



SANITATION
AND WATER
FOR ALL



Annual Report

2020



Cover photos:
Kolo Magloire, 10 years old, with his friend Chris Alex, 6 years old, in Korhogo, in the North of Côte d'Ivoire. The boys are wearing face coverings and washing their hands to protect against COVID-19.

Right:
Rifki, 4, brushes his teeth with his mother Jariah in front of a newly constructed toilet in their home in Tegaldowo village, Central Java province, Indonesia. The new toilet was built in 2020 using government assistance.

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WHO WE ARE

SWA is the United Nations-hosted global multi-stakeholder partnership created to achieve sanitation, water and hygiene for all, always and everywhere.

Founded in 2009, the partnership works through the voluntary participation of over 270 partners. Partners include 70 governments, 27 external support agencies (such as UN agencies, development banks and philanthropic foundations), as well as over 170 organizations from civil society, research and academia, and the private sector.

The partnership acts as a catalyst for change, highlighting the importance of human rights, gender equality, participation, integrity, transparency and mutual accountability in all its work. Partners share the belief that government-led, collaborative, multi-stakeholder approaches lead to better decision-making – and a more effective and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector. Partners hold each other globally accountable

for progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the partnership's 'Mutual Accountability Mechanism' (MAM), which also reinforces country-level multi-stakeholder planning and review processes. The mechanism focuses on the development of well-functioning WASH sectors, centred around five key elements. These are SWA's 'Building Blocks': *Sector policy and strategy, Institutional arrangements, Sector financing, Planning, monitoring and review, and Capacity development.*

The partnership works together to stimulate high-level political dialogue at country, regional and global levels. It aims to galvanize political leadership, inspiring co-ordinated action to achieve the WASH-related targets of the (SDGs).

The cornerstones of SWA's year are its High-level Meetings (HLMs), where the partnership uses its convening power to bring ministers and other high-level influencers from around the world together. There are two types of HLMs: Sector Ministers' Meetings (SMMs) and Finance Ministers' Meetings (FMMs). SMMs gather together ministers responsible for water, sanitation and hygiene to discuss experiences, bottlenecks and good practices, agree on actions and report on progress, while FMMs provide ministers of finance an opportunity to come together to explore how to make better use of resources to strengthen the sector.

While the HLMs are the cornerstone of the SWA calendar, the strength of the SWA partnership itself comes from the partners

themselves. Individually, every partner of SWA has invaluable experience and expertise to bring to the partnership. Added together, they form the backbone of SWA, providing the collective energy that will be necessary for the WASH sector, if we are to meet the challenges of the years ahead.

The SWA partnership's work is led by a Steering Committee, supported by a Secretariat headed by Catarina de Albuquerque, SWA's Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The partnership's High-level Chair is the Honourable Kevin Rudd.

WE ARE A PARTNERSHIP THAT ACTS AS A CATALYST FOR CHANGE, HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, GENDER EQUALITY, PARTICIPATION, INTEGRITY, TRANSPARENCY AND MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY



WHO WE ARE

OUR VISION

Water, sanitation and hygiene for all, always and everywhere

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, regarding them not simply 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.

OUR OBJECTIVES

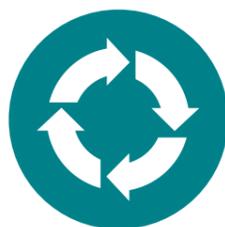
1. To build and sustain the political will to eliminate inequalities in water, sanitation and hygiene
2. To champion multi-stakeholder approaches towards achieving universal access to services
3. To rally stakeholders to strengthen system performance and attract new investments of change.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The SWA partnership was established through agreement on a set of core values. These 'Guiding Principles' are what bind all partners together, forming the basis of all SWA activities and initiatives:



Multi-stakeholder efforts



Sustainability of services and actions



Leaving no one behind



Transparency and accountability



Evidence-based decision-making

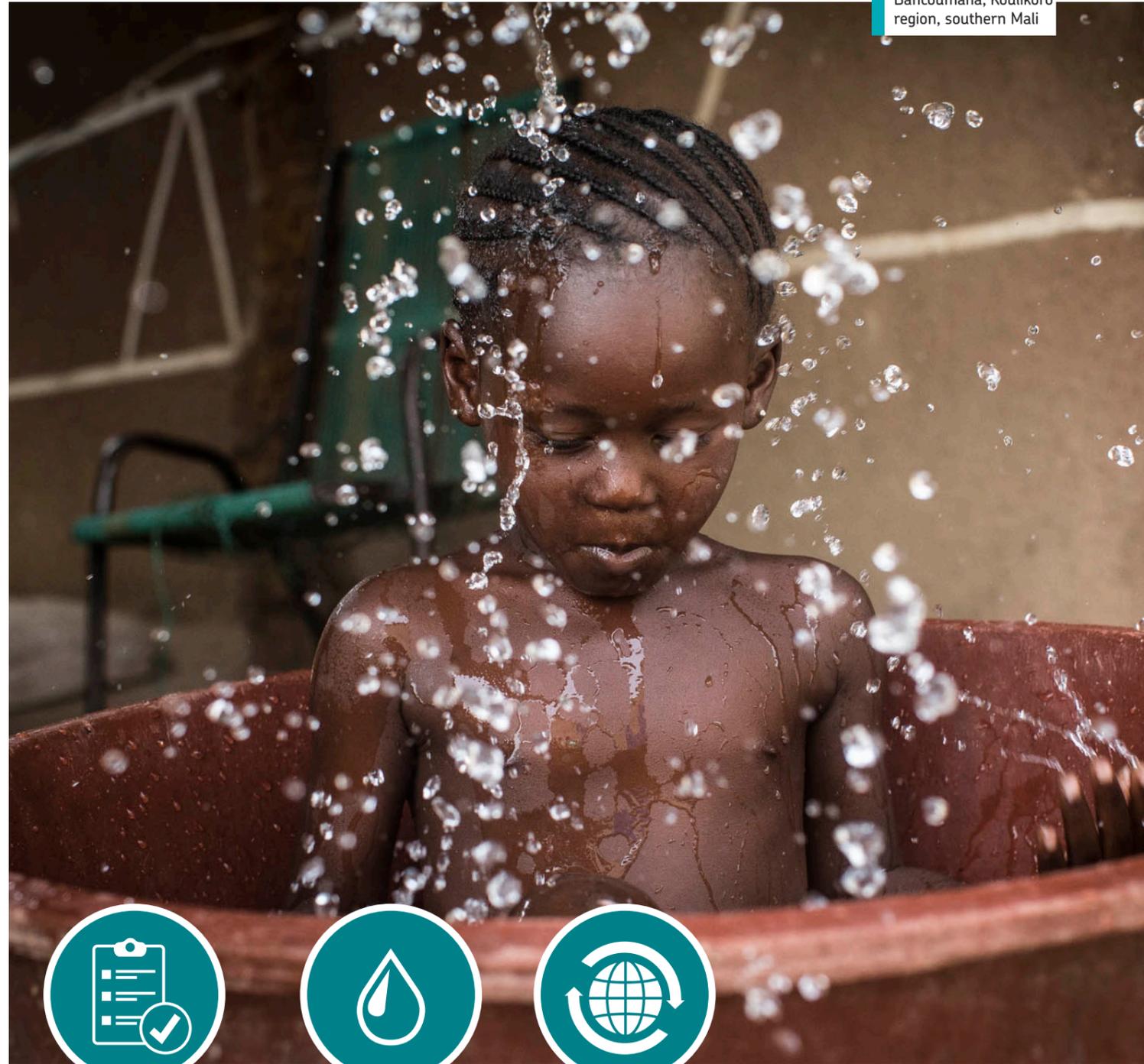


Human rights to water and sanitation



International collaboration and aid effectiveness

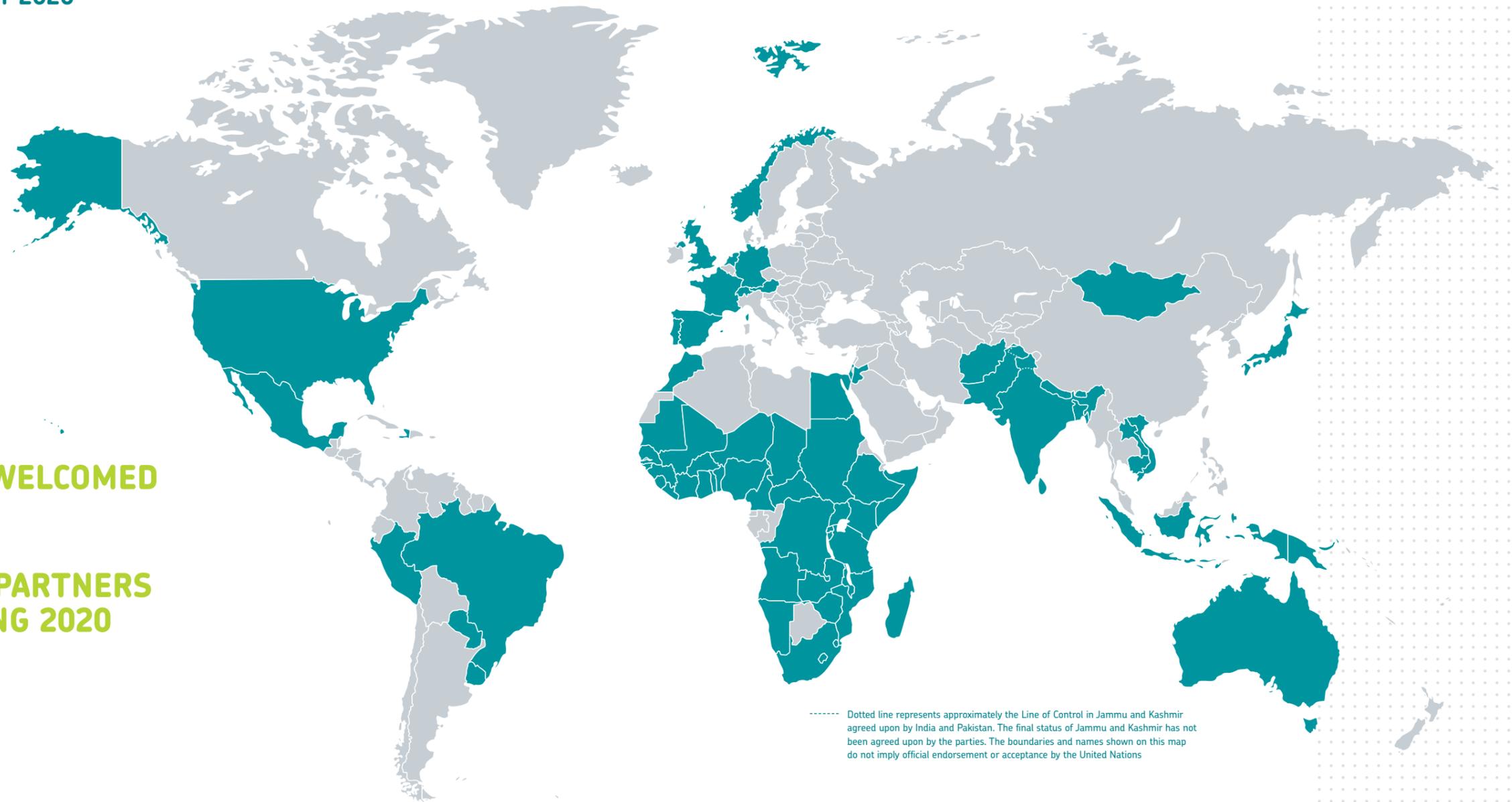
Alimata Siminta, 5 years old, takes a bath in a plastic bathtub at her family's home, Bancoumana, Koulikoro region, southern Mali



THE PARTNERSHIP IN 2020



SWA WELCOMED
23
NEW PARTNERS
DURING 2020



----- Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not been agreed upon by the parties. The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Message from The Hon. Kevin Rudd Chair, Sanitation and Water for All 26th Prime Minister of Australia

This will be my last message to you in my role as High-level Chair of the SWA partnership, before I move to take up my new position as part of SWA's Global Leadership Council in 2021. I look forward to an exciting new chapter where I can continue to support our sector.

In last year's annual message to the partnership, I spoke of the unfolding human tragedy of COVID-19. A full 12 months later, the world is still reeling from the worst public health and socio-economic crisis in living memory.

Our sector has been thrust into the spotlight as never before, with good hygiene and social distancing the world's first line of defence. Our partnership's message to prioritize effective, resilient water and sanitation systems for all has been heard more loudly than ever before. The crisis has shown the world how reliant on access to water and sanitation we are as a global community – and exposed just how many still lack this most basic of human rights.

There is no doubt that COVID-19 has made our work more visible – and more urgent. But in many ways, the crisis has also made it more difficult, with capital projects postponed, decision-makers' minds distracted, sector funding diverted, and the best-laid plans in disarray. We must stay resolute. The fight against COVID-19 and to protect future public health must be seen not as a distraction from our primary mission, but as a powerful illustration of it.

Our partnership has pulled together this year. I am extremely proud of the way we have stepped up to help each other – providing a space to find comfort in shared adversity, and solutions in a time of crisis. I share the view expressed by many this year that we must use

this crisis as a chance to reset our thinking, if we are to stand any chance of achieving the global goals we have set. In short, we owe it to the world's most vulnerable communities to ensure that water and sanitation is seen as an opportunity for investment, and not just a drain on national budgets.

In fact, the costs of inaction are far more of drain on national budgets. Inadequate water and sanitation services currently cost the world a mind-boggling 1.5 per cent of global GDP. Every dollar invested in water and sanitation brings a four-fold return in health, economic, and educational outcomes – all of which can serve a government's broader economic and social agenda.

That is why I am particularly delighted to have brought finance and sector ministers from across all regions together this year, to talk with each other and the wider partnership, for the first time in the SWA's history. It is also why I am exceptionally pleased to have published our Handbook for Finance Ministers this year. It is guidance several years in the making on how we can – and why we must – improve sector financing to deliver the goals we all want to achieve.

We must seize this moment to revitalise our approaches, including through identifying areas for innovation and new opportunities for funding. We must press home that an investment in our sector is an investment to protect our communities, to reduce premature deaths and illness, to improve education, to build our economies back up – and to ensure the privacy, safety, and dignity of all. Investing in water and sanitation does all of these things and more. Now, more than ever before, it is time to act.

Thank you all once again for my time as your High-level Chair these past five years – it has been an honour. Rest assured, my passion for our sector remains undimmed – and I will continue the good fight in whatever way I can.

