

Summary of the 2012 SWA High Level Meeting Commitments

Introduction

The second High Level Meeting (HLM) of the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) Partnership was convened by UNICEF at the World Bank in Washington DC on 20 April 2012¹. Ministers of development cooperation, finance, sanitation and water, plus representatives of the world's leading sanitation and water agencies (over 80 in all, including 45 developing country governments) attended the HLM or were engaged in the preparatory process. Developing countries, donors and development banks tabled concrete commitments addressing barriers to the effective delivery and use of services, paving the way for increased access to improved drinking water sources and sustainable sanitation facilities. Developing countries tabled two different types of commitments – primary and specific.

Primary commitments made by developing countries state the number of people who will be provided with access to improved sustainable sanitation facilities and drinking water sources by a certain date. The **specific** commitments made by developing countries and donors relate to the steps they will take to achieve expanded access to improved sanitation and water services. The following report summarizes the commitments, with a focus on the specific commitments.² The SWA Secretariat will work with HLM participants to monitor the implementation of the commitments, on an annual basis.

Primary commitments

The primary commitments, made by 35 countries, add up to a total of 307 million new users of sanitation facilities, and 224 million new users of water services. Nigeria and Ethiopia together account for approximately 30% of the new people to be served.

In addition to the individual primary commitments made by countries, Sector Ministers from 40 countries collectively committed³ to increase access to sanitation by at least 7% and access to water by at least 5% by 2014. Using data from the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program for Water Supply and Sanitation, this commitment totals 101 million additional people accessing sanitation, and 72 million additional people accessing water.

Specific commitments

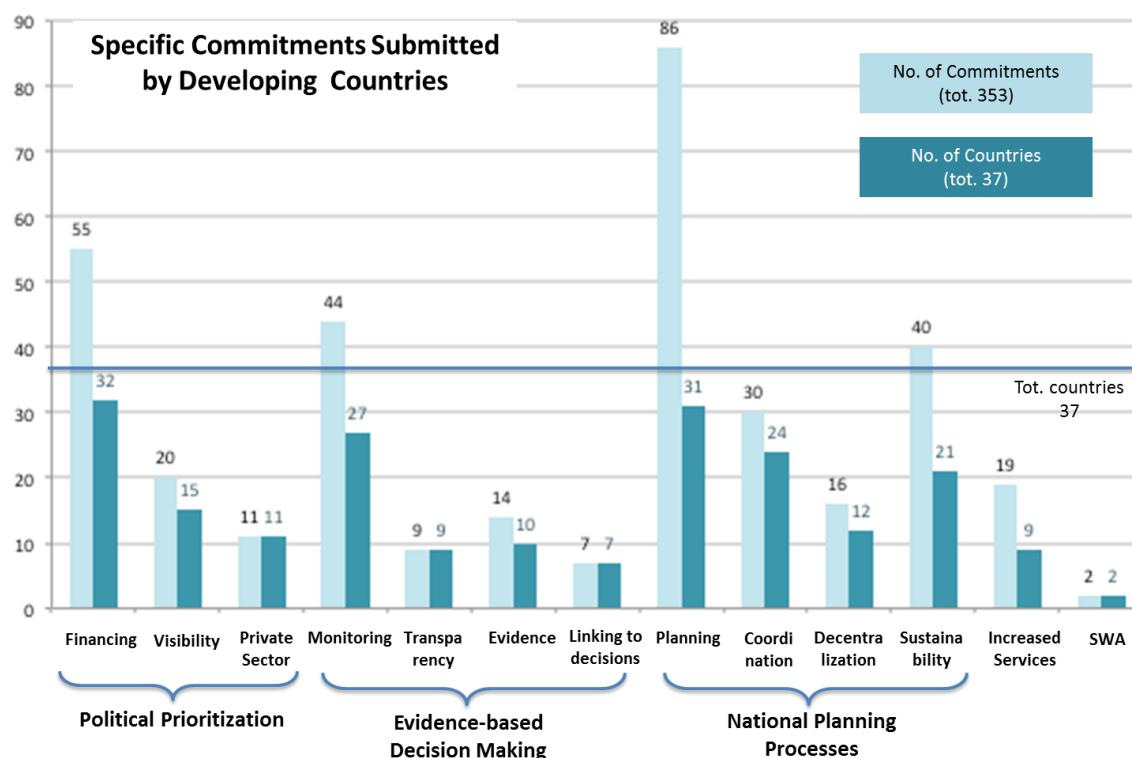
The 2012 SWA HLM resulted in a significant number of measurable and actionable commitments. Overall a total of 402 specific commitments were made by 37 developing countries and 11 donors/development banks (353 and 49 respectively). The 402 commitments in 2012 compares to a total of 239 commitments made by 19 developing countries and 13 donors/development banks at the first SWA HLM in 2010.

