INVESTING IN WATER AND SANITATION: INCREASING ACCESS, REDUCING INEQUALITIES

Special Report for the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) High-Level Meeting (HLM) 2014
I. Background

Data from 86 countries\(^1\) are presented in this preliminary analysis, along with information provided by 21 external support agencies (ESAs). The full GLAAS report, scheduled for publication in September 2014, will include an analysis of 90 or more countries and ESA respondents, representing all Millennium Development Goal (MDG) regions and over 90% of official development assistance for sanitation and drinking-water.

The GLAAS process enables countries to discuss and identify national water and sanitation priorities and barriers to service provision, along with promoting a culture of accountability, partnership and shared responsibility. This latest GLAAS information is being used to help governments formulate specific, achievable, measurable, and time-bound commitments in preparation for the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) High-Level Meeting (HLM). GLAAS provides Finance and Water Sector Ministers, along with Ministers of Development Cooperation, with information that allows them to make more informed investment decisions to extend and sustain service provision. It underscores to Ministries of Health that adopting a primary prevention approach to reduce disease is a cost-effective\(^2\) and equitable approach to improving the lives of millions.

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1 2013 GLAAS survey results are based on responses from 86 countries globally: Africa (33), European and Central Asian Region (12), Eastern Mediterranean Region (11), Latin America (16), South-East Asia (6) and the Western Pacific Region (0).

In many countries, water and sanitation policies, plans and strategies are in place to reach vulnerable groups such as those living in poverty. However, monitoring progress in access and service provision for the poor is carried out in less than half of countries for sanitation and drinking-water. Targeting of finance and measures to reduce disparities between the rich and poor are not being consistently applied. Only 15% of low and middle income countries have established and apply financial measures that are targeted towards reducing inequalities in access to sanitation for the poor and just below a quarter for drinking-water. [Table 1]

**Table 1** Measures of inequality for those living in poverty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>World Bank country classification by income</th>
<th>Number of countries</th>
<th>SANITATION</th>
<th>WATER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low income</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower middle income</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper middle income</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low income</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower middle income</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper middle income</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GOVERNANCE** Universal access policy specifically includes measures for the poor  
**MONITORING** Monitoring system tracks progress in extending services for the poor  
**FINANCE** Finance measures to reduce disparity between the rich and poor are consistently applied

**CAMBODIA**

A focus on improving WASH services for the urban poor for better results

Cambodia has achieved remarkable progress in the delivery of urban WASH services in the last 10 years with Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority (PPWSA) highlighted as an example of achievement. PPWSA has won a number of national and international awards for its work, including the Stockholm Industry Water Award in 2010 and the Asian Development Bank Water Prize in 2004. Cambodia has developed effective policies for ensuring water is affordable for poor people especially in urban areas. The result of these efforts is that urban coverage has increased for both drinking water and sanitation among all wealth quintiles. The progress for increasing sanitation coverage for the two lowest urban wealth quintiles is significant: from a low base (0%), to nearly 30% and 70%. In 2012, 7% of the population in urban areas practiced open defecation, down from 28% in 2005. A remaining challenge is to strengthen the delivery of rural water and sanitation services.

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II. Human right to water and sanitation

Countries with a constitution or other legislation that recognize water and sanitation as a human right

Over 75% of countries have recognized the human right to water and 67% of countries have recognized the right to sanitation. [Fig. 1]

SOUTH AFRICA

A focus on providing for the poorest leads to more equitable WASH outcomes

With the ending of apartheid the Government of South Africa prioritized the provision of basic services including, water supply, sanitation and energy services. Ambitious targets were set within a policy framework that included ‘free basic water’ and ‘free basic sanitation’ for households with resources below the social grant amount (approximately US$ 1 per day). In 2012, 3.47 million and 1.84 million people benefitted from free services for water and sanitation respectively.4 Resources were provided to decentralized organizations charged with providing basic WASH services. Strong monitoring frameworks were put in place to track progress against the targets. Although the time-frame for reaching the targets of universal coverage have not been met, major gains in access have been achieved, especially for the poor and those living in rural areas.5 There remains, however, a major challenge in attracting and retaining professional staff to manage, operate and maintain WASH infrastructure.

