

Mid-Term Evaluation of Phase VIII of the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme 2014-2021

Current status and emerging findings

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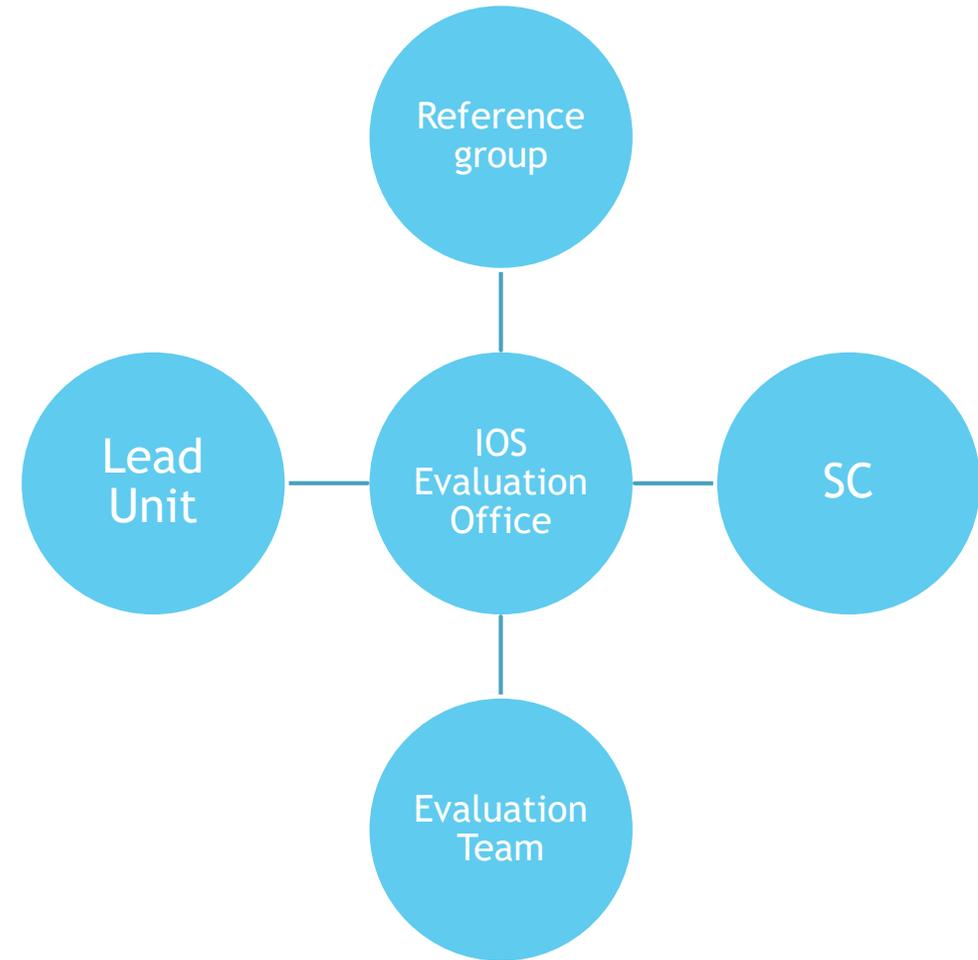
A dual purpose

The mid-term evaluation of IHP VIII has two main purposes:

- Identifying **necessary adjustments to IHP VIII** implementation (2019-2021), especially in light of SDG 6, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for DRR, UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change approved by the General Conference; and:
- Informing **development of IHP Phase IX** in its early phases of conception.

Evaluation project team

- Terms of reference developed with Lead Unit
- An Evaluation Reference Group was established
- IOS contracted IIEP (Institute for European Environmental Policy), supported by Technopolis Group
- Evaluation report to ADG/SC prior to further use (e.g. IHP, EXB, OAC)



Evaluation dimensions

Dimension	Main question(s)
<i>Strategic positioning</i>	Is the IHP positioned correctly with regard to key agendas (e.g. Agenda 2030) and other UN bodies?
<i>Co-ordination and partnerships</i>	Is IHP effective in its co-ordination of the UNESCO Water Family?
<i>Results and sustainability</i>	What are the outputs and outcomes of IHP? Are they lasting?
<i>Human and financial resources</i>	How does IHP deal with decreased funds, is it efficient and is it effective in mobilising additional resources?
<i>Outreach and communications</i>	Is communication effective?
<i>Cross-cutting issues</i>	How does IHP contribute to Priorities Africa and Gender Equality, to target group Youth and to peace?

