



***WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme  
for Water Supply and Sanitation***

***'MONITORING FOR RESULTS'***

**JMP Strategy  
for the period 2010 - 2015**

**October 2009**

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## 1 SUMMARY

1.1 This document sets out the **strategy** adopted by the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund In order to fulfil its **mission**. The document also contains a proposal for funding the JMP for the period 2010 to 2015.

1.2 The JMP strategy for achieving its objectives is based on four **strategic priorities**: (1) *maintaining the integrity of the JMP data base and ensuring accurate global estimates*; (2) *dissemination of data to sector stakeholders*; (3) *fulfilling JMP's normative role in selecting and validating new targets and corresponding indicators*; and (4) *interaction between countries and the JMP*.

1.3 The WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) is the institutionalized mechanism for monitoring the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets for safe drinking-water and basic sanitation. As such, the data on use of improved drinking-water sources and sanitation facilities collected and disseminated by the JMP at global, regional and national levels are quoted in a wide range of fora. They form the basis for informed decision-making by key policymakers and programme managers in the field of drinking-water and sanitation.

1.4 The JMP plays a vital role in monitoring the impact of the work funded by national governments, bilateral and multilateral external support agencies, foundations and civil society organizations. The JMP role extends into advocacy for greater attention to be paid and for more resources to be committed to ensuring increased use of safe drinking-water and basic sanitation, something that is central to human development and a top priority for the poor. As such JMP functions as a Global Public Good.

1.5 The JMP draws on the mutually reinforcing strengths of both WHO and UNICEF. The strong global normative role and convening powers of WHO combined with the extensive country presence in water and sanitation of UNICEF and its long-standing experience in data collection and analysis provide the JMP with a unique position from which it has grown into the single authoritative global source for objective drinking water supply and sanitation coverage estimates. WHO exerts policy leverage on all public sectors through its national counterparts in Member States, the ministries of health, while UNICEF has been a long-time custodian of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), one of the two main international household survey instruments. Both WHO and UNICEF have a long-standing experience in monitoring global health-related targets and goals and draw on years of cooperation on the different inter-agency monitoring task forces.

1.6 This strategy and accompanying proposal respond to the recommendations made by the UN Secretary-General through his Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB) and specifically those set out in the Hashimoto Action Plan of March 2006 and in the assessment of monitoring and reporting published by UNSGAB in April 2008. They also take on board the recommendations made by the JMP/GLAAS Strategic Advisory Group at its first meeting in July 2009.

1.7 Over the years, the JMP has gained strength in resolution, consistency and accuracy of its outputs, and in its global outreach. There have been significant improvements in the data presented by the JMP, particularly in the way that the latest report and a number of

regional 'snapshots' have introduced the 'ladder approach' so that incremental steps towards optimal use of improved water and sanitation facilities have been identified. The 2008 JMP report highlighted those countries making the most rapid progress, reflecting the efforts made by those countries that were starting from a low coverage rate in the baseline year of 1990. The new open defecation rates published during the International Year of Sanitation were used to great effect at the highest levels of government of some of the major developing countries to generate a renewed interest and emphasis on sanitation. The JMP has also collected some gender disaggregated data through the major international household survey programmes. This has made possible a mapping of the distribution of the burden of collecting water that falls to women, men, boys and girls.

1.8 The JMP is keen to consult with stakeholders at the international and the national level to explain what it does and get feedback on how to best meet the needs of stakeholders. The series of reconciliation meetings that have taken place over the last two years have proved useful in raising awareness of the methodology used by the JMP to estimate use of improved facilities and in bringing sector and non-sector people together. The establishment of the JMP/GLAAS Strategic Advisory Group, that held its first meeting in New York on 23 and 24 July 2009, is a further step towards enhanced engagement with key stakeholders.

1.9 The JMP is strengthened by the close links it has developed with other monitoring initiatives and organizations such as the UN-Water Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-water (GLAAS, implemented by WHO), the Country Status Overviews carried out by the Water and Sanitation Program of the World Bank, and the work of the OECD.

1.10 With the MDG target date of 2015 on the horizon, the intensity of MDG-related activity will increase, including the monitoring of MDG targets.

## **2. BACKGROUND: DEVELOPMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS 2000 - 2009**

2.1 The JMP has come a long way since its first report in 1993 which carried total coverage data for 76 countries. The latest report, published in 2008, provides estimates for both 1990 (the MDG baseline year) and 2006 for all developing countries and most developed countries, disaggregated by urban and rural areas. It uses the same coverage definition for all countries and allows for tracking over time of a series of different service levels for both water and sanitation.

