

Mutual Accountability Mechanism meeting

13-15 November 2018, LNEC, Lisbon, Portugal

Summary report

Background

From 13 – 15 November 2018, SWA held a meeting to discuss implementation of the Mutual Accountability Mechanism at Laboratório Nacional de Engenharia Civil (LNEC), Lisbon.

Nine pioneer countries attended this meeting, with government representation from eight countries. Countries attending included Costa Rica, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Portugal, Viet Nam and Zambia.* All SWA constituencies were represented, with USAID and WSSCC representing external support agencies, and LabGEA of Brazil and LNEC of Portugal attending as representatives of the research and learning constituency. Country representatives included civil society partners, and one private sector partner. (Please see Annex 1: Participants list).



* Pakistan and Liberia were not able to attend, and there was no government representation from Viet Nam, due to visa issues.

Objectives

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Familiarize all participants with the new SWA Mutual Accountability Mechanism and its relationship with the SWA Framework, and government-led, multi-stakeholder planning and review in particular.
- Place the new Mutual Accountability Mechanism in the context of government-led multi-stakeholder planning and review.
- Assess each step of the Mutual Accountability Mechanism, from agreeing relevant and measurable commitments, to monitoring, reviewing and presenting these at High-level meetings - identifying the main challenges and how to resolve these. This process should lead to the development of a 'road map' for each pioneer country and for the group as a whole.
- Identify a limited number of individuals who could be mobilised to provide support and advice to other SWA partner countries as they implement the new Mutual Accountability Mechanism.

Who are pioneer countries?

The role of these pioneer countries is not only to be among the first countries to use a national multi-stakeholder forum to identify commitments, but also to table those starting at the 2019 Sector Ministers Meeting, but also to provide an opportunity to identify, learn about and share the challenges in implementing the mechanism, and discuss how these might be overcome.

All countries present, as well as WSSCC and USAID, explored on-going processes at national/institutional level and how they will implement the process of identifying commitments and tabling them at the next Sector Ministers Meeting. As far as possible the meeting attempted to focus on concrete actions that the participants would be able to implement.



Presentations

Introductory presentations were made on the SWA framework, country processes and how the Mutual Accountability Mechanism can be integrated into and supports both. There was also a presentation on how the Mutual Accountability Mechanism compares to the previous commitments process (with inputs from Nigeria and USAID), and how the Mutual Accountability Mechanism can be linked to national multi-stakeholder processes. The full presentation from the meeting can be found on the SWA [website](#)

Identifying multi-stakeholder national processes

The first exercise for participants was to work in country groups to identify national multi-stakeholder planning and review processes that take place regularly or are due to take place over the next twelve months, and how they might be relevant to the implementation of the Mutual Accountability Mechanism.

The main opportunities identified by the participants were Joint Sector Reviews or other national planning processes, including GLAAS data collection, as well as specific working groups (for sanitation or Operation and Maintenance, for example) and budget meetings. A particular point of discussion was the extent to which these processes are multi-stakeholder, who leads the processes and how often they take place. Participants from Nigeria and Kenya specifically mentioned inter-sectoral or inter-ministerial dialogues, and Mali identified AfricaSan as an opportunity for setting priorities for the WASH sector.

After this, session countries worked in pairs of two countries to elaborate on how one or two of these processes would be particularly important for identifying priorities and choosing commitments. In this exercise, participants also identified which actors are missing from the national processes, and who could usefully be brought into the discussions.

Exploring these discussions together with a different country proved to be fruitful for all participants, finding both common issues, and learning from actions in the other country that had perhaps not yet been considered.

Challenges and benefits

Following this session, participants looked closely at challenges, and how these might be alleviated, with participants working in their constituency groupings in order to promote learning between countries.

The participants identified specific challenges that they could envisage in the implementation of the Mutual Accountability Mechanism, including the continued difficulty of engaging the ministry of finance, and ensuring that all ministries with a responsibility for WASH are collaborating. This is in part due to a lack of resources (human and financial) and corresponding failure to spend funds that are made available. It is hoped that the SWA framework, which is integrated into the Mutual Accountability Mechanism, will provide some of the necessary impetus to improve institutional and financing systems to address these challenges (which are not exclusive to the Mutual Accountability Mechanism, but which affects progress in the WASH sector).

Opportunities for close cooperation among partners to ensure that lessons are learnt between countries were discussed, and solutions to the above challenges also shared. Given the mix of countries and constituencies, the meeting was able to provide opportunities to discuss within country groups as well as between constituency groups to build up a common understanding between participants.

