

2022 SWA Sector Ministers' Meeting

Building Forward Better for Recovery and Resilience

Guidance document for National Preparatory Processes

This document is intended to serve as a guide to SWA partners to prepare for the upcoming Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) [Sector Ministers' Meeting \(SMM\)](#). The document also presents recommended activities for partners at country level to generate, sustain and leverage the momentum around the SMM.

The SMM in Brief

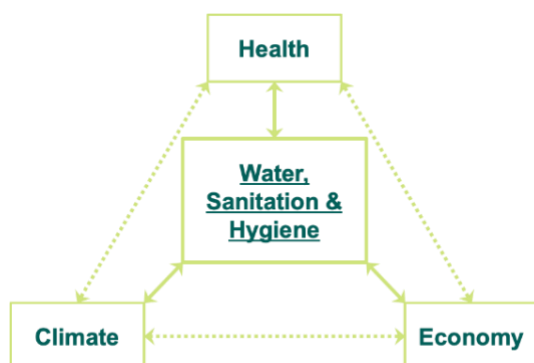
The SMM will:

1. be hosted by the Government of Indonesia on 18-19 May 2022;
2. be multi-sectoral and for the first time bring together ministers responsible for water, sanitation, hygiene, environment, health and the economy, and
3. mobilize political decision makers and development partners to ensure climate, economic and health recovery strategies integrate water, sanitation and hygiene and to implement related COP26 commitments.

About the 2022 SMM

The SMM will be held under the theme: **Building Forward Better for Recovery and Resilience**. The intertwined nature of the current crises demands approaches which avoid fragmentation and cut across sectors. Uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change have enduring and evolving implications on jobs, economies, and nearly every facet of daily life. The most severe consequences are borne by those who are the most vulnerable and the least equipped to respond. Political decision-makers are confronted with complex trade-offs – on one hand to ensure a green economic and health recovery, and on the other to expand and improve quality of services to those without and sustain them for those who have. Fortunately, water, sanitation and hygiene provide solutions that are both financially and environmentally sustainable, while ensuring the realization of human rights. For decision-makers to take the right action, strong evidence that inspires adapted action must be made available.

The SMM will be an important opportunity for this cross-sectoral dialogue. An abridged version of the SMM concept can be found [here](#).



The 2022 SMM will be attended by ministers responsible for water, sanitation, hygiene, health, climate, environment, and economy. These ministers have the mandate to make critical policy and political decisions to create, maintain and invest in the partnerships necessary to respond to

the climate crisis as well as the economic and health recovery needed to manage, and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Leaders from UN agencies, civil society, bilateral and multilateral donors, research and learning institutions, private sector, utilities and regulators as well as international financial institutions and philanthropic foundations will also participate in the Meeting.

How will the 2022 SMM be different?

The 2022 SWA Sector Ministers' Meeting is unique because:

1. This will be the first SWA High-level Meeting which is truly multi-sectoral and will bring together ministers of water, sanitation and hygiene, and their counterparts responsible for climate, environment, health and economy on an international platform to strengthen understanding and collaboration among these sectors.
2. It will focus on the critical contributions water, sanitation and hygiene will make to the green economic recovery – it will promote interventions that demonstrate economic value and present the cost of inaction.
3. It will be held a few months after COP26, and provide an early opportunity for ministers responsible for climate, environment, health, water, sanitation, and hygiene to take stock of progress in the integration of water, sanitation and hygiene issues in national climate approaches, and vice versa.

The 2022 SMM will be crucial to build societies and economies which:

1. ensure integrated approaches to water, sanitation and hygiene, in particular as countries implement recovery plans, with a focus on green recovery;
2. make sure that water, sanitation and hygiene are recognized as core pillars of economic growth; and
3. improve health outcomes for populations by making the necessary investments in cost-effective preventative programmes built on water, sanitation and hygiene.

The results of the SMM and its preparatory process will go beyond the meeting itself and will contribute to climate and economic and health recovery strategies.