4 UN-WATER GLOBAL ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT OF SANITATION AND DRINKING-WATER (GLAAS) 2014
5 UN-WATER GLOBAL ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT OF SANITATION AND DRINKING-WATER (GLAAS) 2014
III. National policies, implementation and monitoring

Fig. 2 Status of national policy and plan development in WASH

Countries are struggling to fully implement national WASH plans. While most countries have developed WASH policies, less than 30% of countries report having plans that are costed, funded, implemented and regularly reviewed. [FIG. 2]

ETHIOPIA
Clear plans and coordinated action by the different ministries responsible for WASH outcomes accelerates progress

Under its Universal Access Plan (UAP) in 2005, the Government of Ethiopia set ambitious long-term objectives to meet the WASH MDG targets and to move towards universal access. It followed this with a clear strategy to coordinate its WASH efforts across different Ministries (Water Resources, Health, Education) and civil society and ESAs. Significant financial and human resources were made available and the UAP was updated in 2011. The result: major increases in access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene promotion within both urban and rural populations by all wealth quintiles.

Source: 2013 GLAAS country survey

Countries are progressively establishing policies for disadvantaged groups, but a gap remains in their capacity to track and report progress in access for disadvantaged groups. [Fig. 3]

Only 31% of countries have and use available data for resource allocation in the sanitation sector.

By contrast, in the health sector, data-based decision making is used by 65% of countries to respond to water and sanitation related disease outbreaks.

More than half of countries undertook a national joint sector review for sanitation in the last two years, involving on average six to nine ministries and institutions (Fig. 4).

Few countries collect and analyse data AND use this information to make funding decisions on sanitation. [Fig. 4]
Sector coordination mechanisms are contributing to coherence of aid programmes, particularly in countries where a large number of ESAs operate. 

### Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>ESA FINANCE (AS % OF WASH FINANCE)</th>
<th>NUMBER OF ESAS (OVER US$ 100 000 PER YEAR)</th>
<th>SECTOR-WIDE COORDINATION THAT IS BASED ON SECTORAL FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTED</th>
<th>FINANCING PLAN</th>
<th>PLAN IMPLEMENTATION STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Agreed</td>
<td>Partial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Agreed</td>
<td>Full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Agreed</td>
<td>Partial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesotho</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>In development</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Agreed</td>
<td>Partial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Agreed*</td>
<td>Full*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Agreed*</td>
<td>Full*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Agreed</td>
<td>Full (urban) Partial (rural)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Agreed</td>
<td>Full</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a Except for financial plan for rural sanitation in development.
b Except for urban sanitation which is not fully implemented.

Source: OECD-CRS, 2014 and 2013 GLAAS country survey.
IV. FINANCING

a. Sufficiency, revenue sources, and expenditures at country level

Many countries that require investment to extend WASH service provision have the capacity to absorb funds and implement programmes. [Fig. 5]

**Fig. 5** Sufficiency of funds versus human resource and financial planning capacity, and funding absorption (urban sanitation) based on responses from 77 countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDEX OF CAPACITY TO INVEST AND ABSORB FUNDS</th>
<th>&lt;50% OF FUNDS NEEDED</th>
<th>50–75% OF FUNDS NEEDED</th>
<th>&gt;75% OF FUNDS NEEDED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
<td>Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Georgia, Lesotho, Mauritania, Pakistan, Republic of Moldova, Senegal, Tajikistan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania</td>
<td>Ghana, Rwanda</td>
<td>Azerbaijan, Burkino Faso, Cambodia, Estonia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Morocco, Tunisia, Viet Nam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
<td>Bangladesh, Burundi, Central African Republic, Cook Islands, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Honduras, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, West Bank and Gaza Strip, Paraguay, Serbia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Ukraine</td>
<td>Eritrea, Jordan, Kenya, Niger, Panama</td>
<td>Chad, El Salvador, Oman, Peru, South Africa, Tonga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Low</strong></td>
<td>Argentina, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Haiti, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Philippines, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Yemen</td>
<td>Afghanistan, Angola, Mexico, Myanmar, Sudan</td>
<td>Bolivia, Brazil, Kazakhstan, Thailand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*a Index is based on a total score of five questions, including:
1. Are human resources a limiting factor in national or local WASH planning, construction of facilities, or financial planning and expenditures?
2. Has the government defined a financing plan/budget for the WASH sector, clearly assessing the available sources of finance and strategies for financing future need?
3. Are expenditure reports available that allow actual spending on WASH to be compared with committed funding?
4. What is the estimated percentage of domestic commitments for WASH utilized?
5. What is the percentage of official donor capital commitments for WASH utilized?

*b Indicates that this country has reached the MDG target for sanitation. Reported insufficiency of funding may be based on national targets that go beyond MDG goals, based on funds needed to sustain coverage levels due to recurring capital maintenance or additional needs due to population growth.