Methodology and methods

- This mid-term evaluation was conceptualised based on a generic evaluation design
- In order, it included the following methods for data collection:
 - Literature review - reports, publications, extractions from SISTER, etc.
 - Field visit (IHP LAC regional meeting in Panamá)
 - On-line survey (> 100 responses)
 - Semi-structured interviews (inside and outside IHP)

Timelines



Current status

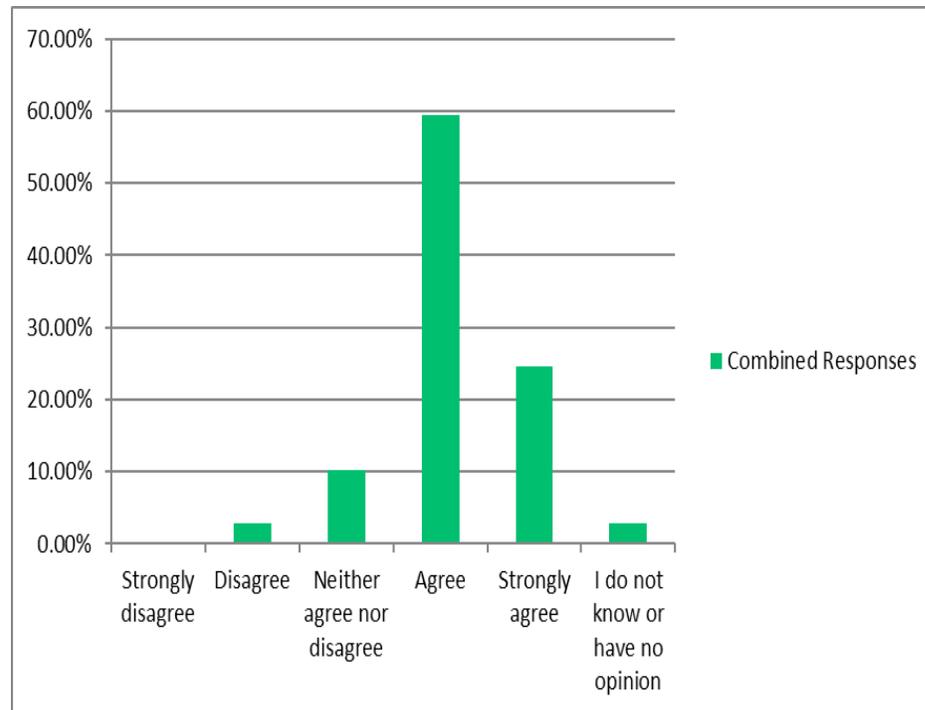
- Final analysis in process
- Draft report to be delivered to IOS on 22 January for review by evaluation reference group
- These slides show emerging findings and issues based on evidence - *all data are preliminary and conclusions may change*
- Final report is due for mid-February

Dimension 1: Strategic positioning

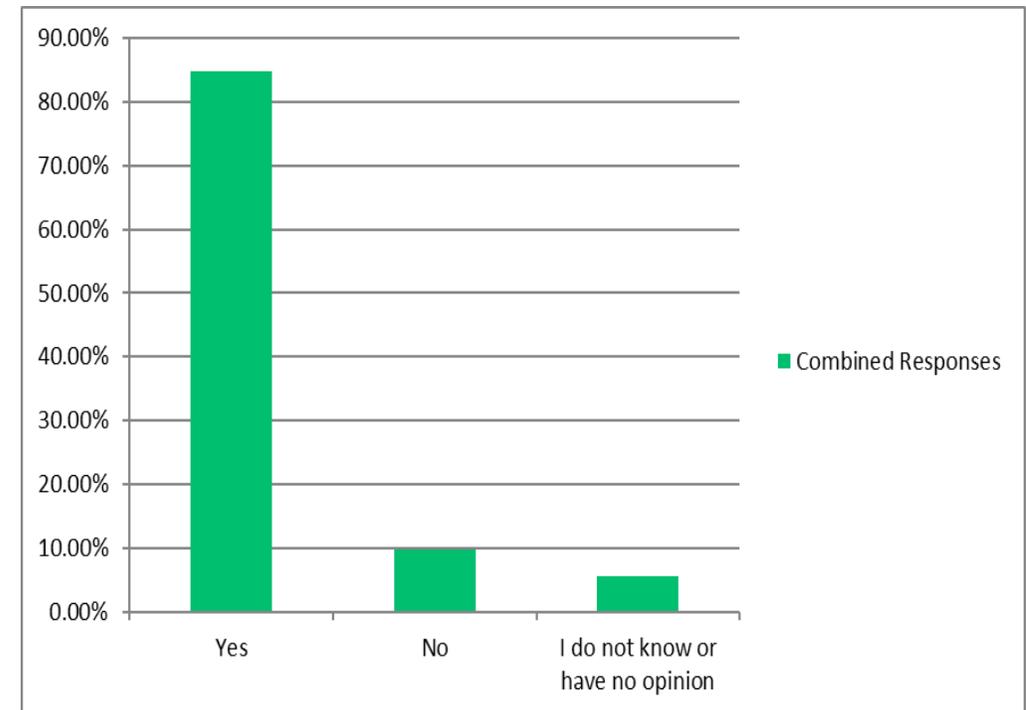
- Divergent views emerged
- On role in wider UN: while many emphasised the track record / depth of IHP compared to other UN bodies, some were put off by this view
- Key issue is to **focus** or **maintain a broad scope** - strong views on this, referring to resources, but also inter-governmental nature of IHP, buy-in by countries, etc.
- Alignment with Agenda 2030 and other international agendas: recognised as important - significant alignment has taken place, but a closer mapping needed for Phase IX

Survey results (Delivery and needs I)

- Agree with statement “IHP Phase VIII is adequately delivering on its overarching theme: Water security: Responses to local, regional, and global challenges”



- Does IHP Phase VIII appropriately reflects the needs and concerns of your organization in the field of water management?

