

SECTORS MINISTERS' MEETING 2019

San José — Costa Rica — 4-5 April



Preparatory process of the 2019 SWA Sector Ministers' Meeting Guidance Note

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This Guidance Note explains the recommended preparation for the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) Sector Ministers' Meeting (SMM) which will take place on 4-5 April 2019 in San José, Costa Rica. The Note outlines the objectives of the preparatory process, suggested activities and outputs. It also provides information about the support and tools available from the SWA Secretariat and partners. It can be used by focal points and organizations contributing to the planning, review and implementation of water, sanitation and hygiene targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While the Note focusses on the period surrounding the SMM, the objectives and activities are aimed at supporting long-term strategic and ongoing dialogue around the SDGs and the [SWA Framework](#).

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The 2019 Sector Ministers' Meeting

The SMM convenes ministers responsible for water, sanitation and hygiene mostly from SWA partner countries and high-level representatives of other SWA constituencies, including external support agencies, civil society, private sector and research and learning institutions. The SMM is an opportunity to exchange experiences and discuss solutions and approaches for addressing challenges in achieving the water, sanitation and hygiene-related targets of the SDGs.

The **overall objectives** for Sector Ministers' Meetings are to:

- Provide a high-level platform for decision-makers to hold themselves **accountable for progress** towards national water, sanitation and hygiene targets under the SDGs;
- Use the SWA Framework to **take stock of sector progress**, assess bottlenecks and identify corrective actions;
- **Catalyze sector progress** by providing a forum for peer review and mutual accountability; and
- **Increase momentum** behind country cycles of water, sanitation and hygiene sector planning, monitoring and review.

The SMM will be convened by UNICEF and the Inter-American Development Bank and will be hosted by the government of Costa Rica in San José. It will immediately follow the Latin America Sanitation Conference ([Latinosan V](#)) on 1-3 April.

The **overall theme** of the 2019 SMM is “**Leave no one behind**” and it has a singular high-level purpose of increasing awareness and understanding of the principle of progressively eliminating inequalities, its fundamental relationship with WASH, and its implications for leadership, partnership and finance. The 2019 SMM will be the first High Level Meeting to incorporate the newly launched [Mutual Accountability Mechanism](#). The Mechanism reinforces country-level multi-stakeholder planning and review and empowers partners to hold each other accountable for progress towards the SDG targets. It will offer a global platform for high-level decision-makers to take stock of progress, table their respective country's or organization's commitments and increase momentum towards achieving the WASH targets of the SDGs.

The SMM will draw from, and feed into, ongoing multi-stakeholder dialogue at country level. In this way, SWA partners will continue with the strategic dialogue on the outcomes of the meeting beyond the SMM.

A briefing which can be tailored to the Ministers' being invited is included in Annex 1.

The preparatory process for the 2019 SMM

SWA aims to facilitate ongoing multi-stakeholder dialogue among partners at country level, using and strengthening existing sector mechanisms and platforms. The preparatory process for the 2019 SMM will build on ongoing national processes and discussions to foster a dialogue around inequalities, leadership and the required financing to eliminate the inequalities. SWA country focal points from each

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constituency have a key role to play in supporting and facilitating the engagement in country for the preparation of the Sector Minister Meeting.

Objectives of the preparatory process

The [preparatory process](#) for the 2019 SMM was launched in November 2018 with the following objectives:

- **Strengthen multi-stakeholder dialogue** on the status of the sector regarding leave no one behind, the leadership needed to catalyze progress and the financing required to remove inequalities;
- **Build political will and engagement amongst decision-makers** (i.e. sector and finance ministers, parliamentarians and other critical decision-makers) to agree on the necessary priorities and commitments to eliminate inequalities; and
- **Joint selection and prioritization of commitments linked to – and extracted from -- national sector plans** focusing on those that will improve equality in access to WASH services – this can include or focus on parts of the SWA Framework.

Outcomes of the preparatory process

- Ministers and sector leaders prioritise actions included in national plans to progressively eliminate inequalities, put the furthest behind first and leave no one behind, based on available evidence;
- Sector stakeholders at country level identify priorities and commitments towards achieving the targets of the national sector plans and specifically those commitments focused on eliminating inequalities; and
- Global, regional and national actors identify and articulate the relevant cooperation they can give in support to priorities emerging from national dialogues.

