



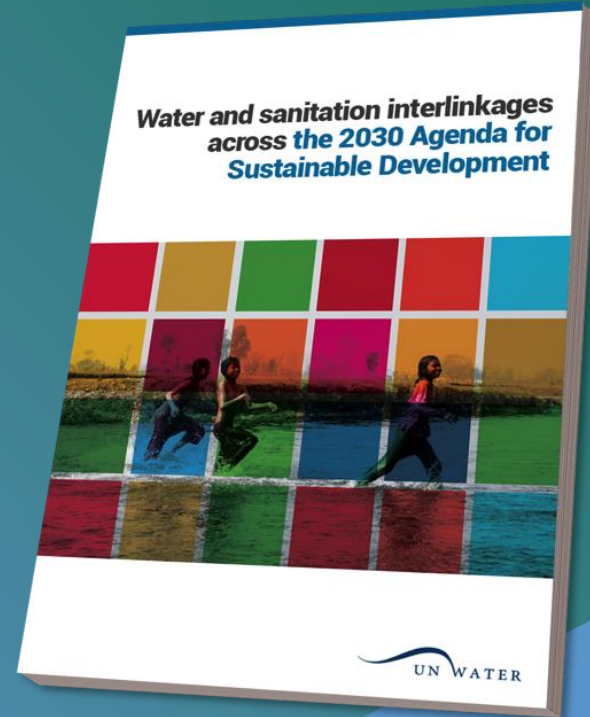
Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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The role of water for sustainable food systems transformation

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The importance of water to achieve the 2030 Agenda



Agricultural water use

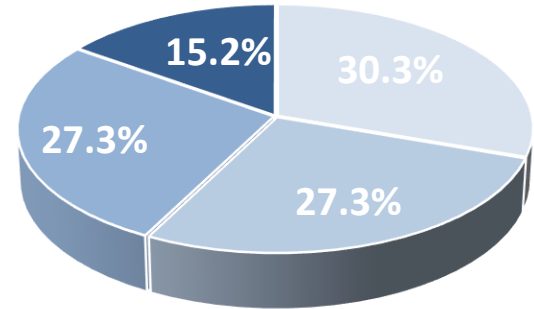
- Agriculture accounts for around 70% of global freshwater withdrawals, making it the biggest sectoral water user.
- Global demand is expected to increase of 24% by 2050 under a sustainability scenario.
- Only 13% of the Water Action Agenda commitments refer to agriculture.
- Is water well addressed in national strategies and policies such as NDCs and NAPs, climate change strategies, etc.?
- Water-blindness in National Pathways for Food Systems Transformation (2021): 2/3 of the pathways did not address water in a meaningful way.



National Pathways: Water blindness

- **116 National Pathways for Food Systems Transformation submitted (as of July 2023)**
- **1st round of analysis through terminology on water in the pathways**

- Not Addressed
- Addressed but Unclear
- Addressed Somewhat Clearly
- Addressed Clearly

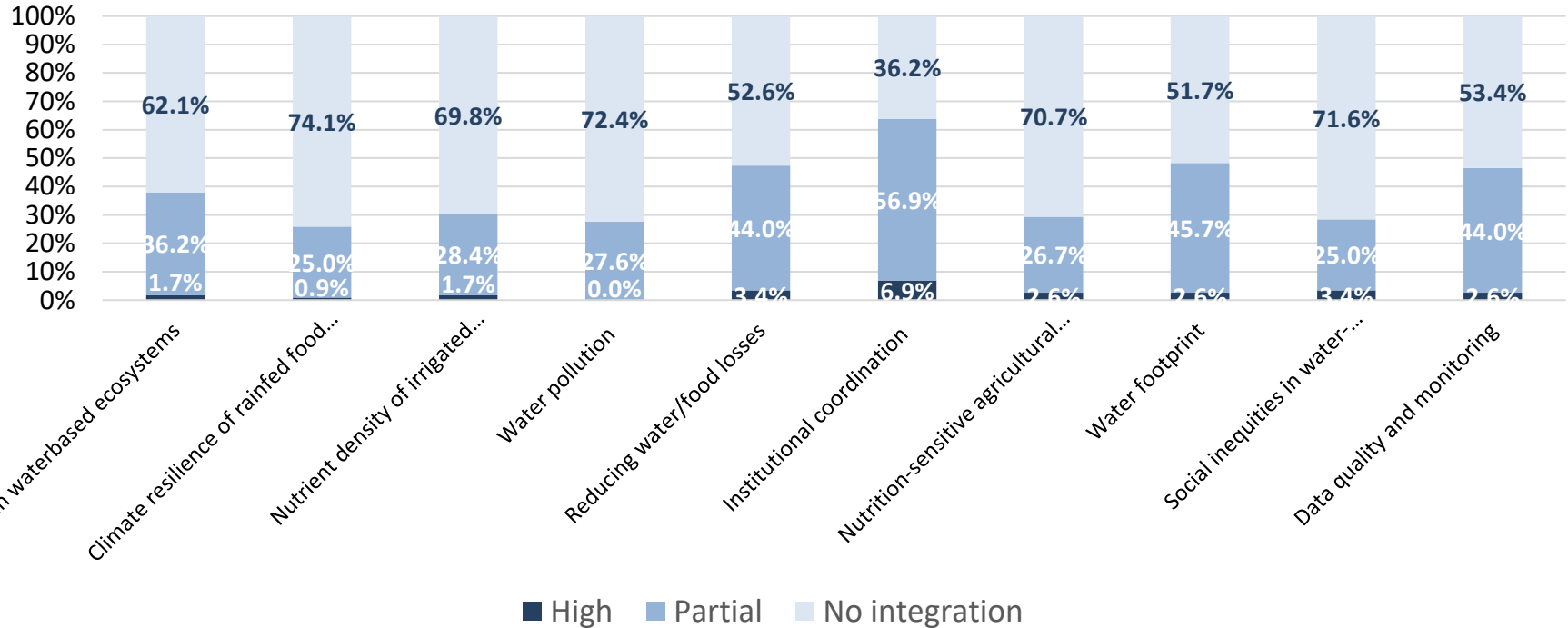


National Pathways: Water blindness

- 2nd round of analysis through Qualitative Document Analysis (QDA) by assessing 10 indicators from 0 to 3
- Results:
 - 22 countries explicitly **acknowledge** water resources as **pivotal** for advancing their national food systems transformation.
 - 13 countries completely **omitted** the topic of water
 - 45 countries have **not scored more than 1** in any given indicator

National Pathways: Water blindness

Level of integration of specific water-related actions



Policy recommendations

1. Adopt system thinking approaches
2. Enhance cross-sectoral coordination and collaboration
3. Develop inclusive water governance systems and mechanisms
4. Consider and include ecosystems and their services into policy and planning
5. Improve agricultural water management practices beyond water use efficiency



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Thank you for your attention!

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