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, over 179 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean gained access to improved water sources and 169 million people gained access to improved sanitation. In Latin America, countries report that financing is insufficient and in some countries the institutional capacity to absorb what is available is limited. The danger of slippage against the MDG target is real.

In 2011, countries participating in GLAAS 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 for sanitation and water for Latin America and the Caribbean increased from 2008 to 2010 by 80% to US$ 900 million. Similarly, non-concessional lending increased by 75% to US$ 2.1 billion.

Despite these efforts, most countries are falling short on meeting their own national WASH commitments, with over 50% 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: Countries report 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 Latin America and the Caribbean sanitation funding remains inadequate
Sanitation, adequacy of financing, 2011

Average absorption rates of Latin American and Caribbean government capital commitments are low
Sanitation, absorption of committed domestic funds, 2011

SUSTAINABILITY: There is a risk of slippage on progress made unless sufficient financial and human resource support is given to sustain operation and maintenance.
**TARGETING OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

**Brazil**
Public and private utilities have spent over 19.5 Billion US$, 23% for capital expenditure and 77% for operation and maintenance.¹

**Colombia**
1.3 Billion US$ spent in 2010 by central and local government on water and sanitation (26 US$/capita)

**Paraguay**
"A large part of public resources are destined to drinking-water services, generating a large gap with the sanitation service that is clearly deficient”

**Panama**
41% of expenditure in water and sanitation for capital, 58% in operation and maintenance, 73% in urban and 27% rural

**Honduras**
- 183.5 million US$ spent for water and sanitation in 2011, 50% from government sources (24 US$/capita).
- Central and local governments disbursed 35% of funds to operation and maintenance (O&M) and 65% to capital expenditure.
- From O&M expense, 46% was spent on sanitation and 54% on drinking-water

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'2009 financial year

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Targeting of external support for WASH can be further improved to assist those most in need

12% of sanitation and drinking-water aid is targeted to Latin America and Caribbean

Aid to Latin America for basic sanitation and drinking-water services decreased from 30% to 24% of overall sanitation and water aid commitments between 2008 and 2010.

A majority of ODA to Latin America and the Caribbean is in the form of grants, but non-concessional lending is higher
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 is a potentially major constraint to progress.

- Globally, half the countries did not report on access to adequate sanitation in schools or health-care facilities, suggesting a lack of monitoring systems and capacity.

- Despite clear country responses indicating insufficient staff in water and sanitation services, globally only half of countries were able to provide data for staff in place and one third could anticipate staffing needs.

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

The 2012 UN-Water GLAAS report presents data received from 75 developing countries, covering all the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) regions, of which 9 Latin America and the Caribbean, and from 24 external support agencies (ESAs), representing approximately 90% of official development assistance (ODA) for sanitation and drinking-water.

The 2012 report draws on the latest information, including data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Creditor Reporting System (CRS), and data gathered through two sets of questionnaires: one for low- and middle-income countries and one for ESAs. These questionnaires have allowed countries and donors to score their progress and WASH inputs according to objective criteria. While the responses are based on consensus from multiple national stakeholders and are subject to validation, it is acknowledged that the accuracy of responses will show variability. Thus, to some extent, the responses should be interpreted as a self-assessment of country and donor priorities.

For further information: www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/glaas or glaas@who.int

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