2.2 The JMP has focused on three specific areas:

- to be the recognized depository for WASH datasets and presenting the country, regional and global data on access to safe drinking-water and basic sanitation;
- to play a key normative role in ensuring that standard definitions of access are applied; this enables consistency and comparability over time and across countries and regions of progress achieved; and,
- to advocate for greater attention by developing countries and donors to the WASH sector.

2.3 The publication of the Global Water Supply and Sanitation 2000 Report (GWSSA) was a major milestone, providing a lot more information on a larger number of countries than the previous JMP reports of 1993 and 1996. At around this time the JMP moved its analysis

from using data from service providers to reporting based on data from users of the services, compiled from nationally representative household sample surveys and national censuses. The GWSSA was an important advocacy tool for the sector that helped launch Vision 21<sup>1</sup> and define the wording of the drinking-water MDG target agreed at the Millennium Summit in 2000. The wording of the sanitation target was agreed subsequently at the World Summit for Sustainable Development in 2002.

2.4 The 2004 JMP report highlighted the fact that limited progress was made towards achieving the sanitation MDG target. Backed up by important regional conferences such as the African Conference on Sanitation (Africasan) in 2002 and the South Asia Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN) in 2003, this report stimulated a step change in the global interest in sanitation. This heightened interest helped to ratify the decision by the UN to make 2008 the International Year of Sanitation which reinforced the focus on sanitation as an important issue for development, again backed up by regional conferences in Africa, East Asia and Latin America.

### **The Hashimoto Action Plan & the UNSGAB report on monitoring**

2.5 In March 2006 the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB), under the guidance of the Chair, His Excellency Ryutaro Hashimoto, published the 'Hashimoto Action Plan: Compendium of Actions'. Section 5 of the Hashimoto Action Plan (HAP) deals with monitoring and reporting and emphasizes the important role played by the JMP in monitoring improvements in access to water and sanitation. The HAP also sets out some specific recommendations to strengthen the part played by the JMP in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, including:

- WHO and UNICEF to increase the financial and human resources strength of the JMP unit;
- Donors to strengthen their support for JMP activities;
- WHO and UNICEF to organize workshops to improve the accuracy and methodologies of the JMP;
- UN-Water to support the JMP to access networks and expertise especially at the field level;
- UNICEF and WHO to support governments to enhance national monitoring systems and make them consistent with global mechanisms.

2.6 Following the publication of the HAP, UNSGAB prepared a report in April 2008<sup>2</sup> that emphasized the strength of the JMP methodology and the validity of the global data to monitor progress being made to reach the MDG targets for water and sanitation. The UNSGAB report also recommended that the JMP evaluates the options for: fixing the 1990 baseline and 2015 target on access to safe water and basic sanitation; reporting on all levels of service that can be reliably obtained from country datasets; promoting better understanding of differences between global and national monitoring of water supply and sanitation targets; and stimulating reconciliation between country and global data.

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<sup>1</sup> Vision 21 set out the wording for the International Development Targets for water and sanitation that later became adopted as the Millennium Development Goal targets

<sup>2</sup> "Monitoring and Reporting" progress of access to water and sanitation - An assessment by UNSGAB.

2.7 The strategy and the proposal for funding respond to many of the demands of the HAP and the UNSGAB report as well as those of other key sector stakeholders. Both the strategy and the proposal build on the important progress that the JMP has made. It is clear that with additional resources the JMP will be better positioned to maintain its role as a Global Public Good, evolving into an even more useful tool for decision makers than it already has proved to be. To quote the HAP "Achieving the goals of water policies requires adequate monitoring tools. Assessing progress towards targets and reporting results is vital for managing action by all stakeholders." The actions that the JMP plans to take to implement the strategy will respond to the urgent need to enhance **monitoring for results** in accelerating progress towards meeting the MDG targets for water and sanitation. As mentioned at the recent meeting of the Strategic Advisory Group, the JMP should be considered as a Global Public Good and, as such, needs support from the international donor community.

### **JMP Achievements 2000 - 2009**

#### *Standardizing and simplifying data collection*

2.8 The data in the JMP reports are obtained from surveys carried out at the national level. This provides a more accurate and consistent picture of access to safe water and basic sanitation than relying on data provided by government water sector officials. The JMP played a key normative role in ensuring that the standard definitions used for the MDG indicators were well-defined while at the same time ensuring their reliable measurability through household sample surveys. The JMP compiled eight *Core Questions on Drinking Water and Sanitation for Household Surveys* and has ensured that these questions are included in the two main international household surveys mechanisms, DHS and MICS. This harmonization of indicators and data collection mechanism is important for improving the comparability of data collected by different surveys. The standard questions have been taken up by many government institutions in developing countries to align their national definitions of access with those used to monitor the MDG drinking-water and sanitation target. The terminology of improved and unimproved drinking-water sources and sanitation facilities is now widely recognized and used to enable comparisons to be made across different countries and regions of the world.

