



**SANITATION
AND WATER
FOR ALL**

WORLD LEADERS CALL FOR ACTION ON COVID-19 **FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS**

Heads of State, Government, and leaders from United Nations agencies, International Financial Institutions, civil society, private sector and research and learning are mobilizing around a call for the prioritization of water, sanitation and hygiene in the response to COVID-19.

The objective of the Call to Action is to bring attention at the highest political level to the importance of water, sanitation, and hygiene as the first line of defence against the spread of COVID-19 and draw attention to its importance to prevent future outbreaks.

The Call to Action is an advocacy tool and its power and long-lasting impact will depend on SWA partners' capacity to maintain momentum and use it as leverage among decision-makers, especially those in government.

Everyone can use the Call to Action to promote the importance of water, sanitation and hygiene in the context of COVID-19 and beyond. In particular:

GOVERNMENTS As a leader in the government you can use this Call to Action to make a political commitment or demonstrate your government's political commitment towards the importance of water, sanitation and hygiene within the COVID-19 response and beyond.

As a member of government responsible for water, sanitation and/or hygiene, you can use this Call to Action to advocate for the political prioritization of these issues, as well as increase its budgetary allocations.

CIVIL SOCIETY As a member of a civil society or non-profit organization, you can use it as an advocacy tool to mobilize your government to implement what it calls for and to sign it if they haven't already done so.

EXTERNAL SUPPORT AGENCY SUCH AS A BILATERAL DONOR, DEVELOPMENT BANKS, UN AGENCY This Call to Action can be used to inform and provoke internal discussions within these organisations for additional support to and action on water, sanitation and hygiene during and after COVID-19.

**WHO CAN USE
THE CALL
TO ACTION?**

PRIVATE SECTOR The Call can be used to open up dialogue between Governments and Private Sector actors to match needs to solutions and identify ways the private sector can support the national response against COVID-19.

RESEARCH AND LEARNING Research and Learning partners can use the call to promote their COVID-19 related research projects, advocate for the importance of data and research and offer their expertise to Government to support its response against COVID-19.

INDIVIDUALS As a private individual, you can call upon your elected officials to press the government to implement it and to sign it if they have not already done so.



IDEAS FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

IF YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET SIGNED THE CALL TO ACTION

As a civil society, private sector or research and learning organization, you can call upon your head of state or government to sign if they have not already done so.

There are a number of steps you can take if you work for the government and your head of State or Government has not yet signed.

REQUEST YOUR HEAD OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT TO ENDORSE THE CALL TO ACTION You can bring the Call to Action to the attention of your leaders, including Ministers and the Head of State and Government. Your Head of State or Government can still endorse the statement anytime by communicating their support for the Call to Action to the Secretariat

SHARE THE CALL TO ACTION WITH MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE to inform them of the role of water, sanitation and hygiene in the fight against COVID-19. This can help Ministers to position water, sanitation and hygiene in national and cabinet discussions related to prioritization of water, sanitation and hygiene in the response to COVID-19. Using the Call to Action in national dialogue on building a water, sanitation and hygiene sector that is integrated, well-resourced and resilient both during and after COVID-19 will be important in the fight against public health crisis.



HOLD DIALOGUES WITH PARTNERS – civil society, external support agencies, private sector and research and learning agencies – to identify specific ways to use the Call to Action. Leaders of most international partners have signed on to the Call to Action. This is an opportunity to get those partners whose leaders have already signed the Call to Action to identify specific actions they can take at country level. Some additional actions can include doing country specific analyses on the main aspects of the call, engaging with other decision-makers such as parliamentarians, and sub-national leaders, and incorporating the [Mutual Accountability Mechanism](#).





