



## SDG6 TARGET 6.4

# ARE WE USING OUR LIMITED FRESHWATER RESOURCES RESPONSIBLY?

Freshwater resources play a significant role in a country's socioeconomic development, and are utilized in agricultural, industrial, household, and other activities. **The improvement of efficient water consumption and water productivity is a key indicator to be monitored** by international and national policy makers, to adjust adaptive macroeconomic policies that affect demand and investment in water-related activities.

Triggered by rising global challenges of population growth and climate change, a country's stable water supply that is resilient to scarcity and shocks becomes one of the key enablers for a healthy socioeconomic development.

The exercise aims to provide a visual analysis to support World Bank leadership and program colleagues to effectively mainstream freshwater efficiency and productivity into different aspects of design and planning of a country specific project.

By

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Country

Annual Freshwater Consumption Volumes

Water efficiency and utilization breakdown by industrial, agricultural and domestic uses

Water scarcity and urgency

Indicators

**Annual freshwater withdrawals**, total (billion cubic meters) per capita  
(ER.H2O.FWTL.K3/SP.POP.TOTL)

**Water productivity**, total (constant 2015 US\$ GDP per cubic meter of total freshwater withdrawal)  
(ER.GDP.FWTL.M3.KD)

**Level of water stress**: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources  
(ER.H2O.FWST.ZS)



# Are we using our limited freshwater responsibly?

Data Sources  
World Bank. "Water productivity, total (constant 2010 US\$ GDP per cubic meter of total freshwater withdrawal) etc." *World Development Indicators*. The World Bank Group, 2021, data.worldbank.org/indicator  
Accessed 10 Dec. 2021.

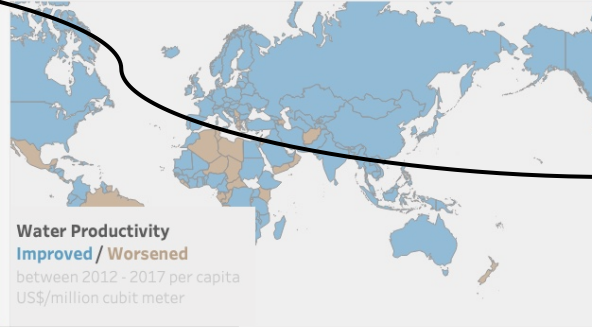
Author  
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1 Highlight Country's water stress level and private-public investment on SDG 6 by regions.

2 An interactive dashboard with a slide bar to zoom into each region.

3 Set a threshold to categorize countries into High and Low water productivity

Target 6.4  
Increase Water Use Efficiency and Ensure Freshwater Supplies



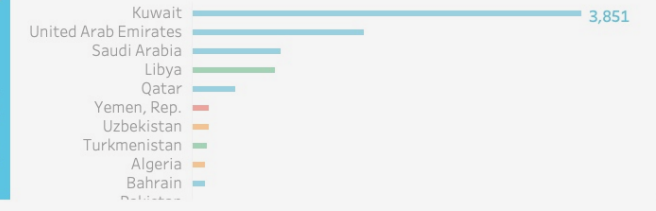
Private-Public Investment in 2017

1,937,760,000 USD

100.00% total investment on SDG 6.

Level of Water Stress

the degree to which water resources are being exploited to meet the country's water demand in All region (2017)



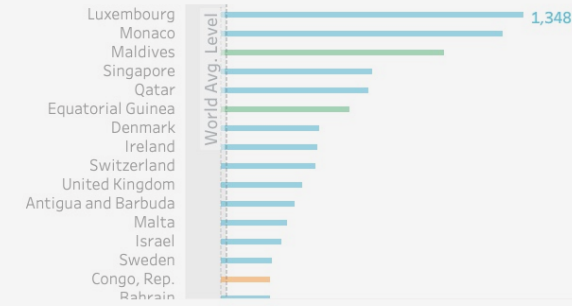
(All)

High income

Upper middle income

Countries with Highest Level\* of Water Productivity

US\$ GDP per cubic meter of total freshwater withdrawal in All region (2017)  
\*Highest level: > 25 \$/m3



