Directeur sur la valorisation intégrée des ressources en eaux centrée sur l'irrigation et d'autres usages, en République du Cameroun (Régions de Extrême-Nord, Nord et Adamaoua)	10-11-16	28-02-19	280 000
Eswatini	GCP/SWA/020/MOR	South-South Cooperation Programme Swaziland-Morocco-FAO	01-03-17	20-12-20	233 966
Ethiopia	TCP/ETH/3704	Support for Establishing Web-based National Irrigation Database and Water Management Information System (MIS) for Ethiopia	01-02-19	31-12-21	497 000
Ghana	TCP/GHA/3604	Promoting and Enhancing Sustainable Management of Wetland Resources for better Ecosystem Services and Resilient Livelihoods of Keta and Ada Coastal communities	01-09-17	31-12-19	395 000
Kenya	UTF /KEN/083/KEN	Technical Assistance for Kenya-Small Scale Irrigation and Value Addition Project (SIVAP)	01-07-16	31-03-22	1 200 000
Malawi	GDCP/MLW/077/FLA	Land Use planning and sustainable land and water management for improved agricultural productivity	15-08-19	14-08-23	5 000 000
Namibia	OSRO/NAM/601/ROK	Improving water access in the drought affected regions of Namibia	26-01-18	30-06-20	200 000
Niger	TCP/NER/3704	Formulation Programme de Mobilisation des Eaux et actions pilotes Initiative 1 million de Citernes	17-08-18	31-12-20	500 000
Sierra Leon	TCP/SIL/3801	Development of Sierra Leon National Irrigation Master Plan	01-09-20	31-08-22	235 000
Somalia	GCP /SOM/050/MUL	Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM) Phase V	01-02-13	07-10-17	6 035 845
Somalia	GCP /SOM/059/EC	The Integrated Land and Water Resources Management (ILWRM) under the Programme for Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM) - Phase VI	01-01-19	30-09-22	3 639 040
Somalia	OSRO/SOM/505/CHS	Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM), Phase V: Improving flood and drought risk management	09-04-15	08-10-16	200 000
Somalia	OSRO/SOM/509/UK	FAO El Nino Response Plan (ENRP)-El Nino Early Warning and Preparedness 2015/16	10-09-15	31-03-16	2 958 371
Somalia	OSRO/SOM/611/USA	Implementation of CFW activities in Somaliland Puntland and South Central regions of Somalia	01-05-16	31-12-18	54 500 000
Somalia	OSRO/SOM/701/UK	Integrated food security, nutrition, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and livelihoods response to the drought in Somalia	17-01-17	28-02-18	24 409 409
Somalia	OSRO/SOM/704/USA	FAO Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM): Improving flood and drought risk management in Somalia	01-01-17	31-03-18	500 000
Somalia	OSRO/SOM/805/USA	Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM): Improving flood and drought risk management	01-01-18	31-03-19	500 000
Somalia	OSRO/SOM/816/ITA	Programme for Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM) - Phase VI	12-12-18	11-12-22	3 382 197
Somalia	OSRO/SOM/903/USA	SWALIM: Improving flood and drought risk management in Somalia	01-01-19	31-03-20	500 000
Zimbabwe	GCP/ZIM/027/SWI	Zimbabwe Programme Framework for support to smallholder Irrigation Schemes 2014? 2018	17-12-14	30-10-19	6 104 322
Interregional	TCP/INT/3604	Appui pour une meilleure planification de l'irrigation dans le cadre de l'Initiative pour l'Irrigation au Sahel (SIIP) (examined as part of the Africa regional assessment)	01-03-18	31-12-19	350 000

Asia and the Pacific

Location	Project Symbol	Title	Start Date (DD-MM-YY)	End Date (DD-MM-YY)	Budget (USD)
Afghanistan	GCP /AFG/071/JPN	The Programme for Improvement of Irrigation Systems in Kabul and Bamyan Provinces - (Grant Agreement No.1161080)	05-02-12	31-07-16	16 816 430
Afghanistan	GCP /AFG/077/JPN	The Programme of Improvement of Irrigation Systems in Kabul, Bamyan and Kapisa Provinces in Afghanistan	01-05-13	28-02-17	22 248 539
Afghanistan	GCP /AFG/078/JCA	Capacity Development of Irrigation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	15-12-13	31-12-17	5 266 982
Afghanistan	GCP /AFG/096/JCA	The Project for Enhancing Rural Livelihoods through Improved Irrigation Facilities in Bamyan, Kabul and Kapisa Provinces	01-12-18	30-11-21	9 916 870
Afghanistan	GCP /AFG/097/JPN	Project for Improving Economic Growth in the Western Region of Afghanistan through Community Irrigation and Livelihood Enhancement	01-09-18	30-11-22	4 994 609
Afghanistan	OSRO/AFG/502/JCA	Enhancing Agriculture Production through Irrigation Improvement and Strengthening of Institutional C	01-01-16	31-12-19	13 094 348
Afghanistan	OSRO/AFG/903/USA	Support to Drought-affected and Food Insecure Farming Families in Agriculture, Livestock Protection and Water Infrastructure Rehabilitation	25-06-19	24-06-20	2 500 000
Afghanistan	TCP/AFG/3606	Technical Assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock to perform Policy Gap Analysis	01-03-18	31-12-19	232 000
Afghanistan	TCP/AFG/3802	Support to the development of NWARA capacity in large scale irrigation design and groundwater management	01-01-21	30-04-22	300 000
Afghanistan	UTF /AFG/067/AFG	Rehabilitation and Upgrading of Irrigation and Water Resources Management Project in the Pashtun Zarghun district of Herat Province	01-01-13	30-16-17	910 113
Afghanistan	UTF /AFG/070/AFG	Irrigation Restoration and Development Project	15-12-11	31-12-20	34 704 076
Afghanistan	UTF /AFG/090/AFG	Technical Assistance to implement the on farm water management project (OFWM)	01-02-17	31-12-19	550 000
Cambodia	GCP /CMB/036/LDF	Strengthening the adaptive capacity and resilience of rural communities using micro watershed approaches to climate change and variability to attain sustainable food security in Cambodia (FSP)	09-06-14	30-11-20	5 175 364
Cambodia	GCP /CMB/047/SWI	Strengthening livelihood recovery of COVID-19 most affected rural communities in Cambodia	01-12-20	31-07-22	990 099
Cambodia	GCP/CMB/037/LDF	Climate Adaptation and Resilience in Cambodia's Coastal Fishery Dependent Communities (FSP)	01-01-21	31-12-25	4 350 000
Cambodia	GCP/CMB/041/CBT	Strengthening capacity in the agriculture and land-use sectors in Cambodia (CBIT) (MSP) (FSP)	08-02-19	30-09-22	863 242
Cambodia	GCP/CMB/043/EC	FAO Complementary Support to the Cambodia Programme for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth in the Fisheries Sector: Capture component (CAPFISH Capture)	01-08-19	30-06-24	19 944 108
China	GCP /CPR/056/GFF	Sustainable forest management to enhance the resilience of forests to climate change (FSP)	30-09-16	31-07-23	7 152 728
China	GCP /CPR/057/GFF	A new green line: Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation objectives and practices into Chinas Water Resources Management policy and Planning Practice (FSP)	29-09-16	31-05-22	2 639 726
Fiji	OSRO/FIJ/701/EC	Pro-Resilient Fiji - Strengthening climate resilience of communities for food and nutrition security	01-01-18	31-03-21	3 178 764