WE MUST SEIZE THIS MOMENT TO REVITALIZE OUR APPROACHES, INCLUDING THROUGH IDENTIFYING AREAS FOR INNOVATION AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUNDING

THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19 MUST BE SEEN NOT AS A DISTRACTION FROM OUR PRIMARY MISSION, BUT AS A POWERFUL ILLUSTRATION OF IT



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Message from Catarina de Albuquerque CEO, Sanitation and Water for All

What an inconceivable year it has been. The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact: on countries, economies, organizations – but first and foremost on people. The crisis shaped 2020 for all of us – but as we take stock of that unimaginable year, there are many things our partnership can rightly be proud of. Just as the world began to close in on itself against the pandemic, we realized the need to reach out, and to reach up. We mobilized the sector in a global crisis. We broadened our high-level political engagement, moving seamlessly to virtual platforms. We reached wider audiences than ever before with our campaigning. And we stayed focussed on the broader picture: our new strategic framework proving its relevance, charting a path for us through a tumultuous year.

Less than a month after the pandemic was declared, we convened SWA partners – to share experiences and concerns, and bring clarity to the sector's voice in a time of crisis. That voice was heard in SWA's Global Leaders Call to Action on COVID-19. It was signed by 70 heads of state and government, heads of UN and development agencies, and other global sector leaders – helping to embed the human rights to water and sanitation as part of a much broader conversation.

It felt fitting that 2020 marked the 10th anniversary of the formal recognition of the human rights to water and sanitation – a year presenting both huge threats and opportunities to realizing those rights. It is a subject very close to my heart, having worked on them as United Nations Special Rapporteur for six years. The COVID-19 pandemic has focussed the minds of the world on these most basic of human needs, and we saw extraordinary examples of how the rights were used to influence COVID-19 response policies and decrees. I am proud of how SWA harnessed that focus, to rally a coalition of global leaders committed to advocating for these rights. I look forward to building on that momentum in the years ahead.

Most of us have had to envision new ways of working this year. Our 2020 Finance Ministers' Meeting, originally slated for April in Washington D.C., and months in the planning, was of course put on hold. But we turned this into a positive. Instead of one physical meeting, we organized three virtual, regional Finance Ministers' Meetings later in the year – allowing us to tailor the content to each region, and enabling more focussed conversations. The meetings were built around SWA's Handbook for Finance Ministers, a seminal publication that helps frame the conversation on sector finance and define a path to SDG success. And this new way of working and engaging was popular. We were joined by a huge audience – nearly 30,000 people viewed the meetings, broadcast on our different media channels, and we were able to gather together record numbers of ministers and senior other officials.

COVID-19 has exposed the shocking global inequalities in access to water, sanitation and hygiene services as never before. It has also tested the relevance of our new strategy when it was needed the most. But, as you will read in this Annual Report, that new strategy has proved robust and up to the task: a guiding influence to focus the partnership, when crisis could have knocked us off course. Our main objective remains unfaltering: to meet the goals we have set ourselves and achieve the SDGs. Our approach must be equally clear and unswerving. We must reach up – to engage with decision makers who have the power and ability to elevate our sector on national and global agendas. And we must reach out – to work with organizations across sectors to position water, sanitation and hygiene as the undisputed building blocks for success in 2030. I want to thank you all for keeping us firmly on that road during 2020 – and I look forward to continuing our mission with you all in the year ahead.

THE CRISIS SHAPED
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RIGHTLY BE PROUD OF

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



In early 2020, the world saw cases emerging of a new disease that, in the twelve months that followed, was to disrupt lives everywhere. The COVID-19 pandemic is a global public health crisis, as well as the worst socio-economic crisis the world has faced in nearly a century. It is a crisis which affects the poorest disproportionately, and threatens to push an estimated 70-100 million¹ more people into extreme poverty. In short, the COVID-19 pandemic threatens the progress the world has made on development since the turn of the century. From the very start of the crisis, it became clear that the WASH sector would be right at the centre of the response; it is the world's first line of defence in the face of potentially catastrophic global consequences.

The year was understandably dominated by COVID-19. But in many ways, the partnership came into its own this year. The pandemic has caused unprecedented disruption and shifts in ways of working across the globe, but SWA grasped the opportunity and did what it does best: it brought partners together, stimulated multi-stakeholder, multi-sector conversations to deepen political will, and generated a rallying cry for investment in our sector. For example, the shift to virtual working and interaction meant that, for the first time, Finance Ministers' Meetings could be held for each of the three regions. And far from allowing lockdowns and restrictions to isolate partners, the SWA partnership saw a significant broadening of its political engagement, as well as increased webinar attendance, knowledge exchange, and digital interaction.

The 2020 Annual Report outlines the actions of the partnership through 2020, beginning with its ongoing response to COVID-19. It goes on to describe SWA's core activities for the year, in the context of the first year of SWA's new [Strategic Framework 2020-2030](#). The new strategic framework was agreed in December 2019, and launched in 2020, with the development and piloting of the accompanying Results Framework continuing throughout the year, despite pandemic disruption.

THE REPORT BEGINS BY OUTLINING SWA'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19, THEN HIGHLIGHTS SWA'S CORE ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEW STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2020-2030

The new strategy articulates a renewed focus for the partnership, defining the path it will pursue in the closing decade of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) era. The three strategic objectives of the new strategy are mutually re-enforcing, and are designed to allow all partners to adopt and adapt them as needed, to maximize the added value of the SWA partnership to their own context. Despite a year that has rocked the world to its core, the objectives have proved their relevance at the heart of the partnership's work throughout 2020, keeping us focussed on the road ahead.



A learner is pictured putting on a face mask near a COVID-19 signpost at Mchoka primary school in Salima, where a solar water system is being constructed, 13 November, 2020.



COVID-19: A platform for sector joint action and learning

The pandemic dominated almost every aspect of life during 2020; a crisis of such magnitude that it threatened to derail or eclipse the best laid plans across the world. But it was very clear early on that water and sanitation would be central to the pandemic response – and SWA quickly rose to the task.

During this global crisis, SWA has sought ways to continue supporting partners everywhere in the best way it could; using its convening power, existing platforms and information channels to enable dialogue and learning.

It is testament to the strength of our established global partnership that within four weeks of a pandemic being declared by the World Health Organization, SWA was able to offer a platform to gather sector stakeholders for dialogue at ministerial level, from all regions. SWA convened **global ministerial webinars and roundtables** in early April, with over 150 partners attending, and more than 20 ministers from Africa,

Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. Ministers underscored challenges which were created or exacerbated by COVID-19, including efficiency shortcomings, utility debt, lack of power and other critical supplies, lack of approaches that meet specific needs of customers, and inadequate engagement of some critical stakeholders, such as small-scale service providers.

In April, May and June 2020, the Private Sector, Research and Learning, and the Civil Society Organizations constituencies conducted a **cross-constituency online forum of meetings** to identify solutions to key needs within the COVID-19 response. The online forum helped to act as a useful follow-up to the COVID-19 ministerial roundtables. There were three partner exchange meetings, which were focussed on (i) COVID-19 and inequalities in WASH service levels (ii) balancing consumer protection and utility financial stability during the COVID-19 pandemic, and (iii) best practices in the COVID-19 response.

On 14 May, SWA launched the **World Leaders' Call to Action**, in order to stimulate dialogue on COVID-19 and WASH. This appeal to global leadership was to underscore that until effective vaccines and treatments are widely available, the first line of defence in preventing the spread of COVID-19 is water, sanitation and hygiene.

The call was endorsed by more than 70 global leaders including Heads of State and Government, the United Nations and other international organizations, civil society organizations, international finance institutions, private sector and academia. Direct contact with the communications departments of signatory organizations led to unprecedented media coverage for the partnership.

In Ghana, a young girl washes her hands before returning to class after recess.





Guy Ryder @GuyRyder · May 14, 2020
Access to clean water, soap and sanitation is a life saver and at the bedrock of global development.
It is currently one of the most effective ways to fight the #COVID19 pandemic.
Pleased to join leaders in the #GlobalCall4Water, sanitation and hygiene: bit.ly/3fJ483w

Michelle Bachelet @mbachelet · May 28, 2020
We must take action to achieve universal access to water and sanitation as fundamental human rights. We need to go beyond the immediate response to #COVID19 and think long-term to build a better future for all. #GlobalCall4Water

Henrietta H. Fore @unicafchief · May 14, 2020
Handwashing is one of the most effective ways to slow the spread of #COVID19.
We must prioritize water, sanitation and hygiene services — it's our first line of defence against the outbreak. #GlobalCall4Water unfpa.org/2020/05/14/global-call-to-action-on-wash/

Simavi @SimaviNL · Jun 30, 2020
World leaders' call to action on #COVID19: Water, sanitation and hygiene (#WASH) is first line of defence. Robert Bos, @IRCWASH & Pim van der Male, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs @GGG_NL tell us about the value of the #GlobalCall4Water initiative here: bit.ly/GlobalCall4Water

UN-Water @UN_Water · May 14, 2020
World leaders' Call to Action on WASH & #COVID19
World leaders signed a Call to Action to ensure that water and sanitation systems are resilient and sustainable in order to protect people's health and support national health systems.
#GlobalCall4Water
sanitationandwaterforall.org/about/our-work

62 världsledare i gemensamt uppdrag mot vatten och hygien i kampen mot Sveriges biståndsmän och bland underordnade
PÅSÅNDNINGEN: 14 MAJ 2020 18:06
Idag lanserades ett globalt uppdrag där 62 världsledare, bland

30 ARTICLES, 500 TWEETS ACHIEVING OVER 100,000 INTERACTIONS, 90,000 USERS REACHED ON FACEBOOK, VIDEOS ON TWITTER WERE VIEWED 13,300 TIMES. SWA GAINED OVER 500 NEW FOLLOWERS ON THAT DAY AND THE CALL TO ACTION DEDICATED WEBPAGE HAD OVER 3,000 UNIQUE VIEWS WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF THE LAUNCH



reliefweb
African Development Bank joins Sanitation and Water for J...
action for safe and accessible water amid COVID-19 pande...

For a lack of soap and clean water, diarrhoea flourishes

EL PAÍS
Para los líderes mundiales, está es la prioridad en respuesta al covid-19

Watten och hygien måste prioriteras

Bahari, world leaders seek action on water, sanitation

AGUA, SANEAMIENTO E HIGIENE: LOS LÍDERES MUNDIALES HACEN UN LLAMADO A LA ACCIÓN SOBRE

ONU Info
Eau, assainissement et hygiène : les dirigeants mondiaux appellent à agir contre la Covid-19

On the day of the launch, the Call to Action was published in *The Financial Times*, *The Economist*, *The New York Times*, *Le Monde* and *El País*. A press release was shared among key press in four languages, generating 30 articles published during the week of the launch. Over 500 tweets used the hashtag #GlobalCall4Water, achieving over 100,000 interactions. On Facebook, the campaign reached over 90,000 users, and Call to Action videos were viewed 13,300 times on Twitter. SWA gained over 500 new followers on that day, across all social media platforms, and the Call to Action dedicated webpage had over 3,000 unique views within two weeks of the launch.

Several leaders used social media to promote the Call to Action and used SWA's communications materials, including UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, Achim Steiner (UNDP), Antonio Vitorino (IMO), Peter Maurer (IFRC), Guy Ryder (ILO), ministers from Colombia, Finland, Netherlands and Sweden, and the Hilton and H&M Foundations, as well as official corporate accounts of Unilever, Veolia, and Suez. Many partners contacted the Secretariat for advice on how to use the Call to Action at the national level to create momentum, and SWA continues to offer a one-on-one help desk support function on how to best use the Call to Action in advocacy work.

To rapidly share best practices and learning between countries working on the COVID-19 response, SWA developed a **webinar series** focussing specifically on COVID-19 and WASH. We heard from different countries about what they were doing in terms of preparedness, coordination, information sharing and how they were integrating WASH in the wider response. The webinars dealt with topics of global interest, as well as with more technical topics. Recordings of the webinars are available on the SWA website [here](#).

Supporting and amplifying public health messages
Recognizing the urgent need for awareness-raising and dissemination of accurate public health guidance, SWA reached out to networks of journalists around the world – offering financial and technical support in the development of content around COVID-19 prevention. This included radio shows, printed materials, and other communication strategies.

We amplified messages from WHO, UNICEF, and other expert organizations through our communications channels and among our



AFRICA

COVID-related public health messaging

SWA supported public health initiatives in several partner countries in Africa, providing funding and developing messaging, including...

...in **Niger**, where the *WASH Journalist Network* released public service announcement radio spots in the national radio (Voix du Sahel) in French and two other local languages.

...in **Sierra Leone**, where *WASHNet* (CSO Network, in collaboration Sierra Leone's WASH Media Network) produced three dedicated Radio talk shows and two dedicated Television talk shows about WASH and COVID-19.

...in **Tanzania**, where *Media for Community Empowerment* produced a radio show with expert interventions.



tens of thousands of followers across Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

SWA also supported civil society organizations across Asia and Africa, to raise awareness of the importance of WASH to the COVID-19 response – covering both community messaging and advocacy to governments.

FACT: ON THE DAY THE PANDEMIC WAS DECLARED AND PUBLIC HEALTH MESSAGING AROUND THE WORLD WAS URGING EVERYONE TO WASH THEIR HANDS, THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 3 BILLION PEOPLE ACROSS THE WORLD WHO WERE SIMPLY UNABLE TO DO SO



Providing key resources on COVID-19 and WASH

SWA developed a [COVID-19 and WASH](#) webpage on its website where different resources and tools are compiled around different topics. The partnership helped to document, curate and share the experiences of key people that are on the front line of the crisis, and those that have experience dealing with similar situations in the past. The webpage includes guidance, videos, social media materials with key messages on public health, and webinar recordings.

A [dedicated blog](#) compiled information on COVID-19 response at national level, sharing the stories of how SWA partners are working in different countries and contexts. A [COVID-19 and WASH communications toolkit](#) was also developed. The toolkit included



“
In Colombia, the government has issued an emergency decree to request water companies to reconnect water supply for around 200,000 poorest families and has frozen any increase in water tariffs or rates that were expected for this specific quarter of the year.
”

JOSE LUIS ACERO VERGEL
MINISTERIO DE VIVIENDA, CIUDAD Y TERRITORIO
COLOMBIA

Leaders that recognize the role of water, sanitation and hygiene in preventing the spread of COVID-19, will **save lives.**

#GlobalCall4Water



Items from the toolkit



messages for advocacy and messaging, which were turned into accessible visuals, such as simple animated videos, GIFs and illustrations for partners to use on social media.

Staying focussed as a partnership

COVID-19 influenced and disrupted all of our personal and professional daily lives in 2020. It also disrupted the plans and work across the partnership. We should feel a sense of pride at the way all the different elements of SWA rallied and supported each other during an unprecedented global crisis – and also proud that we remained steady, never losing sight of the job at hand.

