

# JMP 5 Year Strategy 2021-2025

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## Summary

The World Health Organization and United Nations Children’s Fund (WHO/UNICEF) Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) produces internationally comparable estimates of progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and is responsible for global monitoring of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets relating to WASH.

The previous JMP 5 Year Strategy (2016-2020) established a new vision and mission statement aligned with the 2030 Agenda, and strategic objectives focused on operationalizing the new global monitoring framework. The JMP has successfully achieved its main objectives for this period, establishing global baselines for new indicators relating to households, schools and health care facilities, and consolidating its role as the global custodian of data on WASH.

This new JMP 5 Year Strategy (2021-2025) retains the overall vision, mission statement and strategic aims and seeks to define the strategic priorities and shifts required during the second five years of the SDG period. These include continued innovations in measurement, maximizing uptake and use of existing data, consolidating technical support, and building new data partnerships (Box).

### JMP 5 Year Strategy 2021-2025

**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 new indicators, methods and standards for enhanced national and global monitoring of WASH
2. **Global data custodian:** to maintain global databases, produce reliable estimates of status, trends and inequalities, and to visualize and share data in accessible formats
3. **Country engagement:** to provide technical advice, guidance materials and tools to support countries to collect and analyse data on inequalities and to report progress on WASH
4. **Integrated monitoring:** to build new partnerships to integrate new sources of data and to analyse interlinkages between WASH and related SDG targets

## **JMP achievement and future challenges**

Over the first five years of the SDG period, the JMP has succeeded in operationalizing the new global monitoring framework and consolidating its role as the global custodian of data on WASH.

### **The JMP has expanded its global database on WASH in households to incorporate SDG indicators.**

These build on established indicators of the types of facilities households use and introduce additional criteria relating to the level of service provided. The JMP has expanded its databases and country files to incorporate new information and refined the methodology used to produce national, regional and global estimates. By the end of 2020, the household databases included national estimates for 234 countries, areas and territories and estimates disaggregated by wealth and sub-national region for over 100 countries. *A key challenge over the next five years will be to continue to expand the JMP databases to address data gaps and to include additional disaggregations while maintaining the quality and reliability of estimates.*

**The JMP has established new global databases on WASH in schools and health care facilities.** The JMP has created new databases for schools and for health care facilities, and has developed country files and methodologies for producing internationally comparable estimates for each setting. By 2020, the global databases contained estimates for WASH in schools for 175 countries and estimates for WASH in health care facilities for 165 countries. *A key challenge over the next five years will be to progressively harmonise the indicators used for national monitoring of WASH in institutions and to begin to estimate trends and rates of change.*

### **The JMP has published global baseline reports for households, schools and health care facilities.**

The JMP published a global SDG baseline report for WASH in households in 2017, followed by baseline reports for WASH in schools in 2018 and WASH in health care facilities in 2019, and plans to release progress updates for each setting every two years throughout the SDG period. The number of countries with data available to produce estimates has increased steadily with each JMP update. *A key challenge over the next five years will be to continue producing high quality reports every year containing in-depth data analysis which responds to the changing needs of WASH sector stakeholders.*

### **The JMP has published guidance on core questions for monitoring WASH in households, schools and health care facilities.**

The JMP has published updated guidance on core questions for household surveys and new guidance on core questions for schools and for health care facilities. These materials have been widely disseminated by WHO and UNICEF regional and country offices and translated into all UN languages. *A key challenge for the next five years will be to support the continued rollout and integration of core questions and indicators within national data collection systems and to adapt the materials for different methods of data collection.*

### **The JMP has supported 10-15 countries each year to integrate SDG WASH indicators into national monitoring systems.**

Each year the JMP provides direct technical support to 10-15 countries to integrate SDG WASH indicators into national monitoring systems. The JMP has developed training materials and has established a pool of international consultants to provide on-demand technical support and advice on WASH monitoring. *A key challenge for the next five years will be to help regional offices to respond to the growing number of country requests for technical and financial support on national monitoring of WASH in households, schools and health care facilities.*

**The JMP has developed a standard module for water quality testing in household surveys.** The JMP supported the UNICEF Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) programme to develop a new module for water quality testing. In 2020, the JMP published a thematic report documenting the lessons learned from over 30 household surveys including MICS, DHS, LSMS and other national surveys. The JMP has also contracted an independent laboratory to assess the performance of water quality materials used in these surveys, along with other commercially available portable testing kits. *A key challenge for the next five years will be to support the continued scale up of water quality testing in different types of surveys and to support the ongoing development of rapid low-cost tests.*

