



# SWA ANNUAL REPORT 2023



SANITATION  
AND WATER  
FOR ALL





# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dear partners and friends,

In 2023, our world confronted profound challenges, marked not least by the devastating toll of the highest number of violent conflicts since the Second World War. UNDP's Global Development Report this year showed a shocking decline in the global Human Development Index, rolling us back to the levels recorded nine years ago at the adoption of the 2030 agenda and the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, 2023 was marred by a series of climate-related catastrophes, including large-scale wildfires, floods, extreme temperatures, and droughts. These adversities added to the complexity of the year: ominously, 5 out of the top 10 risks identified by the World Economic Forum's annual Global Risks Report in 2023 were linked to climate issues, contributing to a heightened level of uncertainty, and compounded by forces of political and societal polarization.

Against this sobering backdrop, the water and sanitation sector experienced a mixed year. On the one hand, according to new data released in July by the World Health Organization and UNICEF, familiar inequalities in access to services were confirmed – with the heaviest burden falling on women and girls. But on the other hand, I believe that the sector gained greater visibility, attention, and even political prioritization. For the SWA partnership, 2023 was

a year marked by a strong sense of global and national momentum for water and sanitation, of coalition-building, and of inspirational ambition from our partners. It was a year that partners recognized and built on the strategic significance of SWA, reaching toward the highest levels of power.

We head into the coming year as a more efficient Secretariat, following a restructure, which has resulted in an organization more fit for purpose, and better able to respond to the needs of our partners and donors. The year also saw changes elsewhere in the partnership – there were Steering Committee elections that saw us welcome five new members. I would like to extend very warm greetings to them, and to sincerely thank outgoing members who completed their terms in 2023.

In 2023, the SWA partnership showcased its capacity to deliver on high-level engagement and advocacy. The launch of our ambitious Heads of State Initiatives exemplified a collaborative effort, inspiring an infectious enthusiasm from partners that extended to the Africa Meeting on Systems and Finance co-organized with the World Bank in March, and the Africa Finance Ministers' Meeting (FMM) in October. I was also excited that three new leaders agreed to join SWA's Global Leadership Council, which will help to increase support and engagement at a critical juncture for our sector: H.E. Dr. Joyce Banda, former President of Malawi, H.E. Dr. Han Seung-soo, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, and Mr. Kinya Seto, CEO of Lixil Corporation.

As we look ahead, 2024 promises to maintain the momentum, with SWA's series of regional meetings

for finance ministers continuing with Latin America & the Caribbean region in Washington D.C. in April. The coming year also marks the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SWA, providing an occasion to celebrate our impact over a decade and a half, as well as articulating our vision for the future, which includes successfully achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6.

Before closing, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners for their engagement with and support to SWA's activities and, in particular to our generous donors (Agencia Española de Cooperación, Agence Française de Développement, European Commission, FCDO, DGIS, USAID, the Hilton Foundation, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation), whose support is and will continue to be indispensable in allowing us, together, to make a difference and achieve sanitation and water for all, always and everywhere.

Friends – it has no doubt been another tough year, and one which gave us more than a little cause for despair. But there is also hope. There is much to be heartened and encouraged by – and we must not be distracted. So, please stay driven. Remain committed. Continue working hard together. Persist. And above all else – do everything in your power to engage your leaders. If we keep our focus on the vision we all share, then I know that universal access to water and sanitation is still within our reach.

**Ms. CATARINA DE ALBUQUERQUE**  
CEO, SANITATION AND WATER FOR ALL



**For the SWA partnership, 2023 was a year marked by a strong sense of global and national momentum for water and sanitation, of coalition-building, and of inspirational ambition from our partners.**

**Ms. CATARINA DE ALBUQUERQUE,**  
CEO, SANITATION AND WATER FOR ALL





# FOREWORD FROM SWA'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Dear SWA partners, friends and donors,

As members of Sanitation and Water for All's Global Leadership Council, we are delighted to present SWA partnership's 2023 Annual Report – a testament to the collaborative efforts of a partnership that grows stronger each year, and continues to shape the landscape of our sector.

We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to everyone working to realize the human rights to water and sanitation. With time fast running out to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the year 2023 posed unprecedented challenges, as our world faced the compounding effects of conflict, climate-related disasters, and economic shocks. Yet, amid these adversities, the water, sanitation and hygiene sector experienced remarkable breakthroughs, driven by the passion and dedication of those striving to increase access to these vital services.

These are pivotal times, and we write to you with a collective plea and an urgent call to action. In 2023, SWA was proud to launch its Heads of State Initiatives – collaborative efforts that bring together and support global leaders to prioritize and advocate for improved water and sanitation services. We urge you to channel your energy towards a vital undertaking: engage your Heads of State to join us. With your advocacy, we can propel the rights to improved water and sanitation services to the highest echelons of power – and help our leaders to deliver them.

Your voice is a catalyst for change. By urging your leaders to prioritize and invest in water and sanitation, you can contribute significantly to the realization of Sustainable Development Goal 6 – universal access to clean water and sanitation by 2030.

Let us unite in this endeavour, transcending borders and barriers. Write to your leaders, speak in your communities, and leverage your influence to ensure that the critical issues of water and sanitation remain at the forefront of policy agendas.

With profound gratitude for your commitment and unwavering support,

**THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**  
SANITATION AND WATER FOR ALL



**H.E. Dr. JOYCE BANDA**  
Former President of the  
Republic of Malawi



**H.E. Ms. LAURA CHINCHILLA**  
Former President of the  
Republic of Costa Rica



**H.E. Dr. HAN SEUNG-SOO**  
Former Prime Minister of the  
Republic of Korea



**H.E. Ms. AMINATA TOURÉ**  
Former Prime Minister of the  
Republic of Senegal



**H.E. Mr. ELBEGDORJ TSAKHIA**  
Former President and  
Prime Minister of Mongolia



**Ms. CATHERINE M. RUSSELL**  
UNICEF Executive Director



**Mr. KINYA SETO**  
Chief Executive Officer, LIXIL Corporation





## MOBILIZING POLITICAL WILL AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS



11 countries join SWA's Heads of State Initiatives

## STRENGTHENING POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY



Water and sanitation lead the new climate Global Goal on Adaptation

## SUPPORTING PARTNER COUNTRIES AND CONSTITUENCIES



40 new partners join the SWA partnership

## IMPROVING FINANCING AND STRENGTHENING SYSTEMS



Engaging finance ministers across Africa

## MEDIA AND CAMPAIGNS HIGHLIGHTS



Global social justice campaign gets political, gains momentum



Over 30 new commitments made under SWA's Mutual Accountability Mechanism



SWA partners' Climate Compendium launched



Working with multilateral institutions



Series collaboration on sector funding with The Economist



Supporting partners at high-level events



Celebrating women's impact



Tailored technical support designed for 24 priority countries



3 new leaders join SWA's Global Leadership Council



SWA welcomes its second Youth Champion



Targeted catalytic funding supports partners in all regions







THE YEAR IN REVIEW

# MOBILIZING POLITICAL WILL AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS





# SWA'S HEADS OF STATE INITIATIVES

Working with leaders from countries across the globe is the key to getting on track to achieving universal access to services by 2030. SWA's Heads of State Initiatives were soft-launched in March at the UN 2023 Water Conference, and officially launched in August. They are backed by the Government of the Netherlands, IRC WASH, and UNICEF, and are at the forefront of the sector's push to engage global leaders and decision makers at the very highest level.

Heads of State Initiatives are different for every country and can take various forms. Examples include national sector Compacts, presidential decrees, or royal seals of approval for new sector strategies. They mark a significant step forward, and can lay foundations for broader development goals, such as improved public health, increased climate resiliency, and economic growth. They also often include clear commitments that encompass increased budget allocations, innovative sources of financing, and comprehensive plans for the construction of vital water and sanitation infrastructure.

For each SWA partner country joining the Initiatives, a dedicated combination of partners at global, regional, and national levels is brought together to deliver specific objectives set out by that country's leader.

After being officially launched in August, the Initiatives developed significant momentum during 2023. By the

end of the year, 11 SWA partner countries had officially agreed to work on programmes to actively engage the leader of their country. Heads of State Initiatives are already in the process of being drafted and having an impact in several partner countries. This includes:

**IN MALAWI**, where a Compact is focusing on climate resiliency, in the wake of Cyclone Freddy

**IN GHANA**, where civil society voices are helping shape a sector Compact and engage the Head of State

**IN HONDURAS**, where a national Compact is being drafted with a focus on a sector financial strategy and cross-sectoral priorities such as food security

**IN SOUTH SUDAN**, where a Compact focused on ending open defecation has already been drafted

**IN TANZANIA**, where momentum for a national Compact is being built through developing Compacts at the local government level

**IN ZIMBABWE**, where by the end of the year the national Compact was fully drafted and with a ministerial team for review

More information on SWA's Heads of State Initiatives can be found [here](#).



## COUNTRY PARTNERS JOINING SWA's HEADS OF STATE INITIATIVES in 2023

In the 4 months since they were officially launched, 11 countries have joined the Heads of State Initiatives:

Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia, Liberia, Malawi, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe







## GHANA

### Moving towards a presidential Compact with SWA support

Ghana announced its commitment to develop a presidential Compact at the UN 2023 Water Conference in March. The main focus of the Compact is to improve sanitation and hygiene services in Ghana, while sustaining gains made on water services. Since the announcement, country partners have commenced the Compact development process with support from SWA. This support has included advocating for civil society partners' suggestions on what the final Compact should include – in particular, the request to establish a National Sanitation Authority in Ghana.

The new authority will be tasked with the alignment and synchronization of sector policies, strategies, plans and actions – an underlying requisite to enable Ghana to achieve its target of 90% access to safely managed sanitation in households and public places by 2030.

SWA's civil society partner in Ghana, CONIWAS, worked alongside other sector actors to play a pivotal role in building support for the Compact. CONIWAS led consultations and a media campaign, urging the Government to elevate the sector



#### IN-COUNTRY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

to the Head of State level through the creation of the Compact, with the goal of achieving universal coverage. By the end of the year, Ghana had completed strategic planning, learning, and secured high-level political buy-in, with SWA's CEO actively participating in one of the task team meetings. Despite a change in ministerial leadership, the development process for the Compact advanced to the drafting stage. With the guidance and support of the new minister, the draft Compact was completed by the end of 2023, and was ready for submission to the president for approval.

## HONDURAS

### Key national institutions working together on a Head of State Compact

In Honduras, SWA worked closely with key high-level stakeholders to build momentum for a national sector Compact. The Compact is heavily focused on developing sector investment plans, to support the management and expansion of safe and resilient services, and for rebuilding resilient infrastructure after natural disasters. This included working with the National Council on Water and Sanitation, and the ministries of finance and foreign affairs. The work on the Compact began with the development of a financial strategy for the sector, which is scheduled for launch in early 2024.