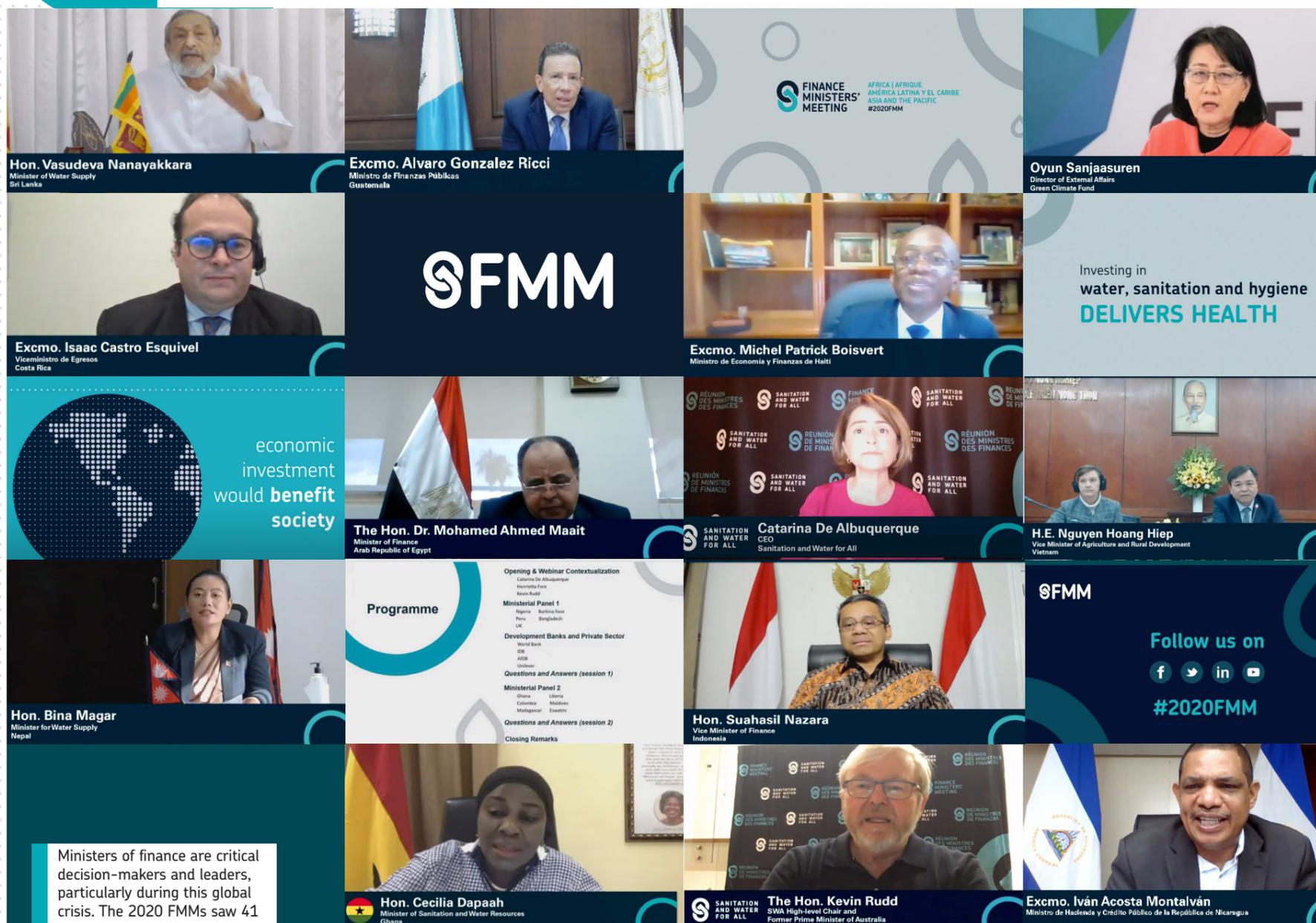
In large part, this was because we knew a very simple but stark fact: that the day the pandemic was declared on 11 March, with public health messaging around the world urging everyone to wash their hands, there were approximately [3 billion people](#) across the world who were simply unable to do so whenever they needed to. We also knew the progressive realization of the human rights to water and sanitation should never pause – not for a pandemic, or any other reason. On the contrary: we all felt a sense of urgency in making sure that we would seize the moment to increase the visibility and political support for these basic human needs. So we came together in different ways, we adapted, we learned from each other – and we stayed focussed on our mission: water, sanitation and hygiene for all, always and everywhere.

It was SWA's new strategic framework that helped us to stay focussed on that mission. The new strategy has more than proved its relevance during a year that has tested it to the limits – charting a path for the partnership when it was needed the most. That new strategy has three main objectives at its core, and SWA's work towards each of these objectives is explored in the next three sections below.



OBJECTIVE 1: Build and sustain political will to eliminate inequalities in water, sanitation and hygiene

Achieved by holding high-level multi-stakeholder political dialogues and sustaining their impact, by strengthening connections between the SWA partnership and broader sustainable development agendas, and by facilitating the use of strong evidence for effective policy advocacy.



Ministers of finance are critical decision-makers and leaders, particularly during this global crisis. The 2020 FMMs saw 41 countries represented at the ministerial level, focussed on discussing effective, sustainable investments in WASH

Finance Ministers' Meetings (FMMs)

The SWA partnership convenes regular High-level Meetings (HLMs) of ministers and other high-level representatives of SWA partners, to foster ongoing high-level political dialogue. In 2020, the HLMs were focused on bringing finance ministers together, through Finance Ministers Meetings. In November and December, for the first time in the history of the SWA partnership, dedicated FMMs were held for finance ministers in every region of the partnership, with virtual meetings held for Africa, Asia & the Pacific, and Latin America & Caribbean.

The HLMs provide the space for governments and partners to explore solutions to ensure WASH for all, while improving economies and health systems – including protecting populations from COVID-19 and future public health emergencies. Ministers of finance are critical decision-makers and leaders, particularly during this global crisis; they are a vital link that will help integrate WASH into both the economic and health recovery from the pandemic.

The preparatory process

The FMMs took place in November and December. However, the preparatory process leading up to SWA's high-level meetings is always both complex and invaluable, and was ongoing throughout 2020. The SWA Secretariat led this preparatory process, which included national sector analyses, dialogues, advocacy and communications activities. SWA held meetings with partners from nearly 60 countries as part of the process, and supported governments and their national-level partners during the WASH Finance Week leading up to their FMM. The CEO also held separate conference calls with all of the different constituencies, to help them prepare and get the most out of the FMMs as possible.

To help partners prepare, SWA developed an engagement toolkit, which helped partners come together at country level and develop joint messages to present to ministers. The messages allowed civil society organizations, research and learning partners and private sector partners to speak with their respective constituency voices. The messages provided talking points to engage ministers, exploring ways to improve transparency, accountability and the targeting of financing for the most marginalized (more information can be found [here](#)).

Communications support for the FMMs

To help build momentum, SWA created a dedicated FMM page on its website, focussing on the regional events and the preparatory process leading up to the meetings themselves. This included a Live Blog (incorporating 49 articles), which had nearly 4,000 unique visitors in the three months leading up to the meetings. SWA developed a [communications toolkit for the FMM](#), which was made available to partners to support their promotion of the FMMs. The toolkit was shared on the United Nations' calendar used by all UN communications staff, and was presented to communications experts in partner organizations through a dedicated webinar.

At the end of September, SWA officially launched the communications around the FMMs with the hashtag #2020FMM. Several partners joined the online conversation, including finance ministries, the World Bank, WHO, UN-Water and UNDP, as well as leaders such as UNICEF's Henrietta Fore, WHO's Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus, and UNEP's Achim Steiner.



COSTA RICA

SWA's High-level Meetings and WASH sector momentum

Costa Rica hosted the SWA Sector Ministers' Meeting (SMM) in 2019. The high-level meeting acted as a boost to the sector's visibility in the country, and contributed to embedding the concept of the human rights to water and sanitation politically. The meeting brought the wider partnership together to learn from each other, and also provided a space for Costa Rica's leaders to focus on water and sanitation. It allowed them to consider the importance of the sector to the health, environment, education – and economy – of the country. Costa Rica's president made closing remarks at the regional LatinoSan conference, and then officially opened the SWA partnership's SMM, which followed it.

This high-level engagement has brought a sense of momentum to the sector in 2020. Costa Rica's 'AyA' agency (responsible for areas such as sector infrastructure and improving access to water) assumed the presidency of the regional water and sanitation forum, FOCARD-APS. And Costa Rica's congress enshrined the human right to water within Costa Rica's constitution – a momentous achievement following years of sector advocacy. Such increasing political will means that the sector's voice is louder and has more sway – in cabinet meetings, parliament, and in budget allocation sessions: 2020 saw nearly \$100 million of additional financing allocated to Costa Rica's WASH sector, despite an economic downturn.

To kick off the FMMs, SWA's 2020 Youth Reporter Clinton Ikechukwu Ezeigwe took over SWA's twitter account, with tweets reaching over 70,000 people, gaining more than 7000 engagements. Fifteen [short videos](#) were also released from heads of agencies, civil society and other organizations, calling on leaders to prioritize WASH and join the FMMs.

The power of traditional media was also used to support the 2020 FMMs. An opinion-editorial signed by SWA's CEO and global co-conveners, helped to generate nearly 70 articles related to the 2020 FMMs, in 28 countries.

The FMMs themselves were broadcast live on SWA's social media accounts on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube, with nearly 30,000 viewers viewing live or within a week of the event.



The meetings

The 2020 FMMs were organized by SWA and co-convened by two of the partnership's global partners; UNICEF and the World Bank, as well as key regional partners for each of the three regions: the African Ministers' Council on Water, the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank.

In total, 41 countries from across the world were represented at ministerial level. This included 68 ministers: 27 finance ministers and 41 sector ministers. Attendees also included heads of UN agencies, development banks, bilateral and multilateral institutions and leaders from civil society, the private sector, and research and learning institutions.

The objective of the FMMs was to further develop and strengthen partnerships with and between finance ministers. Dialogue was focussed on effective, sustainable investments in WASH, that could deliver improved system resilience, employment opportunities, health benefits, and increasing access to innovative finance. Evidence and practical experiences of successful investments in the sector were presented, with ministers actively engaging on initiatives relevant to their context. The FMM also used specific examples from the [Handbook for Finance Ministers](#), which SWA launched in October 2020, to help frame the FMM discussions, and explore practical financing approaches to achieve the WASH targets of the SDGs.

The FMMs generated many interesting discussions. Ministers and partners agreed that::

- Financing priorities are politically determined. Water and sanitation are human rights, and from an economic point of view, inaction costs far more than taking action. It must be pushed further up the political agenda.

LIBERIA

Electoral pledges on WASH

SWA has supported high-level political engagement and accountability in the WASH sector over several years in Liberia. This has included politicians committing to formal public pledges on WASH. It has also led to the formation of Liberia's National WASH Commission, a new agency which now regulates and co-ordinates the sector, and is led at ministerial level.

Liberia held elections in 2020, and civil society organizations in particular mobilized to put electoral pressure on candidates to maintain the political prominence of the sector. The groundwork to make this possible was laid patiently over several years, through continuous engagement and joint work between SWA and Liberia partners, to raise the profile of the sector. It has provided the opportunity to position access to WASH both as an election issue, and as a human rights issue which should transcend politics.





NIGERIA

Innovative partnerships inspired by SWA's Sector Ministers' Meeting

SWA's 2019 Sector Ministers' Meeting inspired Nicholas Igwe from Zenith Water Projects. He returned to Abuja to seek ways of increasing collaboration between the Government and wider stakeholders in Nigeria's WASH sector. By October, the SWA private sector constituency in Nigeria had developed 'OPSWASH' – a national body that coordinates private sector efforts and cultivates multi-stakeholder innovations in the sector. It has a specific focus on how the private sector can support ending open defecation in the country by 2025.

In November 2020, OPSWASH launched the 'FLUSH!' campaign. It is an ambitious project, involving the provision of two million toilets each year to 2025. Crucially, FLUSH!T is supported by innovative WASH financing. This includes a tax credit scheme for companies and organizations investing in the sector, and government-issued 'Blue Bonds' to mobilize private capital for the WASH sector, as well as public-private partnerships for the implementation of decentralized sewage treatment systems. OPSWASH, and the FLUSH!T campaign are both remarkable contributions to the sector in Nigeria. They are testimony to what can be achieved through a little inspiration in a very short space of time – setting an example of what private sector engagement in WASH can look like at the global level.

- COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of WASH for health. But it has also had a negative impact on funding streams, affecting the very services we rely on to protect ourselves.
- The climate crisis is already affecting access to services
- Resilience must be built in to all services, so they are more sustainable and can reach everyone.
- Green financing, green bonds, social impact bonds and other innovative financing mechanisms should be explored and harnessed to boost the sector.
- Governments should work collaboratively to develop policies and strategies for financing WASH services, making use of the significant expertise of other SWA constituencies at the national level.

SWA will use the significant momentum that was generated by the 2020 FMMs to build on these and other points of agreement. Follow-up action by the partnership will include ensuring that, for example, commitments made on budgeting, joint sector reviews and coordination are incorporated and taken forward by ministers, other leaders and the wider partnership. Partners are strongly encouraged to use the Finance Ministers Handbook to continue to identify where partners can work together with ministers and wider government, to achieve national priorities on WASH. The FMMs will also form the basis for the partnership's work on its sector finance strategic objective, as well as the upcoming work of the SWA's new Systems and Finance Work Group (more on the new Systems and Finance Work Group is on [p49](#)).

The 10th anniversary of the human rights to water and sanitation

In July, SWA launched a campaign to mark the 10th anniversary of the recognition of the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation.

The recognition of these most fundamental of human rights was the culmination of several years of concentrated advocacy work with civil society, human rights organizations, and governments. Since then, the rights have been incorporated in national constitutions, national laws, as well as international and regional legal standards, as well as declarations, and political statements, among others.



Partners and other stakeholders were invited to join in celebrating the anniversary, and to share how the recognition of the human rights to water and sanitation has had a positive impact on the lives around the world. [SWA developed a dedicated page](#) for people to find and share information, and a dedicated newsletter was sent to 3,000 stakeholders. A [communications toolkit for the 10th anniversary](#) was also developed for the campaign, and series of 11 videos by the SWA CEO were published ahead of the celebration and on the day. SWA also used search engine advertising, which reached nearly 30,000 people.

SWA's campaign [reached upwards of 1.7 million people](#). The campaign was a wonderful display of global solidarity – a celebration of a crucial turning point, both for the sector and many of the world's most marginalized communities.

Taking action on sector gender inequality

This year the partnership acted to address gender inequality in several ways. It held a learning and exchange workshop with CSOs, looking at how to improve gender-responsive budgeting for water, sanitation and hygiene, as well as media outreach work with the African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation, to highlight the plight of women and girls forced to trade sexual favours for water. SWA also consciously worked to ensure a gender-balanced representation for speakers at the 2020 Finance Ministers Meetings.

The partnership will publish further detailed guidance on how the WASH sector can act to improve gender equality during 2021.