How will success after the SMM look like at country level?

The SMM and its preparatory process will go beyond analyses and dialogue. The SMM should catalyze political will at the national level and lead national Governments – that are the main duty bearers in terms of reaching water and sanitation for all, always and everywhere until 2030 – to delivering concrete and tangible results in these areas:

1. Ensuring prioritization of water, sanitation and hygiene in national strategies, including for climate, economic and health recovery, and integration of climate considerations into national strategies and budgets for water and sanitation;
2. Making adequate and necessary investments in water, sanitation and hygiene as crucial components of their climate, economic and health strategies;

3. Together with development partners and key economic players, identifying and implementing policies and programmes which are climate-friendly and cost-effective while realizing the human rights to water and sanitation and leaving no one behind.
4. In collaboration with other partners, tabling commitments that put most at risk people and those without water, sanitation and hygiene services at the centre of the climate, economic and health recovery agendas.

These results will be achieved through:

1. **national multi-sectoral political leadership aimed at** translating the objectives of the SMM into clear national policies, strategies, investment plans and budgets, as well as commitments; and
2. **multistakeholder engagement at** the national level on the above between ministers and leaders from development agencies, including development banks, bilateral and multilateral partners, civil society, private sector, research and UN agencies.

Preparatory process for the 2022 Sector Ministers' Meeting

Objectives and outcomes

The preparatory process and the follow-up activities have four objectives and will focus on the importance of water, sanitation and hygiene as components of sustainable solutions to the triple crises (climate, economy and health):

1. **To mobilize political leaders to identify and strengthen water, sanitation and hygiene** in climate adaptation and mitigation plans, as well as improving climate commitments in strategies related to water, sanitation and hygiene.
2. **To develop and strengthen partnerships that support integrated, cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder action for sustainable recovery from crisis.** By sharing examples and evidence, the indispensable nature of sanitation, water, and hygiene for effective crisis response will be understood and help additional resources and deliver at-scale services
3. **To demonstrate and highlight the economic opportunities and benefits offered by the water, sanitation and hygiene sector** in generating employment, contributing to a healthy workforce, strengthening social and economic development for all and protecting and preparing populations for climate change
4. **To secure long-term engagement, collaborative action and concrete results** through SWA's Mutual Accountability Mechanism by making and reviewing commitments that align water and sanitation adaptation and mitigation priorities.

The **preparatory process** will include:

- regular government-led dialogues,
- multi-sectoral involvement (including representatives of climate, economy and health ministries, besides the water and sanitation ministries);

- multi-stakeholder participation across different constituencies, and
- definition of priority actions and commitments through the mutual accountability mechanism

What will be different?

Since the 2022 SMM will also bring together ministers responsible for the environment, economy and health, the SWA government Focal Points must, from the beginning of the preparatory process, reach out to their counterparts in such ministries, to make sure they contribute to and are involved in the preparation of the main Outputs of the preparatory process, as well as in the follow up to the SMM.

The preparatory process is led by the government with the support of partners including civil society, UN agencies, financing institutions, research and learning agencies, utilities, regulators, and private sector. SWA focal points, both within and outside governments, are expected to play a central role in mobilizing for these multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral activities. In particular, the SWA government focal point will play the crucial role of identifying and inviting counterparts in other government ministries and agencies responsible for climate, environment, health and the economy. Supported by partners, the focal points are encouraged to provide briefings to counterparts from other ministries and engage them regularly including for confirmation of the respective ministers' participation.

Activities for the preparatory process are interlinked, and their specific sequence should be decided based on the opportunities in each country. Partners in each country should prepare a short timeline of main activities related to the SMM and how and by whom these activities will be conducted. The SWA Secretariat is available to support countries on this action plan. The recommended activities and outputs of the preparatory process are described in more detail in Appendix 1.