The financial strategy incorporates substantial inputs from local SWA partners and contributes significantly to preparing for a sector Compact for the country.

Efforts to engage high-level decision makers were an ongoing process that continued throughout 2023. In May, the Honduran vice-minister of finance discussed how to engage the country's Head of State at the All Systems Connect Symposium. In August, SWA organized a multi-stakeholder workshop attended by two vice-ministers and other high-level representatives.



#### IN-COUNTRY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

These and other efforts during the year led to the vice-ministers of finance, environment, and health all committing to work to engage with the Office of the President, with a view to developing a national Compact to address water, sanitation and hygiene issues. At the SDG Summit in September, Honduras confirmed its aim to 'establish secure food, water, and sanitation systems' as part of its 15 commitments to reduce poverty by 2027. This marks a significant, official step towards a comprehensive sector Compact for the country, which SWA will support partners to develop further during 2024.



**I call on my fellow Heads of State – past and present – to join us in these Heads of State Initiatives. Let us show what leaders can do – and finally deliver the hope and prosperity that water can bring, to all communities across the world.**

**H.E. Ms. LAURA CHINCHILLA,**  
FORMER PRESIDENT, COSTA RICA  
and SWA GLOBAL LEADER





## HIGH-LEVEL EVENTS: SUPPORTING PARTNERS, REPRESENTING THE SECTOR

One of SWA's key functions is to play a high-level advocacy role on behalf of the sector and partnership. This includes supporting sector partners to engage effectively on the global stage, and during 2023, SWA was engaged at many key events and moments. SWA's CEO Catarina de Albuquerque spoke at many of these events during the year. In 2023, these opportunities included several events at and around the [UN 2023 Water Conference](#) (more details below), a roundtable at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development with UN Water, speaking at the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the UN's [High-level Political Forum](#), and leading event discussions at [Stockholm World Water Week](#), the [All Systems Connect](#) symposium in the Netherlands, and the seminal [Women Deliver](#) event in Kigali, Rwanda.

For partners, these high-level moments offer opportunities for collaboration, as well as increasing partners' visibility and the effectiveness of their advocacy. At the United Nations High-level Political Forum, for example, [Zimbabwe and Ghana announced](#) their blueprint for accelerating water and sanitation, which included a number of commitments supported by their Heads of State and the SWA partnership, highlighting their leaders' commitments to accelerate water and sanitation and reduce inequalities on the world stage.







## SWA AT THE UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE

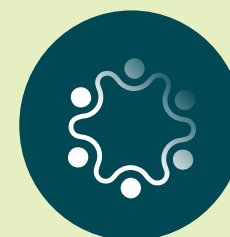
The UN 2023 Water Conference was convened in New York in March. Under the auspices of the UN General Assembly and co-hosted by the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Republic of Tajikistan, the event was the first UN conference focused solely on water in a generation. It was a hugely important platform to engage with global leaders and policymakers, offering an invaluable opportunity to persuade them of the efforts and resources required to achieve SDG6.

With global attention focused on water issues, **during the conference**, SWA urged countries to adopt a 'Triple A' rating (Ambition, Action, Accountability), with SWA Global Leader H.E. Ms. Laura Chinchilla, former president of Costa Rica closing the first Interactive Debate with a call to take human rights seriously. SWA then held several key events during the conference, stressing the importance of accountability, strengthening systems, improving sector finance, and ensuring robust multi-stakeholder processes. Key SWA-supported events during the conference included:



### High-level meeting on engaging Heads of State

Hosted by The Kingdom of the Netherlands (represented by His Majesty King Willem-Alexander), SWA, UNICEF and IRCWASH, the event announced 5 new Presidential Compacts, which will accelerate access to water and sanitation services, including increasing budget allocations, reducing open defecation and delivering climate-resilient services.



### Justice Begins Here – with Accountability Social Justice

Held at the Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice. The event was opened by the Prime Minister of Namibia, Rt. Hon. Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa, and showcased the effectiveness of the Mutual Accountability Mechanism (MAM) for the sector. Ministers from Cambodia, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Nigeria, and The Gambia shared the progress achieved on their MAM commitments.



### High-level Meeting of Sahel countries

SWA convened representatives from Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger to sign a Joint Declaration to increase visibility for water, sanitation, and hygiene. Alongside high-level representatives from development agencies and development banks, SWA's CEO spoke to emphasize that political will, better systems and good governance are all key to realizing the provision of services.



### Ministerial Dialogue on System Change for Eastern and Southern Africa

SWA hosted a Ministerial Dialogue event at the Ford Foundation Centre for Social Justice, in collaboration with the World Bank. The meeting brought together ministers and high-level representatives from development agencies and the African Development Bank, to discuss system change in the water and sanitation sector in Eastern and Southern Africa.



### OECD roundtable

SWA participated as a speaker in a roundtable event convened by the OECD, on financing increased access to water. The event gathered ministers, presidents of local government associations, high-level representatives of NGOs, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and multilateral banks, to contribute to delivering 12 concrete actions for local and regional governments to drive water security at all levels.



### UN Special Rapporteurs event: Water Leadership – Uniting for a Sustainable World

A Special Event at the conference brought together all three (past and present) Special Rapporteurs on the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation. SWA's CEO, the first of the Special Rapporteurs, attended the event. She spoke about the importance of ensuring that the voices of all marginalized people are appropriately reflected and integrated into aspects of water leadership at the local, regional and global levels.



### European Commission donates €4.4 million to SWA and UNICEF

At a signing ceremony, the European Commission provided SWA and UNICEF with a €4.4 million grant. The grant was gratefully accepted by SWA and UNICEF, and will be used to accelerate the provision of clean water and sanitation worldwide and eliminate access gaps, particularly in marginalized communities.







## Global conferences, and the events that accompany them, serve as critical milestones which create important momentum to achieve our mission.

The discussions that took place at these events continued throughout the year, as SWA followed up on key areas of action. For instance, SWA's Heads of State Initiatives have steadily gained traction, with 11 countries signing up to participate before the end of the year. Discussions on good governance and finance also continued throughout the year at key events such as the Africa Finance Ministers' Meeting, but also within our Systems and Finance Working Group.

SWA activity at and around the conference saw other wide-ranging, more informal discussions, for example on **period poverty and sextortion**, emphasizing the significant threat of corruption to achieving the SDGs. **SWA's CEO** and its **Youth Champion Ms. Anita Soina** also participated in Devex's 'WASH Works', discussing climate goals and women's rights in the water sector.

The UN 2023 Water Conference culminated with what was called a **breakthrough response to the global water crisis**, highlighting the importance of water as a critical lever for sustainable development across social, economic, and environmental dimensions – reflecting key themes of SWA's advocacy in recent years. SWA's focus on accountability resonated particularly strongly at the conference. Its **Mutual Accountability Mechanism (MAM)** was highlighted as a key tool for delivering the conference's '**Water Action Agenda**' – illustrating SWA's highly effective engagement for the sector in the international arena. As a result, **SWA has put the MAM at the disposal of all sector actors**, SWA partner or not, to contribute to the tracking and follow-up to the UN 2023 Water Conference and the Water Action Agenda commitments related to water, sanitation and hygiene.

## IN NUMBERS: SWA AT THE UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE



5

NEW PRESIDENTIAL  
COMPACTS ANNOUNCED

8

OTHER CONFERENCE  
EVENTS  
PARTICIPATION

4

SIDE EVENTS  
CONVENED  
BY SWA

900+

TWEETS/POSTS AND OVER



23

MINISTERS  
AT SWA'S EVENTS

4

HEADS OF STATE  
OR GOVERNMENT  
AT SWA'S EVENTS

2 million

VIEWS ACROSS ALL SOCIAL MEDIA

1000+

NEW FOLLOWERS ACROSS  
ALL SOCIAL MEDIA





## SUPPORTING CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERS

### at the UN 2023 Water Conference

SWA supported civil society advocacy work in many partner countries across the world in preparations for the UN 2023 Water Conference in March. Civil society partners concentrated efforts on influencing national governments and conference delegates to prioritize the human rights to water and sanitation. Civil society organizations' advocacy spanned multiple countries, including Malawi, Zambia, Sierra Leone, Brazil,

Honduras, Pakistan, Cape Verde, South Sudan, Benin, Mali, and Ghana. Notably, SWA's civil society partner in Malawi helped prepare a ministerial statement for the conference, leading to the minister referencing SWA's Mutual Accountability Mechanism as an effective tool to engage civil society during a conference high-level side event.



#### IN-COUNTRY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

SWA also provided financial support to a delegation comprising three civil society representatives from Liberia, Kenya, and Peru. These delegates presented compelling cases for prioritizing the human rights to water and sanitation in national policies and budgets, significantly influencing their government's preparation process, including commitments under the Water Action Agenda in Liberia.

## INDONESIA

### SWA strategic support to partners in the build-up to World Water Forum 2024

As Indonesia gears up to host the 10<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in 2024, SWA has been actively involved with partners in the country, engaging sector actors at both national and international levels.

At the national level, SWA worked closely with the Ministries for National Development Planning (Bappenas), and of Public Works and Housing, UNICEF, and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, to encourage the development of a Compact or Presidential initiative for the water,

sanitation, and hygiene sector. The minister for Public Works and Public Housing presented the country's commitments to developing the Compact at a SWA side event during the UN 2023 Water Conference. In preparation for the 2024 World Water Forum, there have been ongoing discussions with Indonesia's Ministry of Public Works and Housing, in-country partners, and the Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the UN in Geneva, regarding plans for Indonesia to showcase a national initiative that prioritizes water and sanitation during the Forum itself. Reflecting



#### IN-COUNTRY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

increased global acknowledgement of the need to engage Heads of State or Government to achieve SDG6, Indonesia is co-convening a 'Bandung Spirit Conference' as part of the World Water Forum programme. The event will include past and current Heads of States or Government from several UN Member States. It will have a panel on water and sanitation for all led by SWA – and as such will be a significant opportunity for SWA and partners to actively engage with Indonesia and other partner countries on the Heads of State Initiatives.







# SWA LEADERSHIP: ELEVATING THE SECTOR'S PROFILE

SWA's leadership works to reach and galvanize global and regional audiences, on behalf of the partnership and sector. SWA's CEO and its Global Leadership Council actively strive to shape global and national conversations around water, sanitation and hygiene.

Their work stresses the human rights obligations of States, for example, and emphasizes that achieving universal access to services will be impossible without effective sector coordination systems, solid governance, and finding sustainable solutions to the sector's financing gap.



