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SWA REPORT ON THE  
**2020 FINANCE  
MINISTERS'  
MEETINGS**

#2020FMM

**SFMM**

## WHAT HAPPENED WHEN SWA INVITED FINANCE MINISTERS TO DISCUSS WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE?



SWA's three virtual Regional Finance Ministers' Meetings for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean brought together ministers of finance, alongside their water, sanitation and hygiene counterparts, to discuss financing for the sector. The meetings highlighted financing and investment strategies, and approaches to integrate water, sanitation and hygiene into economic and social programmes.

In 2020, water, sanitation and hygiene services have been confirmed as critical preventative and control measures to protect against Covid-19 as well as necessary for countries to recover from the pandemic and protect from future health risks. Finance ministers shared their country experiences of prioritizing financing for sanitation, water and hygiene to improve public health, control the spread of Covid-19, to protect and mitigate against the climate crisis, while at the same time strengthening economies and social development.

The meetings were co-convened by key SWA partners. Globally, these were UNICEF and the World Bank Water Global Practice, and regionally the African Development Bank and African Ministers' Council on Water, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank.

The finance ministers took centre stage during the meetings, answering questions on how and why they financed water, sanitation and hygiene. Sector ministers partners, including external support agencies, civil society, research and learning institutions, and the private sector highlighted their collaboration and contributions.

In total,  
41 countries  
from across  
the world were  
represented at  
ministerial level



27  
finance  
ministers



41  
sector  
ministers

# THE MAIN TAKEAWAYS FROM THE MEETING



Financing priorities are determined politically – and water and sanitation must be pushed further up the political agenda, demonstrating their significance for social and economic development in order to secure adequate financing. Water and sanitation are human rights, and financing should reflect this. Moreover, inaction is costlier than action.



Covid-19 has had a negative impact on funding streams, on access to services and on people's lives, while at the same time highlighting the importance of water, sanitation and hygiene for health. This is a message that politicians can use to increase understanding and prioritization of water, sanitation and hygiene services.



The climate crisis is affecting access to services through extreme weather events and changes to patterns of rainfall and water resources, and the impact is being felt particularly by the most vulnerable and disadvantaged populations. Resilience must be designed into all services in order to ensure that they remain sustainable and reach everyone.



Green financing, green bonds, social impact bonds and other innovative financing mechanisms can secure additional funding that support both the delivery of better services, as well as long-term climate goals.

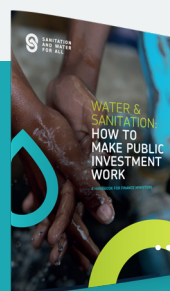


Governments must not work alone in developing policies and strategies for financing services. There are many opportunities through working with the private sector, civil society and research and learning institutions who have significant expertise that can be harnessed through collaboration and cooperation.

## PREPARATORY PROCESS

As with all SWA High-level Meetings, the preparatory process was as important as the meeting itself. SWA focal points from governments and other constituencies engaged with the different ministries to emphasise how critical water, sanitation and hygiene are for strengthening development and the economy, both during the pandemic and afterwards. These preparations included drafting a country overview of the sector in each country, as well as organizing a 'Finance Week' where these discussions were brought to the general public. Many countries used the preparatory process to present the SWA Finance Handbook to the ministers of finance and

their counterparts responsible for water, sanitation and hygiene. The preparatory process was a critical success factor for the meetings, rallying stakeholders around the FMMs and helping to identify critical content for the meetings. It also contributed significantly to ongoing conversations on financing for water and sanitation within the countries taking part, bringing together decision-makers from the different ministries; bringing the attention of the public to financing for water and sanitation; and providing an opportunity for countries to take stock of the current situation and identify actions for improvement in the future.



SWA  
Finance  
Handbook

# INTRODUCTORY REMARKS



UNICEF'S Executive Director, **Henrietta Fore**, explained that the Covid-19 pandemic has dramatically exposed weaknesses and exacerbated inequalities, adding that, "**sanitation is a public good and requires public investment**". She continued, that while the cost of delivering services is high, inaction brings greater costs, measured in lost productivity, rising health care costs and pollution. Without water, sanitation and hygiene, schools cannot safely reopen, and health facilities cannot prevent spread of infection to health care workers and patients. **'It's an investment we must make'**.

