

This Strategy will guide the actions of Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) partners over a five-year period (2015-2020) in pursuit of their shared vision of universal access to sanitation, water and hygiene.

SWA is the global multistakeholder partnership for sanitation, water and hygiene, comprised of country governments, civil society organizations and development partners working together to catalyse political leadership and action, improve accountability and use scarce resources more effectively.

Vision

The vision of the SWA partners is:

Sanitation, hygiene and water for all, always and everywhere

All – focuses on the importance of universal access, of eliminating inequalities in access and in focusing on the most marginalized and vulnerable people;

Always – invokes the human right to safe water and sanitation in times of natural and man-made emergencies, and the requirement for sustained services;

Everywhere – reinforces “all”, as well as the need to ensure access to sanitation, water and hygiene at the household level and beyond.

Theory of Change

The SWA theory of change is built upon the premise that change happens when, influenced by compelling, evidence-based advocacy, **political will** for sanitation, water and hygiene is increased. Increased political will leads to vigorous **sector analysis and review**, which can form the basis for the development of clear **financing strategies and implementation plans, led by governments** and supported by all sector partners. This in turn will accelerate the development of strong **systems and adequate sector capacity**. When these building blocks are in place, the sector will benefit from both **increased resources** and **more effective use** of those resources, which in turn can further stimulate political will, as part of a ‘**virtuous cycle**’ of transformational change. In this way, sustainable sanitation, hygiene and water for all can be achieved.

This Strategy sets out how SWA employs the logic of the theory of change to pursue the vision that all partners share. The partnership has defined its role and purpose in support of realizing a global vision of universal access to safe water and sanitation, has set objectives, endorses behaviours and seeks to achieve target outcomes. The partners determine how to adapt their activities to contribute to the target outcomes.

Role and Purpose

Achieving universal sanitation, hygiene and water for all will require complementary and joint efforts. SWA provides a platform for multi-stakeholder intergovernmental dialogue and engagement by a large number of stakeholders, allowing the partnership to achieve outcomes that individual partners could not realize alone.

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. These efforts will be in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other relevant development policies and law.

The partnership will be a platform for political dialogue, coordinated action, advocacy, and follow-up and review on progress made towards the sanitation, water and hygiene-related targets of the SDGs. The partnership is not a provider of finance, an implementing agency, or a technical oversight body.

The partnership is open to all countries and organizations who share SWA's vision and seek to achieve its objectives.

Objectives

The SWA Strategy is grounded in the imperative to “put countries at the centre”, strengthening country processes, relying on evidence, and using advocacy to increase political will. Key to SWA's Strategy is the harmonization of efforts and inputs by development partners.

The objectives of SWA are to:

1. Increase political prioritization for sanitation, hygiene and water;
2. Strengthen government-led national processes;
3. Develop and use a strong evidence base to support good decision making;
4. Strengthen regional, national and local human and institutional capacities;
5. Follow-up and review progress achieved in implementing sanitation, water and hygiene targets of the SDGs.

In meeting the above objectives, SWA will contribute to the progressive elimination of inequalities by focusing on challenges affecting the most marginalized and hardest to reach.

Behaviours for Development Effectiveness

Drawing upon research findings, lessons from other sectors, and country experiences, the Partnership has identified four collaborative behaviours (for both development partners and governments), which are essential to ensuring that support to the WASH sector is effective, equitable and sustainable. The behaviours are:

1. Enhance government leadership of sector planning processes;
2. Strengthen and use country systems;
3. Use one information and mutual accountability platform built around a multistakeholder, government-led cycle of planning, monitoring and learning;
4. Build sustainable water and sanitation sector financing strategies that incorporate financial data on all 3Ts (taxes, tariffs and transfers), as well as estimates for non-tariff household expenditure.

