



MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM

An analysis of commitments tabled by partners
from Latin America and the Caribbean

February 2024

MAM commitments in focus: *Latin America and Caribbean region*

SWA's [Mutual Accountability Mechanism \(MAM\)](#) is the only global accountability process in the sector that is dedicated to all stakeholders working together towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals' water and sanitation targets. Since the MAM was launched in 2018, over 430 global and national commitments have been tabled, with half of them coming from 55 national governments. Commitments are periodically monitored by partners. The first MAM Global Report (2021) can be found [here](#) and the next one will be published in 2024.

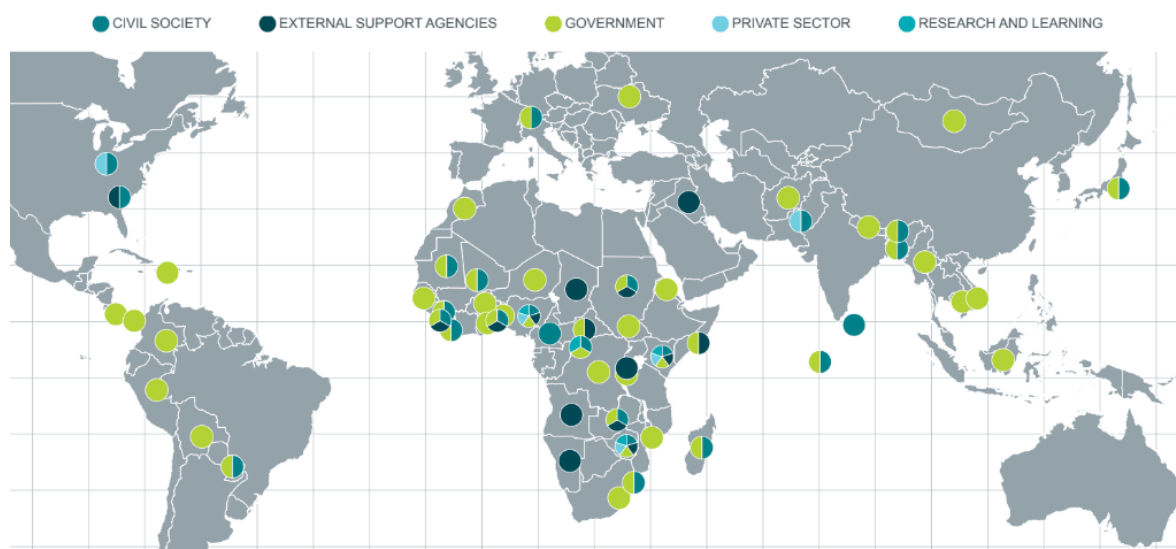
This analysis focuses on the national commitments tabled under the SWA Mutual Accountability Mechanism by governmental and non-governmental stakeholders from countries in the Latin America and Caribbean until February 2024.

Overview

- Partners from **7 LAC countries** have registered a total of **26 commitments** in the Mutual Accountability Mechanism: Colombia, Costa Rica, Haiti, Honduras, Panama and Paraguay.
- **All** commitments were submitted between **April 2019 and January 2020**, when the mechanism was launched.

Among the 26 existing commitments:

- **21** were submitted by **7 national governments**, and **5** were submitted by **civil society organizations**.
- So far, only Panama and Paraguay have **reported progress** on their commitments through the MAM platform.
- If compared with other regions, the number of commitments and progress reports submitted by stakeholders in the Latin America and Caribbean region is **low**.
- SWA urges partners and other relevant stakeholders in the Latin America and Caribbean to **engage** with the partnership and the Mutual Accountability Mechanism.
- Developing and monitoring commitments in a multi-stakeholder manner can contribute to promote a culture of **mutual accountability for action**, nationally and in the region, fostering sector coordination, performance, and systems strengthening.