**The JMP has piloted new methods and tools for monitoring safe management of on-site sanitation (SMOSS).** The global baseline report for households showed that while many countries had data on treatment of wastewater from sewers, very few had data on treatment and disposal of excreta from septic tanks and pit latrines. To address this gap the JMP has supported the development and piloting of methods and tools for national monitoring of SMOSS in Bangladesh, Ecuador, Indonesia, Kenya, Serbia and Zambia. *A key challenge for the next five years will be to synthesize lessons from ongoing pilots and to produce consolidated technical guidance on national monitoring of SMOSS.*

**The JMP has developed a new website with interactive tools for data visualization.** In 2017, the JMP launched a new website to support global monitoring of WASH during the SDG period. The site includes interactive tools enabling users to explore the JMP databases and to create, download and share charts and data tables. The JMP has commissioned research to seek feedback from users and develop recommendations for future improvements. *A key challenge for the next five years will be to continue to improve the JMP website based on user feedback and to develop new functionalities to optimize access to JMP databases.*

**The JMP has consolidated its position as the trusted custodian of global data on WASH.** The JMP has well established mechanisms for compiling nationally available data and consulting with national authorities on estimates. WHO and UNICEF, through the JMP, serve as custodian agencies responsible for providing the UN Statistical Division with official estimates for SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2. The JMP actively supports the UN Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 (IMI-SDG 6) and works closely with agencies responsible for monitoring targets under other goals, including SDG 1.4 on universal access to basic services, SDG 4a on WASH in schools, and SDG 6.3 on wastewater treatment. *A key challenge for the next five years will be to maintain the reputation as a trusted custodian of WASH data and to strengthen collaboration with agencies responsible for monitoring targets under other goals.*

**The JMP national, regional and global estimates of progress on WASH are used extensively to inform decision making by government, donor and civil society organisations.** JMP estimates are used in the UN Secretary General's SDG Progress Reports and have been widely cited in international meetings. They are used in a wide range of global databases, including the World Development Indicators and the SDG 6 data portal. The JMP routinely provides data and analysis to international organisations to inform strategies and resource allocation and regularly contributes to academic studies. *A key challenge for the next five years will be to develop new ways of visualizing and communicating data, to improve the accessibility of datasets and to provide guidance and tools to support further analysis of JMP data.*

## **Pillars of the JMP 5 Year Strategy 2021-2025**

The JMP 5 Year Strategy 2021-2025 seeks to consolidate the achievements of the past five years and to address the key challenges identified for the second five years of the SDG period, including continued innovations in measurement, maximizing uptake and use of existing data, expanding technical support, and building new data partnerships.

### **1. Normative role: to develop new indicators, methods and standards for enhanced national and global monitoring of WASH**

(Rationale) The JMP has been instrumental in establishing global benchmarks for monitoring national, regional and global progress on WASH. The improved/unimproved facility type classification and JMP service ladders are widely used to assess inequalities in WASH services. The JMP has established core questions and indicators for monitoring WASH in households, schools and health care facilities which have been widely disseminated. The JMP has also supported recent innovations in monitoring menstrual health, water quality and safe management of on-site sanitation. There is broad consensus that the JMP should continue to support the development of new indicators and methods to fill data gaps and address emerging issues.

(Major outputs) A key challenge for the next five years will be to consolidate existing guidance and to support the progressive harmonisation of approaches to monitoring and reporting of SDG indicators for WASH in households, schools and health care facilities. This will include periodically updating guidance based on feedback from users and lessons learned from national data collection. New indicators and methods will also need to be developed and tested to address specific knowledge gaps and emerging issues and challenges. Work initiated in 2019 on monitoring of safely managed on-site sanitation (SMOSS) will be further developed and refined. The JMP will need to balance ongoing efforts to strengthen existing monitoring systems with demands to develop new indicators and to progressively incorporate new types of data, including big data.

(Key outcomes) The long-term measure of success will be the progressive harmonisation and standardization of indicator definitions used to monitor accessibility, availability and quality of WASH services and the development of new indicators and methods which response to emerging challenges.