**H.E. Dr. JOYCE BANDA**  
Former President of the  
Republic of Malawi



**H.E. Ms. LAURA CHINCHILLA**  
Former President of the  
Republic of Costa Rica



**H.E. Dr. HAN SEUNG-SOO**  
Former Prime Minister of the  
Republic of Korea



**H.E. Ms. AMINATA TOURÉ**  
Former Prime Minister of the  
Republic of Senegal



**H.E. Mr. ELBEGDORJ TSAKHIA**  
Former President and  
Prime Minister of Mongolia



**Ms. CATHERINE M. RUSSELL**  
UNICEF Executive Director



**Mr. KINYA SETO**  
CEO of LIXL Corporation

## SWA'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

SWA's Global Leadership Council (GLC) was established in 2021. The Council complements the work of SWA's CEO, and the partnership as a whole, and helps SWA to connect at a high level with other global leaders, policy makers, and decision makers. Together, they champion universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene, raise the partnership's visibility, coordinate and reinforce advocacy efforts, and offer their unrivalled expertise and guidance to further the partnership's work. SWA is proud to have five former Heads of State or Government as part of its GLC, in addition to other powerful high-level representatives from the private sector, and external support agencies – effectively mobilized and ready to speak on behalf of the SWA partnership and the wider sector. In 2023, SWA welcomed three new global leaders to the GLC: H.E. Dr. Joyce Banda, former President of Malawi, H.E. Dr. Han Seung-soo, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, and Mr. Kinya Seto, CEO of Lixil Corporation.

GLC highlights of 2023 included:

**H.E. Ms. LAURA CHINCHILLA** representing the partnership and the sector at multiple high-level appearances. These included speaking on a key panel at the UN 2023 Water Conference and at the Financing in Common sector finance summit in Cartagena in July. Her presence helped to capture the attention of current world leaders, ministers, and donors, elevating sector dialogue to a different level.

**H.E. Dr. JOYCE BANDA** rallying fellow leaders as she gave the keynote address opening the Africa Finance Ministers' Meeting in October.

**H.E. Dr. HAN SEUNG-SOO** pressing Heads of State to join SWA's Heads of State Initiatives at Stockholm World Water Week in August. Dr. Han was also instrumental in supporting the CEO's leadership mission to Korea to build key strategic relationships in the region.



**During my time as Prime Minister of Korea, I saw how things can change with the commitment and dedication of top-level decision makers... With commitment from the top, and multi-stakeholder support from the SWA partnership, we know that progress can be made, and that achieving SDG6 is within reach.**

**H.E. Dr. HAN SEUNG-SOO,**  
FORMER PRIME MINISTER, REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
and SWA GLOBAL LEADER





THE YEAR IN REVIEW

# STRENGTHENING SECTOR ADVOCACY AND ACCOUNTABILITY





# POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

## INFLUENCING NATIONAL AND GLOBAL CLIMATE POLICY

SWA works to influence policy and inspire action on climate in the water sector. It works at a national scale, for example, supporting country partners to ensure climate commitments are reflected in national water and sanitation strategies, and vice versa – that national climate strategies consider the huge potential contribution of our sector.

SWA also works at a strategic, global scale. In 2023, these global advocacy efforts on climate had a strong focus on adaptation, including consistent participation in workshops and negotiations pertaining to the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA). This was rewarded when parties at the UN Climate Conference (COP28) in Dubai reached a consensus on the GGA. A framework was adopted with the intentions to improve global resilience to increasing floods, droughts, heatwaves and sea-level rise. Having such a strong thematic focus on water and sanitation targets in the GGA will help advance the sector in adaptation planning, and puts SWA in a unique position to translate the GGA into national policies and strategies. It offers the strongest possible platform for SWA to continue supporting partners in reaching the most vulnerable and those most impacted by climate change.

One of the most critical inputs facilitated by SWA was a contribution on behalf of the sector which explained the rationale, importance and potential impacts if water and sanitation targets were to be included in the GGA framework. The submission's recommendations included:

- Reduce vulnerability in areas with high climate risk exposure and insufficient water and sanitation services.
- Ensure that progress towards the achievement of universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene contributes to climate adaptation.
- Ensure that existing water, sanitation and hygiene systems in areas highly exposed to climate risks embrace risk-based management and are retrofitted and upgraded.
- Foster water conservation, efficiency and reuse throughout existing water, sanitation and hygiene systems.

As an influential partner to foster water adaptation, SWA has paved the ground for high-level policy work in this area in the next few years.

## THE GLOBAL GOAL ON ADAPTATION: WATER AND SANITATION AT THE HEART OF CLIMATE ACTION

After months of negotiation and advocacy, in December the SWA partnership was delighted when the Global Goal on Adaptation was adopted, with the primary goal dedicated to water and sanitation. It calls for:

***“Significantly reducing climate-induced water scarcity and enhancing climate-resilience to water-related hazards towards a climate-resilient water supply, climate-resilient sanitation and universal access to safe and affordable potable water.”***

This is a major advocacy win for the sector, and one which SWA and its partners are rightfully proud to have been involved in securing.

## INFLUENCING THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND'S 'WATER SECURITY GUIDELINES'

SWA coordinated sector partners to contribute to the development of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Water Security Guidelines, which were published in February 2023. The new Guidelines aim to ensure coherence between climate and water-sanitation policies, and guide programmes and interventions towards building more resilient services.

The expertise of SWA partners will shape future action and funding on water security, as a key pillar of climate change adaptation and mitigation.







## SWA AT COP 28: CHAMPIONING PARTNERS AND THE SECTOR

SWA's work in the lead up to and during COP28 in Dubai ensured water and sanitation had prominent visibility as part of global climate dialogue. SWA worked as a member of the steering committee for the conference **Water Pavilion** for the third year, and during the conference itself SWA played key roles in communications and policy, including the co-convening of a major side event on climate adaptation.

SWA also launched the **Climate Compendium** at COP28, showcasing partners' action on climate. The Compendium was developed working closely with SWA partners and with UNFCCC's Race to Resilience campaign. The Compendium features over 30 practical case studies, showcasing how civil society organizations, external support agencies, research and learning institutions, the private sector, and sector utilities can implement effective schemes jointly with governments. It is a powerful illustration of water, sanitation, and hygiene as a key that can unlock many climate-related issues.



## SWA'S NEW YOUTH CHAMPION, Ms. ANITA SOINA

In January, the **partnership welcomed its second Youth Champion**. Ms. Anita Soina is from the Kenyan Maasai community, and is a seasoned environmental activist with a remarkable background in climate youth activism for over five years. Throughout her first year as SWA's Youth Champion, Ms. Soina's leadership and contributions have elevated discussions around water security, sanitation practices, climate impact and gender equality – notably at the UN **2023 Water Conference**, during **Africa Climate Week**, and ahead of SWA's **Africa Finance Ministers' Meeting**.

## RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING WOMEN'S IMPACT ON THE SECTOR

SWA's mission to eliminate inequalities will be impossible without an effective, gendered approach to water, sanitation and hygiene. As part of this mission to uphold the human rights to water and sanitation, the partnership hired a gender expert in 2023 to develop a new gender mainstreaming strategy. Recommendations will help the SWA partnership better contribute to the elimination of inequalities based on sex and gender.

In August, SWA joined thousands from across the globe for the Women Deliver Conference, one of the largest

and most influential forums for gender equality. SWA and its partners co-hosted a **virtual climate pre-conference event** with the Women Deliver organizers. The event considered that humanity's ability to survive in a rapidly warming world will depend on effective political mobilization, which is currently gridlocked by global power dynamics. The virtual event highlighted the good news: how our human-made problems can be woman-solved. The event featured prominent women leaders, attracted 250 participants and was moderated by the editor of CNN's As Equals project. SWA also presented at the conference itself, emphasizing the central role of women and girls in climate action, and presented the newly released **WHO/UNICEF data**, which highlights the importance of empowering women and girls in water-sanitation-climate solutions.



**Remember, we are not just fighting for policy change, but for the girl who treks miles for water, for the brilliant women scientists and innovators and activists who deserve a seat at the table, for the future of our planet.**

**Ms. CATARINA DE ALBUQUERQUE,**  
CEO, SANITATION AND WATER FOR ALL





# INCREASING MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY

**Launched in 2018, SWA's Mutual Accountability Mechanism (MAM) is the only global accountability tool dedicated to all stakeholders working together to achieve the water- and sanitation-related targets of the SDGs.**

The Mutual Accountability Mechanism significantly increased its visibility and political relevance during 2023 – within the partnership but also more widely across the sector. The increased emphasis on shared accountability and the MAM was driven in particular by momentum generated around SWA's participation in the UN Water Conference. This included the partnership's offer to put the MAM at the disposal of sector actors to follow up on the commitments presented in the context of the Water Action Agenda. As of December 2023, 11 SWA partners had agreed to table over 20 new MAM commitments in direct support of the Water Action Agenda – marking the first MAM commitments for 6 of them.

In their official statements and during side events taking place during the UN 2023 Water Conference, ministers from partner countries such as Kenya, Malawi, and Burkina Faso showcased progress related to their MAM commitments. They stressed how the mechanism contributes to strengthening sector coordination and accountability in their nations. At the conference's closing plenary, the Rt. Hon.

Lord Goldsmith, Minister for Overseas Territories, Commonwealth, Energy, Climate and Environment, UK, also presented the MAM as a “unique accountability platform that enables stakeholders to come together to frame, present and track commitments” made.

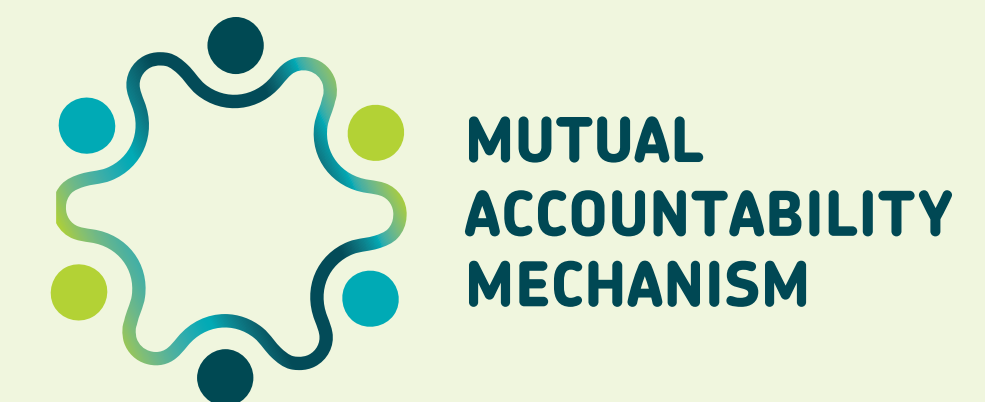
SWA's high-level side-event at the UN Water Conference, 'Justice Begins Here – with Accountability', particularly elevated the MAM's profile during 2023. Hosted by the UN Foundation at the Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice, the event welcomed the Prime Minister of Namibia, Rt. Hon. Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, and the Former President of Costa Rica and SWA Global Leader, H.E. Ms. Laura Chinchilla – and showcased the increased visibility and political importance of the Mutual Accountability Mechanism for the sector, with ministers from Cambodia, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Nigeria, and The Gambia sharing progress achieved on their countries' MAM commitments.