(UNICEF was also represented by Omar Abdi, Deputy Executive Director at the Africa FMM and by Karin Hulshof Regional Director for East Asia and the Pacific at the Asia and Pacific FMM.)



**Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus Director-General of WHO** agreed: The pandemic reminds the world of the fundamentality of public health. **'When some populations are unprotected, it leaves us all at risk'**. Investing in water, sanitation and hygiene is the necessary foundation for a healthy and productive population. These are 'no regrets' investments, as they can support human rights and save lives. **'Water, sanitation and hygiene are a global public good and we have no time to waste'**.



**Mari Elka Pangestu, World Bank Managing Director of Development Policy and Partnerships** emphasized the need for partnership and participation across agencies and stakeholder groups to achieve lasting behaviour change, stating that, **'The World Bank stands ready to work to universal access to water and sanitation, not only to tackle the Covid-19 crisis, but to ensure resilience against future pandemics and invest in everyone's future'**.



**Mauricio Claver-Carone, President of the Inter-American Development Bank** said that Latin America and the Caribbean lives the paradox of abundant water coexisting with scarcity, and more investment is required to close the inequality gaps. Covid-19 has reminded us that no public health strategy works without reliable access to clean water.



**Dr. Bambang Susantono, Vice-President, Asian Development Bank** explained that the ADB is responding to the Covid-19 pandemic with new integrated water, sanitation and hygiene and health-related technical assistance, loans, and strategic alliances. These will not only address the pandemic, but serve their longer-term aim of focusing more on water-related diseases, health and livelihoods, using an inclusive approach targeting vulnerable groups



**SWA's High-level Chair, The Hon. Kevin Rudd** reminded us of the political nature of financing, arguing that ministers can turn this crisis into a political opportunity. There is a lost economic and political opportunity that comes from not investing in sanitation and water. **'Investing in water and sanitation projects, which provides a return through jobs created, in health for your communities, and in overall development for your countries is at the very top of the investments that you could possibly make.'** A country's response to the COVID-19 crisis is an opportunity to invest in water sanitation and hygiene in a way that will both control the spread of the virus and rebuild economies at the same time.

Kevin Rudd introduced the SWA Handbook for Finance Ministers, which demonstrates how to make public investment work, full of practical examples of different models to finance sanitation and water projects around the world.

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM AFRICA



The African Finance Ministers' Meeting (4 November) was moderated by **Canisius Kanangire, Executive Secretary of AMCOW** and **Catarina de Albuquerque, CEO of SWA**. The finance ministers of **Zimbabwe** and **Egypt** responded to questions about their country experience.

According to JMP, in sub-Saharan African, just five countries are on track to meet SDG6, with 39 countries making slow progress. In a further five countries, gains made in the past are being lost. Investments in the sector are being outpaced by rapid population growth.

Setting the scene, **Wambui Gichuri, Acting Vice President of the African Development Bank** noted that in Africa, no more than 10 to 20% of the jobs that need to be created are being created every year. Investments in the sector is also an opportunity for the youth, setting up decades long stream of future health, environmental, economic and social benefits.



What started as a health crisis will continue to have significant economic and social impacts – it is estimated it has resulted in the loss of a decade or more of growth. The total number of Covid-19 cases confirmed in Africa will continue to grow. The discussion about increasing financing to water, sanitation and hygiene is therefore important, not only to increase our protection against Covid-19, but to protect against other pandemics and diseases. Keeping people healthy means they are able to contribute to the economy.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM AFRICA



**The Hon.  
Mthuli Ncube,  
Minister of Finance,  
Zimbabwe**

In Zimbabwe, demand-led sanitation was informed by a careful and participatory review of previous approaches. Recognizing the huge investments that households have made in sanitation, the policy is to build on this. Rural households are encouraged to invest in simple and cost-effective sanitation and protected wells while government plays a supportive and regulatory role. The government provides subsidies only for those who could not otherwise afford to construct sanitation or protected well. The partnership between households and government strengthens water safety and security at the household level.



**The Hon.  
Dr. Mohamed Maait,  
Minister of Finance,  
Egypt**

Egypt's efforts to develop a green finance framework will enable the country to finance future projects, using 750 million US dollars of green bonds. This region's first approach to issuing climate friendly securities, establishing a market precedent and encouraging the private sector to start using sustainable finance instruments.

