

Sanitation and Water for All – A Global Framework for Action
Guiding Principles

Sanitation and Water for All is a global partnership between developing countries, donors, multi-lateral agencies, civil society and other development partners working together to achieve universal and sustainable access to sanitation and drinking water, with an immediate focus on achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the most off-track countries. Recognizing that countries and organizations around the world achieve more by working together, it is a transparent, accountable and results-oriented framework for action that provides a common vision, values and principles.

Recognising that:

1. Universal access to sanitation and drinking water fundamentally underpins economic growth, human security and all aspects of social development, especially health.
2. Sanitation and drinking water underlie achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals.
3. Political prioritisation, comprehensive planning frameworks and evidence-based decision making are essential factors to achieve universal access to sanitation and drinking water.
4. A high degree of political as well as environmental uncertainty, in particular from climate change, places rigorous demands on Sanitation and Water for All to be both flexible and adaptive in its operations and initiatives.

The following principles guide the Partnerships efforts:

1. All stakeholders have important and relevant contributions to make – including governments, multilateral and intergovernmental organisations, development banks, civil society organisations and the people using services.
2. Sustainability of services should guide all strategies and actions to improve access to sanitation and drinking water.
3. The cross-cutting nature of sanitation and water necessitates effective collaboration and joint working across relevant government ministries, donor and non-governmental agencies and other key institutions.
4. Targeting the unserved and maintaining existing services should take precedence over improving services for the already served.
5. Particular support is needed to address those countries and contexts that are most off-track for reaching the MDG target on sanitation and water, such as access inequalities for rural, poor and internally marginalized populations. Such sustained support will ensure that countries genuinely committed to sanitation and water for all will be afforded the chance to implement national plans and achieve their sanitation and water targets
6. Knowledge and evidence must be sought and transparently shared to inform policy-making and action at all levels.

7. Aid effectiveness commitments must be implemented to achieve sanitation and water for all, in line with the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action commitments on country ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results, mutual accountability, predictability, country systems, conditionality, and untying aid.
8. Prior commitments by donors and developing countries serve as a strong foundation to increase access to sanitation and drinking water and for improving aid effectiveness. These commitments should continue to be translated into action and results.
9. The Sanitation and Water for All should build on and support existing country and regional institutions, processes and sector networks.
10. Sector engagement in fragile states and situations should be guided by OECD-DAC Principles of Good International Engagement In Fragile States and Situations in those contexts.