Ministerial Briefings

Stakeholders engage with Ministers for at least 2 briefings – the first to present information about SMM; the second to remind Ministers of the SMM, present the final Overviews and confirm participation of the Ministers. These briefings should involve all ministries including climate, environment, economy, health, water, sanitation and hygiene.

Country Overview

To brief ministers – why water, sanitation and hygiene is important for climate action, economic and health recovery? How crises have impacted water, sanitation and hygiene? And how to invest so water, sanitation and hygiene can contribute more to recovery? Should also include actions agreed to be taken by partners in the form of commitments. Using existing evidence, each country could focus on crises that affect their context the most.

Dialogues - sustainable recovery

How water, sanitation and hygiene can contribute to resilience and recovery: dialogues with political decision makers in water, sanitation and hygiene, climate, economy and

WASH Week of Action

Media outreach such as press events, television and radio programs with high-level decision-makers; interministerial dialogues to review results of previous analyses and multi-

health. Should include private sector, academia, utilities and regulators and other development partners and could include parliamentarians and others.

stakeholder meetings/ workshops/ field visits. Interministerial dialogues should involve all ministries

Country Overviews

A main output of the preparatory process will be the Country Overview. SWA partners in each country will work together – including with organizations and actors active in the areas of the environment, climate, health and the economy - to prepare in-depth and solutions-focused analyses to be used as part of the briefing for the Ministers who will attend the Meeting. Ministers will also use the Country Overview in the activities prior to, during and after the Meeting (inter-ministerial dialogues and the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Week of Action). The Country Overview should emerge from national multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral dialogue and, where possible, should draw from, and contribute to, broader reviews of different sectors. The Country Overview could include the following sections. Details and suggestions are provided in Appendix 2.

1. Why water sanitation and hygiene services central to climate action, and economic and health recovery?
2. How have the triple crises (climate, economy and health) impacted water, sanitation and hygiene service delivery?
3. What investment options do we have to increase contributions of water, sanitation and hygiene to climate action, economic and health recovery?
4. What actions can we identify and agree on to support national priorities through the Mutual Accountability Mechanism?

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Week of Action

In order to increase awareness around the role of water, sanitation and hygiene in fighting the triple crises of climate, economy and health, partners are encouraged to announce and organize a “WASH Week of Action”. The specific time for this week should be selected at country level in order for it to align to national context. During this Week, partners can undertake communications and advocacy activities involving political leaders, the media and agencies involved in managing and responding to the triple crises.

Countries should inform the Secretariat by January 2022, when they intend to have the WASH Week of Action.

The activities recommended for the WASH Week of Action are presented in Appendix 3. They include Media outreach; Television and radio shows; Inter-ministerial dialogues; and Multistakeholder field visits.

Support from the SWA Secretariat

The SWA Secretariat will provide support to partners through **webinars, bilateral meetings, a dedicated helpdesk and communications and advocacy support**. Other support includes: assistance on sector **analysis** and preparation of **country overviews**; use of SWA's **communication platforms** to share national preparatory and follow-up processes; small grants for communications activities are available (requests to reach Secretariat by 15 February 2022; **review of commitments** made under the [Mutual Accountability Mechanism](#)).

Webinars

The Secretariat has planned four webinars, in three languages, with the following objectives:

1. Kick-off of the Preparatory Process of the 2022 SMM – 19 October 2021
2. From dialogue to action: integrating water and sanitation in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) – 2 December 2021
3. Build Forward Better: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Solutions for sustainable recovery from the triple crises – 26 January 2022
4. From solutions to actions (logistical and technical information about the SMM will also be shared) - 20 April 2022

Meetings

The SWA Secretariat will collaborate with partners in each region to organise at least 2 specific online dialogues to further analyse the contributions of water, sanitation and hygiene to climate action as well as economic and health recovery. These dialogues should include representatives from the WASH sector and also from climate, health and economy sectors. The dates and time will be arranged and announced on a region-by-region basis

The Secretariat is also holding country-by-country calls starting in October 2021 and will carry through the process.

