

INVESTING IN WATER AND SANITATION: INCREASING ACCESS, REDUCING INEQUALITIES

GLAAS 2014 findings — Special report for Africa



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Foreword

The African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) welcomes this edition of the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) Special Report for Africa. The Special Report presents the main findings from data collected from 39 African countries and 23 external support agencies (ESAs).

The timing of the report is particularly relevant given that we are at the cross over period between the target date for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the setting of the post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on long term global objectives for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). The report highlights the substantial gains that have been made with African countries, and the external support agencies (ESAs) that support them, in increasing of investments in WASH, and the growing recognition by most African countries of the right to access drinking-water and improved sanitation.

However, significant challenges still remain if the region is to reach the ultimate goal of universal access to WASH with all the enormous health and development benefits that this will bring. Better targeting of WASH finance to areas where needs are greatest is required if inequalities of access are to be reduced, as is stronger monitoring of access to WASH by vulnerable groups, such as populations living in remote rural areas and urban slums. These issues affecting WASH will continue to be discussed within the context of the challenges faced by many other regions of a world with rising populations and changes to the climate. Disease outbreaks, such as the Ebola crisis in West Africa in 2014, remind us all of the importance of investing in adequate sanitation and drinking-water services.

This Special Report complements the AMCOW's 2014 Africa Water and Sanitation Sector Report submitted to Heads of State and Governments and will be the subject of discussion at the AfricaSan 4 Conference and in subsequent meetings at various levels. AMCOW recognizes that achievement of countries' aspirations for WASH will only happen through strong and consistent partnerships, including those with international organizations, donor countries and other partners, and so welcomes this initiative by UN-Water and WHO focusing on WASH in the Africa Region.

Looking into the post-2015 period and beyond, AMCOW is looking forward to greater linkages and alignment between the Pan Africa Monitoring and Reporting System and GLAAS as well as other global monitoring processes. This will help in avoiding duplication of efforts, address challenges relating to capacity, reduce unnecessary monitoring demands at member states level and achieve greater harmonisation and standardisation at various levels – especially at country and regional levels – in order to meet different needs.



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UN-Water and WHO would like to extend their gratitude to all those individuals and organizations that contributed to the development of the GLAAS 2014 results and report – especially those individuals who coordinated efforts and submitted information from 94 countries and 23 external support and partner agencies, acknowledged in Annex F of the GLAAS 2014 report (http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/glaas/2014/en/). The preparation of this special report for the African Region involved contributions from the GLAAS team at WHO Headquarters: Tara Neville, Mark Hoeke, Peregrine Swann, Nathalie André, Cathy Jung, Bruce Gordon, Maria Neira and Fiona Gore; WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean: Hamed Bakir, Tamara Rabadi and Rola Aleman; WHO Regional Office for Africa: Magaran Bagayoko; The African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW): Bai-Mass Taal, Nelson Gomonda, Kitchinme Bawa, Salisu Abdulmumin, Oseloka Zikora and the African Development Bank: Mohamed El Azizi, Fabio Losa, Hikaru Shoji and Jochen Rudolph.

In this regional analysis, GLAAS 2013/2014 country survey data from 39 African countries¹ are presented along with information provided by 23 external support agencies (ESAs)². The full UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) 2014 Report, Investing in Water and Sanitation: Increasing Access, Reducing Inequalities was released on November 19th, 2014. The report presents data from 94 countries, covering all MDG regions. It also includes data from 23 ESAs, representing over 90% of official development assistance (ODA) for sanitation and drinking-water. More detailed information about the GLAAS survey and methodology can be found in Annex A of the full report³.

PURPOSE OF GLAAS

The objective of the GLAAS initiative, which is implemented by WHO, is to monitor the inputs (human resources and finance) and the enabling environment (laws, plans and policies, institutional arrangements, monitoring) required to extend and sustain water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) systems and services to all, and especially to the most disadvantaged population groups. GLAAS also 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 facilitates the creation and strengthening of government-led platforms that bring together the many institutions and actors influencing WASH service delivery. In addition, the GLAAS findings are being used to:

- Promote country and ESA mutual accountability.
- Improve country planning and monitoring processes and support decision-makers to target efforts and resources for more equitable WASH outcomes.
- 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.
- Review and inform the formulation of commitments that feed into the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) processes.