#### *JMP Technical Advisory Group*

2.9 The JMP Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was established to provide guidance on the strategic directions of the JMP as well as to provide technical inputs on JMP methodological issues. In its original form, the TAG included members of academia, as well as key sector stakeholders and experts involved in data collection. Between 2003 and 2006 the TAG advised on the JMP indicator definitions and the JMP methodology. Three TAG Task Forces covered the following areas: 1) Harmonization of definitions and data mechanisms, formulating the Core Questions for Household Sample Surveys and indicator definitions; 2) Monitoring Urban Slums; and 3) The Role of JMP on Strengthening National Level Sector Monitoring.

2.10 It is now felt that clearer definition of the role of the TAG and its Task Forces is needed if the JMP is to maintain its key role in the sector. The recently established Strategic Advisory Group (see below) is the first step in developing a more robust consultative framework for the JMP with next steps including the reinvigoration of the TAG and the confirmation of associated Task Forces.

### *Pilot Rapid Assessment of Drinking-Water Quality (RADWQ)*

2.11 Under the RADWQ pilot project nationally representative data on drinking-water quality for a set of seven water quality parameters were collected in six countries. The RADWQ methodology used a sample survey approach which can be run in parallel with a DHS or MICS survey. The main findings from the RADWQ pilot study done in 2005/6 were:

- 1) it provides an accurate assessment of the drinking-water quality both at source and at point of use – indicating that a significant proportion of samples from improved drinking-water sources were, in fact, fecally contaminated.
- 2) where there is a good water quality surveillance system in place, RADWQ finds similar levels of contamination as surveillance systems; and,
- 3) the cost of conducting a nationally representative drinking water quality survey using the RADWQ methodology is US\$ 100,000 – 150,000 per country. Considering the potential benefits of the data obtained from RADWQ on whether water supply sources are in fact delivering water that is free from microbiological contamination or not, some countries may consider the RADWQ approach to be a sound investment. JMP could provide technical assistance to these countries if requested and on condition that a suitable response mechanism is institutionalized, possibly using a WHO Collaboration Centre.

### **Recent developments of the JMP**

#### *The sanitation and drinking-water ladders*

2.12 The introduction in the 2008 JMP report of the analogy of the sanitation and drinking-water ladders to monitor the increments along the pathway of progress, moving from a position of having no acceptable level of access to one where optimal facilities are accessible, is considered by many to be a real step forward. By dividing populations into a greater number of categories<sup>3</sup>, countries can see where they are making progress even if they are not meeting the absolute criteria required by the MDG targets.

#### *Regional snapshots*

2.13 The preparation of specific snapshots of progress to help to inform regional meetings attended by sector specialists and key decision makers has proved to be very effective. A specific example of this was the preparation of the Africa snapshot on sanitation for the meeting of AfricaSan in Durban in February 2008, at which 32 African Ministers signed up to the *eThekwinini Declaration*. Having up-to-date information on the status of the countries involved in AfricaSan proved helpful in ensuring that politicians and sector professionals were well-informed and were in a position to set out an excellent policy on sanitation for the region.

#### *Interaction with developing countries*

2.14 A challenge for the JMP has been to address the discrepancy between the figures provided in the biennial reports and the estimates of coverage used by in-country sector professionals and national planners. By the very nature of the JMP being a global monitoring instrument using standard definitions for access, discrepancies with national figures based on national definitions will arise. It is, however, also not uncommon for

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<sup>3</sup> For sanitation from open defecation, to use of unimproved facilities, to use of improved sanitation facilities shared by two or more households, to use of sanitation facilities for a single household. For drinking-water from unimproved drinking-water source, to shared facility from improved drinking water source, to piped water into household.

different agencies in the same country to use different criteria for access and so there is no single set of 'national data' to compare with the JMP figures.

2.15 Recently the JMP has been proactive in holding in-country workshops to explain the methodology behind the JMP biennial reports. This has proved helpful in increasing the understanding of what the JMP is actually measuring - the use of safe water sources and sanitation facilities rather than verifying whether the infrastructure exists. This is important for helping to assure the quality of the data being collected in-country and in building trust with partners in these countries.