In this summary, specific commitments have been organized into the three priority areas of the SWA framework: political prioritization, evidence-based decision making, and national planning processes.

¹ The 2012 SWA HLM Chair's Executive Summary and Summary of Proceedings are available on the SWA website: <http://www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/highlevelmeeting2012.html>.

² The full set of commitments can be found in Annexes A (donors/banks), B (country specific) and C (country primary).

³ A Global Step Change for Universal Access: Statement by Ministers Responsible for Water and Sanitation presented at the Sanitation and Water for All High Level Meeting. World Bank, Washington DC. 20 April 2012.



1. Political prioritization

With its focus on the economic impact of sanitation, hygiene and water, the 2012 SWA HLM provided strong impetus for renewed high-level political engagement on sanitation and water. Some donors committed to significantly increase aid and to turn the human rights to sanitation and water into reality while developing countries committed to increase domestic funding and prioritize sanitation and water in their national development plans.

Increasing financing and creating specific budget lines for sanitation and water

Despite the financial crisis, almost all developing countries (32 out of 37) and 9 donors committed to maintain or increase funding for the sector, in particular for sanitation. Seventeen developing countries clearly laid out their financial commitments to:

- Invest a specific amount for the sector, totaling approximately 1.6 billion USD over the next four years (Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal, Sri Lanka)
- Increase investments as a specific percentage of their GDP, (Bangladesh, Benin, Cote D'Ivoire, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone) of their current sector budget, (Kenya, Zimbabwe) or their national budget (Nigeria, Togo)

Nine donors and banks committed to:

- Increase or maintain their financial commitments between 2012 and 2015, amounting to approximately 4.5 billion USD. (African Development Bank, AusAID, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, European Union, France, Switzerland/Austria)
- Significantly increase the number of people who will be served (The Netherlands, the U.K.) The U.K. will double the number of people served to a total of 60 million people globally and The Netherlands will serve an additional 10 million people in West and Central Africa.

Additionally, seven countries committed to improve financial governance. Countries will:

- Disaggregate specific budget lines for sanitation, hygiene, and water (Bangladesh, Burundi, Liberia, Madagascar, The Gambia, Timor-Leste, Togo)
- Create water and/or sanitation funds (Madagascar, Cameroon). *For example, Madagascar will create a National Fund for Sanitation to be funded out of various taxes and contributions.*

Improving sector visibility at national and global levels and turning rights into reality

As indicated by a recent SWA Partners survey⁴, the 2012 HLM preparatory process triggered higher visibility of the sanitation and water sector at country level. This was also apparent in the nature of some of the commitments.

Over one third of developing countries (15 out of 37) made commitments to:

- Prioritize the sanitation and water sector in future national development plans (Angola, Benin, Burundi, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Sierra Leone). *For example, Pakistan will prioritize sanitation and drinking water in their Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper III, Medium Term Development Framework and Medium Term Expenditure Framework.*
- Increase high-level advocacy for the sector (Burkina Faso, CAR, Kenya, Lao PDR, Nigeria, and Uganda). *For example, in Burkina Faso, the Government will work with the Parliament to stimulate greater involvement of elected representatives in the national sector dialogue.*
- Integrate sanitation and water within other sectors, such as health and education (Burundi, Lao PDR, Sierra Leone). *For example: Lao PDR committed to integrate sanitation and water into the core package of maternal and neonatal health and support the partners of Education for All/Fast Track Initiative in ensuring all schools in the “educationally most disadvantaged districts” are provided with sanitation and water. Sierra Leone will mainstream WASH into the national planning and budgeting cycle.*