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Through these sessions, it was clear that that all participants feel that there is a greater opportunity to work with the private sector – both service providers and users of water and sanitation, and small and large scale businesses, in order to benefit from their expertise, as well as to educate them in how they can support countries in delivering sanitation and water for all.

In some countries, it was identified that other sectors, including for example the ministry of health, could usefully be more engaged in national planning processes for the WASH sector to strengthen the ability of the government to deliver on services.

Participants also identified that the process needs to include more external support agencies, learning and research institutions and the users themselves.

It was also identified that it will be essential to engage more closely with the institutions responsible for data management to ensure that these are able to respond to the needs of new priorities both for the national targets, as well as for any commitments chosen for the Mutual Accountability Mechanism.



What kind of commitments could be made?

At this point, participants also indicated the kind of commitments that they believe might be chosen by their countries. These included proposals such as aligning national policies with the SDGs, sustainable financing mechanisms for sanitation, and for increased funding and resources mobilised for services. This latter was proposed by both countries and external support agencies.

WSSCC already put one of their commitments on the table, which is to support 10 countries (among which may be pioneer countries) in implementing the Mutual Accountability Mechanism.

Plans of action

The most significant outputs of the meeting are the plans of action created by each country, outlining the relevant multi-stakeholder processes that they will engage with to identify commitments, and the people, including the SWA focal points and other SWA partners in each country that they will contact on return to their countries. Please see annex 2 for the plans of action of each country.

To support this process of 'bringing the Mutual Accountability Mechanism home', each participant also developed an 'elevator speech' that they could use to explain to their ministers, directors or peers in other partner organizations what the purpose of the Mutual Accountability Mechanism is and why it is important to contribute to the process.

Next steps

The next steps for the secretariat will be to follow up on these plans of action with each of the pioneer countries, and to set up an online platform to share information between partners.

A WhatsApp group has already been formed following a suggestion from the participants and has been put to use to support partners as they continue discussions with their counterparts at home.

More information is available on this webpage, including videos from participants: [ADD LINK](#)

Evaluation

Results of the evaluation of the meeting can be found in annex 3.

Thanks

Thanks is due to all participants of the meeting for making it a success, and to the committed interpreters.

Particular thanks goes to the host of the meeting, LNEC and to partners who supported the development of the Mutual Accountability Mechanism and to those who sent participants to the meeting.

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Annex 1: Participants list

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*Did not attend

Annex 2: Country plans of action

Nigeria Plan of Action

STRATEGY	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE	STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITY	WHAT IS NEEDED Activity	SUPPORT FROM EXTERNAL ACTORS
Securing Honourable Minister's support	End of Nov 2018	Focal Point	Meeting with HM	Briefing Memo/Note	Briefing Materials on MAM
Sensitisation/Awareness on MAM	End of Nov 2018	Focal Point	NTGS Meeting	Briefing on MAM meeting	Briefing Materials on MAM
Stakeholders Response to the Briefing	End of Nov 2018	NTGS Members	NTGS Meeting	Stakeholders Feedback/	Briefing Materials on MAM
Development of MAM Implementation Plan	2 nd week in Dec 2018	Country Team	Planned Meeting	Country Team meeting	
Advocacy & Engagement of missing actors (media, academia, lawmakers, finance Ministry)	Dec 2018 - Feb 2019	Country Team	Sector meetings	Multi stakeholder meeting	
Commitment presentation	Feb - March 2018	Focal Points	Inter-Ministerial Dialogue	Multi-stakeholder meeting	Commitment by Devpt Partners
Holding a stakeholder's forum to share the country WASH Country Commitments for adoption	March 2019	Partners	National Stakeholders meeting	Multi-stakeholder meeting	Commitment adoption and identification of roles by all stakeholders