There will be constituency-specific preparatory meetings organized by the Secretariat. Please find the calendar [here](#).

Follow-up to the Sector Ministers' Meeting

A robust follow-up process to track commitments and agreements made by ministers and partners is important to ensure the impact of the SMM is tangible inside partner countries and contributes to delivering on SDG6 and realising the human rights to water and sanitation. The SMMs are part of an ongoing political dialogue. Some possible activities and the corresponding support from the SWA Secretariat are mentioned in Appendix 4. More detailed recommendations on the follow-up will be shared soon.

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Appendix 1 – Activities and Outputs of the preparatory process

Actions	Materials and support from the Secretariat and/or partners
<p>Ministerial briefings: Relevant stakeholders in each country are requested to engage with the Ministers including those responsible for climate, economy and health, for at least two briefings – the first, in November-December 2021 should present information about the SMM; the second, in April-May 2022 should seek to remind Ministers of the Meeting, present the final Overviews and confirm participation of the Ministers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save the date letters • Concept note of the SMM • Confirm participation of the minister(s) with the SWA Secretariat • Contact the SWA Secretariat if you have not received the letters and concept note • Suggestions on how to engage non-WASH ministries – climate, environment, economy and health
<p>Country Overview: working with partners, prepare a short Country Overview to brief ministers of climate, environment, economy, health, water, sanitation and hygiene. The overview should include actions previously agreed to be taken by partners in the form of Mutual Accountability Mechanism commitments.</p> <p><i>The Secretariat can comment on the Country Overview if it is sent three weeks before the event.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested outline (see below) • Technical advice and tools on climate action • Analytical support on economic and health recovery • Previous country overviews and country profiles • Timelines: First draft should be ready by 15 March 2022 and the final version should be uploaded to website by 2 May 2022
<p>Dialogues on sustainable recovery from the triple crises and how water, sanitation and hygiene can contribute to building resilience and a robust recovery: dialogues are encouraged at national level with political decision makers and leaders involved in WASH on the one hand, and climate change discussions, economic and health processes on the other.</p> <p>The dialogues could also include parliamentarians, private sector, Chambers of Commerce, National Human Rights Commissions, bilateral and multilateral agencies, academic institutions, among others. Partners can table new or revised commitments in support of national priorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical advice on climate action, economic and health recovery, in relation to water, sanitation and hygiene • Support on using the Global Leaders' Call to Action • Online platform for dialogues in case partners cannot meet in person • Inter-ministerial cross-sectoral dialogues, ideally leading to shared understanding of – and a common approach to – the link between WASH, climate, economic and health recovery. • Partners can use processes such as national budget discussions, meetings to provide input on the next GLAAS report, Joint Sector Reviews or other existing activities
<p>WASH Week of Action</p> <p>Media outreach such as press events; television and radio events with Ministers and other high-level decision-makers; inter-ministerial cross-sectoral dialogues to review the results of the previous analyses and multi-stakeholder meetings/workshops/field visits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Templates for press releases and 2022 SMM Communications Toolkit • Small grants for media engagement • Technical support to prepare analyses • Finance Ministers' Handbook

