

Sanitation and Water for All

Prepare for the upcoming 2017 High-Level Meetings and engage in the High-Level Political Dialogue

Sanitation and Water for All Civil Society Organisations Country Focal Points

What is SWA?

Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) is a partnership bringing together a diverse range of stakeholders, including governments, donors, civil society and multilateral organisations at both global and national levels. It aims to ensure all people have access to basic sanitation and safe drinking water, with a specific focus on those countries most off track in achieving these. To achieve our overall vision, SWA calls for:

- Increased political prioritisation.
- Strong national planning, investment and accountability.
- Improved targeting and impact of resources.
- Evidence-based decision making.
- Strengthened mutual accountability and cooperation.

SWA aims to make this happen through three key components:

- 1) High Level Meetings (HLM)
- 2) On-going High Level Political Dialogue (HLPD)
- 3) On-going national dialogues led by governments and supported by SWA partners around the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Collaborative Behaviours.

Who and what are current SWA Country Focal Points?

At the national level, countries that are current SWA members, assign two government officials to be SWA focal points (a “main” and “alternate”, as per the application to join the partnership). In addition, Development Partner Focal Points (usually one or two, often from UNICEF) are also selected (in most countries these are WASH UNICEF representatives). In most SWA countries, there is a civil society national focal point, where a civil society organisation (CSO) is selected.

These country focal points are the first point of contact at the country level for all official information and communications on the SWA Partnership, sent out by the SWA Secretariat and Steering Committee. They are also the group intended to lead and coordinate SWA discussions and follow-up at the country level.

What is a SWA CSO Country Focal Point?

A CSO national focal point is a person who has been appointed to be the focal person and representative for civil society, coordinating with other SWA CSOs in the country, the messages and the advocacy with the government around SWA issues such as engagement in the high level political dialogue and high level political meetings.

A CSO focal point list is available - see the CSO preparation package. Selections and re-elections of CSO national focal points will be held in September 2017.

Preparing for the 2017 High Level Meetings in Washington

The World Bank, on behalf of SWA, will convene a Finance Ministers' Meeting (FMM) on or around 20 April 2017 (dates to be confirmed), during the World Bank Spring Meetings. Just

prior to this meeting, Ministers responsible for water, sanitation and hygiene who accompany their country's finance minister to Washington will attend a one-and-half day Sector Ministers' Meeting (SMM) convened by UNICEF.

In order for the ministers to arrive fully prepared for the meetings, and for them to be better equipped to take follow-up action, the SWA Secretariat is facilitating a preparatory process. The 2017 FMM and SMM are part of the ongoing cycle of SWA activities aimed at catalysing coordinated action to achieve the water, sanitation and hygiene targets of the SDGs.

A major difference when finance ministers gather in 2017 is that there **will be no commitments** tabled.

Given that the SDGs have raised the level of ambition, the WASH sector will need a strong foundation – i.e. the building blocks of policy and strategy, institutional arrangements, capacity, planning/ monitoring/ review, and financing – in order to operate effectively and achieve the SDGs.

Therefore, the HLPD is now structured around taking stock of sector effectiveness and efficiency and stakeholder behaviour, with the intention of encouraging the identification and implementation of actions which remove bottlenecks to progress towards the SDGs.

Objectives of the 2017 the Sector Ministers Meeting are:

- Raise awareness among Ministers of the challenges of the WASH targets of the SDGs and the changes required to meet them.
- Follow-up on and exchange learning on the building blocks of a strong sector (presented at the 2016 SMM) - in terms of financing, institutions, capacity, planning, and policy and strategy - that support progress and development effectiveness in order to eliminate inequalities and achieve sustainable universal access.
- Enable Ministers and senior representatives of development partners to discuss the essential collaborative behaviours that foster increased development effectiveness.
- Discuss attracting and utilising adequate finance, in advance of the Finance Ministers' Meeting.

The objectives of the 2017 Finance Ministers meeting are:

- Discuss the magnitude of the SDG challenge, using existing resources more efficiently, and accessing additional resources.

What is required from governments?

The preparatory process will rely on multi-stakeholder dialogue at the country level to ensure that both finance and sector Ministers are briefed and ready to take action to achieve the SDGs and their targets, based on an understanding of:

- What is needed for the sector to be fit for purpose.
- The actions both the government and its development partners can take to catalyse progress.
- The financing required and efficiency gains which can be made to achieve the goals.

For this, governments are incited to develop a comprehensive overview document, i.e. Country Overview, which synthesizes the country-specific context to enable the Ministers to contribute to the SMM and FMM (see template).