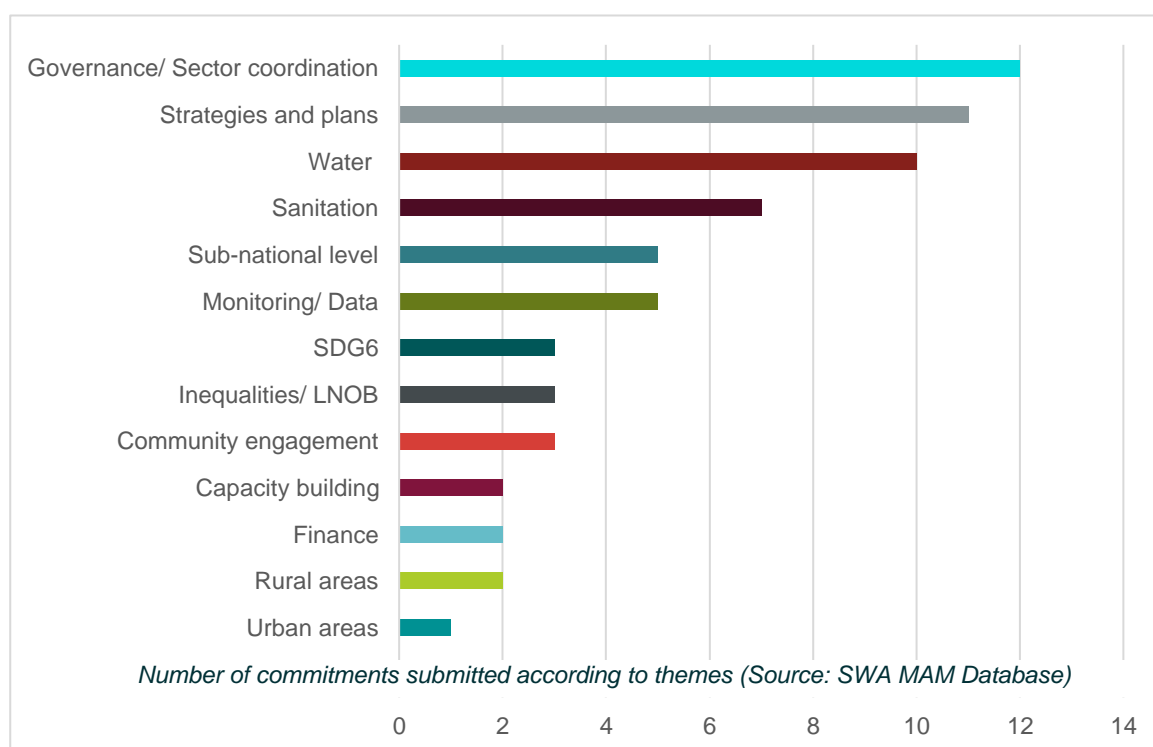


MAM Commitments made around the world, per constituency (Source: 2021 MAM Global Report)

Themes

SWA does not prescribe which specific areas or issues should be addressed by commitments tabled under the Mutual Accountability Mechanism. Nevertheless, partners are often guided by the SWA Strategy when defining commitments, with a view towards reflecting the priorities set globally at country level.

The graphic below shows the most common themes present in commitments tabled by partners in LAC. Please note that most commitments address more than one goal/ priority area.



Improving **governance and sector coordination** is the most prominent goal present in commitments made by partners in LAC (also the case for partners from Africa and Asia). Examples of such commitments include the ones registered by the governments of Costa Rica (*'Create, through an executive decree, a platform to facilitate dialogue and exchange, and to promote the integrated management of water resources, with the participation of all stakeholders'*), Haiti (*'Establish safe drinking water and sanitation services in municipalities through agreements between the regulator and the administrative bodies of municipalities'*), and Peru (*'Ensure sector actors are coordinated with service providers in urban and rural areas'*).

The development of **plans and strategies** for the delivery of water and sanitation services is the second most common objective present in commitments from LAC. For instance, Colombia has committed to *'Restructure and implement the National Programme for Rural Supply of Drinking Water and Basic Sanitation with tailored approaches and comprehensive solutions to deliver services to specific territories while involving the agriculture, health, energy and social inclusion sectors'*, while Paraguay has committed to *'Restructure, update and disseminate the National Plan for Drinking Water and Sanitation - PNAPS'*.

Commitments also focus on the **delivery** of **water** services, followed by a focus on **sanitation**, on policies and programmes to be implemented at the sub-national level, given the context of decentralization in many countries, and efforts to improve monitoring and data collection, which are key ingredients for the promotion of accountability.

It is worth noting that only two commitments (from the Government of Honduras) mention the reduction of **inequalities** in service delivery. Moreover, three commitments (tabled by the governments of Colombia, Panama and Peru) explicitly mention initiatives targeting **rural areas** – territories often 'left behind', preventing countries from achieving universal access to water and sanitation. Only one commitment, tabled by the civil society organization CEAMSO (Paraguay) focuses on advocating for the inclusion of **gender** in the sector's national plan.

Finance

Ahead of the **LAC Finance Ministers' Meeting** planned for 19 April 2024 in Washington D.C, it is strategic to highlight that only two commitments tabled under the Mutual Accountability Mechanism touch on the key subject of finance. They aim to 1. promote financing mechanisms to establishing a National Water and Sanitation Fund (Honduras) *'to ensure sufficient resources to meet the targets of SDG 6 and reduce inequalities'* and to 2. *'plan short- and medium-term investments at the national, regional and local levels'* (Peru).

An integral part of its strategic objectives, SWA rallies stakeholders to strengthen system performance and attract new investments by developing an efficient, credit-worthy sector; advocating for increased investment; supporting the development of national and sub-sector financing strategies; identifying new sources of finance and making existing sources more efficient; and expanding sector capacity.

The LAC Finance Ministers' Meeting provides a unique opportunity for sector ministries to use this momentum to encourage ministries of finance to commit to prioritizing water, sanitation and

hygiene through concrete pledges registered in the SWA Mutual Accountability Mechanism – a process that enables continuous monitoring.

Please reach out to the SWA Secretariat if your sector and/or finance ministry would like to showcase finance related commitments or report progress during the LAC FMM on 19 April in Washington, D.C. New commitments can also be uploaded using [this link](#).

Progress on commitments

Ahead of the publication of the [2021 MAM Global Report](#) and the [2022 Sector Ministers' Meeting](#), Paraguay and Panama reported progress on nine commitments tabled under the mechanism.

In Panama, commitments were tabled by both the Ministry of Health and the National Water Council. They aim to monitor the national policy, the National Plan for Water Security, and strengthen community-level water management. 'Some progress' was achieved in the first, and the latter commitments were reported as 'nearly fully achieved'.

In Paraguay, the Water and Sanitation Directorate of the Ministry of Public Works has 'nearly fully achieved' the commitment to complete implementation of the integrated water and sanitation systems of two major cities and made 'some progress' towards establishing new institutional arrangements, and in updating the national plan. The civil society organization CEAMSO has also reported progress in three commitments made in alignment with the government, in an important example of multi-stakeholder collaboration. CEAMSO made 'some progress' in supporting the production of data and information in a participatory manner, and in encouraging the inclusion of gender in the national plan and community water management. They have 'nearly fully achieved' the commitment to create spaces for multi-stakeholder dialogue.

Progress on existing commitments can be reported using [this link](#).