### **2. Global data custodian: to maintain the global databases, produce reliable estimates of status, trends and inequalities, and to visualize and share data in accessible formats**

(Rationale) The JMP has consolidated its position as global custodian of WASH data and has well established mechanisms for compiling data and consulting with national authorities. The JMP has documented the methods used to produce national, regional and global estimates for households, schools and health care facilities. The JMP publishes regular progress updates which have been widely used for official SDG reporting and to inform decision making by WASH sector stakeholders. The JMP has also established a website with interactive tools enabling users to explore the global databases. The JMP estimates are widely used and there is a growing demand to develop new types of data visualization, to make datasets available in more accessible formats and to provide tools to support further analysis of JMP data.

(Major outputs) A major challenge over the next five years will be to maintain and expand existing databases and to package the data in appropriate formats for different users. This will require continued systematic compilation of the national datasets and regular country consultations. The inequalities database will be expanded to include a larger number of disaggregates. The structure of country files and the methods used to produce national, regional and global estimates will also be periodically refined. The website will be upgraded in response to user feedback and datasets will be made available in a wider range of formats to support further analysis. The challenge for the JMP will be to continue to expand the global databases to address data gaps and to include additional disaggregations while maintaining the quality and reliability of estimates.

(Outcomes) Long term measures of success will include an expanded global database and updated methods, enabling the integration of new data sources and the production of robust estimates of status and trends for existing and new indicators. JMP estimates will be disseminate in a range of formats accessible to different users.

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

(Rationale) Custodian agencies are expected to develop standards, provide technical guidance and contribute to statistical capacity building. The JMP works closely with WHO and UNICEF regional and country offices to support national authorities to strengthen national monitoring of SDG WASH indicators. The JMP has developed a package of training materials and established a pool of international consultants to provide technical support. Five years into the SDG period there is growing demand for technical support to strengthen national monitoring of WASH in households, schools and health care facilities.

(Major outputs) Over the next five years the JMP will need to continue to collaborate with WHO and UNICEF's regional and country offices to support national authorities to strengthen monitoring of SDG targets related to WASH. This will include consolidation and translation of existing guidance and training materials and development of new guidance to address emerging issues. The JMP will continue to provide direct support to 10-20 countries per year and to support regional offices to deliver virtual and in-person regional trainings. The JMP will also continue to deliver global webinars and trainings in collaboration with Sanitation and Water for All partners, UN Water and custodian agencies responsible for monitoring other SDG targets. A key challenge will be to continue to provide high quality technical support while increasing the total number of countries supported each year.

(Outcomes) Long term measures of success will include increased awareness of JMP indicators and methods and increased capacity to collect, analyse and report on SDG WASH indicators. National authorities will be satisfied with the technical support provided via regional and country offices and country engagement will be coordinated with partners and with custodian agencies responsible for monitoring other SDG targets.

#### **4. Integrated monitoring: to build new partnerships to integrate new sources of data and to promote analysis of interlinkages between WASH and related SDG targets**

(Rationale) The 2030 Agenda emphasises the need to address linkages between social, economic and environmental aspects of development. JMP data are used in a growing number of global databases and the JMP has contributed WASH data and analysis to global reports on poverty, nutrition, health, education, gender, cities and climate change. The JMP has also worked closely with UN agencies responsible for monitoring other targets under SDG 6. There is growing demand for integrated analysis of interlinkages between WASH and related SDG targets. There is also growing interest in the potential of new types of data to complement official data sources.

(Major outputs) Over the next five years the JMP will aim to maintain its reputation as a trusted custodian of official WASH data while exploring the potential of new data sources and supporting integrated analysis of WASH and other SDG targets. This will include consolidation of existing data partnerships with academics and other UN agencies and the development of new partnerships to support the integration of new types of data, including geospatial data and big data. The JMP will continue to collaborate with UN Water partners on integrated analysis of SDG 6 targets and will continue to contribute WASH data and analysis for global reports on other SDG targets.

(Outcomes) Long term measures of success will include JMP contributing towards integrated analysis of the interlinkages between WASH and other SDG targets at national, regional and global levels. JMP analysis will also progressively include new types of data, including geospatial data and big data, to complement official data sources.

#### **JMP Governance**

The JMP is managed jointly by WHO and UNICEF as equal partners. The organisations are jointly responsible for delivering the 2021-2025 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 equally according to the agreed annual work plan and budget. While the JMP receives a small amount of 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.

The JMP coordinates with agencies responsible for monitoring other SDG6 targets under the UN Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG6 (IMI-SDG6) which has established its own Steering Committee and Strategic Advisory Group.

