

The four SWA Collaborative Behaviours



SWA has identified four critical collaborative behaviours which, if jointly adopted by governments and development partners, would improve long-term sector performance and sustainability. SWA partners agree to:

Enhance government leadership of sector planning processes

1. Enhance government leadership of sector planning processes

Government leadership is essential for directing and coordinating resources – including external support - around nationally agreed sector priorities, strategies and plans. In particular, sector development requires a government-led, multi-stakeholder cycle of planning, monitoring, and learning. Where such sector planning processes are weak or not in place, partners should jointly support efforts to build and strengthen them.

Strengthen and use country systems

2. Strengthen and use country systems

Core country systems are the fundamental capabilities of government needed for the effective and transparent management of public resources, including those received through development assistance. These systems include: public financial management, HR management, statistics, procurement and contract management. Core country systems are key to financing capital expenditure for water and sanitation services as well as for monitoring and regulating services. Government and partners should agree a set of intermediate steps to progressively strengthen and use country systems to develop, monitor and regulate water and sanitation services.

Use one information and mutual accountability platform

3. Use one information and mutual accountability platform

In order to decide where to invest, how to sustain and improve water and sanitation services and to understand which policies and strategies work, it is crucial that sectors have reliable data and engage in critical joint reflection and adaptive management. Effective development cooperation requires appropriate, inclusive processes that encourage all partners to demonstrate and demand mutual accountability for sector progress.

Build sustainable water and sanitation sector financing strategies

4. Build sustainable water and sanitation sector financing strategies

Transparency and predictability of all resources is critical in allowing governments to exercise a leadership role in directing and monitoring sector investment. Sector financing strategies that incorporate financial data on all 3Ts (taxes, tariffs and transfers), as well as estimates for non-tariff household expenditure, and realistic estimates for all costs categories (including costs for building new WASH infrastructure and costs for governance and sector capacity strengthening), are critical components of effective sector planning in the medium and longer term. They are critical both to domestic accountability, and to the governments' capacity to hold external support agencies accountable and vice versa.



More information:

sanitationandwaterforall.org/about/the-four-swa-collaborative-behaviours

Five Building Blocks

Sector Policy / Strategy



- Sector policies and strategies that identify sector goals and pathways, giving direction to sector investments
- Strategies for implementation, including agreement on implementation models / sustainable service delivery approaches
- Policies/strategies covering:
 - All sub-sectors (urban, rural, drinking water and sanitation)
 - National and subnational levels

Institutional arrangements



- Identification and allocation of institutional roles and responsibilities, including decentralization commitments
- Country driven and inclusive coordination mechanisms that allow for participation of a broad range of stakeholders in dialogue, communication, and identification of mutual interest around service delivery and sector learning
- Legal and regulatory frameworks to underpin the desired targets and reinforce roles and allocation of resources

Sector Financing



- Medium Term Expenditure Framework which matches government priorities with available resources
- Realistic and transparent sector budget with identifiable funding streams
- Availability and use of data on financing streams including the 3Ts (taxes, tariffs and transfers) and comparable, realistic estimates for all sector cost categories for sustainable service delivery.

Planning, monitoring, and review



- Effective, inclusive and systematic planning, monitoring and evaluation of sector performance to ensure the most effective route to achieve goals
- Mid- and longer- term review of sector performance through multi-stakeholder platforms and mechanisms for sector dialogue and learning
- Clearly defined accountability mechanisms
- Data transparency and public access to information

Capacity development



- Capacity building and development plans addressing:
 - The capacity of institutions to fulfill sector roles and responsibilities for sustainable service delivery at scale, including the availability of necessary structures, tools, training, and incentives
 - The capacity of individuals to effectively engage in the sector through sector institutions or as educated consumers
 - The capacity of sector stakeholders to adapt and innovate by engaging in (collective) sector learning