

MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM

An analysis of
finance commitments
May 2023 update



MUTUAL
ACCOUNTABILITY
MECHANISM
accountability in action



SANITATION
AND WATER
FOR ALL

MAM Finance Commitments

SWA's **Mutual Accountability Mechanism (MAM)** is the only global accountability process in the sector that is dedicated to all stakeholders working together towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals' water and sanitation targets. Since the MAM was launched in 2018, over 400 global and national commitments have been tabled, with half of them coming from 60 national governments. Commitments are periodically monitored by partners and the first *MAM Global Report* (2021) can be found [here](#).

As one of its three strategic objectives SWA prioritizes “**rallying stakeholders to strengthen system performance and attract new investments**”, by developing an efficient, credit-worthy sector, advocating for increased investment, supporting the development of finance strategies and expanding capacity.

This analysis focuses on the commitments related to **finance** tabled by SWA's national and global partners¹ from all constituencies² tabled under the MAM until **May 2023**.

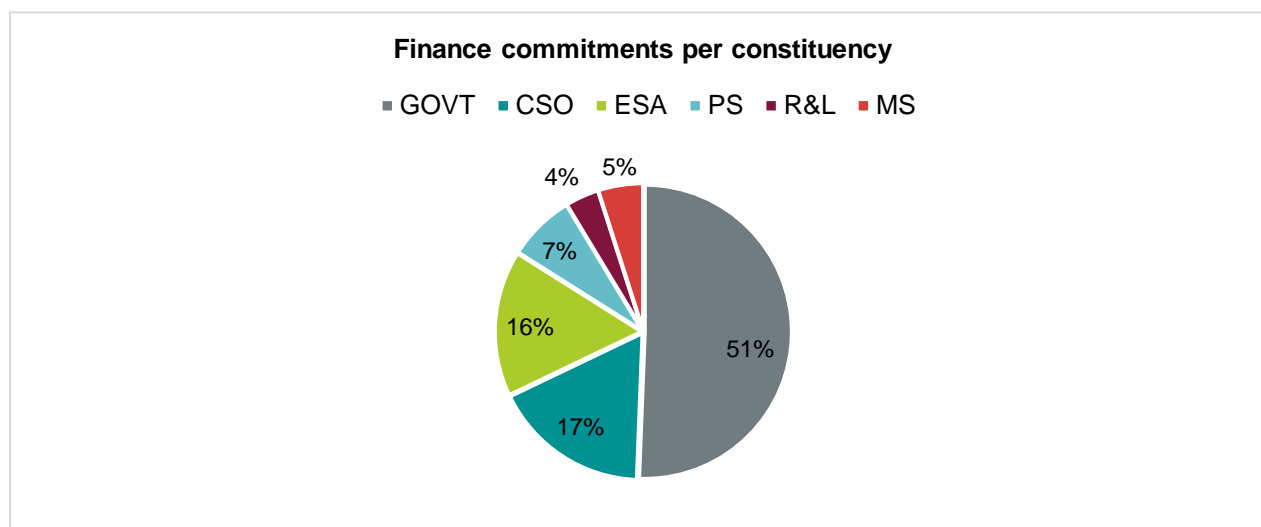
¹ 'Global partners' is a term used by SWA to encompass institutions working in multiple countries, both at regional and global levels, such as UN agencies, development banks, donors, INGOs, private sector, regulators associations, and research & learning organizations.

² The SWA constituencies are government (GOVT), civil society (CSO), external support agencies (ESA), research & learning (R&L) and the private sector (PS). In the graphics, MS stands for 'multi-stakeholder commitments', i.e., government-led commitments tabled by more than one in-country partners.

