UNICEF is a leading humanitarian and development agency working globally for the rights of every child. UNICEF works in more than 190 countries, territories and areas through its country programmes and National Committees. UNICEF’s priority programming areas cover health (including reproductive health, immunization and HIV/AIDS), nutrition, education, gender, child protection, adolescent development, disaster relief, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

UNICEF works in both development and emergency/humanitarian contexts. Priorities are set by each programming area according to the identified need. Donor priorities also influence the size of UNICEF’s programming in specific countries. Programming areas themselves receive funds from three sources: regular resources (core resources with unrestricted use); other resources (development); and other resources (emergency). The latter two are defined per programming area and per country by donor agencies and the location and severity of emergencies.

In 2015, UNICEF spent US$ 4.8 billion on financial assistance to countries of which US$ 857 million of total financial assistance was devoted to WASH-related country programming.

WASH PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

Over 2014–2015, UNICEF helped 71.4 million people gain access to improved water supply; 33.8 million people gain access to improved sanitation; and 42,413 communities in 48 countries obtain certification as open defecation-free communities. Beneficiaries of direct UNICEF WASH support, people and institutions in 2015 included:

1) 39.6 million people who benefited from development and humanitarian programmes in the water sector;
2) 18 million people who benefited from development and humanitarian programmes in the sanitation sector;
3) 13.8 million people who benefited from humanitarian hygiene programmes.

UNICEF also led (or co-led) the WASH Cluster/sector humanitarian response in over 50 countries and helped Member States define SDG targets and high-level indicators for WASH as part of the wider UN-convened post-2015 process.

WASH STRATEGY/ACTIVITIES

UNICEF published its new 15-year WASH Strategy 2016-30 in August 2016. UNICEF’s vision for WASH is the realization of the human rights to water and sanitation for all. The WASH Strategy’s objectives align with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 targets for drinking water, sanitation and hygiene:

1) By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all;
2) By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.

Seven programming principles guide all of UNICEF’s efforts to contribute to the realization of the human rights to water and sanitation and the achievement of SDG 6:

1) Strengthen enabling environments;
2) Utilize evidence to promote child rights;
3) Leverage sustainable financial resources;
4) Build sustainable markets;
5) Empower communities; and
6) Deliver services and supplies.

The selection and relative weight of each of these approaches within a particular country are determined jointly with government partners through the UNICEF country programme development process, and are informed by UNICEF’s technical programming guidance materials.

Specific targets

Within the Strategic Plan (2014–2017), a set of quantitative targets are provided that cover access to drinking-water and sanitation, elimination of open defecation, hand-washing, WASH in schools, and access to WASH in humanitarian situations.

New targets under development for the 2018–2021 Strategic Plan will cover water supply and sanitation in both household and institutional settings.

WASH AID PRIORITIES: DISTRIBUTION OF AID DISBURSEMENTS

By activity type

UNICEF’s core accountability is to act where children do not have even a basic level of WASH service. Informed by the specific country context, UNICEF will also address the more ambitious goal of “safely managed” services embedded in SDG 6. Going forward, UNICEF will continue in its traditional areas of support, and also increase its engagement in urban areas, mainstream risk-informed programming to mitigate the impact of climate change and emergencies, strengthen national systems, and have more extensive involvement with the private sector.

By region in 2015

- Sub-Saharan Africa: 31%
- Latin America & Caribbean: 6%
- Middle East and North Africa: 50%
- CEE / CIS: 1%
- South Asia: <1%
- East Asia (EAPRO): 8%
- Oceania: 1%
- Developed countries: <1%
- Not applicable: 5%
WASH AID COMMITMENTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>US$ million</th>
<th>Commitment</th>
<th>Disbursement</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>465</td>
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<td>2014</td>
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<td>712</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>857</td>
<td>857</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: GLAAS 2016/2017 ESA Survey

WASH SECTOR TARGETING

UNICEF works in 107 programme countries, and each country programme is planned and implemented in close coordination with governments and partners. Hence UNICEF targets children and vulnerable populations with WASH services differently according to the local circumstances.

UNICEF works to support children and families through long-term, sustainable strategies to ensure the use of safe drinking-water, sanitation and hygiene. As of 2015, 47 out of 57 countries targeted had a national strategy under way to eliminate open defecation. Thirty-five countries are currently implementing water safety plans within communities.

UNICEF also reacts quickly in times of crisis to ensure that affected populations have the knowledge, supplies and facilities for hand washing with soap, which is critical in preventing the spread of disease. 63 countries out of 86 targeted in the strategic plan are also currently implementing community-based hand-washing behaviour change programmes on a national scale.

UNICEF leads and supports WASH in schools in 37 out of 65 targeted countries. Currently, 54 countries have national standards for accessible and inclusive WASH in schools, and 20 country offices are using school WASH as an entry point for accessible WASH. In 2015, new WASH facilities were built in more than 25 876 schools in 87 countries.

LESSONS/IMPACTS

UNICEF humanitarian support to countries helped reach more than 80 per cent of the target population in 70 countries with life-saving WASH services. In 2014 and 2015, the UNICEF humanitarian response effort directly reached more than 45 million people with WASH in new and ongoing emergencies. As the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)–designated lead agency for the WASH Cluster globally, UNICEF led or co-led cluster or similar coordination mechanisms as per the Core Commitments for Children in more than 53 countries.

As a result of UNICEF’s advocacy efforts to link development and humanitarian interventions, the capacity of 11 national governments to deliver protected, reliable access and sufficient WASH services to girls, boys and women in humanitarian situations increased during the past two years.

The WASH component of the Ebola response is a good example of synergetic results, especially waste management, and also illustrates how flexible funding can be crucial to increasing the efficiency of humanitarian interventions.

COLLABORATIVE BEHAVIOURS FOR MORE EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Enhance government leadership of sector planning processes:

Proportion of water and sanitation ODA allocated to water and sanitation policy and administration and education and training (%)

The median % for all donors is 8% 9%

Strengthen and use country systems:

Percentage of WASH ODA spending using country procurement systems (%)

Ethiopia: 100%
Nigeria: 56%
Malawi: 25%
Philippines: 0%
Zimbabwe: 0%

1 Out of the 12 countries reported by UNICEF in the GLAAS 2016/2017 ESA Survey, the percentage of WASH ODA spending using country procurement systems was known for five countries. This does not include all countries in which UNICEF works.

Use one information and mutual accountability platform:

Participation (at least moderately) in mutual assessment exercises/reviews (% of countries)

1 A total of 12 countries was reported by UNICEF in the GLAAS 2016/2017 ESA Survey. This does not include all countries in which UNICEF works.

Build sustainable WASH sector financing strategies:

Percentage of WASH funding published/information shared with Ministry of Finance (%)

Ethiopia: 100%
Guinea: 100%
Malawi: 100%
Nigeria: 100%
Pakistan: 100%
Zimbabwe: 100%
Philippines: 100%
Somalia: High level
Liberia: High level

1 Out of the 12 countries reported by UNICEF in the GLAAS 2016/2017 ESA Survey, the percentage of WASH funding published/information shared with Ministry of Finance was known for nine countries. This does not include all countries in which UNICEF works.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

Country priorities will continue to be fine-tuned and adjusted according to UNICEF and donor priorities. Programmes are based on country priorities. UNICEF has substantially increased its engagement in helping governments to strengthen the enabling environment for sustained services, whilst also directly supporting service delivery especially where children are most vulnerable.