2.16 Recent efforts to reconcile these discrepancies have been initiated by the JMP through a series of reconciliation processes in a number of countries in Asia and Africa. These reconciliation processes have brought together senior staff from national statistics offices and relevant line-ministries to assess the differences between different national data sources and the differences between these sources and the international estimates generated by the JMP. In most of these countries this has led to an increased awareness of the need to use standard definitions of access and data collection methods across line-ministries and among different national monitoring mechanisms. This represents a major step forward in reconciling national data. The catalytic role of the JMP in this process, through sharing its experiences in global monitoring to the benefit of strengthening national monitoring, is becoming increasingly important. The process has allowed the JMP to fill important data gaps with survey and census data which it did not have on file yet. The process has also helped to identify additional nationally representative household surveys that the JMP is able to use.

2.17 In 2007, national 'platforms' for sector monitoring were set up, utilizing a grant from the EU Water Facility and JMP support, in Ghana, Mozambique and Nigeria. Each platform consists of a small team of specialists in WASH, communications and data analysis, working with national sector stakeholders to compile and disseminate sector specific data and information products for policy orientation and decision making. Platform products are available on the website: <http://wsmp.org/>.

#### *Connecting the JMP to other monitoring initiatives*

2.18 The JMP is only one aspect of monitoring the sector, albeit an important one. Establishing effective links to other initiatives is crucial if the JMP is to deliver on its full potential. Specific links to the UN-Water Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS), implemented by WHO, the Country Status Overviews (CSOs) carried out by WSP and AMCOW and a range of reports by UN agencies including UNICEF's State of the World's Children, WHO's World Health Report, the UNDP Human Development Report have been strengthened. In support of these links as well as to foster closer relationships with governments of developing countries, the JMP has developed collaborative partnerships with a number of bilateral donors, international NGOs as well as the World Bank and Regional Development Banks.

#### *Establishment of the SAG and Technical Task Forces*

2.19 Recently, a Strategic Advisory Group has been established to assist the JMP and the GLAAS to ensure that access to safe drinking-water and improved sanitation is properly monitored up to the MDG target date of 2015 and beyond, until universal access is achieved. Increasingly, however, the sector will need to consider more sophisticated ways to monitor such aspects as how to ensure drinking-water is safe, services can be sustained and how to report on shared sanitation facilities (where two or more households share a toilet) and



shared access in public spaces like schools, clinics, market-places, offices. The JMP, advised by the SAG, plans to re-establish ad-hoc Task Forces, drawing from a broad range of technical experts in the sector, to advise on technical issues, thus maintaining a high level of credibility and scientific rigour.

### 3 RATIONALE FOR THE STRATEGY

#### *Building on the past while rising to new challenges*

3.1 Despite the constant demand for more information and further levels of disaggregation of data, the JMP has maintained a high standard for its products. This has contributed to the recognition of the JMP as the trusted and sole source of globally comparable water and sanitation coverage data. Building on this strong position the JMP will continue with its tradition of incremental improvement and expansion of collecting its data sets and their analysis while safeguarding the integrity and accuracy of its data. The JMP will address some of the key methodological issues pertaining to fixing the MDG baseline coverage and projections for different coverage levels among others. It will build on the work of its Task Force on Harmonization to facilitate a global platform for the selection and validation of the next generation of global indicators to meet the needs of the sector as it moves beyond 2015. The JMP will expand its communication efforts beyond its biennial reports, meet different information needs of a wide variety of stakeholders and create new information demands by proactively generating new data products.

#### *Monitoring progress and trends*

3.2 The JMP is mandated to monitor the progress made by individual countries and regions against the MDG targets for drinking-water and sanitation. This role enables the JMP to provide key stakeholders involved in WASH, including developing countries, bilateral and multilateral donors and other funding organizations such as international NGOs and Foundations, with a picture of where progress is being made and where countries or regions seem to be lagging behind.

3.3 The introduction in 2008 of a higher level of disaggregation of the drinking-water and sanitation data, beyond the improved/unimproved dichotomy, has provided policymakers and sector professionals with additional information to better target their efforts and resources. The latest JMP report found that the trend towards piped connections on premises, which generally offer the highest health benefits, is often steeper than the decline in the population with no access at all – showing a tendency for high-end investments and improvement of existing service levels over investments in providing people with basic access. The introduction of a trend line for open defecation has given the sanitation debate in several countries a new impulse. The JMP will explore additional levels of disaggregation from which it can draw either global or regional relevant information to influence the global policy debate.