Appendix 1. List of project case studies

Location	Project Symbol	Title	Start Date (DD-MM-YY)	End Date (DD-MM-YY)	Budget (USD)
Iran	GCP/IRA/066/JPN	Integrated Programme for Sustainable Water Resources Management in the Lake Urmia Basin	15-06-16	31-12-21	3 833 438
Pakistan	GCP/PAK/146/GCF	Transforming the Indus Basin with Climate Resilient Agriculture and Climate-Smart Water Management	02-03-20	01-03-26	34 990 831
Pakistan	OSRO/PAK/901/CHA	Critical support to ensure food security and agriculture-based subsistence livelihoods of drought affected population in Balochistan and Sindh provinces of Pakistan	06-02-19	05-11-19	2 500 000
Pakistan	TCP/PAK/3502	Promotion of Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP) in farming of carps and other potential finfish in Punjab and Balochistan Provinces	10-08-15	31-12-17	371 000
Pakistan	TCP/PAK/3606	Accounting of water for improved management of water resources	18-01-18	31-12-19	150 000
Pakistan	TCP/PAK/3708	Support for Development of the Implementation Plan for Agricultural Water Management Aspects of the National Water Policy	01-02-20	31-12-21	100 000
Regional	GCP/RAS/390/GFF	Enhancing sustainability of the Transboundary Cambodia - Mekong River Delta Aquifer (FSP)	15-12-21	15-12-25	15 000 000
Regional	GCP/RAS/903P/GFF	Enhancing Environmental Security and Transboundary Cooperation in the Golok/Kolok River Basin (PPG)	01-11-19	10-10-23	150 000
Regional	GCP/RAS/380/GFF	Fostering Water and Environmental Security in the Ma and Neun/Ca Transboundary River Basin and Related Coastal Areas (PPG)	10-07-19	30-06-22	200 000
Regional	GCP/RAS/390/GFF	Enhancing sustainability of the Transboundary Cambodia - Mekong River Delta Aquifer (FSP)	15-12-21	15-12-25	15 000 000
Regional	GCP/SAP/003/GFF	Enhancing water-food security and climate resilience in volcanic island countries of the Pacific (PPG)	29-03-21	31-12-22	150 000
Regional	MTF /RAS/308/EWL-F	Next Generation Irrigation & Agricultural Water Management for Asia-Pacific (seed funding)	14-11-19	13-11-22	384 053
Regional	TCP/RAS/3616	Strengthening institutional capacities for sustainable management of solar powered irrigation systems (SPIS) while addressing groundwater risk	01-05-18	31-12-19	460 000
Interregional	GCP/INT/1002/GFF	Institutionalising transboundary water management for the Panj River Sub Basin (PPG) (examined as part of the Asia regional assessment)	01-04-21	31-12-22	200 000

Europe

Location	Project Symbol	Title	Start Date (DD-MM-YY)	End Date (DD-MM-YY)	Budget (USD)
Moldova	GCP/MOL/004/HUN	Increasing small scale farmers resilience to drought by adopting best irrigation practices and modern irrigation technologies	01-11-14	31-10-18	398 180
Turkey	GCP/TUR/063/EC	Agricultural Implications for Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EBA) to Climate Change in Steppe Ecosystem	01-01-16	21-12-18	3 525 711

Latin America and the Caribbean

Location	Project Symbol	Title	Start Date (DD-MM-YY)	End Date (DD-MM-YY)	Budget (USD)
Dominican Republic	TCP/DOM/3801	Fortalecimiento de la gobernanza y de la gestión Integrada de los recursos hídricos para incrementar la eficiencia en el uso del agua en la agricultura	01-12-20	30-11-22	300 000
Ecuador	GCP/ECU/082/GFF	Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, Forests, Soil and Water to Achieve the Good Living (Buen Vivir / Sumac Kasay) in the Napo Province (FSP)	0904-15	30-04-21	2 628 284
El Salvador	GCP /ELS/017/GCF	Upscaling climate resilience measures in the dry corridor agroecosystems of El Salvador (RECLIMA)	20-08-19	19-08-24	35 849 611
Panama	UTF/PAN/002/PAN	Identificación e institucionalización de tecnologías que garanticen el acceso de agua segura para el consumo humano, higiene, saneamiento e inocuidad de alimentos	13-01-20	31-12-22	1 140 973
Regional	GCP/SLC/204/GFF	Disposal of Obsolete Pesticides including POPs, Promotion of Alternatives and Strengthening Pesticides Management in the Caribbean (FSP)	26-05-16	30-09-22	4 357 500
Regional	TCP/RLA/3805	Apoyo a la cooperación regional para la gestión climática de los ecosistemas agrícolas con énfasis en agua y suelo	01-12-20	30-11-22	375 000

Near East and North Africa

Location	Project Symbol	Title	Start Date (DD-MM-YY)	End Date (DD-MM-YY)	Budget (USD)
Egypt	GCP/EGY/026/EC	Water harvesting and Good Agriculture Practices for Improved Livelihood and Increased and Sustained Production in Matrouh Rain-fed Agricultural areas	15-03-17	29-02-20	989 133
Egypt	GCP/EGY/027/EC	Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) for sustainable improvement of quality and quantity of horticultural production of small-scale farmers in Fayoum	15-03-17	29-02-20	747 050
Egypt	TCP/EGY/	Livelihood Support of Bedouins in Saint Catherine Area, South Sinai, Egypt (the project was not implemented)	15-03-19	14-03-21	327 000
Egypt	TCP/EGY/3604	Support sustainable water management and irrigation modernization for newly reclaimed areas	01-02-18	31-12-19	400 000
Egypt	TCP/EGY/3701	Updating the Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy 2030 and preparing a Medium-term Plan of Action	01-02-19	30-06-21	350 000
Egypt	TCP/EGY/3707	Developing capacity and innovative solutions for solar-powered irrigation in Egypt	04-11-19	07-07-21	350 000
Egypt	UTF/EGY/025/EGY	Technical Audit of Farm-level Irrigation Modernization Project (FIMP) in Egypt	01-01-17	31-03-18	299 926
Egypt	UTF/EGY/032/EGY	Technical Audit of On-Farm Irrigation Development Project (OFIDP)	07-04-18	30-06-19	218 500
Egypt	UTF/EGY/033/EGY	On-Farm Irrigation Development in Old lands (OFIDO) Project Technical Assessment	15-06-19	30-04-20	298 000
Lebanon	OSRO/LEB/602/NET	Promotion of Agriculture livelihoods & employment through investment in land reclamation & water reservoirs	01-12-16	31-05-20	8 250 000
Sudan	OSRO/SUD/512/UDF	Recovery of Livelihoods of Vulnerable Pastoralist and Agro pastoralist Households in the Darfur Region	01-01-16	31-12-18	2 914 660
West Bank - Gaza Strip	GCP/GAZ/017/FRA	Water Management and Adaptation of Agriculture to climate change in Northern Gaza	22-09-20	21-09-25	2 383 111

Appendix 1. List of project case studies

Location	Project Symbol	Title	Start Date (DD-MM-YY)	End Date (DD-MM-YY)	Budget (USD)
Regional	GCP/RNE/009/SWE	Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Water Efficiency/Productivity & Water Sustainability in NENA	15-12-16	30-06-22	14 998 547
Regional	TCP/RAB/3604	Realizing the potential and managing the risks of SPIS in the Near East and North Africa	01-04-18	31-12-19	276 000
Regional	TCP/SNE/3701	Unlocking the potential of treated wastewater and drainage water in Maghreb Region	09-07-19	31-12-21	299 000
Interregional	GCP/INT/231/SWI	Strengthening Agricultural Water Efficiency and Productivity on the African and Global Level (examined as part of the NENA regional assessment)	01-12-14	30-09-19	4 013 301