Egypt's portfolio of eligible green projects is worth 1.9 billion USD, 26% of which is for sustainable water and wastewater management, and 39% for pollution reduction and control.



**H.E. Elysée  
Munembwe  
Tamukumwe,  
Vice Prime Minister  
- Minister of Planning,  
Democratic Republic  
of the Congo**

The DRC is investing in better functioning systems to bring economic and social advantages and to stimulate the economy, as well as advocating for multi-stakeholder partnerships.



**The Hon. Zainab  
Shamsuna Ahmed,  
Minister of Finance,  
Budget and National  
Planning, Nigeria**

Investing in the sector is an investment in human capital and a direct investment into the economy. Covid-19 provides an opportunity to improve on water, sanitation and education. **'We also see an opportunity to educate not only people but executives and parliament to understand the wisdom of investing in water, sanitation and hygiene'.**



**The Hon. Samuel  
D. Tweah, Jr.,  
Minister of Finance,  
Liberia**

Share of international funding going to cure waterborne diseases is huge relative to resources spent on water, sanitation and hygiene. **'We should shift from curing water-borne diseases to preventing them.'** It is necessary to learn to talk about the water, sanitation and hygiene indicators such as open defecation when talking to financiers, rather than only infant mortality, maternal mortality and child stunting.



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM AFRICA



**H.E. Tesfay  
Ghebreselasie,  
Minister of  
Land, Water and  
Environment, Eritrea**

Water and sanitation are human rights issues. Public awareness campaigns and the sector, especially hygiene, are top priorities in combating Covid-19. There are still many challenges, as water shortages are aggravated by climate change. The investments needed are huge, but Eritrea has a costed national roadmap to achieve Open Defecation Free status by 2022. **‘The cooperation of all development partners in the country is highly appreciated, and we will do everything to achieve our goals.’**



**John Barsa,  
Acting Administrator,  
USAID**

Women and girls experience the brunt of water shortages and are therefore at risk of Covid-19 transmission when using public water points. Gender-based violence has increased in the pandemic.

Every one of us has responsibility to ensure that water systems will not be as vulnerable when the next crisis hits. **‘If we do not make these investments in water infrastructure now, Africans across the continent will pay more in the long-term’.** Mr. Barsa highlighted that USAID signed up to the SWA Call to Action on Covid-19.



**Sareen Malik,  
Coordinator and  
Secretary to the Board  
of the African Civil  
Society Network on  
Water and Sanitation  
(ANEWS), representing  
civil society**

Most subsidies benefit existing customers and are not used to extend services to those who do not have them. So how can we ensure that subsidies target equality, especially in a time of crisis such as Covid-19? Civil society wishes to work with governments to support effective participation of citizens in defining and targeting budget allocation. **‘We are here to support you to make the invisible visible’.**



**Aaron Salzberg,  
Director of  
The Water Institute,  
University of North  
Carolina, USA,  
representing the  
research and learning  
constituency**

As a former rocket scientist, I can say: The challenge of **providing universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation services is not rocket science – it is harder.** Not only is it a technical challenge, but it is also a social, cultural, and – in many cases – a political challenge. Above all, it is a financial challenge. Investing in national research and learning institutions and including them in decision-making processes is critical. National experts can help you decide which technology or which policy approach is most appropriate.



**Prof. Yetunde  
Odugbesan-Omede,  
Zenith Water Projects,  
Nigeria**

Governments must look at alternative resources to promote private partnerships, such as tax credit schemes, blue bonds, and tariff reforms. Access to water and sanitation will take more than the government sector to provide, and the corporate sector is willing to offer innovative ways to create as well as manage water and sanitation systems.



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE  
**REUNIÓN  
DE MINISTROS  
DE FINANZAS**  
18 noviembre 2020

The Latin America and the Caribbean Finance Ministers' Meeting (18 November) was moderated by the **Hon. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of Ibero-American**. The finance ministers of **Costa Rica, Guatemala and Nicaragua** responded to questions about their country experience.

The regional context was provided by **Angel Gurría, Secretary-General, OECD**.

According to JMP, 14 countries are on track to meet the SDGs, there are 12 where progress is too slow and five where progress is negative. Interestingly, access to safely managed water services has plateaued at 79% since 2005, whilst access to safely managed sanitation has been on a continuous upward trend. Progress is being made, just not as quickly as desired.

