About SWA and the 2014 Annual Report

SWA is a global partnership of over 90 developing country governments, donors, development banks, civil society organizations and other development partners working together to catalyse political leadership and action, improve accountability and use scarce resources more effectively. Partners work towards a common vision of universal access to safe water and adequate sanitation. Recognizing that countries and organizations achieve more by working together, SWA provides a transparent, accountable and results-oriented framework for action based on common values and principles.

This Annual Report contains an overview of SWA’s performance throughout 2014, including financial statements that have been reviewed by UNICEF and UNOPS. Its purpose is to inform SWA partners and donors, the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector and the wider development community about the work and achievements of the partnership. The contents reflect the views of, and are endorsed by, the SWA Steering Committee, which has actively participated in their preparation.

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2014 Highlights

Twenty-one ministers of finance, 35 ministers responsible for water and sanitation and sixteen donors and development banks, attended the third SWA High Level Meeting to discuss their priorities and strategies for reaching universal access to sanitation and water. Together, partners made over 370 specific new commitments aimed at increasing the amount and improving the use of financial resources, reducing inequalities in access and improving the sustainability of delivery of WASH services, building the capacity of institutions charged with delivering WASH services, and coordinating resources more effectively.

An internal review process of the High Level Commitments Dialogue (HLCD) concluded that partners perceive that the HLCD created higher visibility for WASH, and improved high-level prioritization and better coordination across the different constituencies in many countries.

Catarina de Albuquerque, former UN Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, joined SWA as Executive Chair, taking over from Darren Saywell, of Plan International.

An external Review indicated that SWA has developed into a key global partnership in the WASH sector. Positive attributes highlighted by interviewees include SWA’s concerted efforts to promote coordination and collaboration in the sector, and its ability to bring together a wide range of different sector players due to its multi-actor partnership nature.

Between them, Country Processes Task Team (CPTT) members are conducting ongoing research into strengthening country processes in ten countries. There is a large degree of convergence across the case studies, and their findings have helped the CPTT identify key areas where work is needed to strengthen sector performance, and build consensus around what a viable, high-performing WASH sector looks like.
Message from the SWA Chair

2014 has been an exceptional year for the SWA partnership. When I accepted the invitation to be the first Chair of SWA, my mandate was to support partners to increase the political profile of sanitation and water. On 11 April 2014 I had the privilege to share a podium with the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and the President of the World Bank, Jim Yong Kim at the opening of the third Sanitation and Water for All High-Level Meeting (HLM).

Seeing the heads of the world’s most influential multilateral agencies personally make the case to ministers of finance for a significant increase in investment in water and sanitation was a personal highlight. The commitments made that day - if implemented - will affect the lives of well over half a billion people, largely the poorest and most marginalized. Even more lives will be improved if this momentum is carried forward. Listening to countries’ evidence of what can be done when all parties choose to come together behind our common cause indicated how far the partnership has come in five years.

I draw four central lessons from the year: firstly, the success of the 2014 HLM shows that the case for increasing investment has been accepted at the highest levels. Now the challenge is to build the systems that can absorb and generate the investment needed, and also manage the services needed.

Secondly, in the final countdown to endorse a new global framework for sustainable development beyond 2015, our success clearly indicates that countries must lead completion of the task of reaching universal access to safe water and sanitation. The new services will be built and owned by country governments; and countries should continue to be the most significant voices in our partnership. In recognition of this, I ask my colleagues and leaders around the world to endorse a goal in the post-2015 framework in which water, sanitation and hygiene are clearly prescribed.

Thirdly, in celebrating our successes in 2014, we must also take a hard look at our governance to ensure it keeps pace with our growth and the expansion of our vision. The strategic decisions of this fast-growing partnership require higher-level engagement and the capacity to respond to a larger audience. The partnership must continue to welcome all parties to support our common cause and build mutual accountability for success. The partnership for the future will be led not only by low-income countries that need rapid investment, but also richer countries that still have significant numbers of unserved or underserved. As we focus on large-scale implementation, our partnership with people who make things happen on the ground, including the private sector, will grow.

