

## Progress on

## Integrated Water Resources Management

# in Asia-Pacific 2021



Approximately

# 1.1 billion

people in Asia alone live in areas currently experiencing severe water stress and, unless significant action is taken, the affected population is expected to increase by more than **40%** by 2050.



### Third Asia-Pacific Water Summit | Yangon - Myanmar, December 2017

The leaders of the Asia-Pacific region declared their determination to achieve water security for sustainable development including facilitating the implementation of IWRM towards meeting the 2030 Agenda.



**Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)** is central to achieving SDG 6, to ensure the availability of sustainable management of water and sanitation for all which is essential for achieving virtually all other SDG targets.

IWRM provides a holistic framework to ensure that water resources are developed, managed, and used in an equitable, sustainable, and efficient manner. The degree of implementation of IWRM is formalised as SDG target 6.5

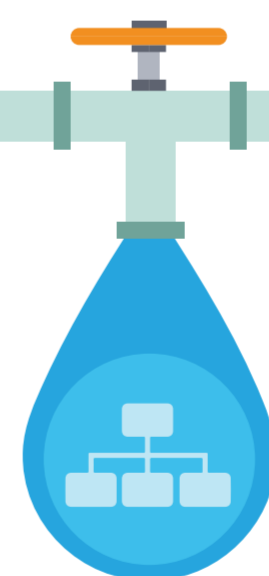
IWRM has **FOUR** dimensions



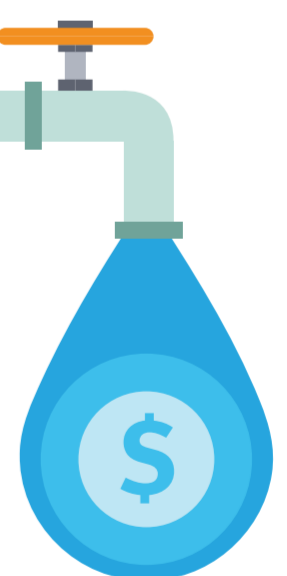
ENABLING ENVIRONMENT



INSTITUTIONS AND PARTICIPATION



MANAGEMENT INSTRUMENTS



FINANCING

The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) is the custodian agency responsible for monitoring the progress of SDG indicator 6.5.1 IWRM, which was reported by UN member countries in 2017 and 2020, based on a self-assessment through a survey instrument.

**In 2020, 58 countries in Asia-Pacific participated in the IWRM reporting and monitoring.**

Under the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme in 2020, GWP in collaboration with UNEP-DHI and Cap-Net supported 16 countries in the region in conducting IWRM country reporting and monitoring, through Country Water Partnerships (CWPs) by using a multi-stakeholder consultation approach.

A Learning Exchange workshop was held on December 10, 2020, to share the lessons learned of the multi-stakeholder approach, and pathways to advance IWRM implementation in the region.

