



Discussion Guide for WASH and climate integration and preparation of country overviews

This Discussion Guide is intended as a tool for SWA partners to deepen analysis, hold transparent dialogue and engage decision-makers including political leaders around the intersection of WASH and climate action. These discussions can culminate in country overviews, which can contribute to the political dialogue around and beyond COP26¹. With climate action as a priority topic for SWA in 2021 and beyond, SWA partners are encouraged to engage with their water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) counterparts, and those in the climate sector, in order to map out the intersection of WASH and climate action in their national context. Through multistakeholder discussions, SWA partners can play a role in facilitating strategic mapping of climate and WASH, with particular attention to:

- (1) Stakeholders
- (2) Climate and WASH policy
- (3) Climate risks to WASH
- (4) Potential climate resilient WASH solutions
- (5) Financing for climate resilient WASH responses

These discussions, which may be already underway in your country context, are vital for building alliances between the WASH and climate communities, and identifying potential entry points for joint action going forward. In this process you can use the SWA Mutual Accountability Mechanism (MAM) as a vehicle for aligning climate strategies, WASH adaptation and mitigation priorities, and climate financing through the submission of MAM climate-related commitments that can be monitored and reviewed periodically.

Capitalizing on the fact that many States Parties to the UNFCCC are actively working to update/ revise their National Determined Contributions (NDCs) and formulating their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), governments and their partners are encouraged to integrate WASH into NAP formulation and include one or two WASH commitments in their NDCs, and also integrate them into national WASH plans, and into MAM commitments. This will be a significant accomplishment for climate action, for the water and sanitation sector, and also for SWA.

Climate change is an ongoing crisis which further constrains resource availability. In the long term, Building Forward Better will entail a focus on climate action alongside the economic and health recovery from COVID19. This work could be showcased at various global events in 2021, including World Water Week, a possible dedicated SWA convened High Level meeting on climate and WASH, COP26, and later on at the World Water Forum and Sector Ministers Meeting (SMM). Moreover, these commitments can also be addressed during the 2023 FMM, having an impact on the scarce resources available for climate change adaptation in the already under-resourced WASH sector. The previous FMMs in 2020 focused on the impact of COVID on water, sanitation, hygiene, health and the economic. Although examples related to climate finance for WASH were addressed, this was not the primary topic of the meetings.

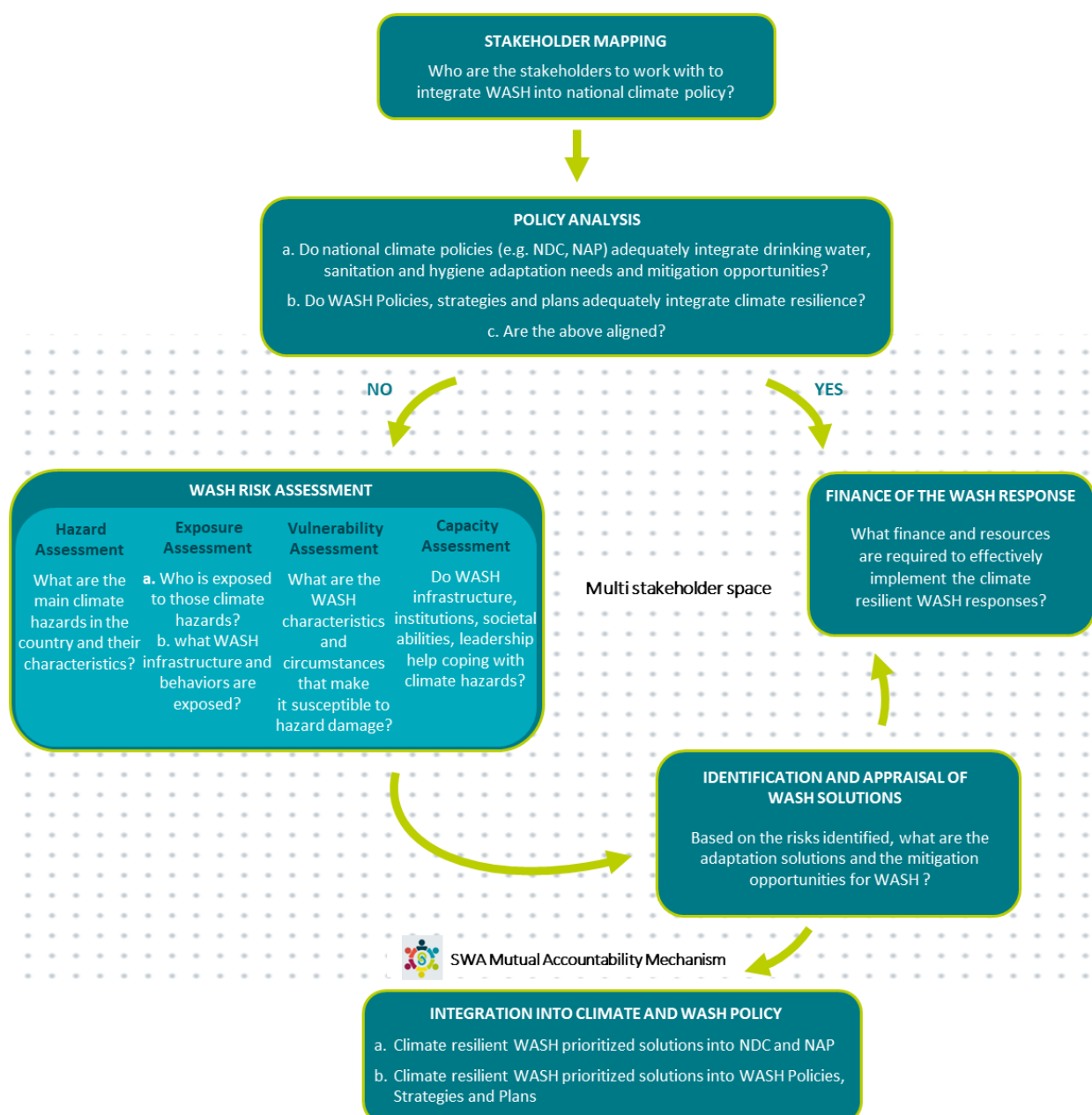
The results of the discussions can be summarized in a country overview, which can serve as the basis for identifying priority areas for further joint work on WASH and climate at the national level; preparing for