SWA will continue to expand the visibility and utilization of the MAM during 2024, and will publish the second MAM Global Report in the autumn.

## INCREASING THE VISIBILITY OF THE MAM

SWA organized several **#MAMWeeks** during 2023. The **#MAMWeeks** were designed to increase understanding and visibility both of SWA's Mutual Accountability Mechanism – and the principle of shared accountability itself. **#MAMWeeks** were held ahead of the UN 2023 Water Conference and in the lead up to the MAM showcase event at the conference. Building and maintaining visibility in this way kept the Mechanism at the forefront of delegates' minds.

Two further **#MAMWeeks** were organized later in the year – in June to promote the Global Accountability webinar focused on climate action, and in October ahead of the Africa Finance Ministers' Meeting, to promote and offer analysis on sector finance commitments made by partners across Africa.



# 33

**MAM**  
NEW COMMITMENTS MADE  
IN 2023

# 40

**MAM**  
PROGRESS REPORTS RECEIVED  
IN 2023

# 439

**TOTAL**  
MAM COMMITMENTS  
AT 31 DECEMBER 2023



**Prior to the MAM, each institution used to work in silos...Now, all stakeholders have clearer roles. This has enabled us to work in a more transparent way and enhance collaboration.**

**Mr. DJOOURO BOCUM,**  
SECRETARY GENERAL,  
MINISTRY OF ENERGY & WATER, MALI





**THE YEAR IN REVIEW**

# SUPPORTING SWA PARTNER COUNTRIES AND CONSTITUENCIES





# PROVIDING TARGETED SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES

The work of SWA has continued to evolve, and in recent years has increasingly focused on engaging and supporting partners directly at country level.



















This support is offered in several ways, including assisting partners in sector reviews, and giving direct technical and strategic planning advice.

One of the ways that SWA worked directly with partners in 2023 was through identifying 24 ‘priority countries’ and providing them with tailored technical support. This included continuing to work with several countries identified for support in previous years. SWA’s Country Engagement Team developed targeted action plans and provided support for these country partners throughout the year, specifically focusing on SWA’s three core strategic objectives, as outlined in the partnership’s current **Strategic Framework 2020–2030**.

The process has helped SWA to improve its focus, clarifying specific areas of action. It has meant that the SWA Secretariat can provide dedicated support in a more sustainable and predictable way for countries that need it most – and it has also resulted in increased direct engagement on tangible outcomes with SWA partners. The work with priority countries has had several significant impacts for partner countries. By the end of 2023 the priority countries work was helping countries to make progress on areas such as climate action, engagements with Heads of State, strengthening multi-stakeholder platforms, as well as improving sector governance and finance mechanisms.

## IN 2023, SWA’S PRIORITY COUNTRY WORK INCLUDED:

	<b>BANGLADESH</b>	Political leaders supported to engage in global dialogues on climate adaptation
	<b>BENIN</b>	Development of a strategy to engage the Head of State
	<b>BURKINA FASO</b>	National committee established to coordinate mutual accountability
	<b>CABO VERDE</b>	Review of the national strategic plan for the sector
	<b>CAMBODIA</b>	Multi-stakeholder platform expanded and used to review sector progress
	<b>CHAD</b>	Technical assistance to identify and develop plans to access climate finance
	<b>CÔTE D'IVOIRE</b>	Summit generating new sector commitments, supporting Government MAM commitments
	<b>FIJI</b>	Political leaders supported to engage in global dialogues on climate adaptation
	<b>GHANA</b>	Drafting a Head of State Compact for the sector
	<b>HONDURAS</b>	Development of a sector financing strategy
	<b>INDONESIA</b>	Follow-up on plans to prepare a ‘Presidential Instruction’ to prioritize water and sanitation
	<b>LIBERIA</b>	Drafting a Head of State Compact for the sector
	<b>NEPAL</b>	Multi-stakeholder sector review process redesigned and relaunched
	<b>NICARAGUA</b>	Opportunities for accessing climate finance identified, with proposals in development
	<b>SIERRA LEONE</b>	Multi-stakeholder platform expanded and used to review sector progress
	<b>UGANDA</b>	Drafting a Head of State Compact for the sector
	<b>ZIMBABWE</b>	Support developing a Head of State Compact





## BURKINA FASO

### Establishing a national committee for multi-stakeholder coordination

In Burkina Faso, SWA has helped re-establish an effective sector coordination mechanism following recent years of political challenges. Based on government commitments made in 2022 under SWA's Mutual Accountability Mechanism (relating to faecal sludge management, end of open defecation and mutual integration between sanitation and climate action), SWA facilitated the formation of a multi-

stakeholder committee. SWA actively participates in the work of the committee, which provides the sector with a crucial space for discussing sector issues and solutions that has been absent in recent years. During 2023, the committee saw several successes, including increasing the number and involvement of members, the committee's formalization through a ministerial decree, and the drafting of a sanitation-



#### IN-COUNTRY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

climate project proposal. In addition, SWA supported the committee to submit a successful proposal for SWA's catalytic funding. The funding will be awarded in 2024, and will be used to help develop a financing plan for sanitation in Burkina Faso. The plan will be designed to explore how to address the financing gap in the country's sector, and, ultimately, to increase the sustainability and resilience of its sanitation services.

## NEPAL

### SWA and partners drive improvements to sector review process

Nepal made a MAM commitment to improve sector review mechanisms, 'to assess progress on a regular basis and to ensure that results are acted upon'. During 2023, SWA sector partners worked with the Secretariat to deliver on this commitment, finalizing initiatives to enhance the country's Joint Sector Review (JSR) process. A key element of the new JSR is that the process is ongoing and cyclical, rather than a fixed event held at often unpredictable times. SWA's support for

development of the revamped JSR process included facilitating a 'Country Self-Assessment' dialogue for sector actors, and conducting an analysis of sector bottlenecks, with inputs from both integrated into the Joint Sector Review development and its findings. Additionally, SWA facilitated a knowledge exchange with Ethiopia to share insights into designing a finance strategy, further complementing Nepal's efforts to strengthen the country's sector planning and review processes.



#### IN-COUNTRY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

The improved Joint Sector Review process led to several recommendations, formally adopted in early 2024. These recommendations included the need for heightened political engagement, strengthened mutual accountability, enhanced capacity for local governments and service providers, implementation of a new sector finance strategy, and improved inter-sectoral collaborations. Together, the recommendations signify a significant step forwards towards a more robust and responsive sector in Nepal.







## INCREASING SWA CONSTITUENCY CAPACITY

SWA partners are from governments, civil society organizations, research and learning institutions, utilities and regulators, the private sector, and external support agencies. Partners from the six constituencies undertake the majority of activities, with the SWA Secretariat supporting them and building the capacity of each constituency to strengthen their national sectors. In 2023, SWA was proud to welcome **40 new partners**.



78



Governments

196

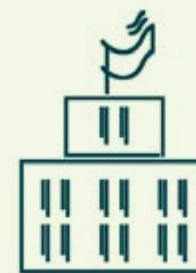
(+29 new)



Civil Society  
Organizations

32

(+1 new)



Research & Learning

58

(+4 new)



Utilities & Regulators

16

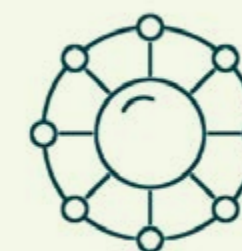
(+1 new)



Private Sector

45

(+5 new)



External Support  
Agencies

## COUNTRY SELF-ASSESSMENTS: REVIEWING SECTOR STRENGTH AND PROGRESS

In 2023, over 300 partners and country sector stakeholders in 11 countries – representing all SWA constituencies – conducted a Country Self-Assessment (CSA). The CSA is designed by SWA, and offers a situational assessment of a national sector. Governments and their partners are supported to evaluate progress towards strengthening systems and collaboration for water, sanitation and hygiene – and determine areas where support is needed.

CSAs complement global sector data monitoring systems, such as GLAAS or the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program (JMP). The process encourages partners to review and use data from their national monitoring systems for informed decision-making on the sector. Ultimately, the CSAs provide partners with additional reflections on progress that can be difficult to capture in global data monitoring systems. During 2023, these reflections have been used by country partners for advocacy to engage ministers or Heads of State, and have offered assessments of sector readiness to access climate financing

In 2023, Cambodia, Honduras, Nepal, Zimbabwe, Maldives and Peru conducted the self-assessment for their second or third time, and Benin, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone conducted it for the first time. The assessments will help SWA to tailor its support to these partners during 2024 and beyond.





## FOCUSED FUNDING FOR STRATEGIC SECTOR ACTION

One of the many ways that SWA builds capacity for its constituency partners is through catalytic funding to support specific initiatives that can help ease sector challenges. The funding is designed to trigger impact through strategic sector action and advocacy – as well leveraging additional resources from governments,

donors, and other development partners. In 2023, SWA's catalytic funding supported partners across Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America & the Caribbean.

### Highlights included:

**IN MALAWI**, where SWA funding enabled civil society partners to contribute to the national water strategy, and helped enable the establishment of a new sanitation directorate – a country first.

**IN SENEGAL**, where the funding boosted advocacy for incorporating the human rights to water and sanitation in the Constitution.

**IN NIGER**, where SWA civil society partner CCOAD was able to advocate for the implementation of the national 'Water, Hygiene, and Sanitation Programme. It fostered community dialogue, lobbied local authorities, and increased community engagement during 2023, renewing stakeholder commitments under SWA's Mutual Accountability Mechanism.

**IN INDIA**, where the catalytic grant was used to work towards improved access to the country's 15th Finance Commission fund, promoting equitable and sustainable sector progress in rural India.

**ACROSS LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**, where Redes del Agua, a pan-Latin America network, was able to enhance civil society engagement in regional processes and secure additional support for advocacy activities.

**IN GUATEMALA**, where the funding supported partners to focus advocacy on addressing water scarcity, elevating rural voices through multi-stakeholder engagement and using messaging built around SWA's global Justice Begins Here campaign.

