



2021 GLOBAL WATER POLICY REPORT

ADDITIONAL DATA



In partnership with



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SYDNEY

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Cover photo: Flags of all nations outside the UN in New York City. (Credit: Andrew F. Kazmierski).

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List of Figures

Figure 2.1: Risks to achieving good water management for all surveyed countries	4
Figure 2.2: Challenges to achieving good water management for all surveyed countries.....	5
Figure 2.3: Challenges to achieving good water management reported by income group	6
Figure 4.1: Difficulty achieving SDG 6 water targets in relation to groundwater: proportion of all surveyed countries (N=84).....	24
Figure 4.2: Constraints to improving how groundwater is managed: proportion of all survey countries	25
Figure 4.3: Effectiveness of institutions and laws governing groundwater resources: proportion of all surveyed countries.....	26

List of Tables

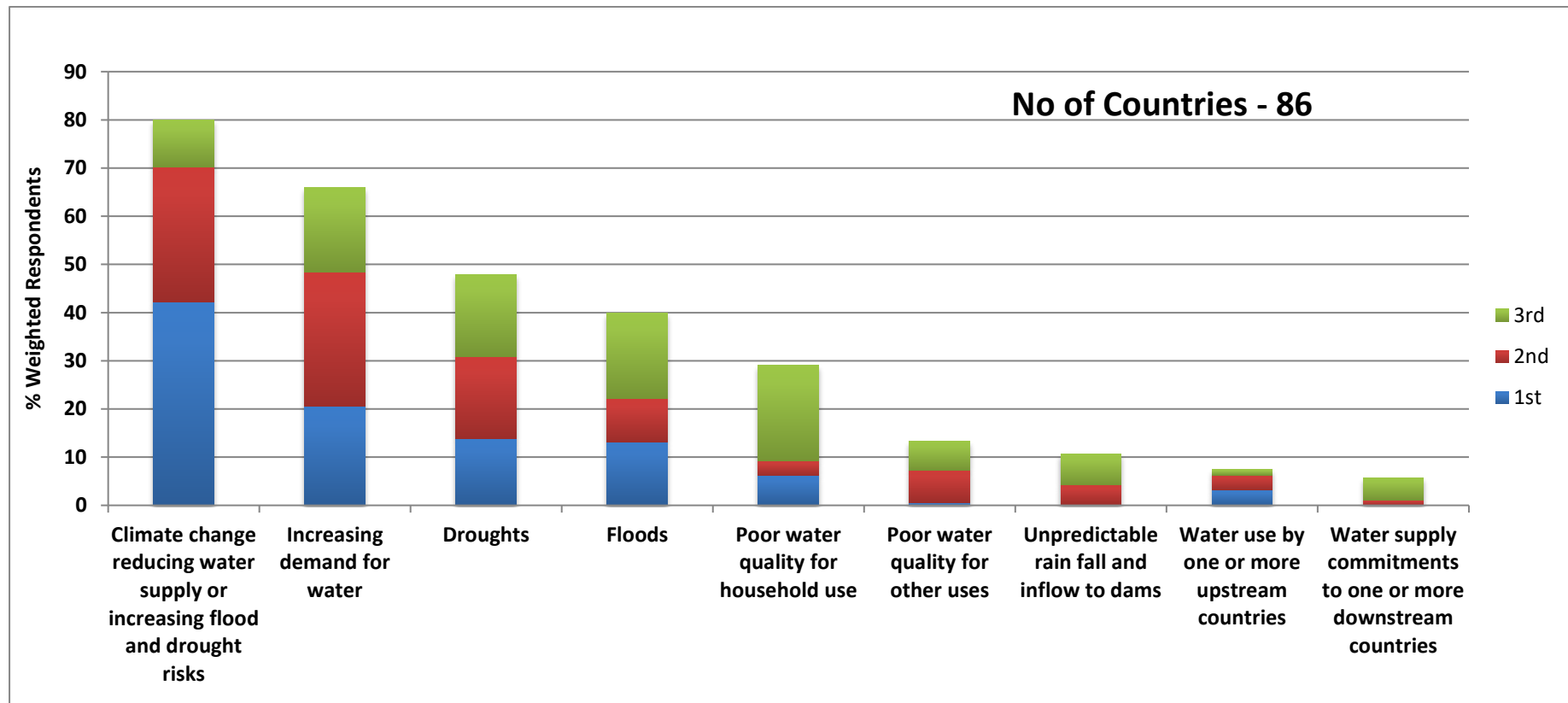
Table 2-1: Impacts of COVID-19 on attitudes to water: overall and by country income group	10
Table 2-2: Impacts of COVID-19 on WASH priorities: overall and by income group	10
Table 2-3: Impacts of COVID-19 on water infrastructure priorities: overall and by income group	11
Table 2-4: Impacts of COVID-19 on government attention to water: overall and by income group ...	11
Table 3-1: Difficulty achieving SDG 6 water targets: overall and by country income group	12
Table 3-2: Relative importance of reasons for SDG 6.1 (drinking water) being rated “challenging” or “impossible”: by income group.....	13
Table 3-3: Relative importance of reasons for SDG 6.3 (water quality) being rated “challenging” or “impossible”: by income group.....	14
Table 3-4: Relative importance of reasons for SDG 6.4 (efficiency element) being rated “challenging” or “impossible”: by income group	15
Table 3-5: Relative importance of reasons for SDG 6 target on water scarcity being rated “challenging” or “impossible”	16
Table 3-6: Relative importance of reasons for SDG 6 target on IWRM being rated “challenging” or “impossible”	17
Table 3-7: Relative importance of reasons for SDG 6.5 (transboundary element) being rated “challenging” or “impossible”: by income group.....	18
Table 3-8: Relative importance of reasons for SDG 6.6 (ecosystems) being rated “challenging” or “impossible”: by income group.....	19
Table 3-9: Relative importance of reasons for SDG 6.6a (local participation) being rated “challenging” or “impossible”: by income group	20
Table 3-10: Adequacy of international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries for WASH activities : overall and by income group	21
Table 4-1: Importance of groundwater to a country’s future water supplies: by Income Group and Water Stress.....	22
Table 4-2: Reasons for sustainable use of groundwater (where it occurs): by Income Group	23

2 CHAPTER 2 – PERCEPTIONS OF RISKS AND CHALLENGES

2.1 Water Management Risks

Q3: Which of the following do you think are the greatest risks to maintaining or achieving good water management in your country? (If different parts of your country have different water management risks, consider the risk to the country as a whole.) Identify at least three risks from the list below and rank them in their order of importance by numbering them from 1 (highest risk), 2 (next highest risk) etc

Figure 2.1: Risks to achieving good water management for all surveyed countries.