3.4 Increasingly, as countries get closer to reaching the MDG targets, there will be a need to focus on marginalised groups if the vision of universal access is to be reached. The JMP already publishes data by wealth quintiles and some of the gender dimensions of water collection. This could prove useful for a variety of analyses, including in the specific area of inequity between the best served and the worst served regions or districts or income groups within any one country, as suggested by the authors of the 2006 Human Development Report<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> SUMMARY Human Development Report 2006 **Beyond scarcity**: Power poverty and the global water crisis (page 23)

3.5 The 2008 JMP introduced a new concept of countries making rapid progress relative to the number of people with access in 1990. This new approach identified a number of countries, some on-track and some off-track, which managed to provide over a third of their current population with access since 1990. Many of these countries have the added burden of relatively high population growth to overcome if they are to meet the MDG targets. Interestingly many of these countries making relatively rapid progress are in sub-Saharan Africa, the region that is most off-track against the MDG targets. Linking this data from the JMP to the analysis expected to be available from the GLAAS of why these countries were able to overcome the considerable obstacles they face is expected to generate important messages for other countries in the region.

*Towards measuring the full extent of the global targets*

3.6 The wording of the MDG drinking-water and sanitation targets include issues which are either poorly defined or defined in such terms that collecting accurate information at global scale is not feasible using current monitoring mechanisms. The international community, however, still demands global level information about sustainable access which typically includes assessments of the reliability, quality and affordability of services at national and sub-national level. Two of the JMP Task Forces looked into these issues and confirmed the practical obstacles and cost implications for the JMP of collecting such information periodically and on a global scale. Using the existing data, the JMP has been able to provide additional data cuts and special regional assessments in support of high level meetings. Nevertheless, a debate continues about many of the issues not yet addressed by the JMP, including:

- access in informal settlements and peri-urban areas;
- sustainability of services;
- what constitutes safe drinking-water;
- when can sanitation facilities be considered as not harmful to the environment;
- whether time collecting water should be part of the criteria for access;
- impact of household water treatment on water quality;
- whether there are extreme seasonal variations in access; and,
- criteria for the safe disposal of children's excreta
- safe disposal of pit contents and treatment/disposal of sewage.

3.7 At their first meeting, the SAG members encouraged the JMP to take a lead role in facilitating a global discussion platform which allows the involvement of a wider resource base than any of these individual debates can draw on. This process would culminate in the selection and validation of the next generation of global WASH targets, corresponding indicators and data collection mechanisms that serve the post-2015 goal-setting by the international development community.

3.8 Several JMP methodological issues will be addressed in the next two years, including: the method for determining the 1990 baseline by linear regression and hence establishing the MDG targets<sup>5</sup>; on-track and off-track calculations; the projection methods to estimate coverage; shared and public sanitation; access to water and sanitation in public institutions; and measuring hygiene behavior change. New methodological issues are expected to arise and will be addressed similarly.

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<sup>5</sup> A point strongly emphasized by the UNSGAB report,

3.9 The JMP inventory of nationally-representative household surveys that include water and sanitation data will also need to be completed and, given that some global sector agencies have expressed a preference for the JMP to produce annual data updates the JMP will evaluate the implications of meeting such demands.

*Challenges in estimating urban access*

3.10 The JMP is unique among reports monitoring MDG targets in that it disaggregates between rural and urban access to services. However monitoring urban access presents very specific problems, including definition of urban areas, the potential for water sources to be contaminated when populations are dense, the rapid movements of populations and the lack of data on informal settlements. However, as the world becomes increasingly urbanised, the importance of capturing the situation in urban areas will increase. There are also calls for a different set of standards for urban areas to those living in rural communities given the differing living conditions imposed by living in a relatively confined space. Initial discussions have already taken place with UN Habitat on monitoring urban coverage and the JMP will be proactive in continuing this work.

*Improving communications*

3.11 For the JMP to fulfil its potential it is important that it communicates what it does to a wide group of stakeholders. An improved web-site, enhanced utilization of regional and international meetings to disseminate the JMP key messages, regional and country data sheets aimed at key decision-makers and use of Frequently Asked Questions will aim to get across clear and consistent messages about the JMP and why it is important for stakeholders.

*Increasing responsiveness to specific data/reporting needs*

3.12 The 2008 report was complemented by a series of regional snapshots which served as background papers to a series of high-level sanitation events held throughout 2008, such as AfricaSan and EASan and the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in July 2008. The increased responsiveness of the JMP to provide data specific to regional sector events has contributed significantly to the success of these events which all aimed to either sustain momentum achieved or rally new support for increased investments in and attention to the sector.

*Strengthening national level monitoring capacity*

3.13 Since 2007 the JMP has actively engaged several national stakeholders to explain the JMP methodology, clarify the MDG definitions and compare national definitions and terminology used in national censuses and surveys with the international MDG definitions. After several regional workshops, the importance of national workshops has become increasingly obvious, with the objective of strengthening national level monitoring. Effective outreach to countries is at the core of these workshops, to assist in the reconciliation of both definitional issues and potential data discrepancies between national and international monitoring.