Six donors committed to give higher priority to the water sector in their development agenda. They will:

- Recognize the human rights to sanitation, safe and clean drinking water and support its implementation (Germany, The Netherlands and Switzerland/Austria)
- Recognize the sector as a key factor for the achievement of the MDGs (France)
- Include water as part of their sustainable growth policy (European Union).

Partnering with the private sector for leveraging results

Many speakers at the HLM identified the private sector as an untapped resource for sanitation and water and service delivery. Eleven developing countries committed to engage in dialogue with the private sector with the aim of either increasing investments for the sector or improving efficiency and sustainability of service delivery. Example commitments are to:

- Involve the private sector in scaling-up sanitation both in rural and urban areas (Afghanistan, Uganda, Senegal)
- Partner with the private sector to improve management of water delivery in rural areas (Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Madagascar). *Rwanda, for example, will ensure that 50% of water supply systems in rural areas are managed under private sector in partnership with districts by 2015*
- Call upon the private sector to mobilize resources for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities in schools (Nigeria).

2. Evidence based decision-making

The 2012 SWA HLM recognized that increased financing alone is not sufficient and that there is a need to better target the available financing to improve access to sanitation and water. Several countries committed to improve the quality of their monitoring and tracking systems and to invest in generating evidence. Some countries also committed to utilize the new evidence to better target financing and improve planning. Both countries and donors recognized the importance of investing in global monitoring mechanisms.

⁴ Preliminary Results from the February 2012 SWA Satisfaction Survey, SWA Secretariat, 2012.

Strengthening monitoring systems at national and global levels

Strengthening their monitoring system was considered a priority by 27 countries, including to:

- Introduce joint sector reviews. (Nigeria, Zambia, Zimbabwe)
- Improve information systems broadly (Afghanistan, Cameroon, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Togo, Zambia); or specifically by investing in human resources capacity (The Gambia, Mauritania), making use of the latest information technology, (Madagascar, Zimbabwe), linking sanitation and water with health and education information systems (The Gambia, Uganda) and harmonizing monitoring tools (Kenya). *For example, in Madagascar, the sector will ensure that sanitation and water data from all 22 regions are collected and processed in real time.*

Three donors recognized the importance of investing in global monitoring mechanisms and tools such as the JMP and GLAAS (Germany, The Netherlands, Switzerland), while Switzerland additionally stressed the importance of supporting better national monitoring processes.

Improving transparency

Nine countries committed to improve transparency by strengthening tracking systems and sharing information. Examples include:

- Introduce expenditure reviews and tracking of financial flows, a practice common in other sectors, but a pioneering step for the sanitation and water sector (DRC, Ghana, Nepal, Nigeria, and Senegal)
- Formalize mechanisms to engage a wider set of stakeholders (Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Mauritania). *For example, Mauritania will develop formal mechanisms to ensure communication of sector results to all stakeholders, while Burkina Faso will strengthen the role of civil society and the media to ensure accountability.*
- Benchmark institutions: *Zimbabwe will set up a national facility to benchmark the performance of the local urban authority and Zimbabwe National Water Authority-managed growth centers.*

Investing in creating sound evidence

Seven countries committed to invest in developing sound evidence, in particular around equity. They will:

- Develop a framework for periodic analysis and monitoring of equity and inclusion in the sanitation and water sector (Ghana)
- Strengthen knowledge management and documentation of innovative learning practices around equity and inclusion (Nepal)
- Carry out a bottleneck analysis of the sector to identify and address major constraints hindering the achievement of equitable access to sanitation and water supply (The Gambia, Ghana)
- Carry out a study on the economic benefits of investing in WASH (Central African Republic)
- Constitute a Research Working Group to identify research priorities and develop a research plan (Pakistan)
- Carry out a capacity assessment of the Water Hygiene and Sanitation Sector (Afghanistan).

