



San José - Costa Rica - 4-5 April 2019

# BEYOND THE SECTOR MINISTERS' MEETING

## Recommendations for follow-up actions

**What is included in this document?** Recommendations on actions that stakeholders in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector can include in their ongoing national or organizational approaches after the Sector Ministers' Meeting. Among others, the recommendations focus on efforts to maintain and raise political attention to the sector and to "Leave No One Behind"; improve the use of the mutual accountability mechanism; identify and share experiences in the use of the SWA framework to achieve the SDGs. The document also provides a list of available resources and tools from the Secretariat and partners.

**Who is this document for?** SWA partners at national, regional and global levels; all governments and agencies which participated or were invited to the SMM in Costa Rica.

For more information go to: <http://sanitationandwaterforall.org/>





## BEYOND THE SECTOR MINISTERS' MEETING

### Suggestions for follow-up actions

#### 1. About the SWA 2019 Sector Ministers' Meeting

The 2019 Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) Sector Ministers' Meeting (SMM) was held in San José, Costa Rica, on 4 and 5 April 2019. The meeting was attended by more than 50 ministers responsible for water, sanitation and hygiene, and more than 250 other leaders from civil society, external support agencies, private sector, and research and learning institutions. The SMM focused on Leave No One Behind as a critical aspect of achieving the water, sanitation and hygiene targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It included ministerial dialogues which allowed ministers to learn from each other's experiences and enabled cross-constituency discussion on strengthening partnership and collaboration.

The 2019 SMM was also the first occasion where commitments tabled by partners under the Mutual Accountability Mechanism were featured. More than 300 commitments were submitted by 47 governments and almost 20 other partners. All partners can submit commitments and report on progress at any time. The mechanism is also helpful in tracking progress towards national goals as well as the SDGs.

At the end of the meeting, the SWA High-level Chair, the Hon. Kevin Rudd, issued a summary statement which calls on ministers and SMM participants to:

- Fulfil their human rights obligations and responsibilities
- Identify the people who have been left behind and assess how to address their needs.
- Establish systems that integrate laws, strong regulatory frameworks, policies, and institutions that can ensure governments and partners are able to deliver services for all. A better-performing sector becomes more credit-worthy.
- Ahead of the next SWA Finance Ministers' Meeting in 2020, develop financing strategies for water and sanitation for all, specifically for those identified as most marginalized. These can aim at: reducing the financing gap; reforming tariffs; integrating water and sanitation programmes into overall national plans and budgets; persuading the Minister of Finance and of Health that water and sanitation are good investments, not an expense.
- Be courageous and take risks! Investment in sanitation and water for all will pay off for the population.

The SWA partnership facilitates dialogue at global, regional and national levels among ministers and other leaders. The SMM constitutes an essential part of this High-Level Political Dialogue. This Dialogue around the SMM, in combination with ongoing national activities undertaken by partners, is intended to:

- a. create and sustain momentum for progress in the water and sanitation sector
- b. build political will of decision-makers and enhance their capacity
- c. provide a forum for exchange of ideas, innovations and experience, but also for discussion of solutions and approaches for addressing bottlenecks and challenges in implementing the SWA Framework (see box below) at the national level
- d. allow discussion of how to ensure multi-stakeholder engagement, mirroring SWA's multi-stakeholder nature, at national and global levels
- e. foster mutual accountability, making use of the Mutual Accountability Mechanism the partnership has established.



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There is a higher chance of progress if the momentum, outcomes and results of the SMM are incorporated and taken forward by ministers, other leaders and all partners through their collaboration at the national level after the meeting. The ongoing national dialogues are crucial to progress.

## 2. Proposed strategies for maintaining engagement and action at country-level

The following recommended activities can support efforts to ensure no one is left behind and incorporate the results and outcomes of the SMM in the planning, follow-up and review cycles within countries and agencies. These recommendations are for use by sector stakeholders including governments, and other institutions which were invited and/or participated in the SMM. SWA focal points can take the lead in identifying and agreeing which of these actions will be used in their contexts.

