

# JMP 5 Year Strategy 2016-2020

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## Summary

In June 2015 the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) published its final MDG assessment having successfully achieved its main objectives for the 2010-2015 period.

This document outlines a new 5 year strategy which builds on experience and lessons learned since the JMP was established in 1990 and seeks to further enhance global monitoring of drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in the context of the ambition of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The JMP 2016-2020 strategy includes an updated vision and mission statement which is aligned with the 2030 Agenda. It outlines four main strategic objectives which seek to consolidate its normative function and its role as a global custodian of WASH data, to further strengthen country support and to promote a more integrated approach to monitoring WASH and related issues in collaboration with other agencies (Box).

### **JMP 5 Year Strategy 2016-2020**

JMP vision: progressive realization of universal access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and the reduction of inequalities in service levels by 2030

JMP mission: to produce reliable estimates of national, regional and global progress on WASH to inform decision making by government, donor and civil society organisations

Strategic aims:

1. Normative role: to develop indicators and methods for enhanced monitoring of WASH
2. Global data custodian: to maintain global databases and produce reliable estimates of status and trends, including progress towards SDG targets
3. Country engagement: to provide guidance and tools to support countries to collect, analyse and report progress on WASH
4. Integrated monitoring: to collaborate on analysis of interlinkages between WASH and related SDG targets

## JMP achievement and future challenges

### JMP 5 Year Strategy 2010-2015

In 2009, the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) published a strategy 'Monitoring for Results' outlining objectives for the end of the Millennium Development Goal period Strategic objectives:

1. to compile, analyse and disseminate high quality, up-to-date, consistent and statistically sound global, regional and country estimates of progress towards internationally established drinking-water and sanitation targets in support of informed policy and decision making by national governments, development partners and civil society;
2. to serve as a platform for the development of indicators, procedures and methods aimed at strengthening monitoring mechanisms to measure sustainable access to safe drinking-water and basic sanitation at global, regional and national levels;
3. to promote, in collaboration with other agencies, the building of capacity within government and international organizations to monitor access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

A review conducted for the 2015 Annual Report showed that the strategic objectives for the 2010-2015 period were largely met, and highlighted the following specific achievements and emerging challenges.

**The JMP global database now contains over 2000 datasets, mainly from national household surveys and censuses.** In 2015 at least five data points were available for 142 countries, representing 90 per cent of the global population. This has enabled not only analysis of trends in access but also progressive disaggregation by socio-economic dimensions of inequality in recent JMP reports. A key challenge over the next five years will be to *update and expand the JMP database to incorporate new indicators while maintaining its integrity and continuing to produce robust global estimates.*

**The JMP has established itself as the leading global authority and trusted custodian of data on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene.** JMP progress updates and regional and country snapshots have been translated into several languages and widely disseminated. JMP estimates and data have also been used in numerous official reports and academic studies within and beyond the WASH sector. A key challenge for the next strategy will be to *manage the growing demand for data and to further develop the JMP's online platform to make data more accessible and to support new types of analysis and data visualizations.*

**The JMP's normative role in developing indicators and methods for enhanced monitoring of WASH is increasingly recognized.** The JMP has convened a series of consultations and technical working groups to advise on the development of new indicators and methods for monitoring WASH post-2015. It has also pioneered new methods for analyzing inequalities which will be highly relevant for monitoring of SDG targets which aim to 'leave no one behind'. A key challenge for the next five years will be to *support the progressive harmonisation of approaches to monitoring new dimensions of WASH access and service levels.*

**The JMP has established mechanisms for collecting and compiling nationally available data and consulting with countries on estimates.** Country missions and engagement with regional bodies have resulted in progressive harmonisation of indicator definitions and survey questions and improved comparability among national data sources and between national and international estimates. A key future challenge will be to *support countries to adapt and apply SDG targets and indicators in national development plans and to provide guidance on how information from*

*household surveys, administrative systems and other sources can be integrated in order to monitor progress.*

The review also highlighted two important shifts which are enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that have major implications for the JMP's future work:

**Firstly, the *higher ambition and expanded scope of the SDG targets and indicators.*** SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2 call for universal access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene. Universal access implies focusing on those who remain unserved, to ensure that no one is left behind, and expanding monitoring beyond the household to include access to WASH in institutions and other settings. The targets aspire to more ambitious service norms relating to the accessibility, availability, quality and affordability of WASH services and the new SDG indicators are more complex than the MDG indicators. In future the JMP will therefore need to monitor a larger number of increasingly complex indicators. These indicators will be drawn from a wider range of data sources than in the past and, at least in the short term, data scarcity will be a challenge in many countries.