2.2 Water Management Challenges.

Q4: Which of the following do you think are the greatest challenges to maintaining or achieving good water management in your country? (If different parts of your country have very different water management challenges, consider the challenges to the country as a whole.) Identify at least three challenges from the list below and rank them in their order of importance by numbering them from 1 (greatest challenge), 2 (next greatest challenge) etc

Figure 2.2: Challenges to achieving good water management for all surveyed countries

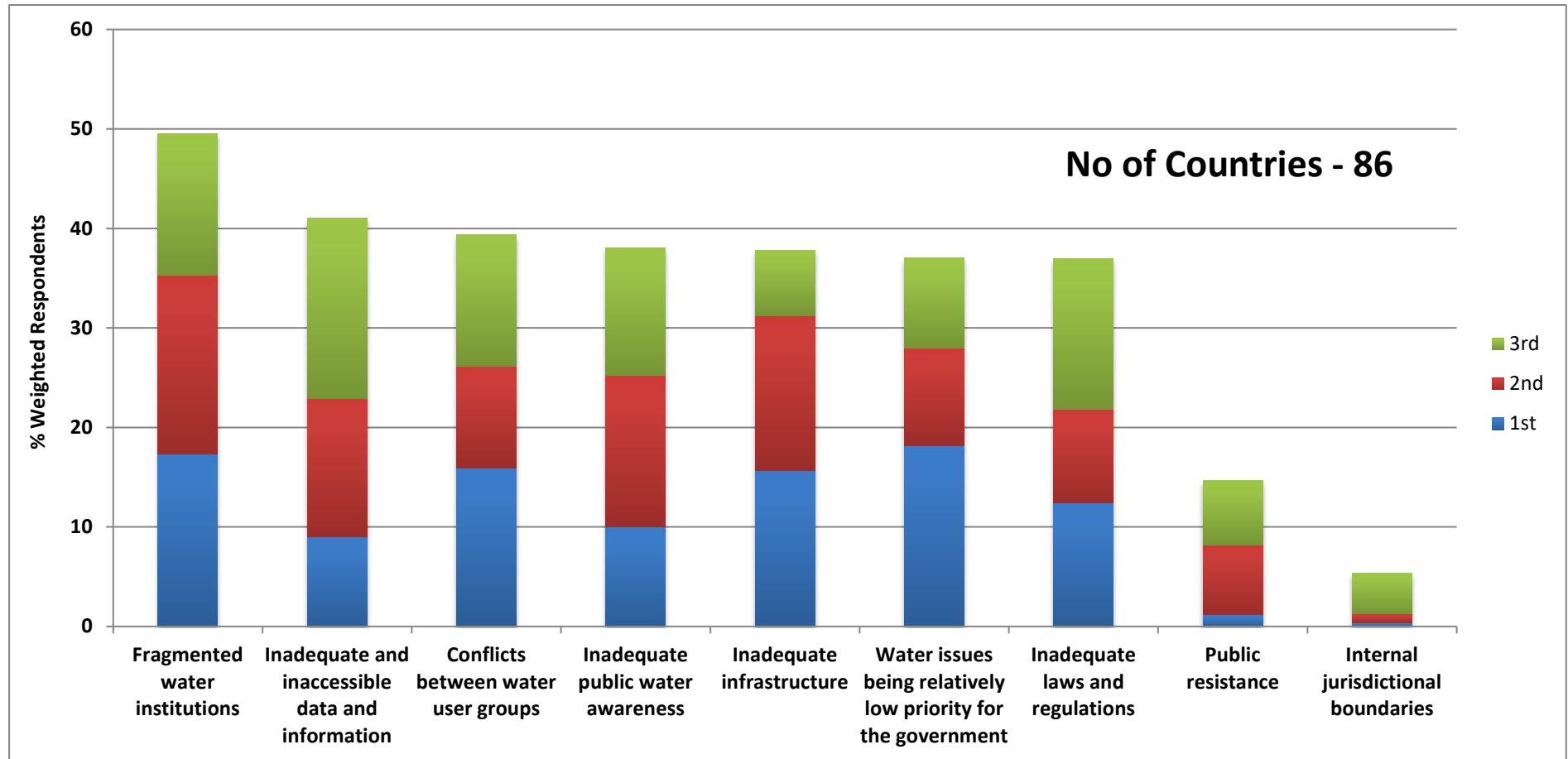
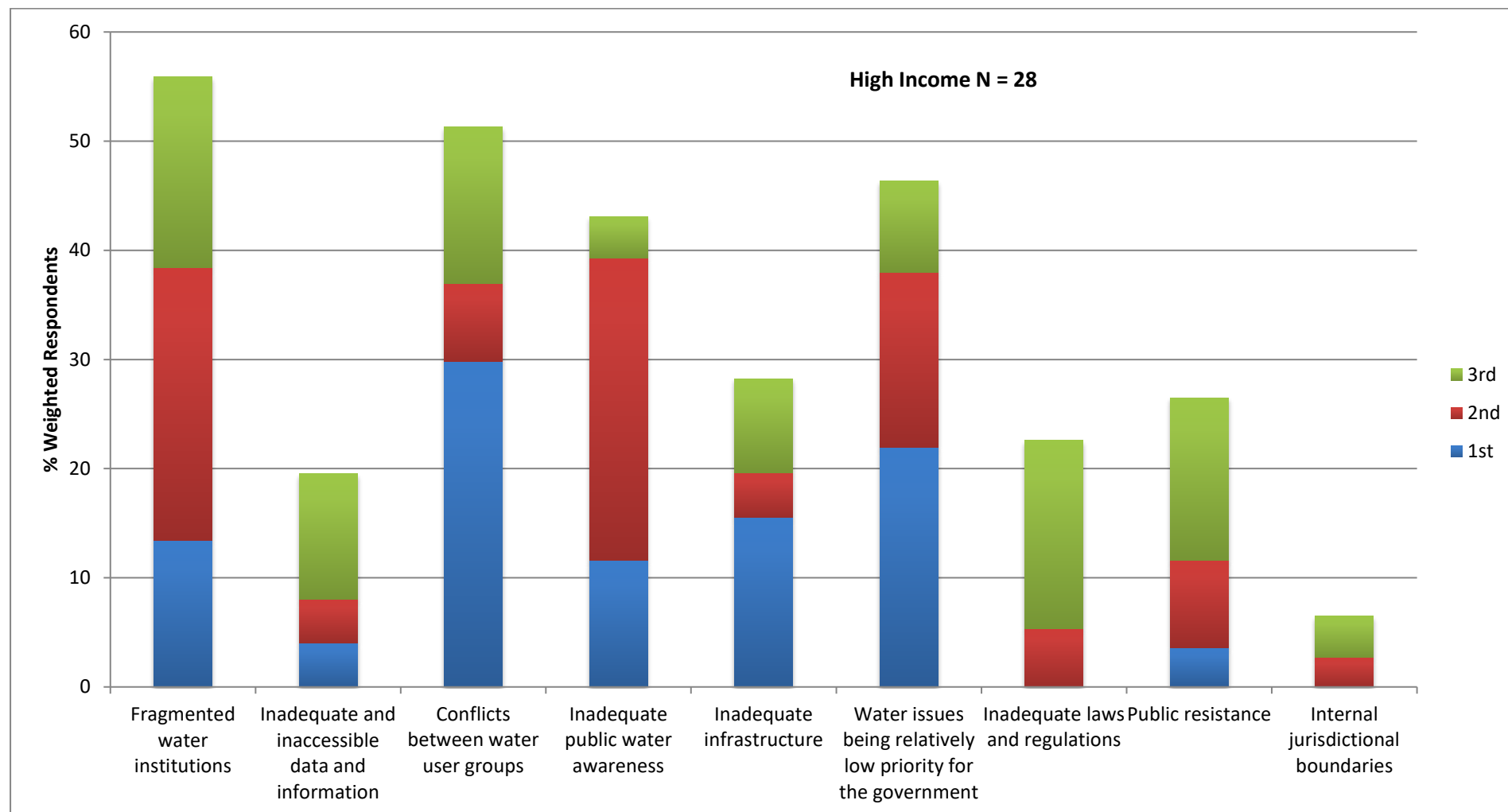
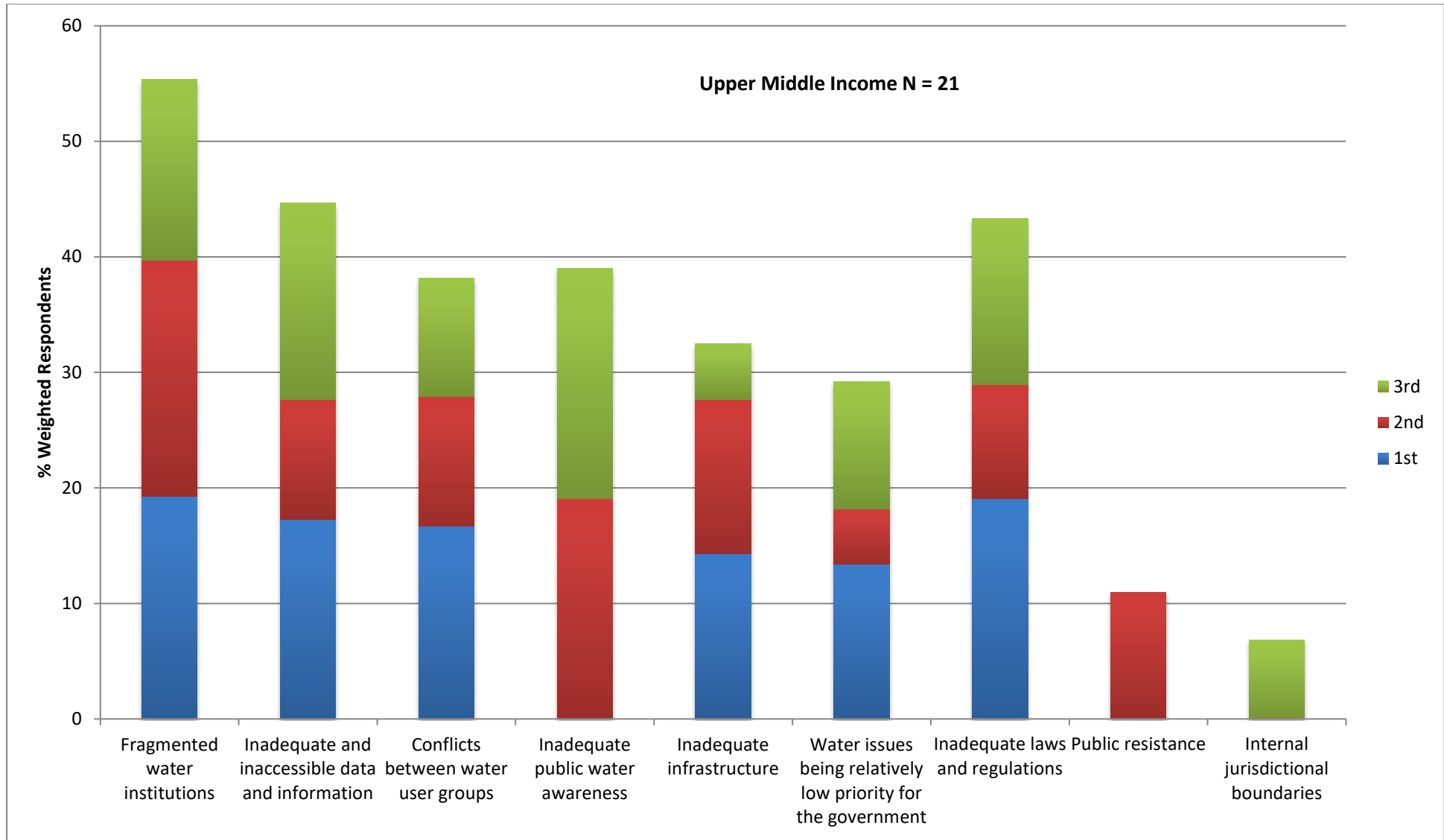
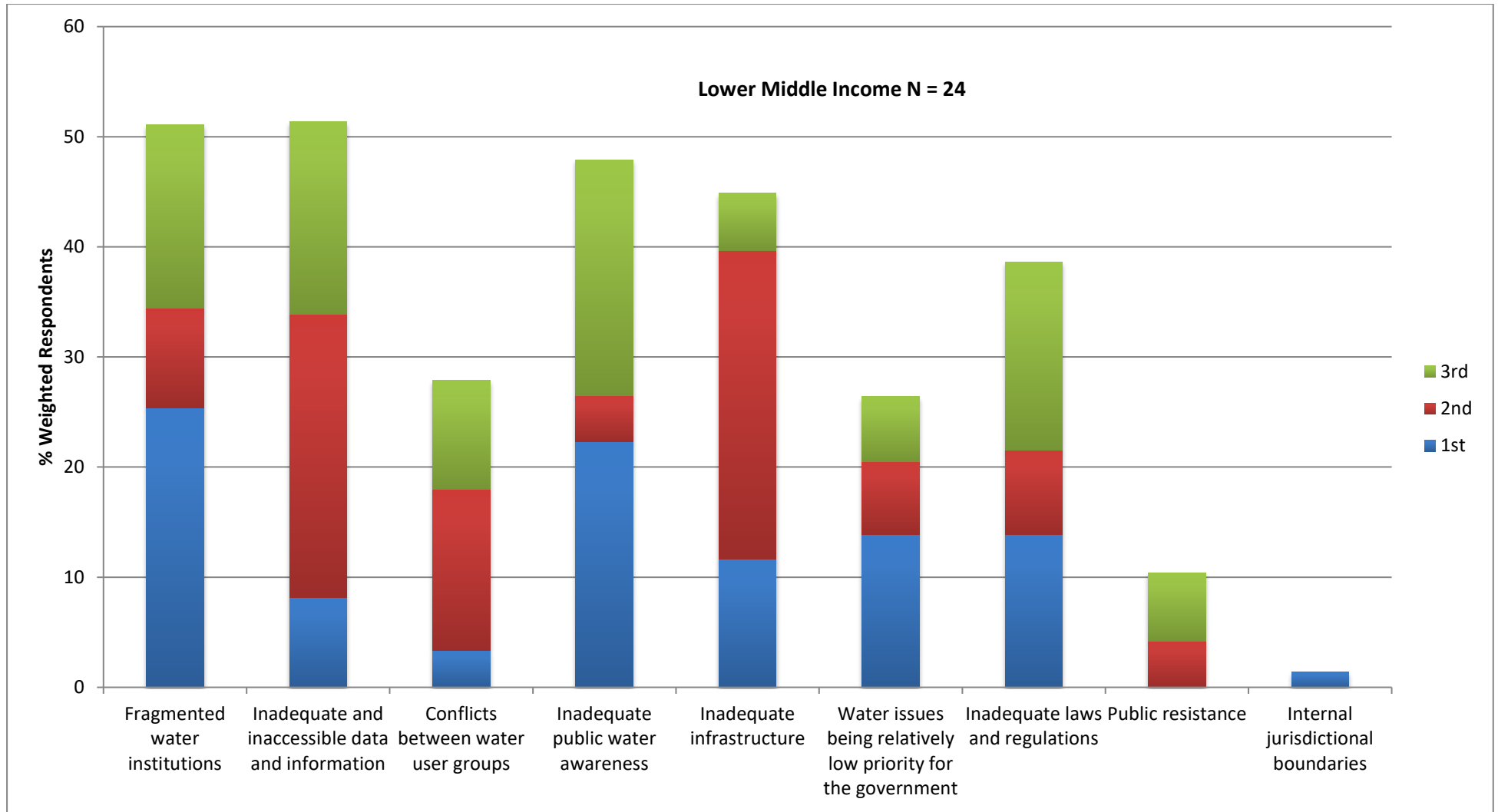
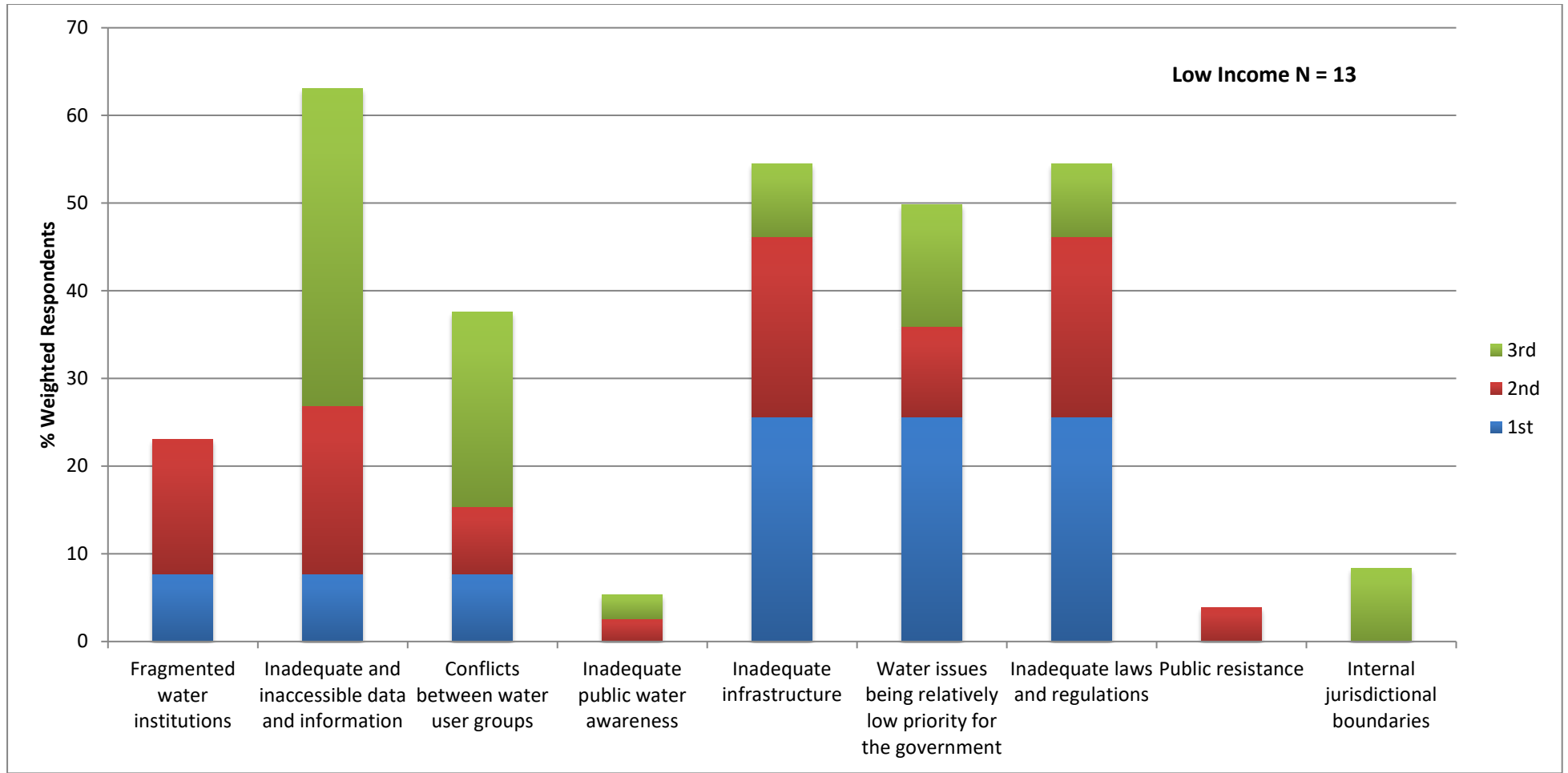