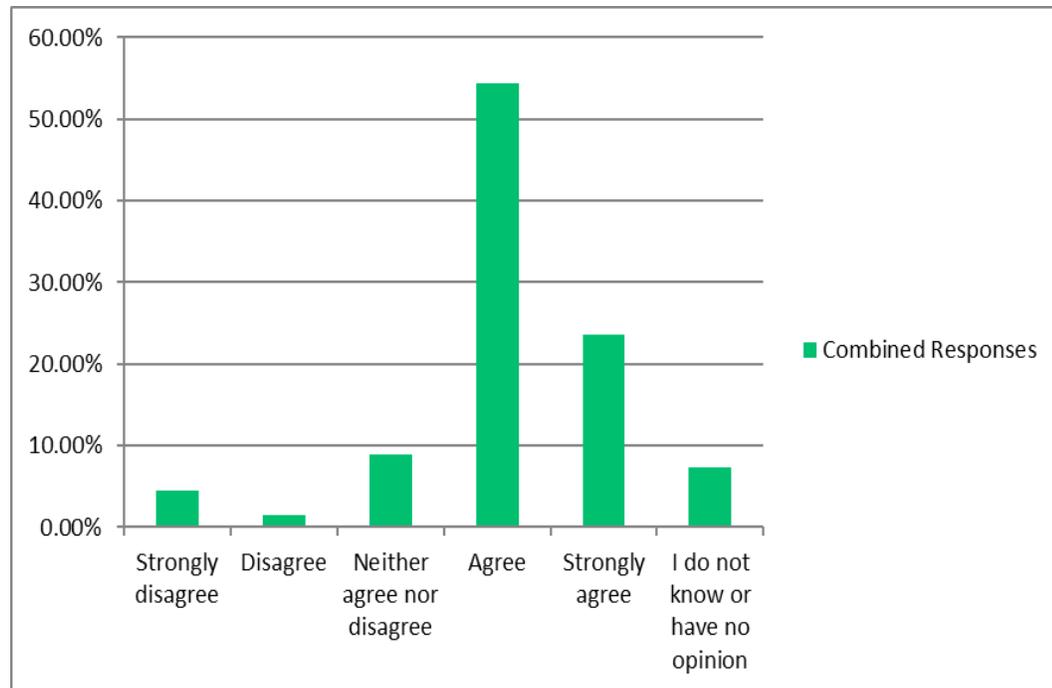


Dimension 2: Co-ordination and partnerships

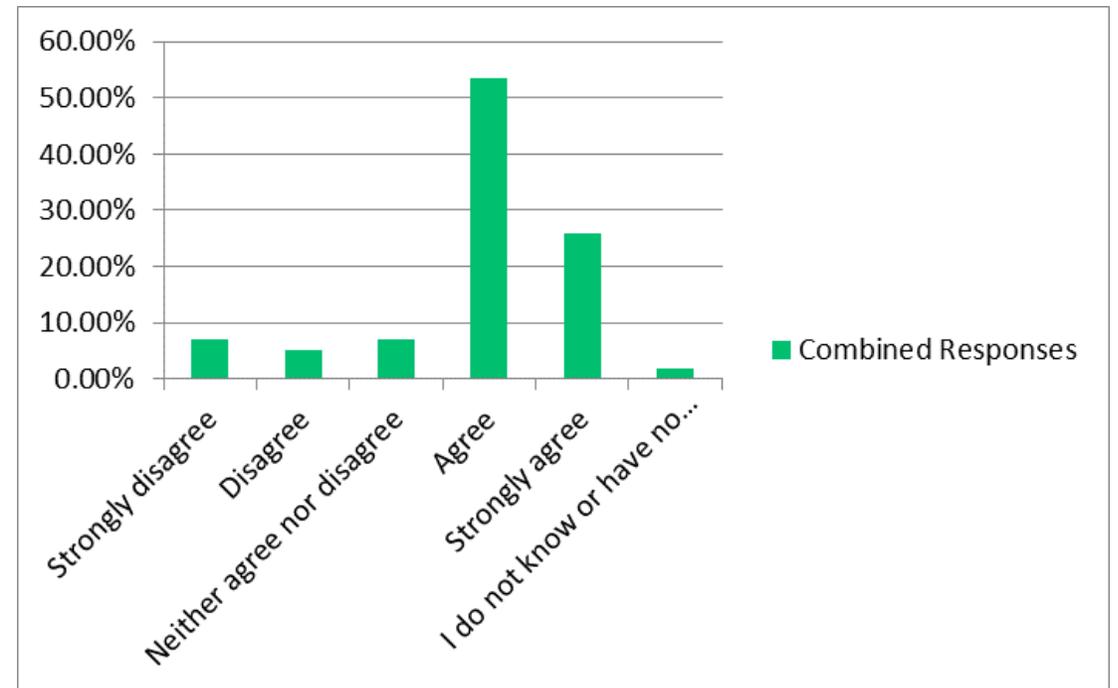
- Role of IHP in UNESCO Water Family widely supported
- There exists recognition of the value of the Secretariat, especially with limited resources
- Views on Chairs and Category II Centres: highlighting their value for those active, but questions for ‘inactive’ ones; also recognise political buy-in from countries
- Role of countries in implementation is critical, but could be better defined, e.g. in relation to delivery of specific objectives