Finance commitments

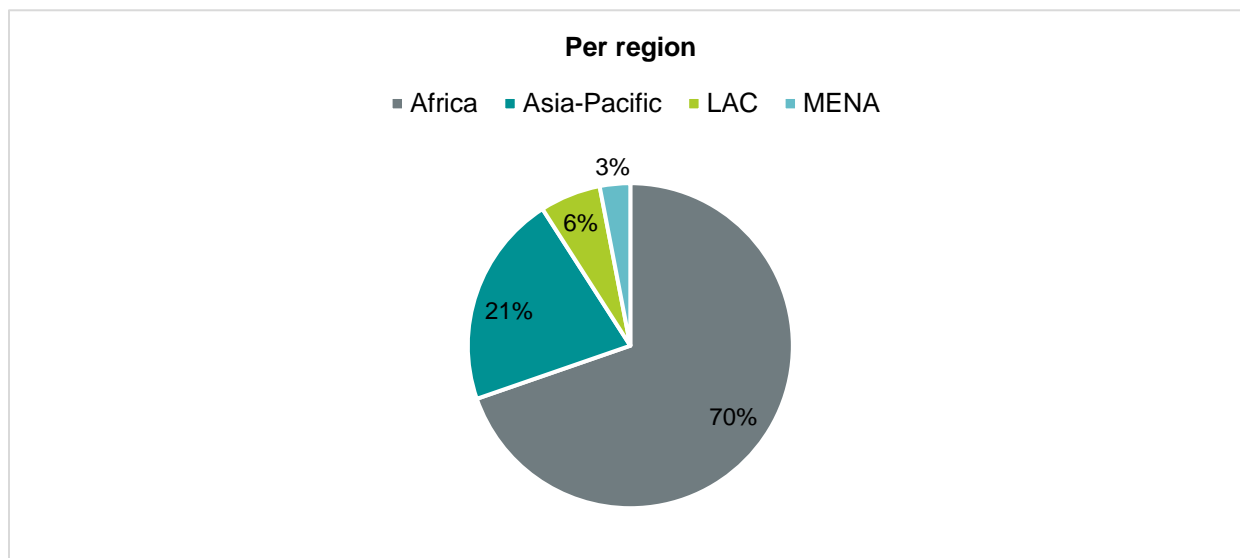
Overview

- **81 finance**-related commitments have been tabled under the MAM by partners from **all** constituencies from **33 countries**, as well **9 global partners**.
- There are commitments led by the **Ministry of Finance** in Mozambique, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe.
- National **governments** are responsible for over half of the existing finance commitments:



GOVT = government; CSO = civil society organizations; ESA = external support agencies; R&L = research & learning institutions; PS= private sector; MS= 'multi-stakeholder commitments', i.e., government-led commitments tabled by more than one in-country partners

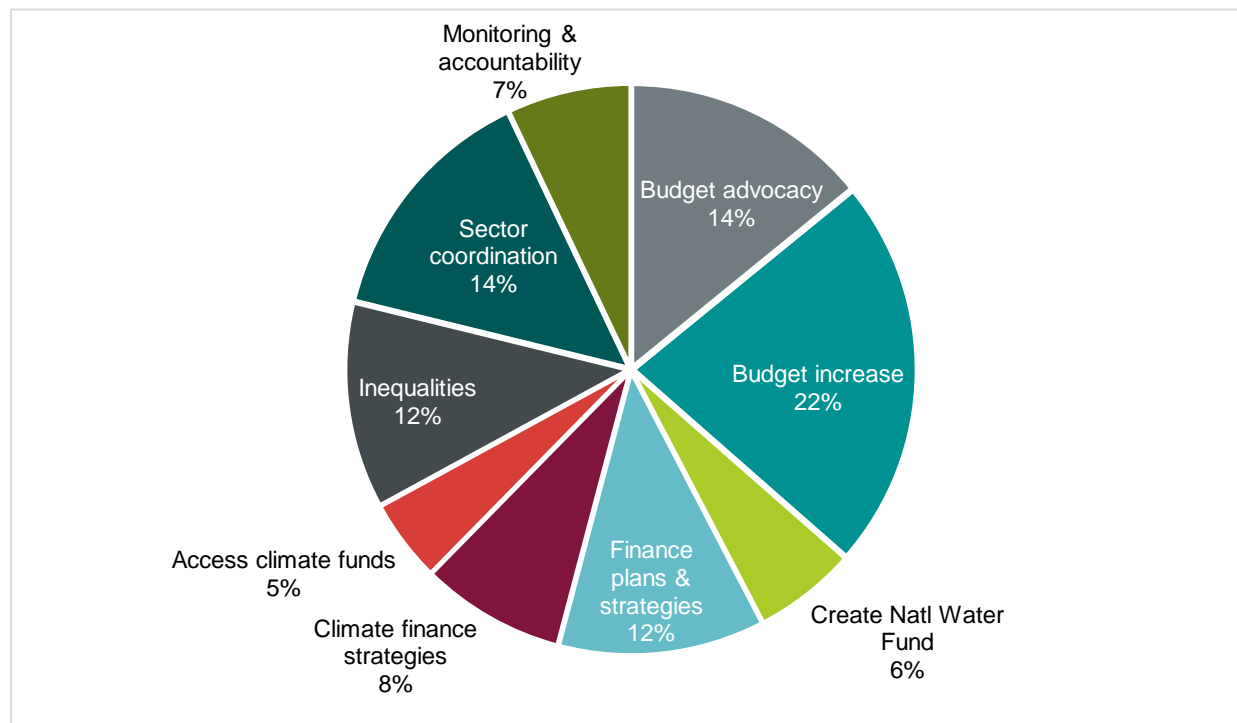
- Commitments have been tabled by partners from **all regions**, and more predominantly in the African continent:



- Global commitments come from the external support agencies FCDO, SDC and USAID to further invest in the sector, as well as from Aquafed, IRC, Water.org, White Ribbon Alliance and the youth coalition UN1FY.

Sub-themes

Existing commitments can be grouped around the following broad topics:



- 22% of commitments pledge **budget increases** for the sector, including commitments from nine national governments (Bangladesh, Burundi, Central Africa Republic, Ghana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Sierra Leone & Zimbabwe). Only a few indicate specifically which sub-sectors would require budget increases.
- There are currently no commitments focused on increasing budget **expenditure level and efficiency**. A positive evaluation of sector performance, however, tends to be strategic in making the sector more attractive to the Ministry of Finance and other sources.
- **Budget advocacy** represents 12% of commitments and overall come from civil society networks. They include advocacy for funding increase, the creation of separate budget lines

for sanitation and hygiene, and more inclusive participation in budget processes (Bangladesh, Cameroon, Liberia & Nepal).

- 14% of finance-related commitments aim to improve **governance and sector coordination**. Examples include Water.org's global commitment to work with local actors "*to strengthen policy and regulatory environments that support financial flows*".
- There are also commitments aiming to attract “new finance” and/ or to “diversify sources of finance”, including increased participation of the private sector. Examples come from the Indonesian Government: “*expand partnerships and mobilize alternative financing to scale up WASH services*”; and FDCO's new programmatic strategy: (...) “*our new approach will enhance the sustainability of WASH services... and it will attract new public and private finance to accelerate progress towards SDG 6 WASH targets*”.
- 13% of commitments focus on the development of new **finance strategies and plans**, often to support investment plans.
- The majority of commitments focusing on the reduction of **inequalities** and the aim of ‘**leaving no-one behind**’ were tabled by governments and CSOs. E.g., in Bangladesh, CSOs pledged to advocate for more investments for hard-to-reach areas and people, including slums and arsenic-prone areas; in Honduras, the Government committed to promote financing mechanisms to fund priority actions to reduce inequalities.
- References to **climate action** are made in commitments aimed at developing climate resilient WASH strategies and access climate funds. Climate finance pledges appeared for the first time in **2022** and already add up to 10 commitments from 8 countries (Cambodia, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Malawi, Mali, Nepal, Pakistan & Uganda).
- 2022 also saw an increasing number of **joint, multi-stakeholder** commitments made by governments and their partners in Cambodia (to accelerate access to climate finance), Liberia (to mobilize resources and communities to participate in project planning and assume operation of WASH facilities) and Uganda (to develop a climate financing WASH investment plan). This trend shows that, as the MAM evolves, partners are working more collaboratively and ingraining a mutual accountability approach also when defining commitments, and not

