

Introduction

Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) will be convening the second global High Level Meeting in April 2012 just prior to the World Bank Spring Meetings, in Washington DC. With 2.6 billion people lacking adequate sanitation, including 1.1 billion people who practice open defecation, sanitation, as well as drinking water, should be prioritized and resources targeted to ensure everyone has access to at least basic services. The first High Level Meeting in April 2010 led to increased prioritization and budget allocations in many countries and stimulated dialogue between Ministers of Finance and Water/Sanitation.

Attendees

The biennial SWA High Level Meeting brings together Ministers of Finance from developing countries and Ministers of Development Cooperation from donor countries.

In terms of which developing countries would attend, the High Level Meeting will aim to include developing countries that all into one or more of the following categories:

- 2010 High Level Meeting attendees
- Current SWA Partners
- Non-SWA fragile, post-conflict, least developed or low-income countries that are off-track to achieve the water and/or sanitation Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) targets
- Selected politically-influential, middle-income countries with large numbers of unserved people.

Meeting Objectives

Prioritization and resource allocations are often made by Ministers of Finance. Ministers of Finance oversee national budgets and also set aid priorities with donors. The SWA High Level Meeting brings together Ministers of Finance from developing countries and Ministers of Development Cooperation from donor countries to:

- Target resources: Review progress on improvements to target resources to the unserved and identify steps to improve the use of existing funds and mobilize new resources.
- Raise the profile of sanitation: Bring global attention to bear on the lack of access to sanitation, as well as drinking water, as a fundamental obstacle to accelerated economic growth and improved health.
- Increase political will: Demonstrate political and financial commitment to the sanitation and water sector on the part of Ministers of Finance and Ministers of Development Cooperation.
- Improve understanding of impact: Build an appreciation among Ministers of Finance of the economic impacts of water and sanitation, both negative (from lack of access) and positive (when access is achieved).
- Increase donor engagement: Engage donors at the highest level to ensure that aid is flowing to the countries and people who are most in need.
- Strengthen accountability: Returning attendees from the 2010 High Level Meeting demonstrate how they have met their 2010 commitments to improve prioritization and targeting of resources for sanitation and water.

Desired Results

The Meeting would result in a set of specific actions to redouble efforts to invest in effective best practices to scale up sustainable access to sanitation and water.

Each meeting participant will table a specific set of commitments to address improving access to sanitation and drinking water, specifically focusing on:

- Increasing political prioritization of sanitation and drinking water:
 - o Country examples: Presidential, cabinet or ministerial statements giving priority to the sector; ensuring clear institutional responsibility for sanitation within the government, attend the SWA High Level Meeting.
 - o Donor examples: Development ministers statements and aid strategies giving priority to the sector, attend the SWA High Level Meeting.
- Improving targeting of funds to where they are most needed:
 - o Country examples: Sector budget increases, disaggregated budget lines for sanitation and water, criteria for targeting resources to neglected areas.
 - o Donor examples: Aid targeted to basic services for unserved people and low-income countries, increased investment in the sector.
- Improving research, monitoring and evaluation to strengthen the evidence available to enable better decision-making:
 - o Country examples: Improved systems for sector monitoring, better data collection, greater transparency with service information.
 - o Donor examples: Participation in the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS), support for government monitoring systems, support for global monitoring mechanisms.
- Strengthening of planning and human resources capacity to increase absorptive capacity to scale up implementation and sustain services:
 - o Country examples: Better sector coordination, joint sector reviews, innovative ways to increase capacity.
 - o Donor examples: Developing bilateral agreements to develop actionable plans and build capacity, aligned behind country leadership, funding for strengthened national planning, including SWA's National Planning for Results Initiative.

Theme

The 2012 High Level Meeting will focus on the significant economic gains that can be realized from investing in water and sanitation and the costs of failing to invest. Access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation:

- *Increases economic benefits:* Available estimates suggest that for every \$1 invested in water, sanitation and hygiene programmes; economic returns on investment are at least \$8.
- *Reduces economic losses:* The World Bank estimates the annual economic impact of lost time and health due to poor sanitation in 14 African countries to be from 0.9% to 2.4% of GDP. Factoring in time and health as well as tourism and water impacts, the annual economic impact of poor sanitation is around 6.4% of GDP in India and 5.6% of GDP in Lao PDR.
- *Reduces health care costs:* The evidence indicates there is no single development intervention that brings greater public health returns than investments in water and sanitation.