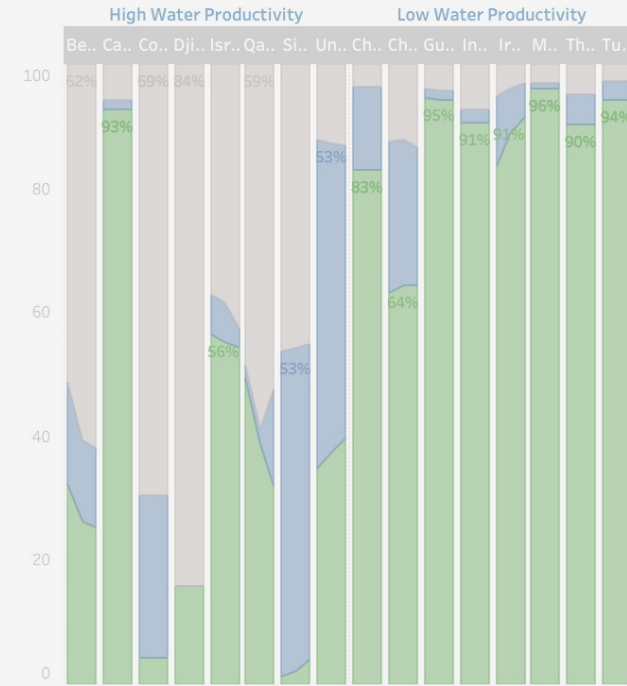
Countries with Lowest Level\* of Water Productivity

US\$ GDP per cubic meter of total freshwater withdrawal in All region (2017)  
\*Lowest level: < 25 \$/m3



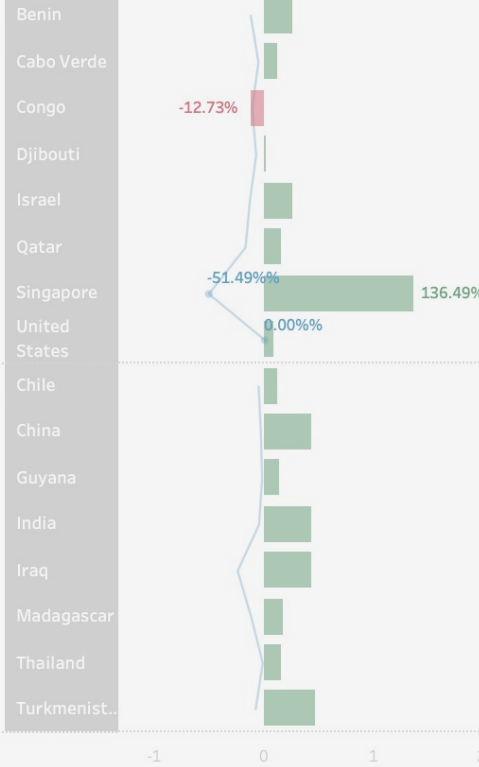
10-Year Evolution of Freshwater Withdrawal Breakdown

(2007,2012,2017, %)



High Water Productivity

Low Water Productivity



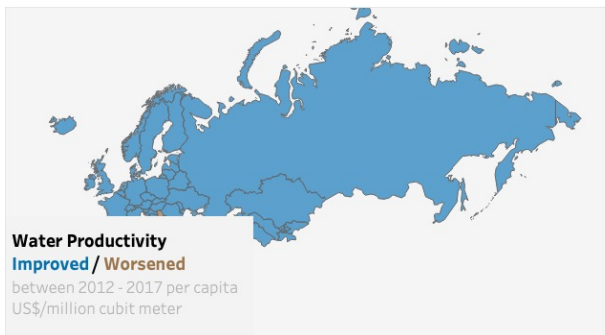
GLOBAL VIEW  
WATER  
PRODUCTIVITY



Private-Public Investment in 2017

1,583,280,000 USD

**81.71%** total  
investment on SDG 6.



Private-Public Investment in 2017

25,000,000 USD

**1.29%** total  
investment on SDG 6.

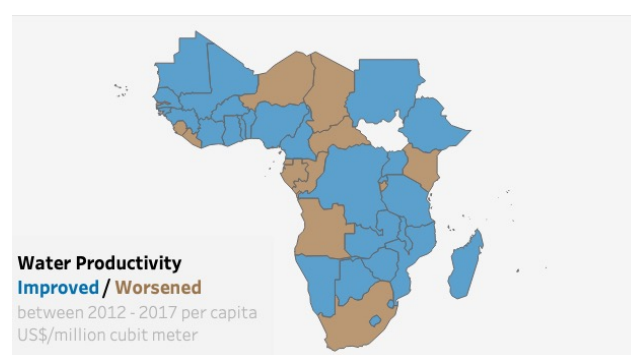
From 2012 to 2017,  
some countries  
from four regions  
have worsened the  
water productivity.



