







Regional Meeting Report

on Mobilizing Political Will and Mutual Accountability for Sanitation and Water for All

1. PREFACE

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development offers a historic opportunity to set a new course for the next era of global human development. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services are at the core of Goal Area 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A safe and clean environment means that water services must be contamination-free, sustainable and affordable; that sanitation services be equitable, and that open defecation be eliminated; and that families adopt safe hygiene practices.

Guided by its 2016 – 2030 Strategy for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, UNICEF has committed to a set of focus areas that contribute to the attainment of SDG 6 which aims to "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all". Ensuring universal access to safely managed water and sanitation services for all is a necessary condition for the realization of the rights to water and sanitation for all children as well as to achieve many other SDGs.

UNICEF EAPRO is very proud to acknowledge that great strides have been made in the East Asia and Pacific (EAP) region towards the goal of providing universal access to water and sanitation and leaving no one behind. If we continue with the same pace and keep progressing, EAP region would be on track to eliminate open defecation and become the first Open Defecation Free region in the world. However, achieving universal safely managed sanitation, hygiene and water for all will require complementary and joint efforts from all concerned stakeholders.

UNICEF as the convener of global partnership on Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) aims to provide a global platform for multi-stakeholder intergovernmental dialogue and engagement by a large number of stakeholders, allowing the partnership to achieve outcomes that individual partners could not realize alone. It is very important that this partnership is also rooted at the regional and national levels to foster greater collaboration for accelerating WASH results, particularly for children and the marginalized.

We would like to congratulate everyone involved in this first regional meeting of the SWA partnership as a milestone event in shaping the future agenda for ensuring a clean and safe environment for every child to live and thrive. This report reflects on how High-level political engagement is central to SWA's mandate and contributes to SDG's targets and reinforce mutual accountability in the sector for sustainable and equitable WASH services.

Furthermore, it also provides an analysis of SWA principles, Building Blocks and Collaborative behaviors that are an imperative to strengthening country processes, relying on evidence, and using advocacy to increase political will.

We hope that the readers will find this to be a useful resource in their efforts to enhance quality and sustainability of safe drinking water and sanitation in EAPR, in particular children and women.

2. ACRONYM

ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations

BAT Bottleneck Analysis Tool

BB Building Blocks

CATS Community Approaches to Total Sanitation

CB Collaborative Behaviors

CLTS Community Led Total Sanitation
C4D Communication for Development
CPD Country Programme Document
DHS Demographic Health Survey

DFAT Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade EAPRO East Asia and Pacific Regional Office

EAP East Asia and Pacific

EAPR East Asia and Pacific Region

GLASS Global Assessment of Drinking Water and Sanitation

JMP Joint Monitoring Programme

MAM Mutual Accountability Mechanism

M&E Monitoring and Evaluation

MHM Menstrual Hygiene Management MICS Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey

OD Open Defecation
ODF Open Defecation Free

SWA Sanitation and Water for All

ToC Theory of Change

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund WASH Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

WiE WASH in Emergency

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4. SUMMARY

The first East Asia Pacific regional meeting of Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) global partnership was held from 18-19 March 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting, titled Mobilizing political will to create an enabling environment and ensuring mutual accountability for Sanitation and Water for All, was hosted by UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO) in collaboration with the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) Global Partnership and the Department of Foreign Affairs Trade (DFAT), Australian Government and included participants from over 15 countries across East Asia and the Pacific region. Senior government representatives and colleagues from the participating countries attended, together with representatives from DFAT, UNICEF, WHO, SWA Secretariat, Water for Women, WaterAid and the CLTS Foundation.

The meeting was convened in line with the SWA Steering Committee decisions made during its meeting in December, 2017 in Maputo which underscored the need for stronger engagement and collaborative action at country and regional levels towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs) Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) targets as well as a follow up to ASEAN – UNICEF symposium on Leaving No One Behind commemorating 50th Anniversary of ASEAN in Bangkok during 28 – 29 September 2017.