Covid-19 has further amplified these challenges and put water, sanitation and hygiene in the frontline of the fight against the virus. Governments have introduced free water or payment holidays on water bills to ensure their people are not cut off from life-saving water provision and can practice handwashing. But this means that service providers are unable to collect their bills right at a time when costs have increased, leading to further financial stresses on already overstretched resources.

The impact of climate change is being felt in many countries, and this was a recurring theme of this regional meeting.





## HIGHLIGHTS FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



**H.E. Elian  
Villegas Valverde,  
Minister of Finance,  
Costa Rica**

Costa Rica applies the principle of “polluter pays”, which has brought change in the way companies and utilities use and treat water, incentivizing the reduction of the pollution load in rivers to restore water quality. The funds raised through this policy are invested in sanitation projects and environmental education.



**H.E. Alvaro  
Gonzalez Ricci,  
Ministro de Finanzas  
Públicas, Guatemala**

One of the main challenges for Guatemala is the climatic and weather-related phenomena. Hurricanes impact our water resources as well as our debt burden. Guatemala receives many offers for loans, but does not want to get more in debt, and therefore wishes to access green funds.

The water and sanitation budget is accessible online and is audited. Guatemala is working with communities so that they can understand the information and give feedback. In general, incentives are needed for water, sanitation and hygiene, as it is the most critical social investment after education and health.



**H.E. Iván Acosta  
Montalván, Minister  
of Finance and Public  
Credit, Nicaragua**

**‘Water, sanitation and hygiene is about equality and this is linked to poverty. It is impossible to focus on these issues without thinking of climate change.’**

Nicaragua has almost solved the problems of electricity. Now it is time to focus on water, sanitation and hygiene

Nicaragua must create a favourable environment for investment beyond the public sector and include local communities and the international community to find concrete solutions and strategic investments, rather than donations and charity.

In terms of public health and to give some perspective, **‘Today we are very concerned about the Covid-19 situation, but during the last ten years, eight million people died of dysentery and cholera’.**



**Magdy  
Esteban Martínez  
Solimán, Director,  
Spanish Agency  
for International  
Development  
Cooperation (AECID)**

Within international cooperation AECID continues to ask what their role is, faced with the need for public investment in basic services. Spain has launched finance programmes in 18 Latin American and Caribbean countries through grants and loans. **‘Spain can also assist with technical advice, because we have made many mistakes and learned important lessons’.**



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



**Juan Bofill,**  
**Senior Water**  
**Engineer, European**  
**Investment Bank**

The European Investment Bank has made two commitments: Before 2025, every investment will have a climate and sustainable development component and every investment and commitment will be aligned to the Paris Agreement's objectives.

The water sector is fundamental to build resilience towards climate change, and equality needs to be an integral part of that.



**H.E. Michel**  
**Patrick Boisvert,**  
**Minister of Finance,**  
**Haiti**

Haiti is reforming the sector, putting together a strategy for sanitation, the decentralization of services, the financial autonomy of service providers, better budget planning, intersectoral mechanisms of cooperation between three ministries, and a commitment by each municipality to become open defecation free.

**'We feel inspired by intervention from other countries today and we have noted the support of the development bank to finance sanitation programmes.'**



**H.E. Liliam**  
**Rivera, Vice**  
**Minister of Finance,**  
**Honduras**

Climate impacts the availability of water. SDG6 and SDG13 are interlinked – our objective is to manage and limit the consequences of climate change. Climate-related phenomena, droughts and deforestation have dire effects. Honduras is prioritizing investment on infrastructure to promote sustainable agriculture and reduce deforestation. This leads to more jobs and to resilience.

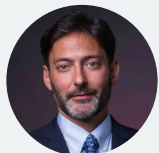
The finance ministry is overseeing financing mechanisms and investment towards water, sanitation and hygiene, as well as overseeing regulators.

**'We have designed an action plan and are counting on international support and green funds'.**



Watch the video  
from SWA 2020  
Latin America and  
Caribbean Finance  
Ministers' Meeting  
[fmm-swa.org](http://fmm-swa.org)

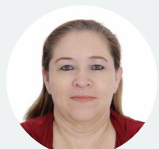
## HIGHLIGHTS FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



**Vijay  
Rangarajan,**  
Director General,  
Americas and Overseas  
Territories, Foreign,  
Commonwealth and  
Development Office,  
UK

There is a reduction of many diseases around the world because of the increased emphasis on hygiene, water, and sanitation.