Appendix 2 – Suggested structure and contents of the Country overviews

Objective/Component/Subheading	Key aspects to highlight	Suggestions on the approach & tools
<p>Why water, sanitation and hygiene services are central to climate action, and economic and health recovery</p> <p>Opportunities for economic growth: role of water, sanitation and hygiene in climate mitigation and adaptation as well as fostering economic and health recovery.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic benefits of investing in this sector in the times of climate change and COVID-19 • Has water, sanitation and hygiene been included in the climate documents – Nationally Determined Contributions and/or National Adaptation Plans • Opportunities for jobs in the sector • Impact of the sector on health and future pandemics • Cost of inaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive, aspirational tone • Discussion guide on climate and WASH
<p>How the triple crises (climate, economic and health) impact water, sanitation and hygiene service delivery?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to services for all, particularly poor, marginalized and vulnerable people who are at the frontlines of the triple crises: climate, economic and health • Impact of COVID-19 and the role of the sector in resolving public health crises • Initial projections of service coverage under policy approaches, and impact of COVID-19 on these projections including the impact on the water, sanitation and hygiene targets of the SDGs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use SDG progress updates including the latest JMP, and sub-regional reports such as the SDG6+5 in East and Southern Africa, AIP Scorecard in Africa • OECD publication: Global Outlook on Financing for Sustainable Development 2021 : A New Way to Invest for People and Planet • Communicate a sense of urgency
<p>Making SMART Investments: options for increasing contributions of water, sanitation and hygiene to climate action, economic and health recovery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific options for water, sanitation and hygiene to contribute to climate action, economic and health recovery • What follow-up is needed on climate actions such as NDCs/NAPs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIP Scorecard in Africa • Demonstrate that opportunities exist • Use the work that was done in preparation of the 2020 Finance Ministers' Meeting

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide examples and/or quantify contributions water, sanitation and hygiene can make to sustainable recovery • What partnerships can be built/strengthened with minister(s) to achieve results at scale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister(s) politically buy-in and commit to act
Identified actions to support national priorities through the Mutual Accountability Mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of commitments previously made by governments and other stakeholders (progress reports should be submitted to SWA ahead of the Meeting) • New commitments drafted by government and other stakeholders reflecting national priorities. • A summary of the achievements and bottlenecks the country would like to discuss during a dedicated session on accountability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure and demonstrate that discussions at the national-level were inclusive and took place in a multi-stakeholder manner • New commitments and progress reports to be submitted to SWA ahead of the Meeting to facilitate the preparation of the global accountability session

Appendix 3 – Activities recommended for the WASH Week of Action

Activity	Secretariat support
Media outreach: This could include, inter alia, a press release/conference/event highlighting the contributions of water, sanitation and hygiene can make to climate action, economy, health, and development will help raise finance. Also includes activities on social media.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Template press release and social media toolkit three languages, including key messages, visuals, videos, etc. • List of supportive quotes from SWA leaders including the CEO. Possible virtual interviews if scheduling allows • Communication about confirmed SMM participants in SWA global platforms; visibility around national processes and initiatives to a global audience • 2022 SMM Communications Toolkit • Content (inc. pictures) for partners to share on their social media.
Television or radio shows: engaging Ministers and other high-level decision-makers in live television and radio dialogues, can help stimulate a citizen-driven national movement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brainstorming on possible topics for television debates • Template letters which can be used to invite key stakeholders

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small grants for media engagement are available for a limited number of countries • Requests for the media grants should be received by 15 February 2022
Inter-ministerial dialogues: involving ministers responsible for climate, environment, economy, health, water, sanitation and hygiene to review the results of the previous analyses and agree actions to be taken by the government with the support of partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to the meeting concept note • Compilation of relevant experiences and examples from other countries • Technical support to prepare sector financial analysis
Multi-stakeholder meetings/workshops/field visits on sector financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to the concept note • Media support • Experiences from other countries • Use of the Finance handbook

Appendix 4 – Suggested activities to ensure follow-up of SMM

Activity	Support from the Secretariat
Prepare a summary of the areas where ministers and partners agreed to act with clear next steps and timelines – this can be linked to the commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately after the Meeting, letters to ministers from the SWA leadership thanking them for participating and highlighting the outcomes
Incorporate outcomes of the SMM in national adaptation plans, new strategies and plans, budgets and JSR processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to use the SMM outcomes' document • Peer-to-peer conversations with other SWA partner countries with relevant experiences in climate action, and including water, sanitation and hygiene in economic and health recovery
Reviewing and tabling commitments: partners are encouraged to review progress towards their commitments they have already tabled. Partners can use the outcomes of the preparatory process to table their own commitments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tailored briefings on the MAM process can be arranged.