This report presents charts and descriptive tabular summaries for numerous drinking-water and sanitation indicators and benchmarks reported by surveyed countries. Financial data presented in the tables or charts are, in majority of cases, for 2012. For some key indicators, a dashboard of maps and figures is provided to present a geographical summary and global summary statistics. Charts and tabular summaries also generally indicate the number of responses that were considered in the analysis or particular question. This number does not necessarily equal the total number of respondents to the survey, as not every country or ESA answered all parts of the survey, and in many cases the data were collected from an already existing source (e.g. OECD-CRS).

¹ A complete list of the 39 African countries included in this regional analysis can be found in the Contribution section of this report, p. 24. Subregional analysis, when provided, has been based on the following subregions: Central Africa (6), Eastern Africa (9), North Africa (3), Southern Africa (7), West Africa (14). For the purpose of analysis, South Sudan, has been considered part of the Eastern Africa Subregion.

² External Support Agencies (ESAs) comprise donors (governments) and other sources of funding/support (e.g. Nongovernmental organisations and foundations) that provide Official Development Assistance (ODA). A complete list of ESAs included in this analysis can be found in the Contribution section of this report, p. 24.

³ Investing in Water and Sanitation: Increasing Access, Reducing Inequalities. UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water, GLAAS 2014 Report. See http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/glaas/en/

Measures to address inequalities in WASH

In many countries in Africa, policies, plans and strategies are in place to reach vulnerable groups such as those living in poverty. However, monitoring progress in access and service provision for the poor is carried out in less than 40% of countries for sanitation and drinking-water. Targeting of finance and measures to reduce disparities between the rich and the poor are not being consistently applied. Less than 15% of African countries have established and apply finance measures that are targeted towards reducing inequalities in access to sanitation for the poor and below one third for drinking-water (Table 1).

Table 1

Measures of inequality for those living in poverty

			GOVERNANCE	MONITORING	FINANCE	PERCENTAGE OF COUNTRIES
			Universal access policy specifically includes measures for the poor ^b	Monitoring system tracks progress in extending services for the poor ^b	Finance measures to reduce disparity between the rich and the poor are consistently applied ^b	
SANITATION	Subregions ^a	Number of countries				
	West Africa	14	71%	29%	7%	
	Eastern Africa	9	89%	33%	11%	
	Southern Africa	7	100%	43%	14%	
	Central Africa	6	83%	0%	0%	
	Total^c	39	85%	31%	13%	
WATER	West Africa	14	71%	43%	29%	
	Eastern Africa	9	89%	44%	22%	
	Southern Africa	7	100%	57%	29%	
	Central Africa	6	83%	0%	17%	
	Total^c	39	85%	38%	26%	

^a Due to the small sample size, the data from the North Africa subregion, (Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia) is included in the total but not as a subregion.

^b This percentage reflects the number of countries in the subregion for which a positive response was reported compared to all countries in the subregion.

^c The total includes all 5 subregions; West, Eastern, Southern, Central and North Africa subregions.

Source: GLAAS 2013/2014 country survey.

Country commitments to eliminate inequalities in WASH

The third Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) High Level Meeting (HLM) took place on 11 April 2014. This meeting provided an opportunity for countries to table commitments to strengthen accountability in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector. A focus on eliminating inequalities and improving sustainability was evident in the commitments made by African nations. Some examples of country commitments for Sub Saharan Africa include¹:

- Mozambique committing to allocate at least 40% of WASH sector funds to district and municipal governments for sanitation and rural water supply.
- Senegal committing to positioning WASH as a human right.
- Côte d'Ivoire committing to include the elimination of open defecation in the 2014–2016 Poverty Reduction Strategy and in the National Health and Nutrition Plan by 2015.
- Benin, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia committing to carry out studies in peri-urban areas to understand sanitation approaches that are most effective for the urban poor.
- Ghana and Sudan making commitments to monitor inequalities.

¹ 2014 SWA High Level Dialogue Summaries: Overview of the 2014 HLM Commitments.