Interregional and global projects

Location	Project Symbol	Title	Start Date (DD-MM-YY)	End Date (DD-MM-YY)	Budget (USD)
Global	GCP/GLO/223/USA	Water quality, irrigation and on-farm controls for achieving global food safety and nutritional security	01-10-20	31-10-24	1 000 000
Global	GCP/GLO/277/GFF	Groundwater Governance: A Global Framework for Country Action	25-01-11	31-12-16	1 750 000
Global	GCP/GLO/907/GER	Knowing water better: Towards fairer and more sustainable access to natural resources for greater food security (KnoWat)	01-12-18	31-12-22	2 996 105
Global	MTF/GLO/231/ASB	Portal for Water Accounting Information	01-07-20	31-12-20	197 992
Global	UNJP/GLO/299/UNW	UN-Water Work-Programme 2010-2011 Multi Donor Trust Fund	01-03-11	30-06-23	4 293 144
Global	UNJP/GLO/490/UNJ	Global Action to Combat the rising global threat of AMR through a One Health Approach	12-03-21	31-12-22	866 304
Interregional	GCP/INT/158/JPN	Improved information to promote forest management for protection of soil and water	16-09-13	30-06-16	792 381
Interregional	GCP/INT/167/IWM	More Effective and Sustainable Investments in Water for Poverty Reduction	01-10-18	30-06-18	1 394 748
Interregional	GCP/INT/229/NET	Monitoring water productivity by Remote Sensing as a tool to assess possibilities to reduce water productivity gaps	09-03-15	31-01-21	12 471 245
Interregional	GCP/INT/729/NET	Monitoring land and water productivity by Remote Sensing (WaPOR phase 2)	01-01-21	31-12-25	19 996 809

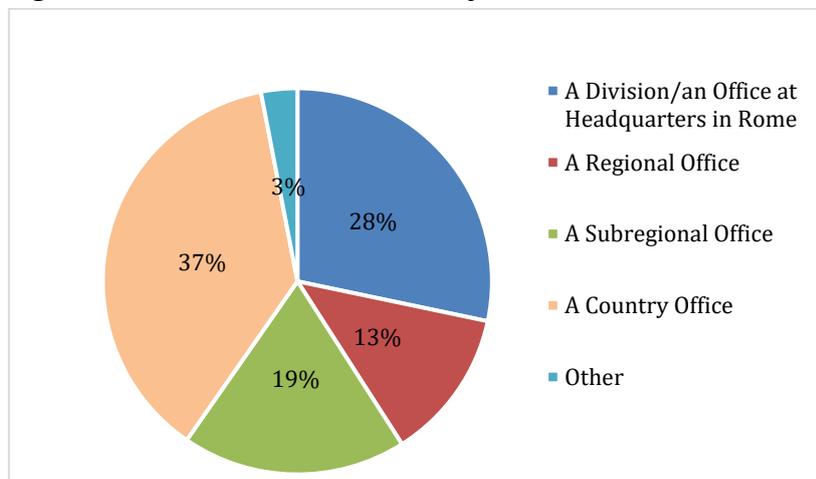
Appendix 2. Results of online surveys

19. From 10 to 25 February 2022, the evaluation of FAO's contribution to SDG 6 launched two online surveys to gather feedback on FAO's work contributing towards achieving SDG 6 and to seek suggestions on how the organization could work more effectively in this domain. The two separate surveys targeted on the one hand FAO personnel and on the other FAO external partners. The surveys were internally shared with FAO directors at headquarters and with FAO regional offices and externally, with communities of practice and selected partners.
20. Both surveys were published in English, French and Spanish.

Analysis of survey responses from FAO personnel

21. The survey was open to all FAO personnel and sought to attract responses and feedback on their perception of FAO's work on clean water, sanitation and sustainable water management, regardless of their contractual arrangement and thematic areas of work. The survey included a list of 12 questions, most of which were open-ended. A total of 166 FAO personnel responded to the survey. It is not possible to calculate the response rate as the number of people reached to inform about the survey is unknown.
22. Among 166 respondents, 37 percent are based in an FAO country offices, followed by 28 percent working in a division or an office based in headquarters, 19 percent in a sub-regional office and 13 percent in a regional office.

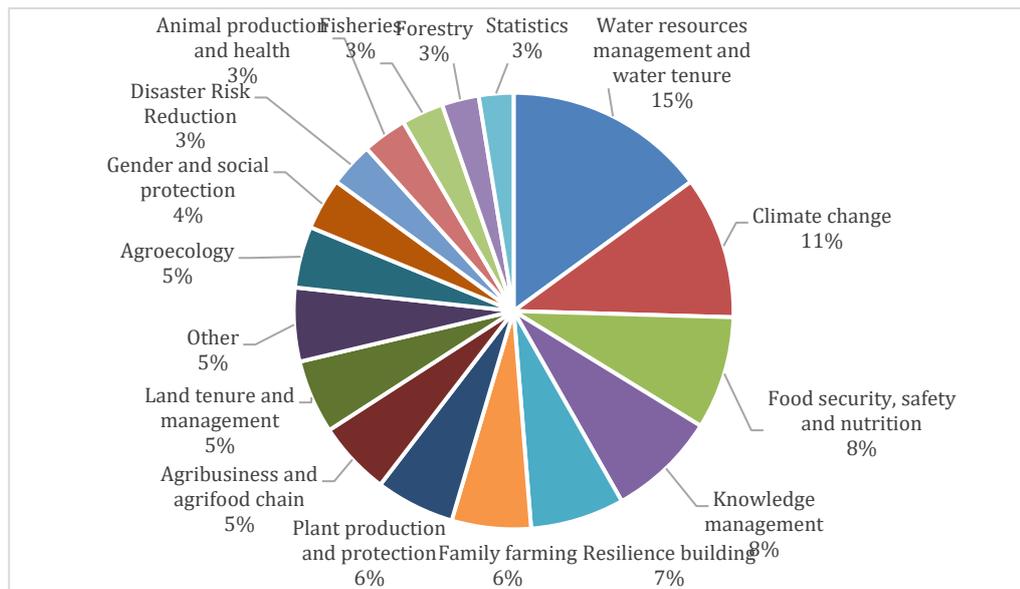
Figure 2. Which FAO office do/did you work with?



Source: Prepared by the evaluation team.

23. There is a regional dispersion amongst respondents: 24 percent working in Near East and North Africa (NENA); 22 percent in Africa; 21 percent at headquarters in Rome; 13 percent in Asia and the Pacific; 10 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean and 7 percent in Europe. A minority (1 percent) is based in North America and Eurasia.
24. With regard to their thematic work areas, survey participants reported on their thematic areas of work in water resources management and water tenure (15 percent), closely followed by climate change (11 percent), knowledge management and food security (8 percent). The figure below further illustrates the technical areas reported by the respondents. The option "other" includes work on soil, human resources/admin support, partnerships, innovation and monitoring and evaluation (M&E). Overall, the survey respondents work in diverse thematic areas with FAO.