**IN CHAD, MALI, NICARAGUA AND NIGERIA**, where funding in 2023 focused specifically on strengthening sector systems and finance, to identify blockages in the use of existing funding and increase resources for the water and sanitation sector. In 2024, **BURKINA FASO, MADAGASCAR, ETHIOPIA AND THE MALDIVES** will receive funding for similar sector finance-related technical support.



It was difficult to achieve these outcomes without SWA support...The catalytic fund has enabled the WESNET secretariat to catalyse processes of strengthening the institutional set-up of the new ministry...which could otherwise be difficult to pursue.

Mr. WILLIES MWANDIRA,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
WESNET CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK





## NIGERIA

### ‘Citizen manifesto’ pushes water, sanitation and hygiene up the political agenda

In Nigeria, SWA’s Civil Society partner, the Society for Water and Sanitation (NEWSAN), took the lead in advocating for the political prioritization of water, sanitation, and hygiene in the run-up to nationwide elections in February 2023.

With SWA’s support, NEWSAN successfully secured commitments from electoral candidates by framing water, sanitation, and hygiene as crucial elements for economic growth, sustainable development, peace,

and security. The ‘Citizen manifesto’ initiative utilized major national press coverage to generate public support, and NEWSAN incorporated the manifesto into political campaigns, obtaining well over 100 signatures from candidates promising action on water, sanitation, and hygiene. Nearly 60 of these candidates emerged victorious in the elections, forming a strong cohort of elected officials committed to addressing water, sanitation and hygiene issues for their constituents.



#### IN-COUNTRY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

To sustain political will and accountability within the sector, SWA will continue to support NEWSAN including through a \$10k grant during 2024. This will help NEWSAN to employ their ‘WASH charter’ as an effective tool to hold newly elected government representatives accountable for their campaign commitments. Among other objectives, the charter will be instrumental in advocating for improved budget allocations during NEWSAN’s ongoing advocacy activities.

## LIBERIA

### SWA partners work to secure sector champion candidates at elections

In 2023, SWA civil society partners in Liberia took proactive steps to prioritize the water, sanitation, and hygiene sector ahead of elections. They engaged in targeted outreach to presidential and senate election candidates, along with conducting a widespread media campaign. SWA’s civil society partner, United Youth for Peace, Education, Transparency & Development in Liberia (UYPETDL), aligned their campaign with SWA’s ‘Justice Begins Here’ initiative. This involved creating

demands for the sector in the form of ‘pledge cards’ for electoral candidates. Additionally, UYPETDL increased sector visibility by encouraging government ‘WASH Champions’, to actively support the push for improved access to services.

Through extensive media campaigns, voters were encouraged to support candidates with pledges and plans for the sector. The election outcome saw several win-



#### IN-COUNTRY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

ning candidates who had officially committed to taking action to improve water and sanitation issues. This success provides UYPETDL with a solid platform to sustain their advocacy efforts for the sector; they plan to engage with and support lawmakers in delivering on those promises they made on the election trail, during their time in office.





# THE YEAR IN REVIEW IMPROVING FINANCING AND STRENGTHENING SYSTEMS





# THE 2023 SWA AFRICA FINANCE MINISTERS' MEETING

In October, SWA, UNICEF and African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) convened and delivered the 2023 Africa Finance Ministers' Meeting (FMM). The event included nearly 30 ministers actively participating, from across the continent. Donors, UN agencies, civil society organizations and youth representatives were also in attendance.

## IN NUMBERS: THE 2023 AFRICA FMM

25

COUNTRIES

holding bilateral meetings to prepare ministerial participation



&gt;400K

Views on social media of #2023FMM



3

COUNTRIES

planning sector budget increases ahead of the FMM



27

MINISTERS, of which  
10 MINISTERS OF FINANCE

1K

Approximate number of  
VIRTUAL DELEGATES

16

Other  
PARTICIPATING VIPs

As with all of SWA's high-level ministerial meetings, the Africa FMM was preceded by a multi-stakeholder preparatory process. During September and October, discussions at national, regional and global levels analysed progress, considered sector bottlenecks, agreed joint future actions, and briefed finance ministers. As ever, these conversations offered crucial opportunities for partners to build closer relationships: with ministers, with policy makers, and with each other – as well as with other professionals from other, inter-linked sectors.

The Africa FMM provided an important opportunity for ministerial engagement, at a critical juncture for the region and the sector. The discussions at the FMM highlighted many points around mobilizing domestic resources, partnerships, and strengthening the enabling environment. The event will frame future conversations and action on sector finance, at next

year's regional FMMs, and beyond. Emerging themes included:

1. Closing a large portion of the investment gap in water and sanitation is feasible through increasing the availability of domestic resources and improving sector efficiencies. Increasing the national budget allocation for water and sanitation to 5% and 0.5%, respectively.
2. Investment in climate adaptation and mitigation related to water and sanitation in planning phases reduces longer-term cost, provides job opportunities, and supports the green economy.
3. Ensuring that sufficient finance is available for universal access to safely managed sanitation – a key development indicator that significantly reduces the public health burden.
4. Addressing the current debt crisis that many countries are suffering from requires focused debt reduction strategies. Reducing debt and ensuring African nations can access a fair share of Special Drawing Rights.
5. Finance ministers can contribute to counteracting the prevailing narrative of a problem of corruption specific to Africa, or of an Africa that needs constant hand-outs. This does not reflect the reality of a continent rich in human, mineral and green energy resources.
6. Partnering with development banks to secure long-term finance that aligns with achieving universal access to water and sanitation by 2030.

These themes and supporting commitments made ahead of the Africa FMM will be followed up by partners during 2024 and beyond, including through using SWA's Mutual Accountability Mechanism – which itself is strengthening the Water Action Agenda's commitments process.

More information on the Africa Finance Ministers' Meeting can be found [here](#).



**The cost of poor-quality water and sanitation is carried by the whole population, and this is something that African countries can ill-afford at this time of multiple crises.**

H.E. Dr. JOYCE BANDA,  
FORMER PRESIDENT, MALAWI  
and SWA GLOBAL LEADER





# IMPROVING FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE: BUILDING KNOWLEDGE, MAKING CONNECTIONS

## SYSTEMS AND FINANCE WORKING GROUP

SWA's Systems and Finance Working Group (SFWG) is a platform for discussion on sector finance. It is open to all SWA partners, and facilitates dialogue and collaboration among SWA partners, to address finance-related challenges in the sanitation and water sector.

In 2023, the SFWG developed and published principles of sustainable finance for the sector. They are a set of guidelines developed to ensure that financial flows and investments in the water, sanitation, and hygiene sector are not only increased, but channelled in a way that promotes sustainability and respects human rights.

The principles serve as a foundation on which to address financing challenges in the sector, and promote the achievement of universal access to safe and sustainable water and sanitation services.

## WORKING WITH MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS

In 2023, SWA continued to work with the Inter-American Development Bank in Latin America and the Caribbean, the African Development Bank in Africa and the Asian Development Bank in Asia.

SWA also collaborated closely with the World Bank in 2023 – notably during the UN 2023 Water Conference in New York, where SWA was able to use its convening power to bring ministers and development partners together. During the high-level meeting they discussed the prioritization of water, sanitation, and hygiene in national budgets, and how to ensure that future finance strategies adequately considered these services, which are the cornerstone of sustainable development.



Investing in water, sanitation and hygiene not only serves as a fundamental necessity for public health, education and societal benefits but also generates substantial economic returns of up to 700%.

THE ECONOMIST & SWA,  
OCTOBER, 2023



### IN-COUNTRY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

## NICARAGUA

### Building capacity to access climate finance

Nicaragua's National Water Authority (ANA) is the key government agency responsible for water governance in the country. SWA has worked particularly closely with ANA in several areas in recent years, including considering how to integrate action on climate with the country's water and sanitation policies, working alongside Nicaragua's

Commission for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (COMISASH). In 2023, SWA supported ANA through financial and technical assistance, in order to build the capacity of key sector actors on how to identify and access potential sources of climate financing. The technical assistance from SWA directly enabled ANA to lead a series of five multi-stakeholder workshops, where sector actors learned how to analyze existing investments and financing gaps, and consider potential ways to plug those gaps – including how to approach the development of successful funding bids. Several sector financing opportunities were identified, and by the end of the year, ANA had developed several proposals and applications for accessing climate funding, which will be submitted in early 2024.





**THE YEAR IN REVIEW**

# MEDIA AND CAMPAIGNS HIGHLIGHTS





## MEDIA AND CAMPAIGNING HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

**During 2023, SWA developed its media outreach significantly, working to bring the priorities of the partnership to the widest possible audiences.**

This included extensive work publicising countries joining SWA's Heads of State Initiatives, and key sector moments such as the UN 2023 Water Conference and SWA's own Africa Finance Ministers' Meeting. It also included a focus on building relationships with journalists across water, climate, health, gender and humanitarian sectors. SWA earned more than 500 media mentions worldwide. Interviews with senior leaders and editorials were placed in 100+ outlets across the globe, including Al Jazeera, Newsweek, El País, Bloomberg, Deutsche Welle, Washington Post Live, Capital FM Kenya, Guardian Nigeria, and EuroNews.

SWA also introduced discussions on water and sanitation into the global discourse on current events. SWA's CEO addressed the importance of safeguarding the human right to water in conflict and disaster situations, including in Ukraine and Gaza, and following the earthquakes in Morocco, Turkey and Syria. She also advocated strongly for global climate policies that prioritize the sustainable use of resources amid the ongoing global struggle with water scarcity.

## GLOBAL SOCIAL JUSTICE CAMPAIGN FOR THE WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE SECTOR

Designed by SWA, the **Justice Begins Here** campaign was launched in late 2022. The campaign raises awareness that clean water and the ability to live free from the dangers of poor sanitation and hygiene are not privileges: they are fundamental human rights. In 2023, the campaign saw its first full year of action, and was used in several ways. Civil society SWA partners used the campaign ahead of several elections in 2023, calling for campaigning politicians to prioritize water, sanitation and hygiene, including in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guatemala. In Nigeria, civil society organizations used the Justice Begins Here campaign to create a 'Civil Society Charter', demanding the prioritization of the human rights to water and sanitation in the political agenda, and for significant investment in the sector.

## COLLABORATION WITH THE ECONOMIST ON SECTOR FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

SWA worked with The Economist on an 'Impact Series', ahead of the Africa Finance Ministers' Meeting. The pieces considered how Africa can mobilize \$30 billion annually for water and sanitation. They offered expert advice and case studies from SWA senior leaders, ministries and donors, including interviews with Malawi's Ministry of Water and Sanitation, UNICEF, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), South Africa's Water and Sanitation Department, H.E. Dr. Joyce Banda, the former president of Malawi, the Gates Foundation, and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID).