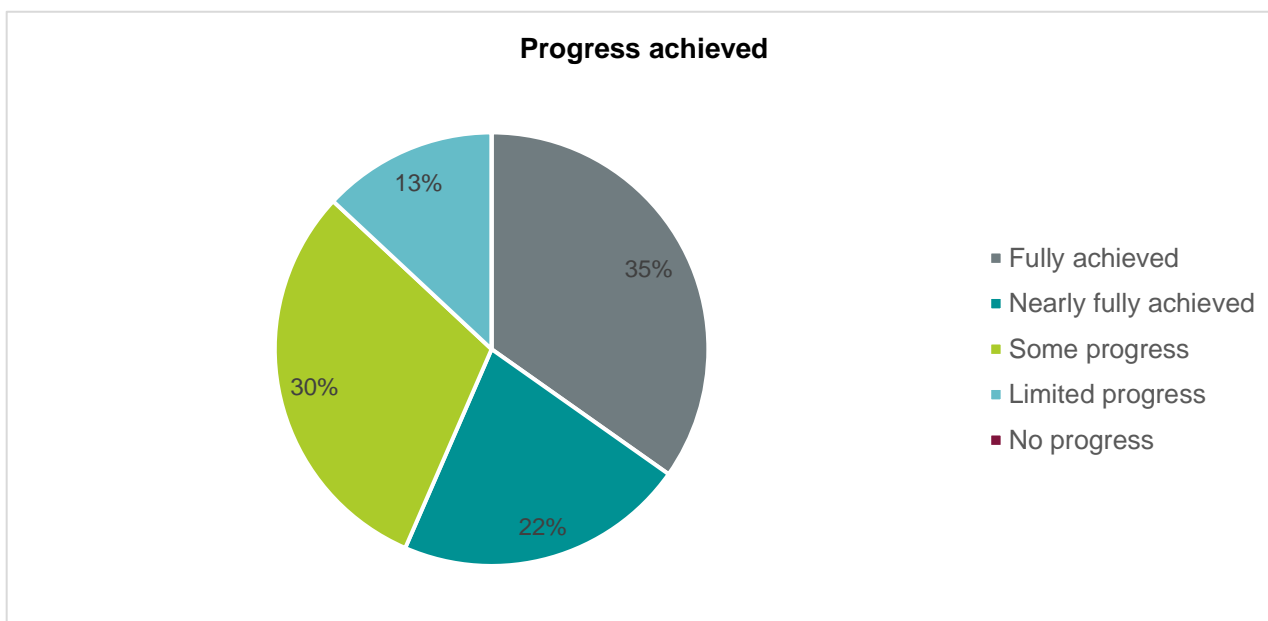
only in later monitoring stages.

- Another evolution is that the latest wave of commitments (tabled around the last Sector Ministers' Meeting in May 2022) are more specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (**SMARTer**) than the ones tabled in previous years.

[Note on methodology: The sub-themes were created based on the description of the commitments and are based on subjective judgement.]

Progress reported

- 24 out of 81 finance commitments have had their progress reported on:



- Commitments reported by partners as having been **fully achieved** include:
 - **Malawi**: 1. Development of a Climate Resilient WASH Sector Financing Strategy; and 2. Development of financing mechanisms and strategy on leave no-one-behind.
 - **Mali**: 1. Organization of dialogues on sector financing as part of the country's consultation framework.
 - **USAID** (global): 1. Reporting on the value of new funds mobilized; 2. Engagement with regional institutions to increase coordination; support efforts to track financial data; and support the development and implementation of governance systems, and 3. Investment

in governance, institutions, and innovative financing to foster self-sufficient systems of service providers.

- **FCDO** (global): Increase efforts to strengthen national capacity and delivery systems to improve effectiveness and sustainability of WASH services and help attract additional resources.