Fourthly, we all need to deliver on our commitments. Accountability and monitoring build Sanitation and Water for All’s credibility, both internally and externally. Selecting the right commitments and delivering them is what will determine how fast we can travel towards our goal.

My tenure as Chair of the partnership comes to an end in 2015 and I want to thank all partners for your support. The progress we have made has exceeded all ambitions.

To echo the comments I made at the close of the 2014 HLM, let us all continue in this work with real commitment and action, so that our name becomes our achievement: Sanitation and Water for All.

John A. Kufuor
SWA Chair
Foreword from the SWA Executive Chair

When SWA began only five years ago, the sanitation, water and hygiene sector gained a unique partnership that has since left a mark on the global political landscape. Sanitation, water and hygiene have gained a higher profile, and the achievements in the sector are encouraging. In 2014, SWA brought together an unprecedented number of world leaders who tabled 370 new and concrete commitments to achieve sustainable sanitation, better hygiene and safe drinking water for all, while putting an end to inequalities in access. Encouragingly, early indicators are already showing clear advances in achieving these commitments.

As I take up my new role as Executive Chair, I want to thank my predecessor Darren Saywell for his outstanding leadership in bringing us to this point. I am aware that the work done over the past years will pave the way for more change, greater influence and bigger impact in the future. With this in mind, this Annual Report outlines 2014 activities, but it also clearly shows a partnership preparing actively for the times ahead.

It is both exciting and challenging to join SWA at this moment. As the famous quote goes, we are standing on the shoulders of giants. With the evolution of the post-2015 framework, we also have ahead of us the most decisive years for international development and the WASH sector since the creation of the Millennium Development Goals 15 years ago.

In the months ahead I will follow the lead of the Roman god Janus: I will look inside and outside; I will focus on the present, but also on the future. Accordingly, I will support our partners in joining forces to shape the post-2015 process and give WASH the place it deserves in the global fight for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty.

Looking inside the partnership, I am inspired by the United Nations Secretary-General’s words, “A new era demands a new vision”. Accordingly, I will enthusiastically participate in SWA’s work to design an ambitious strategy and governance structure that will equip the partnership to evolve and meet the challenges of the years ahead.

I wish you all happy reading,
Catarina de Albuquerque
SWA Executive Chair

“In 2014, SWA brought together an unprecedented number of world leaders who tabled 370 new and concrete commitments to achieve sustainable sanitation, better hygiene and safe drinking water for all, while putting an end to inequalities in access.”
The 2014 SWA High Level Meeting took place in Washington DC, USA, on 11 April 2014, hosted by the World Bank and convened by UNICEF on behalf of the partnership. Twenty-one ministers of finance and 35 ministers responsible for water and sanitation, including several ministers of health, attended, representing a higher level of participation than at any of the previous High Level Meetings. Sixteen donors and development banks took part, six of them at the level of minister or head of agency. Senior representatives of civil society and the UN also participated.

The meeting was opened by SWA Chair H.E. John A. Kufuor, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and the President of the World Bank Jim Yong Kim and attendees were welcomed by the Executive Director of UNICEF, Anthony Lake. Keynote addresses were provided by World Bank Chief Economist Shanta Devarajan and Hon. Sufian Ahmed, Minister of Finance, Ethiopia. A vibrant interactive session then followed, moderated by UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson, during which finance ministers, donors and civil society discussed the commitments being tabled and their priorities and strategies for reaching universal access to sanitation and water.

During the HLM, a record 55 SWA partner countries, donors and banks made over 370 specific new commitments aimed at increasing the amount and improving the use of financial resources, improving the sustainability of delivery of WASH services, building capacity of institutions charged with delivering sanitation and water services, and coordinating resources more effectively, both from governments and donor aid.

Forty-three countries and 12 donors tabled statements of Commitments at the 2014 HLM. The 309 country statements were developed with bold visions and commitments to emphasize the themes of eliminating inequalities and improving sustainability, as well as eliminating open defecation. The 70 donor statements reiterated major sector commitments and demonstrated commitment to support countries to achieve sustainable WASH services.

