

Challenges and solutions presented by partners during the SWA webinar on monitoring and review systems for the water, sanitation and hygiene SDGs

During the “Strengthening country monitoring and review systems for the water, sanitation and hygiene SDGs” webinar hosted by the SWA Secretariat in August 2017, participants engaged in constructive conversations about their experiences with the transition away from monitoring and review systems for the MDGs and towards those for the SDGs. Participants shared the challenges they grapple with as they adjust their approaches, and solutions they are designing and implementing to overcome their challenges. Moreover, over the course of the presentations and the conversations that followed, several useful resources and good practices were suggested.

To capture the discussions effectively and to further the knowledge sharing, the SWA secretariat has prepared a list of challenges, solutions, possible next steps, requests for information and resources which were shared. Please do not hesitate to send to the Secretariat any solutions or resources you are aware of, that would be useful to send to countries looking for further information.

The challenges and solutions vary from country to country, and as such, none can be absolute or prescriptive; instead, we present a what was shared by other partners as having been helpful for their situation.

Challenges (list compiled from presentations and discussions during the webinar)

- Lack of effective coordination and collaboration in WASH sector in country
- SDG indicators are not part of existing monitoring system
- Deficiencies in baseline data
- Existing data are not suitable for the SDGs in general and are not useful for the Joint Monitoring Program
- No common understanding of definitions for the targets and indicators at country level
- Multiple, parallel, systems for data collection and reporting
- No unique national plan for monitoring and review of WASH programs
- Separate indicators for the water and sanitation-hygiene sub-sectors, but no overarching system that integrates all of these
- Insufficient financial, technical and human resources to effectively conduct regular monitoring and review of progress. This problem is exacerbated in the sanitation and hygiene sub-sectors
- Difficulty in consistently organizing multi-stakeholder reviews
- Lack of alignment of current monitoring systems with the SDG indicators, particularly where the current system does not fully capture the data required to monitor progress on some aspects of the SDG targets e.g. safely managed services
- Weak and incomplete sanitation data in some instances

Specific Information sought

- Proxy indicators of safely managed water and sanitation services
- Examples of sub-indicators that other countries are using
- Examples of rapid assessments done for baseline data
- How to raise importance of sanitation and hygiene within government (in many cases, a government agency focused on drinking water exists and benefits from budget allocations, but little regard given to sanitation and hygiene)
- Donor mapping / Resource mobilization

Solutions (list compiled from presentations and discussions during the webinar)

- Develop sector-wide collaboration and co-ordination
- Review and adapt existing WASH monitoring systems, including national surveillance, in conjunction with government statistics offices
- Develop national WASH indicators to measure achievements of SDG 6.1 & 6.2
- Include indicators to WASH monitoring system and government statistics office data
- Capacity building on SDGs monitoring framework and tools at national and sub-national levels
- Agree on nationally appropriate indicators
- Work in conjunction with ministries of statistics, planning or equivalent, to determine baseline levels
- Discuss sector targets and milestones for achieving 2030 goals at local and national level
- Develop sub-sector policies
- Create strategy documents

Resources

- The WHO's resources on monitoring and evidence in the WASH sector, including access to the most recent JMP and GLAAS reports and other resources associated with the two initiatives: http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/monitoring/en/
- The JMP's report on "WASH in the SDG agenda", presenting the new global indicators for drinking water, sanitation and hygiene: <https://washdata.org/report/jmp-2017-wash-2030-agenda> (English), <https://washdata.org/report/jmp-2017-wash-2030-agenda-fr> (French) and <https://washdata.org/report/jmp-2017-wash-2030-agenda-sp> (Spanish).
- Tools to help design surveys – the Unicef's tools for Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (survey design, data collection, processing, analysis, as well as reporting and dissemination): <http://mics.unicef.org>
- A dashboard with JMP's estimates for SDGs in different countries, including several SWA members: <https://washdata.org/data#!/dashboard/208>
- The World Bank Groups' study on effective JSRs for the WASH sector: <http://www.rural-water-supply.net/ressources/documents/default/1-757-3-1463486911.pdf>