COLOMBIA

Becoming an SWA partner and building political will for the sector

SWA welcomed Colombia to the partnership in 2020. SWA's CEO had visited in 2019 and been impressed by the country's Rural Water and Sanitation programme, and its potential for reaching more remote and vulnerable communities. Since the visit, there has been close liaison between the sector ministry and the *Agencia de Renovación del Territorio (ART)*, which is predominantly focussed in post-conflict areas. Significant water and sanitation infrastructure investment has been agreed, with links forged between the ART and the Rural Water and Sanitation programme.

Colombia has been a welcome and active new SWA partner during 2020. The country's WASH authorities have joined several dialogues on global WASH policy and strategy, including on the COVID-19 response, and have shared their experience of how the country has closed gaps in service provision, through innovations in regulation.

Colombia has also developed ways to increase dialogue in its WASH sector during 2020. The creation of a national multi-sector platform has created a space where government, NGOs, external support agencies, academia and the private sector can talk. The Government has also recognized the WASH sector as critical to its COVID-19 recovery plan, with additional resources for the sector in 2021 the highest for a decade.

Global and regional visibility

A significant element of SWA's advocacy stems from its ability to speak for a broad partnership, to reach global and regional audiences. Our voice is the voice of a sector. We are proud to speak for that sector, and the millions of people who need it to serve them better – and we strive to make our voice heard wherever we can.

This year, of course, this element of SWA's work looked very different, with mainstays of the sector's calendar cancelled – but we still found ways to engage and speak up on many stages. A selection of some of the highlights of this engagement is below.



Water and climate summit

The water and climate summit was a high-level event organized as part of the WaterAid Climate Finance Initiative.

Hosted by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, the event created valuable dialogue between senior representatives from across governments, the private sector, multilateral institutions, and civil society. The event was chaired by WaterAid CEO, Tim Wainwright. SWA's CEO was asked to join as a contributor to discussions, specifically around a funding mechanism to support high quality resilience programmes for water, sanitation and hygiene. Following the event, SWA became a formal partner for the initiative – and we look forward to working with WaterAid and other partners during 2021, in the lead up to the COP26.



United Nations High-level Political Forum

In July, SWA led a side event at a 2020 United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF). The HLPF was focussed on 'Accountability for the Elimination of Inequalities in the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene COVID-19 Response', and the side event looked to strengthen connections between the SWA

partnership and broader SDG agendas.

The side event was organized around two panel discussions. The first panel considered accountability at the national level, looking at aspects of the COVID-19 response such as how sector funding is being allocated and used, and how this is being monitored, as well as transparency of information on COVID-19 responses. The second panel discussed practical experiences of accountability mechanisms. It covered accountability tools, practices, and challenges, and considered questions of inclusion and participation, and whether existing accountability mechanisms would be adequate for the COVID-19 response.



Sustainable development '17 Rooms' initiative

The '17 Rooms' initiative is focussed on the SDGs and organized by the Brookings Institution. SWA's CEO was a moderator for Room 6 on SDG 6, alongside Ilze Brands Kehris, the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, as well as Jennifer Sara from the World Bank, and the esteemed Ghanaian scientist Letitia Obeng.



'Hand Hygiene for All' initiative, Asia and Pacific event

The Hand Hygiene for All initiative brings together international partners, national governments, public and private sectors, and civil society. It works towards increasing access to handwashing for the most vulnerable communities, giving them the means to protect their health and environment. SWA's CEO delivered the keynote address at UNICEF's 'Hand Hygiene for All' initiative in East Asia and Pacific, co-organized by UNICEF, SWA, FANSA, WSSCC, WaterAid and WHO.



Global Handwashing Day event

SWA co-hosted this global high-level gathering to mark Global Handwashing Day 2020, with SWA's CEO moderating. The event was convened by the United Nations (UN) Permanent Missions of the UK and Finland with support from a number of core partners. There were keynote

addresses from Henrietta Fore (Executive Director, UNICEF) and Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab (Deputy Director-General, WHO), and the event secured commitments on handwashing from the Principals of key UN agencies.



'Finance in Common' summit

SWA attended the Finance in Common Summit in 2020, which called on public development banks to work together towards a 'Water Finance Coalition'. The Water Finance Coalition will be dedicated to improving financing of water and sanitation projects, with a particular focus on unlocking more climate finance – as well as embedding water as a cross-cutting issue in public development banks' daily activities.



'Lives in the Balance' summit

SWA's CEO was a speaker at the Lives in the Balance summit, organized by the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH). The popular cross-sectoral event had representatives attending from over 100 countries across governments, development agencies and the private sector. SWA was on the panel to discuss social protection for marginalized and vulnerable populations. The session explored how protecting women, children and adolescents everywhere and in all circumstances requires a much greater focus on social protections, including food and nutrition security, as well as functional, clean and safe toilet and hand-washing facilities.



SHARE roundtable

At the Sanitation and Hygiene Applied Research for Equity (SHARE) roundtable, SWA's CEO provided opening remarks on the future of the WASH sector. She set out why WASH must be prioritized as both an urgent and effective investment, emphasizing the importance of focussing on generating political will, in order to mobilize the financing needed to meet the SDGs.



VIỆT NAM

SWA's country visit and building political will for the WASH sector

SWA visited Việt Nam in 2019. The aim was to meet with partners and help raise the political visibility of the sector – as well as to discuss the specific WASH challenges faced by marginalized communities and vulnerable groups in the country. During the visit, SWA's Steering Committee Chair and CEO met with the Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, as well as a wide range of WASH sector stakeholders and partners, exploring common ground on the future of the country's WASH sector. In 2020, the country maintained a sharp focus on the sector, continuing to work on areas such as improving sector regulation and water tariffs, developing incentive policies to attract sector investment, and on increasing collaboration with NGOs and external support agencies.

Việt Nam is also one of one of the 11 pioneer countries for SWA's Mutual Accountability Mechanism – utilizing the political will generated in recent years to engage stakeholders across the WASH sector and beyond, to build a productive consensus. The country has committed to develop and implement a national action plan to eliminate open defecation through the mechanism, and to increase WASH access for specific marginalized groups: for vulnerable women in five provinces, and for ethnic minorities in remote areas of the country.

SWA WILL CONTINUE ITS ENGAGEMENT WITH MALI DURING 2021 ON THE PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED DURING THE CEO'S VISIT

CEO's visit to Mali

In March 2020, the CEO visited Mali to meet with the government and other partners. The country visit was covered through [a live blog](#). During the visit, SWA shared live info on social media which reached over 75,000 people. The SWA team held a packed press conference in Bamako at the conclusion of the visit, which was covered by key national and international media outlets.

During the visit, the CEO met with Mali's Minister of Energy and Water, as well as the directors and secretaries-general of the water and sanitation ministries, but also with bilateral donors, and the Head of Delegation of the European Union. A key focus of the discussions was on sector financing – specifically, public funding allocation, tariffs and climate financing.

She also met with the head of the National Assembly and the parliamentary WASH caucus, and offered advocacy support on behalf of SWA – including facilitating an exchange with countries where parliamentarians' involvement in WASH has been particularly effective.

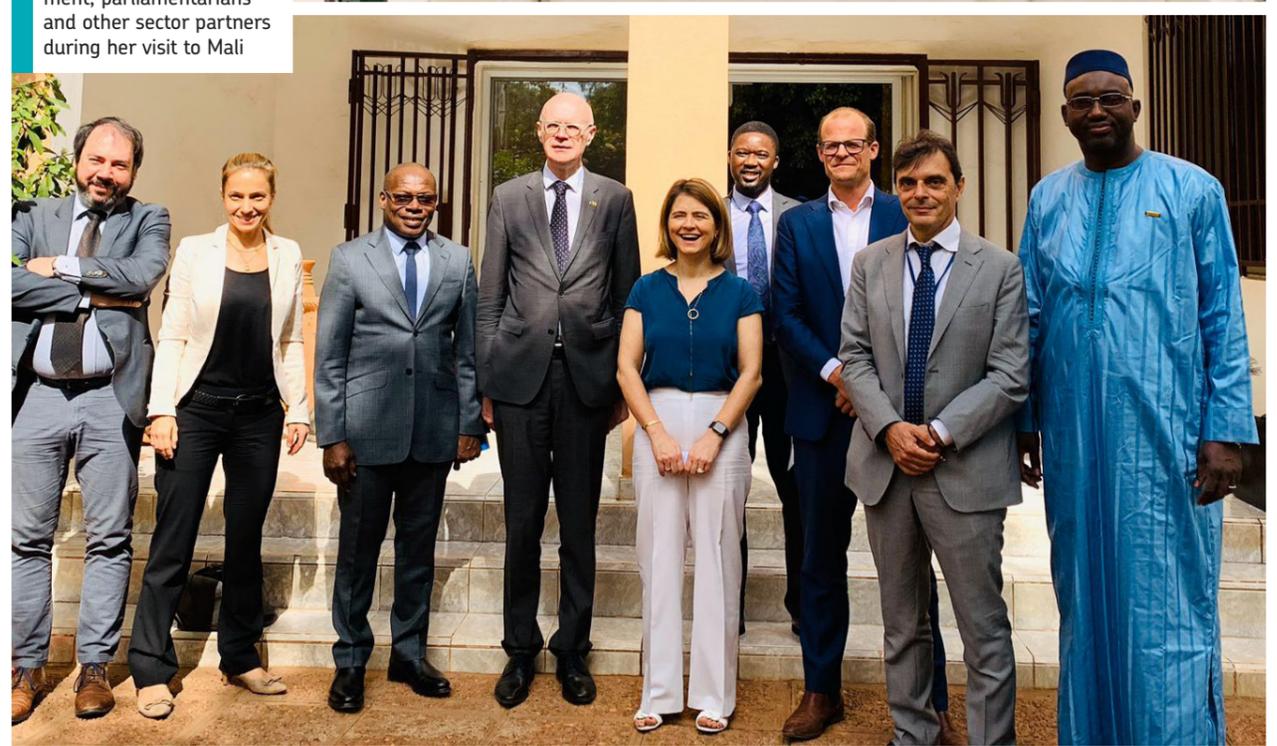


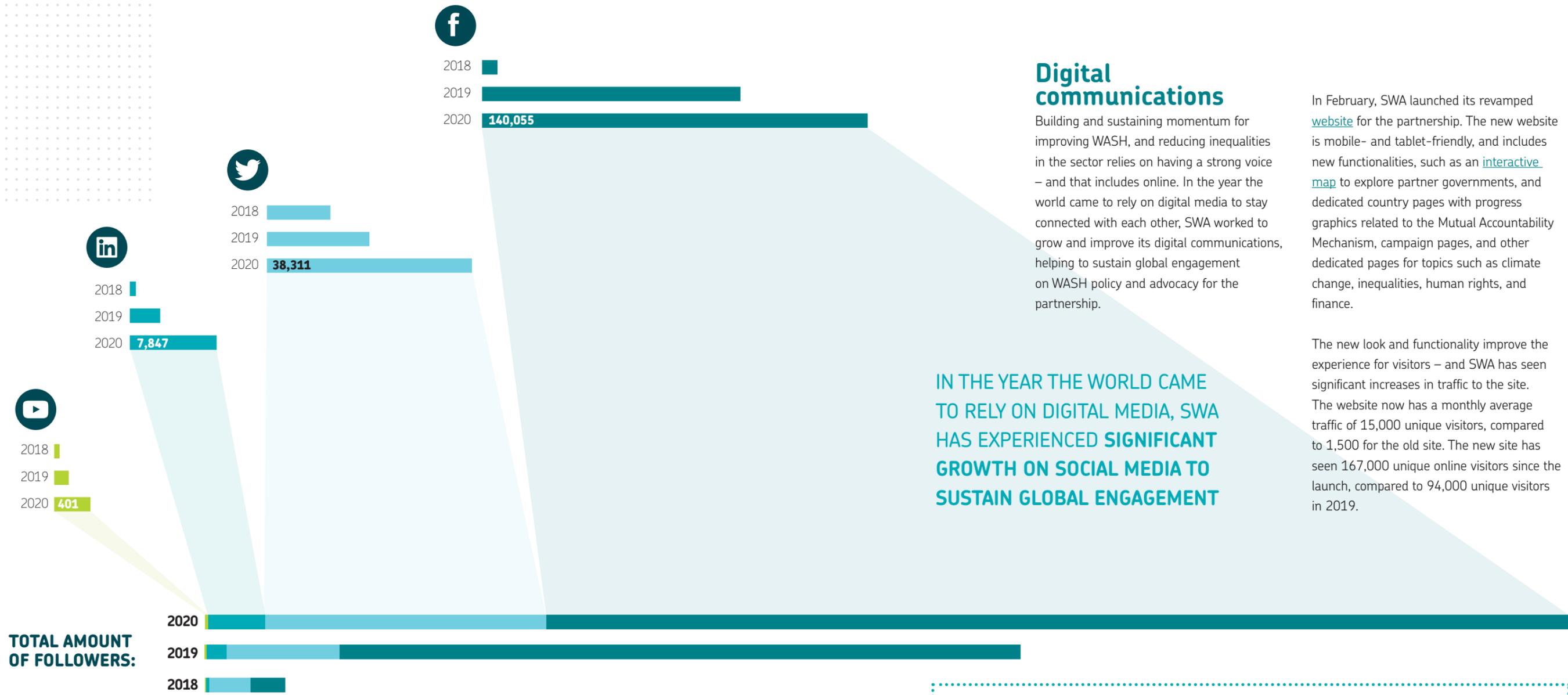
During the visit, SWA also held a multi-stakeholder event in the capital, Bamako. At the meeting, representatives of Mali's wider WASH sector discussed SWA's mission and potential for supporting the country, and the major work that Mali is undertaking to accelerate progress towards the SDGs. Stakeholders also confirmed the organization of a national dialogue on sector financing. SWA supported this dialogue

during 2020, which included a focus on the development of more effective tariffs. SWA will continue its engagement with Mali on the priorities identified during the CEO's visit during 2021 – in particular on parliamentary engagement, on forging stronger links between the sector and the finance ministry, and on increasing involvement of academia and the private sector in the country's multi-stakeholder platform.



SWA's CEO meets government, parliamentarians and other sector partners during her visit to Mali





Digital communications

Building and sustaining momentum for improving WASH, and reducing inequalities in the sector relies on having a strong voice – and that includes online. In the year the world came to rely on digital media to stay connected with each other, SWA worked to grow and improve its digital communications, helping to sustain global engagement on WASH policy and advocacy for the partnership.

In February, SWA launched its revamped [website](#) for the partnership. The new website is mobile- and tablet-friendly, and includes new functionalities, such as an [interactive map](#) to explore partner governments, and dedicated country pages with progress graphics related to the Mutual Accountability Mechanism, campaign pages, and other dedicated pages for topics such as climate change, inequalities, human rights, and finance.