*Linking JMP data to development outcomes*

3.14 Currently there is no methodology for linking improvements in access to safe drinking-water and basic sanitation to development outcomes such as maternal health, child mortality, school attendance etc. This is a serious weakness facing the WASH sector that results in reduced attention from key decision makers and those responsible for allocating resources, both financial and human. The JMP will initiate a study in how to make closer links to health, education and nutrition over the next two years to ensure that the ground is covered for preparing a new set of indicators in the lead up to 2015.

## 4 THE STRATEGY

4.1 The **vision** of the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for water supply and sanitation is: *To accelerate progress towards universal, sustainable, access to safe water and basic sanitation by 2025<sup>1</sup>, including the achievement of the MDG targets by 2015 as a key milestone.*

4.2 As a contribution to achieving that vision the JMP's **mission** is to be the trusted source of global, regional and national data on sustainable access to safe drinking-water and basic sanitation, for use by governments, donors, international organizations and civil society.

To fulfil its mission, the JMP has three **strategic objectives**:

- 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;
- 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;
- 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.

4.3 The JMP operates on the basis of the following **guiding principles**

- To use the **comparative strengths** of the two organizations (WHO and UNICEF) and work together to the best advantage of the programme.
- To be cost-effective in the delivery of JMP objectives.
- As far as possible, to meet the **information demands** of the stakeholders operating in the sector, including the UN Secretary General and other UN organizations; developing country and donor countries; regional development banks; and civil society.
- To continue to ensure that the programme uses a **robust methodology** that is transparent, widely understood and accepted.

## **The strategic outcomes for the JMP**

4.4 There are *four strategic outcomes* for the JMP:

1. Reliable and up-to-date national, regional and global data for monitoring sustainable access to safe drinking-water and basic sanitation coverage status and trends compiled and analyzed.
2. Data disseminated, to support informed policy- and decision-making by national governments and international development partners.
3. New indicators and data collection mechanisms related to sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation developed and validated, focusing on the needs of post-2015 monitoring.
4. The ability of developing countries to accurately monitor status and trends with respect to the use of safe drinking-water and basic sanitation.

4.5 These outcomes are to be achieved through four strategic priorities:

- **maintaining the integrity of the JMP data base and ensuring accurate global estimates;**
- **dissemination of data to sector stakeholders;**
- **fulfilling JMP's normative role in developing and validating target indicators;**
- **interaction between countries and the JMP**

### **Maintaining the integrity of the JMP data base and ensuring accurate global estimates**

4.6 JMP estimates are the most reliable source for determining the status and trends in the proportion of the people using safe water and basic sanitation, the MDG target. The JMP figures for different countries, regions as well as the global figures are widely quoted and used by policy makers. This recognition of the JMP brings with it the responsibility to ensure that the methodology is validated and updated, and that as much relevant data as possible is captured for use in the biennial reports. The JMP will rely on technical task forces to seek expert advice on methodological strengthening and validation as well as seek advice and clarification through country level engagement.

4.7 JMP will collaborate with key partners, such as the International Household Survey Network to obtain new data sets and will benefit from improvements in both UNICEF and WHO country data collection systems. The sources from which the JMP obtains its data will progressively expand as it explores the possibilities of measuring important new factors such as: water quality; sustainability of water supply and sanitation systems; seasonality; equity; and affordability.

### **Data dissemination**

4.8 The JMP will continue to publish its biennial flagship report that highlights where progress is being made, as well as where efforts need to be increased to meet the MDG targets for drinking-water and sanitation. The JMP will also continue to publish regional snapshots and other reports that have proved invaluable in informing stakeholders of the status and trends in a particular region, such as those prepared for regional conferences on sanitation throughout 2008. Where there is a demand, JMP will prepare specific country data summary sheets.

4.9 Communicating the results of JMP analysis of the data is fundamental to the success of the programme. JMP will enhance its communications at the country, regional and international level through further developing the JMP website. This website will be a major

source of material, such as graphs, maps, and tables highlighting status and trends in individual countries and regions that will benefit stakeholders and decision makers.

#### **Fulfilling JMP's normative role in developing and validating targets and indicators;**

4.10 The current global drinking water and sanitation target and corresponding indicators have served international development planners to track progress against the MDG drinking-water and sanitation target since 2000. With 2015 approaching and the global MDG drinking-water target almost met, a comprehensive sector review of priorities will need to take place in preparation of the formulation of new global targets and corresponding indicators.

4.11 The process of defining new targets relies on a solid statistical basis and corresponding indicators that are measurable using validated data collection mechanisms. The JMP is well-placed to create a platform for and play a facilitating role in this process.