**‘COP 26 is really ambitious, we are offering to help you with ensuring that your Nationally Determined Contributions and adaption plans focus on resilience and the crucial role of water, sanitation and hygiene in addressing climate change.’**



**Yalkiria Pineda,**  
Executive Director,  
CEAMUJER, Nicaragua  
representing civil  
society organizations

Throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, there are over 200,000 community-led water management committees, investing the estimated equivalent of more than 7 billion dollars in volunteer work every year. And yet this tangible contribution to the national accounts remains invisible. It is crucial to focus on community-management of water and strengthen this sustainable model.

Investment and capacity building are necessary to rehabilitate infrastructure destroyed by hurricanes and this is an opportunity to restore transparency mechanisms on budgetary information.



**Sasha Kramer,**  
Executive Director,  
Sustainable  
Organic Integrated  
Livelihoods (SOIL)  
Haiti representing the  
private sector

Social enterprises are first in line to deal with public health crisis.  
**‘To achieve this common goal, we need to rethink the way we collaborate, and find new ways to support local entrepreneurship and put an end to financial dependency’.**



**Torgny  
Holmgren,**  
Executive Director,  
Stockholm  
International Water  
Institute (SIWI)  
representing the  
research and learning  
institutions

Collaboration with research and learning institutions is crucial. Science is showing us how to move forward, and can help us, for example, to predict the evolution of Covid-19.

**‘We need to understand the balance between financial sustainability and improving efficiency and resilience in the water sector’.** How can accountability be improved so that funds are used in the right way and that citizens and institutions regain confidence in investments in the sector?

Closing her moderation, the Hon Rebeca Grynspan noted, **‘You do not wait – – you don’t expect to be rich to invest in water sanitation and hygiene. You do it basically to disrupt the vicious cycle of poverty.’**

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC  
FINANCE  
MINISTERS'  
MEETING  
2 December 2020

The Asia and the Pacific Finance Ministers' Meeting (2 December) was moderated by **Jyoti Shukla, Director at the Singapore Infrastructure and Urban Hub, World Bank** and **Catarina de Albuquerque, CEO of SWA**. The finance ministers of **Nepal, Fiji, Indonesia, Maldives and Sri Lanka** answered questions about their country experience.

The regional context was provided by **Oyun Sanjaasuren, Director of External Affairs, Green Climate Fund**.



From JMP data, 16 countries in the region are on track to meet the water SDGs, in 18 progress is too slow, and in seven, progress is negative.

Open defecation is now about the same as world average, at 9% of the population. Given that the level of open defecation was 27% back in 2001, there is a reason to celebrate, but there were still 439 million people without even basic sanitation in 2017.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



**Hon. Bishnu  
Prasad Paudel,  
Minister of Finance,  
Nepal**

**‘Nepal has been practicing water resource conservation and social works through public participation at community level since ancient times.’**

The recent open defecation free campaign progressed as a social movement based on the country’s sanitation master plan. The key principle of voluntary contributions was supported by the policy, institutional structures, intensive capacity building, and ownership and allocation of responsibilities among stakeholders.



**Hon. Aiyaz  
Sayed-Khaiyum,  
Attorney General and  
Minister for Economy,  
Civil Service and  
Communications, Fiji**

**‘In our part of the world, development finance equals climate finance’.**

Proper climate resilience infrastructure is fundamental. Fiji has been hit by many cyclones in the last few years, each time reducing the country’s GDP. Fiji has been successful in accessing the Green Climate Fund for broader water and sanitation services. Critical here was the development of long-term strategic plans, the commitment of partners, local knowledge and capacity building.



**Hon. Suahasil  
Nazara, Vice  
Minister of Finance,  
Indonesia**

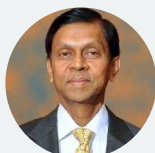
Covid-19 has presented many challenges and tough choices. Nonetheless, water and sanitation activities can become one of the game changers in the response to the virus, particularly as these are often labour intensive, providing much-needed work.

Water, sanitation and hygiene is not something you can plan short-term. It is essential to have a long-term view.



**Hon. Ismail Ali  
Manik, Minister of  
State for Finance,  
Maldives**

Even with Covid-19, the country has been able to increase the budget allocation to the water, sanitation and hygiene sector. Participation and communication among ministries and engagement of sector experts was very important for developing the budget plan.