<b>JMP Vision</b>	progressive realization of universal access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and the reduction of inequalities in service levels by 2030		
<b>JMP Mission</b>	to produce reliable estimates of national, regional and global progress on WASH to inform decision making by government, donor and civil society organisations		
<b>Aim</b>	<b>Output</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Assumptions and Risks</b>
<b>1. Normative role:</b> to develop indicators and methods for enhanced monitoring of WASH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. JMP recommended core questions and indicators for monitoring domestic and institutional WASH through household surveys, censuses and administrative systems</li> <li>b. JMP approach to monitoring new indicators documented in methodological notes and thematic reports</li> <li>c. New indicators and data collection methods tested and validated to address specific knowledge gaps</li> <li>d. New approaches to WASH monitoring which minimise the burden of data collection evaluated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Progressive harmonisation and standardisation of indicator definitions used to monitor WASH in household surveys, censuses and administrative systems.</li> <li>b. Increased uptake of JMP recommended indicators in relevant national data collection mechanisms.</li> <li>c. Improved understanding of the utility and cost effectiveness of different approaches and tools for WASH monitoring at different levels</li> </ul>	Assume that countries accept the responsibility of monitoring the globally proposed indicators, especially safely managed drinking water and sanitation services, and expanding monitoring to institutional settings.

<p><b>2. Global Data Custodian:</b> to maintain global databases and produce reliable estimates of status and trends, including progress towards SDG targets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. JMP databases expanded to include new indicators and data sources</li> <li>b. JMP estimation methods for basic and safely managed services and WASH in institutions finalized and implemented</li> <li>c. JMP progress updates including SDG global indicators published every two years.</li> <li>d. JMP thematic reports with in-depth analysis of specific issues of interest</li> <li>e. Enhanced online platform and offline data products with expanded data analysis and visualisation capabilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Latest available national data compiled for analysis by JMP and others</li> <li>b. Baseline estimates and trends for basic and safely managed drinking water and sanitation services</li> <li>c. Baseline estimates and trends for WASH in Schools and Health Care Facilities</li> <li>d. JMP estimates used for official global reporting of progress on SDG indicators for WASH</li> <li>e. WASH sector stakeholders better able to access and use JMP data</li> </ul>	<p>Assume that different aspects of safely managed services can be integrated in a satisfactory way.</p> <p>Assume that sufficient data are available to generate estimates for a large number of countries and regions.</p> <p>Risk that countries are unable to provide data on key aspects of safely managed services in the short term.</p>
<p><b>3. Country engagement:</b> to provide guidance and tools to support countries to collect, analyse and report progress on WASH</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Regional and country offices supported to hold workshops on SDG monitoring and collection of existing data</li> <li>b. Expanded set of guidelines and tools to support data collection and analysis developed</li> <li>c. Regional and country level engagements coordinated with other sector monitoring initiatives including IMI6, GLAAS and SWA</li> <li>d. Systems and procedures for country consultation on JMP estimates strengthened</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Increased awareness of JMP standard indicators and estimation methods</li> <li>b. Increased capacity for monitoring safely managed services at the country and regional level.</li> <li>c. Improved coordination of regional and country level engagement with other sector monitoring initiatives</li> <li>d. JMP systems and procedures satisfy IAEG-SDG requirements for data exchange and country consultation</li> </ul>	<p>Risk that countries do not agree with indicators, or with proposed monitoring methodologies.</p> <p>Risk that other sector monitoring initiatives unwilling to coordinate</p> <p>Risk that national statistical systems do not follow agreed protocols for data sharing</p>

<p><b>4. Integrated monitoring:</b> to collaborate on analysis of interlinkages between WASH and related SDG targets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. JMP estimates supplied to UNSD for inclusion in SDG global database</li> <li>b. Periodic analysis of linkages between progress on WASH and other water and sanitation indicators in collaboration with IMI6, GLAAS and SWA</li> <li>c. Inputs to global thematic reports on water, sanitation and hygiene</li> <li>d. Inputs to global thematic reports on poverty, education, health, nutrition, gender equality and sustainable cities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. JMP estimates and analysis featured in annual SDG progress reports</li> <li>b. JMP data and analysis featured in UN Water synthesis reports on water and sanitation</li> <li>c. JMP estimates and analysis inform decisions at SWA HLM</li> <li>d. JMP estimates and analysis featured in relevant global thematic reports</li> </ul>	<p>Risk that other global datasets are not compatible with JMP estimates in ways that would allow analysis of interlinkages with WASH indicators</p> <p>Risk that publication of estimates is delayed by approval processes at country or regional levels, or within the UN system</p>
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