



INVESTING IN WATER AND SANITATION: INCREASING ACCESS, REDUCING INEQUALITIES

GLAAS 2014 findings — Highlights for the Region of the Americas



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Drinking-water, sanitation and hygiene overview

The UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-water (GLAAS), implemented by WHO, monitors the efforts and approaches to extend and sustain water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) systems and services. It provides a global update on four key areas: policy framework, monitoring, human resources base, and international and national finance streams in support of drinking-water and sanitation.

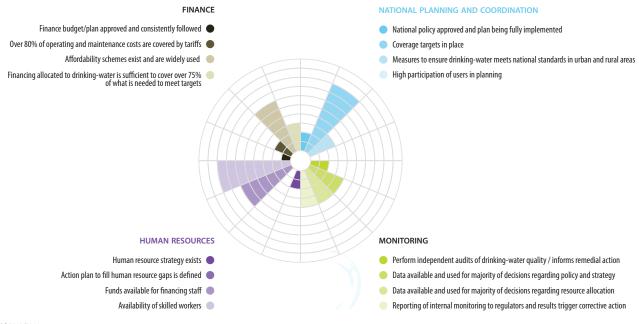
Sixteen countries¹ out of 35 in the WHO Region of the Americas, with a total population of 550 million, participated in the GLAAS 2013/2014 reporting cycle. Overall, access to improved drinking-water and sanitation services in the Region of the Americas is 96 and 87 per cent (in 2015), respectively. More than 110 million people gained access to an improved drinking-water source and over 400 million gained access to improved sanitation in the 2005 to 2015 time period.² However in 2015, there were still over 100 million people without improved sanitation and over 35 million without access to an improved drinking-water source in the Region of the Americas.

Much progress has been made on water and sanitation in the region. However, there is still a substantial need to further strengthen government commitments and actions to approve and implement national policies and plans for the provision of safe and sustainable water and sanitation services. As shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2, there are a number of challenges that need to be addressed, including:

- · Reducing inequalities in access to water and sanitation,
- Applying the human right to water and sanitation to ensure access of services to all,
- · Building capacity for surveillance of water supplies,
- · Creating action plans to fill the gap in human resources, and
- Establishing a comprehensive national system for planning and implementing WASH sector financing.



Overview of policy, monitoring, human resources and financing results in drinking-water (percentage of countries with the given indicator in place for both urban and rural areas)

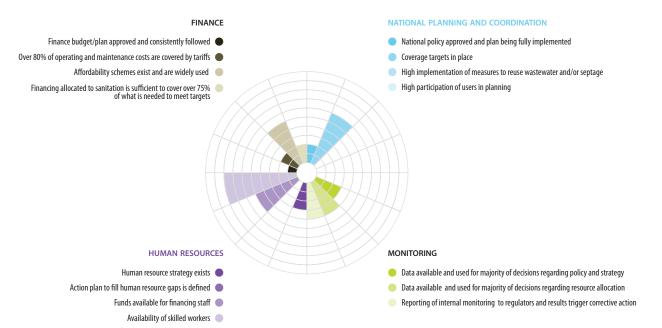


Source: GLAAS 2013/2014 country survey.

¹ Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay.

 $^{2\} WHO/UNICEF\ (2015)\ Progress\ on\ sanitation\ and\ drinking-water-2015\ update\ and\ MDG\ assessment.\ Geneva,\ World\ Health\ Organization.$

Overview of policy, monitoring, human resources and financing results in sanitation (percentage of countries with the given indicator in place for both urban and rural areas)



Source: GLAAS 2013/2014 country survey.

National policy and implementation

Twelve out of 16 respondent countries in the Region of the Americas reported that national plans/policies for drinking-water are in place, while ten countries indicated the adoption of similar sanitation plans/policies. Full implementation (with funding and regular review) of both drinking-water and sanitation plans/policies was reported by only three countries (Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba and Mexico), while two countries reported partial policy implementation (Colombia and Chile) (Figure 3).

