SDG 6 IWRM SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Global Water Partnership Central Asia and Caucasus

Агентство по стратегическому планированию и реформам Республики Казахстан
Бюро национальной статистики

SDG 6.5.1 Stakeholder Consultation Report

Kazakhstan

February 2024

Report on consultations
stakeholder consultations in Kazakhstan

In Kazakhstan, the Department of International Cooperation and Sustainable Development of the Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan is officially designated as the national focal point for indicator 6.5.1.

The main role of the national coordinator is to facilitate data collection in the country, as well as to prepare data for submission to the UN as part of official reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.1.

Kazakhstan was one of 186 UN Member States to complete and submit the questionnaire for this indicator in 2020 against the 2017 baseline.

The questionnaire from the UN on SDG indicator 6.5.1 together with supporting information and a formal data request was received by the National Focal Points in April 2023 and distributed to all stakeholders. The issues presented in the UNEP template have been worked through with the remaining parties and a common vision agreed upon.

According to the methodology for SDG indicator 6.5.1, various stakeholders were consulted on integrated water resources management (government agencies, civil society, academia, etc.).

Accordingly, the process included consultation with relevant colleagues and institutions, consolidation of stakeholder inputs and timely submission of information to UNEP.

From September 14 to 15, 2023 in Astana at the site of JSC "Institute of Economic Research" a national consultation was held to discuss progress and global reporting on the extent of implementation of integrated water resources management. 19 experts from 14 organizations participated.

The organizers of this event were the Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan together with the Public Foundation "Water Partnership of Kazakhstan" with technical and financial support in the process of consultations with stakeholders provided by the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme coordinated by the Global Water Partnership in collaboration with UNEP-DHI and UNDP Cap-Net, under the guidance of UNEP.

1. Conclusions from the thematic discussions on section 1: Enabling environment

a) What are the major challenges to progress in the country?

The Republic of Kazakhstan has developed many documents on water policy with IWRM elements, including water and environmental legislation, strategies and programs, and basin plans. But due to the lack of sufficient interests and incentives for economic sectors to change their unsustainable approaches, practical implementation of strategies and laws remain problematic.

b) How can the underlying problems be solved?

The "Concept of Development of Water Resources Management System of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2024-2030" and the new edition of the "Water Code

of the Republic of Kazakhstan" prepared for approval should be based on the principles of integrated water resources management to achieve SDG 6.

The strategic importance of water resources for economic and social development, as well as for environmental sustainability should be explained to representatives of governmental bodies and population through mass media and trainings. More broadly consider public-private partnerships to improve public policy of water resources management.

c) What are the main points that stakeholders disagree with and why?

A number of state and sectoral programs have been adopted and implemented in the water sector. However, despite the allocation of significant budgetary funds, there is no available information on the implementation of these programs and achievement of target indicators set in them. Due to the lack of information, some points may be lowly evaluated by experts.

d) Other interesting points to note in the discussion?

A number of provisions and norms related to regulation of water relations are included in the Environmental, Land and Forest Codes of the Republic of Kazakhstan. With the adoption of the new Water Code, it will be necessary to revise all by-laws and normative documents on regulation of water resources use and protection.

2. Findings from the thematic discussions on section 2: Institutions and participation

(a) What are the main challenges to progress in the country?

In the reporting period under review in Kazakhstan, the Water Resources Committee had a very low status and the sectoral dependence of water resources management on the Ministry of Geology, Ecology and Natural Resources (some time of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources) are the main problems.

b) How can the main problems be addressed?

In March 2022, the Water Council of Kazakhstan was established. In early September 2023, the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation was established in Kazakhstan, which is responsible for water resources management.

c) What main points do stakeholders disagree with and why?

At the time of assessing the extent of IWRM implementation in Kazakhstan, water resources by use in sectors of the economy were scattered across different agencies and therefore there may be disagreement among stakeholders.

d) Other interesting points of discussion?

There are many recommendations to raise the status of Basin Councils. The experience of developed countries (USA, France, South Korea) in basin management was discussed as a possible option to improve water resources management.

3. Conclusions from the thematic discussions on section 3: "Management tools"

a) What are the main problems in the way of progress in the country?

The established unified tariff for water use does not cover the costs of irrigation canal rehabilitation. There is no unified methodology for determining environmental flow in Kazakhstan.

b) How can the main problems be solved?

State and international support is needed to introduce water saving technologies and to build capacity of peasant farms, farmers and decision makers.

c) What are the main points that stakeholders disagree with and why?

