

Terms of Reference

Strategic Advisory Group

WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) and UN-Water/WHO Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-water (GLAAS)

The United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization have been jointly responsible for the monitoring of the global drinking-water and sanitation situation for over two decades. Following the International Drinking-Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1980-1990) they ensured continued efforts in this area through the establishment of their Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation. In 2000, the Millennium Development Declaration created the framework for the adoption of eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), with explicit drinking-water and sanitation targets under MDG7, which addresses environmental sustainability. The WHO/UNICEF JMP is the designated UN monitoring body for these MDG targets. Since 2011, WHO/UNICEF has facilitated a broad sector consultation to develop proposals for monitoring water and sanitation and hygiene post-2015, has provided critical technical inputs to the political process, and is developing indicators and a framework for monitoring these post-2015. The JMP has ambitious plans for monitoring WASH over the coming decade, including hygiene, service quality, extra-household settings.

The UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) is a UN-Water programme led by WHO. It aims to monitor the inputs (human resources and finance) and the enabling environment (policies, plans and strategies, institutional arrangements, monitoring practices) required to extend and sustain WASH systems and services to all. GLAAS analyses the factors associated with progress, in order to identify drivers and bottlenecks, highlight knowledge gaps and assess strengths and challenges within and across countries. GLAAS results are used to promote country and external support agency mutual accountability, improve country planning and monitoring processes, and support decision-makers target efforts and resources for more equitable WASH outcomes. Additionally, GLAAS aims to identify gaps in understanding and tracking of financing to the WASH sector, supported by the UN-Water GLAAS TrackFin initiative, which aims to strengthen national systems for the collection and analysis of financial information. It complements other UN-Water reports, such as the WHO/UNICEF JMP report and the World Water Development Report, by concentrating on the factors affecting the capacity of countries and external support agencies to progress towards the sanitation and drinking-water MDG targets. Since the pilot report in 2008, country participation in the biennial cycles has increased from 42 countries in 2010 to 94 in 2014. GLAAS country results are also being used to help inform the formulation of commitments that feed into the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) and High Level Commitment Dialogue (HLCD).

In order to bring in independent, strategic thinking into the further development and implementation of the JMP and GLAAS, UNICEF and WHO have established a Strategic Advisory Group (SAG). The primary objective of the SAG is to provide strategic advice to the JMP and GLAAS to develop and implement strategies to achieve their respective mission and objectives. This will include political, technical and financial perspectives.

Composition

The SAG will be composed of a maximum ten members, all outstanding professionals with a well-established track record in their area of expertise.

Candidate members of the SAG will be independent experts including in the field of drinking-water, sanitation, hygiene, management of water resources and wastewater or monitoring methods and procedures. They will have a track record in strategic thinking and planning in high level committees and fora. They will contribute their knowledge and experience and provide strategic advice to JMP and GLAAS concerning directions to follow. They cannot be current staff members of donor organizations, the WHO or UNICEF.

UNICEF and WHO are committed to having a diverse SAG which can reflect perspectives of developed and developing countries, of different regions, and both genders as well as incorporating perspectives from government, non-government and academia.

SAG members will have demonstrated experience in one or more of the following through current or previous roles:

- Global monitoring initiatives
- National statistics, monitoring, planning and financing
- Regulation of drinking water and/or sanitation at a national level
- WASH sector topics: drinking water, sanitation and hygiene
- Other sectors, such as health, nutrition, education or finance
- Human rights and/or targeted interventions for poor and marginalized groups

Since meetings will be conducted in English, fluency in English language is a requirement.

Designation procedures

WHO and UNICEF will jointly select the members of the SAG from a shortlist established on the basis of nominations made by each of the two agencies, applying agreed criteria.

Members are designated for a period of three years, with the option of re-designation for further three-year periods.

Members are designated based on their individual experience and expertise, rather than in their organizational capacity, and cannot be represented by other staff members of the organization they are affiliated with or any other professional colleagues.

On joining the SAG, members will be expected to declare potential conflicts of interest and to provide a brief profile/biography to clarify linkages with WHO, UNICEF and JMP, GLAAS for sharing with other members of the SAG.

Functions and responsibilities

Within the agreed boundaries of an independent advisory group that will not develop its own programme of activities, the core functions and responsibilities of the members of the SAG are to provide balanced strategic advice to UNICEF and WHO on JMP and GLAAS policy and programme matters.

SAG members are expected to:

- Support GLAAS and JMP's continued leadership position as a reliable and consistent source of information for inputs to the sector (GLAAS) and for estimates of access to drinking-water and sanitation at national, regional and global levels (JMP).

- Identify evolving challenges and emerging needs that JMP and GLAAS should address as well as opportunities for new activities.
- Advise on how best to engage with other monitoring initiatives within and outside the WASH sector for the purposes of post-2015 goals and targets related to water, sanitation and hygiene (e.g. at regional level AMCOW).
- Advise on the optimal use of available resources towards the identification, analysis and use of relevant, reliable and comparable datasets on access to safe water supply and adequate sanitation, with a view to informing policy-making at national and international levels.
- Support the development of a resource mobilization strategy that will support the continuity of on-going JMP and GLAAS activities
- Advise on ways to improve the dissemination of JMP and GLAAS information to relevant target groups

SAG members are expected to regularly participate in meetings and are required to attend at least one meeting each year.

Arrangements

The annual meeting of the Strategic Advisory Group will be held on a date determined by UNICEF and WHO in consultation with the Chair. Depending on the agenda and workload of the SAG, its annual meetings will be one to two day(s) long. The working language of the SAG meetings will be English.

In addition, videoconferences during the interim period between annual meetings can be called by UNICEF and WHO, as the need arises. E-mail correspondence on strategic issues will also provide a medium for dialogue.

Every three years, UNICEF and WHO choose a chair who will remain in that function for the next three years. The Chair can be re-elected once. The Chair works with UNICEF and WHO in setting the agenda for the annual meeting, serves as the focal point for SAG activities throughout the year and keeps the SAG members informed of new developments.

The administrative support for the SAG will be provided by UNICEF and WHO. The cost of attending SAG meetings will be covered from the JMP and GLAAS budgets at the disposal of the two agencies, on the basis of economy class travel via the shortest possible route and per diem entitlements/incidentals in accordance with standard UN rules.

UNICEF and WHO will ensure that the report of the SAG meeting is published four weeks after the meeting, following due consultation of all members on a draft meeting report.

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