Figure 2.3: Challenges to achieving good water management reported by income group









2.3 The Impact of COVID-19

2.3.1 COVID-19 impacts on attitudes to water: proportion of all surveyed countries

Q5: Has the COVID-19 pandemic caused your government to be more concerned or less concerned about water issues? (*Select one response.*)

- Less concerned
- More concerned
- No change

Table 2-1: Impacts of COVID-19 on attitudes to water: overall and by country income group

Response	All Countries (n=87)	Income Group			
		High (n=28)	Upper Middle (n=21)	Lower Middle (n=24)	Low (n=14)
No change	47.0%	72.2%	47.8%	27.1%	15.5%
Less concerned	11.1%	12.5%	0.0%	22.5%	19.5%
More concerned	41.9%	15.3%	52.2%	50.4%	65.0%

2.3.2 COVID-19 impacts on WASH and infrastructure priorities: proportion of all surveyed countries

Q6: How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected your priorities?
Has it made drinking water services and sanitation more urgent? (*Select one response.*)

- Yes
- No
- I am not sure

Table 2-2: Impacts of COVID-19 on WASH priorities: overall and by income group

Response	All Countries (n=87)	Income Group			
		High (n=28)	Upper Middle (n=21)	Lower Middle (n=24)	Low (n=14)
Yes	57.5%	24.3%	73.6%	76.2%	69.6%
No	33.5%	65.0%	19.7%	7.5%	30.4%
I am not sure	9.0%	10.7%	6.7%	16.3%	0.0%

Q6A: How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected your priorities?
Has it made infrastructure more urgent? (*Select one response.*)

- Yes
- No
- I am not sure

Table 2-3: Impacts of COVID-19 on water infrastructure priorities: overall and by income group

Response	All Countries (n=87)	Income Group			
		High (n=28)	Upper Middle (n=21)	Lower Middle (n=24)	Low (n=14)
Yes	39.7%	10.1%	42.9%	64.4%	55.2%
No	45.1%	68.5%	52.7%	22.6%	23.2%
I am not sure	15.2%	21.4%	4.4%	13.0%	21.6%

2.3.3 COVID-19 impacts on government attention to water: proportion of all surveyed countries

Q7: Has COVID-19 changed government attention to achieving water sector improvements? (*Select one response.*)

- Reduced
- Increased
- No change

Table 2-4: Impacts of COVID-19 on government attention to water: overall and by income group

Response	All Countries (n=87)	Income Group			
		High (n=28)	Upper Middle (n=21)	Lower Middle (n=24)	Low (n=14)
Reduced	6.0%	8.9%	0.0%	11.4%	0.0%
Increased	35.6%	7.6%	41.1%	42.9%	69.6%
No change	58.4%	83.5%	58.9%	45.7%	30.4%

3 CHAPTER 3 –ACHIEVING GLOBAL GOALS

3.1 Achieving the SDG 6 water targets

Q9-Q16: How difficult is it to achieve the target of (...) in your country?

- Impossible or challenging
- Not difficult, already achieved, not applicable

Table 3-1: Difficulty achieving SDG 6 water targets: overall and by country income group

SDG Target	SDG Target is 'Impossible or Challenging'				
	All Countries (n=88)	Responses for each Income Group			
		High (n=28)	Upper Middle (n=21)	Lower Middle (n=24)	Low (n=15)
Protecting/restoring water-dependent ecosystems	73%	56%	81%	80%	81%
Increasing water use efficiency	69%	42%	78%	80%	78%
Improved water quality	67%	44%	75%	73%	75%
Safe and affordable drinking water	58%	22%	75%	63%	75%
Implementing IWRM	58%	28%	67%	73%	67%
Impact of water scarcity	56%	23%	75%	63%	75%
Strengthening local participation	46%	28%	56%	50%	56%
Transboundary Cooperation	37%	21%	39%	34%	39%

Note - Figures in red indicate increased proportions of countries finding the target 'impossible or challenging' compared to the all countries aggregate
 Figures in light blue indicate decreased proportions of countries finding the target 'impossible or challenging' compared to the all countries aggregate

3.2 Drinking Water

Q9A. If you answered 'impossible or challenging', please indicate why by ranking the following reasons in order of their importance. Please rank the reasons from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important).

Table 3-2: Relative importance of reasons for SDG 6.1 (drinking water) being rated “challenging” or “impossible”: by income group

Income Group	Considered 'Impossible or Challenging' (by %age of surveyed countries)	Reasons for considering 'Safe and Affordable Drinking Water' to be Impossible or Challenging (Relative Importance)				
		Lack of Financing	Lack of information	Lack of Capability	Lack of Innovation	Governance Problems
All Countries	58% (N=88)	**	*	*	—	**
High Income	22% (N=28)	**	*	*	—	**
Upper Middle	75% (N=21)	**	—	**	—	*
Lower Middle	63% (N=24)	***	*	—	—	**
Low	75% (N=15)	*	*	*	—	*

Note - the relative importance of the 5 key Reasons is assessed using the following

*** = ranked as a 'top two' reason by 75%+ of surveyed countries, ** = ranked as a 'top two' reason by 50-74% of surveyed countries

• = ranked as a 'top two' reason by 25-49% of surveyed countries, — = ranked as a “top two reason” by 0-24% of surveyed countries

Scores on the boundary between groups have been rounded up

3.3 Water Quality

Q10A. If you answered 'impossible or challenging', please indicate why by ranking the following reasons in order of their importance. Please rank the reasons from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important).

Table 3-3: Relative importance of reasons for SDG 6.3 (water quality) being rated “challenging” or “impossible”: by income group

Income Group	Considered 'Impossible or Challenging' (by %age of surveyed countries)	Reasons for considering 'improving Water Quality' to be Impossible or Challenging (Relative Importance)				
		Lack of Financing	Lack of information	Lack of Capability	Lack of Innovation	Governance Problems
All Countries	67% (N=88)	**	*	*	—	**
High Income	44% (N=28)	*	*	**	—	**
Upper Middle	75% (N=21)	**	—	**	*	**
Lower Middle	73% (N=24)	**	*	*	—	**
Low	75% (N=15)	***	*	—	—	*

Note - the relative importance of the 5 key Reasons is assessed using the following

*** = ranked as a 'top two' reason by 75%+ of surveyed countries, ** = ranked as a 'top two' reason by 50-74% of surveyed countries

* = ranked as a 'top two' reason by 25-49% of surveyed countries, — = ranked as a "top two reason" by 0-24% of surveyed countries

Scores on the boundary between groups have been rounded up

3.4 Water Use Efficiency

Q11A. If you answered 'impossible or challenging', please indicate why by ranking the following reasons in order of their importance. Please rank the reasons from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important).