¹ ukcop26.org

participation in global processes, such as SWA high level meetings, and COP 26; as well as supporting efforts to access climate finance. The annex to this guide proposes a template for the country overviews.

The following flow diagram outlines the indicative country process for WASH and climate integration and for the development of country overviews.

INDICATIVE FLOW DIAGRAM FOR WASH AND CLIMATE COUNTRY INTEGRATION & DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY OVERVIEWS



1. STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

A first key step in joining up action to combat climate change and ensure universal access to WASH is to bring together key stakeholders. Collective discussion offers an opportunity to identify and build a **list of partners and stakeholders** that the WASH sector needs to engage with to influence national climate planning processes and to invite to WASH planning processes. This will likely include Ministries of Environment or Climate Change departments, as they are usually responsible for developing climate strategies which should include WASH. In many cases UN Agencies (e.g., UNDP, UNEP) are supporting those ministries with important climate planning processes such as the updating and revisions of [Nationally Determined Contributions \(NDCs\)](#), and formulations of [National Adaptation Plans \(NAPs\)](#).

Stakeholders can be identified at various levels (national, sub-national, local) and across many institutions (government, private sector, academia, regulators and utilities, non-governmental organizations – civil society) as well as communities and private individuals, each with precise roles in climate resilient development.

Table 1. Key climate stakeholders to engage with

Process / Constituency	Stakeholders	Reasons for engaging the stakeholders
Facilitation of NDC updates and revisions		
Facilitation of NAP formulation and/or implementation		
Development / Formulation of national and sub-national climate change strategies		
Integration of climate resilience into Water Resource Management (Drought and Flood management), and Basin-catchment Authorities		
Disaster Risk Prevention and Management, including management of early warning systems		
Universities / Institutions working on climate change research, observations,		

downscaling of projections, capacity building		
Civil society organizations providing insights to national climate planning		
Private sector		
External development agencies including UN agencies, finance institutions		
Regulators and service providers/ utilities		

2. CLIMATE AND WASH POLICY ANALYSIS

Examining both climate and WASH policies and strategies is another key step to build understanding of the opportunities to integrate these agendas more fully. This will include looking at climate policies – on both adaptation and mitigation – to ascertain the degree to which WASH is included, and conversely, examining WASH policies to ascertain the degree to which the impact of climate change and climate action measures have been included.

2.1 Assessing WASH integration into national climate policy

The following questions could help with the assessment.

a. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs):

- Is the country a State Party to the Paris Agreement? If so, when did the country submit its first NDC?
- Is the country working on the first update/revision of the NDC? When are the update/revision expected to be ready/ when was it submitted?
- How is drinking water, sanitation and hygiene reflected in the NDC?
- Is it clear to the WASH sector how to have its priorities for adaptation and opportunities for mitigation included in the NDC update/revision?

b. National Adaptation Plans (NAPs):

- Has the country finalized the formulation of its NAP or is still being prepared?
- What are the timeframes for the NAP formulation and submission and what are key milestones?
- How are the adaptation needs of the WASH services reflected in the NAP?
- Is the WASH sector invited to discussions/consultations for the NAP formulation, and is it clear how to contribute?