Linking monitoring and evidence to better decisions

Commitments were made by seven countries related to linking monitoring and evidence to sector decision-making. These include:

- Link financing of the sector to key performance indicators (Ghana and Mauritania) or to coverage data deriving from an integrated information management system (Zambia and Timor-Leste)
- Make use of a WASH Information Management System (WIMS) to facilitate improved priority setting and better planning between national and state levels (South Sudan)
- Conduct assessments to better plan: *Pakistan will conduct a sector capacity development needs assessment and develop a human resource and leadership development plan*

- Use sector performance indicators to address equity and inclusion issues (Nepal)

3. National planning processes

At the 2012 SWA HLM, the importance of strengthening country leadership and country-led planning processes was endorsed by both developing countries and some donors. Consequently, a large majority of countries submitted commitments related to improved country leadership, stronger in-

country coordination and comprehensive national planning processes. Improving decentralization as a way of increasing effectiveness of service delivery, and building capacity for more sustainable services were also key themes for both countries and donors.

Renewed focus on Sanitation

During the 2012 HLM meeting, a great deal of attention was given to sanitation and, more specifically, to open defecation. Almost two third of developing countries and several donors submitted commitments focused specifically on sanitation.

Political Prioritization:

- Burkina Faso committed to eradicate open defecation by 2015. Zambia announced at least 1,000 open defecation-free wards by 2014 and formal government recognition of ODF communities
- Three donors announced an increased focus on funding for sanitation. (AusAID, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Germany)
- France committed to include sanitation and hygiene components in all its water investments.

National Planning Processes:

- Thirteen countries and one donor will introduce or scale-up community approaches to total sanitation (Afghanistan, Angola, Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Mauritania, Nepal, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation). *For example, Sierra Leone will increase its support to local government to implement CLTS*
- Seven countries committed to improve leadership and coordination in the sanitation sub-sector (Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, Pakistan, Senegal, Togo, Nepal)
- Nepal will develop a Sector Wide Approach (SWAp) for sanitation and ensure that each district establishes a District Sanitation & Hygiene Fund.

Evidence Based Decision Making:

- Three countries (DRC, The Gambia, and Madagascar) will improve evidence-based decision-making to improve sanitation access. *For example, DRC will introduce expenditure tracking for sanitation while The Gambia will undertake mapping activities at the regional level to determine the location of pockets of population practicing open defecation.*

Strengthening national plans

Thirty-one of the 37 developing countries committed to develop or strengthen sector policies, strategies and plans, or to revive the implementation of existing plans.

Commitments include:

- Introduce Sector Wide Approaches (SWAp). (The Gambia, Ghana, Nepal, Rwanda and Sri Lanka)
- Develop Medium Term Sector Expenditure Frameworks (MTSEF). Senegal will establish an MTSEF to improve the allocation of resources, with a focus on increasing funding to sanitation.

- Develop an investment plan (Nigeria, Sierra Leone). *Sierra Leone will develop a consolidated Sector Investment Plan aligned with the national policy, strategies and targets, to assist both the Government and its Partners to define their contributions and properly align these to the budgeting process*
- Harmonize existing policies. *Nigeria will harmonize all existing sanitation and hygiene policies by 2013 towards producing a single and acceptable national policy that will provide an effective framework for programme delivery.*

Three donors endorsed the principle of harmonization with country- led planning and will:

- Support countries in developing national sector frameworks (The Netherlands and France)
- Support SWA National Planning for Results Initiative (NPRI) (USAID, The Netherlands).

Additionally, through their commitments, fifteen countries showed an increasing interest in targeting inequalities, although strategies are not clearly defined. The principle of supporting policies and innovation that can better serve the poor was also endorsed by donors (BMGF, USAID). Rationalizing the overall use of water and preparing for climate change is also an emerging issue. Uganda, Togo and Senegal committed to fund integrated water resource management. The EU will invest in climate-proof and resource efficient infrastructures.