For more on the 2014 commitments please visit sanitationandwaterforall.org/commitments.
Civil society participation: highlights

- A record 16 Civil Society Organization (CSO) representatives travelled to Washington to attend the HLM.
- One third of SWA partner countries included CSOs in the process of developing the HLM 2014 commitments, a significant increase on the under-ten percent reported in 2012.
- There are now 43 partner countries with dedicated CSO national focal points. These focal points are strengthening the participation and engagement of CSOs at national and regional levels and improving communications within the constituency and with other stakeholders.
2014 Sector Ministers’ Meeting: a global dialogue, local ambitions and challenges

The HLM was preceded by an SWA-led meeting of ministers responsible for WASH, known as the Sector Ministers’ Meeting (SMM). It was held on 10 April 2014, convened by UNICEF and hosted by the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO). This edition sought to address in particular the issues of service sustainability, aid-effectiveness and inequalities.

It was attended by representatives from 37 countries, including 32 sector ministers and 150 sector professionals from around the globe. Welcoming attendees, H.E. John A. Kufuor, Chair of SWA, noted that the SWA biennial HLM and SMM had now, at its third meeting, become the established political forum in the WASH sector.

Attendees reviewed progress against commitments made at the 2012 HLM, presented new commitments and discussed key actions needed in order to make progress towards sustainable universal access. It was also an opportunity to share information about the SWA partnership and its activities, and to build a common understanding of WASH in the post-2015 development agenda. In addition, participants were briefed on the latest evidence available, including the preliminary findings of the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS) initiative and the data revealed by the 2014 update from the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP).

Partners’ stories: preparation for the HLM and SMM

Uganda Water and Sanitation Network’s (UWASNET) 2014 HLM action plan

Ahead of the 2014 HLM, the national civil society network in Uganda launched a comprehensive advocacy campaign to engage ministers and key stakeholders. Around 45 people - from civil society groups, the government, technical and inter-ministerial committees - attended a national meeting to review progress against existing SWA commitments and prepare for the Meeting. A series of regional capacity-building workshops were also organized, including sessions on sharing ideas about how best to bring information about commitments to the local level, tracking progress at national and local level, and training more UWASNET members about SWA.

Uganda was represented at the HLM by a strong coalition of leaders: Hon. Maria Kiwanuka, Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Hon. Ruhakana Rugunda, Minister of Health and Hon. Ephraim Kamuntu, Minister of Water and Environment. The country tabled six commitments, five of them focusing on improving country processes.
“Development aid to the water and sanitation sector has risen more rapidly since the first SWA HLM in 2010.”

- UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) 2014 report
The work of SWA’s Chair

The direct involvement of H.E. John A. Kufuor in SWA’s work was a decisive factor in the success of the partnership in 2014. In particular, his influence is reflected in the high level of attendance at the HLM and the SMM. In December 2013, the Chair and UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson sent a joint letter to Heads of State in 46 developing countries and 10 donor countries encouraging them to support preparations for the HLM. Afterwards, H.E. John A. Kufuor personally followed up with a number of high-level stakeholders.

In May H.E. John A. Kufuor represented the partnership during the signing of an agreement between the Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Ms. Lilianne Ploumen and UNICEF concerning support to the SWA partnership. That same day, and on behalf of the SWA partners, the Chair welcomed the launch of an innovative programme bringing together football and WASH, coordinated by Dutch NGO Football for Water.

H.E. John A. Kufuor has announced he will step down from his role as SWA Chair in the course of 2015. The Steering Committee has formed a Search Committee to identify his successor.

“I am now more confident than ever that our name, Sanitation and Water for All, will become our achievement.”