Source: 2013 GLAAS country survey; WHO/UNICEF 2014
Public expenditure for WASH varies widely across countries, however low income countries spend proportionally more government funds on WASH than higher income countries (Fig. 6).

Household contributions are reported to be between 6% and 97% of WASH financing (Fig. 7).

77% of countries indicate WASH financing is insufficient (<75% of funds needed) to reach coverage targets for sanitation and 66% of countries indicate insufficient financing to reach coverage targets for drinking-water.

The overall median public WASH expenditure is reported at 0.46% of GDP.
b. Aid policy prioritization, commitments and disbursements

- The total amount of development aid for sanitation and drinking-water increased to over US$ 10.9 billion in 2012, from US$ 8.0 billion in 2008.

Fig. 8  Comparison of WASH development aid in 2012 relative to other sectors

Aid commitments to water and sanitation comprised 6.1% (US$ 10.9 billion) of total reported development aid in 2012. [Fig. 8]

Fig. 9  Comparison of WASH development aid and health, population and HIV/AIDS over time

Aid disbursements have not increased proportionally with commitments, and have remained flat over the past three years.

Development aid for water and sanitation has risen from 4.7% to 6.1% of total development aid from 2010 to 2012, and nearly doubled as a proportion of total aid since 2002, rising more rapidly since the first Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) High-Level Meeting in 2010. [Fig. 9]

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7 Development aid that meets official development assistance (ODA) criteria defined by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
c. Aid targeting

- Over 50% of the unserved populations for both sanitation and drinking-water live in middle income countries.
- The distribution of WASH aid among country income groups broadly aligns with where unserved populations live.
- Development aid for sanitation and drinking-water to fragile and conflict-affected states doubled from US$ 600 million to over US$ 1.2 billion from 2007 to 2012.

Sanitation and drinking-water aid targeted to the sub-Saharan Africa, Southern Asia and South-eastern Asia MDG regions, increased from 50 to 61% of total WASH aid commitment from 2010 to 2012. (These three regions represent approximately 72% of the unserved). [fig. 10]

Global water and sanitation aid commitments by MDG region, 2012

Fig. 10

Comparison of percentage of unserved population and WASH aid by income categories

Fig. 11

Low and lower middle income countries receive 73% of total WASH aid, which is also where many unserved populations live with 73% and 75% coverage for sanitation and drinking-water respectively. [fig. 11]
WHAT ARE BASIC SYSTEMS?
Basic drinking-water systems include rural water supply schemes using handpumps, spring catchments, gravity-fed systems, rainwater collection and fog harvesting, storage tanks, and small distribution systems typically with shared connections/points of use, and urban schemes using handpumps and local neighbourhood networks, including those with shared connections.
Basic sanitation systems are defined as latrines, on-site disposal and alternative sanitation systems, including the promotion of household and community investments in the construction of these facilities.

Aid for basic WASH services has declined as a proportion of overall aid for water and sanitation. [Fig. 12]

The European Commission, Australia, Switzerland, and the Netherlands target a significant proportion of aid for basic sanitation and drinking-water services, as well as providing most aid in the form of grants. Other important contributors, in terms of aid amounts to basic services, include Japan, Germany, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank.

Fig. 12 Breakdown of sanitation and water aid commitments by purpose types, 2012

Basic/Large: Aid for basic sanitation and drinking-water services decreased from 26% to 21% of overall sanitation and water aid commitments between 2010 and 2012.

Water/Sanitation: Aid commitments for sanitation comprised one-fourth of water and sanitation ODA in 2012, as compared to one-third in 2010.

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Basic sanitation systems are defined as latrines, on-site disposal and alternative sanitation systems, including the promotion of household and community investments in the construction of these facilities.

Source: OECD, 2012

RWANDA
Prioritizing basic services has helped to eliminate open defecation and increase access to improved sanitation, especially in rural areas

The Rwanda National Water Supply and Sanitation Policy and Strategic Plan published in 2010 set ambitious targets of achieving 85% of the population having access to drinking water and 65% to improved sanitation by 2015 with universal coverage to be achieved by 2020. The time-frame for universal coverage was brought forward to 2017 in a policy update in 2012. The policy also promotes prioritization of basic services (‘some for all’ rather than ‘all for some’), decentralization of service provision, participation by communities, cost recovery and financial sustainability, preferential treatment of vulnerable groups, and a strong framework for monitoring results including the development of a WASH Management Information System. At over 4% of the national budget (and almost 1% of GDP) allocations to WASH were relatively high in 2008, but they have since declined. The result of the policies and actions of the Government of Rwanda and other stakeholders in the sector have been relatively successful for sanitation, with open defecation almost eliminated and access to improved sanitation increased for all wealth quintiles for both urban and rural populations. Overall in rural areas, there has been an increase in improved sanitation from 53% in 2005 to 64% in 2012. However, there has been a general decline in access to improved drinking water in urban areas with 81% of urban populations having access in 2012 compared to 84% in 2005. Increasing coverage for drinking water is a major challenge, given the relatively high cost of operating water systems in both urban and rural environments due to the poor quality of the raw water and the mountainous terrain that increases the cost of treatment and pumping respectively.

