

# SANITATION AND WATER FOR ALL

SWA is a multi-stakeholder partnership of governments and their partners from civil society, the private sector, United Nations agencies, research and learning institutions, development banks and the donor community. Through its convening power, partners galvanize political leadership, and jointly advocate and coordinate action on water, sanitation and hygiene. Partners share the belief that government-led, collaborative and multi-stakeholder decision-making leads to more effective and sustainable solutions.

# OUR

## **VISION**

WATER,
SANITATION
AND HYGIENE
FOR ALL, ALWAYS
AND EVERYWHERE

## **OBJECTIVES**

- 1. Build and sustain the political will to eliminate inequalities in water, sanitation and hygiene
- 2. Champion multi-stakeholder approaches towards achieving universal access to services
- 3. Rally stakeholders to strengthen system performance and attract new investments

## **MISSION**

The mission of the SWA partnership is to eliminate inequalities in realizing the human rights to water and sanitation – by raising political will, ensuring good governance, and helping to optimize financing. The partnership focuses on the hardest to reach and most vulnerable individuals, communities, countries and regions, and puts women and girls at the centre, not just as passive recipients, but as dynamic agents of change. SWA works by harnessing the collective power of its partners, to support government-led, multi-stakeholder action at national, regional and global levels.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

Multi-stakeholder efforts
Sustainability of services and actions
Leaving no-one behind
Transparency and accountability
Evidence-based decision-making
Human rights to water and sanitation
International collaboration and aid effectiveness

This Strategic Framework is the first part of the SWA Strategy 2020-2030. It will be complemented by the Global Results Framework and Roadmap, as well as Regional Roadmaps. It is expected that the full Framework will be completed by end-2020.

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## CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY

# WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE, AND AGENDA 2030

In the last decade water, sanitation and hygiene have witnessed outstanding political support at global level. The recognition of the human rights to water and sanitation in 2010 was an important first step – creating the foundation for the adoption of the water, sanitation and hygiene SDG targets and indicators. In 2015, global leaders came together to agree an historic vision: committing to universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene by 2030, with a dedicated SDG goal for the world to work towards.

Harnessing global ambition works. Since the year 2000, countries around the world have seen unparalleled progress extending coverage of safely managed drinking water and sanitation. However, as we move into the third decade of the millennium, there remains unfinished business in achieving the Millennium Development Goals - and on current trajectory, the world will not meet the SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2: universal global coverage of safely managed water, safely managed sanitation and basic hygiene by 2030. The scale of the challenge calls for different solutions, and a renewed focus, if we are to achieve those ambitious targets. A solid and growing evidence base suggests there are exciting opportunities which can significantly improve delivery of water, sanitation and hygiene services. Experience tells us that generating greater political will and engaging high-level champions for the sector improves governance and efficiency, leading to greater financial flows which are critical to success. The world is off-track - but there is hope; faster progress is achievable, if we can turn our greatest challenges into opportunities.

First, those left furthest behind must be reached in the coming decade, by progressively eliminating inequalities and putting women and girls at the centre. Economic development has increased overall demand for services such as water, sanitation and hygiene. However, the speed of population growth in urban areas, particularly in informal settlements, is putting systems under huge strain – and leaving underserved rural populations overlooked. And for forcibly displaced people or those living in fragile states, there are further complex barriers to access to overcome.

Second, resilient delivery systems which are responsive to climate risks must be put in place – including in fragile contexts. Economic challenges and population growth are placing more pressure on budgets and services. Water availability is finite, with a significant

share of fresh water used for agriculture, industry and power. Climate change and unchecked pollution of water resources will increasingly affect the availability, security and quality of both surface and groundwater. Financial and other investments often prioritize setting up large-scale infrastructure, but often lead to sustainability challenges when operations and maintenance costs cannot be met. Strengthening country systems and good governance for water, sanitation and hygiene must therefore be seen as equally valuable investments and will need to be iprioritized. When crises do strike, better preparedness and coordination with emergency organizations must ensure faster and more efficient responses. In crisis situations, especially protracted crises, opportunities must be taken to apply appropriate development approaches to deliver better, affordable, services that will serve populations for the long term.

Third, **high-level champions** in national ministries or regulators must be at the forefront of our efforts towards improving water, sanitation and hygiene. The SDGs broadened the necessity for safe water, sanitation and hygiene, focusing beyond the household to include institutional settings such as schools, health care facilities, workplaces, places of detention and refugee communities. Champions shoulder the increased responsibility and focus on this broadened imperative, providing a voice that can cut across departments, and ensuring water sanitation and hygiene considerations are increasingly prioritized – at the highest level.