It is important for the review to include whether the national WASH response to climate change covers the most vulnerable and the unserved, including those living in informal settlements.

Note: You can find all NDCs submitted by countries to the UNFCCC [HERE](#) and you can find the NAPs that have been already submitted by countries to the UNFCCC [HERE](#)

The overall question you would need to answer is: Do national climate policies (e.g., NDC, NAP) adequately integrate drinking water, sanitation and hygiene adaptation needs and mitigation opportunities?

Table 2 will help you with the conclusions of the assessment. If you find that WASH elements are not well integrated into the NDC or NAP you can also include your comments on the table.

Table 2. WASH priorities as part of NDC and NAP

WASH Component	WASH NDC Commitments	WASH NAP Priorities
Drinking Water		
Sanitation		
Hygiene		

2.2 Assessing climate integration in WASH policy and strategic planning

The following questions might help you with the assessment.

National WASH Response to climate change:

- What has your country done to respond to climate change from a WASH perspective?
- What are the gaps in the response?
- Have country hazards, exposure, vulnerabilities and capacities to respond been assessed in the WASH sector?
- Have climate risk assessments been done with a focus on the WASH sector, or if risk assessments have been done more broadly, has the WASH sector integrated that information in its policies and planning?
- Are the main needs for WASH adaptation in the country clear?
- Are the main WASH mitigation opportunities clear?

Identify overall opportunities at national level that the WASH sector can use. Formulation and revision of WASH Policies, strategies and plans are a great entry point to ensure that climate resilience is well integrated.

Examples of national opportunities to integrate climate into WASH policy and strategic planning

- Clean Green Pakistan - driven by the Prime Minister.
- One WASH National Programs in Ethiopia and Eritrea that work in fostering and bridging WASH and Water Resources Management (WRM). The Government of Eritrea has developed a OneWASH Strategy and Investment Plan (2019–2030) that is climate-risk informed.

If the WASH sector has already integrated climate resilience into WASH policies and strategies, and identified the main priorities for adaptation and the main opportunities for mitigation, please list them in

the table below. If you find that climate resilience is not well integrated in WASH policies and strategies you can also include your comments in the table below.

Table 3. WASH priorities for adaptation and mitigation opportunities

WASH Component	Priorities for Adaptation	Opportunities for Mitigation
Drinking Water		
Sanitation		
Hygiene		

3. CLIMATE RISKS TO WASH

In many cases, the WASH sector has not been able to advance on the fronts highlighted in section 2 above because of the lack of participatory approaches that facilitate a discussion on how climate change impacts the WASH sector. These discussions are crucial in order to identify the most urgent needs for adaptation as well as opportunities for mitigation. The multi-stakeholder platforms at country level could serve as the forum for such discussions. For example, the facilitation of a consultative WASH Risk Analysis (engaging climate and WASH stakeholders) could help to bridge the climate and WASH agendas. The WASH sector has tools that can help the facilitation of these consultative processes for risk identification. Examples included on SWA Tools Portal:

- [Risks assessments for WASH \(GWP-UNICEF\)](#)
- [Risk informed WASH Bottleneck Analysis Tool \(UNICEF, SIWI\)](#) (The description provided on this link describes the general WASH BAT process, however a version of WASH BAT informed by climate risks has been tested in several countries by Jan 2021. SIWI and UNICEF could provide more information on how to run a risk informed WASH BAT)
- [At Health Care Facility level: WASH FIT \(WHO, UNICEF\)](#)

Progress towards identification of risks to the WASH sector (e.g., by following the above suggested methodologies or other ones already in used by partners in countries) should include the following steps.

3.1 Climate hazard assessment

You will need to identify the overall and main climate hazards (e.g., drought, flood, sea level rise, etc.) faced by the country and how they shift national priorities.

In your country overview you can include broad statements on the national response and national readiness (beyond WASH). This can be complemented with filling briefly the below table for the main 2-3 climate hazards in the country:

Table 4. Climate hazards in the country

Characteristic	Hazard 1 [...]	Hazard 2 [...]
Frequency		
Duration		
Intensity		
Geographical extent		
Time of year		

3.2 WASH exposure to climate hazards

Specifically delve into the nexus between climate hazards and drinking-water, sanitation, and hygiene by explaining **who** is exposed (any population group by age, gender, wealth, ethnicity, status etc.), and **what** is exposed (specific water and sanitation infrastructure, behaviors, water resources in the country, etc.)