The new look and functionality improve the experience for visitors – and SWA has seen significant increases in traffic to the site. The website now has a monthly average traffic of 15,000 unique visitors, compared to 1,500 for the old site. The new site has seen 167,000 unique online visitors since the launch, compared to 94,000 unique visitors in 2019.

IN THE YEAR THE WORLD CAME TO RELY ON DIGITAL MEDIA, SWA HAS EXPERIENCED SIGNIFICANT GROWTH ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO SUSTAIN GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

	2018	2019	UPLIFT	2020
Facebook	4,719	93,153	+46,902	140,055
Twitter	5,666	15,353	+22,958	38,311
LinkedIn	555	2,751	+5,096	7,847
YouTube	124	202	+199	401

SWA'S COMMUNICATIONS: THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

4 Thematic campaigns: • the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation • Water, sanitation and hygiene financing • COVID-19 and WASH • World Leaders Call to Action

235K visits to the new website

134 published videos including webinar recordings, interviews, and case study summaries

25 newsletters, with each one out to over 3000 people

1,6K tweets/posts and over 999K engagements across all social media platforms

100+ Op-eds and articles about SWA published in media worldwide

186K followers across all social media in 2020

82 published articles, expert pieces and op-eds on the website, on topics such as COVID-19, Human Rights, Finance, and Accountability



OBJECTIVE 2: Champion multi-stakeholder approaches towards achieving universal access to services

Achieved by strengthening multi-stakeholder platforms at the national level to open up civic spaces and dialogue, by supporting multi-sector, multi-stakeholder approaches wherever possible, and by building a culture of mutual accountability for results.



Students wash their hands in Essankro, in the south-east of Côte d'Ivoire.

The SWA Mutual Accountability Mechanism

To achieve the ambitions set out in the SDGs, governments need to seek the engagement of all relevant actors, following principles of multi-stakeholder participation and accountability. By the same token, development partners need to support agreed national

policy and action, and should also be held accountable for their actions influencing sector progress. In the SWA partnership, the Mutual Accountability Mechanism responds to this need to develop and work towards mutual commitments for the sector. It is a tool that helps partners reflect on and account for progress in achieving the SDGs. The Mutual Accountability Mechanism is a joint initiative that grounds the SWA Framework in specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and timely actions.

THE MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM HELPS PARTNERS REFLECT ON AND ACCOUNT FOR PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING THE SDGs

The mechanism is a process for governments and other partners (i.e. civil society organizations, external support agencies, research and learning institutions and the private sector) to make commitments, together, on the concrete actions each actor will take to achieve short- and mid-term targets on the road to reaching the SDGs by 2030.



MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM
Accountability in Action



TANZANIA

CSOs and the SWA Mutual Accountability Mechanism

TAWASANET, Tanzania's network of CSOs have made five commitments through SWA's Mutual Accountability Mechanism. Commitments focus on identifying strategies to accelerate WASH access to poorly served communities, eliminating open defecation, and promoting civil society participation.

To ensure commitments were reviewed in a multi-stakeholder setting, TAWASANET hosted a monitoring meeting where a progress report was prepared. The draft was then submitted to the Government and to private sector partners for feedback, with a final document submitted to SWA just before the Finance Ministers' Meeting.

TAWASANET's progress report described processes followed to deliver on their commitments – and how they had achieved between 75% and 100% of their stated objectives. The report described the strategies employed to support key government programmes, such as the establishment of a National Water Fund, and a 'payment-by-results' financing approach (which rewards local governments with additional 'bonuses' based on improvements in local service delivery). Bottlenecks often related to sector budget allocations not being fully disbursed. The report also described how CSOs engaged in the sector's policy review process of 2020, ensuring critical sanitation issues were incorporated to the latest National Water Policy.

There is no doubt that 2020 presented challenges to the mutual accountability mechanism process, significantly hampering the abilities of partners to gather together face-to-face, in order to review progress towards the commitments previously made and develop new ones. However, the FMMs and the World Leader's Call to Action, in particular, provided a catalyst for partners to consider the commitments made via the mechanism. A significant number of new commitments were tabled by partners in 2020, as well as first efforts to review and report progress on existing commitments. In all, in 2020:

→ 118 new commitments

from 26 countries across all regions were tabled by partners, with governments tabling nearly two thirds of them

→ 43 progress reports

were submitted by SWA partners from Bhutan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Sudan, Tanzania, and Zambia. Of the 43 progress reports submitted, 31 came from CSOs, 8 from governments, and 4 from ESAs.

Having received a grant to conduct research into the SWA partnership's Mutual Accountability Mechanism itself, to enhance our understanding and operation of the mechanism, we looked at the process from two perspectives: exploring and analyzing other global partnerships' accountability mechanisms, in order to learn from their experiences; and carrying out country-level research in six countries, to study their understanding of accountability, the Mutual Accountability Mechanism, and how it fits with the SWA partnership's goals. The initial findings from the research are expected in spring 2021, and will inform the further development of the mechanism within SWA's wider work.

Collaborative Behaviours Country Profiles

SWA conducted the second round of monitoring for the SWA Collaborative Behaviours in 2020. The Collaborative Behaviours are at the heart of the partnership's activities and processes. If jointly adopted by governments and development partners, they are designed to improve the way we work together, for long-term performance and sustainability in the WASH sector.

The data used to develop the Collaborative Behaviours Country Profiles is drawn from existing monitoring initiatives, such as GLAAS, OECD and World Bank assessments. By relying on already existing and validated data, the process of developing the Country Profiles reduced the burden on governments and development partners.

The Country Profiles help to create an overview of how both the government and development partners are working together to improve sector performance. Information

COUNTRY PROFILES CREATE AN OVERVIEW OF HOW BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE SECTOR PERFORMANCE



MALAWI

Short-term funding for sector co-ordination and collaboration

During 2020, the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) provided short-term catalytic funding for sector coordination and collaboration. The funding was part of WSSCC's commitment in SWA's Mutual Accountability Mechanism, and was granted with a specific focus on engaging the sector beyond government – such as stakeholders from civil society organizations, research and learning institutions and the private sector.

In Malawi, the funding is supporting government and CSOs to strengthen the sector. The support has helped to include district and sub-national actors in the Joint Sector Review process, which is a first for Malawi. National WASH policies are also now being revised and improved to consider the most vulnerable populations. Support has also been provided to explore ways of strengthening Malawi's WASH coordination platforms. Dialogue has focussed on practical ways to embed SWA's guiding principles, and how to use the sector building blocks, collaborative behaviors, and the SWA Mutual Accountability Mechanism to boost the country's WASH sector.



GUINEA

Strengthening inter-sector WASH co-ordination mechanisms

Over the past decade, Guinea has increasingly decentralized responsibility for the implementation and maintenance of public water services to rural municipalities. This has allowed Guinea's central public water and sanitation body (the *Service National des Points d'Eau de Guinée*, or 'SNAPE') to concentrate on developing and monitoring national WASH policy, and strengthening sector co-ordination for national implementation.

In recent years, Guinea has focussed these efforts to strengthen WASH sector co-ordination on increasing civil society engagement across the country. In 2019, Guinea tabled a formal commitment under SWA's Mutual Accountability Mechanism to strengthen the country's inter-sectoral co-ordination for WASH services. Since then, it has established a national accountability grouping for civil society organizations in Guinea – the *Coalition Nationale Action et Plaidoyer pour l'Eau* (or CNAPE). During 2020, CNAPE has helped to put the SWA Framework into practice; it convinced the Government to reactivate the country's broader WASH coordination group, as part of the country's response to COVID-19. The group co-ordination platform has created the space for efficient multi-stakeholder dialogue and decision-making, which has been invaluable during the crisis.

In Doku, Guinea, Sarata Conde, 18, washes her family's clothes.

regarding the government and development partners is presented side-by-side to highlight areas of success – and to encourage mutual accountability. In 2020, this helped some countries prepare for and develop input into the FMM preparations. The profiles can also be used to identify bottlenecks in the sector and to identify priorities which can be implemented as part of the Mutual Accountability Mechanism.

The second round of Collaborative Behaviours monitoring produced 70 country profiles, including 8 for governments which have participated in SWA processes but are yet to formally become a partner. By the end of 2020, the second round of monitoring meant that all but 6 SWA partner countries now have a Country Profile.

South-South learning and exchange

South-South learning is extremely important to the SWA partnership; it strengthens the capacity of partners to identify and analyse the WASH issues affecting them together, and to formulate strategies to address them using a multi-stakeholder approach. SWA seeks to provide the opportunity and space for partners to come together and discuss their thinking, approaches and experiences in WASH, in the face of formidable, but often predictable, challenges.

In the run-up to the 2019 SWA Sector Ministers' Meeting, partners indicated that WASH in schools was a key area of concern for them, and a major reason for WASH access inequalities. Given that WASH in schools represents a major preventative measure against COVID-19, and that several SWA partner countries expressed the need to learn more on this issue, SWA brought partners together for an opportunity to learn from each other's experiences in June 2020. Participants from 10 partner countries, spanning all five constituencies talked with each other, and learnt in particular from the multi-year experience in Côte d'Ivoire, where the 'Programme de Latrines des Écoles en Milieu Rural' (Rural school WASH programme) has been an integral part of the government's social programme.

This South-South learning event on WASH-in-schools laid the foundation for further action and collaboration, including strategic conversations between the sanitation directors of Côte d'Ivoire and Madagascar, laying the foundation for broad follow-up discussions on sanitation technologies used in Côte d'Ivoire's programme. SWA also committed to exploring ways to support Côte d'Ivoire in the future evolution of their rural WASH-in-schools programme (notably, how to strengthen the evidence base and use it to advocate for scale-up of the programme).

Poornima, 14, washes her hands at school, in Amthala, Rajasthan, India.



Webinars

An established and familiar medium for opening up multi-stakeholder dialogue for the SWA partnership, webinars became absolutely critical to maintaining SWA's focus on knowledge sharing and exchange in 2020.

Key webinars of the year included on COVID-19 (both at ministerial level and many more for the wider partnership), on preparing for the FMMs, and on the Finance Ministers Handbook. There were also many exchange and learning webinars, such as the Africa Civil Society Network webinar held in December, on engaging wider stakeholder collaboration and co-ordination for the sector.

18
WEBINARS WERE HELD BY SWA DURING 2020

WEBINARS WERE CRITICAL TO MAINTAINING SWA'S FOCUS ON KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND EXCHANGE IN 2020

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PARTICIPANTS:



PARAGUAY

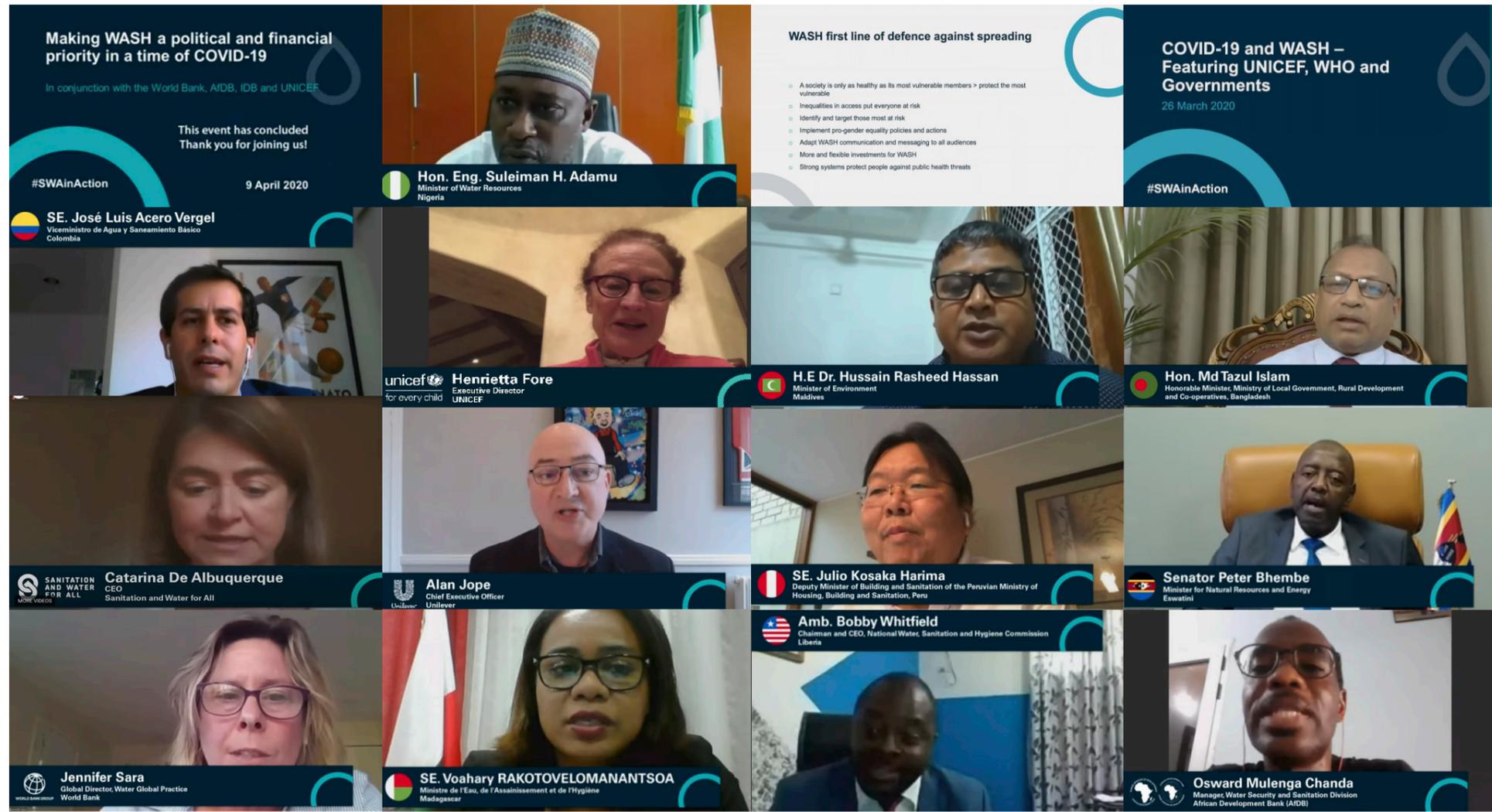
SWA support and technical advice

The SWA Regional Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean, visited Paraguay in 2020. The visit was to support commitments made on accountability, consider the challenges that the sector was facing, and explore how SWA's Framework could be applied to strengthen Paraguay's WASH sector.

The visit brought together stakeholders across Paraguay's WASH sector and beyond, and helped crystalize areas of agreement and opportunity. This included: defining clearer a hierarchy of roles and responsibilities in the sector; harmonizing sector systems and project data to build a better case for investment; introducing dedicated national budget lines for sector institutions; and facilitating knowledge exchange and learning between the WASH sectors of Paraguay, Honduras and Costa Rica.