### Raising the engagement with key decision-makers including Heads of Government or Heads of State, ministers and leaders from other agencies

Political support and leadership for the sector is a crucial driver for setting priorities and targets for levels of access to water and sanitation, mobilizing resources, reviewing progress and effectively targeting of financing. Support to the ministers' leadership both before and after the SMM is an essential part of this work. Prior to the SMM in Costa Rica, several countries organized inter-ministerial dialogues to discuss the results of their country analysis and agree on national sector priorities. In some cases, these dialogues included leaders of development partners. Below are some recommendations for fostering political leadership after the SMM:

- Reach the highest **level of political leadership** including Heads of State or Heads of Government, and advocate for their political support around the priorities and commitments set. The SWA encourages exchanges between countries in overcoming their challenges and learning from each other. Countries such as Nigeria engaged the President who declared sanitation a national emergency and drew linkages and lessons from India.
- **Present the results of the preparatory process and the SMM to key decision-makers** including to other relevant ministries and departments (health, education, rural development), members of parliament, external support agencies, and civil society, private sector, academia, local, religious and traditional leaders. Given the importance of Leave No One Behind, the results of the analysis can also be presented to and shared with the Head of State or Head of Government to seek their political support in implementing the strategies and commitments which were agreed.
- Organize a **post-SMM ministerial briefing** where ministers discuss their country's priorities, including resourcing the implementation of their commitments. These briefings should be aligned with existing national processes and include development partners who have to align their programs to the national priorities. The briefings can also aim at informing other political leaders and members of the press.
- **Arrange regular inter-ministerial dialogues** involving ministers responsible for water, sanitation and hygiene, as well as those in charge of the economy, finance, national planning and development, health, social affairs and education, as well as leaders of development partners. These dialogues can be used to discuss progress on the priorities, identify bottlenecks and get cross-institutional support to address challenges in the sector and improve resource use and allocation.
- **Involve the media** in the post-SMM discussions including through programs such as the inter-ministerial dialogues and the post-SMM briefings.

### Strengthening analysis and dialogue on critical drivers of progress including financing



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Ahead of the SMM, more than 40 Country Briefs were prepared under governments' leadership and with the participation of several stakeholders. The briefs focused on progress towards national water, sanitation and hygiene targets of the SDGs, and how these targets are articulated in the sector [Building Blocks](#). The Briefs also looked at how well partners are working together by putting the [Collaborative Behaviours](#) into practice and how their actions are fostering compliance with the [Guiding Principles](#). The Country Briefs also feature commitments drawn from their respective national multi-annual sector plans and that were identified as priorities by the governments and their partners during the preparatory process for the SMM. Partners in countries used national data sources such as baseline studies, and data generated by global instruments, including information compiled by national stakeholders around the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) 2018/2019 cycle. Other sources included the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program and analytical tools such as the WASH Bottleneck Analysis Tool. These were used to gather information on sector achievements and analyze the bottlenecks holding back progress. The period after the SMM can be used to:

- **Mobilize all relevant stakeholders** – several government representatives indicated strong interest in inviting key actors such as the private sector and research and learning institutions to their national dialogues. Working with focal points, SWA partners can identify and invite relevant stakeholders to join their national sector platforms for planning, implementing, and reviewing progress towards the water, sanitation and hygiene targets of the SDGs. In each SWA partner country there should be ongoing and regular multi-stakeholder dialogue on water, sanitation and hygiene involving the government, the private sector, civil society, external support agencies and academic institutions.
- **Use the evidence to support decision-making by political leaders** including guiding programs of other stakeholders such as external support agencies, civil society, private sector and research and learning agencies. The UN-Water GLAAS has recent results from the survey of the External Support Agencies which provide highlights that can be used for deepening dialogue.
- **Use results from the GLAAS country highlights** which provide more up-to-date information on the status of the sector especially related to policies and plans and other aspects of the enabling environment such as financing, human resources and monitoring.
- **Identify and include themes related to the SMM in ongoing national dialogues**, such as finance, partnering in practice, accountability, regulation, integrity, drivers of progress to eliminate inequalities, human rights, among others.
- **Make the case at national level for developing financing strategies**, and prepare to write these strategies, as well as implementation plans.