- H.E. John A. Kufuor at the 2014 HLM

Information and coordination around the world

In addition to the HLM and SMM, SWA partners around the world represented the partnership at a number of key events. These contributed to an increase in the sharing of information among the WASH sector and related sectors (for example, health), a better alignment among partners and an improved understanding of SWA. Some of the highlights include:

- In April 2014 WaterAid, on behalf of SWA, facilitated a Focus Session at the first High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) in Mexico City, Mexico. The session was organized jointly with the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and the International Health Partnership (IHP+), to share experiences of the health, education and water and sanitation sectors in translating aid effectiveness and development cooperation principles into results.
• Over 80 participants attended SWA’s session at Africa Water Week in May 2014, where high-level representatives from across the partnership discussed the upcoming HLM and the more technical side of commitments’ implementation.

• Ten partners shared experiences on sustainability of water and sanitation services during a ‘marketplace’ side-event at the Stockholm World Water Week (SWWW) in September 2014. Over 100 participants joined the session in person and over 1300 have viewed the video recording since then. SWA partners and external stakeholders also had the opportunity to learn more about the SWA Review (see page 14), during a consultation session. The feedback from over 30 participants was transmitted to the Steering Committee.

• In October 2014, SWA Senior Adviser Clarissa Brocklehurst joined the panel discussion “Where the rubber hits the road: addressing inequalities in access to WASH” during the University of North Carolina’s Water and Health Conference. Ms. Brocklehurst introduced SWA and spoke about how countries plan to reduce inequalities in WASH through the 2014 commitments.

The 2014 High Level Commitments Dialogue

The High Level Commitments Dialogue (HLCD) is a global process fostering an ongoing political dialogue about WASH at the national and global levels. It provides a platform for mutual accountability among stakeholders and also further strengthens the sector dialogue in country.

In September, SWA reviewed the 2014 HLCD to gain insights on the process and its perceived outcomes. More than 90 percent of interviewed partners consider that the in-country dialogue is increasingly more inclusive, with more stakeholders involved than the previous years, especially from the CSO constituency. One CSO focal point said: “Sector coordination meetings were not happening before, but started because of the HLCD and the SWA process. And stakeholders begun looking at reports and asking for feedback.”

Partners believe the Dialogue this year was more effective in guiding them towards tackling their country’s most important issues. Partners indicated their 2014 commitments were more focused due to the HLCD’s emphasis on evidence-based decision-making and using tools such as the WASH Bottleneck Analysis Tool (WASH BAT) or the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) report.

It is perceived in most countries and by different partners across several constituencies that SWA and the HLCD created higher visibility for WASH and better prioritization at a higher political level.
Overview of country and donor participation in the HLM process

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2014 report on 2012 commitments

In 2012, SWA partners made 415 commitments to address barriers to delivering sustainable sanitation and water services. In 2014, partners reported the status of commitments as:

- **50** Completed
- **31** Almost Completed
- **186** Good Progress
- **105** Slow Progress
- **15** Major Barriers

Preparing for the 2015 HLCD cycle

Commitments made at the 2014 HLM started being tracked as of December 2014 and countries and donors reported on the status of each commitment by March 2015. This information will be compiled in a Progress Update Report to be launched in July 2015. At the end of 2015 the partnership is also organizing its biennial Partnership Meeting, an opportunity to update partners on progress and give strategic direction on the partnership’s future, including the 2016 HLM. The meeting is also an opportunity for cross-learning and for increasing familiarity and dialogue within and between the different SWA constituencies.
Partners’ stories: Ghana’s efforts towards a more inclusive tracking of commitments

Based on their experience in tracking previous SWA commitments, the Ghanaian Government ensured the 2014 process involved more stakeholders and was mainstreamed into other regular tracking and monitoring activities. Ghana now has an extended commitments-tracking task team, which involves government, civil society, donors, development partners and a journalists’ network.

Even though countries were only asked to report back in March 2015, in Ghana the tracking started as early as June 2014, with a National SWA Roundtable on Tracking Commitments, where SWA partners defined and agreed on indicators for SWA’s traffic light system.

“Because of SWA, ministers are now eager to see progress that they can share with other countries.”