In addition, Paraguay's sector coordination platform has now been extended to include CSOs, academia and the private sector, to consider sector infrastructure as well as systems management, governance, operation and maintenance.

At the end of 2020, the WASH sector in Paraguay is moving on these and other priority areas for action – and a clearer sense of a broader, sharper sector strategy is emerging. In 2021, Paraguay will begin to update its national strategies on WASH sector service delivery and finance – and, as ever, SWA will stand ready to offer advice and support wherever it is needed.





A pupil is photographed at a UNICEF-supported water point at Muuse Xuseen Hodoon School in Borama, Somaliland on the 10th February 2021.

Preparing for a 6th constituency

In 2020, the SWA Steering Committee decided to explore the possibility of a new SWA constituency for water and sanitation utilities and regulators. This was primarily because the partnership currently has no public utilities or regulators as SWA members. They do not have a voice in the partnership, yet they serve billions of users around the world – at a time when COVID-19 means being able to operate and stay solvent in the sector has just become significantly harder.

The new Utilities & Regulators constituency was approved by the Steering Committee in August 2020. It will represent public WASH service providers (utilities) and public authorities responsible for applying and enforcing standards, criteria, rules and requirements, who exercise autonomous authority over the services in a supervisory capacity (regulators). The constituency also includes organizations such as WASH associations and think-tanks, which operate in the utilities and regulators space.

The six SWA constituencies:



Utilities & Regulators



Governments



External Support Agencies



Private Sector



Civil Society Organizations



Research & Learning Institutions

BOTH UTILITIES AND REGULATORS HAVE INCREDIBLY VALUABLE OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE, AS WELL AS EXPERTISE IN TRANSLATING POLICY TO PRACTICE

Utilities operationalize WASH solutions and are in direct contact with the population, while regulators enforce and supervise the implementation and the respect of laws, regulations and policies. Both utilities and regulators have incredibly valuable operational experience, as well as expertise in translating policy to practice. Furthermore, strong utility and regulatory institutions are a catalyst for investment in the WASH sector. SWA looks forward to welcoming our newest constituency in 2021, and the vast wealth of experience they will bring to the partnership.

OBJECTIVE 3: Rally stakeholders to strengthen system performance and attract new investment

Achieved by advocating for increased investment, by supporting the development of national and sub-sector financing strategies, by identifying new sources of finance and making existing sources more efficient, and by expanding SWA and sector capacity.



The Hon. Bishnu Prasad Paudel, Nepal's Minister of Finance (right) received the Finance Handbook from SWA Government Focal Point, Madhav Belbase, Secretary of Ministry of Water Supply

The Handbook for Finance Ministers

Achieving universal access to WASH by the end of the decade requires the mobilization of significant efforts. The challenge is political and operational – but it is also a financial one. Without the required ongoing investment, system performance declines, and this, in turn, undermines confidence in the sector's ability to deliver quality services – thereby discouraging further investment. It is a vicious cycle that must be disrupted.

Breaking the cycle is not a matter of wishful thinking.

Countries with effective financial strategies have proven to be successful. Every dollar invested in water and sanitation has been shown to bring a four-fold return. But the

effort to achieve such success requires inspired political leadership; to foster change and put new plans into action, towards a brighter future that benefits each country.

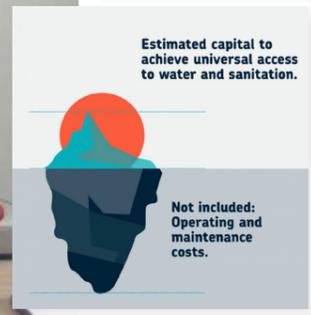
Finance ministers are central to bringing about this change. They can operate within the existing political constraints to help boost the level and effectiveness of sector financing, in close cooperation with their counterparts with responsibility for WASH. They are critical to the potential of the WASH sector because they hold important coordination functions: both with other line ministries (e.g., health, rural and/or urban development, education, environment) and with local government and utilities.

In September, SWA launched its [Handbook for Finance Ministers](#). The Handbook suggests how universal access to water and sanitation can be delivered, exploring specific examples of how investments in the sector can help achieve broader economic and social objectives. It sets out how governments can help reduce risk and incentivize improved performance in the sector to attract greater market finance, as well as how to utilize additional finance in efficient and sustainable ways. The Handbook is publicly available online, but hard copies have also been distributed to both finance and sector ministers in partner countries around the world.

A [dedicated webpage](#) was created for the Handbook, and to encourage the use of the Handbook, SWA also created a [Handbook communications toolkit](#). The Handbook was launched with a dedicated hashtag #ClearAsWater on social media, with partners including UNICEF Water, IRCWASH, and Watercare joining SWA to promote the Handbook. The launch webinar was broadcast



SO MANY SUCCESS STORIES WE COULD WRITE A BOOK ABOUT IT. SO WE DID



Items from SWA's communications toolkit for the Finance Ministers' Handbook.





MALI

SWA support to improve WASH reporting and increase funding

Mali recently developed national WASH accounts using the 'TrackFin' methodology. When these were first published in 2017, it showed that in 2013 and 2014, only around 1% of the national budget was allocated to water and sanitation. This is a fraction of the 5% suggested in the SWA Framework to maintain a healthy WASH sector. With solid data to back them up, the country's sector ministers made the case for increased sector funding. They succeeded – doubling the share of the national budget allocated to the sector, including plans for 100,000 water connections for some of the most marginalized communities in the country.

Mali is due to publish the 3rd national WASH accounts imminently. In the meantime, the country continues the national conversation on improving the sector. At the end of 2020, SWA supported a national multi-stakeholder dialogue on sector financing in Mali. A multi-stakeholder team has now been established to move things forward, crystalizing areas of agreement from the dialogue. The self-described 'SWA Committee in Mali' is composed of representatives of all five SWA constituencies, and is drafting a strategic plan of commitments and actions on sector financing, including an agenda and timeline for 2021.

live on Facebook and Twitter, reaching nearly 5000 people. In October, SWA also organized a further briefing webinar on the Handbook, for members of all SWA governance bodies.

SWA received extremely positive feedback on the Finance Ministers Handbook. The partnership is already using the Handbook to help shape its advocacy and support – and will continue to use it to frame conversations on WASH sector finance in the years ahead. In particular, there are plans to adapt the Handbook to bring it to wider interested audiences, such as non-sector actors and parliamentarians in partner countries.



Kingdom of Eswatini



Liberia



The Gambia



Zimbabwe

SWA RECEIVED EXTREMELY POSITIVE FEEDBACK ON THE FINANCE MINISTERS HANDBOOK AND THERE ARE PLANS TO ADAPT THE HANDBOOK TO BRING IT TO WIDER INTERESTED AUDIENCES



Malawi



Nigeria



Haiti



INDONESIA

Results-based WASH financing

This year marked the first year of Indonesia's new National Medium-Term Development Plan for 2020–2024. As with its previous plan for the sector, Indonesia has deliberately based its new strategy to achieve universal WASH access specifically around SWA's Building Blocks – focussing on sector planning, capacity, coordination, monitoring and financing. The foundation of the strategy is an expansion of 'NUWAS', Indonesia's innovative performance-based financing scheme, which incentivizes local governments to prioritize WASH and encourages local service providers to expand services.

The programme works effectively by transferring funding from central to local governments, but based on a set of specific outcomes. It targets lower-income households, and stipulates a set of minimum standards that must be met to receive the performance-related payment, verified by technical inspections and household surveys.

The NUWAS scheme applies to the both water and sanitation, with the payments targeted on a variety of outcomes to strengthen the sector and increase access to services for the poorest. To date, it has helped to increase piped water supply, expand off-site sanitation infrastructure, develop and upgrade on-site sanitation systems, reduce non-revenue water, and increase the energy efficiency of services.

Rahmawati holds her 6-month-old son Farel in front of a newly constructed toilet in their home in Tegaldowo village, Central Java province, Indonesia. The new toilet was built in 2020 using government assistance.



The launch of the new Systems and Finance Work Group

To consider and support Objective 3 of the new SWA strategy, SWA created a new Systems and Finance Work Group in August 2020. The new Work Group will help to embed more continuous engagement and partnership-building on finance.

The new Work Group is tasked with mobilizing a global and regional SDG 6 financing agenda, and strengthening partnerships between stakeholders and partners on WASH finance. It will develop an in-depth understanding of the core financing bottlenecks in specific countries, and seek to mobilize joint efforts to overcome them.

THE NEW WORK GROUP WILL STRENGTHEN PARTERSHIPS ON WASH FINANCE, AND MOBILIZE JOINT EFFORTS TO OVERCOME CORE FINANCING BOTTLENECKS

The Work Group will support countries by:

- Assessing how other countries are managing the relationship between the ministries of finance and responsible WASH ministries
- Identifying ways for countries to strengthen those relationships, including formalizing them using in-country platforms
- Providing a space to have challenging discussions, to consider what is possible in terms of accessing new finance for the sector, and of using existing budgets more efficiently
- Facilitating access to specific technical assistance, experience and expertise (including South-South learning and exchange wherever useful), to help solve blockages to WASH financing

The Systems and Finance Work Group has already been busy. Between October and December 2020, seven central Work Group meetings took place. There were also 12 country meetings, that have brought together WASH ministries, finance ministries, and WASH country stakeholders.

The Work Group has also started work on the development of a global advocacy strategy for sector finance, as well articulating emerging theories of change for both its global and regional work streams.

The Work Group will continue to focus on convening global and country-focussed meetings during 2021, with SWA mobilizing its diverse constituencies to develop a set of common messages and strategies on financing WASH among partners.



NIGER

SWA's Collaborative Behaviours and the 'common financing mechanism'

Niger's experience with the SWA Framework spans several years, as the country was involved in the designing the partnership's Collaborative Behaviours in 2014. The SWA Collaborative Behaviours have been integrated into the country's WASH sector through its coordination and consultation mechanisms, with the principles of the Collaborative Behaviours providing inspiration for the country's 'common financing mechanism' for the sector. The mechanism allows partners to pool resources, as well as harmonizing sector financing procedures with national budgeting procedures.

The common financing mechanism has created a robust institutional arrangement, to manage risk and utilize government funding to the sector more efficiently. It provides an excellent way to manage and use the increased funding for the Niger WASH sector, which has increased from around US\$4 million in 2019 to nearly US\$12 million in 2020.

The clarity and increased coordination that the common financing mechanism has provided has also made it easier for the sector to attract increased external funding. Niger's Programme Sectoriel Eau, Hygiène et Assainissement (PROSEHA) launched an ambitious project using the common financing mechanism in February 2020. The project aims to provide access to water and sanitation for 120,000 people, including building or rehabilitating over 50 hydraulic works and building over 200 latrines for schools, health centres and public places.



Soraya (10, middle, with white and rose dress) with other students in the courtyard of the Hanti Goussou school in Niamey, Niger, on the first day of school after months of school closures.

South-South learning and exchange on finance

SWA supported several South-South learning exchanges on sector finance activities during 2020.

South-South learning events on finance were developed to allow the audience to learn about a multi-pronged approach to water, sanitation and hygiene, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 response.

As with other South-South learnings, events were articulated around a specific country initiative. Madagascar's *Avotr'Aina* initiative, for example, formed the basis for one event that brought together 100 participants. Participants learned about the programme's experience exploring solutions for sector financing (including water regulation and tariffs), and how to adapt these to their own specific country needs. In turn, other countries' experiences also helped Madagascar's programme, providing inspiration for future improvements to planning and implementation.

SWA IS DEVELOPING AN IN-DEPTH UNDERSTANDING OF THE CORE FINANCING BOTTLENECKS IN SPECIFIC COUNTRIES, AND SEEKING TO MOBILIZE JOINT EFFORTS TO OVERCOME THEM



Bulenga, South Kivu region, Democratic Republic of Congo. A woman washes her hands at the health centre, where latrines and showers were sponsored by UNICEF.

ACCOUNTABILITY & LEARNING: Embedding SWA's new strategic framework

This year was the first year SWA's strategy for 2020-2030. The partnership has been working to embed the principles and objectives of the new strategy in several ways.

Piloting the new Strategy's Results Framework

SWA developed a new Results Framework in 2020 to accompany its new Strategic Framework 2020-2030. This was piloted in a small group of five countries (Afghanistan, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay and Zimbabwe). The first full monitoring using the new Results Framework will be undertaken in 2021, with results published in the next SWA Annual Report.

The Results Framework will allow SWA to investigate the impact of its work, and was developed by a team of monitoring & evaluation experts, representing different SWA constituencies and partners. Inputs and feedback from partners in the pilot countries, as well as from the Secretariat and from the Steering Committee, were brought together to produce a final new Results Framework. The Results Framework will be published early in 2021, and will be implemented in all SWA countries for a first global baseline in 2021.

The Results Framework is a management and a communication tool that will allow SWA to investigate the impact of its work. It assesses and identifies what our contribution to change is, for the WASH sector. It is rooted in the three objectives of the new strategy, and how our work on those objectives is contributing towards the partnership's vision: water, sanitation and hygiene for all, always and everywhere. Collecting information through the Results Framework will allow

SWA to analyze its impact, and the evidence it needs to make informed decisions, to accelerate its efforts towards achieving SDG 6.

The new Results Framework measures change at different levels. These are:

OUTPUTS, which are the direct results of the partnership's activities – for example, the high-level meetings, the support we provide to our partners, or the work groups we facilitate. We will assess these results through data that we rigorously collect, such as the level of satisfaction of participants to our activities, or the number and type of public commitments that our partners make.

OUTCOMES, (including intermediate outcomes) which are the changes that we expect to see in the sector, in SWA partner countries and globally, as a result of our outputs. SWA countries hold discussions on country progress regarding SWA objectives, and will organize a multi-stakeholder self-assessment each year. We then triangulate this information with existing data sources, such as GLAAS or the United Nations Universal Periodic Review.

VISION, which measures progress towards SWA's vision, using the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme, which has been reporting estimates of progress on WASH since 1990.

Country self-assessments

Countries will gather partners from the different constituencies in country, to assess their national WASH sector collaboratively, in the context of SWA's three strategic objectives.

Countries are asked to reflect on six specific questions, following a set methodology to guide the discussion, with a 'Country Monitoring Champion' either elected or appointed from any of the SWA constituencies in country to lead the process. The process is designed to ensure every partner can voice their opinion, and that evidence is gathered to back up their answers.

Feedback from the pilot suggested the process was robust, and provided the information needed to support the Results Framework. Partners also found that working together on the self-assessment, and taking part in the guided discussions was a very positive process in itself.

Global and Regional Roadmaps

As part of embedding SWA's new strategic framework, the partnership is developing a 'Global Roadmap' and 'Regional Roadmaps', setting out how the Framework will be implemented between 2021-2025.

The Roadmaps essentially help the partnership visualize where it needs to be in each of the regions in 2025, and how it will get there, so that SWA can deliver on its new strategic objectives by 2030.