The overall aim of the meeting was to galvanize country's interest in the SWA partnership and to increase engagement of new countries in the East Asia and Pacific Region in the global partnership for accelerating progress in the region.

The meeting also casted a spotlight on the SWA Mutual Accountability Mechanism designed to provide an opportunity for all SWA partners to share their priorities, showcase key commitments, and strategies to realize the SDGs at the regional level at a multi-stakeholder forum. The meeting also set the foundation for subsequent Sector Ministers Meeting as well as the Finance Ministers meetings by providing a platform for all SWA partners to consider milestones against which they can report in future.

Participants were engaged actively in vibrant discussions and group work to identify the priority actions at country and regional levels in support of SWA's vision of Sanitation, Hygiene and Water for All always and everywhere. The key proceedings of the event covered topics of common interest including an overview of SWA, its conception, development, rationale and benefits of membership, SWA Mutual Accountability Framework, SWA Building Blocks and the Collaborative Behaviors as common principles of collaboration and engagement for achieving the global vision of ensuring sanitation and water for all.

Discussion focused on the benefits of SWA membership for countries and how to mobilize interest at ministerial level within countries as well as opportunities for South to South learning as more Middle-Income Countries (MICs) become engaged in the political dialogue and discussions. Countries presented country updates on the SWA BBs, CBs and Guiding Principles highlighting areas of strengths and areas for improvement which served as a snapshot of current progress

and critical gaps in the sector requiring coordinated efforts. There was a discussion around the validity of SWA Theory of Change (ToC) and it was determined that the ToC had triggered many positive results with the focus on collective efforts for political and institutional change in many countries. Following country presentations, participants from different countries were divided into groups to map country processes used for country discussions on the Mutual Accountability Mechanism (MAM).

Countries were guided to focus on building sustainable commitments and mobilizing effective political support instead of rushing to meet the Costa Rica Sector Ministerial Meeting (SMM) deadline. Key Tools and Resources for Implementing the SWA Framework were presented with a particular focus on WASH Bottleneck Analysis Tool (WASHBAT) and the financing tool (Fintrack). A suggestion was tabled to consider changing the format of the Ministerial Dialogue at the SMM to ensure that real commitment to action would be an outcome rather than simply a series of country presentations by Ministers. Countries worked in groups to address the following questions:

1) What country specific processes are existing for multi-stakeholder involvement? 2) Who is involved in the processes? and 3) Who is taking the lead in the process? At the end, countries worked in groups on Country Action Plans to agree country specific next steps.

The opening ceremony was jointly organized by UNICEF and DFAT bringing together around 100 participants covering Water for Women Grant partners and UNICEF partners from around 20 countries. Catarina de Albuquerque, the Chief Executive Officer of SWA Partnership provided her video remarks highlighting the importance of multi-stakeholder platform for collaborative efforts and results. H.E. Allan McKinnon, Australian Ambassador to Thailand delivered his opening speech and said the Government of Australia truly value their partnerships with SWA and UNICEF that are helping to build political capital in the region to move forward on safe water and sanitation for all. He also stressed that women and girls spend 200 million hours each and every day to collect water, the precious time that could be spent at work, study, rest or play and we can change this, and we must change this.

The concluding remarks were delivered by Peter O'Connor, Director of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Section of DFAT, who acknowledged the value of SWA in providing a global political platform through the SMM and Finance Ministers meeting. He also recognized that WASH as a cross-sectoral policy issue was gaining momentum and that the Australian government views water as a matter of their foreign policy and security issue and encourages the collaboration of WASH and water resource management teams within all countries.