Figure 3. Thematic areas of work

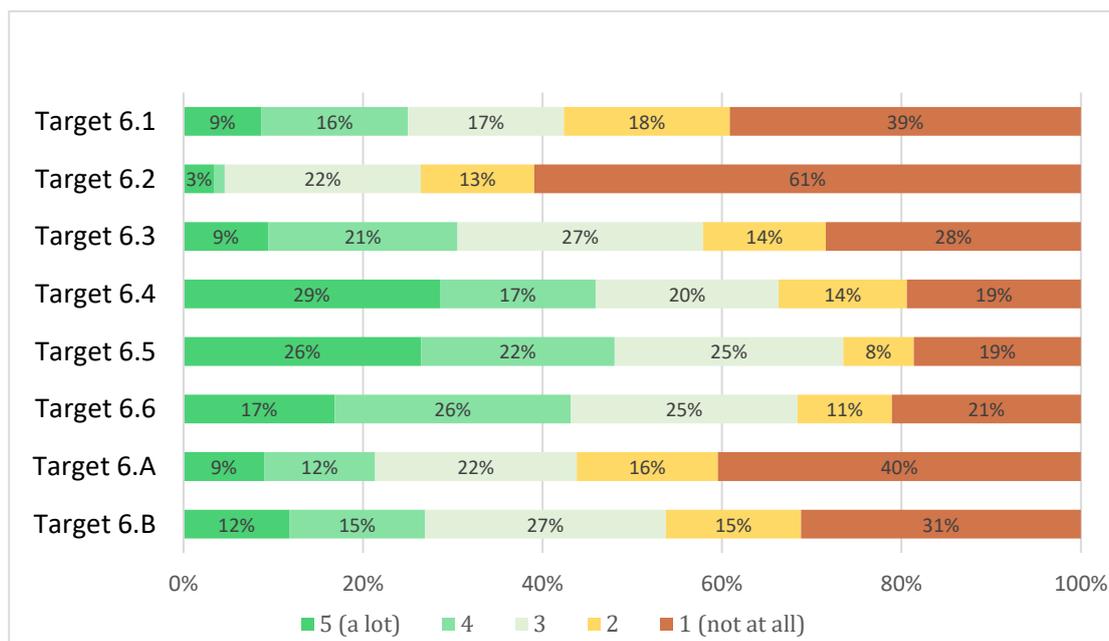


Source: Prepared by the evaluation team.

25. When asked to which SDG 6 targets¹ their work is related to, we can observe that targets 6.4 improve water use efficiency, ensure water availability for all users, 6.5 implement integrated water resources management and 6.6 protect and restore water-related ecosystems are the top three targets selected by the respondents. Fewer respondents related their work to SDG 6 target 6.2, which focuses on sanitation and hygiene.

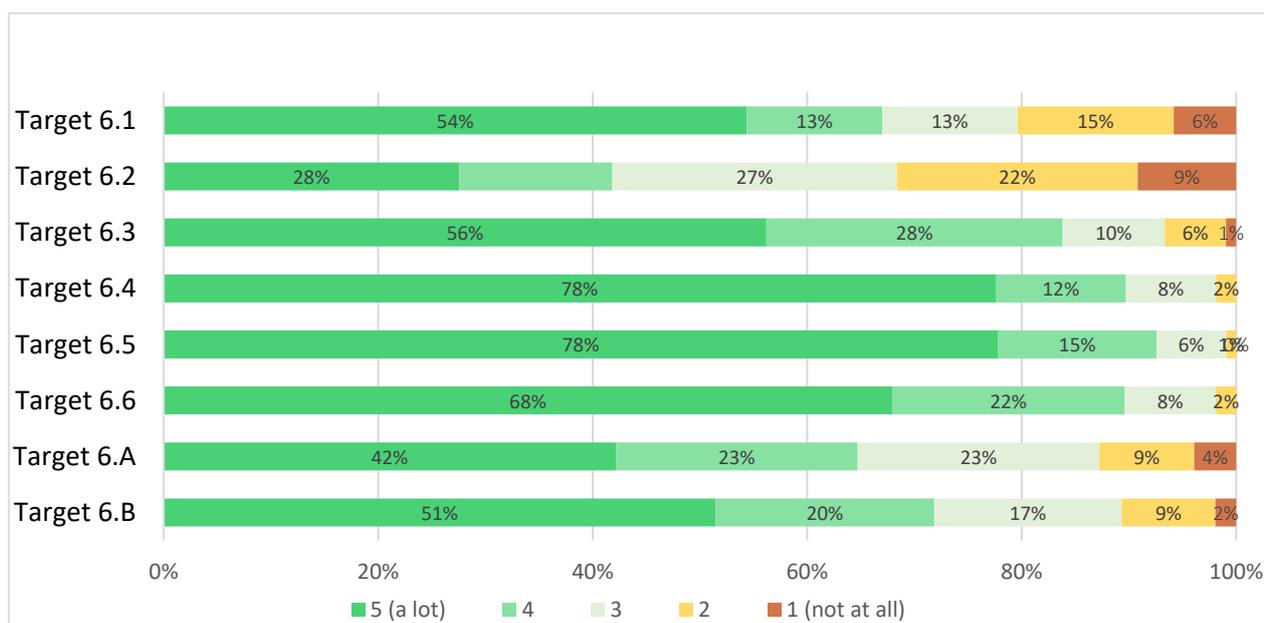
¹ As a reminder: target 6.1: safe and affordable drinking water, target 6.2: end open defecation and provide access to sanitation and hygiene, target 6.3: improve water quality through sustainable management and the reduction of pollution, target 6.4: improve water use efficiency, ensure water availability for all users and manage withdrawals to ensure sustainability, target 6.5: implement integrated water resources management, target 6.6: protect and restore water-related ecosystems, target 6.A: expand water and sanitation support to developing countries, target 6.B: support local engagement in water and sanitation management.

Figure 4. Work related to SDG 6 targets



Source: Prepared by the evaluation team.

26. Survey respondents tend to agree that most SDG 6 targets are interlinked and therefore of utmost important for FAO's mandate, with a special emphasis on targets 6.4 and 6.5. In fact, when further explaining their responses, participants specified that water plays a key role in food production and agriculture, and therefore integrated water resource management is key in ensuring the efficient use of water in agriculture, which is also linked to ecosystems restoration and protection. Several respondents suggest that the targets related to access to water and sanitation (6.1-6.2) should remain under the mandate of other United Nations (UN) agencies, such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) or the World Health Organization (WHO), which may have more experience and a stronger comparative advantage. However, they should not be neglected by FAO.
27. Some relevant quotes, which were extracted from the survey responses include:
 - i. water is very important to all, and especially so in agriculture and the provision of food;
 - ii. without water, no agriculture;
 - iii. drinkable water is a core resource for every food system. Food security includes water safety and water security; and
 - iv. quite simply, water is the basis for food security and human nutrition; where this vital liquid is not available, FAO's mandate will be half fulfilled.