Four key complementary approaches are recommended to prepare for the High-Level Meetings:

- **Technical dialogues or multi-stakeholder dialogues** involving government and partner agencies, and other partners. These dialogues are to analyse the situation of the country with respect to the SDGs, review how prepared the sector is to meet the demands of the SDGs, including to analyse the financial situation - and to recommend actions for government and partners. Depending on the context and existing processes, Ministers may or may not be involved in parts of the multi-stakeholder dialogue.
- **Ministerial briefings** can be prepared to inform all Ministers responsible for water, sanitation and hygiene, as well as the Finance Minister. These briefings can be prepared at various points of the process and can be tailored to the needs of each Minister.
- **Inter-Ministerial dialogues** between sector and Finance Ministers to review the results of the analysis, and agree actions to be taken by the government with the support of partners.
- **Advocacy campaigns** undertaken by government and/ or partners with the aim of improving accountability to rights holders and/ or increased prioritisation of WASH services.

A series of tools are available to help governments do so:

- Nationally available data and information on sector vision and plans (where this is available).
- Preliminary SDGs baseline estimates prepared by WHO-UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP).
- SDG costing tool prepared by UNICEF.
- Recently completed sector review or analysis of the “Building Blocks” of the sector using UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) survey data, WASH Bottlenecks Analysis Tool (WASH BAT), sectoral integrity and corruption risk assessments, or other similar tools.
- SWA Collaborative Behaviours Country Profiles prepared by UN-Water GLAAS.

What you can do to prepare for the HLMs and the HLPD

- National SWA CSO focal points take the lead for the High Level Meetings preparations – and coordinate with other SWA organisations in your country.
- Identify and reach out to key Ministers (Finance and sector Ministers), government SWA focal points and donor focal points, to ask Ministers to come to the HLMs, learn about how they want to prepare the meetings and push them to hold national and multi-stakeholder consultations.
- Meet and organise civil society consultations to prepare common positions.
- Be part of national multi-stakeholder consultations, share your positions and influence the country briefing papers.
- Verify that the information shared at the HLMs by the government corresponds to local communities’ realities and use resources such as WASHwatch as a tool: <http://www.washwatch.org/en/>. Washwatch is a tool which supports the review process/ monitoring systems by facilitating transparency in monitoring, availability of information and communication.

- Link up with ongoing SWA country case studies and bring out experiences which multi-stakeholder collaboration on human rights, taking into account the of the most marginalized, integrity and inclusion, which have helped to drive the agenda forward.
- SWA partners will be developing case studies on the process and impact of the HLM preparatory process in the following countries: Madagascar, Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Kenya, Afghanistan, West Africa (TBC). If you are from this country and wish to be involved contact: heloisechicou@endwaterpoverty.org.
- Share, in general, good practices and experiences with the CSO constituency by sending an e-mail to swa-cso-group@googlegroups.com, and email Heloise Chicou. Provide your feedback to the CSO messages that will be provided by CSOs participating at the high level meetings in April in Washington 2017. An email from the CSO advisor will be sent to all for them to feedback around the 15th March on the common SWA CSO messages.
- Reach out to communities and to the media to communicate around the HLMs and your advocacy messages: articles, blogs, tweets, social media, radio...
- Launch advocacy campaigns around the question of finance, social inclusion – leave no one behind, transparency and integrity. Use the calendar of the High Level Meetings to advocate for your advocacy messages around financing for WASH services for the most marginalized, inclusion, human rights, integrity.
- In particular, World Water Day on March 22 and Water Action Month which is supported by End Water Poverty, provides a day / month of attention for work in the water sector and ambitions, notably as it's only a few weeks ahead of the High-level Meetings in Washington when countries may well be ready to showcase some of their successes and ambitions. Likewise, other opportunities might be present, for reaching parliamentarians, local advocacy groups, or for other sector stakeholders to be leveraged.
- Organise follow up meetings after the HLM with your government to make sure they respect the actions they committed that they would undertake at the HLMs.
- Proactively seek opportunities in sector-related meetings to widen CSO engagement in and awareness of SWA.

Consult the list of national CSO focal points to know if you have been appointed as CSO national focal point. If there is a change in your status please contact Heloise Chicou.

Support Available

Support for SWA CSO Country Focal Points is available from End Water Poverty and other partners:

- Facilitation of knowledge and information exchange regarding SWA and the HLMs. Guidance, support and advocacy resources for the development of any country level SWA CSO plans and strategies for the HLM preparations.
- Facilitation of communications/ consultations with other CSO SWA Country Focal Points and related CSOs.
- Identification of and support in developing resource materials to support SWA-related work.

For any information, please contact the SWA CSO Advisor:

Heloisechicou@endwaterpoverty.org