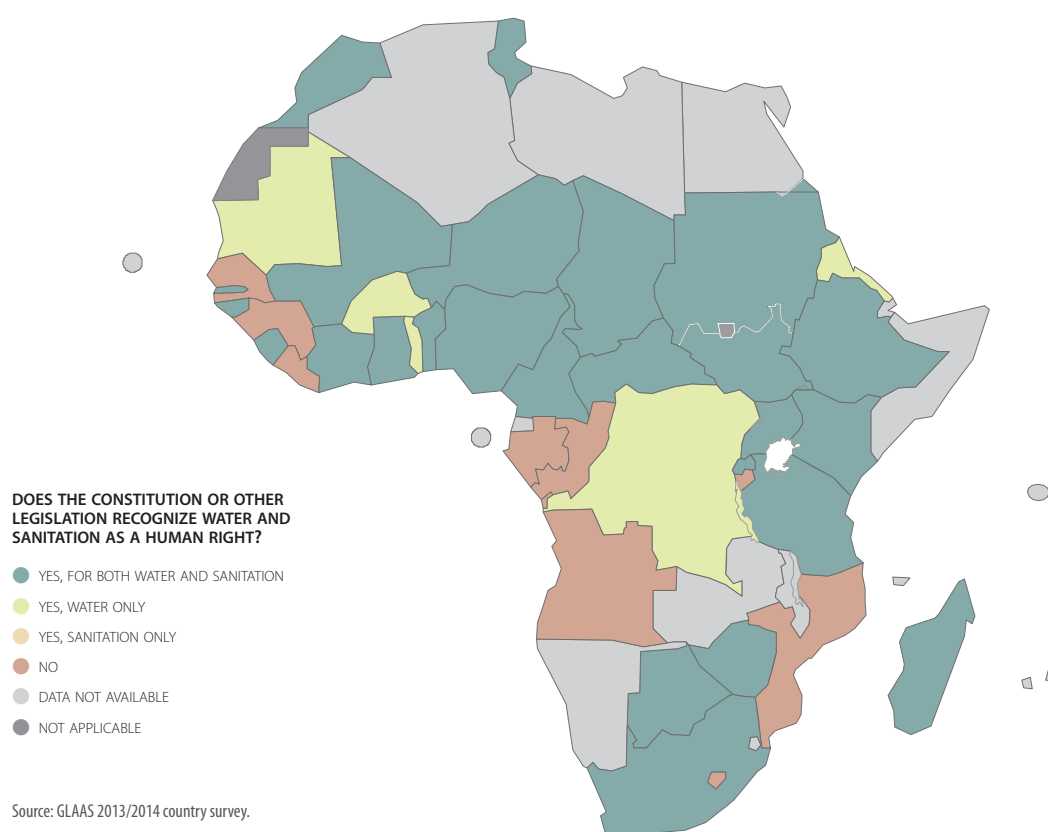


Human right to water and sanitation

There is some considerable progress on the recognition of the right to water and sanitation in line with the 2010 UN Resolution on the Right to Water and Sanitation. Twenty-nine of the 39 African countries surveyed (almost 75%) have recognized the human right to water in their constitutions or legislations and 25 out of 39 (nearly two thirds) have recognized the right to sanitation (Figure 1).

Figure
1

Countries recognizing human right to water and sanitation in constitution or law (n=39)



UGANDA

Implementing the human right to water

The Constitution of Uganda, 1995, states that 'The State shall endeavour to fulfill the fundamental rights of all Ugandans to social justice and economic development and shall, in particular, ensure that all Ugandans – enjoy rights and opportunities and access to education, health services, clean and safe water, work, decent shelter, adequate clothing, food security and pension and retirement benefits'¹. An example of legislation in action which can increase equity in access to drinking-water includes Uganda's efforts to improve the functionality of water sources by:

1. Monitoring the status of water sources and reporting in real time using mobile phones to reduce response time in cases of breakdown;
2. Establishing a working group to coordinate and harmonize performance information from various WASH stakeholders;
3. Using appropriate technologies to address disparities in certain geographical locations and improve equity e.g. solar-powered water supplies and water harvesting;
4. Actively involving users in project planning, implementation and maintenance through water user committees/water boards, also taking gender into account, and decentralization of some functions of the ministry of water and environment to the regions.

Source: GLAAS 2013/2014 country survey.

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