



This paper provides suggestions on how the recently published Collaborative Behaviours Country Profiles can be used by SWA partners. It is prepared primarily for policy- and decision-makers as well as actors involved in advocacy from different agencies at country level. The profiles can be used by partner and non-partner organizations to stimulate dialogue on practices which reinforce effective development cooperation.

Monitoring the SWA Collaborative Behaviours: The Country Profiles

The SWA partnership through its working groups, identified indicators to monitor the **Collaborative Behaviours**. For each Behaviour, there is an indicator for governments and an indicator for development partners. The indicators are not entirely comprehensive of each Behaviour, but aim to capture the core elements of each Behaviour.

To support and track adherence to the Collaborative Behaviours, SWA agreed to develop Country Profiles which give a snapshot of performance for both government and development partners for each Behaviour. The data used is from existing monitoring initiatives, such as GLAAS, OECD and World Bank assessments. The burden on countries and development partners to provide additional reports and data has been reduced. However, while these sources provide a significant amount of data on the indicators, some information is not available for all countries or development partners.

The World Health Organization, through GLAAS, led the compilation of the country profiles on the Collaborative Behaviours in 2016-2017. These country profiles have been produced [by SWA partners](#), including representatives from countries, external support agencies (including donors and multi-lateral organizations), civil society, and research and learning institutions.

For the first round of monitoring, 37 profiles have been produced and are available on the SWA [website](#). Information regarding the government and development partners is presented side-by-side to highlight areas of success and to encourage partners to identify areas needing action.

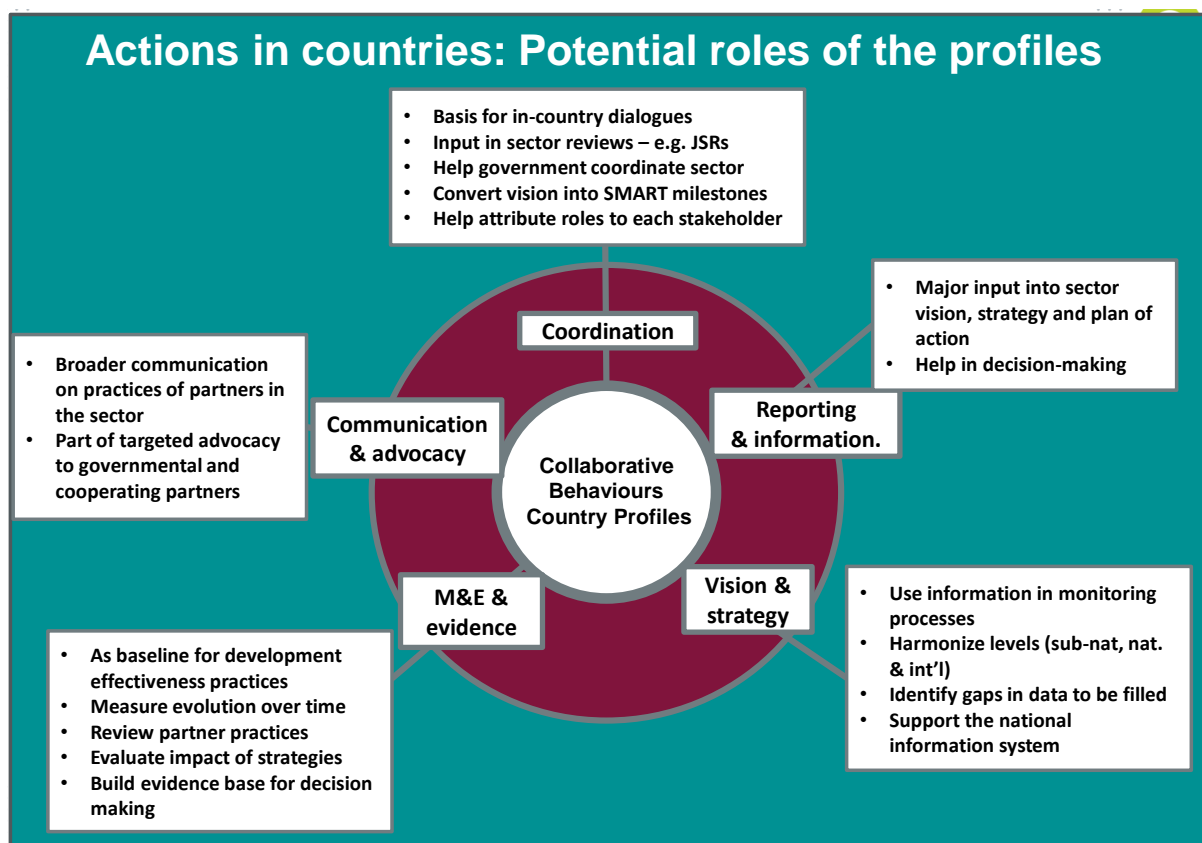
Using the SWA Collaborative Behaviours Country Profiles: practical suggestions