#### Mobilizing partners to implement and review the commitments as part of the mutual accountability mechanism

At the time of the SMM, 47 governments had tabled commitments focusing on their priorities to achieve the water, sanitation and hygiene targets of the SDGs, with many SWA partners in those countries making commitments in support of the government ones. 18 global development partners tabled 55 commitments in support of the priorities identified by SWA partner countries.

In this post-SMM phase, governments are encouraged to continue to refine their commitments to make them 'SMARTer'<sup>1</sup>. SWA countries and partners who did not yet table commitments are still encouraged to do so.

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<sup>1</sup> Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Timely

The follow-up and review of the commitments should also be done at country level, through inclusive, multi-stakeholder processes. As soon as the commitments are reviewed, and progress is reported through the national level processes, the government can provide the update to the SWA Secretariat, which will make it publicly available. Similarly, partners operating at a regional or global level can continue to refine their commitments and reflect on how their own agencies are implementing the SWA Framework, in addition to how they are supporting other actors.

*Table 1: ~~Suggested~~ Recommended next steps for the mutual accountability mechanism*

<b>Government</b>	Did your government table SMART commitments jointly developed with partners in-country? If not, your government can still table commitments. Contact the SWA Secretariat for support.
	Determine whether your commitments need to be updated and identify the best opportunity for doing so
	Identify when the commitments will be reviewed through a multi-stakeholder national platform as part of an ongoing national process. Ensure the reporting process is communicated to all partners. Contact the SWA Secretariat for support in case of need.  If not yet done, determine how the commitments will be monitored, what indicators and data sources will be used.
	Plan to share the updated commitments with the relevant stakeholders.
	Use <a href="#">this form</a> to share new or updated commitments
<b>Partner operating at national level</b>	Check if your organization or institution made commitments in line with the priorities identified through the multi-stakeholder process led by the government.  Commitments can still be made if neither the government you work with or your institution did so. Contact the SWA Secretariat for support.
	If your institution tabled commitments, reflect on whether they need to be revised, for example, do your commitments directly address what your organization will do to improve its own actions in support of government commitments?
	Identify internal ways to review progress on your institution's commitments and mark the reporting requirements and timeline by which the government will expect to receive your report.
	Share with the SWA Secretariat any updated commitments, including the progress report, as soon as it is agreed at the national level
	Use <a href="#">this form</a> to share new or updated commitments
<b>Partner at global level</b>	Check with and encourage your colleagues working in different countries to join in the process of tabling and reviewing commitments. Also, inform them of your institution's own commitments.  Check if your institution made regional or global level commitments. If not, your agency can still table commitments. Contact the SWA Secretariat for support.
	If your agency tabled commitments, reflect on the extent to which they demonstrate your organization's actions in line with the SWA Framework including the Guiding Principles and

	Collaborative Behaviors. Do your commitments speak directly to what your organization will do to improve its own actions in support of government commitments?
	Identify ways to review and report on the commitments, including possible peer-review mechanisms involving partners in the same constituency e.g. among external support agencies
	Share any updated commitments with the SWA Secretariat, including the progress report
	Use <a href="#">this form</a> to share new or updated commitments

### Linking with ongoing national processes, including budgeting, sector planning and review

Achieving priorities and commitments will require partners to link with processes that have an impact on, or are impacted by, water and sanitation. For example, some of the system changes required in water and sanitation, such as procurement and fiscal management are also dependent on support by and programmes of finance ministries. Below are some recommendations of the key processes through which water and sanitation sector priorities and commitments can be followed:

- **Incorporate water and sanitation sector processes in the medium- to long-term economic planning and financing forecasts** such as the medium-term expenditure framework (MTEF). These forecasts are usually based on and linked to the national planning cycle. The periodic review of these forecasts offers opportunities for the WASH sector to demonstrate its economic and social value.
- Use **the national and sub-national budgeting cycle** to present the financing needs for the sector and mobilize additional support, including policy measures related to taxes, tariffs and transfers. It is important to develop clear, costed proposals demonstrating how additional resources can be used and the measures in place to effectively utilize existing resources. Pakistan developed a concept for the enabling environment anchored on the budgeting cycle, which is being implemented with the involvement of different types of stakeholders.
- **Incorporate information on water and sanitation in ongoing national and global review processes.** Countries currently conducting their **Voluntary National Reviews for the United Nations' High Level Political Forum**, a mechanism set up for overseeing and review of the progress of the Agenda 2030 with the Sustainable Development Goals, can use the analysis and evidence on Leave No One Behind to strengthen their reports. Other relevant reporting platforms including **the national Universal Periodic Review report** that countries submit to the UN Human Rights Council. This will help to keep the Ministry for Foreign Affairs informed of the important work being done in the water and sanitation sector at the national level, as well as to strengthen the national report.
- Include the theme of Leave No One Behind in the **ongoing multi-stakeholder sector reviews** such as the Joint Sector Reviews or other platforms for follow-up and review of progress. These reviews are also the right platforms for reviewing progress on the commitments and advocating for more stakeholders to table commitments in line with the government priorities. Organize a **briefing about water, sanitation and hygiene and Leave No One Behind during a meeting of one of the relevant parliamentary committees**. Parliaments have been engaging with the SDGs more than with their predecessors, the Millennium Development Goals. They have also recognized that many SDGs, for example those concerned with the environment, require going beyond national borders and seeking regional cooperation. This briefing can stimulate discussions about the sector, raise member of parliaments' knowledge and attention to water and sanitation, as well as raise the sector profile.



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- **Strengthen linkages with national and sub-national planning processes.** Platforms for strengthening follow-up and dialogue on the topic of Leave No One Behind include the national planning processes as well as sub-national including those led by local governments. In highly decentralized systems, progress will be driven by local authorities who may not have been involved in the discussions prior to the SMM. The tools for analysis and evidence used prior to the SMM can be provided to sub-national level leaders to foster discussion and decision for including Leave No One Behind in the development and monitoring of local development plans.

#### Identifying, documenting and sharing partner experiences on “Leave no one behind”

The SWA provides a platform for sharing lessons and creating opportunities for peer-to-peer learning. Partners have indicated interest in further dialogues on accelerating progress towards nationally established water and sanitation targets, how to identify populations that are left behind, how to design programs, plans and effectively use finance and partnerships towards reaching populations that are left behind. Future dialogues will include these topics as well as monitoring, reviewing progress and keeping the political momentum. Below are opportunities for partners to share and obtain experiences relevant to Leave No One Behind and their context:

- **Participate and share experiences during SWA’s global webinar series**, which will continue to focus on “Leave No One Behind” until the end of 2019
- **Document your government/institution’s experience** on working together to implement the SWA Framework. The results from the country Joint Sector Reviews or ESA survey highlights can also be useful sources for documenting and sharing interesting experiences. The SWA will continue to use its communications platforms and resources to foster exchanges
- **Request for support to connect with other partners** which have experience in dealing with your challenges and information needs. To foster peer-to-peer learning partners can reach out to each other or request the Secretariat to facilitate cross-partner learning, south-south or triangular collaborations. The SWA Secretariat exists to nurture such collaboration, even across language and regional barriers.

### 3. Supporting resources and tools

- The [SWA Framework](#) including the Guiding Principles, Building Blocks, Collaborative Behaviours and the Mutual Accountability Mechanism: <https://bit.ly/2Q4dlla>
- Chair statement and SMM documents: <http://sanitationandwaterforall.org/priority-areas/high-level-meetings/2019-high-level-meeting/>
- Country Briefs developed as part of the preparations for the SMM can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2Zk3H7z>
- Information about the [Mutual Accountability Mechanism](#) and the comprehensive list of the commitments can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2KPEn6d>
- GLAAS country highlights: Following countries’ submissions of the GLAAS 2018/2019 country survey, the UN-Water GLAAS team will provide country highlights summarizing the survey submissions which can be used for national dialogues and as input to JSRs and other national processes.