Figure 5. Importance of SDG 6 targets for FAO's mandate

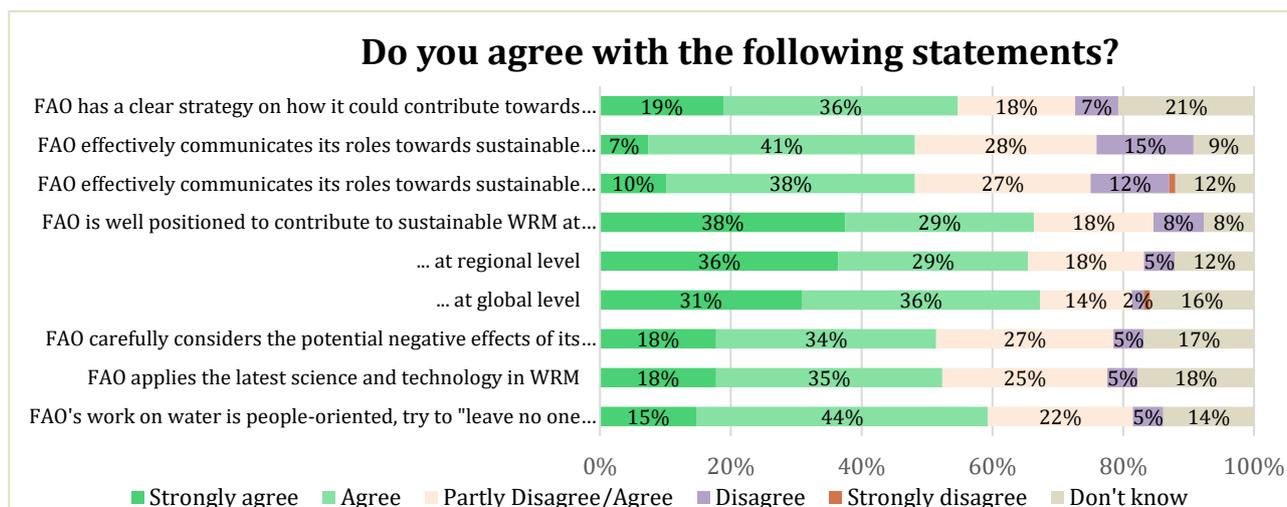
Source: Prepared by the evaluation team.

28. When asked to respond to several statements:

- i. 55 percent of respondents agree or strongly agree that FAO has a clear strategy on how it could contribute towards sustainable water resources management. However, 21 percent of respondents have no knowledge of the existence of such a strategy;
- ii. close to 48 percent of respondents agree or strongly agree that FAO effectively communicates its roles towards sustainable water resources management to its personnel and 48 percent when it comes to FAO's communication to its partners;
- iii. around 67 percent of survey participants agree or strongly agree that FAO is well positioned to contribute to sustainable water resources management at country level, which appears to be very similar when it comes to the regional (65 percent) and global level (67 percent);
- iv. 52 percent of participants agree or strongly agree that FAO carefully considers the potential negative effects of its work on sustainable water resources; a similar percentage (53 percent) agrees or strongly agrees that FAO applies the latest science and technology in water resources management; and
- v. finally, 59 percent of respondents agree or strongly agree that FAO's work on water is people-oriented, aiming to "leave no one behind".

29. It is interesting to note that in all statements, a noticeable percentage of respondents selected 'do not know'.

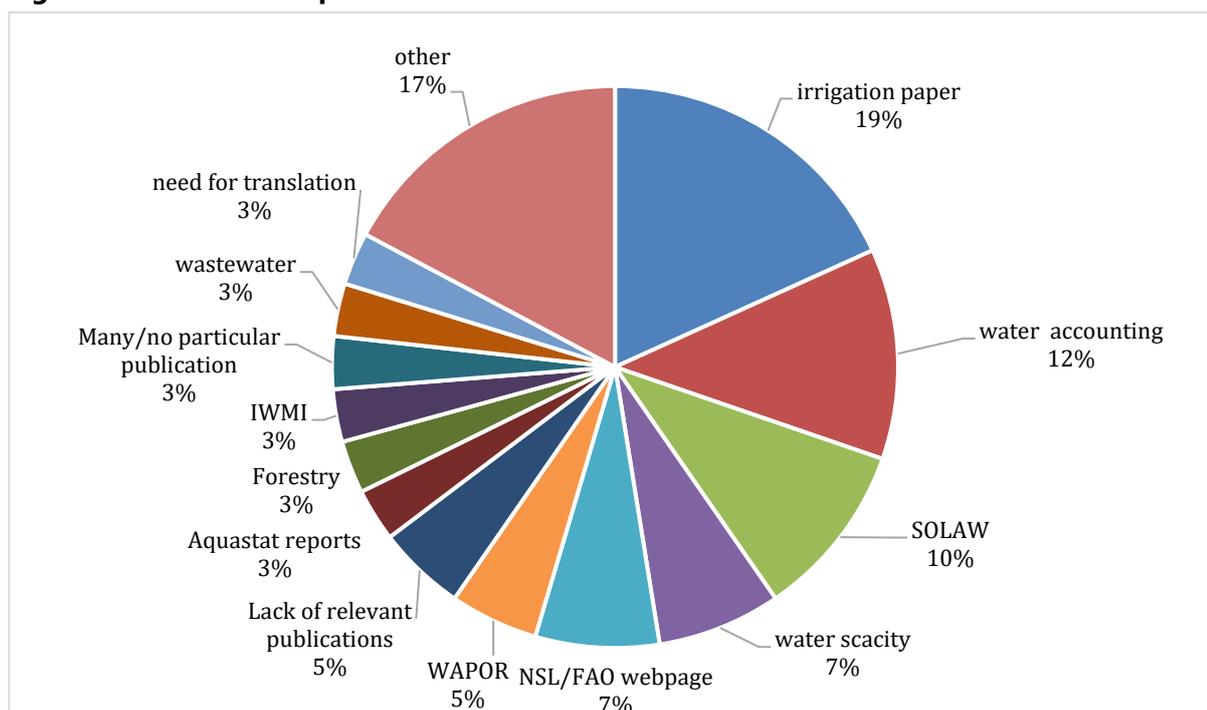
Figure 6. Do you agree with the following statements?



Source: Prepared by the evaluation team.

30. When asked to provide examples of FAO's key publications, guiding documents or resources regarding the topic of sustainable water resources management, the 60 responses varied: 18 percent rely on irrigation papers and guides followed by the water accounting and auditing resource book (12 percent) and the State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture (SOLAW) (10 percent). Generally speaking, 7 percent of responses refer to FAO's land and water website, which includes a long list of publications, and 7 percent of participants mentioned the reports on water scarcity. The lack of translation of technically sound FAO documents in other languages (such as Spanish) may hinder their effective use and outreach and was mentioned in 3 percent of the responses. The 'other' option contains publications on groundwater, governance, rain-fed agriculture, the State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) and SDGs, amongst others. The figure below illustrates a selection of key documents.

Figure 7. Relevant FAO publications on SDG 6



Source: Prepared by the evaluation team.

31. Regarding FAO's key strengths and weaknesses in supporting its Members to achieve SDG 6-related results, a compilation of key responses is summarized in the table below.

Table 2. Summary of respondent feedback on FAO's strengths and weaknesses

	Strengths	Weaknesses
Institutional level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAO's activities are aligned with national strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAO's contribution to SDG 6 is not sufficiently recognized in FAO's new programmatic approach Lack of common corporate vision and strategy on SDG 6 and potential synergies Lack of sufficient funds to ensure wide dissemination of knowledge on water resource management Very low project portfolio on the topic
Technical level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong and recognized technical knowledge and know-how in related areas such as: water management, integrated natural resources management approaches, IWRM amongst others Knowledge and implementation of new technologies in the field of water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor expertise in WASH and sanitation FAO mostly focused on water withdrawals for agricultural (crop) use with less emphasis on the forestry and fisheries aspects
Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAO has the ability in mobilizing resources for large-scale projects FAO is recognized by member countries as an independent technical agency FAO managed to involve ministries and member countries in its activities Ability to provide a neutral platform for inclusive dialogue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAO does not partner-up with different agencies
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAO as knowledge-sharing institution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of staff and experts working in the area Lack of visibility Heavy bureaucracy and admin process that might slow down the process

Source: Prepared by the evaluation team.