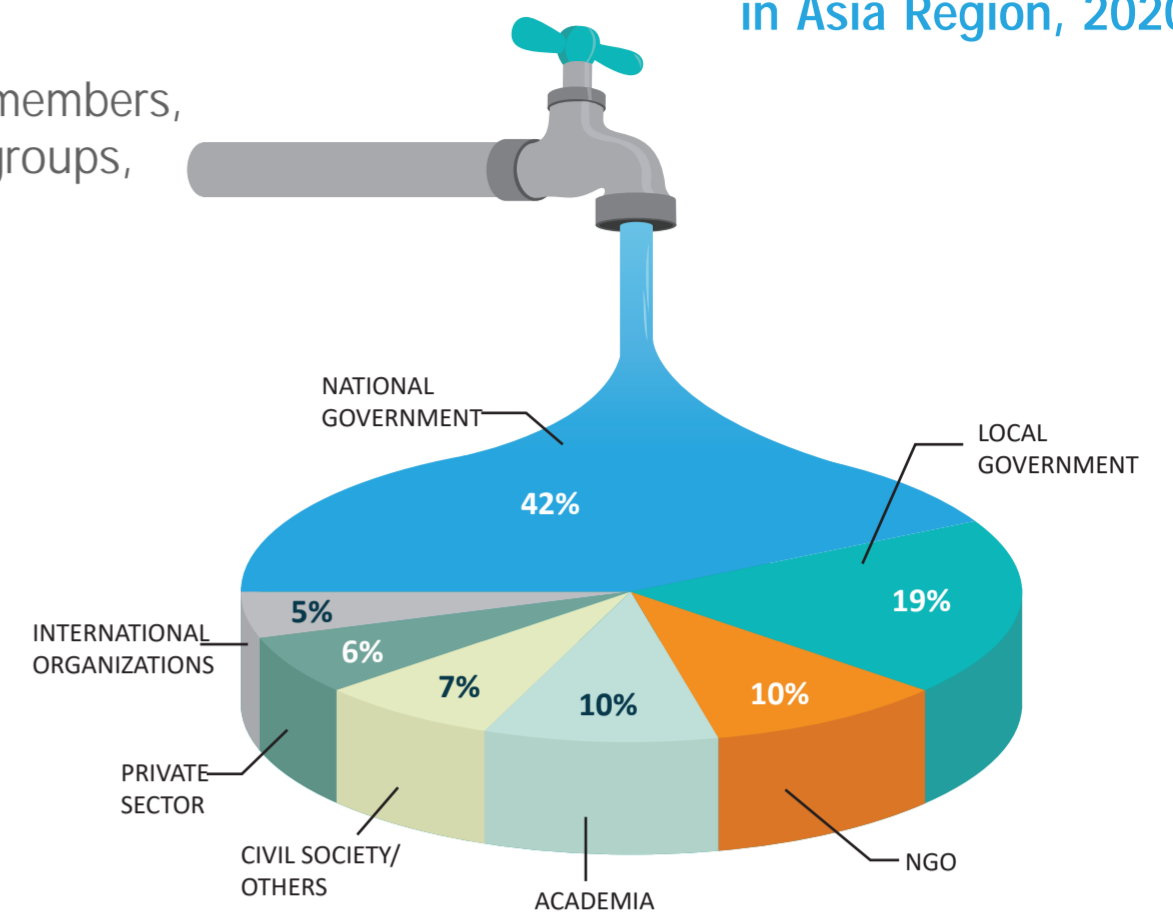
Based on implementation in the 16 facilitated countries, the 3 highlighted lessons learned from the monitoring process are:



### 1. Stakeholders from all levels should be engaged

Including subnational or basin level participants, such as local water management authorities, river basin council committee members, water users, private sector, farmers, local communities, vulnerable groups, and indigenous communities.

Proportion of stakeholders who took part in SDG 6.5.1 consultation in 16 countries in Asia Region, 2020