- *Increases hours available for school or income-generating activities:* Meeting the sanitation MDG target would add more than almost 200 million days of school attendance per year and 3 billion working days a year worldwide. Universal coverage would add more than 12 billion working days a year worldwide.
- *Builds markets:* People are willing to pay for sanitation and water services. Meeting the growing demand for sanitation, in particular, represents an untapped market.

The discussion will draw on the publication of new research on the economics of water and sanitation, as well as several country studies, expected to be out by the end of 2011. The selection of this theme seeks to draw the interest and participation from Ministers of Development Cooperation and Ministers of Finance.

Incentives to Attend

Four key elements will be put in place as incentives for high-level attendance:

1. A top-level meeting Chair,
2. Significant political engagement and high-level attendance from at least two large donors,
3. High-level attendance from at least one middle-income country, and
4. A strong preparatory process in off-track countries, based on a dialogue between finance and sector ministries, and specific and new country-level commitments.

Meeting Time and Location

The High Level Meeting will be held on the Friday afternoon before the weekend World Bank Spring Meetings in April 2012 (Spring Meetings date TBA). The aim is to have the meeting at the World Bank.

Meeting Chair and Host

The High Level Meeting will be chaired by a highly respected global figure. UNICEF will convene the High Level Meeting.

Meeting Structure

The meeting will be three hours long. The first hour will set the stage. The Chair as well as UNICEF and the World Bank will make brief opening remarks (approximately 3 minutes each). Following the opening remarks, in order to set the context and provide important information to the high-level audience, one to two illustrious speakers will be identified to present on topics such as global vision and important examples of success. A brief presentation will also be made of the latest global evidence from the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment on Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS).

The main focus of the meeting, for the next two hours, will be the interventions of the Finance and Development Cooperation Ministers on the issues that they face, the solutions they bring – both in terms of actions which each can undertake themselves as well as proposals around how to best work with the counterparts around the table. The Meeting Chair will facilitate the discussion and provide concluding remarks.

Donors Preparatory Process

The donor preparatory process began in Stockholm in August 2011. Donor representatives, from both SWA and non-SWA donors met to discuss what donors can offer and how to work towards Ministerial level attendance at the High Level Meeting. The donor preparatory process will have three key aspects:

1. Donors will use upcoming sector and non-sector meetings (see Political Opportunity section below) to further their coordination and dialogue and ultimately work towards improved harmonization and alignment behind country-led processes.
2. Civil society will work to engage donors domestically, regionally and globally.
3. SWA Partners will work to engage donors at the OECD Busan meeting in November.

In terms of guiding a coordinated donor response at the High Level Meeting, a set of standard questions around key issues will be posed and donors will be asked to respond specifically. Questions will focus on issues such as targeting of aid to basic services, support for the development of evidence, and implementation of the Paris Declaration principles such as support country-led processes, alignment, harmonization, etc.

SWA donors will also work to identify one or two Ministerial-level champions who will work to engage their counterparts to attend the High Level Meeting.

Developing Country Preparatory Process

In 2010, following initial introductory meetings, twenty countries conducted intensive country-level preparations for the High Level Meeting. Often, several SWA Partners worked together to first engage the Minister or Ministers responsible for water and/or sanitation, and then an approach was made to engage the Finance Minister to both attend the High Level Meeting and commit to a set of concrete actions articulated in a Statement to the Meeting. Many countries included significant new commitments and most report, in 2011, closer and more productive working relationships with Finance or Planning Ministry colleagues.

As the preparatory process for the 2010 High Level Meeting, was generally well-received, a similar process will be conducted from late 2011 to early 2012. The preparatory process for the three groups of developing countries (returning 2010 attendees, SWA Partner/non-2010 attendees, and non-SWA Partner/non-2010 attendee) will be slightly different and the details will be developed as interest is expressed by each country.

Step 1: Developing interest from countries (August-November)

The SWA Secretariat will provide comprehensive information on SWA, the High Level Meeting and the High Level Meeting Preparatory process and engage SWA Partners in early consultations

- Basic explanatory info: including purpose, time and location, description of process and linkage to broader partnership and partnership activities.
- Results from 2010 High Level Meeting: Simple, accessible communications material outlining concrete results from High Level Meeting (resulting from current survey on status of implementation of commitments and ranking of impact that the High Level Meeting had on each commitment).