Zambia Plan of Action

No	Strategy	Timeline	Responsibility	Strategic Opportunity	What is needed	
					Activity	Support from External Partners
1.	Engage Minister of Water– process started	February 2019	Focal Person through PS	Internal Minister Meeting	Meeting with Minister and PS	
2.	Engage Minister of Finance	February 2019	Ministry of Water - Minister	To be elaborated	Identify fora for Ministers to meet	High-level dialogue
3.	Paper presentation at the Sanitation Summit	November, 2018	Focal Person, NGOWASH Forum, Lead CP-AfDB	Presence of key stakeholders and implementers	Prepare paper	Prepare materials
4.	Coordination for key stakeholders – define CBs	February 2019	Focal Person	WASH Technical Working Group	Prepare paper, define	Technical support
5.	Define collaborative behaviours in GLAAS stakeholder meeting	December 2018	Focal Person working with GLAAS Focal Person	GLAAS survey	Prepare materials	Technical support
6.	Share key priority areas which may inform the development of SWA commitments	March 2019	Focal Person working with JWSR Focal Person	Joint Sector Review	Prepare materials/collaborative behaviour	Technical support
7.	Use national development meeting to engage partners to discuss alignment of their targets to national commitments	March 2019	Focal Person working with Planning Focal person	National Development plan coordinating meeting	Prepare materials	Technical support

Malawi Plan of Action

Strategy	Timeline	Responsibility	Strategic Opportunity	What is needed	
				Activity	External Actors support
Get Ministers Support	End Dec 2018	Government Focal Point	Appointment with him Invitation to the SMM	Meeting with Minister	Letter from SWA Material from SWA
Mobilise SWA Constituencies	Early Dec2018	SWA Country Focal Point	SWA/GLAAS/AFRICASAN/SDG 6 National Task Force Meeting	Briefing of MAM and country commitment	Material from SWA
Engage Sector Working Group (SWG)	Early Mar 2019	SWA Country Focal Point	SWG Meeting	Briefing of MAM and country commitment	Material from SWA
Engage and Sensitise Sector Players	End Nov2018	SWA Country Focal Point	Joint Sector Review	Presentation on SWA MAM	Material from SWA

Viet Nam Plan of Action

Ord	Strategy	Timeline	Responsibility	Strategic Opportunity	What is needed	
					Activity	Support from external actor
1	Briefing on MAM with MOC and MOH (Steering Committee member)	End of Nov.18	UNICEF	Meeting to provide MAM brief to the Ministry of Construction (focal point for MAM)	Meeting to be held with MOC & MOH	UNICEF present the MAM
2	Briefing on MAM with other partners	Dec. 18 - Jan.19	MOC, MOH & UNICEF	Meeting to provide MAM brief to other partners	Inviting other partners to a meeting to be facilitated by MOC	UNICEF present the MAM
3	Planning meeting (commitments)	1 st quarter of 2019	MOC & MOH	MAM Planning produced and endorsed	Inviting other partners by MOC	SWA 's technical support UNICEF's attendance
4	Monitoring and Review meetings integrated with Sanitation Working Group meeting	Quarterly	MOC & MOH	Joint Monitoring & Review Reports produced	Organizing review meeting and monitoring trip for all stakeholders	SWA & UNICEF's technical and financial support

Plan D'actions De Mise En Oeuvre Du Mecanisme De Redevabilite Mutuelle Au Mali

Stratégies	Période	Responsable	Opportunité Stratégique	Actions	
				Activité	Support externe
Favoriser davantage l'implication de l'ensemble des parties prenantes, notamment les ministères en charge du secteur de l'eau, de l'assainissement, de l'hygiène et des finances ainsi que les Partenaires Techniques et Financiers, en vue la mise en œuvre du Mécanisme de Redevabilité Mutuelle au Mali à travers le Cadre de Concertations des acteurs du secteur pour la réalisation de l'ODD 6	Novembre 2018	CN CIEPA	La tenue régulière du Cadre de concertation du secteur de l'eau et l'assainissement Révision du CREDD	Note synthétique sur SWA et le MRM	
	Décembre 2018	WaterAid		Réunion préparatoire de l'atelier de restitution	
	Janvier	DNH		Atelier de restitution de la réunion de Lisbonne sur le Mécanisme de Redevabilité Mutuelle (Départements ministériels, Assemblée Nationale, société civile, secteur privé, ONG, PTF, Journalistes)	Soutien de l'Unicef sur le plan technique et financier
	Décembre	DNH		Rencontre avec le CT CSLP/ODD	
	Décembre	WaterAid	Réunion du GT/PTF	Rencontre avec le chef de file PTF Wash et GT/PTF	
			WaterAid		Elaboration et mise en œuvre d'une feuille de route pour préparer le rapport pays en vue de la participation du Mali à réunion des ministres du secteur au Costa Rica