**Hon. Ajith  
Nivard Cabraal,  
State Minister of  
Money & Capital  
Market and State  
Enterprise Reforms,  
Sri Lanka**

Sri Lanka has learned from past experiences. In 2006, 72% of the population had access to electricity and aimed to reach to 100% in 10 years, then reaching 99% in 9 years. Now water and sanitation are a priority and will follow the same model.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

### SECTOR MINISTERS CONTRIBUTIONS



**The Hon. Shri.  
Gajendra Singh  
Shekhawat, Minister  
of Jal Shakti, India**

Investment in water, sanitation and hygiene is a smart action – it improves quality of life, provides safety, dignity of women, hinders physical and cognitive development and learning abilities of children and improves the productivity of the nation. Studies show remarkable improvement in the lives of rural Indians, groundwater quality and children's health, demonstrating the value of every penny spent in sanitation.



**The Hon Md.  
Tazul Islam, Minister  
of Local Government,  
Rural Development  
& Cooperatives  
(LGRD &C)  
Bangladesh**

Bangladesh is working to meet demands of SDG 6.1 and 6.2, aiming to provide sanitation and water facilities to all, despite Covid-19. The sector ministry is asking extra budget to the finance ministry to achieve this set target.



**H.E. Nguyen  
Hoang Hiep,  
Vice Minister  
of Agriculture and  
Rural Development,  
Viet Nam**

**'Funding is a big problem and when we have funding how to spend it is a big headache'.** There are regions where we are unable to provide centralized water supply. Apart from funding, barriers relating to traditional customs and practices must be overcome.



**Hon. Bina  
Magar, Minister  
for Water Supply,  
Nepal**

Nepal has been trying different models to support water, sanitation and hygiene investments in order to achieve its national targets and the SDG6. A Guideline is being prepared for co-financing by the provincial, local and federal government, and models include full cost recovery financing and blended financing.



**Christian  
Frutiger, Deputy  
Director General,  
Swiss Development  
Cooperation Agency**

Mobilizing new innovative instruments impact and blended financing are not easy undertakings. If this was a simple market, this would have been made mainstream a long time ago.

Water, sanitation and hygiene are opportunities in this Covid-19 crisis. While all are looking at vaccines, treatments, and diagnostics, but to overcome this crisis water sanitation and hygiene in every country is critical. **'If ever we have a case, we have one now'.**



**Amano Yusuke,  
Senior Vice President,  
Japan International  
Cooperation Agency**

JICA emphasizes the importance of investing to improve resilience, reduce disaster risk, including external shocks such as the pandemic. Water utilities need to secure tariff revenues and achieve sound financial management to reduce the financial burden on governments.



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



**Bertrand  
Walckenaer,**  
Associate Chief  
Executive Officer,  
Agence Française  
de Développement

The sector is facing a large financing gap. Improving governance and focusing on cost efficiency will help bridge this gap, enabling the sector to attract the financing it needs, whether public or private.

AFD recently hosted the first Finance in Common Summit, gathering 450 Public Development Banks. **‘Together with SWA and fellow Development Finance Institutions we have launched a coalition that will explore the role of public development banks in the sector.’**



**Hon. Assoc.  
Prof. Bounkong  
Syhavong, Minister of  
Health, Lao PDR**

Water, sanitation and hygiene had a central place in the development of the government's Covid-19 response including the socio-economic plan and target to achieve universal health coverage by 2025.



**Hon. Dr.  
Hussain Rasheed  
Hassan, Minister of  
Environment,  
Maldives**

The Maldives is fully committed to achieve SDG6 much earlier than the UN target established for 2030. This year the country has implemented the Water Sewage Law, a legal framework to govern and regulate the water, sanitation and hygiene sector and to encourage investment from the private sector.



**Hon. Vasudeva  
Nanayakkara,  
Minister of  
Water Supply,  
Sri Lanka**

The main problem is finance. Sri Lanka is committed to social welfare and a large portion of the budget has been allocated to carry out with water, sanitation and hygiene programmes effectively and efficiently. This includes developing the institutions, skills and training people in technology. It is important to inspire the workforce.