Target Outcomes for the Sector and for the Partnership

SWA seeks to contribute to the following over-arching outcomes for the global water, sanitation and sanitation sector:

- WASH is widely recognized as a key component of human development, and built into the work of initiatives and partnerships in other thematic areas, to maximize impact;
- National plans are developed by governments, with multi-stakeholder engagement, reflecting appropriate priority for sanitation, water and hygiene and identifying sources of finance;
- All stakeholders adapt their approaches, systems and procedures to use country systems and to support strengthening of these systems;
- National plans include provisions for the identification of data gaps, collection and analysis of relevant data, particularly on service provision inequalities; and
- Monitoring at national, regional and global level helps external support agencies and countries determine who is unserved, pin-point vulnerable populations, understand ineffective and flawed practices, identify bottlenecks and formulate solutions.

In order to make these sector outcomes a reality, the Partnership will seek to achieve the following outcomes related to each of its Objectives:

Target Outcomes Related to Objective 1: Increase political prioritization

- Key policy and decision makers – including development partners – convene at a global level to assess sector progress, identify financing shortfalls, and agree necessary reforms.
- The WASH sector is collectively organized, and all stakeholders make harmonized inputs to achieve universal access and eliminate inequalities.

Target Outcomes Related to Objective 2: Strengthen government-led national processes

- Inputs to strengthen countries' national processes are harmonized.
- Partners align behind the SWA behaviours, and progressively improve the development effectiveness of the sector.
- Performance against SWA behaviours is measured, using appropriate indicators developed by the Partners, reported and analysed at a global level.
- All stakeholders agree upon a single information and mutual accountability platform which is mandated and convened by government.

Target Outcomes Related to Objective 3: Develop and use a strong evidence base to support good decision making

- Global monitoring demands are harmonized, and centred around strengthening and use of country results frameworks.
- Opportunities exist for south-south learning and exchange to establish an evidence base on best practice in strengthening country systems.

Target Outcomes Related to Objective 4: Strengthen regional, national and local human and institutional capacities.

- An efficient, responsive global platform is in place to generate synergies between national governments, regional organizations and development partners in order to build capacity.
- Regional and sub-regional partnerships are facilitated and strengthened.
- Learning and exchange between partners promotes understanding of development effectiveness and good practice, leading to improvements in the efficiency, effectiveness and economy of sector investment.
- Inputs to build capacity are prioritized by development partners, and harmonized.

Target Outcomes Related to Objective 5: Follow-up and review progress achieved in implementing sanitation, water and hygiene targets of the SDGs

- Government and development partners follow an inclusive and transparent process to establish and implement clear commitments to ensure delivery of universal access to sanitation, water and hygiene by 2030 and progressively eliminate inequalities in access. They articulate and share their commitments through the development of national strategies for sanitation, water and hygiene to be embedded in their country's national Sustainable Development Strategy.
- Bottlenecks to delivering universal access to WASH are identified and brought to the attention of decision makers at the highest levels.
- Progress in implementing the sanitation, water and hygiene SDG targets is assessed globally via an multi-stakeholder intergovernmental platform, with linkages to the water resource, health, nutrition and education sectors, for follow-up, review and dialogue, and further progress is catalysed.

The SWA Secretariat will facilitate a supportive framework of activities. These activities include facilitating an ongoing high-level dialogue among partners: biennial partnership Meeting, biennial Sector Ministers' meeting, biennial High Level Meeting, and regular meetings of the Steering Committee and Task Teams. These activities, and any others mandated by the Steering Committee, will be outlined in annual workplans presented to and approved by the Steering Committee.

The target outcomes are intended to inspire partners to take actions that are aligned with the efforts of other Partners, are focussed on the progressive elimination of inequalities by addressing the challenges affecting the most marginalized and hard to reach, are in line with the behaviours that reinforce development effectiveness and are coordinated with opportunities within the global development sector and the global sanitation, water and hygiene sector.

The activities needed to achieve SWA's objectives differ by partner, and partners will structure their actions in such a way as to support achievement of the target outcomes while still responding to their respective core mandates. Specific activities to be undertaken by partners to support the vision outlined in this Strategy will be discussed at the biennial SWA Partnership Meeting.

SWA will report on progress through its regular reporting mechanisms, including the Annual Report and reporting on progress against commitments made by partners.