Outputs of the preparatory process

The country-level preparatory process will have **two outputs – a country brief and a presentation for the minister to make in one of the ministerial dialogues.**

Country Briefs: The **country brief** includes i) a summary of the progress the sector has made in the country; ii) the extent of inequalities in the country in access to water, sanitation and hygiene, iii) the targets and priorities in view of the scale of the challenge, and iv) the commitments the country is tabling including those of different partners at country level to strengthen collaboration and action towards the achievement of the national priorities. The government should lead the preparation of the brief, while engaging other stakeholders in its elaboration. The brief should be finalised at national level ahead of the SMM. *See Annex 2 for a proposed outline of the country brief.*

Ministerial Dialogues: The 2019 SMM will have Ministerial Dialogues where ministers and high-level representatives from other SWA constituencies will engage in discussions around three topics:

- Taking stock of progress since the 2016 SMM - to what extent have inequalities been addressed?

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- Financing leave no-one behind; and
- Partnership in Practice: How to get the most from sector collaboration?

Each country will share its experience in at least one of the three Ministerial Dialogues. More information on the Dialogues will be shared in the coming weeks; however, countries should begin to identify relevant experiences where their minister(s) can be the lead discussant. Country stakeholders could identify interesting approaches, experiences or efforts being undertaken on one of the topics or focus on what they wish to learn and what needs to be done differently for progress to be made. Each country will prepare a short presentation for its minister(s) to make during the respective ministerial dialogue (the template will be shared in the coming weeks). Through the focal point, each country will indicate which dialogue its minister(s) can present. Please consult with the Secretariat before starting the preparation of a presentation.

Suggested process and resource materials

The table below summarizes the suggested national process, while outlining the support countries will receive from the Secretariat.

Suggested country-level process	Secretariat	Resource Materials
November- Dec 2018	November 2018	
Participation in global webinar to launch the 2019 SMM preparatory process	28-29 November 2018: First SWA Secretariat-led webinar covering the theme, objectives and SMM preparatory process	Additional information can be found on SMM page Webinar recordings available on the Prep process page
January 2019		
Participation in global webinar on How to Use Finance to end Inequalities? Virtual meeting of country focal points with the Secretariat On-going country-level discussions on the SMM Initial briefing of ministers	Third week of January: Second webinar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ending Inequalities and how partners can analyse their country's status Use of Finance to end Inequalities Meeting with country focal points The Secretariat will provide remote based support for partners in countries who would like to analyse and prepare briefs on "Use of Finance to end Inequalities" for their ministers.	English 1: 30 January 2019 @9AM EST English 2: 30 January 2019 @ 23h00 EST French: 31 January 2019 @11AM EST Spanish: 31 January 2019 @11AM EST Please use this link to join any of the webinars: https://meet.unicef.org/msitali/H87L57RK

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February 2019		
<p>Participation in global webinar on Leadership and the Mutual Accountability Mechanism</p> <p>Briefing ministers on SMM</p> <p>Ministerial discussions between sector and finance ministers</p> <p>On-going country-level: multi-stakeholder dialogues</p>	<p>Last week of February: Third SWA Secretariat-led webinar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth consideration of sector leadership • Leadership and the Mutual Accountability Mechanism <p>Virtual meetings with country focal points</p> <p>Ongoing support for partners in countries who would like to analyse and prepare briefs on “Use of Finance to end Inequalities” for their ministers.</p>	<p>English 1: 27 February 2019 @9AM EST</p> <p>English 2: 27 February 2019 @ 23h00 EST</p> <p>French: 28 February 2019 @9AM EST</p> <p>Spanish: 28 February 2019 @11AM EST</p> <p>Please use this link to join any of the webinars:</p> <p>https://meet.unicef.org/msitali/H87L57RK</p>
March 2019		
<p>Participation in global webinar on final SMM details</p> <p>On-going country-level: multi-stakeholder dialogues and advocacy events (World Water Day opportunity)</p>	<p>Second week of March: Fourth SWA Secretariat-led webinar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review final agenda and speakers • Final logistics • Submission of country and partner/ constituency statements which contain commitments – 15 March <p>Ongoing remote based support for partners in countries who would like to analyse and prepare briefs on “Use of Finance to end Inequalities” for their ministers.</p>	<p>English 1: 20 March 2019 @9AM EST</p> <p>English 2: 20 March 2019 @ 23h00 EST</p> <p>French: 21 March 2019 @9AM EST</p> <p>Spanish: 21 March 2019 @11AM EST</p> <p>Please use this link to join any of the webinars:</p> <p>https://meet.unicef.org/msitali/H87L57RK</p>
April 2019		
<p>In-country advocacy events</p>	<p>4-5 April SMM in San José</p>	

