WHAT IS GLAAS?

The UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-water (GLAAS) monitors the efforts and approaches to extend and sustain water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) systems and services. Between 1990 and 2010 in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR), over 183 million people gained access to improved water sources and 190 million people gained access to improved sanitation. In the EMR an insufficiency in financing, exacerbated by water scarcity, indicates a real risk of slippage against national targets.

In 2011, countries reported substantive political commitments to WASH, increasing funding allocations, and leadership and coordination among implementing agencies. The majority of countries have established transparent WASH service provision targets and have put in place supporting policies, and many monitor against these targets. Countries also confirm that the rights to water and sanitation are increasingly adopted in laws or policies. Accountability can be improved, as most countries do not include consumers in planning and only half have established regular review processes.

The total amount of development aid, including non-concessional lending, for sanitation and water for the EMR increased from US$ 2.2 billion in 2008 to US$ 3.2 billion in 2010.

Despite these efforts, most countries are falling short on meeting their own national WASH commitments, with over 80% of countries reportedly falling significantly behind the trends required to meet their defined national access targets for sanitation and drinking-water.

POLITICAL WILL AND ACCOUNTABILITY: There is growing political will for WASH implementation, as expressed in new efforts to be more accountable and to plan and coordinate more effectively.
DOMESTIC FINANCING: There is insufficient domestic financing for WASH overall, with particularly serious shortfalls for sanitation. This is exacerbated by difficulties in spending the limited funds that are received.

In many countries in the EMR sanitation funding remains inadequate to meet the MDG target or their own national target

Average absorption rates of central government commitments in the EMR are low

Are financial flows sufficient to meet the MDG Sanitation target?

- >75% of what is needed for both urban and rural
- >75% of what is needed for urban or rural
- 50-75% of what is needed
- <50% of what is needed for urban or rural
- <50% of what is needed for both urban and rural
- Not a survey participant
- Data not available
- Not applicable

What is the percentage of domestic capital commitments utilized for Sanitation?

- >75% of domestic commitments for both urban and rural
- >75% of domestic commitments for urban or rural
- 50-75% of domestic commitments
- <50% of domestic commitments for urban or rural
- <50% of domestic commitments for both urban and rural
- Not a survey participant
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SUSTAINABILITY: There is a risk of slippage on progress made unless sufficient and coordinated financial and human resource support is given to sustain operation and maintenance to efficiently use the region’s scarce water resources.

Water security, in some countries aggravated by unbalanced distribution of population growth is a great concern for Eastern Mediterranean countries

“The water resources to mobilise are more and more costly” Morocco 2011 GLAAS survey

“Rapid growth and unbalanced distributions of population” - One of the main obstacle for sustainability of services Egypt 2011 GLAAS survey. This concern was also voiced by Iran.

Less than half the countries in EMR report having sufficient staff to operate and maintain urban water systems and only one out of eight having sufficient staff to operate and maintain rural systems

Global data suggest that less than 10% of external WASH funding is directed towards maintenance of existing services

A third of the EMR countries surveyed indicate that revenues cover less than 80% of operating costs for urban utilities (water)
TARGETING OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Domestic WASH funding can be made more equitable

Drinking-water continues to absorb the majority of WASH funding, even in countries with relatively high drinking-water supply coverage and relatively low sanitation coverage. Countries also indicate that expenditures are largely targeted for extending services in urban areas, even in countries where urban areas are relatively well served and rural areas are off-track.

External support for WASH should be targeted to address the unique needs of the region

The significant external support for WASH received by the EMR is commensurate to the specific challenges faced by the region of water scarcity and the densely populated urban centres.

Total aid commitments for sanitation and drinking water between 2008 and 2010 decreased though they have increased for basic systems and decreased for large systems.

The majority of ODA to the EMR is in the form of loans

Aid commitment to Eastern Mediterranean (US$ millions, constant $US)
MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Improved monitoring is required to generate the information for evidence-based decision making.

The use of periodic reviews to monitor and evaluate the performance of sanitation and drinking-water uptake and services is increasingly used by countries as a basis for planning. However, the lack of robust data indicated by some respondent countries in the EMR is a potentially major constraint to progress.

• A third of the countries surveyed in EMR did not report on access to adequate sanitation in schools or health-care facilities, suggesting a lack of monitoring systems and capacity in those countries.

• Though in all EMR countries surveyed responses indicate that water safety plans (WSPs) or equivalent preventive risk management are encouraged in policies, there is no explicit regulatory requirement subject to audits in rural areas and only 14% in urban areas.

• To strengthen the collection of WASH financial information globally, a harmonized method of data monitoring is needed.