

About the SWA Mutual Accountability Mechanism





SWA and the SWA Framework

Achieving sanitation, hygiene and water for all, always and everywhere, requires coordinated collaborative action at global, national and sub-national levels. This action should happen within and outside the sector. Moreover, none of the SDGs can be achieved without universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene, captured in SDG Goal 6. To answer this call for joint action, the Sanitation and Water for All global partnership was created in 2010. Occupying a unique place in the WASH landscape, the SWA provides a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue, accountability and engagement between different actors, allowing the partnership to reach goals that individual partners would not achieve alone.

The SWA has today grown to over 200 partners, of which more than a third are governments. The partnership also has significant representation from other constituencies such as the civil society and private sector organizations, UN agencies, research and learning institutions, bilateral and multilateral donors, and development banks.

About the SWA Framework

Since the inception of SWA, partners have been working together to improve the effectiveness of collaboration in the sector. The result is the SWA Framework. It is composed of three interlinked elements that embody the values partners share, their common understanding of the sector, what the sector needs to succeed, and how to meet these needs through collaborative action. The Framework is anchored in the SWA Mutual Accountability Mechanism, which empowers partners to hold each other globally accountable for progress towards the SDG targets, as well as reinforcing country-level multi-stakeholder planning and review processes.

The three elements of the Framework are the Guiding Principles, the Building Blocks and the Collaborative Behaviours.

The Seven Guiding Principles. The SWA Partnership was established through agreement on a set of core values that would guide the Partnership throughout its life, irrespective of changes in its goals, strategies, type of work, or leadership. These Guiding Principles are thus what all partners have in common; to formally become part of SWA, all organizations must agree to follow them. They are also the basis of all SWA activities and initiatives.

The Five Building Blocks. These capture the key elements that the sector must have in place to be able to deliver sustainable services and progressively eliminate inequalities in access. The governments lead in ensuring that the Building Blocks are functioning, and are given the necessary attention according to country priorities. SWA provides a platform for governments to coordinate support from development partners around the Building Blocks, as well as opportunities to learn and exchange with other governments around the world and among partners.

The Four Collaborative Behaviours. To achieve universal access, it will be critical for partners to adopt ways of working that are aligned with the Guiding Principles and support the improvement of sector performance and sustainability. The Collaborative Behaviours capture the ways of working needed to ensure effective development cooperation in the WASH sector. They reinforce collaboration, alignment and efficiency and, if jointly adopted by governments and development partners, will strengthen country capacity to deliver and sustain services.

The Mutual Accountability Mechanism in the SWA Framework

Accountability is central to the Sanitation and Water for All global partnership. It is specifically mentioned in all three aspects of SWA's framework, as a Guiding Principle (Transparency and Accountability) as a Collaborative Behaviour (Use one information and mutual accountability platform) as well as being at the heart of one of the Building Blocks (Planning, monitoring, and review). This consideration of accountability as a principle, a behaviour as well as a key area for action has been translated into the Mutual Accountability Mechanism as a tool to hold SWA partners to account for progress in achieving what the SWA framework espouses.

The Sustainable Development Goals require that governments engage with all actors through participatory multi-stakeholder processes, and that they demonstrate accountability in the decisions that they are taking in ensuring universal access to water and sanitation services, leaving no-one behind. At the same time, development partners are required to align behind government leadership, and must be held accountable for their own contributions to sector progress. SWA's Mutual Accountability Mechanism is designed to respond to these obligations of participation and accountability.

What does the Mutual Accountability Mechanism entail?

The SWA partnership expects all SWA partners to collaborate in the making of Commitments for the Mutual Accountability Mechanism, to be presented and reported on at High-level Meetings. It is important that the identification of commitments supports and strengthens country planning and review processes by ensuring that commitments be drawn from the plans, strategies, targets and milestones that are developed by governments and other stakeholders, within the existing government timeframes.

These commitments are presented and discussed at regional and global high-level meetings, and are also reported on through these forums. The commitments will also be presented on a dedicated webpage on the SWA website.

SWA Framework

THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The *values* partners have in common and that guide all joint action.