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May 2019		
Participation in global webinar on SMM outcomes and follow-up	First week of May: Fifth SWA Secretariat-led webinar <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outcomes of SMM• Follow-up actions and next steps	English 1: 1 May 2019 @9AM EST English 2: 1 May 2019 @ 23h00 EST French: 2 May 2019 @9AM EST Spanish: 2 May 2019 @11AM EST Please use this link to join any of the webinars: https://meet.unicef.org/msitali/H87L57RK

Elements of the country level preparatory process

To achieve the objectives and outcomes of the preparatory process partners are encouraged to work together to ensure ministers are prepared to engage in and contribute to discussions on the:

- Progress their countries have made towards the achievement of national water, sanitation and hygiene targets;
- Extent of inequalities in access to water, sanitation and hygiene and the scale of what remains to be done to eliminate inequalities;
- Policy trade-offs and decisions to be made to ensure policies, plans, institutions and resources are fit-for-purpose and enable the elimination of inequalities and putting the furthest behind first; and
- Status of development cooperation in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector in their country, and the opportunities and challenges for strengthening collaboration with development partners to achieve national water, sanitation and hygiene targets.

Ministers will also need to be aware of the fundamentals of establishing a sustainable sector financing strategy needed to achieve the principle of leave no one behind, and to what extent progress has been achieved in this area.

Simultaneously, partners will also work to ensure high level representatives of other SWA consistencies are similarly well briefed, and arrive at the SMM able to engage in robust dialogue with ministers around progress made in terms of increasing collaboration, implementing the sector building blocks and compliance with principles as elimination of inequalities, and promotion of integrity, aid effectiveness and accountability and joint actions needed to accelerate sector progress.

Partners are strongly encouraged to work through ongoing national processes and use recent data and evidence to undertake robust sector analysis, for example by drawing on national monitoring systems and sector review processes. Some recent and ongoing processes to strengthen the use of data include UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) [country highlights](#), information collected through the WHO TrackFin initiative, the GLAAS 2018 country survey, the [Collaborative Behaviours Country Profiles](#), the [Joint Monitoring Program](#), use of the WASH-BAT, SIASAR, MAPAs, Financing Costing Tool and other tools available on the [SWA Tools portal](#).

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Additionally, the World Health Organization, through GLAAS, will work to prepare GLAAS 2018/2019 country highlights in advance of the SMM for the SWA countries that have submitted the GLAAS 2018 country survey.

All in-country partners of SWA have a role to play to support governments and engage in national multi-stakeholder discussions. Country staff of SWA global partners (such as multilateral and bilateral agencies, development banks and International Non-Governmental Organisations) should also liaise with their headquarters to ensure high level representatives of their organizations attending the SMM are briefed on country level discussions and commitments.

In SWA partner countries (as well as countries preparing for the April meetings, which are not yet SWA partners) the government leads the preparatory process while development partners, civil society and other partners support the on-going dialogue and planning for the SMM. Four key complementary approaches are suggested and outlined below.

Technical-level multi-stakeholder dialogue: Technical dialogues involve government and partner organizations and are used to analyze the situation of the country with respect to the SDGs, and specifically, inequalities. Where possible, they should align with existing country mechanisms for coordination and dialogue, such as a sector working group. Through the dialogues, partners should also analyze the financial situation and recommend actions for government and partners. Depending on the context and existing processes, ministers may or may not be involved in this dialogue. National priorities and partner commitments drawn from national plans can be agreed through this dialogue or may already have been identified through other established country processes, such as a Joint Sector Review.

Ministerial briefings: Two or three ministerial briefings for sector ministers are recommended during the preparatory process.

- a) The preliminary briefing would be held early and should focus on getting the ministers interested in the SMM. For ministers to engage effectively in the discussions at the SMM, and more importantly, for them to make evidence-based decisions on how their countries will tackle inequalities, it is suggested that they be briefed on the country's situation and the expected outcomes of the SMM. A generic briefing which can be tailored to the country's needs is attached as Annex 1.
- b) A second, more substantive briefing is recommended to present a snapshot of the sector, the extent of inequalities (including recent evolution in eliminating them), and the financing and leadership needed to catalyse progress. The Country Brief can be used to inform this second briefing, drawing on other existing country level analysis and briefings. It is suggested that the content of the Country Brief be updated as information, analysis and decisions become available.
- c) The final briefing, just prior to the SMM, can contain the decisions reached as a result of the multi-stakeholder and inter-ministerial dialogues.