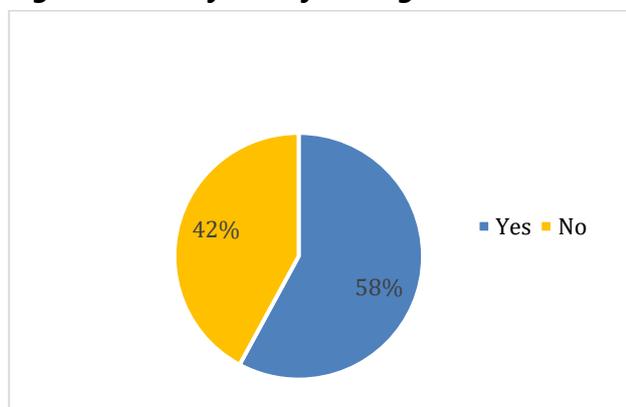
32. When asked whether FAO should do more to improve its contributions to SDG 6, 66 respondents who responded to this open-ended question tend to agree, with 12 percent not indicating specific areas. 14 percent of these respondents mention that FAO should follow an integrated approach in its work on SDG 6, as most of the SDGs and SDG targets are interlinked and should work together at all levels. 8 percent mention the need to further work on irrigation, and 6 percent point out pollution as a field of improvement. Capacity building and training on water-related issues, as well as the topic of water were each mentioned at 5 percent.
33. Additional recommendations for improvements include, amongst others, the areas of:
- i. water governance
 - ii. partnerships
 - iii. drinking water
 - iv. infrastructure
 - v. M&E
 - vi. knowledge sharing
 - vii. soil management
34. When asked if FAO missed some good opportunities to contribute more effectively to SDG 6, the 31 responses varied:

- i. eight responses agree that the main missed opportunities were the lack of partnerships with other sister agencies, and UN water members;
 - ii. on the other hand, five responses state that they do not identify any missed opportunity; in fact, some respondents point out that on the contrary, FAO created a strong momentum around SDG 6 which should be continued;
 - iii. three responses mention the need to strengthen country-level engagement with the relevant national ministries when addressing water resource management; this is followed by pointing out the need to increase technology transfer and innovative approaches, with three responses; and
 - iv. one respondent also mention that FAO's strategy on climate change should make clear reference to SDG 6, and another person believes that the biggest missed opportunity for FAO in recent times lately is the fact that water is not mentioned in the new strategic framework.
35. Lastly, survey respondents included 37 recommendations and further comments regarding FAO's contribution to SDG 6. Responses reflect what had already been mentioned on missed opportunities, more specifically the need to establish sustainable and long-lasting partnerships (nine responses) with relevant partners and UN agencies but also country offices and youth. Enhance communication and the visibility on SDG6 is also amongst the most frequent recommendations (five responses) followed by the need to strengthen and increase the investment in the field of water (three responses).

External FAO partners survey analysis

36. The survey aimed at external partners asked 17 questions. 77 staff members of partner organizations provided responses, out of which 28 percent based in Africa, 25 percent in Latin America, 22 percent in Asia and the Pacific and 13 percent in NENA. No respondents were based in Europe and a minority, 9 percent, works globally.
37. Survey respondents mainly work at government level (39 percent), closely followed by primary partner organizations (16 percent) and the private sector (16 percent).
38. 58 percent of respondents have already worked with FAO on matters related to water while the remaining 42 percent did not work directly with FAO on matters related to water.

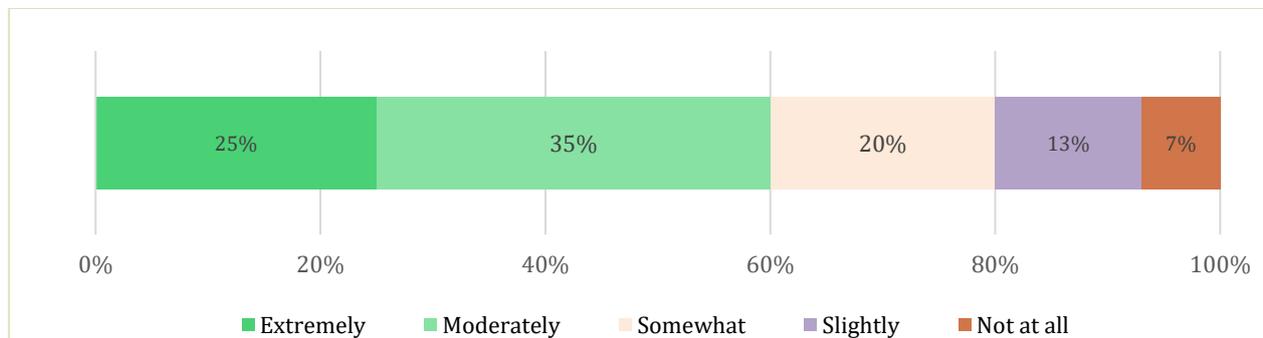
Figure 8. Have you or your organization worked with FAO on matters related to water?



Source: Prepared by the evaluation team.

39. As for the respondents' familiarity with FAO's work related to SDG 6: 35 percent said moderate, 25 percent said very high and only 7 percent said they do not have any knowledge on FAO's work related to water.

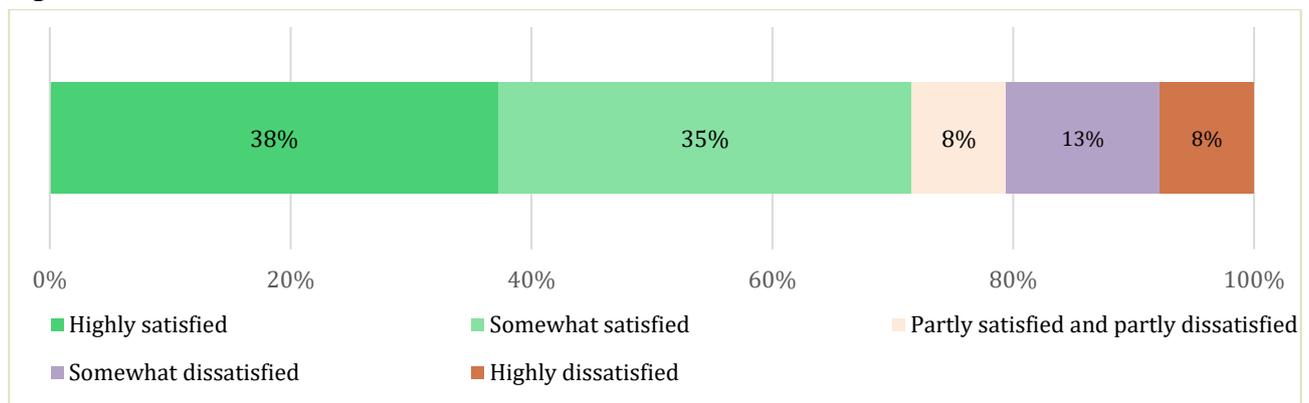
Figure 9. Familiarity with FAO's work related to water



Source: Prepared by the evaluation team.

40. For those who stated that they have worked with FAO on matters related to water (44), 38 percent reported to be highly satisfied, closely followed by 35 percent who are somewhat satisfied partners. Amongst the 7 percent of highly dissatisfied respondents, some mention the absence of follow-up on decisions taken during the meetings related to water, both by FAO (headquarters and country offices) or national government counterparts.