Survey results (UNESCO Water Family)

- Do you agree with the statement that the IHP Secretariat is effectively performing its coordination function in the UNESCO Water Family?



- To what extent do you agree with the statement that the IHP is effective in establishing partnerships?

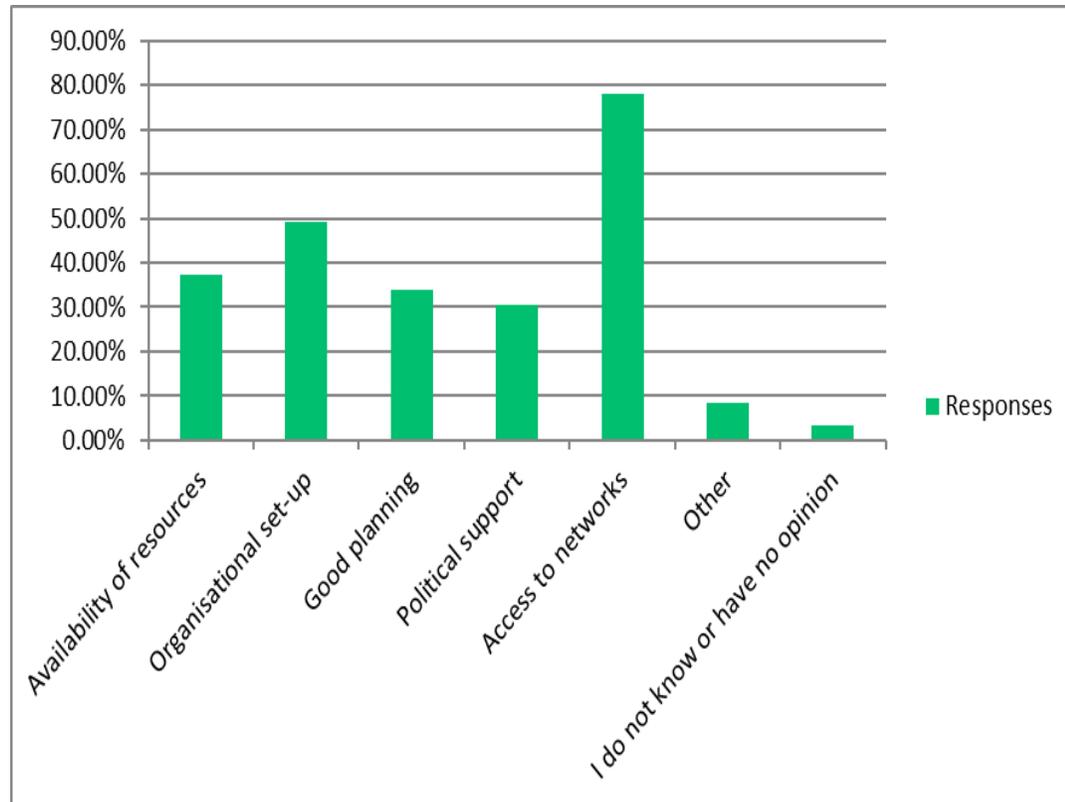


Dimension 3: Results and sustainability

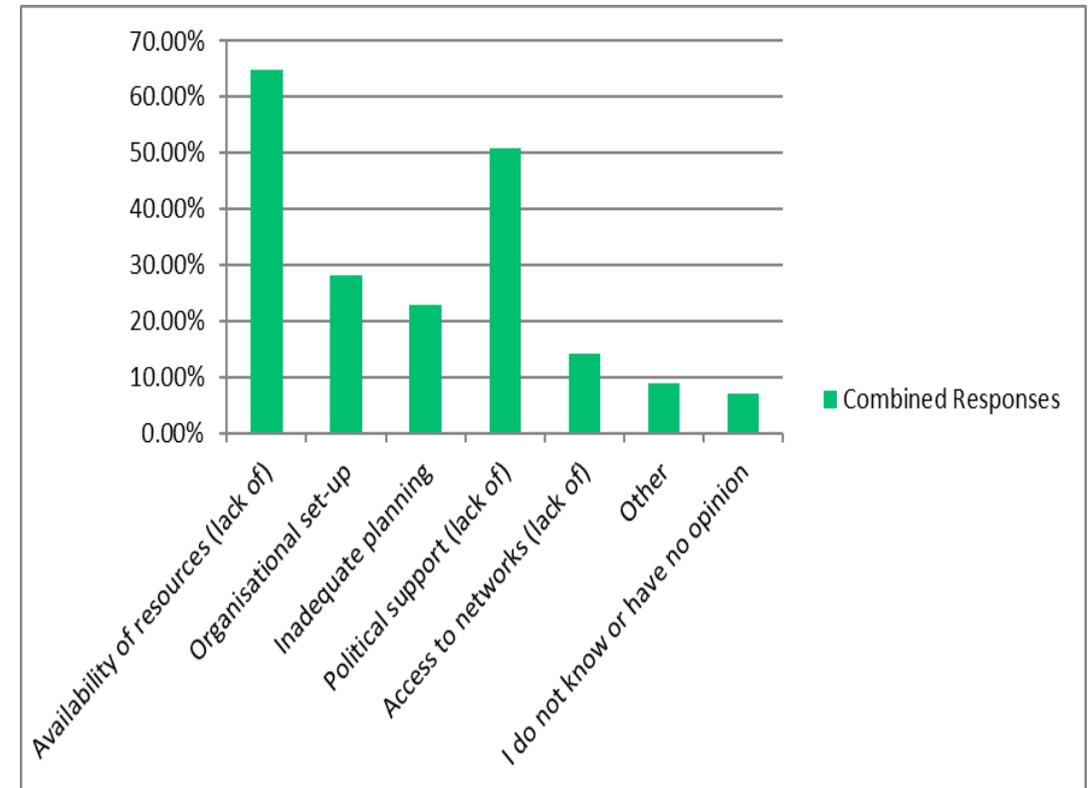
- IHP creates a wide range of outputs: publications, information, capacity building activities, etc. - numerous positive views of these
- Caution: many outputs result from longer-term activities (prior to Phase VIII) - inevitable due to nature of science, but important in assessing Phase VIII and conceptualising Phase IX
- Outcomes harder to demonstrate: changes in water management, policy change, improved education - evidence through individual communication that outputs led to outcome(s)
- Sustainability - linked to resourcing. Some results require continued activity

Survey results (Associated factors)

- Which of the following factors have positively contributed to the achievement of outcomes?



- Which of the following factors have inhibited the achievement of outcomes?