The collaboration also included compiling an **economic analysis briefing paper** ahead of SWA's Africa Finance Ministers' Meeting. The analysis highlights the social and economic benefits of investment in water and sanitation services in Africa and explores funding alternatives for meeting the water investment needs in the region. The paper formulates strong arguments for this investment, and the future risks to development on the continent without it. Illustrated by powerful analysis and statistics, the paper helped to shape the debate for the FMM – and beyond.





## OPINION FORMERS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS PIECES: 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



**The Economist**

Rising from the Storm: Malawi's Battle for Climate-Resilient Water and Sanitation



**devex**  
Do Good. Do It Well.™

Lack of water services leave women and girls vulnerable to 'sextortion'



**The Economist**

Why Africa's prosperity depends on forward-looking leaders



**euronews.**

Euroviews. We can't allow our right to water to go down the drain



**The Economist**

Water is a human right, but it comes at a cost



**Newsweek**

In Ukraine, an Attack on Water Is an Attack on What Makes Us Human | Opinion



**devex**  
Do Good. Do It Well.™

Devex Newswire: WASH and the draining issue of water



**The Economist**

How improving institutions can help solve South Africa's water crisis



**LinkedIn**

Water under fire in Israel & Gaza



**ALJAZEERA**

Here's how to help earthquake-hit Morocco reduce the risk of disease



**The Economist**

The private sector can play a vital role in ensuring the right to safe water and sanitation in Africa



**TEDx**

Climate change = water change. And political change?







# LOOKING FORWARD: 2024 AND BEYOND





# LOOKING FORWARD: 2024 AND BEYOND

At the forefront of SWA's work in 2024 will be a significant push to ramp up **engagement with Heads of State and Government**. From 2024 to 2029, SWA has committed to support at least 20 countries to prepare and launch Heads of State Initiatives. SWA will then continue to support countries which have Compacts in place, to support delivery of those Compacts' objectives. The Heads of State Initiatives will also form a core element of the partnership's strategic engagement in global and regional political processes and sector milestones, including G20 and G7 meetings, the upcoming COPs, the 2024 World Water Forum, and the UN 2026 Water Conference. And of course, SWA will hold its own sector milestones, through its flagship High-level Meetings.

In 2024, **high-level engagement** will continue to be at the core of SWA's work. April will see SWA convene its Finance Ministers' Meeting, as well as a Sector Ministers' Dialogue, for Latin America & the Caribbean in Washington, D.C. Key topics on the agenda include the elimination of inequalities, addressing climate and fiscal risk, and working in partnership for a resilient future. Additional high-level events planned for 2024 include a convening of current and former Heads of State at the World Water Forum in Bali, Indonesia. Looking further ahead, in 2025 we will convene our

5<sup>th</sup> Sector Ministers' Meeting, which will build from the successes of 2022, bringing together not only sector ministers, but also ministers from related sectors. Now, more than ever, we know that the path to success means building coalitions and working together. Complementing these efforts to engage those at the highest levels of decision-making, SWA will undertake leadership missions to support country partners, in particular to boost engagement with Heads of State, and including participation of our Global Leaders.

In 2024, we will also undertake a **mid-term assessment of our 2020–2030 Strategic Framework**. Adopted in late 2019, the world has changed considerably since the start of our strategy, and now is the moment to take stock and determine if we are on the right track to achieve our mission of sanitation and water for all, always and everywhere. We will be consulting within and outside the partnership in order to assess current trends, evaluate where we are working well, and which aspects of our work need extra energy in order to deliver results.

We will also work to continue evolving conversations on **sector finance**. We know that there are no magic solutions. Dialogue at the Africa Finance Ministers'

Meeting and elsewhere tell us that finance gaps in the sector are stubbornly difficult issues, which will require challenging perceived wisdom. As we head into upcoming SWA regional meetings for finance ministers, we will need to ask ourselves difficult questions, such as what is realistic and possible? And why is sanitation so often neglected? Above all, it is increasingly clear that addressing sector finance shortages needs engagement on wider global challenges, related to international financial architecture, and the global economy.

Similarly, there is a growing recognition that a narrow focus on water and sanitation alone will not achieve the targets we have set ourselves to meet by 2030. Our sector must continue to **forge stronger links with other sectors** such as health, climate, and human rights, including gender – and widen our contextual view to include humanitarian and crisis settings as a matter of utmost urgency. As we look towards the finish line of the SDGs, these interconnections are even more pressing. Nowhere are those linkages more urgent than on **climate**. During 2024 and beyond, we will build on advocacy and global policy successes such as the inclusion of water and sanitation in the Global Goal on Adaptation, as we look to forthcoming COPs, the 2024 Finance Ministers' Meetings, and as we begin preparations for what will be a seminal Sector Ministers' Meeting for the SWA partnership in 2025.

Accountability will also continue to be at the heart of SWA's work in 2024. The preparatory and follow-up processes for our high-level meetings continue to emphasize the importance of making and reporting progress on commitments through SWA's Mutual

Accountability Mechanism. We also anticipate forging a close connection in 2024 between the Mutual Accountability Mechanism and the Country Self-Assessments process, which partners use to gauge sector progress and bottlenecks. Likewise, we will use our follow-up efforts after high-level meetings to systematically and deliberately track progress regarding commitments made at these events. The second Global Report on SWA's Mutual Accountability Mechanism will be published in the autumn. The Global Report is published every three years. Similar to SWA's high-level meetings, inputs rely on a 6-month preparatory process, involving calls for partners to convene at the national level, and use multi-stakeholder approaches to review commitments, as well as showcasing best practice and inspiring experiences of using the mechanism.

Looking beyond 2024, we must inevitably start to consider the **post-2030 landscape for development**. Delivering on universal access to water and sanitation requires that all countries are able to extend, accelerate and maintain sustainable access. The next global 'development' framework must reinforce the universality of the SDG agenda. But it will also require bold vision. The world has changed drastically in the last decade – and we may need to question the concept of 'development' itself as we know and understand it. Post 2030, it is becoming clear that this will mean consciously seeking to agree a clear roadmap for nothing less than our planet's survival – helping to reinforce peace and prosperity across the world. And water and sanitation will be key to achieve that vision.





# GOVERNANCE, FINANCIALS & DONORS







# GOVERNANCE

The governance and support bodies of SWA help the partnership navigate through the year. The SWA Secretariat provides a crucial support and management function for all of these bodies, and leads much of the work outlined in this Annual Report, coordinating partners and engagement across the wider partnership. More information on the governance bodies and functions of the SWA partnership is available on the SWA website [here](#).



## SWA'S STEERING COMMITTEE IN 2023

The Steering Committee is SWA's ultimate decision-making body. The SWA Steering Committee met three times in 2023, in March, June and December. Important discussions and decisions focused on the Finance Ministers meeting, financial and budgetary discussions, SWA's programmatic and strategic objectives, and on resource mobilization. The Steering Committee also agreed structural changes to the SWA Secretariat with a view to enhancing efficiencies and ensuring good value for money. Each of the seven constituencies elects representatives to serve three-year terms to the Steering Committee, with elections held each year to fill vacancies left by those members completing their terms. All approved minutes from Steering Committee meetings are available on the [SWA website here](#).

### STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIR

**Dr. Patrick Moriarty**

### SWA'S CEO

**Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque (ex officio)**

### GOVERNMENTS

Mr. Abiy Girma Woledeselassie, Ethiopia  
Mr. ACM Nafeel, Sri Lanka  
Dr. Alexandra Carvalho, Portugal  
Dr. Carlos Cueto, Dominican Republic  
Mr. Djouuro Bocoum, Mali  
Ms. Elizabeth Ugo, Nigeria  
Ms. Helene Bragori, Ivory Coast  
H.E. Ms. Ivette Berrio Aqui, Panama  
Mr. Lovemore Dhoba, Zimbabwe  
Ms. Majeda Alawneh, State of Palestine  
Mr. Makhosini Khoza, Eswatini  
Mr. Nestor Girukwishakur, Burundi  
H.E. Mr. Yim Chhung, Cambodia

### CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Ms. Ana Maria Tovar, Redes del Agua, LAC  
Ms. Barbara Schreiner, Water Integrity Network  
Ms. Sareen Malik, African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW)  
Mr. Syed Shah Nasir, Integrated Regional Support Programme (IRSP)

### EXTERNAL SUPPORT AGENCIES

Ms. Cecilia Scharp, UNICEF  
Ms. Joke Baak, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands  
Mr. Paul Deverill, FCD0, United Kingdom

### RESEARCH & LEARNING

Dr. Russel Chidya, Mzuzu University, Malawi  
Dr. Daniel Ddiba, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

### PRIVATE SECTOR

Ms. Alexandra Knezovich, Toilet Board Coalition  
Dr. Nicholas Igwe, Zenith Water Project Ltd

### UTILITIES & REGULATORS

Eng. Oscar Pintos, Association of Regulators of Water and Sanitation of the Americas (ADERASA)

### HOST ORGANIZATION (UNICEF)

Mr. Nazim Khizar (ex officio)

## Thank-you to departing Steering Committee members in 2023:

H.E. Mr. Ouk Rabun, Cambodia  
Ms. Meena Shrestha, Nepal  
Dr. Seetharam M. R., VILD foundation

Ms. Nathalie Seguin Tovar, Freshwater Action  
Mr. Dominic O'Neill, Sanitation & Hygiene Fund (SHF)





# FINANCIALS AND DONORS

In 2023, six donors contributed to the SWA Trust Fund Account. These were: the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID); the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the U.K. Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO); the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (MAEC); the Spanish Agency for International Development (AECID); and the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. In addition to the six donors contributing to the SWA Trust Fund Account, SWA also has separate, long-term bilateral agreements with two donors – the European Commission, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In 2023,

SWA also started a new collaboration with the Agence Française de Développement, leading to additional support for the Secretariat's workplan. SWA is increasing its efforts to diversify its donor portfolio and is in close contact with several donors, with a view to receiving additional core support as well as earmarked funding that would allow the partnership to meet the objectives set in SWA's Strategy 2020-2030. SWA is also discussing with its current donors to secure follow-on support. The continued funding from donors assured the full implementation of SWA's workplan for the year ahead, in 2024.

## EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN, 2023 (US\$)

	Actual spend	Open Commitments	Total Utilized
Objective 1	730,085	46,089	776,174
Objective 2	673,027	124,646	797,673
Objective 3	126,130	70	126,201
Governance & operations	823,012	323,364	1,146,376
Staff costs – SWA Sec	2,257,396	-	2,257,396
UNICEF fees	552,608	-	552,608
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,162,257</b>	<b>494,169</b>	<b>5,656,427</b>

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OVERVIEW, 2023 (US\$)

Opening programmable balance	1,639,971
Received programmable	4,630,627
<b>Available for programme</b>	<b>6,270,598</b>
Indirect costs	178,678
<b>Total available balance</b>	<b>6,449,276</b>
Actual expenditures	5,162,257
Open commitments as of 31 December 2023	494,169
<b>Total funds utilized</b>	<b>5,656,427</b>
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>792,849</b>

## DONOR INCOME 2023 (US\$)

Donor	Actual spend	Open Commitments	Total Utilized
BMGF	245,707	300,000	545,707
European Commission	-	537,862	537,862
USAID (US)	1,015,659	1,000,000	2,015,659
FCDO (UK)	127,235	1,482,402	1,609,637
DGIS (Netherlands)	-	500,000	500,000
Hilton	251,370	670,000	921,370
AECID (Spain)	-	212,993	212,993
MAEC (Spain)	-	106,048	56,306
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,639,971</b>	<b>4,809,305</b>	<b>6,449,276</b>

In 2023, the donors supporting the SWA partnership were:



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands



BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation





# RESULTS FRAMEWORK 2023







# RESULTS FRAMEWORK 2023

The Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) Results Framework is the primary tool for assessing progress towards the vision, mission and objectives of the SWA Strategic Framework 2020-2030. The Results Framework was finalized in January 2021, making 2023 the third year of monitoring against this framework.

The Results Framework has indicators to measure progress toward each of SWA's three strategic objectives:

## OBJECTIVE 1

Build and sustain political will to eliminate inequalities in water, sanitation and hygiene

## OBJECTIVE 2

Champion multi-stakeholder approaches towards achieving universal access to services

## OBJECTIVE 3

Rally stakeholders to strengthen system performance and attract new investments

For each objective, the SWA Results Framework measures results in three different ways:

### • HIGH-LEVEL OUTCOMES AND IMPACT INDICATORS:

A select set of indicators available from existing data sources used to assess sector progress and trends relevant for achieving the SWA mission. These data are collected on an annual or bi-annual basis (depending on data availability) through tools such as the JMP and GLAAS initiatives, and do not demonstrate SWA's contribution directly. The SWA Secretariat is responsible for compiling and analyzing these indicators.

*(Note for 2023's Results Framework: Some of these indicators have not been updated as there was no 2023 GLAAS report.)*

### • INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME BENCHMARK INDICATORS (COUNTRY LEVEL):

Partners periodically complete a Country Self-Assessment (CSA) for their country which considers their sector's progress on 6 indicators corresponding to 2 indicators for each SWA Strategic Objective. The assessment results in a score from 0-100% for each objective, each with a narrative explanation for the score, and supporting evidence/justification. The evolution of these scores over time, for each country, will allow SWA to closely follow changes happening at the national level and to better understand its own contribution to change.

*(Note for 2023's Results Framework: SWA partners in eleven countries have completed Country Self-Assessments. This reflects continued progress in the third year of implementation of the Results Framework but demonstrates a need for continued investment from the SWA Secretariat to support additional countries to complete the self-assessment. Completion of additional CSAs is a priority in 2024, with a focus on reaching at least an additional 40% of SWA priority countries, as is supporting the eleven countries who already have a baseline, to update the scores and to enable the assessment of change over time. In 2024, SWA will be focusing on conducting 20 CSAs.)*

### • SWA ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUT INDICATORS:

These are simple quantitative indicators that assess the partnership's activities and outputs. For example, this could be the number of ministers attending SWA high-level meetings, the number of trainings and webinars organized, or the number of new partners joining the SWA partnership.

*(Note for 2023's Results Framework: All activity and output indicators have been updated using data from the SWA Secretariat's internal activity monitoring system.)*





## PROGRESS ON SWA'S VISION FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO SANITATION, WATER AND HYGIENE SERVICES

According to the most recent Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) global report, the world is way off track to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6. The 2021 report says that a quadrupling of current rates of progress will be required to achieve the 2030 targets. In response, a **State of the World's Drinking Water** report was published by the JMP in 2022, which calls for urgent action on governance, finance, capacity development, innovation, and data to confront the crisis. In 2023, the JMP published an update report, **Progress on Household Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene 2000–2022: Special Focus on Gender**, including analysis that suggested that the world may be falling even further behind. It presented a picture of stark inequalities between and within countries, revealing the unique risks that women and girls face from inadequate access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services – and that in two out of three households, women are primarily responsible for water collection.





## PROGRESS ON THE SWA PARTNERSHIP'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES 2020-2030

The table in the pages below illustrates progress against the high-level outcomes, intermediate outcomes, activities and outputs for each of the three SWA strategic objectives.

For the outcome indicators, the baseline value (2020/2021), 2022 value and 2023 for each indicator are provided. Given that no GLAAS report was published in 2023, data is not always available for high-level outcome indicators. For the output indicators, the 2023 value is reported against the 2023 target.

For each indicator, a progress assessment is provided. This assessment provides an indication of the achievement of the SWA indicator target, with progress shown using colour coding (see the key at the bottom of each page from p38 to p44). Some indicators are marked as grey, either because no target has been set, or because

there are insufficient data to assess progress toward the target. Progress assessments have been completed by the SWA Secretariat based on the best available data; this assessment naturally implies some level of subjectivity. The comments column provides additional detail on the 2023 results, the progress assessment, and/or the targets for that indicator.

*(Note on the Country Self-Assessments: The average of the most recent scores for all countries is presented as an illustration of the overall situation in countries where the CSA was completed. Greater insights can be obtained by looking at individual assessment data, and the trends will become more apparent as the data set grows over time. The detailed CSA data is used by the SWA Secretariat to identify support needs and to adapt the strategy.)*







**OBJECTIVE 1**  
BUILD AND SUSTAIN POLITICAL WILL TO ELIMINATE INEQUALITIES IN WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Level	Indicator	2021	2022	2023	Progress assessment	Comments
High-level outcomes	# of SWA countries with sufficient measures targeting vulnerable groups for water, sanitation, and hygiene	14	8	-	No new data is available.	The goal is for each country to: recognize the human rights to water and sanitation in the constitution; create and use affordability schemes; design measures to reach poor populations in national policies and plans; define community participation procedures in law or policy. No GLAAS report was published in 2023 and therefore no new data is available for this indicator.
	% of government Mutual Accountability Mechanism commitments targeting reduction of inequalities	14%	15%	14%	Increasing numbers but per cent improvement buffered downwards due to overall increase in number of MAM commitments	Among the 33 new commitments tabled in 2023, two aim to reduce inequalities by targeting vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities. This brings the partnership up to 63 commitments in total – or 14% of the total number of commitments tabled under the MAM. Finance and sanitation were the two most common themes present in commitments tabled in 2023.
	Government-funded water, sanitation and hygiene budget, per capita	US\$16.77 (average, SWA countries)	\$18.62 (average, SWA countries)	-	No new data is available.	This indicator reports the average for SWA countries and thus is strongly affected by availability of data from different countries. No GLAAS report was published in 2023 and therefore no new data is available for this indicator.
	# of Nationally Determined Contributions of the Paris Agreement that link to SDG6	860	1261	-	No new data is available.	As of February 2023, there were 2011 SDG6-related commitments. For SWA countries, 1261 commitments link to SDG6, stemming from 69 unique countries (141 total countries). NDCs are submitted every five years to the UNFCCC secretariat. In order to enhance the ambition over time, the Paris Agreement requires that successive NDCs represent a progression compared to the previous NDC, and reflect a country's highest possible ambition. The next round of NDCs is planned for 2025. This reflects significant progress since the baseline value of 860.
Intermediate outcomes	High-level dialogue taking place, led by government, and effectively mobilizing political will for water, sanitation and hygiene	52%	54%	61%	No global target applied, progress viewed at country level.	This indicator scores the highest of all country self-assessed intermediate outcome indicators, with 8 out of 11 countries scoring over 70%. Across all reporting countries, there is a forum for national dialogue that includes some engagement of high-level government officials. However, many countries reported a gap between generic high-level statements of commitment and the technical discussions (and actions) on what the specific sector needs are.
	Sector leadership is connecting with and rallying other sectors to prioritize water, sanitation and hygiene across the SDG agenda (i.e. gender, climate, humanitarian response, nutrition, health, education, and human rights)	56%	58%	57%	No global target applied, progress viewed at country level.	Intersectoral dialogue is taking place in most countries who completed self-assessments in some regard, but it is not prioritized. Structured technical working groups or topic-specific groups in several countries provide a platform for discussion and exchange, but the work does not necessarily involve the ministers who are most likely to enact major changes.



**OBJECTIVE 1****BUILD AND SUSTAIN POLITICAL WILL TO ELIMINATE INEQUALITIES IN WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE**

Level	Indicator	Target 2023	2023	Progress assessment	Comments
Outputs	# of participants in SWA 2023 Finance Ministers' Meeting (FMM)	350	950		The virtual Africa FMM was held on 31 October 2023, which attracted participants and live viewership of 950 people.
	# of ministers and heads of cooperation agencies (by portfolio and sex) attending SWA High-Level Meetings	20 ministers and 5 VIPs	35		The FMM was attended by 35 high-level participants including: 28 ministers, 1 head of cooperation agency and 6 heads of agencies (UNICEF, AquaFed, IRC, Portuguese Cooperation, Ending Violence Against Children, SWA).
	# of women speakers at the Africa FMM	At least of 50% of speakers)	8 (44%)		During the Africa FMM, there were 18 speakers (8 women and 10 men) - 1 woman minister and 7 high-level women participants spoke.
	Level of participant satisfaction with SWA 2023 Africa FMM over 75% report high to very high levels of satisfaction	over 75% report high to very high levels of satisfaction	89%		52 participants completed the survey. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lusophone Africa: 50% of participants strongly agree and 50% agree that the meeting has met their expectations;</li><li>• Francophone Africa: 44% of participants strongly agree and 36% agree that the meeting has met their expectations;</li><li>• Anglophone Africa: 26% of participants strongly agree and 61% agree that the meeting has met their expectations;</li></ul> Of the total number of participants who completed the survey, 89% strongly agreed or agreed that the FMM met their expectations.
	# of partner countries engaged in the preparatory and follow-up process for the Africa FMM	20	25		The SWA Country Engagement Team held bilateral meetings with 25 governments during the preparatory process for the FMM. Preparatory webinars on 26 September and 18 October were attended by 170 and 81 participants respectively (all constituencies)
	# of trainings, webinars, meetings, or events organized by SWA and specifically focused on reducing inequalities	3	4		In 2023, SWA organized four events around reducing inequalities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Civicus app launch;</li><li>• The AquaFed Webinar on enabling jobs for young people in utilities;</li><li>• A peer exchange between Ethiopia and Nepal;</li><li>• The launch of a briefing paper on the principle of using 'Maximum Available Resources' to reduce inequalities: 'Understanding the Human Rights Principle of using 'Maximum Available Resources'.</li></ul>
	# of organizations supported to engage at national level and advocate for reducing inequalities	10	6		This indicator counts partner organizations supported to advocate for eliminating inequalities, by engaging in national, multi-stakeholder processes, and in SWA processes. 7 civil society networks were selected by the SWA Grants Review Committee to receive catalytic funding, with all grants targeted at engagement of national government and the reduction of inequalities. Through supporting networks, the catalytic funding will support other civil society organisations. The grants targeted all regions: 4 in Africa, 2 in Latin America and the Caribbean and 1 in Asia Pacific.