**Hon. Jone  
Usamate, Minister  
for Infrastructure,  
Transport, Disaster  
Management and  
Meteorological  
Services, Fiji**

The human right to water is recognized in the constitution in Fiji and therefore the government is obliged to provide all people with clean water.

Public-private partnerships are used in urban areas, but water supply represents a big challenge in rural and remote areas. Development partners are needed to reach to these areas and not leave anyone behind.



**H.E. Lyonpo  
Dorji Tshering  
Minister of Works  
and Human  
Settlement, Bhutan**

The country has plentiful water resources per capita, but poor management of water and sanitation services. It is necessary to restructure the sector through a separate agency dedicated to water, sanitation and hygiene, with a dedicated budget. The information obtained during the Finance Ministers' Meeting will be considered for Bhutan.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



**Virgilio (Perry)  
Rivera, COO, Manila  
Water, Philippines**  
representing the  
private sector

Public private partnerships work. They are achieving huge success in increasing access to safe water and sanitation. Increasing access does not always mean extra burden on public funds. **'In Asia, we have local innovators beginning to scale-up minimal-cost models that could soon be self-financing'.**



**Vedika  
Bhandarkar, Chief  
Global Impact Officer,  
Water.org** representing  
the civil society  
organizations

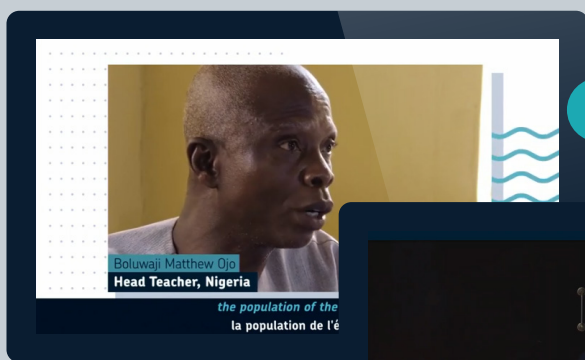
During this global pandemic, the most marginalized need to be the priority, as they are the first victims of the crisis, but also the first actors in its recovery. Budgeting and allocation of finances for water, sanitation and hygiene should consider the additional and specific costs involved for meeting the special needs of these vulnerable groups.



**Juliet  
Willetts, Research  
Director, Institute  
for Sustainable  
Futures, University  
of Technology Sydney  
(ISF-UTS),** representing  
research and learning  
institutions

Evidence from research and learning organisations can help you assess and provide feedback on policy and programmes. Evidence can also help you target investments, ensuring, for instance, that inequalities are genuinely addressed. Evidence can support you to justify increased investment in water and sanitation and help build wider public and institutional support.

Watch the video from  
SWA 2020 Asia and the Pacific  
Finance Ministers' Meeting  
[fmm-swa.org](http://fmm-swa.org)



# CLOSING REMARKS



Watch the video from  
SWA 2020 Africa Finance  
Ministers' Meeting  
[fmm-swa.org](http://fmm-swa.org)



**The Hon.  
Cecila Dapaah,  
Vice President  
(West Africa), AMCOW  
and Minister of  
Sanitation and Water  
Resources, Ghana.  
Africa FMM**

Water, sanitation and hygiene is the nexus between public health and the economy. Investments to build new systems do not only provide employment opportunities, especially for the young, but it also sets up a decade-long stream of future health, economic and social benefits. By bringing finance ministers together for this meeting, and sharing experiences, there will be a greater appreciation and prioritization of the sector when the time comes for tough budget negotiations.

Governments must prioritize the sector and provide strong political leadership from the highest levels, with consistent financing over several years, and a strengthening of the Africa Water Facility, including mobilizing local investment into the water sector.

## CLOSING REMARKS



**Jennifer Sara,**  
**Director of Global**  
**Water Practice,**  
**World Bank.**  
**Latin America and**  
**the Caribbean FMM**

First, political leadership at the highest level is important. Second, public and private financing must reach specific goals and objectives. Third, it is necessary to build public private partnerships and also partnerships with the civil society and fourth, the active engagement of communities is essential for creating behavior change in the long-term.



**Yamileth**  
**Astorga, CEO of**  
**the Costa Rican**  
**Institute of Aqueducts**  
**and Sewers (AYA)**  
**made the vote of**  
**thanks at the**  
**Latin America and**  
**the Caribbean FMM**

Investment in drinking water and sanitation is an investment in preventing disease. Access to water supply and sanitation services not only allows health but also promotes development and tourism among others.