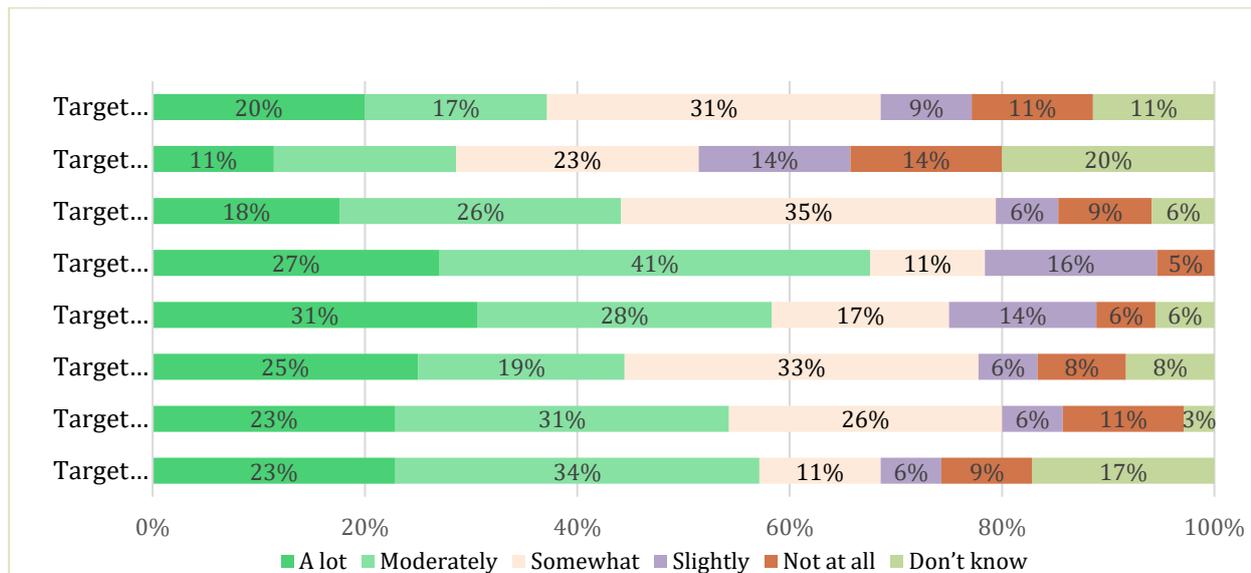
Figure 10. FAO collaboration satisfaction rate



Source: Prepared by the evaluation team.

41. On average, survey participants assess that FAO has somehow contributed to most of the SDG 6 targets, with target 6.4 on improving water use efficiency and target 6.5 on implementing integrated water resources management and target 6.B on supporting local engagement in water and sanitation management being amongst the top three. Target 6.2 on sanitation seems to be less associated to FAO.

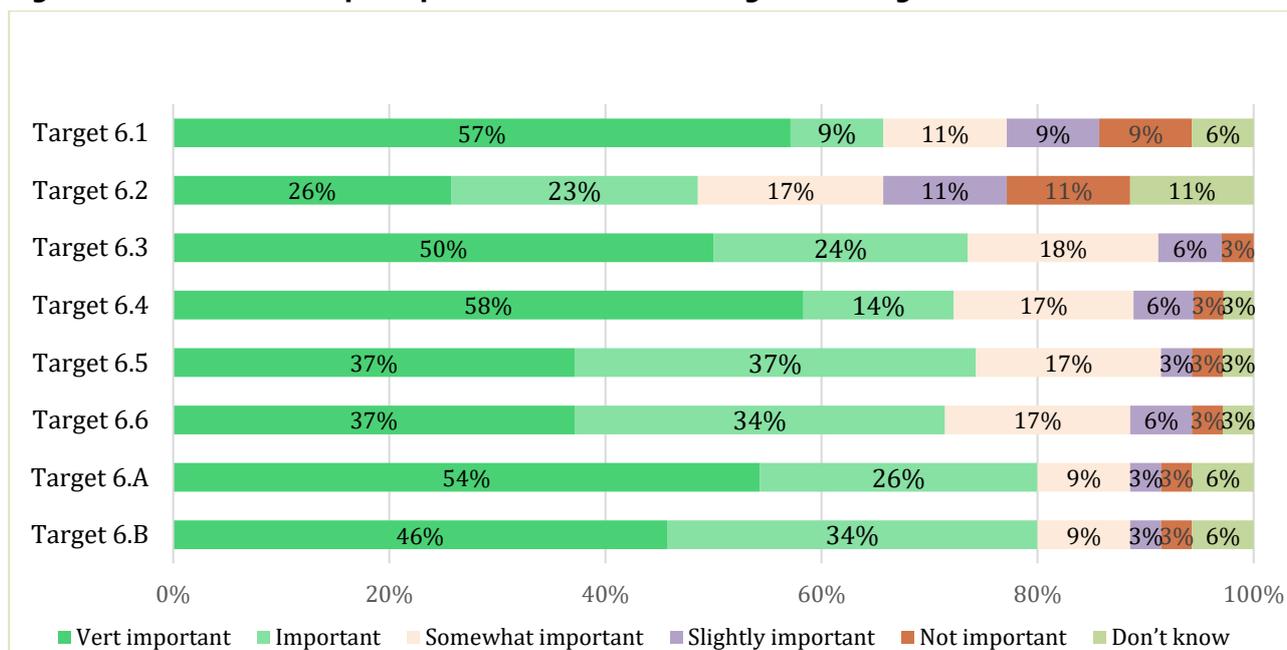
Figure 11. FAO contribution to SDG 6 targets



Source: Prepared by the evaluation team.

42. When asked if FAO should in principle work on any specific targets, respondents generally perceive that FAO should work on all the SDG 6 targets to achieve its mandate with target 6.2 being chosen the least. Target 6.A on expanding water and sanitation support to developing countries and target 6.B on supporting local engagement in water and sanitation management appear to be the most important.
43. This is also reflected when providing additional explanations, where respondents tend to link sanitation, WASH and hygiene targets to other UN partner agencies (UNICEF and WHO) and emphasize the importance for FAO to act at the local level, with rural and local communities.

Figure 12. Should FAO in principle work on the following SDG 6 targets to achieve its mandate?



Source: Prepared by the evaluation team.

44. With regard to FAO’s main strengths and weaknesses in addressing the topic of water, the main responses are illustrated in the summary table below.

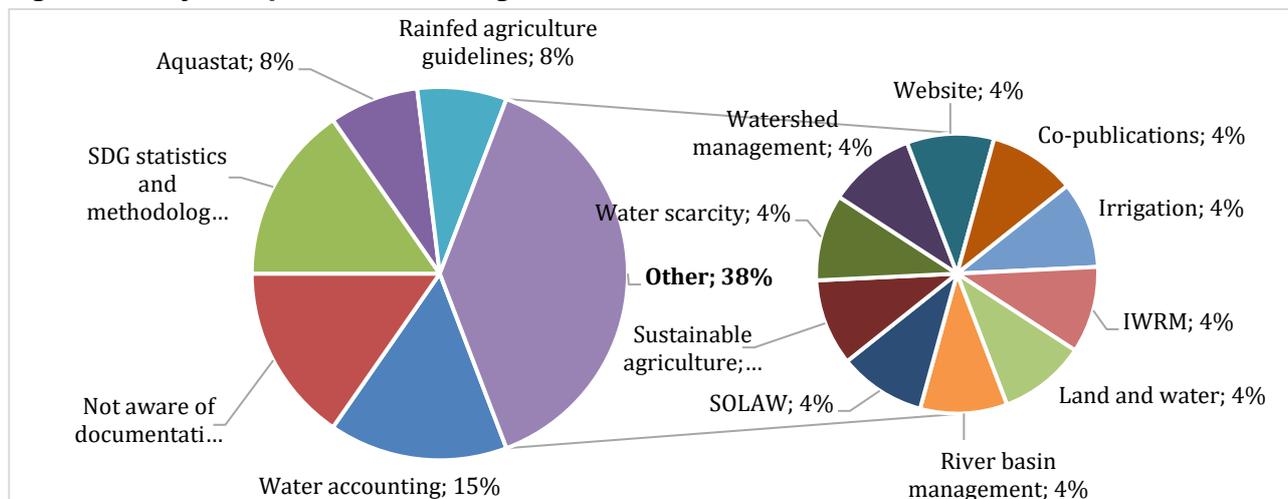
Table 3. Summary of respondent feedback on FAO’s strengths and weaknesses