Finally, it is essetial that connections with broader agendas beyond SDG6 are enhanced. The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda outlines mutually re-enforcing ambitions for development – complex interconnections that will rely on multi-stakeholder partnerships as a key means of implementation, as called for in SDG17. Adequate water, sanitation and hygiene improves education and health outcomes, empowers women and girls, strengthens economies, and when managed sustainably, protects the environment. The positive social and economic outcomes can be seen through reductions in diarrhoeal disease and improved nutrition, improvements in girls' school attendance, greater productivity, cleaner watercourses, healthy ecosystems, and better access to work, in particular for women. Understanding these complex connections can be a challenge, but they also present a wealth of opportunity. Our ambitions can be realized by offering our experience



and expertise to others – including lending our voice for joint advocacy efforts. And it works both ways: interest in improving water, sanitation and hygiene will increase from non-traditional sector players. We must capitalize on these opportunities, by understanding and embracing connections with these broader agendas in the coming years.

Making progress towards universal access and sustainable systems at the necessary speed and scale must start with the recognition that national priorities dictate action or inaction. It is when governmentled country systems are strengthened, including at sub-national level, that we know real impact can be achieved.

A well-coordinated, multi-stakeholder approach at multiple levels can energize political determination for action – and the step-change in financial support needed to make that action happen. This is the context of the work of the SWA partnership – and these are the opportunities we must grasp in the decade ahead.

# EVOLUTION OF THE SWA PARTNERSHIP

More than 10 years ago, governments and development partners were struggling to achieve a coordinated response to the water, sanitation and hygiene needs of people. There was a clear lack of political prioritization of these core issues from the entire development community. Progress towards related targets, as defined by the Millennium Development Goals, was insufficient. The Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) partnership was established in 2010, created as a convening power to galvanize political leadership, and advocate for coordinated action on water, sanitation and hygiene. The need for robust data was recognized from the outset: solid evidence enabling governments to make informed decisions – based on monitoring of services, governance, human resources and financing at national, regional and global levels.

By 2015, it was clear that the partnership had positively influenced progress in sector visibility and finance, as well as in improving access to sanitation. The partnership was convening the only ongoing multi-stakeholder forum for political dialogue on water, sanitation and hygiene, at the highest levels. Attendance at these 'High-level Meetings' of sector and finance ministers was strong, providing invaluable insights into priorities and experiences from around the world.

To realize the ambitions and commitments made during these global ministerial gatherings, it was evident they must be supported by action at national level. The partnership was determined to improve collective advocacy efforts; to sharpen the effectiveness of commitments and ensure they aligned with countries' priorities and plans. In 2018, the SWA partnership established the 'SWA Framework'; providing a foundation for working together to strengthen national systems and governance for water, sanitation and hygiene around the world. The Framework brought together the following elements:

- The partnership's original 'Guiding Principles' describing why partners work together.
- 2. The 'Collaborative Behaviours', setting out **how** partners work together, based on internationally agreed principles of development effectiveness.
- The 'Building Blocks', setting out what partners are working together to establish; defined as financing, strong institutions, sector policies and strategies, capacity development and ongoing review.
- 4. The 'Mutual Accountability Mechanism'; a new **means** to further connect SWA's global and national level activity through multi-stakeholder approaches.

It is these elements that have guided the SWA partnership, providing a common vision that enables and nurtures not just dialogue, but progress, on water, sanitation and hygiene. And the partnership has momentum: its hundreds of partners are now engaged, including governments from the five continents.

Moving forward, the partnership needs a stronger, simpler shared narrative and pathway towards 2030, for which all partners are accountable; a more concerted and sustained effort at national level to remove bottlenecks and enable stronger systems; a more focused approach, with clear points of entry for new partners to foster strong connections with broader agendas including gender, climate, humanitarian response, nutrition, health, education, and human rights; and more efficiency and transparency in mobilizing existing and new resources to achieve water, sanitation and hygiene for all.

## The SWA 5 Constituencies



Governments



Civil Society Organizations



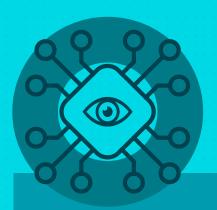
External Support Agencies



Private Sector



Research & Learning Institutions



### **VISIBILITY AND NETWORK**

We are recognized as a platform to mobilize partnerships among governments and other stakeholders, for stronger engagement and progress towards SDG 6.1 and 6.2.

We have increased the awareness of water, sanitation and hygiene issues at the political level.

