

Effective Monitoring of WASH Within the SDG

The Civil Society Organisations represented at the SWA Ministerial Meeting reconfirm their commitment to the implementation of the SWA strategy and collaborative behaviours:



Call for Action:

- National governments to set clear budget lines to increase funding to Office/Bureau of National Statistics
- National governments to commit to improving access to information through Freedom of Information Bills, or create a similar mechanism.
- Mechanisms to be set up to implement actions against poor performance, lack of fulfilment of allocated responsibilities or abuses.
- National governments and UN to develop clear definition on **basic access, safely managed, unimproved** and **shared facilities**.
- UN and Donors to commit to supporting countries with strengthening their monitoring systems in order to produce data fit for tracking progress towards national targets with disaggregated data at subnational levels.
- Existing monitoring mechanisms such as JMP, GLAAS, WASH-Bats to be positioned to monitor the WASH in SDG with improved coordination.
- Regional groups to commit to re-aligning their commitments to focus on SDGs.
- Governments to ensure that monitoring systematically identifies inequalities that are relevant to national context and use this information for evidence based planning and decision making.
- Data to be disaggregated on the basis of the most common grounds of marginalisation from services, including, but not limited to, income levels, rural-urban disparities, residence in informal settlements and other relevant considerations.

What we already know

- **JMP to monitor access and use of safe drinking-water, basic sanitation and hygiene:** The Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation by WHO and UNICEF has been the official UN mechanism tasked with monitoring the access to and use of safe drinking-water and basic sanitation in all countries in the world since 1990. The JMP will continue to be the official mechanism used to monitor the SDG target 6.1 & 6.2. (with new definitions for « basic access », « safely managed », « Unimproved », « shared facilities »...).
- **Monitoring the enabling environment:** GLAAS monitors the inputs into sanitation and drinking-water, in terms of financial and human resources, policy frameworks and political capital, which are made available by developing countries and external support agencies (donors and nongovernmental organizations). GLAAS will build on and complements the JMP report.

- Other analytical tools (WASH-Bats, JSR, CSO...) will continue to exist to support the identification of national-level obstacles.
- **Monitoring Global Goal 6, beyond WASH:** The remaining four targets address broader aspects of water and sanitation (water resource quality, water-use efficiency, water resource management, and ecosystem health). A new coalition of monitoring systems coordinated by UN-Water (GEMI – integrated monitoring of water and sanitation related Global Goal targets) is emerging to develop or adapt global monitoring systems for these targets.
- **National Monitoring Mechanisms:** Various countries conduct national surveys such as Living Standard Surveys, National Census Surveys etc. While some countries have institutionalised such surveys with fixed timelines and predictability for such events, others conduct them randomly. The quality of data from countries with less regular surveys will definitely not be robust.
- **60% of MDGs data were estimated:** Due to poor resourcing of national office of statistics, datasets used for the monitoring of the MDGs were estimates. This creates the problem of either under or over reporting WASH coverage. This method makes it difficult to effectively target the people who are most in need.
- **Competing commitments (SACOSAN, AFRICASAN and LATINOSA):** National governments are over stretched with reporting on a number of commitments at regional levels. This leads to competition and neglect of WASH issues which are seen as lower priority for donors.
- The latest **UN General Assembly resolution on the human rights to water and sanitation** calls upon states to ensure realisation of the human rights in a non-discriminatory manner, and to eliminate inequalities in access which is being negatively influenced by urban-rural disparities, slum dwellers, income levels and other relevant considerations.

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