

Terms of Reference:

Technical working group for the review of indicators for global monitoring of climate resilient WASH

Background

The increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events caused by climate change directly impacts the delivery of safe drinking-water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. For example: droughts reduce water availability, disrupting the functioning of all water-reliant WASH systems; rising sea levels and floods increase the risk of contamination from sanitation systems overflowing; and extreme heat events change water consumption patterns and the efficacy of treatment processes. All climate hazards affect the use of WASH services and often result in people using unsafe water sources, reverting to open defecation or being unable to maintain good hygiene practices, thus increasing the likelihood of WASH-related disease outbreaks.

However, climate resilience has not yet been fully and systematically considered in global WASH monitoring. As the threat of climate change to WASH service delivery will only grow, it is time to improve monitoring climate resilient WASH. To address this, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF are launching an initiative to progressively integrate information on climate resilience into national and global frameworks for monitoring WASH. The results of this initiative will inform global monitoring through the 2030 Agenda and beyond.

The main goal of this work is to identify global indicators for climate resilient WASH to be monitored by the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) and the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS).

About the process

Roles and responsibilities:

Identifying indicators to monitor climate resilient WASH will involve inputs from the following principal groups: 1) a secretariat led by WHO and UNICEF; 2) a consortium of research partners (from Leeds University, University of Technology Sydney, Bristol University, and Oxford University) to provide technical support for the process; 3) a technical working group to provide technical feedback on key findings from each stage of the review; and 4) a broad set of stakeholders who will be engaged through consultations to solicit inputs to the review and provide feedback on the findings and recommendations.

Role of the technical working group:

Over the course of the work, the technical working group is expected to:

- Actively participate in a series of virtual and in person working group meetings between July 2024 and May 2026
- Provide technical advice to the secretariat and research partners regarding tools, frameworks and indicators for monitoring resilience in WASH or related fields, including sharing resources
- Provide technical feedback on materials prepared by the research partners including a working framework for monitoring climate resilient WASH, evidence reviews, the long list of indicators, the short list of indicators and results from the pilots
- Contribute to wider stakeholder consultations as needed

Timeline:

Over the course of two years, the working group will engage periodically in online and email consultations, and will be expected to participate in five meetings:

1. Kick-off meeting with working group members, the GLAAS/JMP secretariat and research partners (July 2024)
2. 1st working group meeting on the scope, evidence review and discussion paper prepared by the research partners (October 2024)
3. 2nd working group meeting to discuss the long list of indicators prepared by the research partners (January 2025)
4. 3rd working group meeting to finalize the short list of proposed indicators (July 2025)
5. 4th working group meeting to review the indicator pilots (May 2026)

Note that timings of the meetings could change. It is anticipated that most of these meetings will be held virtually (most likely for 2-3 hours each), but at least one is proposed to be held in person (tentatively, 1-2 days). WHO/UNICEF will cover the travel costs (Economy class by the most direct route) and living expenses (standard UN per diem) to attend any meetings in person.

Deliverables:

- Active participation in working group meetings and consultations
- Written comments/feedback on reviewed materials

Expected time commitment:

Working group meetings will range from 2-3 hours (virtual) to 1-2 days (in person), and working group members are expected to spend up to 8 hours per meeting on preparations/follow up.

Meeting	Length of meeting	Expected time for preparations/follow up
Kick-off meeting (virtual)	1-2 hours	N/A
1 st working group meeting (virtual)	2-3 hours	8 hours
2 nd working group meeting (in person)	1-2 days (16 hours)	8 hours
3 rd working group meeting (virtual)	2-3 hours	8 hours
4 th working group meeting (in person)	1-2 days (16 hours)	8 hours
Total expected time commitment	40 hours	32 hours
Maximum expected time commitment		72 hours (meeting times + preparatory/follow up work)