IF YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS SIGNED THE CALL TO ACTION

- Determine specific actions that partners in-country can do to achieve the recommendations of the Call to Action. Government should lead the process and use their national, multi-stakeholder processes to identify actions that can be done by different government agencies and other partners. The analysis can also draw on examples of short and long-term responses that other countries are doing to ensure water, sanitation and hygiene are rightly prioritized during and after COVID-19.
- The government can lead in preparing a short briefing for ministers focusing on:
 - Specific information on the impact of COVID-19 on water, sanitation and hygiene services
 - Information, preferably in numbers, on the country's historical spending for the sector and how water, sanitation and hygiene has been prioritised during public health emergencies
 - Highlights of what other countries are doing
 - Specific recommendations (asks) on what government leaders can do to address the challenges and threats posed by COVID-19
 - Link specific actions **to mutual accountability**: It is advisable to link these actions to the Mutual Accountability Mechanism. If the country has already made commitments, this discussion can also be used to test the relevance of the commitments with the new context where COVID-19 is expected to be a challenge for the foreseeable future. The discussion can also be used to discuss progress on existing commitments including those which related to finance
- Engage ministers responsible for water, sanitation and hygiene to present specific actions they can take to realise the ambitions set out in the call to action. This meeting should include ministers of health, education and other sectors which are crucially impacted by low water, sanitation and hygiene service provision. The meeting can also include ministers whose services significantly impact availability of water and sanitation services such as agriculture, labour and industries.
- Request sector ministers to meet with their counterparts for finance and development planning and present specific requests related to the inclusion of COVID-19 and its impact on water, sanitation and hygiene services; the resource and budgeting implications to ensure service continuity for water, sanitation and hygiene; and embed review of progress on water, sanitation and hygiene goals in the national cycle of planning and review processes.
- Engage with parliamentarians, mayors and other leaders to identify their own actions.
- Incorporate the Call to Action and its messages in the preparations for subsequent SWA High-level Meetings including the Finance Ministers' Meetings and Sector Ministers' Meetings.

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT ADVOCACY AROUND THE CALL TO ACTION

There are several other materials available to partners to support advocacy campaigns or activities around the Call to Action. They are compiled in the dedicated [WASH & COVID-19 webpage](#) and includes:

- [COVID-19 and water, sanitation and hygiene: Messages for policy-makers](#)
- [COVID-19 and WASH: Mitigating the socio-economic impacts on the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector](#)
- [Communications materials \(social media cards, short videos, etc\)](#)





ACTIONS BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

GET IN CONTACT with SWA government focal points to discuss how your network or organization can collaborate with the government on translating the Call into actionable follow-up activities, such as budget reviews for more integration of water, sanitation and hygiene, or collaboration with those marginalized. If you are an individual civil society organization (CSO), first reach out to the SWA CSO national focal point, to work together for joint messaging and activities.

REACH OUT to related line-ministries such as Health, Education, Labor and Finance to make the case that other world leaders and international community are calling for more inclusion of water, sanitation and hygiene in COVID-19 responses and beyond.

REACH OUT to parliamentarians for them to include WASH-focused considerations in their initiatives, including laws and budgets, both for COVID-19 and post COVID-19 considerations.



SHARE COMMUNICATIONS to promote the Call, including engaging with the media and broader audiences on social media with the hashtag [#GlobalCall4Water](#), to inform people and citizens about their rights to water and sanitation in a time of crisis and share recommendations.



CONSULT/DOWNLOAD the [UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water \(GLAAS\) 2019 Report](#) to see how your government is currently allocating to the sector. Moreover, refer to [UN-Water GLAAS findings on national policies, plans, targets and finance on hygiene](#) to review what actions are being taken by governments to enable hygiene promotion, facilities and handwashing with soap. Please note that data might not be available in your country. With that information, hold leaders to account (by presenting a position paper, conducting alternative reporting by budget tracking, preparing citizen report cards) for ensuring financing to fight inequalities in access to services.

USE the Call to Action to further mobilize your government on other ongoing work, including:

- Commitments tabled under the [Mutual Accountability Mechanism](#)
- Reactivation/improvement of multi-stakeholder sector coordination platforms such as Joint Sector Reviews, WASH Clusters or other country-specific mechanisms

For more information, please contact the SWA Secretariat
info@sanitationandwaterforall.org