**Mr. Josaphat**  
**Rizal Primana,**  
**Acting Deputy**  
**Minister of Facilities**  
**and Infrastructure,**  
**Indonesia.**  
**Asia and**  
**the Pacific FMM**

In the spirit of the commitment to achieve SDG6 globally, Indonesia is delighted to host the next SWA Sector Ministers' Meeting in the last quarter of 2021. On behalf of the Minister of Planning, all sector ministers are invited to attend this meeting.

It will be an opportunity for ministers responsible for water, sanitation and hygiene to share and learn from other countries' experiences and renew commitments towards water and sanitation for all.



**Patrick Moriarty,**  
**Chair, SWA Steering**  
**Committee made**  
**the final vote of**  
**thanks at the**  
**Africa and Asia and**  
**Pacific FMMs**

It is so exciting that in total nearly 70 ministers joined this series of three Finance Ministers' Meetings.

**'Sanitation and Water for All is nothing without our partners. Ministers, you are our most important members, who we look to for leadership.**

**We face a huge challenge to finance the shared goal of sanitation, water, and hygiene for all always and everywhere by 2030. Yet, listening today, I think that we can do it. I believe we can do it. We have heard from you and from your fellow ministers who are doing it.**

**I hope we can to meet face-to-face next year in Indonesia at the SWA Sector Ministers' Meeting, hopefully in a post-Covid-19 world.'**

## WHAT'S NEXT?



The Finance Ministers' Meetings are not isolated events, they play a crucial role in SWA's strategy to achieve its vision of water, sanitation and hygiene for all, always, everywhere. The SWA partnership will now work to put the lessons learnt into practice.

The discussions that started during the preparatory process for the FMMs will continue, helping SWA partners build a closer relationship with finance ministers at the national level and across countries. This will in turn contribute to the 2021 Sector Ministers' Meeting.

SWA will organize national cross ministerial briefings as well as matchmaking, peer-to-peer exchanges and learning opportunities (including webinars) focusing on improving financing for the sector, and continue working with governments to identify bottlenecks preventing countries from raising additional finance for the sector. The SWA Finance Ministers Handbook will be a key tool in these discussions.

## SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT THE FINANCE MINISTERS' MEETINGS

SWA's success sharing news about the Finance Ministers Meetings has been unprecedented.

Partners all over the world used the event's communication toolkit, ensuring the hashtag **#2020FMM** reached

**>3.4M**  
people

**2.2K**  
retweets

**>57K**  
engagements  
(likes and replies)



The Meetings were broadcasted live on SWA's social media accounts – Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube, with **>27 thousand people watching** the Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia Pacific FMMs.

### >67 op-eds and articles

were published on the meetings and their theme in newspapers in

**10**  
African  
countries

**11**  
Latin American  
countries

**7**  
Asian  
countries

In the run-up to the meetings

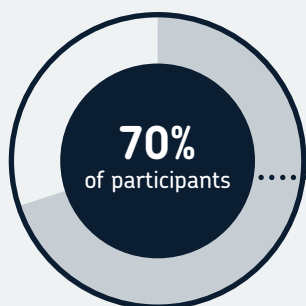
**>30 articles** .....  
by partners and experts about investing in water, sanitation and hygiene were published on **SWA website**, together with a **live blog** covering the preparatory process in the different SWA partner countries.



## PARTICIPATION AND IMMEDIATE FEEDBACK ON THE MEETINGS

Participants of the Finance Ministers' Meetings came from all over the world. In the Africa and Asia and the Pacific meetings, civil society was the most represented constituency, whereas government representatives formed the biggest group in Latin America and the Caribbean. Around 30% of participants were not SWA partners, indicating interest for this event beyond the partnership.

Participants wanted to learn about concrete experiences and initiatives from other countries and to hear finance ministers explaining their positions, their thoughts, their challenges and successes regarding water, sanitation and hygiene. Most participants have seen their expectations met, giving the Meetings a satisfaction score of 3.8 out of 5.



Almost 70% of participants indicated they are very or even extremely likely to use the knowledge and experiences exchanged during the Meetings in the future.

**“It felt that the inspiration and potentially, peer pressure, of hearing other Ministers speak about their actions could really help our sector to gain priority”**

– participant to the Asia and the Pacific  
Finance Ministers' Meetings



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