

# The seven SWA Guiding Principles



SWA is a partnership of governments and their development partners, including civil society, private sector, donors, UN agencies and research and learning institutions.

SWA was established through a joint agreement on a set of core values that guides the partnership, irrespective of changes in its goals, strategies, type of work, or leadership. These Guiding Principles are what all partners have in common, and they are also at the basis of all SWA activities and initiatives.



Multi-stakeholders efforts

## **Multi-stakeholder efforts**

All stakeholders have relevant and complementary contributions to make to help realise the visions of the sector and achieve the SDGs, including governments, intergovernmental organizations, bilateral and multilateral donors, development banks, civil society organizations, the private sector, civil-society organizations and the people using services. The cross-cutting nature of sanitation and water necessitates effective collaboration, meaningful participation and joint working across these stakeholders.



Sustainability of service and actions

## **Sustainability of services and actions**

Sustainability of services should guide all strategies and actions to improve access to sanitation and drinking water. This requires long-term vision and planning, and sustained efforts and actions to realise this vision.



Leaving no-one behind

## **Leaving no-one behind and minimum standards of coverage, access, use and effectiveness of services**

Targeting the unserved, progressively eliminating inequalities and maintaining existing services should take precedence over improving services for the already served. Particular support is needed to address those countries and contexts that are most off-track for reaching the SDG targets.



Transparency and accountability

## **Transparency and Accountability**

Transparency, integrity and accountability should be incorporated in all SWA activities. Prior commitments by donors and countries serve as a strong foundation to increase access to sanitation and drinking water and for improving aid effectiveness. These commitments should continue to be translated into action and results.



Evidence-based  
decision-making

### **Evidence-based decision-making**

Knowledge and evidence must be sought and transparently shared to inform policy-making and action at all levels.



Human Rights  
to water and  
sanitation

### **Human Rights to water and sanitation for all**

The partnership promotes the realization of the human rights to water and sanitation for all.



International  
collaboration  
and aid  
effectiveness

### **International collaboration and aid effectiveness**

Aid effectiveness commitments must be implemented in line with the [Paris Declaration](#) and [Accra Agenda for Action](#) commitments. Moreover, [OECD-DAC Principles of Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations](#) should guide sector engagement in those contexts.

The Guiding Principles are part **SWA's Framework**. The Framework is composed of three interlinked elements that embody the values partners share, their common understanding of the sector, what the sector needs to succeed, and how to meet these needs through collaborative action. The two other elements of the Framework are:

- **The Five Building Blocks**, that capture the key elements that the sector must have in place to be able to deliver sustainable services and progressively eliminate inequalities in access. [Read more...](#)
- **The Four Collaborative Behaviours**, that reinforce collaboration, alignment and efficiency when partners jointly work around the Building Blocks. [Read more...](#)