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 45% of the strengths mentioned by survey participants were FAO’s local engagement and proximity to key national stakeholders. FAO collaboration and coordination is appreciated. • 23% mention FAO’s technical capacities and knowledge in the field of water. • Additional strengths: FAO’ knowledge sharing, capacity building efforts through studies and training sessions and general efforts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around 35% of responses revolved around FAO’s lack of funding and limited budget when it comes to water project. • 21% mention delays in project implementation or data publication, due to a tedious administrative process. • Poor local engagement was mentioned several times as well (21%). • Additional weaknesses: poor connection with the private sector, and little visibly of water in FAO’s global agenda.

Source: Prepared by the evaluation team.

45. When it came to mapping FAO key publications related to SDG 6 thematic areas, responses are very diverse. SDG statistics and methodologies seem to be amongst the most consulted together with water accounting guidelines (both at 15 percent). However, the same amount of participants point out that they are not aware of any specific FAO documentation on water. The figure below includes all the mentioned publications.

Figure 13. Key FAO publications and guidelines



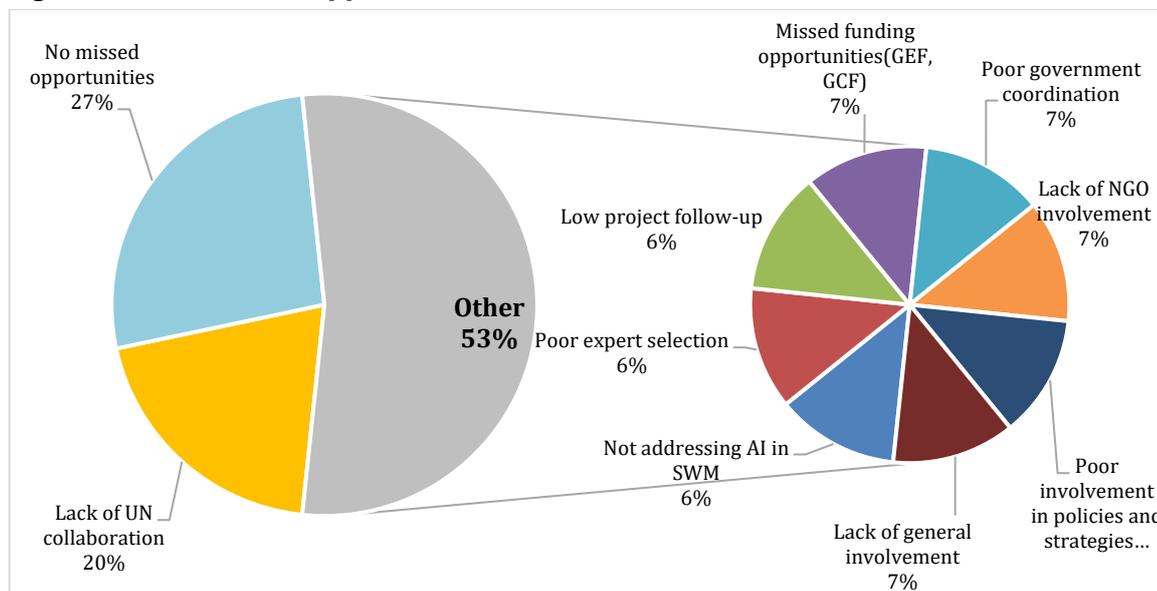
Source: Prepared by the evaluation team.

46. Respondents were asked to identify FAO’s missed opportunities in the areas related to SDG 6, to which they responded with a wide range of items. First, four respondents pointed out that FAO did not miss any good opportunities to contribute effectively to SDG 6 in the past years. Three people, however, mention the lack of UN collaboration and partnerships when it comes to achieving SDG6. Other identified missed opportunities are rather varied:

- i. not addressing artificial intelligence in sustainable water management;
- ii. poor expert selection;
- iii. low project follow-up;
- iv. missed funding opportunities(GEF, GCF);
- v. poor government coordination;
- vi. lack of NGO involvement;

- vii. poor involvement in policies and strategies; and
- viii. lack of general involvement.

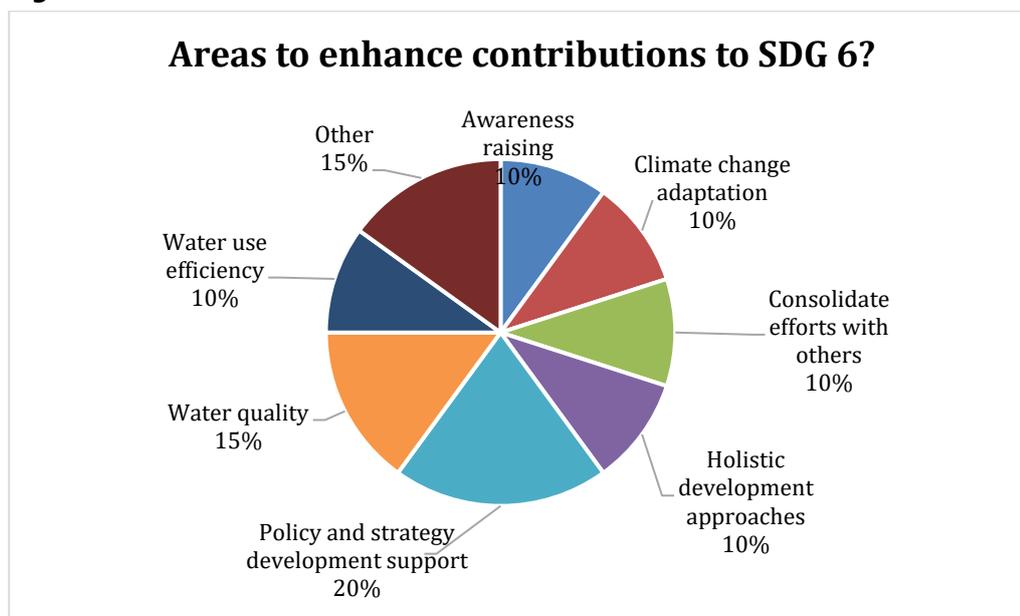
Figure 14. FAO missed opportunities



Source: Prepared by the evaluation team.

47. All respondents who responded to this open-ended question (20) agree that FAO should not work less on water resources management. The main areas in which FAO could do more appear to be providing support to policy and strategy development at national level (four responses) as well as interventions and work on water quality (three responses). Respondents also mention additional sectors, which are illustrated in the figure below.

Figure 15. Areas to enhance contributions to SDG 6?



Source: Prepared by the evaluation team.

48. Recommendations for FAO's future contribution to SDG 6 varied: five respondents mention the need to create knowledge-sharing platforms and networks on SDG 6 at country-level, and offer capacity building sessions on the topic; three respondents recommend to strengthen existing

collaborations with both government counterparts and/or external partners such as UN agencies. The remaining responses include the request to provide additional training material and the need to streamline administrative processes.

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