

# SDG 6: Target 6.5 Speaker Notes

To accompany the Target 6.5 Slide Deck

- Slide 1: Today we will be discussing the fifth target of SDG 6 -- to implement integrated water resource management.
- Slide 2: As defined by the United Nations, sustainable development goal number 6 is to “ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.” Here’s a short video highlighting some of the key issues this sustainable development goal addresses. \*Play video.\*
- Slide 3: Target 6.5, as defined by the UN is “By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.”
- Slide 4: This may seem shocking with only a decade to go before the goals are supposed to be met, but it just stresses how important integrated water resources management is for a sustainable future for all. Learn more about how to track progress of this target in the next few slides.
- Slide 5: We will be able to track this target’s progress after looking deeper into its components for implementation, also known as indicators.
- Slide 6: According to the UN, the first indicator is the “degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100).” The four key components of IWRM are enabling environment, institutions and participation, management instruments, and financing. Together, they take into account the numerous uses of water and its users, with the goal of promoting social, economic, and environmental growth. The following slides will elaborate on this indicator with many moving pieces.
- Slide 7: In line with the fact from a few slides ago, the most common status for development and implementation of IWRM is a medium-low level of implementation. Right after that is the medium-high level of implementation. Fortunately only 1% of countries reported having a very low level of implementation, but at the same time only 4% of 172 countries reported having very high levels of implementation. In a nutshell, this means that we have a long way to go when it comes to improving IWRM globally.
- Slide 8: This figure breaks down the four key components that make up IWRM and shows which ones are getting the most attention from recent data. It demonstrates that all but financing are fairly close in implementation, which is great. Unfortunately, like most of the SDGs, financing is the one component that often is lacking because many

countries cannot support these ambitious goals all on their own, especially when resources are low from the start and problems like climate change continue to make all issues more challenging to combat. Overall, the world has 54% implementation of IWRM in place. This is significant, but there is still a lot of progress to make in the next decade.

- Slide 9: As described above, this indicator tracks the percentage of countries that share transboundary basins that have some sort of arrangement set to ensure cooperation with a shared resource. We will look further into this matter in the next slides.
- Slide 10: Out of a possible 193 UN Member States, 153 of them share transboundary waters. The vast majority of States regularly run into each other in these shared bodies of water daily, and only 59% of them have an operational arrangement for water cooperation. To ensure shared resources are properly managed, we must continue to increase that percentage in hopes of better cooperation in the future.
- Slide 11: As the figure shows, the percent of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation is broken into river and lake basins, and transboundary aquifers. It would make sense that countries would prioritize the obvious shared water bodies they have such as rivers and lakes because they are the most accessible. Aquifers have shown to be exceptionally overused around the world for the last few decades, and they rarely have the same management practices in place as rivers and lakes. Aquifers regenerate over time, slowly, but over extraction of these precious resources to the point of depletion is a permanent consequence if countries let it go that far. Overall, 59% of countries with transboundary basins have an agreement in place to cooperate with shared lakes, rivers, and aquifers. With 153 Member States sharing crucial bodies of water, this topic will be of utmost importance and climate change and water scarcity grow more damaging in the next decade.
- Slide 12: Mongolia is a country in Asia with a relatively small population despite its large size, but 69% of its people live in urban areas. 71% of the population has access to a basic hand washing facility, but only 24% use a safely managed drinking water service. Despite this gap in other SDG 6 targets, Mongolia is doing really well in Target 6.5. The country has 45% implementation of IWRM as of 2020, which is better than many of its neighbors. It still has quite a bit of progress to make, but they are almost to fifty percent in the first five years of Indicator 6.5.1's existence. More impressively, Mongolia has achieved Indicator 6.5.2 goal of 100% transboundary basin area with operational agreements for water cooperation. This means that all of its rivers, lakes, and aquifers that it shares with its neighbors have some functional agreement in place to promote greater coexistence and cooperation. There are only a handful of countries in the world that have reached this achievement, so the world should be looking to Mongolia as a prime example of how to get closer to completing Target 6.5. We will look further into the country's performance in the next few slides.

- Slide 13: In the figure, you can see that Mongolia has managed to uphold operational arrangements for water cooperation in 100% of its transboundary river and lake basins and 100% of its transboundary aquifers. Overall, that means that Mongolia has met the indicator's goal of 100% for all agreements with its transboundary waters. This is fantastic, and it makes sense given the country has very low water scarcity (only 3% of renewable water resources are being withdrawn) and clearly cares about its transboundary waters too. This is a great example of a country that has properly cooperated with its neighbors in sharing essential bodies of water.
- Slide 14: Integrated water resources management (IWRM) was reported at 45% implementation in Mongolia as of 2020. While the country still has a little more than halfway to go to reach the target's goal by 2030, there is certainly progress since Target 6.5 was created. The breakdown of the four components that make up IWRM demonstrates that financing is the main area that is lacking--keeping with the global trend. It should be noted that most of Mongolia's resources have been put into the enabling environment category, which makes the future more hopeful for IWRM progress here. Boosting this component creates future investment in IWRM by creating a positive feedback loop where progress increases off of a higher chance of progressing each year.
- Slide 15: Target 6.5 handles internal and external water resources management for UN Member States, which goes hand-in-hand with all of the other targets in SDG 6. Once a country can properly manage its water resources, it can begin to work on how they use it for daily needs like drinking water and sanitation. Improper management hinders progress for all of the other targets in 6.5, but proper management can promote growth for all of SDG 6 if countries are diligent. Meeting bare minimum requirements for SDG through Target 6.5 also shows intersectionality with other SDGs, mainly dealing with human health and wellbeing. Once water is properly managed, equitably, a country can begin working on creating sustainable cities, combating hunger, and promoting further conservation and cooperation to help in all areas.
- Slide 16: N/A