Ministerial engagement and inter-ministerial dialogue: The SMM is an opportunity to increase ministerial engagement and dialogue among ministers at the national level responsible for water,

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sanitation and hygiene, as well as between sector and finance ministers. The Country Brief can inform these discussions prior to the SMM. Depending on the context and availability of ministers, there could be several discussions between the sector and finance ministers, as well as other key decision makers. This will create opportunities for the sector ministers, some of whom may not be attending the meetings in San José, to engage with their ministerial counterparts. Where it is not yet the case, efforts should also be made to embed this inter-ministerial dialogue into ongoing country processes, for example by ensuring relevant sector and finance ministers attend annual water, sanitation and hygiene sector review meetings.

Awareness events: As appropriate, advocacy events can take place during the preparatory process to increase transparency and accountability, as well as raise awareness about the SMM. Information and analysis gathered in the technical discussions can be conveyed in an appropriate format – to the media, parliamentarians, other sector officials, communities or rights-holders, etc. The World Water Day on March 22 is a key opportunity to highlight participation in the meeting and the commitments to be taken forward by the government during the SMM. Further, advocacy events may also take place after the SMM.

Support from the SWA Secretariat

The SWA Secretariat will facilitate the preparatory process and provide support to current and potential SWA partners. The support will include webinars, and coordination of demand-driven assistance to countries on financial analysis and the Mutual Accountability Mechanism. Countries should liaise with the Secretariat to arrange bilateral meetings. The Secretariat will either directly provide support or mobilize global partners to respond to needs. At the global level, the Secretariat will organize five webinars according to the timetable below:

- Webinar 1: November 2018 - Launch the preparatory process for the 2019 SMM
- Webinar 2: January 30 – 31, 2019 - How to Use Finance to end Inequalities?
- Webinar 3: February 27 – 28 - Sector leadership and the Mutual Accountability Mechanism
- Webinar 4: March 20-21 - Final preparation and logistical details
- Webinar 5: SMM outcomes, follow-up and next steps

In addition, the Secretariat will also provide communications support and ongoing engagement with partners.

Development partners including multilaterals and bilateral donors, foundations and NGOs are encouraged to contribute by mobilizing action at the country level and providing technical support where necessary.

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Additional Resources and Tools

SWA Collaborative Behaviours Country Profiles from UN-Water GLAAS

Part of the preparatory process will include analyzing how governments and development partners are applying the SWA Collaborative Behaviours for effective development cooperation. SWA Collaborative Behaviours Country Profiles were produced for 37 countries. Information from the profiles can be used in the sector review and in agreeing the priorities and commitments, particularly by highlighting how both government and partners apply the Collaborative Behaviours in the sector. In addition, information sheets on the Behaviours and the Building Blocks can be used by partners in their dialogues. [More...](#)

Collection of Resources on financing

The SWA Secretariat will provide remote based support for any countries that would like to discuss how they can carry out financial analysis on inequalities. In addition, the Secretariat has put together a collection of resources on WASH financing which includes the discussion paper on financing SDG 6 from the World Bank and UNICEF. The paper focusses on: the magnitude of the challenge, particularly on why SDG 6 is important, the financing gap and why it has not been filled; how existing resources can be used more effectively (through analysis of such issues as current utilisation of tariffs and taxes, and how service providers can be made more efficient), and the key policy trade-offs in each sub-sector; and how new resources for the sector can be accessed by looking at the most viable sources of financing and how they can be leveraged. [More...](#)

SWA Briefing paper on inequalities

This SWA Briefing Paper examines how SWA partners can work together to strengthen the sector and eliminate inequalities in access to water and sanitation, leading to a world where no-one is left behind. [More...](#)

WASH SDG Costing Tool

This tool helps to calculate the investments needed to achieve the water, sanitation and hygiene targets of the SDGs as well as the financing gap. Countries which have not yet done their own costing of the SDG targets (6.1 and 6.2) can use this tool to prepare their estimates. The tool is available in English, French and Spanish. Information from this tool (or other SDG costings where they exist) will be necessary to prepare the financial analysis. The SWA Secretariat, working with UNICEF, will also provide direct support to countries that may require additional assistance to work with the tool, particularly in its application in relation to the theme of the meeting. In case this assistance is needed, please reach out to the SWA Secretariat. [More...](#)