Key Conclusions

It was acknowledged that the region has made great progress during the MDG period, however country contexts are varied, and some common challenges and gaps were evident. The importance of SWA partnership was appreciated as a global platform providing a solid framework for all countries working on WASH to harness their collective power to reinforce, strengthen and work effectively to implement innovative responses to address remaining challenges. Though EAP region has a good representation in the SWA platform, many are yet to obtain their membership and

explore how engagement in SWA processes adds value to the existing country processes and acceleration of progress. Some of the key concluding discussions and recommendations are as follows:

- **a. Mobilizing political will and commitment is critical** to commit the financial resources necessary to change the lives of underserved and is the most pressing issue for all countries in the region.
- **b.** Support for improved capacity development at national and subnational levels to collect quality data for a strong evidence base is the dire need as well as a major challenge for all countries.
- c. Monitoring of WASH interventions and strengthening of WASH M&E system is very essential and requires additional financial and technical support, which is lacking in many countries.
- **d. Building on the existing coordination mechanism** of WASH stakeholders is necessary for scaling up a more integrated approach of WASH that will rapidly improve and fast-track the universal goal of leaving no one behind.
- **e.** Wider discussion around broadening sectoral engagement across all WASH stakeholders and targeting the most effective use of evidence is a critical component for convincing decision makers that water and sanitation are global priorities not just from human rights perspective but also from –increasingly global security perspective.

5. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services are at the core of Goal Area 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A safe and clean environment means that water services must be contamination-free, sustainable and affordable; that sanitation services be equitable, and that open defecation be eliminated; and that families adopt safe hygiene practices.

While huge strides have been made in recent years in the region in achieving sanitation, hygiene and water for all, over 500 million people still do not have access to proper sanitation facilities. Around 130 million are unable to access safe water. Pneumonia and diarrhea remain the biggest killers of children under five-years-old in this region. Working in collaboration with UNICEF EAPRO, the proposed meeting placed more focus on mobilizing political will and commitment and creating an enabling environment in the region for equitable and sustainable WASH services.

Since its inception in 2009, SWA has focused on building effective partnerships across a range of sectors including Developing countries, Donors, Multilaterals, Civil Society, Development Banks, Research and learning organizations and Sector Partners. SWA's activities and initiatives are all underpinned by seven guiding principles of:

SWA Guiding Principles

- 1) Multi stakeholder efforts;
- 2) Sustainability of services and actions;
- 3) Leaving no-one behind;
- 4) Transparency and Accountability;
- 5) Evidence-based decision making;
- 6) Human rights to water and sanitation for all; and
- 7) International collaboration and aid effectiveness.

With more than 200 members, the SWA continues to grow and now counts 62 governments amongst its members with many more likely to join with the inclusion of middle-income countries. In the Asia-Pacific, only 5 countries (Vietnam, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Mongolia and Timor Leste) have joined the SWA partnership and are actively working together to achieve SWAs goals.

Meeting Objectives:

The first regional meeting of SWA specifically aimed to:

- Bring new countries and stakeholders in the Region into the SWA global partnership;
- Raise awareness among senior officials in the Region about the SWA Sector Ministers Meeting to be held in April in Costa Rica and its objectives;
- Enable senior representatives of stakeholders to understand the SWA framework including the guiding principles, building blocks and collaborative behaviors which are critical for creating an enabling environment for the sanitation, hygiene and water sector at country level
- Raise awareness about the SWA's new Mutual Accountability Mechanism and increase alignment of existing national, regional and global processes in support of government-led national processes based on existing multi-stakeholder sector reviews.

6. DELIBERATIONS:

SWA History, Framework and Priority Areas:

What led to the formation of SWA?

Guy Hutton, Senior Adviser, WASH, UNICEF NYHQ highlighted how SWA emerged following the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness in 2005. In 2007 a donor report called **for Better WASH Sector Coordination** and the need for a **Global Action Plan based on "Five Ones":**

Five Ones

- 1. **One** annual global monitoring report;
- 2. **One** high level global Ministerial Meeting on water;
- 3. At country level, **One** national plan for water and sanitation;
- 4. **One** coordinating body; and
- 5. Activities of UN agencies in water and sanitation to be coordinated by **One** lead UN body under the UNDP country plan.