Private-Public Investment in 2017

218,600,000 USD

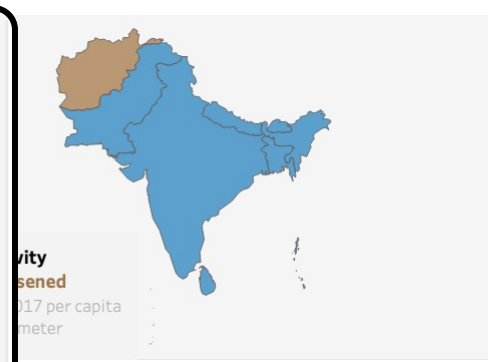
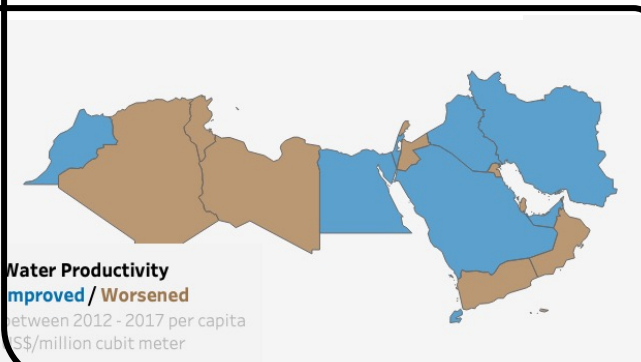
**11.28%** total  
investment on SDG 6.



Private-Public Investment in 2017

60,000,000 USD

**3.10%** total  
investment on SDG 6.



Private-Public Investment in 2017

50,880,000 USD

**2.63%** total  
investment on SDG 6.

North America & MENA regions have NO investment water.

Evolution on proportions of freshwater uses

2007, 2012, 2017



1



COUNTRY VIEWS  
ZOOM IN

## Evolution on proportions of freshwater uses

2007, 2012, 2017

1



**Countries with high level of water productivity** have shown different dynamics in agricultural and industrial uses of water:

- Benin and Israel have both increased domestic use of water, with declining in both agriculture and industry;
- Qatar shows a drastic increase in industrial use of water alone;

**Countries with low level of water productivity** share a very low level of domestic water use, comparing to that of the high level countries, though sharing similar distribution like USA and Cabo Verde.