- Determine structure of Preparatory Meetings: Mix of regional, sub-regional and country level prep meetings according to country desire and SWA human resources availability – including identification of Partners to attend each.

Step 2: Country Preparatory Process (October-March)

Approximately 50-60 countries will conduct High Level Meeting preparatory processes. Initial country-level workshop designs, aligned with GLAAS survey preparations, will kick-off the preparatory process.

- Initial High Level Meeting Preparatory Workshops, to be held in October-December, will be supported by the SWA Secretariat and focus on:
 - Consultations with government officials on what they need in terms of guidance and support and what they want out of the 2012 High Level Meeting,
 - Explaining the linkage with the GLAAS survey and response, and
 - Multi-stakeholder consultation, with key involvement from civil society, on drafting of key steps needed.
- Following initial workshops, stakeholders review existing commitments, resource allocations, institutional structures/roles and current planning/systems – using the GLAAS survey and response as a key tool – and identify key steps to progress. This review will follow existing sector review processes where timelines allow and work to strengthen sustained reviews where sector reviews are nascent. Sector Ministers would be engaged throughout this review.
- Identify action points to take forward with the Ministry of Finance (and/or Planning).
- Obtain agreement from the Finance Minister (or Planning Minister as relevant) to attend the High Level Meeting in April. (November-January).
- Draft specific commitments around a guidance note similar to that provided in 2010 to ensure consistency of focus amongst countries.
- Attend and announce commitments publicly and hold dialogue amongst countries and donors to align and support efforts, and to monitor and report progress.

As SWA matures, this process becomes more seamless across biennial High Level Meeting and is integrated into existing, and where needed, strengthened country planning processes.

Possible Additional Step: Sector Ministers' Statement

Sector Ministers may draft a Sector Ministers Statement to be tabled at the High Level Meeting - similar to the one drafted in 2010 from the attending sector Ministers and read at the Meeting by the AMCOW Chair. If Ministers attend the World Water Forum in March, a meeting could be held to draft this statement of key action points and targets.

Step 3: The SWA Secretariat Role (August 2011- April 2012)

The SWA Secretariat will be a resource for the preparatory process by providing:

- Global coordination and identify areas for cross-country sharing of High Level Meeting preparation experience,
- Preparatory process guidance,
- Advocacy material:
 - Economic case document (developing a revised template from the 2010 Case, using improved evidence available at the end of 2011),

- Basic Country Profiles (drawing largely on JMP, GLAAS, CSO and augmented by information available at country-level).

The SWA Secretariat will also lead the design of the High Level Meeting.

Step 4: Submission of Statements

Attendees will submit Statements of Commitment to the SWA Secretariat for compilation and circulation by 1 April 2012.

Step 5: Ministerial Briefing Packets

The SWA Secretariat will produce briefing packets for the High Level Meeting and circulate to attendees by 10 April 2012.

Step 6: High Level Meeting (~20 April 2012)

Ministers of Finance, with Sector Ministers, attend the High Level Meeting held on the Friday afternoon before the World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington DC (where Ministers of Finance and Ministers of Development Cooperation traditionally attend annually).

Political Opportunity

There are several important global meetings in 2011 and 2012 on which it will be important to build momentum and enthusiasm for the High Level Meeting. Events at which SWA should have a presence and seek to encourage participation at the High Level Meeting include:

- Bonn, Green Growth dialogue, November 2011 – focusing on a) how SWA positions within growth scenarios and b) broaden European support for SWA.
- Kuala Lumpur, IWA November 2011 – brief the broad professional water sector community.
- Busan, Korea, Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4), November 2012: Many donor Ministers will attend the HLF-4 and therefore this meeting is an opportunity to engage donors at the highest level. SWA should work to ensure its activities are highlighted as good examples of implementing aid-effectiveness principles.
- Marseilles, World Water Forum, March 2012: If sector Ministers from developing countries attend WWF, there could be a preparatory session to bring a common position of sector Ministers to the High Level Meeting, similar to the statement which was developed April 22 in 2010 and read by the AMCOW Chair at the 2010 Meeting. Also, France is putting significant resources, including political resources, into WWF and this could be an important catalyst of donors.
- Rio, Rio +20: UN Conference on Sustainable Development, June 2012: The Rio Conference is approximately a month after the High Level Meeting. SWA should work to ensure that countries (both donor and developing country) bring the prioritization and actions from the High Level Meeting into the Rio+20 deliberations and outcomes.