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Contact the Secretariat for Support

For any clarification on the preparatory process and/or to arrange bilateral calls, please contact

Muyatwa Sitali at Muyatwa.Sitali@sanitationandwaterforall.org

Balwant Godara at Balwant.Godara@sanitationandwaterforall.org

Marissa Streyle at Marissa.Streyle@sanitationandwaterforall.org

For Civil Society Engagement:

Heloise Chicou at Heloise.chicou@sanitationandwaterforall.org

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Annex 1: Generic briefing for 2019 Sector Ministers' Meeting

WASHing away inequalities: partnering to finance and achieve the water, sanitation and hygiene targets of the Sustainable Development Goals

The upcoming SWA Sector Ministers' Meeting (SMM) will be convened in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 4-5 April 2019 to support the achievement of the water, sanitation and hygiene-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. It will be held the days after LatinoSan.

It will bring together ministers responsible for water, sanitation and hygiene and senior government officials from different regions and development levels, as well as leaders from other stakeholders, including civil society, private sector, donors, development banks, UN agencies and academia.

Unique in the sector, the SMMs are the culmination of robust ongoing strategic dialogue at country level, involving multiple stakeholders bound together by the belief that good governance and mutual accountability are key to achieve water and sanitation for all, always and everywhere.

The 2019 SMM will have 'Leave No One Behind' as its overall theme and has a single, high-level objective:

To increase awareness and understanding of 'Leave No One Behind', its fundamental relationship with WASH, and its implications for leadership, partnership, planning and finance

This will be achieved through dialogue, knowledge sharing and learning, involving all interest groups and stakeholders.

To achieve its purpose, the SMM has been designed to deliver four outcomes:

- **Leave no one behind.** Develop a common understanding of what leave no one behind means, the scale of inequality in WASH, its root causes and its impact.
- **Leadership.** Highlight the critical role of leadership to focus attention and resources on leave no one behind.
- **Finance.** Establish how national sector finance strategies can be developed to maximise their impact on eliminating inequality.
- **Planning, monitoring and review.** Demonstrate how the application of the SWA Framework of Guiding Principles, Collaborative Behaviours and sector Building Blocks can address inequality in WASH.

The SMM will comprise plenary sessions, ministerial dialogues and a technical meeting, and will be chaired by the Honourable Kevin Rudd, SWA's High-level Chair. Ministers are likely to be invited to a field visit organized by LatinoSan on 3 April 2019.

As planning for the 2017 HLMs continues, updated information will be posted on the [SWA website](#).

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Annex 2: Proposed outline for Country Briefs

The Country Brief is a summary of the current status and future directions of the WASH sector in the country. It covers the main strands of the 2019 SMM - leadership, finance and strengthening national planning, monitoring and review processes - which are all critical for the achievement of the principle of leave on behind and ultimately achieving SDG 6.

Purpose: The Brief serves as *the* core document for the Ministers' preparation for the SMM, their participation and intervention in the SMM, and the country's follow-up to the SMM. The Briefs will promote well-informed, dynamic and progressive discussion during the SMM.

Recommended approach: preparation of this Brief should be in line with the core approach of the SWA that all partners committed to, which includes a government-led multi-stakeholder process and collaboration among relevant partners; use of existing national processes; as well as use of evidence to support decision making.

Recommended length: 4 pages and should be supported by recent sector analysis.

Deadlines: The final Country Brief should be shared with the SWA Secretariat by 20 March 2019. A draft of the brief can be shared for input by 10 March.

Suggested outline

Country context

- Major political, economic, governance trends, as well as most acute challenges such as climate change, fragility, conflict, exclusion or poverty.

SDGs and the water, sanitation and hygiene sector

- Status of the sector in terms of the baseline for the SDGs, progress achieved since the SDGs were announced
- Results of sector analysis or evaluations undertaken to review SDG 6
- National vision for the sector
- Targets set for the SDGs (6.1 and 6.2)
- Highlights of main sector challenges and gaps which may affect the attainment of the national sector vision and targets
- Main national processes / actions being undertaken to strengthen sector and make progress towards SDG 6

Collaborative Behaviours, Building Blocks and Guiding Principles

- Status of development cooperation in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector; to what extent are government and partners practicing the SWA Collaborative Behaviours, and working together effectively to ensure sustainable and equitable access to WASH
- The extent to which the Sector Building Blocks have been put in place and are adapted to the SDGs and the elimination of inequalities.

