

FINANCING UNIVERSAL WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE UNDER THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water

GLAAS 2017 Report



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UN-Water global analysis and assessment of sanitation and drinking-water (GLAAS) 2017 report: financing universal water, sanitation and hygiene under the sustainable development goals

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UN-Water is the United Nations (UN) inter-agency coordination mechanism for freshwater related issues, including sanitation. It was formally established in 2003 building on a long history of collaboration in the UN family. UN-Water is comprised of UN entities with a focus on, or interest in, water-related issues as Members and other non-UN international organizations as Partners.

The main purpose of UN-Water is to complement and add value to existing programmes and projects by facilitating synergies and joint efforts, so as to maximize system-wide coordinated action and coherence. By doing so, UN-Water seeks to increase the effectiveness of the support provided to Member States in their efforts towards achieving international agreements on water.

PERIODIC REPORTS

WORLD WATER DEVELOPMENT REPORT (WWDR)

is the reference publication of the UN system on the status of the freshwater resource. The Report is the result of the strong collaboration among UN-Water Members and Partners and it represents the coherent and integrated response of the UN system to freshwater-related issues and emerging challenges. The report production is coordinated by the World Water Assessment Programme and the theme is harmonized with the theme of World Water Day (22 March). From 2003 to 2012, the WWDR was released every three years and from 2014 the Report is released annually to provide the most up to date and factual information of how water-related challenges are addressed around the world.

- ✓ *Strategic outlook*
- ✓ *State, uses and management of water resources*
- ✓ *Global*
- ✓ *Regional assessments*
- ✓ *Triennial (2003–2012)*
- ✓ *Annual (from 2014)*
- ✓ *Links to the theme of World Water Day (22 March)*

UN-WATER GLOBAL ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT OF SANITATION AND DRINKING-WATER (GLAAS)

is led and produced by the World Health Organization (WHO) on behalf of UN-Water. It provides a global update on the policy frameworks, institutional arrangements, human resource base, and international and national finance streams in support of sanitation and drinking-water. It provides substantive evidence for the activities of Sanitation and Water for All (SWA).

- ✓ *Water supply and sanitation*
- ✓ *Global*
- ✓ *Regional and country highlights*
- ✓ *Biennial (since 2008)*

THE PROGRESS REPORT OF THE WHO/UNICEF JOINT MONITORING PROGRAMME FOR WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION (JMP)

is affiliated with UN-Water and presents the results of the global monitoring of progress towards access to safe drinking-water, and adequate sanitation and hygiene. Monitoring draws on the findings of household surveys and censuses usually supported by national statistics bureaus in accordance with international criteria and increasingly draws on national administrative and regulatory datasets.

- ✓ *Status and trends*
- ✓ *Water supply and sanitation*
- ✓ *Global*
- ✓ *Regional and national assessments*
- ✓ *Biennial (1990–2012)*
- ✓ *Annual updates (since 2013)*

UN-WATER PLANNED PUBLICATIONS 2017–2018

- Update of UN-Water Policy Brief on Water and Climate Change
- UN-Water Policy Brief on the Water Conventions
- UN-Water Analytical Brief on Water Efficiency
- SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation

Foreword

Safe drinking-water and sanitation are crucial to human welfare, by supporting health and livelihoods and helping to create healthy environments. The consumption of unsafe water impairs human health through illnesses such as diarrhoea, and untreated sewage can contaminate drinking-water supplies and the environment, creating a heavy burden on communities.

In recent years, much progress has been made in increasing access to drinking-water and sanitation, but still too many people lack access to safe, sustainable water supply and sanitation services. In 2015, the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) estimated that 660 million people still do not have access to improved drinking-water sources, and over 2.4 billion people do not have access to improved sanitation.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, build upon the many achievements made under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), but are more aspirational, extensive and ambitious. Goal 6 is focused on clean water and sanitation. Going beyond “improved” drinking-water and sanitation, Target 6.1 calls for *universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking-water*, and Target 6.2 aspires to *access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all*, as well as the end of open defecation.

A large financing gap has been identified as one of the greatest barriers to achieving these targets. To meet Targets 6.1 and 6.2, capital financing would need to triple to US\$ 114 billion per annum, and operating and maintenance costs need to be considered in addition. Beyond this global figure, there are large variations in financing needs from region to region and country to country. Hence, financing strategies are needed based on evidence and realistic proposals for how to fill the gaps. As part of this effort, the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) and Tracking Financing to WASH (TrackFin), both led by the World Health Organization (WHO), are providing evidence for decision-makers on the WASH enabling environment, including governance, monitoring, human resources and finance, to make smarter decisions on water and sanitation financing, including on how to better utilize existing financing.

Investing in WASH can have a beneficial impact across a number of issues covered by the SDGs including health and education. For example, it has been estimated, through expert opinion, that 26% of childhood deaths and 25% of the total disease burden in children under five could be prevented through the reduction of environmental risks, including by reducing unsafe water, sanitation and inadequate hygiene. Specifically, diarrhoeal diseases are among the main contributors to global child mortality, causing about 10% of all deaths in children under five years.¹ WASH also leads to improved nutrition. Moreover, improved WASH in health care facilities leads to a reduction in maternal mortality, as well as increased use of health centers and facilities, and WASH in schools leads to increased attendance for girls. Investing in WASH provides benefits that expand beyond the water and sanitation sector.

This GLAAS report presents an analysis of the most reliable and up-to-date data from 75 countries and 25 external support agencies (ESAs) on the issues related to financing universal WASH access under the SDGs.

We hope that the GLAAS 2017 report will be a useful resource for decision- and policy-makers so that the realizable goal of safe, sustainable water and sanitation services for all can be achieved.



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¹ WHO (2017) Don't pollute my future! The impact of the environment on children's health. Geneva: World Health Organization. Available at: <http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/254678/1/WHO-FWC-IHE-17.01-eng.pdf?ua=1> [Accessed 15 March 2017].

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The preparation of this report involved contributions from hundreds of individuals representing all regions of the world. UN-Water and WHO would like to extend their gratitude to all those individuals and organizations that contributed to the development of the results and report – especially those individuals who coordinated efforts and submitted information from 75 countries and 25 ESAs (Annex G). Every effort has been made to name contributors as best to our available knowledge.

The GLAAS 2017 report FINANCING UNIVERSAL WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE UNDER THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS is dedicated to **Piers Cross**, who passed away on 29 March 2017, for his contributions to the WASH sector, his dedication and energy, and above all his friendship.

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