Other targets within Goal 6 greatly expand the agenda for global monitoring beyond drinking water, sanitation and hygiene to include treatment, recycling and reuse of wastewater (6.3), efficient use and sustainable withdrawal of resources (6.4), protection of ecosystems (6.5) and integrated management of water resources (6.6). There are also important linkages to targets under other goals to which access to WASH contributes including on poverty, nutrition, health, education, gender equality and sustainable cities. The JMP will therefore need to coordinate with agencies responsible for monitoring targets under Goal 6 as well as targets under other SDG goals linked to WASH.

**Secondly, the *increased country ownership and leadership of the SDG agenda.*** The establishment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the formulation of the goals, targets and indicators, has been led by UN Member States. SDG targets are defined as aspirational and global with each national government expected to set its own national targets, guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances, and establish nationally-led monitoring frameworks. International agencies are in turn expected to align their support behind country level initiatives to implement and monitor the SDGs.

While UN Member States have identified an initial list of 230 indicators to be used for global monitoring<sup>1</sup>, additional indicators may be used for national, regional and thematic monitoring. International agencies are expected to serve as 'custodians' for SDG global indicators. The role of custodian agencies is to lead the development of international standards and methodologies for collection and analysis of data related to their mandates, to establish mechanisms to facilitate the exchange of data between national and international levels, to maintain global databases and to support efforts to track and compare progress across countries.

Monitoring the SDGs presents an unprecedented challenge and the 2030 Agenda explicitly calls for increased investment in national systems for collection, analysis and use of data and progressive disaggregation of indicators in order to monitor inequalities between and within countries. International agencies are expected to actively support the development and strengthening of country level systems for monitoring and reporting, primarily in order to inform national level decision making but also to facilitate more effective tracking of progress at national, regional and global levels.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>

## **Pillars of the JMP 5 Year Strategy 2016-2020**

The new strategy seeks to build on experience and takes into account key shifts associated with the 2030 Agenda. It is organized around the following strategic aims or ‘pillars’. A cross-cutting theme of communication applies to all of these pillars, to be implemented through a variety of means including an enhanced online presence, written progress and thematic reports, snapshots, communication briefs, and participation in relevant meetings at country, regional, and global levels.

### **1. Normative role: to develop indicators and methods for enhanced monitoring of WASH in the SDG era**

(Rationale) The JMP has been instrumental in establishing global benchmarks which have enabled comparison of progress across countries. The JMP has developed a simple improved/unimproved facility type classification, which is very widely used, and drinking water and sanitation service ‘ladders’ that enable further differentiation of service levels. It has also pioneered new methods for analyzing inequalities which will be highly relevant for monitoring of SDG targets which aim to ‘leave no one behind’. There is broad consensus among WASH sector stakeholders that the JMP should build on established indicators, thereby providing continuity, and progressively introduce additional information on the accessibility, availability, quality and affordability of services provided<sup>2</sup>.

(Major outputs) A key challenge for the next five years will be to support the progressive harmonisation of approaches to monitoring these new dimensions of WASH access and service levels. This will include building consensus around standard questions and indicators for household surveys and administrative data systems used to monitor WASH in domestic and institutional settings. In some cases new indicators and data collection methods will need to be tested and validated to address specific knowledge gaps. There is a risk that the new demands of SDG monitoring could overwhelm the capacity of national statistical offices and sector partners. The JMP will therefore actively explore ways to streamline monitoring approaches and to minimize the burden of data collection at the national level.

(Key outcomes) The long term measure of success will be the progressive harmonisation and standardization of indicator definitions used to monitor accessibility, availability, quality and affordability and increased uptake of JMP recommended indicators in relevant national data collection mechanisms.

### **2. Global data custodian: to maintain the global database and produce robust estimates of status and trends, including progress towards the SDGs**

(Rationale) The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators has identified the WHO/UNICEF JMP as the global custodian of indicators relating to SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2. In addition to leading the development of international standards and methodologies for data collection, custodian agencies are expected to establish mechanisms to facilitate the exchange of data between national and international levels and to maintain global databases which enable comparison of progress across countries.