We have improved governments' understanding of how water, sanitation and hygiene policies can benefit or affect greater health and environmental concerns.

We have breakthroughs regarding the importance of sanitation, in dialogues which were primarily focused on water alone.

We have engaged responsible government ministers from around the world, encouraging them to participate in the search for solutions to achieve universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene.

# OUR **ACHIEVEMENTS**



# MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS

We have brought together different stakeholders, providing an inclusive partnership structure that delivers legitimate, collective action at the international level and, increasingly, at the country level.

We have recognized that a wider range of stakeholders – such as the private sector, research and learning institutions and civil society organizations can contribute significantly to achieving water, sanitation and hygiene for all.

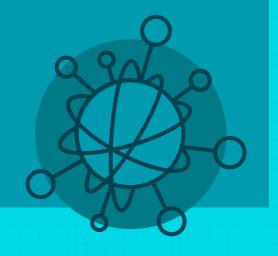
We have substantially increased the engagement of SWA partners with each other, providing a platform for progress towards a common vision.

We are increasing accountability processes - commitments tabled initially by governments and donors are starting to become embedded in national policies, process and structures.

# ENGAGEMENT ACROSS NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVELS

We have shifted the discussion away from the Global North. and brought the dialogue process closer to regions and countries.

We have created opportunities for governments and partners to exchange best practices; leading to stronger national policies, and inclusive partnership structures and processes for water, sanitation and hygiene.



## **OUR VISION**

Our vision for the next decade remains a strong, simple, shared narrative to guide the partnership. It is a clear and unequivocal commitment, for which all partners are accountable.

# WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE FOR ALL, ALWAYS AND EVERYWHERE

# All

Achieving universal access to safe and affordable water and adequate sanitation and hygiene – eliminating inequalities by focusing on the most marginalized and vulnerable populations and putting women and girls at the centre.

# Always

Championing sustainable, climate resilient water and sanitation services. Ensuring human rights to water and sanitation are realized at all times, including during and after crises or disasters.

# Everywhere

Ensuring access to water, sanitation and hygiene covers households, communities, and institutions – including in all schools, health care facilities and places of work and detention.

## OUR MISSION

The mission of the SWA partnership is to eliminate inequalities in realizing the human rights to water and sanitation by raising political will, ensuring good governance, and helping to optimize financing. The partnership focuses on the hardest to reach and most vulnerable individuals. communities, countries and regions, and puts women and girls at the centre, not just as passive recipients, but as dynamic agents of change. SWA works by harnessing the collective power of its partners, to support government-led, multi-stakeholder action at national, regional and global levels.

## Special focus on those who are off-track and falling behind

The SWA partnership has a global mandate to eliminate inequalities in access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene. Every country has a unique context, which needs to be reflected in the balance of effort – political prioritization, systems strengthening and finance, and collaboration. The most off-track and vulnerable people, communities and countries will require additional support; a special focus to help them overcome barriers and achieve progress at the rate required. This additional support will be reflected in SWA activities at national, regional and global levels.





# **OUR THEORY** OF CHANGE

WATER,
SANITATION
AND HYGIENE
FOR ALL, ALWAYS
AND EVERYWHERE

Well performing Sustained political systems attract will prioritizes investments and water, sanitation strengthen existing and hygiene financial flows at all levels Systematically use multi-stakeholder approaches to achieve water, sanitation and hygiene Stakeholders and people hold each other accountable High level dialogue Investment cases mobilizes political will and transparent and hygiene across the SDG agenda and effectively Government-led use more finance multi-stakeholder collective action towards delivering on commitments rallies leaders and evidence supports better decision-making connects with other SDG agendas and analysis platforms supports country governance and service delivery

# **OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**FOR 2020-2030

The following three high-level, mutually re-enforcing strategic objectives will guide the partnership to fulfil its mission as we head towards 2030. The strategic objectives are designed in a way that allows all partners, especially SWA partner countries and regions, to adopt and adapt as needed to maximize the added value of the SWA partnership to their own context.



# BUILD AND SUSTAIN POLITICAL WILL TO ELIMINATE INEQUALITIES IN WATER. SANITATION AND HYGIENE

# By holding high-level multi-stakeholder political dialogues and sustaining their impact

The SWA partnership will continue to engage with political leadership at the highest level to prioritize water, sanitation and hygiene as a key intervention to promote human, economic and social development, stability and resilience to climate change. The SWA partnership will convene and support partners to prepare for the High-level Meetings of sector ministers and finance ministers, which will continue to identify solutions for structural weaknesses in water, sanitation and hygiene systems. The meetings will build on one another and be held in diverse contexts. The partnership will instigate, inspire and track ongoing political momentum and public awareness for water, sanitation and hygiene, maintaining a focus on action at all times. The partnership will also use other opportunities at national, regional and global level.