Source: OECD, 2012

Most ESAs target funding towards improving health outcomes and welfare of the poorest. Some agencies report they specifically monitor impacts of WASH aid directed to marginalized and vulnerable groups.

- The Netherlands and Switzerland indicate a focus on slums, or poor, rural communities.
- Twelve ESAs disaggregate WASH aid between urban and rural areas – nine out of the 12 are donor countries or multi-laterals, while three are NGOs or foundations (Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, BRAC, Canada, France, Bill and Melinda Gates foundation, Inter-American Development Bank, the Netherlands, Switzerland, United Kingdom, UNDP and WaterAid).
- The World Bank indicates future plans include improved gender monitoring.
e. Targets and future focus

Every year, ESAs help on average nearly 100 million people gain access to improved drinking-water and over 125 million people gain access to improved sanitation. [Table 3]

Table 3 ESA targets and timeframe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXTERNAL SUPPORT AGENCY</th>
<th>POPULATION WITH INCREASED SERVICES (DRINKING-WATER)</th>
<th>POPULATION WITH INCREASED SERVICES (SANITATION)</th>
<th>FUNDING TARGETS</th>
<th>TIME-FRAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African Development Bank</td>
<td>155 million</td>
<td>226 million</td>
<td>Sanitation investments to increase at least 25% of total WASH lending</td>
<td>2008–2015 (Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Development Bank</td>
<td></td>
<td>500 million</td>
<td></td>
<td>2011–2020 (Water Financing Program)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>8.5 million</td>
<td>5 million</td>
<td>US$ 80 million</td>
<td>2010–2015 (annual)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Annual targets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>1.5 million per year</td>
<td>1 million per year</td>
<td>SEK 410 million</td>
<td>2010–2015 (sanitation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>25 million</td>
<td>25 million</td>
<td>CHF 150 million</td>
<td>2010–2018 (drinking-water)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2014–2016 (annual)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>end-2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>60 million first time access to water, sanitation and/or hygiene</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2013–2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>10 million (first-time access)</td>
<td>6 million (first-time access)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2011–2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Bank (WSP)</td>
<td></td>
<td>50 million</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD-CRS, 2014 and 2013 GLAAS country survey
“In Kenya, GLAAS results have helped re-define the national WASH indicators which will now be incorporated into the Kenyan national indicator core set monitored on a regular basis. The framework is in progress at the moment.”

Benjamin Murkomen
WASH-CLTS Hub M & E
Sanitation & Hygiene Unit
Division of Environmental Health
Ministry of Health
Kenya

“In Madagascar, all key WASH stakeholders, including national and international NGOs, UNICEF, WaterAid and government officials from a number of Ministries are actively engaged in implementing GLAAS.”

Solphi Joli Hamelo
Direction du Développement du Partenariat (DDP)
Ministère de l’Eau
Madagascar
This report was developed and coordinated by the GLAAS team in the Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health (WSH) Unit at the World Health Organization (WHO) in preparation for the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) High-Level Meeting (HLM), April 2014. It contains compiled information from 86 countries and 21 external support agencies (ESAs) and does not necessarily represent the decisions or policies of the World Health Organization. These results have been compiled based on the 2013 GLAAS Country and ESA Surveys submitted by participating countries, combined with data from the Organisation for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD) Creditor Reporting System (CRS) and feedback from interviews conducted with donor representatives at World Water Week in Stockholm, September 2013. The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

Countries: Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guineea, Guineea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Viet Nam, West Bank and Gaza Strip, Yemen.

(Note: Additional countries, e.g. India, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe will be included in the analysis of the full GLAAS report to be published in September 2014)

External Support Agencies (ESAs): Asian Development Bank (ADB), African Development Bank (AfDB), Australia, BRAC, Canada, Denmark, European Commission (EC), France, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Germany, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, UNDP, United Kingdom (UK), United States (USAID), WaterAid, World Bank, UNICEF.

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