

Country-story: MADAGASCAR

Keeping momentum during a change of government



The SWA Country Stories captures best practices from partners around the world. They include their experiences in using the SWA partnership to advance the case of water, sanitation and hygiene in their countries and of implementing the commitments countries made at the SWA High Level Meetings. For more information sanitationandwaterforall.org



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On January 2014, three months before the SWA High Level Meeting (HLM), Madagascar elected a new President and one month after the HLM a new Minister of Water entered into office. This high-level change had the potential to undermine the long-term work by the Ministry of Water's WASH technical team, who developed the commitments and led a movement towards putting WASH higher in the political agenda within their own Ministry and the government in general.

To ensure Madagascar continued on its trajectory towards achieving their 13 commitments and maintaining the necessary high-level support, the

SWA focal point at the Ministry of Water deployed a series of actions:

Triggering high-level peer-to-peer advocacy

The Minister of Finance, who attended and spoke at the HLM, personally briefed the new Minister of Water. This approach was vital in demonstrating to the new Minister of Water the importance and (continued) relevance of the SWA process for Madagascar.

Strategic and targeted technical briefings

Following the Minister of Finance's introduction, the new Minister of Water received a series of more detailed briefings from his own technical team. Messages around SWA and the country's commitments were re-enforced by linking them to Madagascar's presence at international WASH events, such as African Water Week and Stockholm World Water Week. These initial briefings with the new Minister of Water were used in particular to:

- Recall the commitments taken at the HLM and the country's accountability to other partners
- Discuss the road ahead, seeking input and buy-in
- Position SWA as a tool to align WASH partners (e.g. civil society) around the country's plans.

Sound technical preparation and long-term involvement in SWA

Essential to the smooth leadership transition was the WASH technical team's work to ensure clarity in SWA's strategic value for the country. This included commitments that were aligned with a wider sector strategy and a clear plan for their implementation and follow-up.

The High Level Commitments Dialogue

The High Level Commitments Dialogue (HLCD) is a global process fostering an ongoing political dialogue about WASH at the national and global levels and is focused on achieving results at country level. The HLCD provides a platform for mutual accountability among stakeholders and also further strengthens the sector dialogue at country-level.



Madagascar Commitments on WASH



4 commitments
to increase
political
prioritization



0 commitment
to promote the
development of a
strong evidence
base



9 commitments
to Strengthen
government-led
national planning
processes