# By strengthening connections between the SWA partnership and broader sustainable development agendas

Guided by national engagement priorities, and relationships with likeminded partnerships and platforms, the SWA partnership will continue to expand its high-level political dialogue on water, sanitation and hygiene into a broader range of issues. These include gender, climate, humanitarian response, nutrition, health, education, and human rights, where specific and mutually re-enforcing action can be identified.

#### By facilitating and encouraging the closing of data gaps and using existing and new evidence for effective policy advocacy to support decision-making

The SWA partnership will continue to use national, regional and global evidence<sup>1</sup> and data sources to identify trends, prioritize work and, selectively, to measure results. The partnership will identify gaps in the evidence base, and encourage efforts to close these gaps and increase disaggregation, in particular for women and girls. The partnership will continue to build the capacity of SWA partners to use the evidence base as it grows and improves, to guide more effective decision-making.



# CHAMPION MULTI-STAKEHOLDER APPROACHES TOWARDS ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO SERVICES

# By promoting and supporting government-led multi-stakeholder platforms

SWA partners will align with and provide leadership on relevant multi-stakeholder platforms, strengthening their effectiveness and inclusiveness where they can. Multi-stakeholder platforms exist within the water, sanitation and hygiene community but also beyond it, such as for water resource management, climate adaptation, environmental protection and humanitarian assistance.

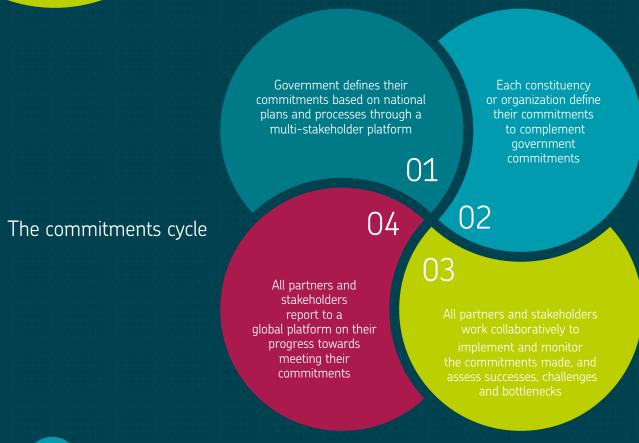
# By demonstrating and supporting multi-sector, multi-stakeholder approaches

The high degree of fragmentation and competition in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector makes it difficult to act collectively, both within and beyond the context of SDG6. SWA partners will be supported and encouraged to think, lead and act beyond organizational boundaries and sectoral silos.

# By building a culture of mutual accountability for results

Governments should lead efforts to strengthen systems for water, sanitation and hygiene, with SWA partners contributing to the success of these efforts – through the SWA Framework, and through the 'Commitments Cycle'.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Including data reported by countries through the WHO-led UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS), the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program (JMP), and other available sources.





# RALLY STAKEHOLDERS TO STRENGTHEN SYSTEM PERFORMANCE AND ATTRACT NEW INVESTMENTS

#### By developing an efficient, credit-worthy sector

The SWA partnership will identify where and how to improve sector performance and how to make the most of new and existing financial opportunities. The partnership will continue work to strengthen the sector's building blocks, with a key focus on accountability, transparency, integrity and performance.

#### By advocating for increased investment

Achieving the water, sanitation and hygiene targets of the SDGs requires unprecedented levels of funding and finance. The partnership will continue to advocate at all levels for the increased investment in the sector that will be necessary to achieve the SDG Goals, in particular the most vulnerable. It will update and promote the investment case for water, sanitation and hygiene, considering the most up-to-date evidence of social, economic and environmental returns and costs among national, regional and global decision-makers.

#### By supporting the development of national and sub-sector financing strategies

Developing and implementing solid financing strategies and actionable plans and projects will be crucial. Strategies must consider life-cycle costs, the needs of the most marginalized, sources of finance, and risks which could inhibit investment.

#### By identifying new sources of finance and making existing sources more efficient

The partnership will identify and support efforts to unlock new sources of finance (public, private and/or blended), as well as seeking to improve the accessibility, predictability and targeting of existing funding.

#### By expanding SWA and sector capacity

Increasing knowledge and expertise of partners and the wider sector, to facilitate an enhanced ability to address the sector's financial performance (including regulators, utilities and finance institutions).