- Government SWA Focal Point, Internal HLCD Review, September 2014
After the launch of the new SWA institutional image the previous year, 2014 was a time for spreading the word about the partnership’s work and achievements. The main focus was on supporting country-level advocacy and ensuring learning between partners. The highlights:

- The SWA website is a collaborative platform where partners can publish their news, photos and videos. The Partner Perspectives blog (27 posts in 2014) is the second most visited page after the Events section.

- Other digital communications channels used for information-sharing among partners include the bi-lingual newsletters (June and December) and the regular e-Bulletins, dynamic web-based digests.

- The highlight of media relations in 2014 were the HLM, the launch of the 2014 GLAAS Report and President Kufuor’s visit to The Netherlands (see page related to “work of SWA’s chair”). The HLM alone generated 48 articles and interviews with major outlets (e.g. The Lancet, The Economist, BBC World Service Radio).

- The Secretariat produced a variety of tools and publications to support partners in their country-level advocacy and communications. The most widely used were the new SWA promotional brochure, the 2014 Global Progress Update on the 2012 commitments, the High-Level Dialogue Summaries, 11 videos (interviews with partners, summaries of events) and event photo galleries.

- Social media has become a key tool to inform and interact with partners and external audiences. In 2014, SWA’s followers more than doubled on Facebook and tripled on Twitter. To maintain momentum and innovation, the Secretariat started using new tools, including a successful HLM-related Thunderclap campaign, with more than 200 participants and a social reach of almost 260,000 people.

The Communications Advisory Group

As a partnership, SWA members aim to reach maximum impact and exploit collective reach by working together. The Communications Advisory Group (CAG) is a network of communications champions from the SWA constituencies, coordinated by the Secretariat, which guided the strategic direction of the HLM communications plan. In the lead up to, during and following the event, CAG members generously offered their time to successfully execute the agreed activities, including using the communications platforms of their own organizations to promote the HLM.
a key year for the SWA Steering Committee

The SWA Steering Committee (SC) takes overall responsibility for the strategic leadership of SWA and elects the Vice-Chair and Chair. In 2014 the SC met four times: virtually on 24 February and 25 June and in person in Stockholm, Sweden on 30 August and in The Hague, The Netherlands on 4–5 December.

2014 also marked the last year in which Darren Saywell, of Plan International, served as SWA’s Vice-Chair. At the December SC meeting, the role of Vice-Chair was officially handed over to Catarina de Albuquerque, former UN Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

Looking back, looking forward: SWA’s external review

In 2013, the SWA Steering Committee commissioned an external review of the SWA partnership. Its purpose was to:

- Assess SWA’s progress towards its objectives
- Review the appropriateness of the existing activities, operational management and governance structures
- Review options for the future direction of the partnership in the post-2015 era.

Throughout 2014, consultants spoke to partners and thoroughly reviewed SWA documentation, culminating in a Review Report presented at the December Steering Committee meeting.

Conclusions indicate that SWA has developed into a key global partnership in the WASH sector, especially in terms of addressing the political and policy aspects of the sector. There is much recognition for what SWA has already accomplished in terms of advocacy. Positive attributes highlighted by interviewees include SWA’s concerted efforts to promote coordination and collaboration in the sector, and its ability to bring together a wide range of different sector players due to its multi-actor nature.

The HLM is a unique and increasingly important convening mechanism that attracts and galvanizes high-level players, particularly ministers of finance, and gives the WASH sector a clear positioning among development priorities. Through two different task teams, the Steering Committee is currently examining the conclusions and recommendations of the Review and its practical impact on SWA’s theory of change, strategy and governance.

To ensure continuity in finalizing the external review process and its impact on SWA, the Steering Committee decided to temporarily postpone its election until late 2015.
Preparing the post-2015 agenda

The SWA Steering Committee is envisioning a key role for the partnership in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals related to WASH. During 2015 partners and high-level representatives of SWA will advocate for ambitious targets and indicators for the sector.

“As it moves into a more mature phase of development, SWA now needs to ensure that its structure and systems are fit for purpose, and that it is well-positioned to play a role in the post-2015 development agenda.”