"PROVIDES A NEW PERSPECTIVE AND FILLS A GAP: NO OTHER PROCESS IS A JOINT SECTOR REFLECTION ON PROCESS, GAPS AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS"

"HELPS MY UNDERSTANDING OF WHERE I FIT IN THE WIDER SECTOR"

"THIS CAN BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO DISCUSS AND PUSH FOR PLANS THAT WOULD FILL THE GAPS [IN THE SECTOR]."

"THE EMPHASIS IS ON A DIFFERENT LEVEL. WITH THE SWA OBJECTIVES, WE ARE LOOKING AT THE OVERALL NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE."

"LED TO MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION AND PLANNING ACTIONS TO IMPROVE THE SECTOR'S SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY"

THE PROCESS ENSURES EVERY PARTNER CAN VOICE THEIR OPINION, AND THAT EVIDENCE IS GATHERED TO BACK UP THEIR ANSWERS

LOOKING AHEAD



COVID-19 response and recovery

COVID-19 will continue to challenge us all in the year ahead. The pandemic has exposed both the urgency for more resilient systems and societies, and the shocking inequalities which persist in all countries. These have always been the main priorities of the SWA partnership.

We have a responsibility to ensure that the response and recovery from the pandemic is an opportunity to increase WASH resilience and eliminate inequalities, in public health – and beyond. The global public health crisis has shown the world the value of multisectoral action, and solidarity between and within countries. We see how issues are connected, and it drives us to understand how WASH underlies the achievement of the entire SDG agenda. By the same token, our success in delivering SDG 6 is equally dependent on effective action in adjacent sectors, such as health, climate, gender, nutrition, humanitarian settings and human rights.

Focus on climate action and resilience

In 2021 and 2022, SWA will work with our partners to generate greater understanding about the intersection between water, sanitation and hygiene and climate action, and will support efforts to build climate-resilient water and sanitation systems.

There is no doubt that climate change is already destabilizing water availability and demand across the globe, impacting water quality and scarcity, and threatening sustainable development worldwide. Global warming is placing clear added stress on public health, particularly relating to waterborne diseases. It also exacerbates water pollution, threatens hygiene practices and increases the occurrences of extreme weather events and their consequences, including for essential infrastructure.

Breaking down siloes, and increasing appreciation of the linkages between WASH and climate change is increasingly urgent. The sector can, and must, do its part to contribute to global climate mitigation efforts, for example through reducing emissions, and increasing the water and energy efficiency of services. There is also an urgent need to protect the sector itself, if it is to meet the increased demand for water and sanitation that will accompany the predicted warming of our planet in the years ahead. WASH sectors and services must plan effectively for such a future. Decision makers will need to consider how to increase services' capacity, at a time when systems are likely to be subject to increased uncertainty and pressures,

changing hydrological and hydrogeological conditions, and more frequent extreme weather events.

Through its high-level engagement and convening power, SWA will raise awareness about the sector's potential contributions to climate action and resilience, and highlight the pressing need to improve the climate resilience of the WASH sector. This will include targeted work at country level to bring the WASH and climate sectors together and influence policy and strategy in both sections. This work will be the foundation for SWA's engagement at in key global events such as the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in November, and will also be featured at the SWA Sector Ministers' Meeting, tentatively planned for October 2021 in Indonesia. SWA's network of partners positions it as a vehicle for joining up efforts, across ministries and sectors, whether at national, regional or international levels.

THROUGH ITS HIGH-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT AND CONVENING POWER, SWA WILL RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE SECTOR'S POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO CLIMATE ACTION AND RESILIENCE

On 24 January 2021 in Sofala Province, Mozambique, a woman and child walk through a flooded area at Tica Relocation Center, 80 kilometres from the city of Beira.



Action on gender

Access to WASH takes on particular importance for women and girls, given their traditional role as stewards of household water and managers of household sanitation, their reproductive and menstrual health needs, and their role in many societies as caregivers for the home, children, and elderly/sick relatives.

Despite this, women are often left out of critical discussion and decisions relating to water, sanitation and hygiene. Policies, programmes and initiatives that promote opportunities for women to take on leadership roles improves decision-making on water and sanitation services.

SWA will increase its focus on ensuring women and girls are included in decision-making on WASH issues. Beyond the fact that equality in participation is part of assuring human rights, supporting women's involvement is also vital because when it happens, services tend to be more accessible and sustainable. It also has further knock-effects which contribute to gender equality: increasing access to WASH services frees women and girls up to attend school and work, participate properly in society, and reach their full potential.

Equality and non-discrimination, which include considerations of gender, are cross-cutting principles that permeate all SWA activities. With gender equality the main objective of SDG 5, and gender-responsive WASH contributing to the achievement of wider developmental goals, it is another key opportunity for the partnership – and the sector – to look beyond SDG 6 and support the wider SDG agenda.

SWA will use its voice to advocate for shifts in national policy and planning conversations around WASH. Activities will include support for research on gender and access to services, advocacy and support



Mallam collects water for his household and for his animals, from a repaired borehole in north-eastern Nigeria.

SWA WILL INCREASE ITS FOCUS ON ENSURING WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE INCLUDED IN DECISION-MAKING ON WASH ISSUES, AND PUSH FOR SHIFTS IN NATIONAL POLICY AND PLANNING CONVERSATIONS AROUND WASH

for gender-positive policies, strategies and plans, as well as the encouragement of the meaningful participation of women in management bodies and planning processes at all country levels. This could be through supporting partners to engender national WASH plans and budgets, or focussing on the WASH needs of women and girls in Joint Sector Reviews and other multi-stakeholder meetings. Established SWA resources such as our webinars and national focal points network will also be used, to increase the partnership's knowledge and action on gender in the coming year.

Influencing leaders

One of the SWA partnership's key strengths is that it provides the platform and space for high-level dialogue, and political influence. Developing direct relationships with respected key decision makers, and offering the opportunity of access to the gathered expertise of the partnership, gives the sector invaluable opportunities to consider both challenges and potential solutions. This, in turn, equips the sector with the information and strategies needed to elevate WASH as a priority in national, regional and global agendas.

SWA will therefore continue its strong engagement with sector and finance ministers, as well as exploring ways to connect with ministers responsible for connected issues, such as gender, climate, humanitarian response, nutrition, health, education, and human rights. SWA will also engage with other key decision-makers, such as parliamentarians and heads of state and government, with the aim of expanding national conversations and welcoming new allies to the cause. Building these partnerships is a critical part of SWA's wider aim to build a growing global movement for water, sanitation and hygiene.

A continuing focus on sector finance

SWA has always sought to focus minds on the importance of sector finance to achieving the WASH SDGs. The new SWA strategy enshrines and sharpens this focus, through Objective 3 – a dedicated strategic objective aimed at accelerating systems strengthening and financing.

The partnership's work to improve sector finance will continue throughout 2021, positioning SWA as a leading voice on WASH sector finance and the broader SDG financing agenda. It will reach out to build partnerships and broad coalitions on sector finance – including with stakeholders that may not currently be SWA partners, such as public and private finance institutions and networks.

SWA will also continue its endeavours to develop deeper understanding of sector financing challenges. It will provide a global and regional platform for sector leaders to discuss major bottlenecks to sector financing, and explore specific, tangible ways to overcome them.

Accountability in action

Every three years, SWA will produce a Mutual Accountability Global Report, outlining progress made on commitments in the Mutual Accountability Mechanism. It will report on successes and challenges met delivering on the partnership's commitments to each other in the previous three years, and feature a number of case studies. SWA has gathered significant experience of these first three years of the mechanism, and the first Mutual Accountability Global Report is due to be launched in the autumn of 2021. The Global Report will assess the political impact of accountability for the WASH sector, and what we are hoping to do in the next three years to expand and embed the Mutual Accountability Mechanism further in the partnership's work.

GOVERNANCE AND FINANCIAL

Governance

The governance and support bodies of SWA helped the partnership navigate through a hugely challenging year.

The SWA Secretariat continued to provide a crucial support and management function throughout the year, leading much of the work outlined in this Annual Report and coordinating partners to engagement with the wider partnership.

SWA's Steering Committee met three times during the year, all meetings held virtually due to the COVID-19 crisis. Highlights included discussions and decisions focussed on the Results Framework, the Regional

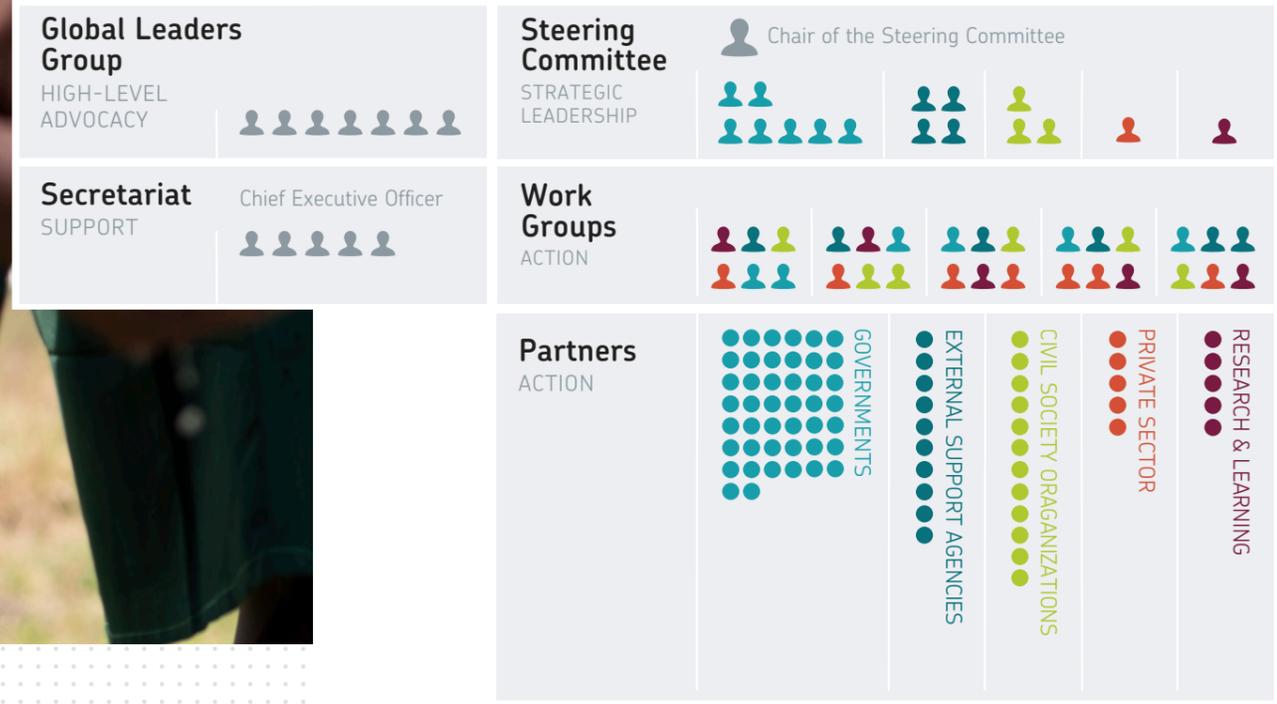
Roadmaps, the development of the concept and format of the Finance Ministers' Meetings, as well as establishing a new Systems and Finance Work Group, and approving the new Regulators and Utilities constituency for the SWA partnership.

In September, October and December 2020, the Secretariat managed the election process for seats in the Steering Committee for the Governments, External Support Agencies, Civil Society Organizations and Research and Learning constituencies, with the newly elected Steering Committee members beginning their 18-month tenures in January 2021.

The Secretariat also supported the Chair of the Steering Committee to convene meetings for the partnership's Executive Oversight Committee (EOC). The EOC is a representative body of SWA's leadership, consisting of the Steering Committee chair and/or vice chair, the two standing sub-committee chairs, and the CEO. The EOC meets regularly, between Steering Committee meetings, to address urgent issues and take timely action when necessary. It met eight times during 2020.

The Secretariat continued its work to further strengthen constituency engagement in 2020, specifically through dedicated research to explore ways of improving the support provided to the CSO constituency, in the light of the new strategic framework.

The Secretariat also led the development of a new resource mobilization strategy during 2020, aimed at diversifying and expanding SWA funding in order to meet the expectations of the growing SWA partnership. This new resource mobilization strategy will be finalized and rolled out during 2021.



Sebit David, 14, washes his hands at a handwashing station with Deputy Head teacher Jonoka Akai, from Dumak primary school, Torit, South Sudan.



SWA Secretariat income and expenditure in 2020 (in US\$)

INCOME	CREDIT Bilateral contribution	CREDIT Trust fund account	CREDIT Total
Opening programmable balance	2,423,966	-	2,423,966
Donor programmable funding received in 2020	1,294,963	2,855,400	4,149,759
Available programmable in 2020	3,718,929	2,855,400	6,573,725
Indirect costs	297,514	28,836	326,350
Available balance in 2020	4,016,443	2,883,632	6,900,075
Expenditures	3,315,013	1,866,388	5,181,401
Closing balance of 2020	403,916	989,012	1,392,324

EXPENDITURE	PLANNED EXPENDITURE	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE Bilateral contribution	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE Trust fund account	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE Total
Staff costs – Sanitation and Water for All Secretariat	1,871,680	839,404	778,132	1,617,536
Objective 1	421,558	421,558	-	421,558
Objective 2	1,988,824	1,048,773	940,051	1,988,824
Objective 3	200,000	200,000	-	200,000
COVID-19	120,226	120,226	-	120,226
SWA governance	833,257	685,052	148,205	833,257
TOTAL COMPONENTS	5,435,545	3,315,013	1,866,388	5,181,401

Financial report

In 2020, SWA moved to become a UNICEF-hosted fund. The transition means SWA now has a trust account modality. Two existing donors (Netherlands and the United Kingdom) and one new donor (Switzerland) contributed to the new Trust Account in 2020, with fundraising efforts focussing on concluding long-term agreements with donors, to allow for longer-term predictability and planning. Switzerland and the United Kingdom signed three-year and four-year partnership agreements respectively with SWA, while long-term agreements with the Netherlands, Sweden and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation are in the approval phases. Outreach to a variety of potential new donors is in progress.

The continued support from donors assured the full implementation of SWA's workplan in 2020. In addition, the Steering Committee authorized a cost-neutral budget revision in June. This was to respond the urgent challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to increase the pace of the roll-out of SWA's work under the new strategic Objective 3.

Details of SWA income, expenditure and donor commitments are set out below.