Farmers do not agree with the increase of water use tariff set by rural consumer cooperatives. In order to avoid social conflicts, it is necessary to envisage state support for the reconstruction of irrigation networks.

d) Other interesting points that should be emphasized during the discussion?

In Kazakhstan it is necessary to significantly improve management tools.

4. Conclusions from the thematic discussions on section 4: Financing

a) What are the main challenges to progress in the country?

At the local level there is no funding ***for operational needs, we have to wait for funding from the national budget.***

b) How can the main problems be solved?

This problem can be solved by decentralization of budgets and raising the status of Basin Inspectorates and local water management organizations.

c) What are the main points that stakeholders disagree with and why?

Outflow of qualified personnel, due to low salaries of local water management staff.

d) Other interesting points that should be emphasized during the discussion?

It is necessary to interest and attract investors and private sector by creating special favorable conditions for business.

5. Next Steps

Representatives of the Basin Inspectorates for Regulation of Water Resources Use and Protection, the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kazakhmys Corporation LLP, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan and experts of the Water Partnership of Kazakhstan participated in the consultation process, in total 19 people, 63% of whom were women.

At the end of the consultation process, all participants filled in a questionnaire to receive feedback on the process.

Based on the results of the national consultation with all stakeholders on SDG 6.5.1., the participants agreed on further cooperation on specification of reporting in this direction.

The draft questionnaire completed at the national consultation was sent to all stakeholders for data validation, including the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, and the Ministry of Emergency Situations.

The final completed version of the questionnaire on SDG indicator 6.5.1 "Degree of implementation of integrated water resources management (0 to 100)", which was completed jointly with all stakeholders during the national consultation, was sent on October 10, 2023 for standard quality assurance procedures to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which collects reports from United Nations (UN) Member States on indicator 6.5.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

5. Appendices

Annex 1. List of participants
Annex 2. Agenda
Appendix 3. Moderator's comments
Annex 4: Photo materials

Appendix 1. List of participants

Seminar participants

Name	Organization	Position	Email address
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Abrayeva Asemgul Umyrbaevna	Office of SDG Statistics of the Department of International Cooperation and Sustainable Development	chief expert	
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Other stakeholders involved (who did not participate in the workshops)

Name	Organization/ Position	Email address	A summary of the input data provided
Zhartybayeva Balzhan Askerbekovna	Office of Green Economy of the Department of Environmental Policy / Head		
Olga Melnik	Office of Green Economy of the Department of Environmental Policy/ Chief Expert		
Salikhbaev Yerbol Zaurbekovich	RSE on PCW "Kazvodkhoz" of the Committee on Water Resources/ Deputy Director General for Operation and Automation		
Rakhimzhanova Maral Tleuleskyzy	Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance Committee of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan/ Deputy Chairman		
Kisabekov Nurzhan Mukhametgaliuly	Department of sanitary-hygienic control and supervision of radiation-hazardous industrial and communal facilities of the Committee for Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance of the Ministry of Health of RK / head		
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Dinara Bakitovna Sadvakasova	Directorate of Production and Environment Statistics of the Department of Environment Statistics / Head		

Appendix 2. Agenda of the day

Global Water Partnership Central Asia and Caucasus

Агентство по стратегическому планированию и реформам Республики Казахстан
Бюро национальной статистики

Program of the consultation on the topic:
"Discussion and completion of the questionnaire on SDG 6.5.1 in Kazakhstan"
September 14-15, 2023

Day 1.