Table 3-4: Relative importance of reasons for SDG 6.4 (efficiency element) being rated “challenging” or “impossible”: by income group

Income Group	Considered 'Impossible or Challenging' (by %age of surveyed countries)	Reasons for considering 'Increasing Water Use Efficiency' to be Impossible or Challenging (Relative Importance)				
		Lack of Financing	Lack of information	Lack of Capability	Lack of Innovation	Governance Problems
All Countries	69% (N=88)	*	*	*	*	*
High Income	42% (N=28)	*	*	**	*	**
Upper Middle	78% (N=21)	*	*	**	*	*
Lower Middle	80% (N=24)	**	*	—	—	**
Low	78% (N=15)	**	*	*	—	*

Note - the relative importance of the 5 key Reasons is assessed using the following

*** = ranked as a 'top two' reason by 75%+ of surveyed countries, ** = ranked as a 'top two' reason by 50-74% of surveyed countries

* = ranked as a 'top two' reason by 25-49% of surveyed countries, — = ranked as a “top two reason” by 0-24% of surveyed countries

Scores on the boundary between groups have been rounded up

3.5 Water Scarcity

Q12A. If you answered 'impossible or challenging', please indicate why by ranking the following reasons in order of their importance. Please rank the reasons from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important).

Table 3-5: Relative importance of reasons for SDG 6 target on water scarcity being rated “challenging” or “impossible”

Income Group	Considered 'Impossible or Challenging' (by %age of surveyed countries)	Reasons for considering 'Reducing the Impact of Water Scarcity' to be Impossible or Challenging (Relative Importance)				
		Lack of Financing	Lack of information	Lack of Capability	Lack of Innovation	Governance Problems
All Countries	56% (N=88)	*	*	**	*	*
High Income	23% (N=28)	*	*	*	—	***
Upper Middle	75% (N=21)	**	—	—	*	**
Lower Middle	63% (N=24)	**	*	*	—	**
Low	75% (N=15)	***	—	*	—	*

Note - the relative importance of the 5 key Reasons is assessed using the following

*** = ranked as a 'top two' reason by 75%+ of surveyed countries, ** = ranked as a 'top two' reason by 50-74% of surveyed countries

* = ranked as a 'top two' reason by 25-49% of surveyed countries, — = ranked as a "top two reason" by 0-24% of surveyed countries

Scores on the boundary between groups have been rounded up

3.6 Integrated Water Resource Management

Q13A. If you answered 'impossible or challenging', please indicate why by ranking the following reasons in order of their importance. Please rank the reasons from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important).

Table 3-6: Relative importance of reasons for SDG 6 target on IWRM being rated “challenging” or “impossible”

Income Group	Considered 'Impossible or Challenging' (by %age of surveyed countries)	Reasons for considering 'Integrated Water Resources Management' to be Impossible or Challenging (Relative Importance)				
		Lack of Financing	Lack of information	Lack of Capability	Lack of Innovation	Governance Problems
All Countries	58% (N=88)	*	*	*	–	**
High Income	28% (N=28)	–	*	*	–	***
Upper Middle	67% (N=21)	*	–	**	*	**
Lower Middle	73% (N=24)	*	*	*	–	**
Low	67% (N=15)	**	*	*	–	**

Note - the relative importance of the 5 key Reasons is assessed using the following

*** = ranked as a 'top two' reason by 75%+ of surveyed countries, ** = ranked as a 'top two' reason by 50-74% of surveyed countries

* = ranked as a 'top two' reason by 25-49% of surveyed countries, – = ranked as a “top two reason” by 0-24% of surveyed countries

Scores on the boundary between groups have been rounded up

3.7 Transboundary Cooperation

Q14A. If you answered 'impossible or challenging', please indicate why by ranking the following reasons in order of their importance. Please rank the reasons from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important).

Table 3-7: Relative importance of reasons for SDG 6.5 (transboundary element) being rated “challenging” or “impossible”: by income group

Income Group	Considered 'Impossible or Challenging' (by %age of surveyed countries)	Reasons for considering 'Transboundary Water Cooperation' to be Impossible or Challenging (Relative Importance)				
		Lack of Financing	Lack of information	Lack of Capability	Lack of Innovation	Governance Problems
All Countries	37% (N=88)	–	*	*	–	***
High Income	21% (N=28)	–	*	**	–	***
Upper Middle	39% (N=21)	–	*	*	*	***
Lower Middle	34% (N=24)	–	**	*	–	***
Low	39% (N=15)	**	**	–	–	***

Note - the relative importance of the 5 key Reasons is assessed using the following

*** = ranked as a 'top two' reason by 75%+ of surveyed countries, ** = ranked as a 'top two' reason by 50-74% of surveyed countries

* = ranked as a 'top two' reason by 25-49% of surveyed countries, – = ranked as a “top two reason’ by 0-24% of surveyed countries

Scores on the boundary between groups have been rounded up

3.8 Ecosystems

From Q15A: If you answered 'impossible or challenging', please indicate why by ranking the following reasons in order of their importance. Please rank the reasons from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important).

Table 3-8: Relative importance of reasons for SDG 6.6 (ecosystems) being rated “challenging” or “impossible”: by income group

Income Group	Considered 'Impossible or Challenging' (by %age of surveyed countries)	Reasons for considering 'Protecting and Restoring Water-dependent Ecosystems' to be Impossible or Challenging (Relative Importance)				
		Lack of Financing	Lack of information	Lack of Capability	Lack of Innovation	Governance Problems
All Countries	73% (N=88)	*	*	*	—	**
High Income	56% (N=28)	*	*	*	—	*
Upper Middle	81% (N=21)	*	*	*	*	**
Lower Middle	80% (N=24)	**	*	*	—	**
Low	81% (N=15)	**	*	*	*	*

Note - the relative importance of the 5 key Reasons is assessed using the following

*** = ranked as a 'top two' reason by 75%+ of surveyed countries, ** = ranked as a 'top two' reason by 50-74% of surveyed countries

* = ranked as a 'top two' reason by 25-49% of surveyed countries, — = ranked as a "top two reason" by 0-24% of surveyed countries

Scores on the boundary between groups have been rounded up

3.9 Participation of Local Communities

Q16A: If you answered 'impossible or challenging', please indicate why by ranking the following reasons in order of their importance. Please rank the reasons from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important).