Multi-stakeholders efforts



Sustainability of service and actions



Leaving no-one behind



Transparency and accountability



Evidence-based decision-making



Human Rights to water and sanitation



International collaboration and aid effectiveness

THE COLLABORATIVE BEHAVIOURS

How partners work together to put in place the Building Blocks.



Enhance government leadership of sector planning processes



Strengthen and use country systems



Use one information and mutual accountability platform



Build sustainable water and sanitation sector financing strategies

THE BUILDING BLOCKS

What partners are jointly putting in place to achieve an effective sector.



Sector Policy / Strategy



Institutional arrangements



Sector Financing



Planning, monitoring, and review



Capacity development

THE ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM

Joint initiative that grounds the Framework in specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and timely actions.

It re-enforces multi-stakeholder decision-making and mutual accountability among partners at national, regional and global level.



Integrating the Mutual Accountability Mechanism into national processes

Through government-led, multi-stakeholder national planning, monitoring and review processes, governments and other stakeholders define their short-medium- and long-term strategies to overcome existing bottlenecks and challenges and to achieve the WASH-related targets of the SDGs.

The timeline below shows a typical planning and review cycle. This may be anything from a one-year to a five-year cycle.

SWA promotes government-led multi-stakeholder processes for each of the phases of the planning and review cycle. In this diagram, we map the Mutual Accountability Mechanism onto the national planning and review processes to illustrate how the Mutual Accountability Mechanism can support national processes.

NATIONAL PLANNING AND REVIEW PROCESSES

This phase must be multi-stakeholder and participatory in nature. Besides the technical assessment (of the services, infrastructure, actors, and finances), it must analyse existing legislation and policies that impact on the sector and existing bottlenecks. Relevant tools: WASH BAT; GLAAS; Collaborative Behaviours Country Profiles

Key to the planning process is prioritisation of activities, using the SWA framework to identify appropriate targets. Special attention must be paid to the WASH-related targets of the SDGs, and how the country aims to achieve these by 2030. Relevant processes: National dialogues e.g. Joint Sector Reviews; Coordination meetings

Once the activities have been agreed upon, governments who is responsible for implementing these, which institutions are required, what funding is required and identifying where this come from and what other stakeholders' responsibilities are in achieving the targets. Relevant processes: National dialogues e.g. Joint Sector Reviews; Coordination meetings

Assessment and Analysis

Planning and setting targets

Defining roles and responsibilities

Define commitments: Each country selects two or three specific actions or strategies (Commitments) from the targets that a country would like to present globally. They may address issues that have come up in the planning or review process, and may respond to specific aspects of the SDGs or the SWA framework of guiding principles, collaborative behaviours and building blocks. Of special relevance are issues where the global perspective and visibility offered by discussions at SWA global meetings could be particularly helpful to national processes. Commitments should be SMART*, such that progress towards their achievement can be monitored.

* Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time bound

Constituency commitments: All SWA partners working in a particular country should collectively agree on these country commitments, and will be expected to be able to report on their contributions to achieving them. The country commitments will translate into, and be complemented with related commitments from the other SWA constituencies - external support agencies, CSOs, private sector and research and learning institutions.

SWA MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM PROCESSES

Government-led implementation of the plans and reforms to achieve the targets, with each stakeholder playing their part.
Relevant processes:
See SWA Tools Portal for relevant tools

Ongoing multi-stakeholder process of monitoring and evaluation of the extent to which the plans have achieved the targets, what is working, and what needs to be done differently.
Relevant processes: Information platforms (e.g. MIS) & linking evidence to decision making.
Update progress

Using the evidence from the previous steps to inform decision-making and to identify areas for reform in the next iteration of the cycle.