The profiles can be used at country level and as an input to the sector dialogue. The profile can also be used in the following ways:

1. **Deepen sector analysis** through systematic and vigorous review of individual partner practices. The profiles draw from credible information sources, all of which are linked to nationally approved data. They provide a snapshot of current practices and should be used as evidence to improve decision making. Profiles should contribute to dialogue with the spirit of identifying areas which are likely to hamper progress in the achievement of the Building Blocks and ultimately the SDGs.
2. **Develop a common vision and agenda** for development effectiveness in the WASH sector for actors at national and sub-national levels. Using the country profiles as the baseline, actors can jointly agree the ambition they want to achieve over a set period. Ideally, this should be linked to the national and sector planning process when the vision, goals, objectives and targets are agreed. Setting the

objectives for development effectiveness early and ideally together with the sector plan helps to provide clarity and align monitoring processes. It is also possible to agree on a common vision and agenda for the Collaborative Behaviours at another time if the sector plan has already been determined. This can be during the review of the sector plan or during sector coordination and review processes.

3. **Agree intermediate steps to be taken by all actors** – governments, external support agencies including bilateral and multilateral donors, providers of technical assistance, civil society, research and learning and private sector. The intermediate steps should aim at achieving the jointly agreed vision and agenda for development effectiveness. These steps can be prioritised and prepared in the form of SMART – Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Timebound – milestones. Each actor can clearly determine their role and the changes they will make over time. These agreed steps can constitute a set of commitments around which progress is reviewed over time.
4. **Regularly review progress** through existing platforms such as sector coordination meetings, joint sector reviews or other similar multi-stakeholder platforms. The Behaviours can form an integral part of discussions at sub-national and national levels. New evidence can be included and progress discussed with the aim of removing bottlenecks to progress. As a multi-stakeholder process, actions can be discussed across various groups of stakeholders. For example, the government can identify issues to be resolved by other stakeholders and vice-versa. This can help to reinforce mutual accountability.
5. **Take corrective actions** by realigning institutional policies and practices to the jointly agreed vision of the country. Course correction by government and other partners is an important step in progressively realising the overall ambition of the country. New evidence can be included to determine additional steps that should be taken and to redirect attention towards partners and practices where action is slow.



Putting country processes at the core of SWA's strategy

SWA partners work towards a common vision of sanitation, hygiene and water for all, always and everywhere. The Partnership's strategy (2015-2020) is premised on a Theory of Change that emphasizes the role of compelling evidence, which is important in generating political will for sanitation, water and hygiene. In turn, increased political will leads to vigorous sector analysis and review, which supports the development of strong systems and adequate sector capacity at country level. These are identified as catalysts for a 'virtuous cycle' of transformation, through which the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be achieved. This transformation requires an approach that puts countries at the centre, and supports alignment and harmonization of efforts and inputs by sector stakeholders.

The SWA Framework: understanding the link between the Building Blocks of the WASH sector and the Collaborative Behaviours for effective sector strengthening

At the 2016 Sector Ministers' Meeting, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, SWA partners endorsed the five critical Building Blocks of a well-functioning WASH sector: sector policy/strategy; institutional arrangements; sector financing; planning, monitoring, and review; and capacity development. The Building Blocks capture the **key elements** of a sector capable of delivering sustainable services and progressively eliminating inequalities in access, ensuring that no one is left behind and ultimately achieving the ambitious drinking water, sanitation and hygiene targets. An in-depth analysis of the Building Blocks can help to understand the gaps, bottlenecks and opportunities associated with the preparedness of the sector towards establishing a strong enabling environment.