IN 2020, SWA BECAME NOW A UNICEF-HOSTED FUND WITH A TRUST FUND MODALITY

Donor commitments (in US\$)

DONOR	Opening balance in 2020	Received in 2020	Available in 2020
USAID	924,948	898,560	1,823,508
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	619,688	500,000	1,119,688
DFID (United Kingdom)	535,450	-	535,450
Sida (Sweden)	537,798	-	537,798
FCDO (UK)	-	383,632	383,632
SDC (Switzerland)	-	500,000	500,000
DGIS (The Netherlands)	-	2,000,000	2,000,000
TOTAL	2,617,883	4,282,192	6,900,075



SWA Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is SWA's ultimate decision-making body. Each of the 6 constituencies elects representatives to serve three-year terms (representatives for the new Utilities & Regulators constituency will be elected in 2021).

All approved minutes from Steering Committee meetings are available on the SWA website [here](#).

Chair of the Steering Committee

Patrick Moriarty, IRC

Chief Executive Officer

Catarina de Albuquerque

THANK-YOU TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO COMPLETED THEIR TERMS IN 2020:

Governments

- André Patindé Nonguierma, Burkina Faso
- Haydee Rodriguez Romero, Costa Rica
- Kepha Ombacho, Kenya
- Madhav Belbase, Nepal
- Dr. Nguyen Thi Lien Huong, Viet Nam
- Rabab Gaber Hassan Abbas, Egypt

External Support Agencies

- Hans Olav Ibrekk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
- Pim van der Male, Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS), The Netherlands
- Sue Coates, Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC)

Civil Society Organizations

- Mohammad Zobair Hasan, Development Organization of the Rural Poor (DORP) and Fresh Water Network South Asia
- Vanessa Dubois, Asociación Regional Centroamericana para el Agua y el Ambiente

Research & Learning

- Erma Uytewaal, IRC

Private Sector

- Neil Dhot, AquaFed



Governments

Alexandra Carvalho
Portugal

Dhoba Lovemore
Zimbabwe

Makhosini Khoza
Kingdom of Eswatini

Djoouro Bocoom
Mali

Emmanuel Awe
Nigeria

Hélène Epse Yocolly Bragori
Côte d'Ivoire

Hugo Ramón Ruiz Fleitas
Paraguay

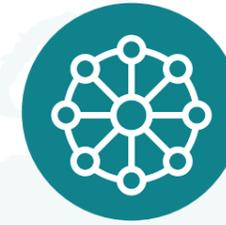
Khalid Massa
Tanzania

Madhav Belbase
Nepal

Majeda Alawneh
Palestine

Oscar Izquierdo Sandí
Costa Rica

H.E. Mr. Ouk Rabun
Cambodia



External Support Agencies

Lisa Schechtman
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Dominic O'Neill
Sanitation & Hygiene Fund (SHF)

Paul Deverill
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)



Civil Society Organizations

Barbara Schreiner
Water Integrity Network (WIN)

Fatema Akter
Nagar Daridra Basteebashir Unnayan Sangstha (NDBUS)

Nathalie Seguin Tovar
Freshwater Action Network Mexico (FANMex)

Sareen Malik
(Steering Committee Vice-Chair)
African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW)

Dr. Seetharam M.R.
VILD foundation



Research & Learning

Dr. Sarah Dickin
Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

Dr. Anna Virginia Machado
LabGEA



Private Sector

Alexandra Knezovich
Toilet Board Coalition

Dr. Nicholas Igwe
Zenith Water Projects

Secretariat Host (Ex Officio)

Kelly Ann Naylor
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Host of the High-level Meetings

Parameswaran Iyer
World Bank

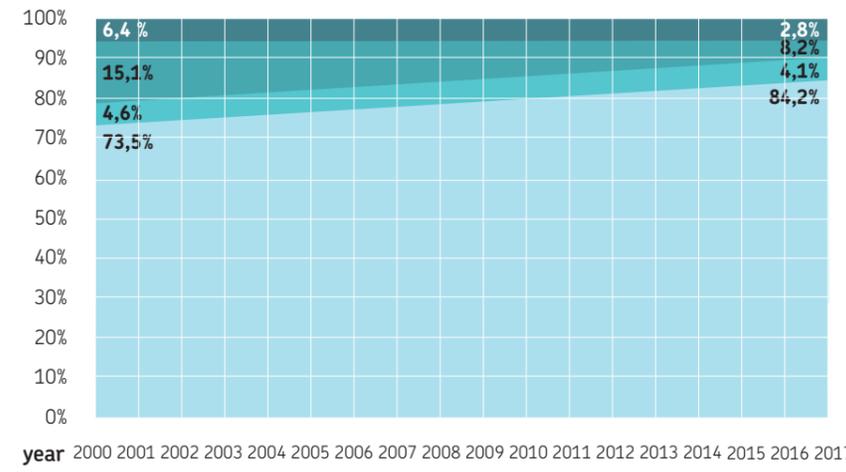
ANNEX: 2020 RESULTS

SWA developed and piloted its new Results Framework in 2020, to accompany the new SWA Strategic Framework 2020-2030. SWA's 2021 Annual Report will be the first edition to include a progress update based entirely on this new Results Framework.

This year, a blend of indicators from the former and new results frameworks have been used, to provide an overview of SWA's 2020 results against its overall vision and the three new strategic objectives. These indicators and results are below.

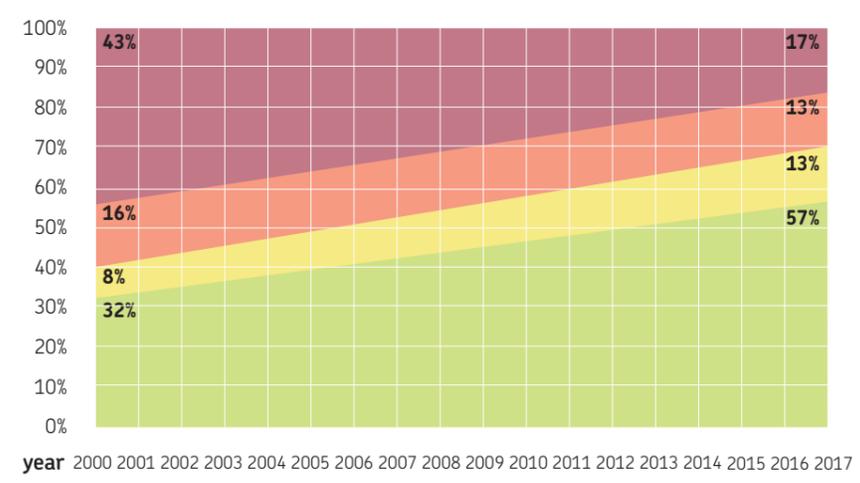
Water trends for SWA countries

- Surface water
- Unimproved water
- Limited (> 30minutes) sanitation
- At least basic water



Sanitation trends for SWA countries

- Open defecation
- Unimproved Sanitation
- Limited (shared) sanitation
- At least basic Sanitation



VISION: Water, sanitation and hygiene for all, always and everywhere

The best and most recent data to assess the overarching goal of SWA is the Joint Monitoring Programme's 2017 data. Trends show that SWA countries made significant progress towards achieving SDG6 in the past years. However, the 2017 data still showed there were considerable gaps in access to WASH services.

In 2021, new results from the JMP will allow us to assess further progress.

Sanitation

- About 1.6 billion people in SWA countries lacked a basic sanitation service in 2017, and over 600 million (632 million) of these practiced open defecation.
- In 2017, in SWA countries, 71% of the urban population and 47% of the rural population used an at least basic sanitation service; while 3% of the urban population and 27% of the rural population practiced open defecation.

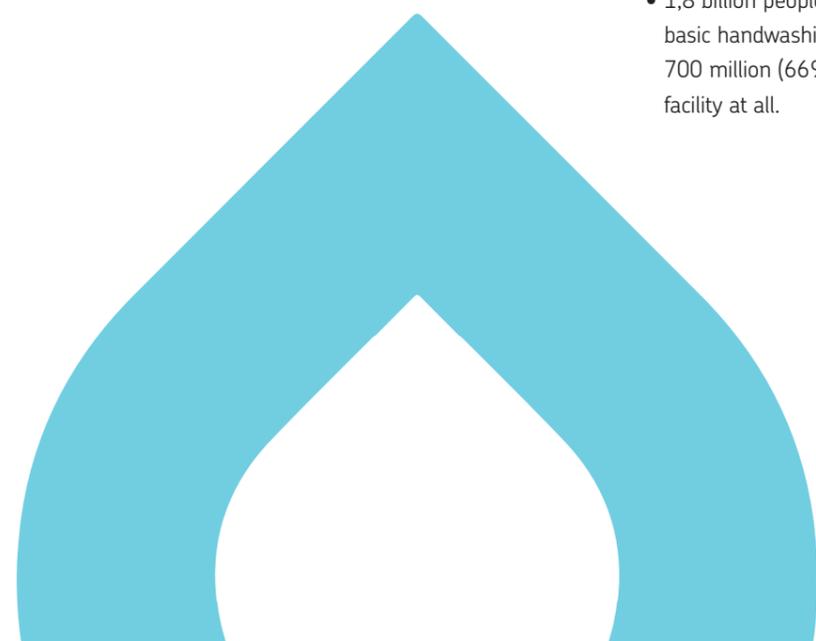
Water

- Nearly 600 million people in SWA countries lacked a basic drinking water service in 2017, 83% of whom live in rural areas.
- In 2017, 94% of the urban population and 77% of the rural population in SWA countries used an at least basic drinking water service.

Hygiene

- 1,8 billion people in SWA countries lacked a basic handwashing facility in 2017. Almost 700 million (669 million) of those had no facility at all.

THIS YEAR, A BLEND OF INDICATORS FROM THE FORMER AND NEW RESULTS FRAMEWORKS HAVE BEEN USED, TO PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF SWA'S 2020 RESULTS





OBJECTIVE 1: Build and sustain political will to eliminate inequalities in water, sanitation and hygiene

	Indicator	Results 2020	Comment
OUTCOME	# of SWA countries with measures targeting vulnerable groups for WASH	35	<p>In 2021/2022, a new round of GLAAS data collection will take place. This updated information will help SWA assess latest progress towards its objectives.</p> <p>According to the 2019 GLAAS report, 35 of the SWA countries reached at least 75% of the goal on implementing measures targeting vulnerable people. The goal is for each country to: recognise the human right to water and sanitation in the constitution; create and use affordability scheme; design measures to reach poor populations in national policies and plans; define community participation procedures in law or policy.</p>
OUTPUT	% SWA countries represented at ministerial level in the FMM	54%	Target for the 2020 FMM was to have at least 25% of SWA countries represented by their finance minister. Results in terms of attendance at ministerial level (including for non-SWA countries) and engagement of ministers during dialogue sessions exceeded expectations.
	% SWA countries represented by their Ministry of Finance in the FMM	31%	39 ministers from Africa (14 finance and 25 sector) / 10 ministers from Latin America and the Caribbean (6 finance and 4 sector) / 19 ministers from Asia and the Pacific (7 finance and 12 sector)
	# of ministers attending the FMM	68	<p>Participants wanted to learn about concrete experiences and initiatives from other countries and to hear finance ministers explaining their positions, their thoughts, their challenges and successes regarding WASH. Most participants have seen their expectations met, they gave the FMMs a satisfaction score of 3.8 out of 5.</p> <p>Almost 70% of participants indicated they are very or extremely likely to use the knowledge and experiences exchanged during the FMM in the future.</p>

OBJECTIVE 2: Champion multi-stakeholder approaches towards achieving universal access to services

	Indicator	Results 2020	Comment
OUTCOME	# of countries with government-led Joint National Reviews	44	In 2021/2022, a new round of GLAAS data collection will take place. This updated information will help SWA assess latest progress towards its objectives.
OUTPUT	# of knowledge products published on SWA website	17%	<p>7 new tools have been added to the SWA tools portal in 2020: COVID-19 Hygiene Hub; Resource Value Mapping (REVAMP); Making Rights Real (MRR); Governance for Transboundary Freshwater Security; Water Integrity: Principles and Concepts; Defining Water Poverty and Evaluating Existing Information and Approaches to Reduce Water Poverty; and Menstrual Hygiene Day infographics.</p> <p>Other publications included briefing papers and calls to action.</p> <p>In 2020, the SWA partnership also developed and shared its <i>Handbook for Finance Ministers – How to Make Public Investment Work</i>, a tool on how to make better use of public funding and mobilize new financing sources.</p>
	# of tabled commitments (per constituency)	118	New commitments 2020 per constituency were: Governments: 63 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs): 14 External Support Agencies (ESAs): 27 Research & Learning: 8 Private Sector: 6
	# of countries where at least 3 constituencies have tabled commitments	3	<p>This was a drop from the 211 commitments made in 2019. However, in 2019, the SMM took place 6 months after the launch of the MAM, which helped create momentum and generate commitments.</p> <p>No targets were set for 2020, but the MAM continued to see a steady growth in the number of commitments, especially as commitments were often discussed among partners as part of the FMM preparation cycle.</p> <p>In 2020, the MAM also received its first progress reports: in total, 37 reports were submitted.</p> <p>In 2021, SWA will focus on encouraging climate-related commitments as well as progress reports on tabled commitments. SWA will also publish its first Global MAM Report, detailing experience and progress so far on the mechanism.</p>
	# of new partners joining SWA	23	<p>4 Governments 12 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) 2 External Support Agencies (ESAs) 1 Research & Learning 4 Private Sector</p>

OBJECTIVE 3: Rally stakeholders to strengthen system performance and attract new investments

	Indicator	Results 2020	Comment
OUTCOME	# of countries with at least 50% of domestic funds committed to WASH absorbed	30	In 2021/2022, a new round of GLAAS data collection will take place. This updated information will help SWA assess latest progress towards its objectives.
	Amount of aid commitments for water, sanitation and hygiene	US\$ 3,65 million	OECD latest available data (2019), for the WASH sector, on SWA countries.
	Amount of aid disbursements for water, sanitation and hygiene	US\$ 2,67 million	
	# of countries with sufficient financial resources to implement their plans on at least 1 sub-sector (water, sanitation or hygiene)	3	'Sufficient resources' is defined as at least 75% of what is needed. Availability of data for this indicator is limited. In 2021/2022, a new round of GLAAS data collection will take place. This updated information will help SWA assess latest progress towards its objectives.
	Existence and use of mechanisms that make access to WASH more affordable to vulnerable groups	31	
OUTPUT	# of events organized by SWA on finance topics, allowing for peer-to-peer knowledge exchange	14	In 2020, SWA organized events related to the FMMs, their preparation and the launch of Handbook for Finance Ministers. 3 webinars on COVID-19, WASH and finance were also organized.
	# of countries represented (and actively engaged) at the SFWG with at least one high-level representative/ counterpart from the ministry of finance	8	The Systems and Finance Work Group was created in 2020, as the main execution instrument for SWA Objective 3, in order to better understand sector financing bottlenecks and support system strengthening. Eight countries joined the Work Group in 2020. These countries have high-level representation (director-level or higher at ministry of finance or sector ministry) and participate actively during the group's meetings and their preparation.



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