**OBJECTIVE 2**  
CHAMPION MULTI-STAKEHOLDER APPROACHES TOWARDS ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO SERVICES

Level	Indicator	2021	2022	2023	Progress assessment	Comments
High-level outcomes	% Mutual Accountability Mechanism commitments achieved	4%	9%	9,50%		9.5% of MAM commitments have been reported as fully achieved (42 out of 439). In 2023, five more commitments were reported as fully achieved. There is an increase in the total number of commitments since 2021 (339 in 2021 vs 439 in 2023). This achievement rate is aligned with the anticipated target of 10% by 2025, and well on track toward the target of 25% for 2030. SWA is expecting to see an increase in new commitments and reports in 2024 and 2025 following the publication of the second MAM global report (2024) and the SMM (2025).
	% of government Mutual Accountability Mechanism commitments targeting reduction of inequalities	14%	15%	14%	No new data is available.	This indicator reports on the data found on the GLAAS reports by including SWA countries that have both monitored their progress towards national targets through government-led process and that have conducted Joint Sector Reviews.  No GLAAS report was published in 2023 and therefore no data is available for this indicator.
Intermediate outcomes	Government-led multi-stakeholder platforms exist and meaningfully involve all stakeholders	68%	69%	60%	No global target applied, progress viewed at country level.	This indicator scores the second highest of all country self-assessed intermediate outcome indicators, with 9 out of 11 countries scoring over 50% and 6 out of 11 scoring over 70%. The decrease can be explained by the increase of countries who have conducted a Country Self-Assessment and that although multi-stakeholder platforms exist, the government does not necessarily take the lead regularly.  Countries report that multi-stakeholder platforms involve multiple constituencies, take place regularly and follow a set structure.
	Partners are seeing value in the SWA Mutual Accountability Mechanism (MAM), and using it to hold each other accountable	34%	39%	44%	No global target applied, progress viewed at country level.	This indicator scores the lowest of all intermediate outcomes, reflecting a lack of awareness and understanding about the MAM at country level in the countries where the self-assessments were completed. In multiple countries, it was mentioned that “only government and founding SWA partners” are familiar with the MAM. In the countries in which the MAM is known, countries tend to review commitments in at least an annual basis.





**OBJECTIVE 2**  
CHAMPION MULTI-STAKEHOLDER APPROACHES TOWARDS ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO SERVICES

Level	Indicator	Target 2023	2023	Progress assessment	Comments
Output	# of countries with 3 active focal points (one for each constituency)	-	32	No target is set for this indicator, but we are aiming at an overall increase.	While no specific target was set, this is viewed as a significant progress toward mobilizing country partnerships. The additional six countries that have now at least three focal points are: Côte d'Ivoire, Nicaragua, Palestine, Sierra Leone, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. Additionally, 15 countries have 4 focal points and 2 have 5.
	# of partners supported to strengthen multi-stakeholder platforms at national level	8	8		Eight priority countries (Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Honduras, Lesotho, Nepal, Sierra Leone) for Objective 2 have received support to create or strengthen multi-stakeholder platforms at national level.
	# of new partners joining SWA	-	39	No target has been set for this indicator.	In 2023, 40 partners (29 Civil Society Organizations, 5 Private Sector, 1 Utilities and Regulators, 4 Research and Learning, and 1 External Support Agency) joined SWA.
	# of tabled new commitments (per constituency) meeting SMART criteria	35	33		In 2023, 33 new commitments were submitted. 11 of these commitments were tabled by the youth coalition UN1FY, the UK's FCD0, and SWA private sector partners Aquafed and Banka BioLoo, as a result of the UN 2023 Water Conference (UNWC), and as part of preparations for a technical country visit (in Burkina Faso and Sierra Leone).  In follow-up to UNWC the Secretariat encouraged partners to table Water Action Agenda (WAA) commitments as MAM commitments. As a result, 11 partners have agreed to bring WAA commitments to the MAM, and these are the first MAM commitments for about half of these partners. Additionally, 3 INGOs and UNICEF submitted new 9 commitments during the multi-stakeholder workshop organized by SWA in Sierra Leone.
	% of commitments reviewed following a multi-stakeholder process	75%	75%		In 2023, 37 progress reports were submitted, of which approximately 75% were reviewed in a multi-stakeholder approach.
	% of countries where at least 3 constituencies have tabled commitments	At least 50% of countries who have tabled commitments (64 countries)	20%		Only one more country (Uganda) managed to gather support from a third constituency (ESA) in 2023. This indicator is important because it proves that in-country mutual accountability processes are multi-stakeholder, and not just a bilateral process happening between government and civil society organizations. For future years, it is important to ensure that new national partners from the private sector and research & learning organizations joining SWA also engage with the MAM.





**OBJECTIVE 2**  
CHAMPION MULTI-STAKEHOLDER APPROACHES TOWARDS ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO SERVICES

Level	Indicator	Target 2023	2023	Progress assessment	Comments
Output	# of knowledge products published on SWA website	2	2		<p>In 2023, SWA has published two knowledge products: 'The Climate Compendium for the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Sector' and 'The Human Rights to Water and Sanitation: 'Maximum Available Resources'.</p> <p>Issued in April 2023, the briefing note on a human rights perspective on financing water and sanitation, outlines how States and other stakeholders can integrate the human rights principle of 'maximum available resources' into their finance strategies, with the objective of increasing the availability of resources for water, sanitation and hygiene – particularly for the poorest, most marginalized and vulnerable individuals and groups.</p> <p>In December 2023, SWA and UNFCCC's high-level campaign Race to Resilience launched the 'Climate Compendium' for the water, sanitation, and hygiene sector. The Compendium includes over 30 practical case studies from partners that bridge the water, sanitation, hygiene, and climate agendas from policy, coordination, accountability, and financing perspectives. It highlights the power of systems strengthening, wherein adequate policies, institutions, and resources ensure the right solutions are adapted.</p>
	# of knowledge exchange events organized by SWA	4 (2 per semester)	4		<p>These largely demand-responsive peer-to-peer events are an important value-add from SWA for country partnerships.</p> <p>In 2023, these included one exchange between two countries (Ethiopia and Nepal), one exchange between a country and a SWA Working Group (Côte d'Ivoire and the Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration Working Group, open to all partners), one webinar with multiple country governments and other partners (introduction to the World Bank New IBNet on creditworthiness for utilities), and one focused on civil society (launch of a CIVICUS app on civil society advocacy together with SWA and End Water Poverty).</p>





OBJECTIVE 3

RALLY STAKEHOLDERS TO STRENGTHEN SYSTEM PERFORMANCE AND ATTRACT NEW INVESTMENTS

Level	Indicator	2021	2022	2023	Progress assessment	Comments
High-level outcomes	# SWA countries with existence and use of mechanisms that make access to water, sanitation and hygiene more affordable to vulnerable groups	31	34	-	No new data is available.	No GLAAS report was published in 2023 and therefore no data is available for this indicator.
	# countries from the Systems and Finance Working Group with effective multi-stakeholder coordination platforms that address foundational issues and bottlenecks to attract additional finance to the sector	12	6	-	No target has been set for this indicator.	SWA no longer tracks the number of countries who have joined the SWA Systems and Finance Working Group. Exchanges within this group aim at putting in place a multi-stakeholder coordination platform on finance for water, sanitation and hygiene. An alternative indicator will be suggested during the 2024 Strategy Mid-Term Review.
Intermediate outcomes	There are costed multi-year financing strategies in place to increase funding to the sector and reach the country goals on WASH?	42%	41%	45%	No global target applied, progress viewed at country level.	While most countries who completed self-assessments indicated that there is some sort of finance strategy in place, the strategies vary significantly in terms of their composition and level of completeness. Few include all sub-sectors or identified the amount and sources of funding required.  In most cases, existing finance strategies and plans had only partially been implemented or used to mobilise additional finance. This is an area in which most countries have asked for support from SWA.
	There are policies and resources targeting reduction in inequalities in accessing WASH services.	48%	44%	50%	No global target applied, progress viewed at country level.	Several countries reported recent data, studies, or analysis on inequalities that have been used to inform policies. Although the reduction of inequalities seems to become more of a priority, data is still not updated directly and support for access to basic services is not necessarily budgeted for.





OBJECTIVE 3

RALLY STAKEHOLDERS TO STRENGTHEN SYSTEM PERFORMANCE AND ATTRACT NEW INVESTMENTS

Level	Indicator	Target 2023	2023	Progress assessment	Comments
Output	# of events organized by SWA on finance topics, allowing for peer-to-peer knowledge exchange	5	4		SWA co-convened a ministers' meeting with the World Bank as a side event at the UN 2023 Water Conference. In September 2023, SWA co-hosted a webinar on integrity in financing together with Water Integrity Network and in October 2024, SWA hosted a virtual Africa FMM, co-convened with African Development Bank and UNICEF. SWA co-facilitated a webinar on the new utility creditworthiness assessment portal 'IBNet' with the World Bank.
	# of countries for which dialogues on finance topics were organized between Ministry of Finance and Line Ministers	6	12		10 finance ministers attended and were all briefed by their line minister(s) on finance topics. Additionally, Honduras' vice-minister of finance and Guatemala's vice-minister of finance attended the All Systems Connect Symposium, specifically the session on Heads of State Initiatives.  Nicaragua and Paraguay have also held dialogues in the context of technical assistance implementation.
	Global (and regional) influencing strategies on finance are updated annually	-	-		The strategy on the Objective 3 of the SWA's Strategic Framework 2020-2030 (Rally stakeholders to strengthen system performance and attract new investments) was finalized in September 2023. The SWA Secretariat will start implementation during 2024 and onwards. Achieving this objective will require a mix of political, technical, logistical, advocacy and strategic functions.  In 2023, SWA, UNICEF and AMCOW convened and delivered the 2023 Africa FMM, providing ministers with recommendations and examples of influencing strategies on finance. A LAC and an Asia Pacific FMMs will also take place in 2024.





**SANITATION  
AND WATER  
FOR ALL**

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