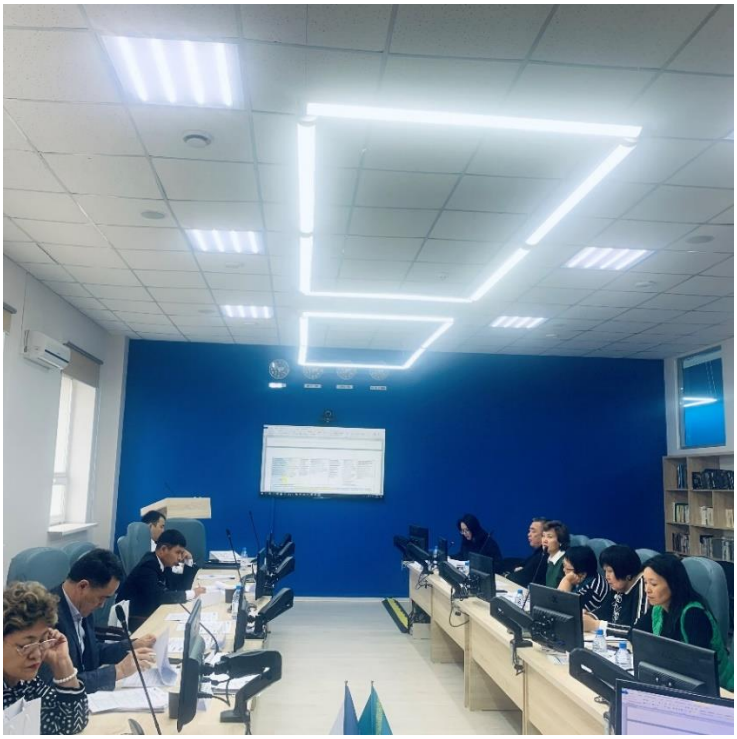
09:30-10:00	Registration of participants
10:00-10:10	Opening, greetings
10:10-10:30	Summary of the research tool that supports country reporting on indicator 6.5.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): "Degree of implementation of integrated water resources management"
Session 1: Discussion of questions on section 1 - Favorable conditions	
10:30-11:10	**1.1 What is the current status of policy documents, laws and plans that lay the foundation for integrated water resources management (IWRM) at the national level?** a. National water policy, etc. b. National water law(s). c. National Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) plans, etc.
11:10-11:30	**coffee break**
11:30-13:00	**1.2 What is the current status of policy documents, laws and plans that lay the foundation for IWRM at other levels?** a. Sub-national policy documents on water management, etc. b. Basin / aquifer level management plans etc. based on IWRM. c. Arrangements for transboundary water management. d. Sub-national water regulations (laws, decrees, regulations, etc.).
13:00-14:00	**Lunch break**
Session 2. Discussion of issues under section 2 - Institutions and participation	
14:00-15:20	**2.1 What is the status of institutions involved in IWRM implementation at the national level?** a. National authorized bodies of the government to guide IWRM implementation. b. Coordination on water resources, policy making, planning and management between national authorized bodies of the government representing different sectors. c. Public participation in policy making, planning and management of water resources at the national level. d. Private sector participation in water resources development, management and utilization. e. Capacity building for IWRM.
15:20-15:40	**coffee break**
15:40-17:00	**2.2 What is the status of institutions involved in IWRM implementation at other levels?** a. Organizations at the basin/ aquifer level that manage IWRM implementation.

	b. Public participation in policy making, planning, and water management at the local level. c. Participation of vulnerable groups in water resources planning and management. d. Gender is reflected in water resources management laws / plans etc. e. Organizational structure for transboundary water management. f. Sub-national authorized bodies to guide the implementation of IWRM.

Day 2.

Session 3. Discussion of questions on section 3 - Management tools	
09:30-11:10	**3.1 What is the current status of management tools that lay the foundation for IWRM at the national level?** a. National monitoring of water availability (includes surface water and/or groundwater depending on the country). b. Sustainable and effective water use management at the national level (includes surface water and/or groundwater, depending on the country). c. Pollution regulation at the national level. d. Management of water-related ecosystems and biodiversity at the national level. e. Management tools to reduce the impact of water-related disasters at the national level.
11:10-11:30	**coffee break**
11:30-13:00	**3.2 What is the current status of management tools that lay the foundation for IWRM at other levels?** a. Management tools at the basin level. b. Management tools at the aquifer level. c. In-country data and information sharing at all levels. d. Transboundary exchange of data and information between countries.
13:00-14:00	**Lunch break**
Session 4. Discussion of issues under Section 4 - Funding	
14:00-15:20	**4.1 What is the current status of funding for water resources development and management at the national level?** a. National budget allocated to water infrastructure development (investment and recurrent expenditure). b. National budget allocated to finance IWRM components (investments and recurrent expenditures).
15:20-15:40	**coffee break**
15:40-16:20	**4.2 What is the current status of funding for water resources development and management at other levels?** a. Funds from sub-national or basin level budgets allocated for water infrastructure development (investments and recurrent expenditures). b. Revenue mobilization to finance IWRM components. c. Funding for transboundary cooperation. d. Sub-national or basin level budgets allocated to finance IWRM components (investments and recurrent expenditures).
Session 5. Discussion on Section 5 - Total score for indicator 6.5.1	
16:20-17:00	**Appendices** • Annex A: Glossary • Annex B: Key Priorities and Targets for IWRM Implementation • Annex C: Country Reporting Process Form for Indicator 6.5.1
17:00-17:10	Closing, farewell

Appendix 3. Facilitator's comments

The national consultation reviewed the current status of policy documents and legislation that lay the foundation for integrated water resources management at national and sub-national levels. In addition, the status of institutions and management tools was analyzed, with an assessment of financing in water resources development and management.

Annex 4: Photographic materials