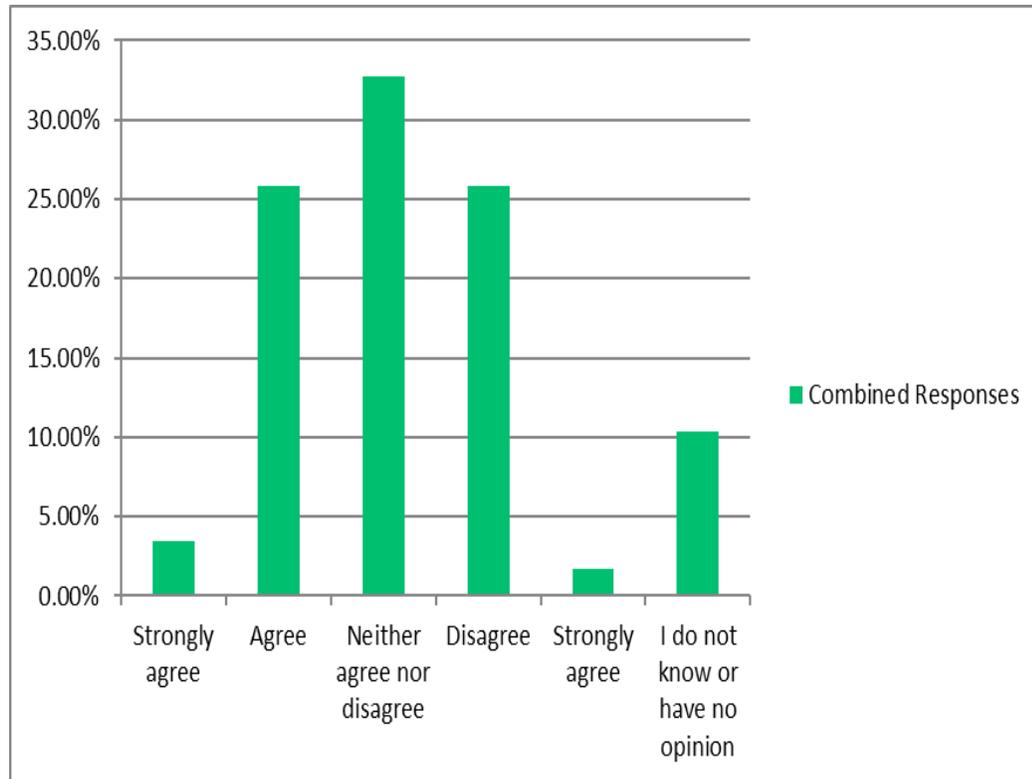


Dimension 4: Human and financial resources

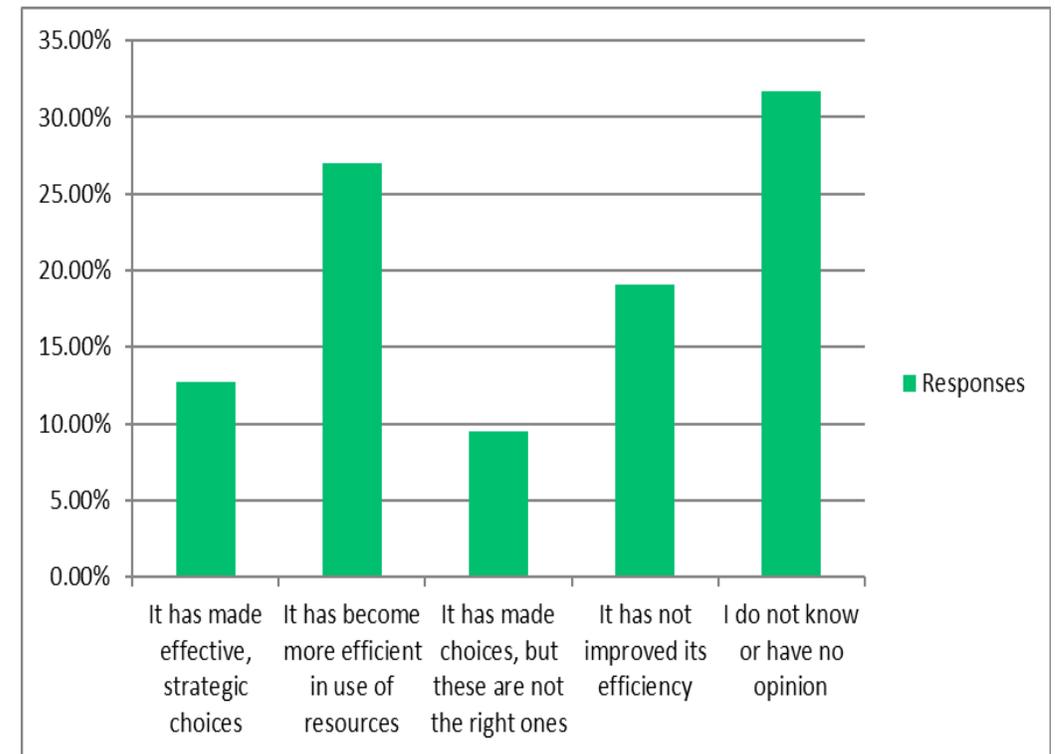
- All recognise financial constraints for IHP (and UNESCO more widely)
- Different views on distribution of resources - e.g. HQ vs field
- The total RP budget (operational and staff) for IHP VIII amounts to ca. \$41M US\$ (2014-2019 total)
- Information regarding the share of operational vs. staff budget for the 37 and 38 C/5: ca. 30 / 70 budget share between operations and staff
- Extra-budgetary funds important: for every dollar of IHP RP budget (operational and staff) approx one dollar of XB funds raised and spent
- Also wider in-kind support critical for many activities - but some areas struggle

Survey results (Resources)

- To what extent do you agree with the statement that the IHP is effective in raising funds?