Increasing leadership and coordination

Almost two thirds of developing countries (24 out of 37) made commitments related to the importance of stronger leadership and better in-country coordination.

Commitments around mechanisms for better coordination are:

- Establish or strengthen sector working groups, inter-ministerial committees (Angola, Cameroon, DRC, Kenya, Lao PDR, Nepal, Nigeria, Rwanda, Togo, Zimbabwe). *For example, Nigeria will set up a high level inter-ministerial committee comprising Ministers of relevant Government ministries under the leadership of the Vice President.*
- Establish consolidated WASH accounts and/or programs (Ethiopia, Madagascar). *Ethiopia will improve coordination across Ministries with one consolidated national plan and a harmonized & integrated financial mechanism in partnership with all external financiers, NGOs and private sector*
- Clearly define roles and responsibilities in the sector (Angola, The Gambia, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania). *The Gambia will ensure that one principal accountable institution takes clear leadership of the national sanitation portfolio, and establish a coordinating body with specific responsibility for sanitation and hygiene.*

The Netherlands committed to support strong country ownership and national government leadership by supporting sector-wide processes under the leadership of the national governments; being part of in-country donor coordination and harmonization platforms in prioritized partner countries; and advocating for aid effectiveness principles within the Africa Working Group (AWG) of the European Union Water Initiative (EUWI).

More effective decentralization of services

An emerging trend is that countries are focusing on decentralization. Twelve countries made commitments to:

- Effectively transfer funds to municipalities, local councils and deconcentrated government departments (Benin, Lao PDR, Niger and Zambia)
- Transfer legal authority to district councils (Benin, Sierra Leone, Zambia and Zimbabwe)
- Provide technical assistance and to support capacity development of decentralized bodies (Burkina Faso, Central African Republic and Sri Lanka)

Building capacity and institutions to sustain services

For both developing countries and donors there was an increased commitment to improve the sustainability of services through increased capacity and stronger institutions. Developing Countries' commitments include:

- Strengthen human resource capacity (Afghanistan, Cameroon, DRC, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Rwanda, South Sudan, Togo). *South Sudan will establish a WASH Sector Training, Service and Research Centre as a way of effectively maximizing creation of domestic capacities and making use of indigenous knowledge. Zambia will develop a national WASH capacity development plan, focusing on 84 Local Authorities and 11 Commercial Utilities.*

- Establish or strengthen institutions (Cameroon, The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Mozambique, Niger, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo). *South Sudan will establish a Water Council, Water Resources Management Authority and WASH Services Board. Liberia will implement a Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Bureau and Directorate for Community Mobilization and Hygiene Promotion.*

Seven countries set ambitious targets in reducing the non-functionality of water schemes (Angola, Cameroon, Chad, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Timor-Leste, Togo). To ensure sustainability of WASH services, AusAID and The Netherlands committed to support balanced approaches that include effective governance, professionalization of service provision, and capacity development.

Conclusion

The 2012 SWA High Level Meeting catalysed a new level of high-level political commitment to sanitation, water and hygiene. Countries, donors and development banks committed to increase both internal and external financing and to give higher priority to the sector in their development agendas. Many countries committed to improve their monitoring and tracking systems and to invest in developing sound evidence. Others will use specific mechanisms to link monitoring of sector performance to decision-making on financing and planning. Commitments to improved planning and coordination include introducing SWAps, achieving effective decentralization of service delivery, increasing human resources capacity and strengthening institutions.

Addressing sanitation, and more specifically open defecation, received serious attention by developing countries as well as donors and development banks. Emerging trends include designing policies, strategies and plans to address inequality; partnering with the private sector to leverage results, increasing sustainability and preparing for climate change.

Going forward, the SWA Secretariat will issue annual progress reports on the implementation of the 2012 HLM commitments. Ultimately, results on the ground will depend on SWA Partners' initiative to capitalize on the momentum generated by the HLM and work collaboratively to implement the commitments made in April 2012.