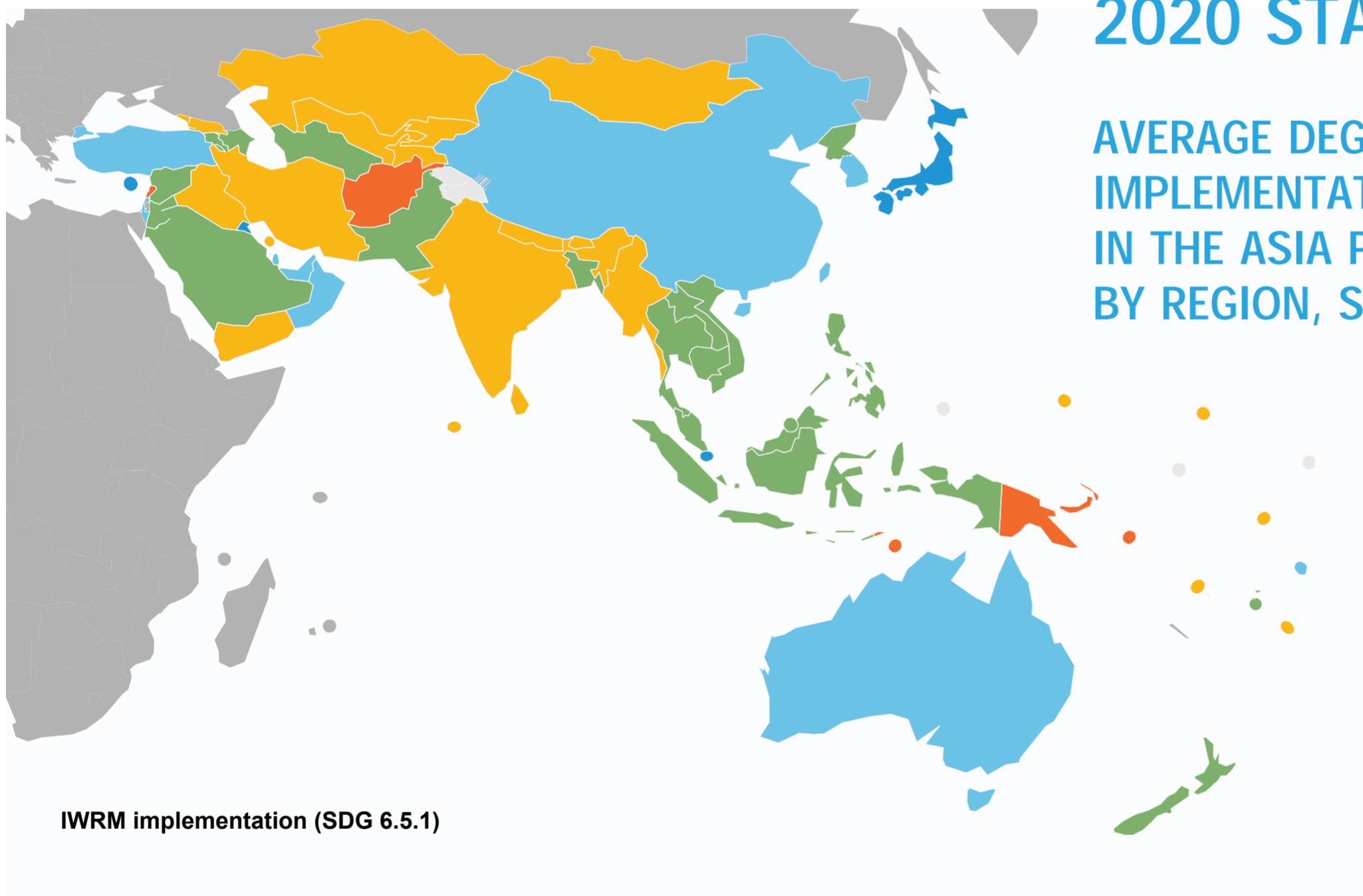
### 2. Gathering essential data and information

and ensuring data integrity is important prior to the consultation process with stakeholders. Having accurate and sufficient data for analysis remains challenging: data collection, validation and analysis was flagged as the most challenging issue through the different consultative processes undertaken.



