

Terms of Reference

Strategic Advisory Group of the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) and the UN-WATER/WHO Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS)

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have been jointly responsible for the monitoring of the global drinking water and sanitation situation for 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 for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) in 1990.

In 2000, the Millennium Development Declaration created the framework for the adoption of eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which led to explicit drinking water and sanitation targets under MDG Target 7. The WHO/UNICEF JMP was responsible for monitoring these targets through the MDG period.

With the establishment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, WHO and UNICEF have been designated as Custodian Agencies for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 6.1 on drinking water, and Target 6.2 on sanitation and hygiene. WHO and UNICEF implement global monitoring of these targets through the JMP, which amended its name to reflect the inclusion of hygiene in the 2030 Agenda. In addition to monitoring water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) at the household level, the JMP will expand its scope to monitor WASH in institutions as part of the 2030 Agenda, beginning with schools and health care facilities.

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 and the targeting 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. Since the pilot report in 2008, both country and external support agency (ESA) participation has increased: over 100 countries and 25 ESAs have participated in GLAAS. GLAAS is a key resource for the sector by providing both governments, partners and ESAs with data and evidence. For example, GLAAS reports have been published before Sanitation and Water for All High Level Meetings to provide an evidence base for the meetings. Additionally, WHO through GLAAS is a co-custodian of the SDG6 Means of Implementation targets, in collaboration with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). GLAAS is responsible for reporting to the UN Statistics Division on an annual basis.

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 up to twelve 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 different 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 the 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 and UNICEF 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 the JMP's continued leadership position as a reliable and consistent source for estimates of access to drinking-water and sanitation at national, regional and global levels.
- Provide strategic advice and direction to GLAAS based on the enabling environment monitoring needs in order to provide timely, high quality and relevant data for the sector.
- 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 supporting the development and monitoring of global, regional and national targets related to water, sanitation and hygiene.
- 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 may be invited to review drafts of JMP and GLAAS publications under development, but are not expected to formally approve or endorse the final products.

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

SAG members are not commissioned and do not receive any financial compensation other than for direct expenses associated with their travel to SAG meetings.

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. Normally annual meetings will be two days in duration. The working language of the SAG meetings will be English.

In addition, virtual meetings 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-nominated 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.

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 circulated within six weeks after the meeting, following due consultation of all members on a draft meeting report.

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