3.3 Climate WASH vulnerability and capacity assessments

The tools outlined above help the WASH sector with the facilitation of consultative vulnerability and capacity assessments. For example, the tool [Risks assessments for WASH \(GWP-UNICEF\)](#) has generic pre-defined questions that help such assessments (See pages 26-44). Those questions are organized in 6 different components:



Figure 1. Components of WASH vulnerability and capacity assessments

If you develop these two distinct assessments you will be able to identify, for the WASH Sector, vulnerability issues that need to be addressed and capacity gaps that need attention.

Table 5. Vulnerability and capacity key points for WASH

Component	Key vulnerability issues identified	Key capacity gaps identified
Social		
Financial		
Physical		
Environmental		
Human		
Political (and institutional)		

You might need to remember that to reduce climate risk you have to work to reduce vulnerability and increase capacity. Therefore, identifying solutions in the next section should include activities to address the points included in Table 5 above.

4. CLIMATE RESILIENT WASH SOLUTIONS

The tools that were highlighted before propose participatory processes that support the identification of climate resilient WASH options to address identified risks. Also, a generic results framework has been made available that can “inspire” countries on potential WASH climate resilient options:

- Simplified Generic Results Framework of WASH climate resilient development (page 10 [English](#), [Spanish](#), [French](#), [Portuguese](#))
- [Linking risk with response: options for climate resilient WASH](#) - also available in [Spanish](#) and [French](#)

Note: Partners at global and national levels will be able to contribute with other tools and resources.

5. FINANCING THE WASH RESPONSE

The low level of global climate financing directed at ensuring basic access to water, sanitation and hygiene is an indicator of concern, as it is estimated to be only a tenth of climate finance for water-related projects, accounting for 0.3% of total global climate finance.

At the same time, the incremental cost of ensuring new water and sanitation assets are climate-resilient is estimated to be between \$0.9 billion and \$2.3 billion a year. While not negligible, these investments represent around 1 per cent of baseline infrastructure investment needs and would reduce the risk of damage to new infrastructure by 50 per cent. The potential benefits for health and socio-economic development of incorporating resilience into WASH are therefore enormous.

Ensuring adequate financing for both WASH and climate action is therefore critical. Discussions on climate action and WASH will be an opportunity to understand the financing landscape, and to identify areas where complementary efforts may be sought.

Financing the WASH responses:

- What finance and resources are required to effectively implement agreed climate resilient solutions?
- What additional resources (link to climate finance) need to be mobilized?
- Has the WASH sector in the country benefited from climate financing schemes (e.g., bilateral; multilaterals such as the Green Climate Fund, Global Environmental Facility, Adaptation Fund; philanthropy; private sector, etc.)?
- Are other sectors such as agriculture, tourism, industry and/or water resources accessing these funds?
- Can the WASH sector use additional resources effectively, transparently and for the intended purpose?
- Can complementarity be discussed for development of joint proposals (e.g., drinking water, wastewater reuse and agriculture)?

ANNEX 1. PROPOSED TEMPLATE FOR COUNTRY OVERVIEWS

The process outlined in this Discussion Guide is expected to be summarized into a Country Overview. The development of Country Overviews is led by SWA government focal points, and they are intended to be used as information for political decision makers. For this purpose, the overview itself needs to be brief with quick messages and pointers for action.