# **OUR WAYS**OF WORKING

#### What it means to be a partner

A multi-stakeholder approach is powerful because it creates value; it achieves results that would not otherwise happen. Partners derive organizational value from their participation, while also investing time and other resources. By making a public commitment to join the SWA partnership, organizations and governments agree to do things differently. SWA partners commit to acting in line with the SWA Guiding Principles and Collaborative Behaviours. This includes:

- Building on, and not duplicating, existing networks, structures and processes at national, regional and global levels;
- Cascading partner commitments to individuals at all levels of the governmentor or organization;
- Working collaboratively, including advocating with a united voice: and
- Holding themselves and others to account for delivering results.

#### Quality of leadership

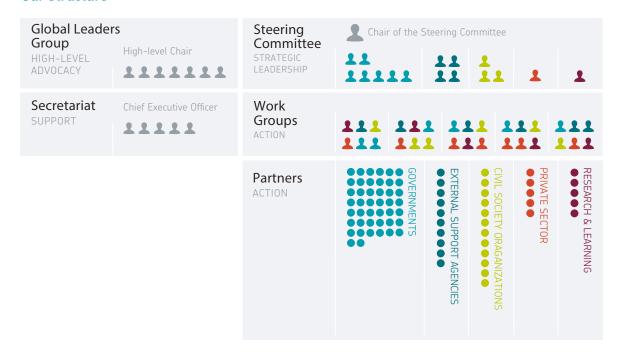
The SWA Strategy depends on people willing to think, lead and act beyond their own organizational boundaries and sectoral silos, with a mindset and convening power to bring all stakeholders together. This is a different approach which requires active cultivation and ongoing support from SWA partners; individual champions and focal points demonstrating this courageous way of working should be nurtured and publicly acknowledged.

#### **Country prioritization**

Engagement at the national level is the driving force of the SWA partnership; global and regional structures support this national engagement. The partnership has grown since 2010, continuing to attract new partners. Such growth is a sign of a healthy partnership; but it is not a strategic objective in its own right. The partnership's ability to engage in each country will continue to be dictated by a range of factors, such as government leadership, in-country presence of SWA partners, the degree of engagement of focal points and champions, and Secretariat capacity,



#### **Our structure**



#### **Delivery structures**

The Steering Committee is SWA's ultimate decision—making body where all constituencies are represented. The Global Leadership Council is a high-level group of appointed SWA leaders who advocate for and mobilize wider political commitment to the Guiding Principles and aims of the SWA partnership. The Council is led by a High-level Chair. The Secretariat supports the Steering Committee in implementing SWA's Strategy, roadmaps, and workplans. Each partner country should have one focal point per SWA constituency, whose responsibility is increasing country level engagement, and coordinating the respective constituency at national level.

#### **Balance of roles**

Delivering the partnership's strategy requires a mix of political, technical, logistical, advocacy and strategic functions. These functions are spelled out wherever possible in the corresponding SWA partnership Results Framework, and associated workplans. The SWA Secretariat's purpose is to support SWA partners in delivering the strategy. Responsibility for implementation of the strategy is shared across all SWA partners. The SWA Secretariat and its high-level Chief Executive Officer are effectively resourced so they can play a critical coordination and support role for all SWA partners, partnership activities and governance structures.

#### Multi-stakeholder workplans

Each body in the SWA structure should develop its own workplan in line with the SWA partnership Results Framework. The SWA Secretariat will play a key role in supporting SWA constituencies, regions and crossconstituency Work Groups to develop these workplans. A common set of indicators will be used throughout, as set out in the Results Framework. Independent annual partnership health-checks of partnering effectiveness will help to maintain a good balance between the Global Leadership Council, the SWA Steering Committee, SWA Secretariat, SWA partners and SWA constituency group roles.

#### Learning, review and course correction

The SWA partnership Steering Committee and its two sub-committees provide high-level stewardship of this strategy, including annual performance review and adjustments of the SWA partnership Results Framework. This process of learning and review requires a strong knowledge management function; drawing on evidence of what works and what does not work in practice – including both quantitative data and contextual narrative and using both self-reported and third-party inputs. The process is and must remain open and transparent, in order to strengthen accountability and maintain a focus on course corrections while also identifying, sharing and celebrating good practices.

# THE SWA FRAMEWORK

#### THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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



Multistakeholders efforts



Sustainability of service and actions



Leaving no-one behind



Transparency and accountability



Evidence-based desicion-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 /



Institutional arrangements



Sector



Planning, monitoring, and review



Capacity development

#### MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM Accountability in Action

# THE MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM

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

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



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