Table 3-9: Relative importance of reasons for SDG 6.6a (local participation) being rated “challenging” or “impossible”: by income group

Income Group	Considered 'Impossible or Challenging' (by %age of surveyed countries)	Reasons for considering 'Supporting and Strengthening Local Participation ' to be Impossible or Challenging (Relative Importance)				
		Lack of Financing	Lack of information	Lack of Capability	Lack of Innovation	Governance Problems
All Countries	46% (N=88)	*	*	*	—	**
High Income	28% (N=28)	*	**	*	—	*
Upper Middle	56% (N=21)	*	*	**	*	*
Lower Middle	50% (N=24)	**	—	**	—	**
Low	56% (N=15)	***	—	—	*	*

Note - the relative importance of the 5 key Reasons is assessed using the following

*** = ranked as a 'top two' reason by 75%+ of surveyed countries, ** = ranked as a 'top two' reason by 50-74% of surveyed countries

* = ranked as a 'top two' reason by 25-49% of surveyed countries, — = ranked as a “top two reason' by 0-24% of surveyed countries

Scores on the boundary between groups have been rounded up

3.10 Development Assistance

Q19: Do you think international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes are adequate? *(Select one response.)*

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Table 3-10: Adequacy of international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries for WASH activities : overall and by income group

Response	All Countries (n=87)	Income Group			
		High (n=28)	Upper Middle (n=21)	Lower Middle (n=24)	Low (n=14)
Yes	32.6%	20.2%	39.3%	41.6%	28.8%
No	46.7%	45.1%	50.5%	47.6%	44.8%
Not sure	20.6%	34.7%	10.2%	10.8%	26.4%

4 GROUNDWATER

4.1 Importance of Groundwater to Future Water Supply

Q20: In your opinion, how important is groundwater to your country's future water supply? (*Select one response.*)

- Essential
- Very important
- Important
- Not important

Table 4-1: Importance of groundwater to a country's future water supplies: by Income Group and Water Stress

Group	Number of Surveyed Countries	Importance of groundwater to a country's future water supplies			
		Essential	Very Important	Important	Not Important
All Countries	85	53%	34%	11%	2%
Income Group					
High Income	27	65%	21%	14%	–
Upper Middle	21	39%	47%	13%	1%
Lower Middle	24	66%	20%	7%	7%
Low	13	28%	64%	8%	–
Water Stress					
Low Stress	63	50%	38%	11%	–
Some Stress	19	61%	25%	11%	4%

Note – 5 Countries did not have a water stress rating

4.2 Sustainability of Groundwater Use

Q22B: Where groundwater is being used sustainably in your country, do you think this is mostly the result of?

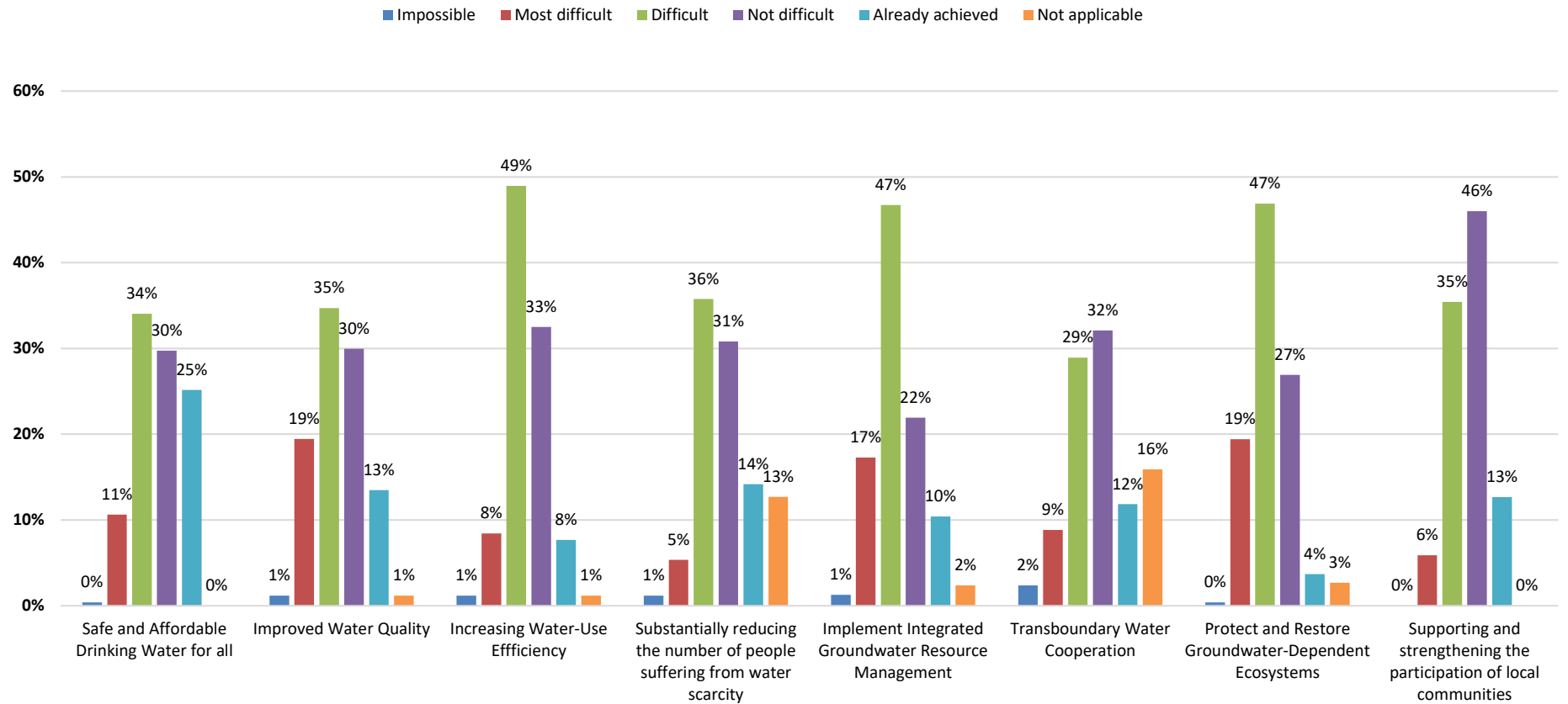
Table 4-2: Reasons for sustainable use of groundwater (where it occurs): by Income Group

Group	Proportion of weighted responses	Reasons for Sustainable Use of Groundwater			
		Abundance of groundwater	Government policies limiting water use or promoting replenishment	Self-regulation by water users or other cultural practices	Other
All Countries		28%	30%	21%	21%
Income Group					
High Income	35%	20%	40%	11%	29%
Upper Middle	22%	35%	36%	5%	24%
Lower Middle	29%	22%	20%	39%	20%
Low	14%	39%	18%	39%	4%

4.3 SGD 6 Targets in Relation to Groundwater

From Q21: When you think about all the groundwater policy challenges facing your country, how difficult is it to achieve the following targets in relation to groundwater?