However, Building Blocks alone are not sufficient to deliver long-term and sustainable services for all. For instance, a sector plan which aims to eliminate inequalities will not be achieved if partners continue to target communities which are already served. Similarly, well defined institutions cannot effectively and fully function if there are no investments in building systems for procurement, financing, monitoring and accountability. SWA partners realize the necessity of the Building Blocks while acknowledging the importance of improving the **ways of working**, which are called the Collaborative Behaviours. The progress of the sector will be influenced on one hand by the existence of the Building Blocks and how they are interlinked to each other and on the other by how the actors work together.

The Collaborative Behaviours adopted in the SWA framework are actions and practices through which the Building Blocks can be put in place, and which – if jointly adopted by both governments and sector partners - will strengthen country capacity to deliver and sustain services to all. The Behaviours emerged out of extensive research and country experiences in the implementation of the Paris, Accra and Busan initiatives for aid and development effectiveness. Significant lessons were also learnt from other sectors including education, nutrition and health. While they are not the only condition for achieving the SDGs, [evidence](#) points to an increased potential for catalysing action for sustained and universal service delivery if they are adopted.

SWA partners are committed to: Enhance government leadership of sector in sector development, processes; Strengthen and use country systems; Use one information and mutual accountability platform built around a multi-stakeholder government-led cycle of planning, monitoring and learning; and build (develop) sustainable water and sanitation sector financing strategies. It is expected that all SWA partners will work in accordance with these Behaviours and will take steps to improve practices where necessary.

Together, the Building Blocks and the Collaborative Behaviours form the core of the SWA framework; they are reinforced by the SWA guiding principles to which all partners subscribe. In the SDG era, SWA partners demonstrate their commitment to this framework by jointly working through country processes to align with

government-led plans and consistently review the progress they are making through a mutual accountability mechanism. Each partner – government, civil society, research and learning, development financing, external support agency, private sector – has a part to play in identifying the gaps in their institutions and taking actions to put in place or strengthen the Building Blocks and adopt the Collaborative Behaviours.

Approaches to analysing the Building Blocks and the Collaborative Behaviours

Platforms such as the Joint Sector Reviews or coordination meetings offer the best mechanism to hold strategic dialogues on the gaps, challenges and successes relating to the Building Blocks and Collaborative Behaviours. The aim is to integrate the Building Blocks and Collaborative Behaviours into existing and ongoing national processes which strengthen sector analysis. Various tools and mechanisms exist for deepening sector analysis. For example, the [WASH Bottleneck Analysis Tool \(WASH BAT\)](#), a tool developed by UNICEF and available to the sector helps to identify performance challenges and to develop response strategies. The global [UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water](#) (GLAAS) also covers different aspects of the Building Blocks in its monitoring of the WASH enabling environment. In addition, the SWA partnership is gathering tools used by partners to analyse the Building Blocks and reinforce the application of the Collaborative Behaviours. The tools will be available through a portal in mid-2018.

What if your country does not have a profile yet?

The first round of monitoring has produced 37 country profiles, meaning about 25 SWA partner countries do not have a profile. This is due to the limitation of the data availability from the 2016/17 cycle of the GLAAS country survey. It is unlikely that new profiles will be prepared in 2018. However, this should not stop countries from having a dialogue to determine their current performance and agree their common vision and agenda. The SWA Collaborative Behaviour Indicators provide a solid basis for these dialogues.

If your country intends to undertake a review of adherence to the of the Collaborative Behaviours, please get in touch with the Secretariat who can provide you with the template containing the indicators. The template can be used for multi-stakeholder dialogues regarding the current practices, ways-of-working and the changes which can be made. In addition, the SWA Secretariat can also link you to other partners with relevant experience.

Countries which did not provide information to GLAAS, are strongly encouraged to do so in the next round, which will start in July 2018. Data obtained through GLAAS is vital to the preparation of the second round of profiles.

For more information

If you require further support on the SWA framework and particularly on applying the Collaborative Behaviours in your country, please visit the [SWA site](#) or email info@sanitationandwaterforall.org.