“The Steering Committee meeting is making key decisions regarding the partnership’s future vision, strategy and governance. It’s a quick-paced world and I’m glad to see SWA adapting to it and getting ready for a key role in the new post-2015 reality.”

- Darren Saywell, former SWA Vice-Chair and Senior Director: Water, Sanitation and Health at Plan International

Steering Committee’s key actions during 2014

- Provided strategic guidance for 2014 HLM
- Undertook a review by independent consultants to guide SWA’s evolution and strategic positioning
- Recruited Catarina de Albuquerque as new Vice-Chair
- Approved involvement of SWA in the development of the post-2015 agenda and beyond.
Country Processes Task Team (CPTT)

2014 was an extremely busy year for the Country Processes Task Team. Between them, CPTT members are conducting ongoing research into strengthening country processes in ten countries. There is a large degree of similarity across the case studies, and their findings have helped the CPTT to identify key areas where work is needed to strengthen sector performance, and build consensus around what a viable, high-performing WASH sector looks like.

Processes related to the National Planning for Results Initiative (NPRI) are also ongoing in a number of countries (Burundi, Liberia, Niger, South Sudan), and consistent involvement of representatives from partner governments in these countries has added greatly to the CPTT’s body of evidence and knowledge.

Drawing upon research findings, lessons from other sectors, and country experiences, CPTT members have identified five behaviours for which there is sound evidence of gains in development effectiveness:

1. Developing and supporting ‘One National Plan’ for investment and technical assistance
2. Strengthening and using country systems
3. Mutual accountability, learning and corrective action
4. Recording and reporting of donor and domestic expenditure through national budget systems, ratified by developing country parliaments
5. Prioritizing service equity and sustainability.

As a next step, the CPTT hopes to work with the Global Monitoring Task Team to further unpack each behaviour, refine the separate obligations of developing countries and their development partners, and identify indicators of progress.

In 2015 the CPTT will also be working with the Steering Committee and broader partnership to ensure that these behaviours are fully integrated in the SWA’s future strategy and explore how SWA can incentivise countries and their development partners towards more effective behaviours, in order to build country systems capable of planning and delivering sustainable access to water, sanitation and hygiene for all.

Global Monitoring Task Team (GMTT)

In 2014, the GMTT continued to work to improve harmonization and standardization in WASH monitoring. The task team has promoted harmonization by improving tracking of institutional analyses, in order to identify gaps and duplication and encouraging coordination on these activities.

On standardization, the team explored existing definitions of service functionality with a view to develop a standardized approach for measurement and reporting. A number of discussions have taken place at key events since the formation of the Task Team including presentations by leads on global monitoring instruments at the SWA Partnership Meeting and Stockholm World Water Week. These have helped to make linkages between existing global monitoring processes and to frame the future work of the Task Team.

In 2015, the GMTT will continue to work with the CPTT and existing WASH sector monitoring instruments and initiatives to develop a strategy for greater coherence and anchoring of global monitoring to strong national monitoring processes. The group intends to consult with developing country partners to identify key parameters for standardization. Building on this, further work is likely to involve identifying best practices and potential for harmonized and standardized approaches and supporting these within national, regional and global systems.
### SWA Secretariat income and expenditures in 2014 (in US$)

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### Donor funding to the SWA Secretariat (in US$)

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* Funds committed in signed agreements
Steering Committee members
Each constituency chooses a representative for a two-year term:

Executive Chair
Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque

Developing countries
Mr. Salisu Abdulmumin, African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW)
Mr. Solphi Joli Hamelo, Madagascar
Mr. Irfan Tariq, Pakistan
Mr. Sana Jawara, The Gambia
Mr. Peter Mahal Dhieu, South Sudan
Mr. Roberto Acosta, Paraguay
Mrs. Chitra Lekha Yadav, Nepal

Donors
Mr. Dick van Ginhoven, The Netherlands Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS)
Mr. Christian Eggs, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
Mr. Leonard Tedd, UK Department for International Development (DFID)
Ms. Heather Skilling, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Multilaterals
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