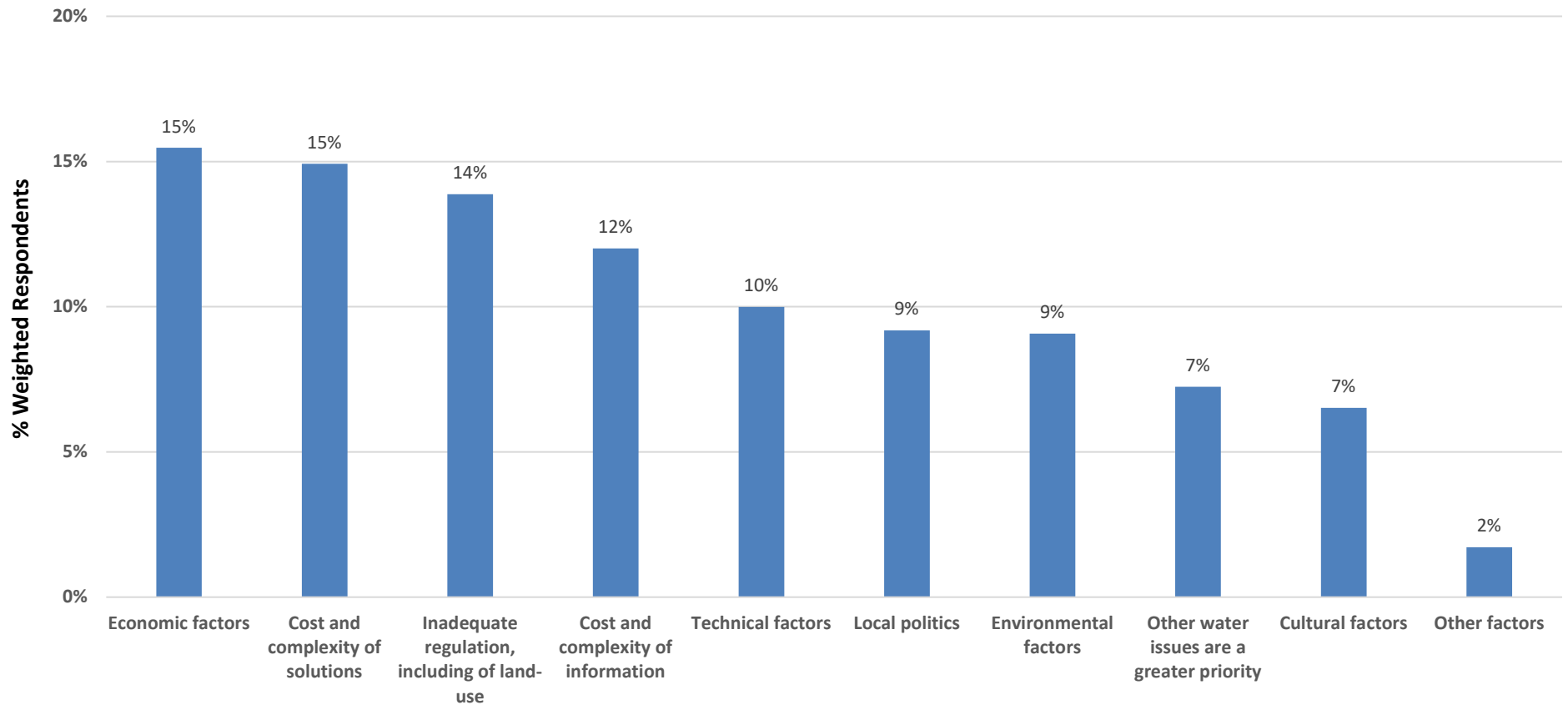
Figure 4.1: Difficulty achieving SGD 6 water targets in relation to groundwater: proportion of all surveyed countries (N=84)



4.4 Constraints to Improving Groundwater Management and the Adequacy of Groundwater Governance Arrangements

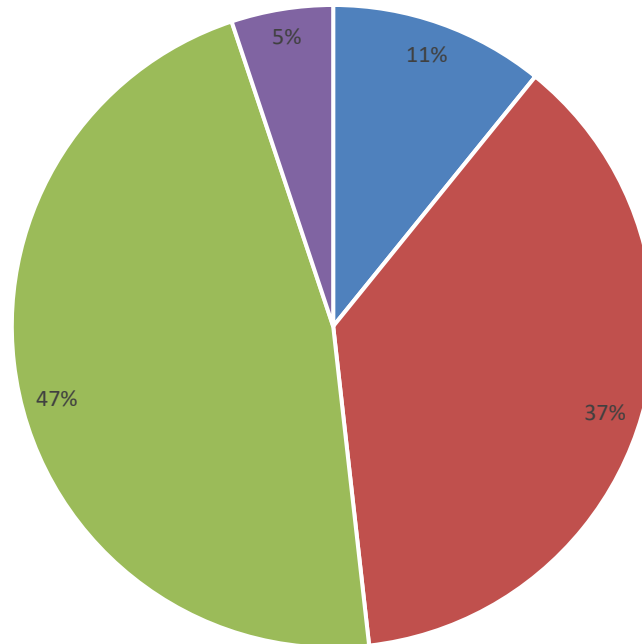
From Q23: What are the main constraints to improving how groundwater is managed in your jurisdiction? *(Please select up to 5 constraints)*

Figure 4.2: Constraints to improving how groundwater is managed: proportion of all survey countries



From Q24A: In your opinion, how effective are the institutions and laws that govern groundwater resources in your country? (*Select one response.*)

Figure 4.3: Effectiveness of institutions and laws governing groundwater resources: proportion of all surveyed countries



- Highly effective with excellent regulatory and monitoring/enforcement capabilities
- Somewhat effective with basic regulatory and monitoring/enforcement capabilities
- Institutions and laws exist but with little application / enforcement capabilities
- Institutions and laws are poor or do not exist