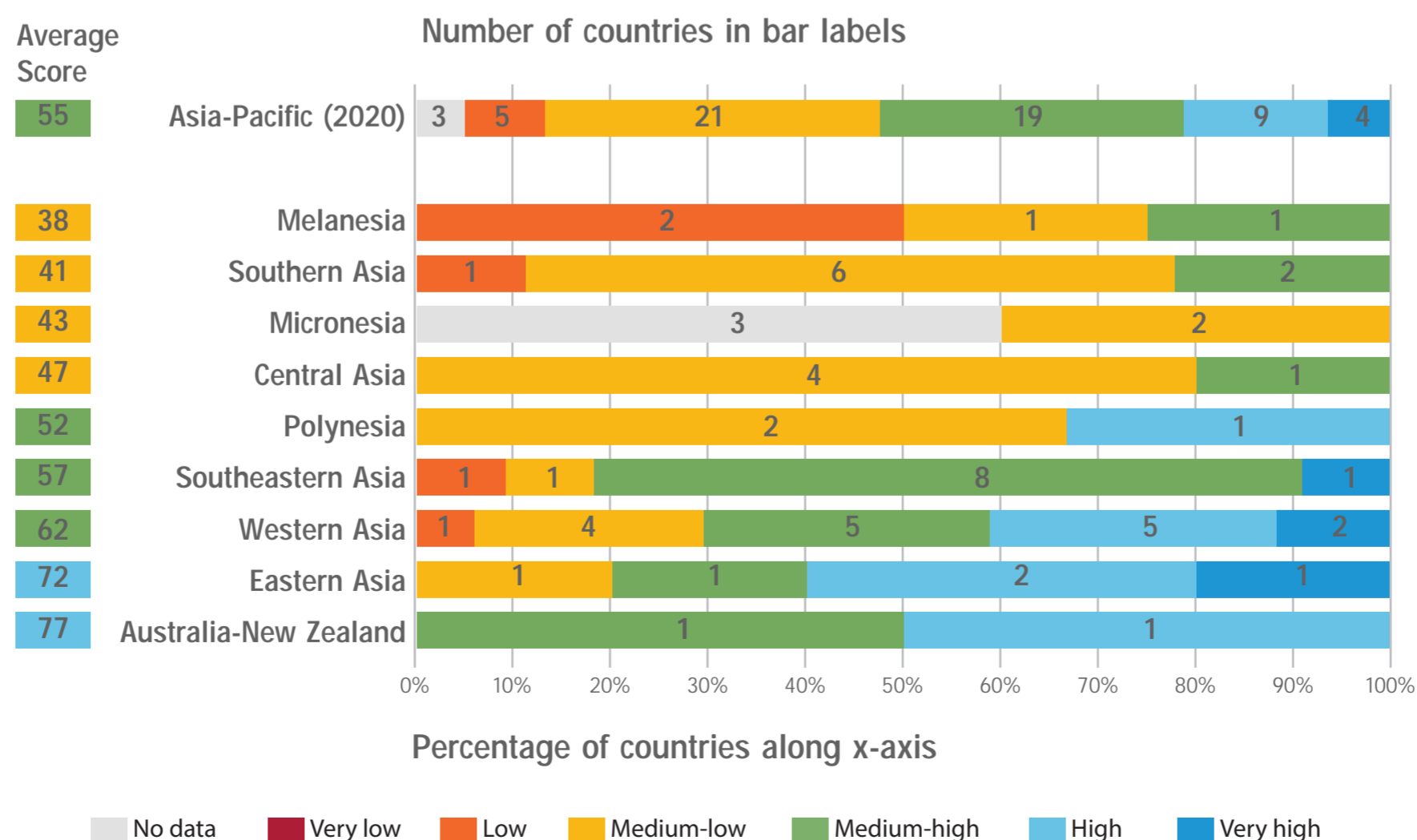
### 3. The monitoring process can be a valuable mechanism

for cross-sectoral and multi-level dialogue, enhancing synergies, strengthening or expanding multi-sectoral coordination and collaboration, starting up new collaborative change initiatives, or introducing context sensitive innovations to advance IWRM implementation.



## 2020 STATUS

AVERAGE DEGREE OF IWRM IMPLEMENTATION (SDG INDICATOR 6.5.1) IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION IN 2020 BY REGION, SUBREGION AND COUNTRY



# ACTION TO ACCELERATE IWRM IMPLEMENTATION IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION IS REQUIRED AT ALL LEVELS AND ACROSS DIMENSIONS.



1. Develop or accelerate the passing and full implementation of critical laws for water, environment and natural resource management that reflect principles of sustainable water resources management through sensitising political leaders, prioritising legislative processes, and engaging stakeholders.



2. Harmonise and align cross-sectoral, interagency policies and coordination structures.



3. Establish, deepen or expand stakeholder participation in water decision making and IWRM implementation and ensure stakeholders from all levels are engaged. For example, at the sub-national and basin level, including local water management authorities, river basin council committee members, water users, private sector, farmers, local communities, vulnerable groups, and indigenous communities.