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	Janvier	Unicef		Rencontre des ministres en charge du secteur de l'eau, de l'assainissement, de l'hygiène et des finances	Lettre de SWA au Premier Ministre, Ministre des Finances, Ministres du secteur
	Février	Unicef			
	Mars	DNH/DNACPN		Participation au cadre de concertation du secteur eau et assainissement (Communication sur le SWA, le Mécanisme de Redevabilité Mutuelle et Africain, rapport pays FPHN/ODD	
	Mars-Avril	Ministres du secteur Eau, Assainissement, Hygiène et Assainissement		Participation à la réunion de Haut niveau du Costa Rica des ministres du secteur (Communication sur le rapport pays et engagements du Mali)	

WSSCC Plan of Action

Strategy	Timeline	Responsibility	Strategic Opportunity	What is needed	Support from SWA Sec / SC?
Communicate the MAM internally - Feedback to Rolf / internal staff working on countries / advocacy	By end November	Ceridwen		Write BTOR / internal note on MAM and how fits with WSSCC strategic priorities	Whatever guidelines they are producing. List of 62 partner countries
Work with a small team to agree on the 10 countries that we will support	List by end-2018 & kickstarted early 2019 to present at SMM	Ceridwen / Rolf	Align MAM with own country engagement plans		
Work with country teams to brief NCs on the MAM	Early 2019	Ceridwen and country engagement team in WSSCC	Get NCs to align MAM with their Country Engagement Plans	Clear communications to NCs on MAM. Where there is a pioneer country, link with stakeholders present at MAM meeting e.g. Malawi, Nigeria	List of focal points in 10 chosen countries
Work with Rolf to champion the MAM within ESA and work towards an ESA constituency meeting in Costa Rica (with USAID)	Brief Rolf. Rolf to work with USAID at the SC meeting. SWA SC Meeting	Ceridwen / Rolf / Amanda	Champion MAM within the ESA, get them on board and ultimately also get them to make commitments	Tailored comms to the ESA constituency, early invitations to attend a side meeting during the SMM / LatinoSan, WSSCC and USAID come with example commitments	
Talk to Rolf about supporting JSRs to align with the MAM	Rolf to meet with DdV and Amanda to discuss in Lisbon			CJ to re read the JSR report. Brief Rolf. Come up with ideas for him to work with at SC meeting	List of partner countries who already conduct JSRs

Kenya Plan of Action

Strategy	Timeline	Responsible	Strategic Opportunity	What Is Needed: Activity	Support from External Actors
Call to the government focal point to debrief	Dec 2018	Country SWA focal point	Invitation to meeting via a formal letter	Meeting with state departments on priorities	Partnership engagement to address funding / resource gap
Call on the stakeholder meeting to strategise the way forward	Dec 2018	Country SWA focal person unit	Form part of brief to partners / collaboration on?	Sectoral meeting to align all priorities together to fit into plan	
Debrief to ministry top management Minister /	Before end of November 2018	Country focal point	Prepare a brief note as return to work brief to CS/ Ps	Meeting the ministers to brief them	None
Stakeholder alignment meeting of Mutual Accountability Mechanism into country WASH plan	January – February 2019	All actors SWA providing	The joint county plan is available needs only aligning	Planning and aligning together with all sectoral partners / beneficiary rep.	Tools? the M and E accepted to be presented and ? to formalize?
Implementations take off	March 2019	All sector actors	There are WASH ongoing activities	Launch of the? plan	Launch attend and gap support where need arises
Data collection alignment to our COWASH Hub	Feb 2019	SWA Focal point / other actors / IOT	Align the data collection into existing hub (information)	Test the `of the data	Tools and experts to assist in aligning the data collection
Harmonize and align all M and E indicators	Feb 2019	Join planning All sector players	Aligning / harmonizing to the existing M and E system	Pre-test the workability	Technical support from ICT / SWA including any other interested partners

Costa Rica Plan of Action

Strategy	Timeline	Responsible	Strategic Opportunity	What Is Needed: Activity	Support from External Actors
Incorporar MAM principios en la metodología os foros (Nac-Reg)	2019 al finalizar 2 foros a faltan	Ministerio DA – AyA: responsables de ejecutarlo	Ampliar / mejorar el alcance de los foros	Sesion de trabajo (MINAE AyA- DA): evaluacion de los resultados FR y planificacion de como continuar	CSO – Academia: insumos / experiencia proceso
Definicion de compromisos pais (relaciona a ODS 6)	2019 Abri SMM Marzo CR	MINAE DA - AyA	SMM Celebraciones nac. Dia mundio del Agua	Sesion trabajo entre – MINAE rep Foros and SWA partners para definir compromise do cada sector / constituency	SWA partners and posibles partners participant and capacitan a su sector sobre los compromisos