- Budget briefs – contact your local UNICEF office. For example, UNICEF has conducted budget briefs in most countries of East and Southern Africa in the past 2 years.
- Tools available on the SWA Portal (<http://sanitationandwaterforall.org/tools-portal/>) including
  - [SDG WASH Costing tool](#): UNICEF and the World Bank prepared a costing tool to estimate the investments needed to achieve their WASH SDG targets and the financing gap. Countries which have not yet done their own costing of WASH targets can use the tool. The tool is available in English, French Spanish and Portuguese. The SWA Secretariat can provide support to countries which may require additional assistance to use the tool
  - [Realizing the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation: A Handbook](#) – gives guidance on the implementation of the human rights to water and sanitation as defined by the international human rights legal framework. The main target audiences include governments at all levels, donors and national regulatory bodies, however, it provides information that will also be useful to civil society, service providers and human rights organizations on the topics of Legislative, policy and regulatory frameworks; Financing and budgeting; Services Provision; Monitoring and Access to Justice
  - [WASH Bottleneck Analysis Tool](#) (<https://www.washbat.org>) – contact your local UNICEF office
  - IRC WASH Costing and Budgeting tools: this is a set of 4 WASH costing and budgeting tools aims to help analyze costs and create a financial overview at the district level
- Support from SWA leadership
  - Letters from the SWA leadership (High-level Chair and CEO) can be sent to key decision-makers upon request. This includes letters to Heads of State, Prime Ministers, Sector and Finance Ministers. Content of the letters can include:
    - Calling for further action in areas where bottlenecks exist, and progress is threatened
    - Congratulating newly-appointed sector and finance ministers and underscoring the need for continued high-level political support to the sector
- Webinars and Bilateral Calls - the SWA Secretariat will provide support to current and potential SWA partners through webinars and bilateral calls- that focus on country-specific topics. The schedule for webinar between May to November 2019 will be:
  - **May – Outcomes15 – 16:** Outcomes and follow-up actions to the SMM
  - **June –26-28:** Out of Sight, out of mind: Do sector reports adequately cover those left behind?
  - **July –24-25:** Financing inequalities: Is the sector putting its money where it matters most?
  - **September –25-26:** Sector Planning: Strategies and their implementation
  - **October –30-31:** Review of progress made since the 2019 SMM
  - **November –28-29:** Finance Ministers' Meeting: Launch of the preparatory process for the 2020 Finance Ministers' Meeting
  - An archive of previous webinars is available on the SWA website on several topics, including SDG indicators, Building Blocks, Collaborative Behaviours, the Mutual Accountability Mechanism, Financing of the SDGs, and the SDG Costing tool.





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### Suggestions for follow-up actions

- Highlight country and partner experiences - The SWA Secretariat regularly identifies, documents and shares interesting country and partner case-studies. Please contact the Secretariat if your country or organization have one such story to share, particularly relating to Leave No One Behind, implementing a regular multi-stakeholder joint sector review process, or implementing the tabled commitments. Stories highlighting the impact that SWA has had in triggering multistakeholder engagement and/or higher political commitment for the sector would be particularly interesting.
- Studies on national accountability mechanisms including:
  - [Global Review of National Accountability Mechanisms for SDG6](https://www.ircwash.org/resources/global-review-national-accountability-mechanisms-sdg6): in-depth inclusive analysis on country-level accountability mechanisms towards Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) on clean water and sanitation implementation and a comprehensive report, assessing their strengths, limitations and effectiveness. Found at: <https://www.ircwash.org/resources/global-review-national-accountability-mechanisms-sdg6>

WASH Accountability Mapping Tools found at: [WASH Accountability Mapping Tools](http://www.watergovernance.org/resources/wash-accountability-mapping-tools-brochure/)  
<http://www.watergovernance.org/resources/wash-accountability-mapping-tools-brochure/>.