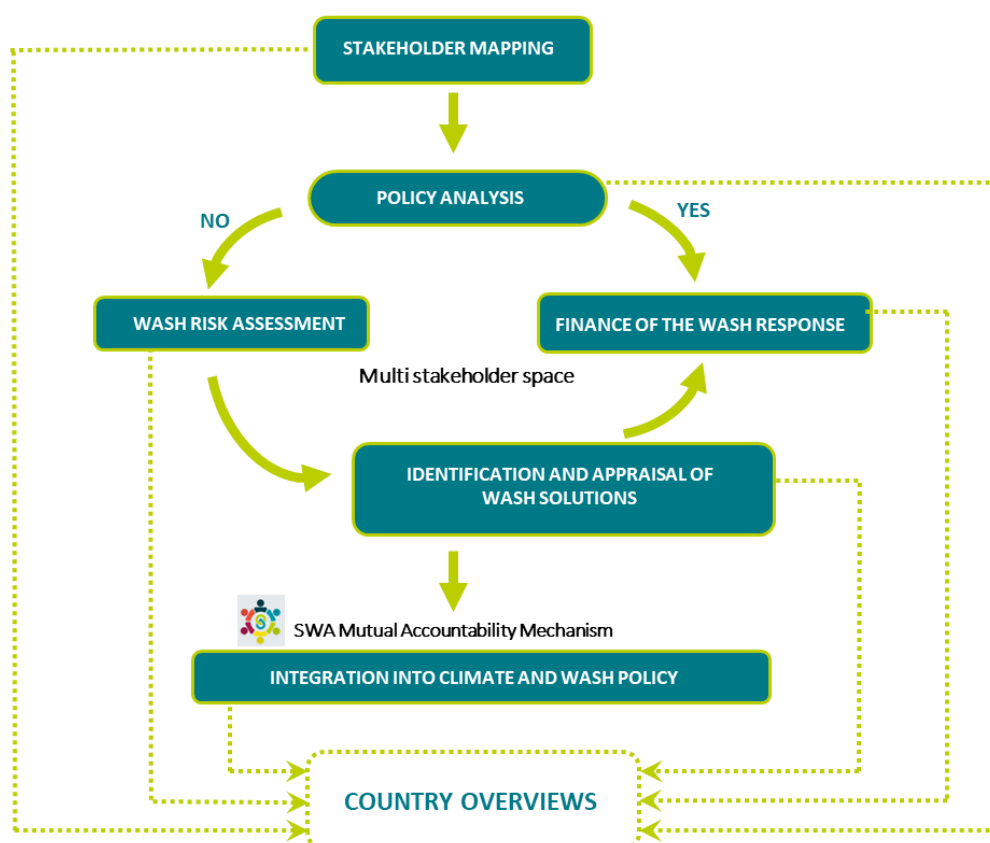


Figure A1. Information feeding the development of SWA Country Overviews

Following is a proposed template for the development of SWA Country Overviews.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW: WASH AND CLIMATE CHANGE – [Country Name]

1. STAKEHOLDERS

[1 page maximum]

- Summary of partners and stakeholders that the WASH sector needs to engage with to influence national climate planning processes and to invite to WASH planning processes using Table 1.
- Summary of interaction with those stakeholders as part of the country engagement process.

2. CLIMATE AND WASH POLICY ANALYSIS

[1.5-page maximum]

- Summary of WASH priorities as part of NDC and NAP, using Table 2. If you find that WASH elements are not well integrated into the NDC or NAP you can also include your comments on the table.
- Summary of WASH priorities for adaptation and mitigation opportunities included in WASH Policies, Strategies and Plans, using Table 3.
- Assessment of the two points above outlining action needed for policy integration.

Note: Depending on the result of the analysis above you might need to continue with all the sections below or skip some. (As illustrated in the flow chart in the Guidance Note and this Annex).

3. CLIMATE RISKS TO WASH

[2-page maximum]

- Summary of the process put in place to conduct a WASH risk assessment.
- Summary of climate hazards in the country, using Table 4.
- Narrative summary of WASH exposure to hazards identified.
- Summary of WASH vulnerability and capacity gaps, using Table 5.

4. POTENTIAL CLIMATE RESILIENT WASH SOLUTIONS

[1-page maximum]

- Summary of the process put in place to identify climate resilient WASH solutions.
- Summary of identified WASH climate resilient options, using Table 3.

5. FINANCING FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT WASH RESPONSES

[1-page maximum]

- Summary of how the country has benefited from climate financing schemes, including in sectors beyond WASH.
- Summary of finance and resources that are required to effectively implement agreed climate resilient solutions.
- Summary of coordination action and steps taken towards financing for climate resilient WASH responses.

6. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND ACTION TOWARDS WASH AND CLIMATE COUNTRY INTEGRATION

- Summary of discussions underway and action points in your country for building alliances between the WASH and climate communities, and identifying potential entry points for joint action going forward.
- Summary of how the SWA Mutual Accountability Mechanism (MAM) is a vehicle for aligning climate strategies, WASH adaptation and mitigation priorities, and climate financing.
- Summary of specific steps and action points towards:
 - Integrating WASH as part of the update/ revision of the National Determined Contribution (NDC)
 - Integrating WASH in the formulation or implementation of the National Adaptation Plans (NAP)
 - Integrating Climate Resilience into WASH Policies, Strategies and Plans
- Summary of preparations (from a WASH perspective) for country participation in global level processes, such as COP 26, SWA high level meetings, as well as supporting efforts to access climate finance.