Implementation

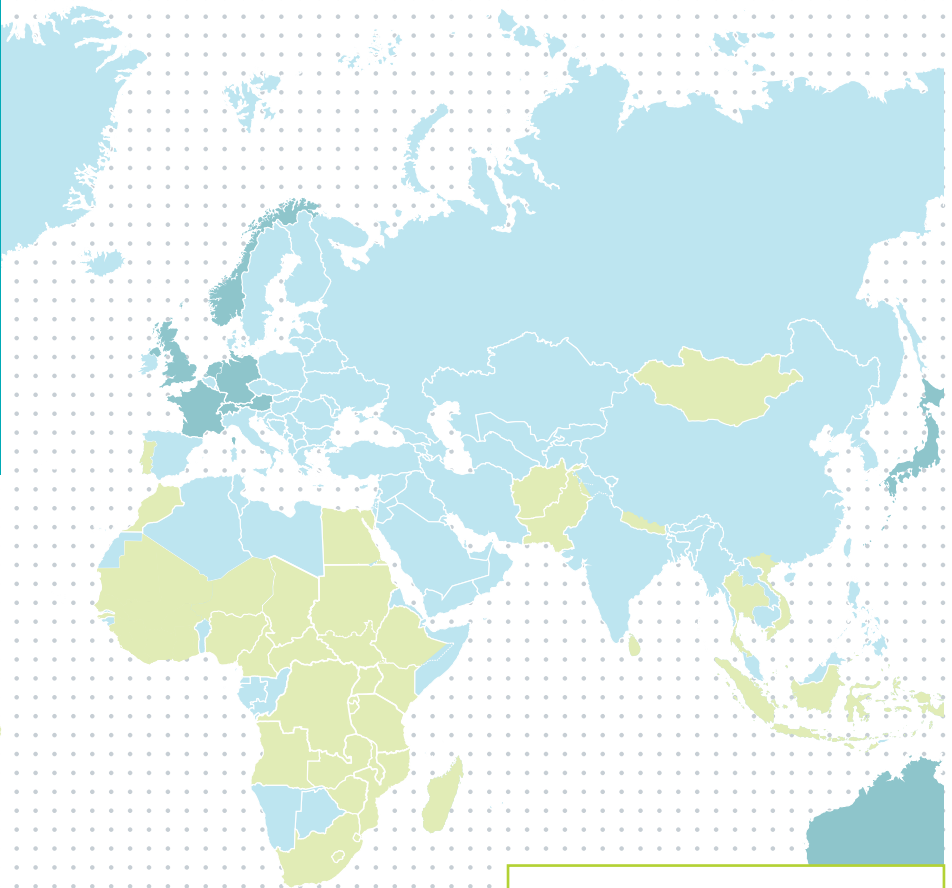
Monitoring

Assessment and analysis

Monitoring: Assessing the extent to which the commitment has been met will be part of existing government-led multi-stakeholder reviews (such as Joint Sector Reviews) and other national and global monitoring processes.



How different actors engage with the Mutual Accountability Mechanism



RESEARCH AND LEARNING INSTITUTIONS

Where there are nationally-based SWA Research and Learning partners, these should collaborate to identify how they can best support the country partner in realising the commitments made. This may be by providing research or monitoring support. Research and Learning Institutions may also wish to present this in the form of a commitment.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

SWA partners, such as external support agencies or research and learning institutions, that work in multiple countries are also encouraged to make global commitments, that will drive their engagement across all the countries where they work, as well as commitments that align with or are integrated into country commitments. The international level commitments may align with international SDG priorities, such as Leave No-one Behind.

PRIVATE SECTOR

Where there are nationally-based SWA private sector partners, these should collaborate to identify where the private sector can contribute to the achievement of the country commitments. This could be, for example, complementing and completing provision in areas that are underserved by public infrastructure.

EXTERNAL SUPPORT AGENCIES

External support agencies, such as donors, development banks and international organisations play many roles in supporting governments to achieve their plans of action. Their commitments should highlight the progressive implementation of Collaborative Behaviours, and must align with the national plans of action.