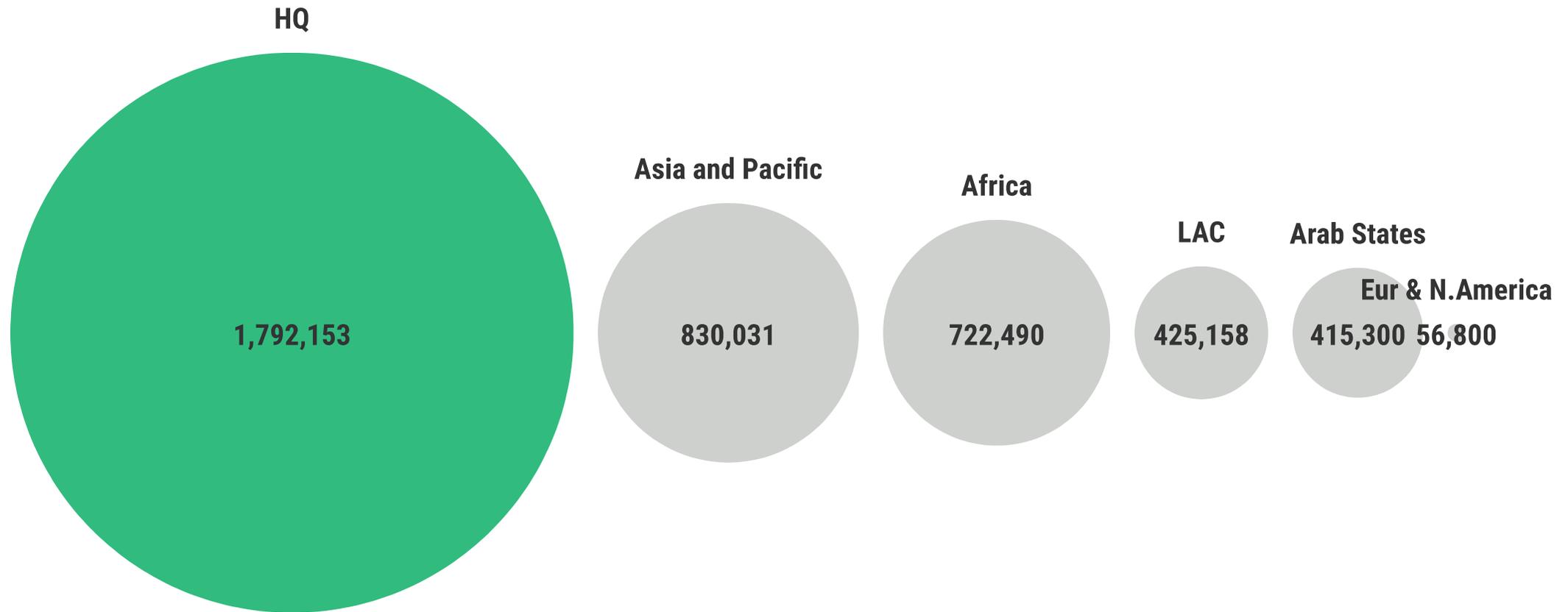


- To what extent do you think that the IHP has coped with the human and financial resource constraints faced by IHP and UNESCO between 2014 and now?



Operational budget spend by region

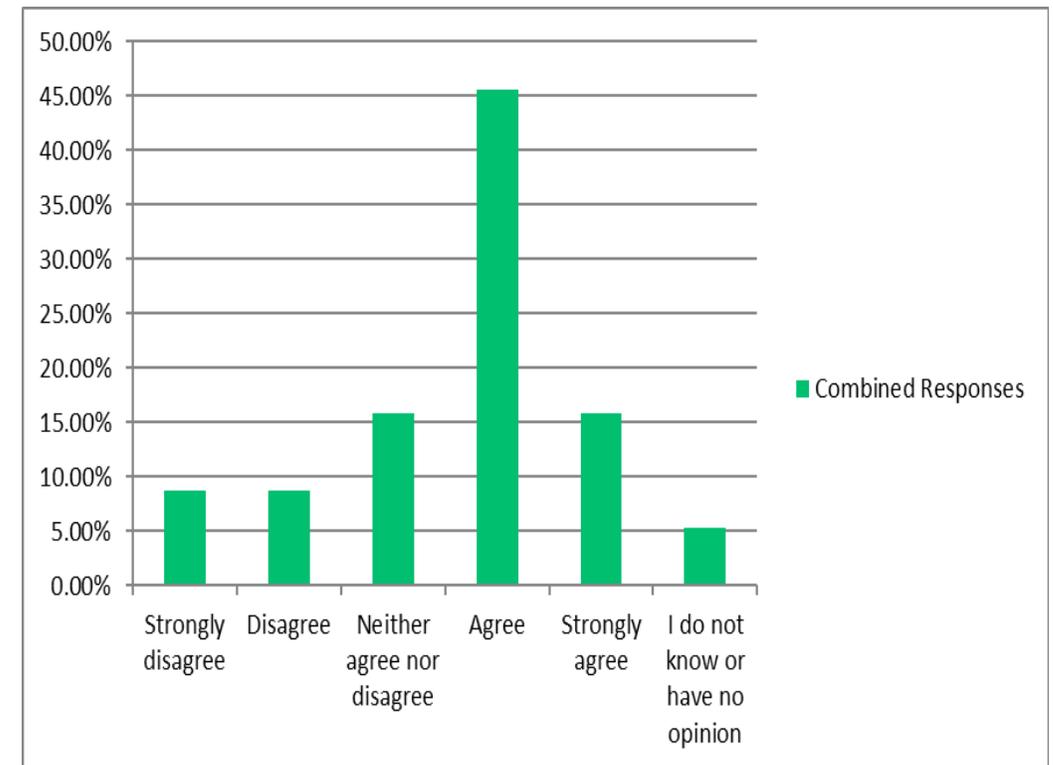
- Breakdown of IHP RP operational budget by region for 39 C/5 (US\$)



Dimension 5: Outreach and communications

- Wide support for IHP communication activities
- Covers range of objectives - advancing science, water management, education, policy, etc.
- At different levels - Secretariat, Chairs, Centres, etc.

- Survey: To what extent do you agree that the communication with IHP Secretariat is user-friendly?