4. Create robust, transparent, unified platforms and mechanisms for data capture, and information sharing at all levels within and between countries and ensure open access to data.



5. Build, strengthen and expand partnerships, including with the private sector, to unlock new co-financing opportunities.

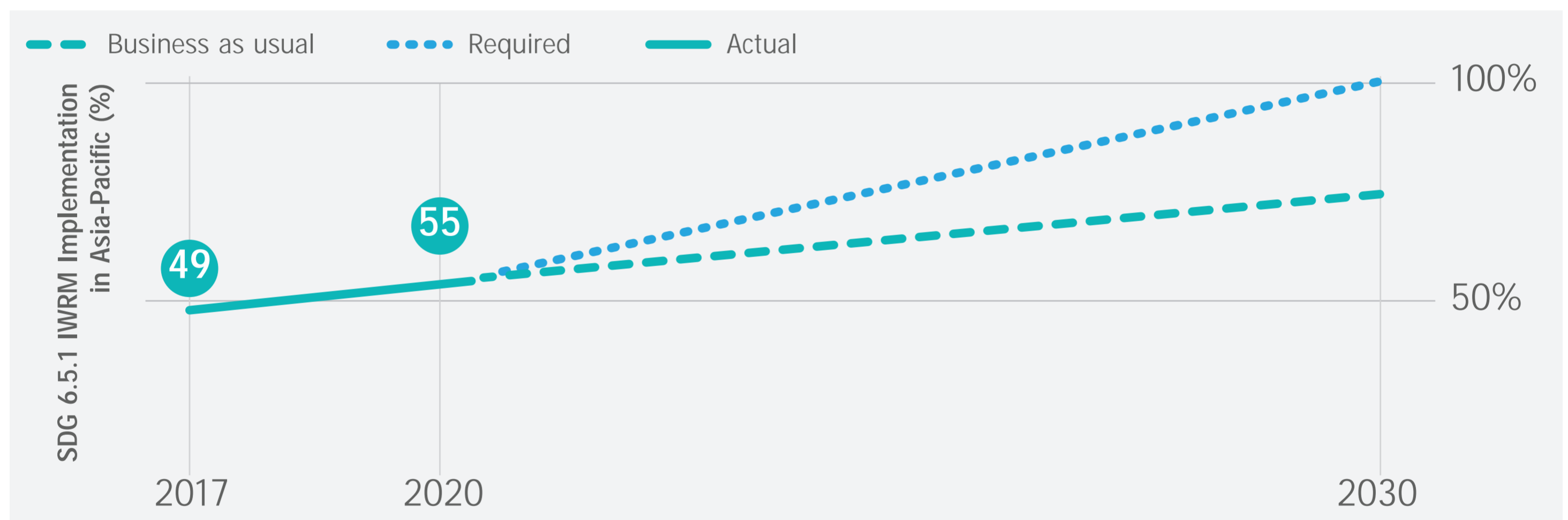


6. Increase revenue for IWRM through mechanisms such as water pricing mechanisms and water taxes (user pays and polluter pays principles).



7. Strengthen regional legal frameworks, transboundary information sharing, and transboundary water management arrangements between state authorities, where they are lacking, to enhance transboundary cooperation.

It is estimated that if a business-as-usual approach continues, most countries are unlikely to reach the 2030 target.



What is needed more than anything else to advance towards IWRM is political will at the highest level possible, both within countries, but also between them, through regional cooperation and collaboration.

### We call upon:

- national and sub-national governments to prioritise integrated approaches to land and water management in their budgeting and planning exercises;
- academic, civil society and private sector partners to accompany and support governments in these endeavours; and
- regional economic commissions and development partners to actively provide technical, financial and political support to governments in the necessary steps towards full implementation of IWRM.

The SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme stands ready to support all these stakeholders in this endeavour.



The SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme:  
<https://www.gwp.org/en/sdg6support/>



to see the full findings of the report, check this link:  
<https://bit.ly/37XeoT5>