4.12 In addition, the JMP will need to further explore how best to monitor important aspects of the existing MDG target that currently are not properly monitored, such as actual drinking-water quality and safety, time-to source, issues pertaining to sustainable access, affordable access, reliability, impact of seasonality on access, safe disposal and treatment of pit content and sewerage and adequacy of particular sanitation options in high density urban areas etc.

4.13 The JMP is particularly well-placed to bring existing experiences together and facilitate a global process to define sectoral priorities post-2015 and provide the statistical basis by which to define a new set of global goals and targets and corresponding indicators and data collection mechanisms. An initial scoping exercise is proposed with a *group of experts* consisting of prominent researchers and practitioners in WASH monitoring. During this scoping exercise priority areas for potential global goals and targets will be defined. Over a two to three year period, the JMP will facilitate discussions with different groups of researchers, practitioners and data collection experts.

#### **Interaction between countries and the JMP**

4.14 To date few countries are familiar with the JMP methodology and how the JMP arrives at its estimates. Exchanging data and experiences between key national stakeholders and JMP create an environment of mutual understanding and trust laying the foundation for a country dialogue on standardization of definitions among National Statistics Offices (NSOs) and line-ministries and a reconciliation process between national and international data.

4.15 The experience of the JMP, reinforced by a number of recent reconciliation exercises, is that bringing together NSOs and line-ministries has helped to identify data discrepancies and use of different definitions by different stakeholders. The JMP will draw on these experiences and develop guidelines to conduct similar reconciliation and harmonization efforts in other countries.

4.16 The JMP will support countries to ensure that NSOs and/or relevant line-ministries have the ability to accurately monitor status and trends with respect to the use of safe drinking-water and basic sanitation

4.17 To be cost-effective and sustain the country level dialogue the reconciliation efforts will be conducted making use of the respective country representations of WHO and UNICEF and key partners with a strong presence at country level.

## 5 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 To achieve its strategic objectives the JMP has prepared a Plan of Implementation based on the four strategic priorities and the guiding principles. A more detailed Plan of Implementation will be prepared in early 2010 taking account of the financial position of the JMP at that time.

5.2 The outline Plan of Implementation covers five main areas of work that the JMP will carry out from 2010 to 2015: (a) maintaining the integrity of the JMP data base and ensuring accurate global estimates (b) disseminating of data to sector stakeholders; (c) fulfilling JMP's normative role in developing and validating targets and indicators; (d) interaction between countries and the JMP; (e) maintaining a robust JMP implementation and consultation structure.

### **a) Maintaining the integrity of the JMP data base and ensuring accurate global estimates**

5.3 The JMP will address key methodological issues through technical task forces to continue to ensure that its estimates are of the highest quality.

5.4 The JMP will strengthen the mechanisms through which it obtains new sample survey and census data as soon as they become publicly available; fill data gaps by actively searching for survey and census data not yet on file with the JMP; and obtaining data in a format which allows incorporation of the data in the JMP database.

### **b) Disseminating of data to sector stakeholders**

5.5 The current system of publishing biennial reports will continue, with incremental improvements to the presentation of the status and trends of water and sanitation coverage and other key aspects of access. JMP will investigate ways to present the information from the reports in an even more dynamic way that informs both political leaders and the wider public of where progress has been made and where the main challenges still remain. This area of work will also encompass the production of region-specific documents on status and trends in water and sanitation coverage (snapshots) as well as country data summary sheets. The data repository of the JMP website will be more interactive to better serve the needs of a broad range of JMP data users.

### **(c) fulfilling JMP's normative role in developing and validating targets and indicators**

5.6 Building on work of the JMP harmonization task force which resulted in the current Core Questions on Water and Sanitation for Household Surveys, the JMP will play a leading role in facilitating the global discussions on developing new targets and indicators for water supply and sanitation. These indicators are essential for monitoring progress against some of the main aspects of the target that are currently not adequately measured such as water quality, sustainability, seasonality, time taken to access water, and environmental impact of sanitation.

5.7 New indicators and data collection mechanisms will be piloted in a number of countries ensuring geographical representation. This process will be completed by the end of 2013 after which the data collection mechanisms are available for the collection of 2015 base-line data. The costs for collection of baseline data are not part of this proposal.

**(d) Reconciling global and national coverage data**

5.8 To increase the understanding of JMP methods and definitions at the national level, and reduce the differences between global and national reported coverage, the JMP will oversee a series of reconciliation and harmonization exercises in approximately 80 countries. The JMP will make extensive use of consultants and work in close cooperation with key partners at country level. Local partners will be asked to commit additional resources in support of this process.