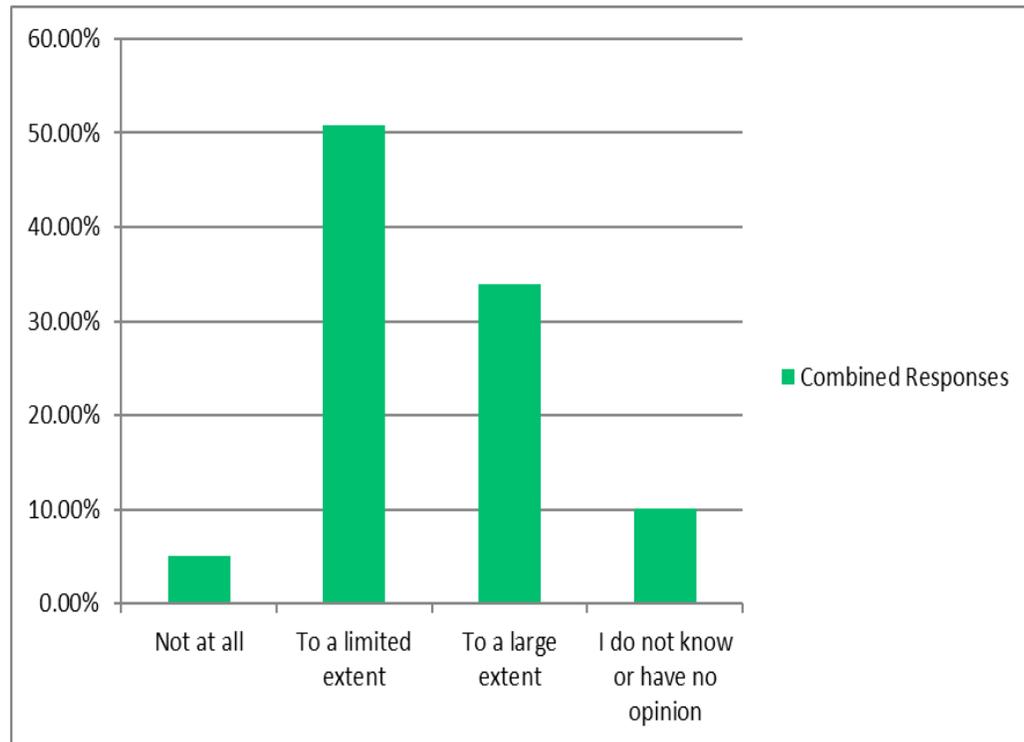


Cross-cutting issues

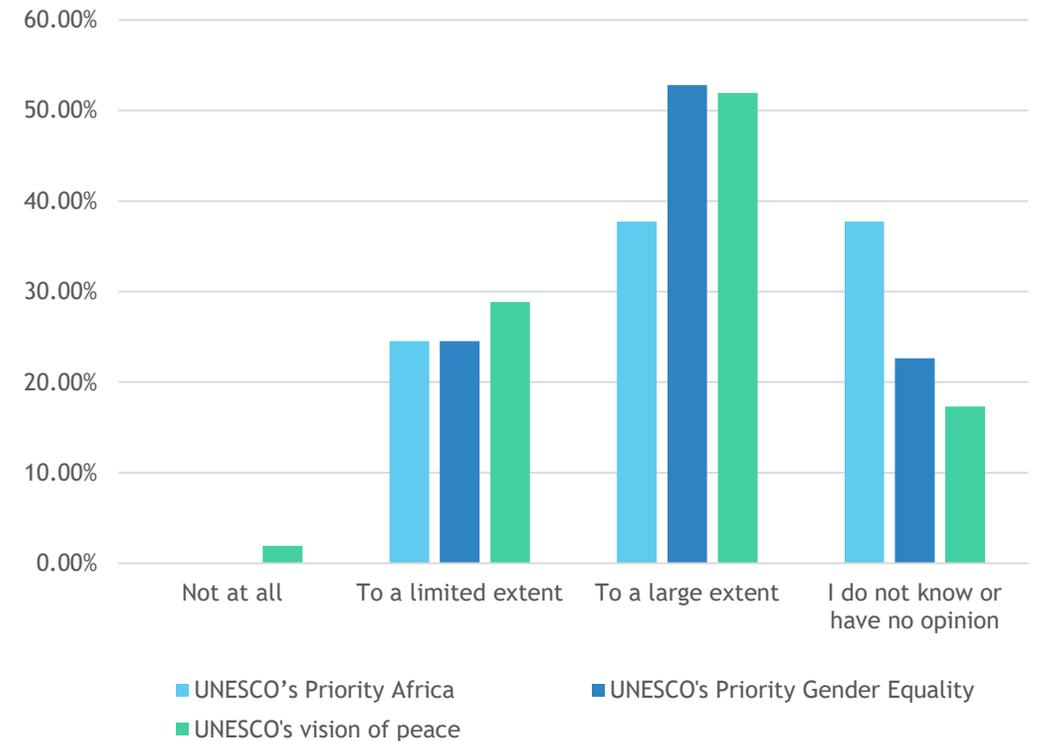
- For some these are less prominent issues - for others, one or more are particularly important
- Occasionally, there are impressions that cross-cutting issues are ‘shoe-horned’ into activities
- No one activity delivers the issue - some activities contribute (e.g. transboundary water management; activities in Africa, etc.)
- But there are criticisms of insufficient attention at times, e.g. gender equality

Survey results (Cross-cutting themes)

- To what extent do you consider the IHP has been supporting young water professionals in the last four years?



- To what extent has IHP Phase VIII contributed to the following since 2014?



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