(Major outputs). A major challenge over the next five years will be to update and expand the JMP database to incorporate new indicators and datasets. The JMP will continue to report on progress

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www.wssinfo.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/resources/JMP-WASH-Post-2015-Brochure.pdf](https://www.wssinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/resources/JMP-WASH-Post-2015-Brochure.pdf)

towards ending open defecation and achieving universal access to ‘basic’ drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services. In future the JMP will also publish estimates of access to ‘safely managed’ drinking water and sanitation services at home and access to WASH in institutional settings including schools and healthcare facilities. This will require a significant restructuring and expansion of the existing global database as well as modifications to the model used to produce national, regional and global estimates. The key challenge during this transition period will be to continue to produce robust estimates for established indicators, while progressively integrating new indicators for which data availability and quality will be much more challenging.

(Outcomes) Long term measures of success will include an expanded global database and updated estimation model enabling the production of robust baseline estimates and trends for existing and new indicators. This will ensure that the WHO/UNICEF JMP remains the global custodian of WASH data and a trusted source of official estimates of progress towards the SDGs and other international WASH targets.

### **3. Country engagement: to provide guidance and tools to support countries to collect, analyse and report progress on WASH**

(Rationale) Implementation of the 2030 Agenda will be led by countries which are expected to set their own targets, guided by the global level of ambition, and to establish nationally-led monitoring frameworks. International agencies are expected to align their support behind country level initiatives to implement and monitor the SDGs.

(Major outputs) Over the next five years the JMP will need to consolidate and strengthen existing mechanisms for country engagement and develop an expanded set of guidelines and tools to support data collection and integrated analysis of different sources of data at country level. This will involve more systematic engagement with relevant national authorities and regional bodies and closer collaboration with regional and country offices of WHO and UNICEF. Likewise, there will be increasing coordination of regional and country level activities with other sector monitoring initiatives, including GEMI, GLAAS and SWA.

(Outcomes) Long term measures of success will include increased awareness JMP standards and methodologies for collection and analysis of indicators relating to SDG targets for water and sanitation, and increased uptake of JMP recommended indicators in national monitoring systems. The JMP online platform will be enhanced to make it easier for government, donor and civil society organisation to access and use JMP databases. The JMP will also develop guidance on how to integrate information from different sources and tools to facilitate further analysis and visualisation of progress in reducing inequalities.

### **4. Integrated monitoring: to promote analysis of interlinkages between WASH and related SDG targets**

(Rationale) The 2030 Agenda emphasises the indivisible nature of the 17 SDGs and the need to address the links between social, economic and environmental aspects of development. UN Water partners have identified a wide range of links and interdependencies between the Goal 6 targets on water and sanitation and targets under other goals. Global monitoring in the SDG era will need to address the interlinkages between WASH and related SDG targets.

(Major outputs) Over the next five years the JMP will contribute towards the Secretary General's SDG progress report. It will also coordinate closely with agencies responsible for monitoring other Goal 6 targets under the UN Water GEMI initiative. This will involve periodic analysis of the linkages between progress on drinking water (6.1), sanitation and hygiene (6.2) and trends in treatment, recycling and reuse of wastewater (6.3), efficient use and sustainable withdrawal of resources (6.4), protection of ecosystems (6.5) and integrated management of water resources (6.6) as well as the means of implementation (6a and 6b). The JMP will also contribute data and analysis for global thematic reports on poverty, nutrition, health, education, gender in equality and sustainable cities.

(Outcomes) Long term measures of success will include integrated analysis of JMP estimates and other water and sanitation data to inform decision making at global and national levels and increased uptake and use of JMP estimates in global thematic reports relating to other areas of sustainable development.

## **JMP Governance**

The JMP is managed jointly by WHO and UNICEF as equal partners. The organisations are jointly responsible for delivering the 2016-2020 strategy and will prepare joint annual work plans and budgets. WHO and UNICEF are jointly responsible for fund raising and any funds received will be allocated according to the agreed annual work plan and budget. While the JMP receives core funding from both organisations it remains largely dependent on external funding.

The JMP has a small team of core staff based at WHO and UNICEF headquarters and occasionally hires short term consultants. The JMP team regularly convenes ad hoc expert groups of academics, policy makers and practitioners to provide technical advice and recommendations on specific issues. The JMP also has a well established Strategic Advisory Group, comprising leading experts in the field, which meets twice a year to review progress and provide strategic advice.