COUNTRY PARTNERS

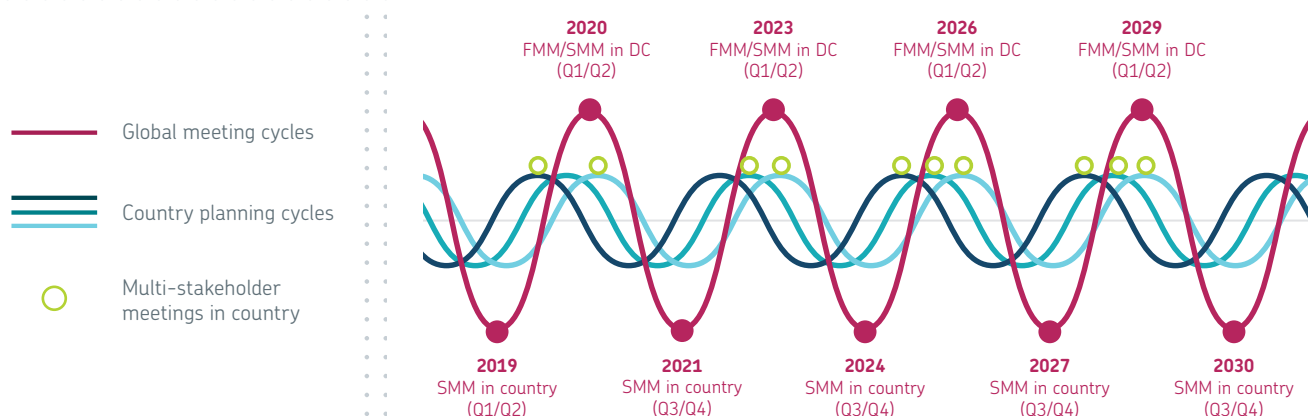
SWA country partners take the lead in the national planning processes, and in prioritising areas for action. They are also responsible for taking the lead in identifying the implementing overarching country commitments, developed from priorities set in the target-setting phase. Country governments will be asked to present their commitments to the next High-level Meeting, and to report on them at future High-level Meetings.

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Civil society organisations should be fully involved in national multi-stakeholder planning and review processes, and contribute to the commitments by discussing how they will support the country-level commitments. Civil society should also identify ways to adapt their own behaviours to strengthen country capacity to deliver and sustain services. SWA encourages collaboration with as wide a range of other CSOs as possible, including those that are not directly SWA partners.

Cycle of meetings

Sector Ministers' meetings take place every eighteen months. They will be held in April in 2020, 2023, 2026 and 2029 in Washington DC, together with a Finance Ministers Meeting. They will be hosted by an SWA country partner in the second half of 2021, 2024, 2027 and 2030.



The Mutual Accountability Mechanism at Sector Ministers' Meetings

SWA's global Sector Ministers' Meetings provide an opportunity to strengthen mutual accountability for progress towards national plans and processes; for all SWA partners to present and report on their own commitments and to learn from others' priorities and activities. As every country has its own processes and timeframes, the SWA Mutual Accountability Mechanism must allow for SWA partners to present and review their Commitments at the global meeting that is most appropriate to them with the aim of having partners presenting within a 2-3 year cycle. The next Sector Ministers' Meeting is planned for early 2019. For more information see SWA's website.

The Mutual Accountability Mechanism at regional meetings

SWA will make use of the opportunities provided by regional sector meetings such as SACOSan, LatinoSan and Africa Water Week to table and report on commitments, discuss bottlenecks to progress, share learning and good practice.

Mutual Accountability Mechanism global report

Every three years the SWA Secretariat will produce a global report on the progress reflected by the Mutual Accountability Mechanism, and on the extent to which partners have achieved the commitments made in the previous three years. Other tools such as JMP, the GLAAS report and SWA's Collaborative Behaviours Country Profiles will provide important input. This will provide an opportunity for analysis of successes and continuing challenges. There will also be a dedicated webpage for countries to upload both their commitments and their progress towards meeting the commitments.

How does SWA mutual accountability mechanism support UN processes?

The SWA platform contributes to the realisation of the internationally-agreed SDGs, notably by helping countries strengthen the sector Building Blocks and adopt Collaborative Behaviours. The Mutual Accountability Mechanism supports partner countries in tracking progress towards the WASH related targets of the SDGs and provides the necessary information for countries preparing their Voluntary National Reviews for the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

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