**(e) Maintaining a robust JMP implementation and consultation structure**

5.9 The JMP is managed jointly by WHO and UNICEF and their operations are guided by the statutes of these organizations. The organizations will be jointly responsible for delivering the outputs and deliverables specified in this proposal, and produce joint annual reports on progress. Each agency will receive and manage allocated funds, based on the agreed annual work-plan and budget for JMP. UN-Water has established a Multi Donor Trust Fund for routing donor funds for work by the various UN agencies. This is considered the most appropriate mechanism for funding the JMP, although other funding arrangements may also be agreed with individual donors.

5.10 A Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) has been established to assist the JMP and the GLAAS to ensure that access to safe drinking-water and improved sanitation is properly monitored up to the MDG target date of 2015 and beyond. A SAG meeting is expected to be held each year, although timing of the meeting will vary. Extraordinary meetings of the SAG may be called if circumstances require them.

5.11 The JMP, advised by the SAG, plans to re-establish ad-hoc Task Forces, drawing from a broad range of technical experts in the sector, to advise on technical issues, thus maintaining a high level of credibility and scientific rigour. These Task Forces will further explore how best to monitor important aspects such as drinking-water quality and safety, time-to source, issues pertaining to sustainable access, affordable access, reliability, impact of seasonality on access, safe disposal and treatment of pit content and sewerage and adequacy of particular sanitation options in high density urban areas etc.

5.12 An independent evaluation of the JMP is proposed for end of 2012 and during 2015, which will provide an opportunity for recommendations for future monitoring of the sector.



**ANNEX: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK**  
 WHO-UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water and Sanitation 2010-2015

NARRATIVE SUMMARY	OVI <sup>s</sup>	MOV	ASSUMPTIONS (EXTERNAL RISKS ONLY)
<p><b>Goal:</b> To accelerate progress towards universal, sustainable, access to safe water and basic sanitation by 2025<sup>6</sup>, including the achievement of the MDG targets by 2015 as a key milestone.</p>	<p>Global trends in coverage of sustainable access in safe drinking water and basic sanitation.</p>	<p>JMP reports in 2012, 2014 and 2015.</p>	
<p><b>Purpose:</b> JMP data supports international efforts to achieve universal access to safe drinking-water and basic sanitation by 2025 and to accelerate progress towards MDG WASH targets by 2015.</p>			<p>WHO and UNICEF have adequate donor funding for the JMP activities indicated in this LFA and related proposal.</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p>			
<p>2. Data disseminated, to support informed policy- and decision-making by national governments and international development partners.</p>	<p>Biennial data updates and regional snapshots widely used.</p> <p>Sector coverage data and trends reported by JMP are used in other global, regional and national monitoring instruments (GLAAS, CSOs, etc.).</p>	<p>JMP website user statistics and the numbers of JMP reports mailed out in response to requests.</p> <p>GLAAS, CSO documents.</p>	

<sup>6</sup> This year chosen as the date fixed by Vision 21 of WSSCC and by the African Water Vision adopted by the AU, AfDB and the Economic Commission for Africa

<p>3. New indicators and data collection mechanisms related to sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation developed and validated, focusing on the needs of post-2015 monitoring.</p>	<p>X indicators developed, tested and validated, by 2015.</p> <p>JMP functions as an international discussion platform for development of indicators and data collection mechanisms.</p> <p>Validated new indicators are included in the majority of household sample surveys and censuses.</p>	<p>JMP annual progress report.</p> <p>Records of consultations held.</p> <p>Status report on JMP web site.</p>	<p>Ways are found to increase WASH in the main current household surveys</p>
<p>4. Developing countries have the ability to accurately monitor status and trends with respect to the use of safe drinking-water and basic sanitation.</p>	<p>Differences in national and JMP coverage figures explained and documented in 97% of countries covering 98% of the world's population by 2015.</p> <p>Staff of Government WASH departments and national statistics offices are familiar with the JMP methodologies and definitions.</p> <p>Guidelines and training materials used in over 80% of countries by 2015.</p> <p>MICS, DHS and other global household survey instruments include JMP-defined categories and definitions.</p>	<p>Reports on national reconciliation workshops and documentation on JMP and national coverage, methods, definitions and categories on JMP web site.</p> <p>GLAAS reports.</p> <p>Reports of meetings with national government representatives put on JMP website.</p>	<p>National partners have adequate capacity and resources to take forward reconciliation processes in-country.</p>

<p>5. A robust JMP implementation structure, linked to other major sector monitoring initiatives.</p>	<p>JMP external consultation (SAG and technical TFs) operational.</p> <p>JMP represented on other regional and global monitoring initiatives.</p> <p>Regular meetings held with donors.</p>	<p>Reports on JMP external consultations.</p> <p>Minutes of meetings, reports emanating from other monitoring initiatives.</p> <p>Minutes of meetings.</p>	
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