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- How have the Guiding Principles been implemented while taking into account the commitment to progressively eliminate inequalities.

Eliminating Inequalities

- Extent and nature of inequalities in water, sanitation and hygiene;
- Collection of data on inequalities, its causes and identification of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups;
- Gaps in the understanding of inequalities in the sector;
- Comparative analysis of progress made in achieving SDG6 for the general population and for the most marginalized, poorest and vulnerable groups;
- The extent to which national planning, monitoring, accountability and review processes address inequalities;
- Progress made on progressively eliminating inequalities;
- Main targets of the country in terms of eliminating inequalities in water, sanitation and hygiene; and
- Specific laws, policy and regulations for addressing inequalities.

Water, sanitation and hygiene Financing

- Estimate of funding needs to progressively eliminate inequalities
- Magnitude of funding deficit for SDG6
- Approaches to close the gap (innovative, new financing mechanisms and effective use of existing resources)
- Progress made (success of the above approaches)
- Specific financing mechanisms that address the progressive elimination of inequalities

Country priorities and commitments

- Highlights of country targets for the water, sanitation and hygiene targets of the SDGs
- Three to five priorities for the next 3-5 years - identified through a government-led process, and drawn from the national plan
- Commitments the government is tabling to achieve the priorities
- Commitments tabled by development partners (cooperating partners, civil society, private sector, and research and learning agencies)
- Roadmap for achieving the commitments and the priorities, particularly those elements addressing inequalities

Mechanisms for review and follow-up on the priorities and commitments

- National and sector processes which will be used to review progress

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- Possible barriers towards the achievement of the commitments and approaches to overcoming them

Processes and materials used in the preparation of the Brief

- Main material, e.g. country monitoring data, sector progress reports, JSR undertakings/action points GLAAS, JMP reports, SWA Collaborative Behaviours Country Profile
- Inter-Ministry working groups/meetings, involved in the preparation of the Brief

Contacts

- Main contacts for further information

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Annex 3: Additional information about SWA and the Sector Ministers' Meetings

SWA is a global, multi-stakeholder partnership that brings together national governments, civil society organizations, the private sector, research and learning institutions and external support agencies to work together towards a common vision of sanitation, hygiene and water for all, always and everywhere. The role and purpose of the [SWA partnership](#) is to lead, galvanize and facilitate international efforts, aligning with and promoting national and regional processes aimed at ensuring availability and sustainable management of sanitation, water and hygiene for all.

Since its inception in 2008, the SWA partnership has convened regular high-level meetings of ministers, and through these meetings has fostered an on-going High-level Political Dialogue, which is intended to:

- a) maintain momentum for progress in the WASH sector,
- b) build political will of decision-makers and enhance their capacity,
- c) provide a forum for exchange of ideas, innovations and experience, as well as discussion of solutions and approaches for addressing bottlenecks and challenges in implementing the [SWA Framework](#) at national level
- d) allow discussion of how to ensure multi-stakeholder engagement, mirroring SWA's multi-stakeholder nature, at national and global levels and,
- e) foster mutual accountability, making use of the partnership's Mutual Accountability Mechanism

The dialogue is designed to drive improvements in development cooperation and country level progress.

SWA has held five successful [High-level Meetings](#) (HLMs) in 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2017. Each of the HLMs included a preparatory process to strengthen or catalyze discussion in-country. All HLMs up to 2014 also included an action and accountability process articulated around commitments tabled at the meetings. Building on this process, SWA partners have now agreed on a [framework](#) designed to contribute to, and strengthen, country processes and systems, and to promote change and impact at country level.

SWA has defined a [Mutual Accountability Mechanism](#) through which partners follow a government-led process to select joint priorities from their national plans, and agree on commitments by all partners needed to accelerate progress. This government-led process is focused on and embedded on the ongoing national dialogue for the selection and reporting of progress on the jointly agreed priorities and commitments. Countries and global partners which are ready to table their commitments can use the High-level Meetings to share their experiences, lessons and identify areas of peer support as well as contribute to the broader political dialogue on what is needed to remove bottlenecks and catalyse process. The 2019 SMM will be the first to incorporate the newly launched Mutual Accountability Mechanism.