Two countries (Mexico and Cuba) report full implementation of sanitation and drinking-water plans/policies in schools and in healthcare facilities. Five countries report full implementation of hygiene promotion plans nationally and in schools.

While some countries report low implementation of national policies, activities in water and sanitation may be guided through different approaches. For example, in Uruguay, the National Water Policy, which includes drinking-water and sanitation was approved and released in 2009. The policy states that the goal of politics in drinking-water and sanitation is to ensure universal access with social factors taking precedence over economic factors, as well as to meet the MDGs. The country reports that although implementation plans based on the approved national policy do not exist, there are other important plans and activities aimed at improving quality of services and access.

Three respondent countries (Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, and Mexico) in the Region of the Americas report having fully implemented urban and rural drinkingwater and sanitation policies/plans with funding that are regularly reviewed.

Figure 3

National policy and plan implementation in drinking-water in drinking-water



Source: GLAAS 2013/2014 country survey.

Note: National policy implementation for sanitation in the Region of Americas differs from drinking-water only for Chile where no data is reported for sanitation, and in Costa Rica, which reports that no national sanitation policy has been adopted.

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Improving water quality, reliability, and reuse

Sustainable Development Goal 6 aims to "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all" and places new emphasis on countries to improve services beyond basic access, which includes measures to improve quality and availability of drinking-water, and to ensure safe management of faecal waste.

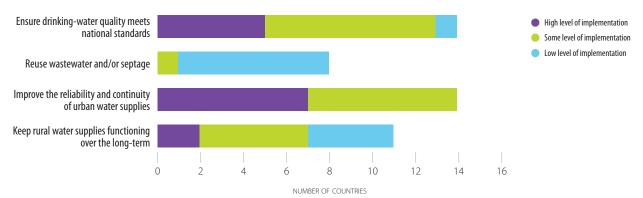
DRINKING-WATER QUALITY – A moderate to high level of monitoring and enforcement measures to ensure drinking-water quality are reported to be in place in 13 out of 16 countries¹ (Figure 4).

SUSTAINABILITY – Fourteen out of 16 countries report implementing measures to improve the reliability and continuity of urban water supplies. Measures to ensure the functioning of rural water supplies appear to be less robust. Seven out of 16 countries indicate a moderate to high level of implementation to ensure the sustainability of rural water services over the long-term (Figure 4).

WASTEWATER REUSE – Half of countries reported low or moderate reuse of treated wastewater or septage waste.



Number of countries with specific measures to improve and sustain services and the level of implementation of these measures (16 countries)

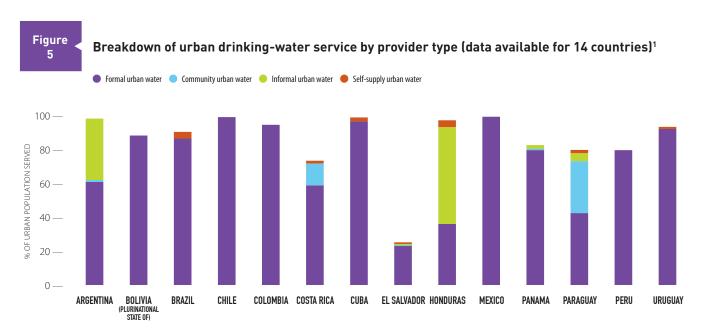


Source: GLAAS 2013/2014 country survey.

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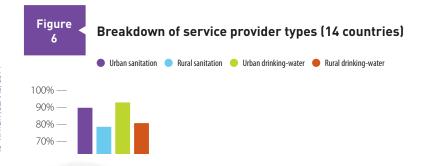
TYPES OF SERVICE PROVIDERS

Twelve out of 14 countries report that a majority of the urban population is served by a formal drinking-water service provider (Figures 5 and 6). However, Argentina, Honduras, and Paraguay indicated that a significant portion of urban populations (nearly 18 million people) obtain drinking-water through informal and community service providers. These can include point sources such as pumps, water kiosks and protected springs or wells owned or operated by communities.



Source: GLAAS 2013/2014 country survey.

Formal service providers serve a majority of the population in all WASH subsectors (Figure 6)



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