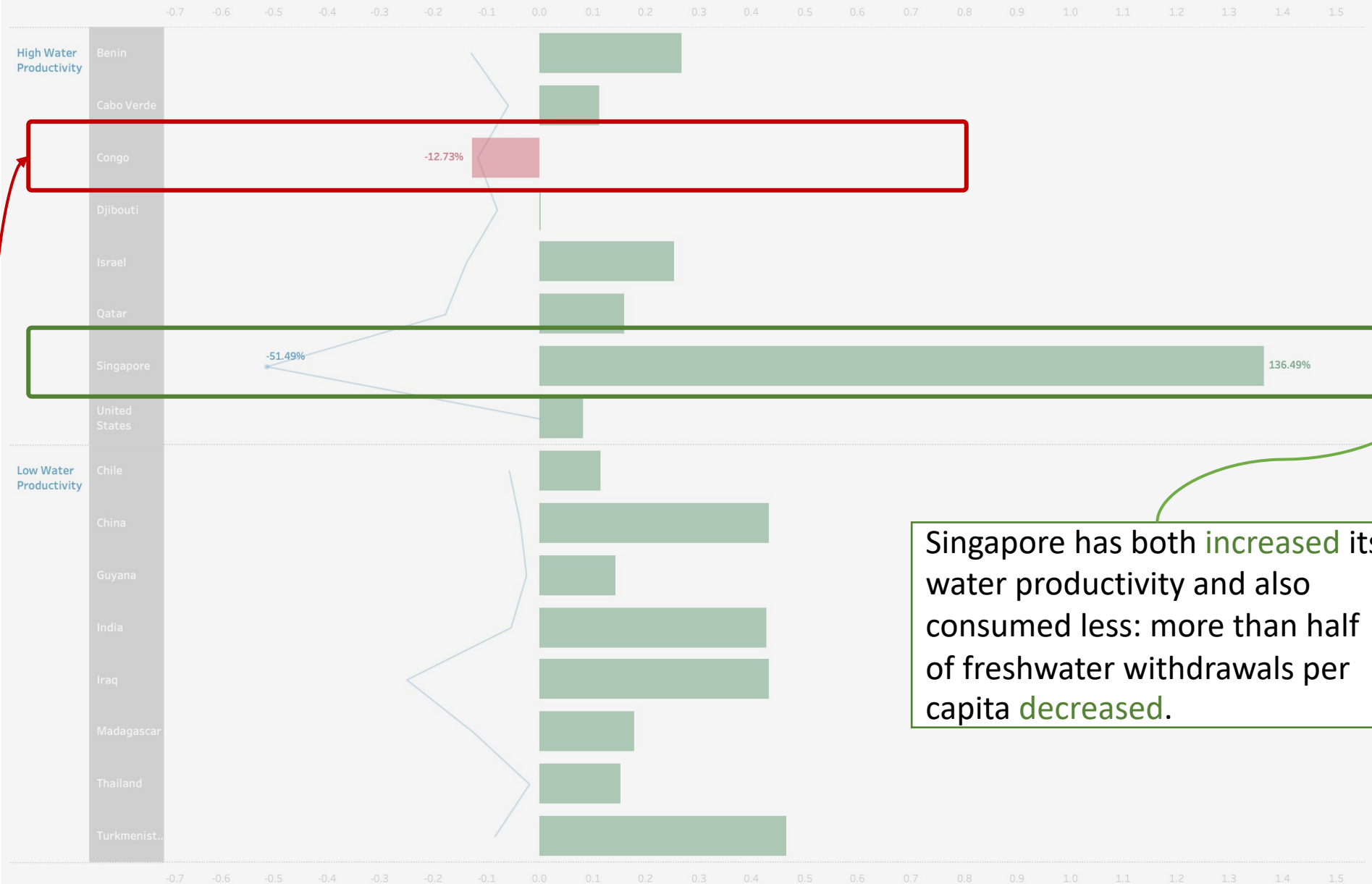


2

## Evolution on productivity and freshwater withdrawal per capital

2012 to 2017

Freshwater has been consumed less in the past 5 years, but simultaneously productivity has also **decreased** 12.73 %.



Singapore has both **increased** its water productivity and also consumed less: more than half of freshwater withdrawals per capita **decreased**.



## Evolution on productivity and freshwater withdrawal per capital

2012 to 2017

2

**Zoom in to Singapore,** incentives to pay greater price (East Asia & Pacific region contribute to **81.71%** of public-private investment on SDG 6 in 2017) to improve the water performance may be forced by its **HIGH** level of water



### Private-Public Investment in 2017

1,583,280,000 USD

**81.71%** total investment on SDG 6.

Low Water Productivity

Singapore  
United States  
Chile  
China  
Guyana

-51.49%

**-51.49%**

freshwater withdrawal (per capita) changed from 2012 to 2017

### Singapore

High Water Productivity

Annual freshwater withdrawals, total (billion cubic meters)/population: 227

136.49%

**136.49%**

water productivity changed from 2012 to 2017

### Singapore

High Water Productivity

Water productivity, total (constant 2015 US\$ GDP per cubic meter of total freshwater withdrawal): **676.0**

Annual freshwater withdrawals, total (billion cubic meters): **0.5**

## Level of Water Stress

the degree to which water resources are being exploited to meet the country's water demand in East Asia & Pacific region (2017)



COUNTRY VIEWS  
**ZOOM IN**



# SDG 6.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Public-Private Investment

Prioritise private and public partnerships to invest in building water resilience in **Middle East and North Africa Region** where countries suffer from water scarcity and conflicts over limited resources

### Public Awareness

For countries like Singapore, public interventions to raise **efficient domestic water use** could soften the water scarcity by shifting towards a sustainable water consumption behaviour.

### Industrial Transformation

For most countries with a low water productivity level, it is urgently needed to **leverage macroeconomic tools** to incentive the adoption of water preservation technologies along the value chains, to reduce industrial and agricultural freshwater withdrawals.