Guy shared details of the SWA vision emboldened by SDG 6 as Sanitation, hygiene and water for all, always and everywhere and to realize this vision, High-level political engagement is central to SWA's mandate. He outlined SWA's three priority areas as (1) political dialogue, of (2) developing a strong evidence base, and of (3) strengthening government-led national processes and explained that it is very important to intensifying advocacy and dialogue at global and regional levels towards the achievement of SGDs beside other priorities of operationalizing SWAs new governance structures, subcommittees and working groups. In addition, preparations for the SMM (to be held in April 2019 in Costa Rica), implementing the Building Blocks, Collective Behaviors and Mutual Accountability Mechanism are also key priorities for SWA. Country presentations highlighted current areas of successes and areas of focus in moving forward. Country ownership of processes was also highlighted as one of the key focuses and sharing of experiences was also recognized by participants as an important learning outcome of the meeting.

Mutual Accountability Mechanism (MAM)

The new SWA Mutual Accountability Mechanism (MAM) was presented as an important framework for holding SWA partners to account for achieving agreed goals and for tracking global sector progress. The mechanism also contributes to the follow-up and review process of the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) under Economic and Social Council. The MAM places considerable emphasis on alignment with government-led multi-stakeholder planning and review mechanism. Country commitments are a central feature of the SWA framework including national level planning and review cycles form the basis for these commitments. Guy Hutton presented the Online Commitments Template (Annex 3) and the process for review and reporting which has already been distributed to SWA country focal points.

Understanding SWA in EAPRO

In his opening remarks at the joint opening ceremony of DFAT's Water for Women Knowledge and Learning Conference and the Regional SWA meeting, Dr. Kamal Kar, said "Great strides have been taken in the Asia Pacific region towards the goal of providing universal access to water and sanitation and leaving no one behind. If we continue with the same pace and progress, EAPR would be on track to become the first ODF region in the world". He further mentioned that many countries in the region are making solid progress towards the achievement of the 2030 targets. The SWA platform provides the opportunity to accelerate this progress by encouraging deeper collaboration within and across countries at all levels from sub-national to national, regional and global. Mobilizing political will to leverage the financial resources is important to implement WASH initiatives and also requires a refocus on good governance, Dr Kamal Kar highlighted in his presentation at the meeting's joint opening ceremony, as a significant challenge for the region. It also requires political commitment to explore commercial and innovative approaches to finance. Focusing on the 3Ts of Tariffs, Taxes and Transfers is a good starting point for countries seeking to improve financing for water and sanitation. It was clearly highlighted that improving accountability and service provision will have a positive impact on the willingness of users to pay for services.

However, there are just a few countries from the region including Lao PDR, Indonesia, Mongolia, Viet Nam and Timor Leste who have secured their membership of the SWA partnership and are translating the SWA principles at the country level. While a number of countries are expressing interest to join SWA, they have not yet made the commitment to join. What became evident during the meeting was that without being convinced of very clear benefits of joining SWA, EAPR countries are unlikely to take the step forward to membership. It is clear that action points related to the previous SWA set up are no longer working and are not applicable for the countries in the region.

In the EAP region, countries face many common challenges. Water scarcity combined with population growth means that water is a security issue. As Asia's prosperity increases, the water scarcity issue is becoming more prominent, particularly as water quality decreases with water scarcity. In extreme cases, water scarcity also disrupts political stability. In addition to these macro level challenges, countries face decentralization (impacting decision making particularly in terms of resource allocation), competing priorities, suboptimal technical capacity at subnational level, geographic challenges, climate change, gender inequalities, rural-urban disparities, cultural constraints, lack of financial resources, lack of integrated strategies and coordination across relevant ministries and sectoral partners. In order for countries to join SWA they may also need to understand that there will be additional benefits such as support on an integrated approach to WASH by advocating for crossministerial dialogue across a range of ministries including but not limited to: water, health, education, public works (and /or infrastructure and construction) economic development, environment, finance, agriculture and rural development, and the bureaus of statistics.

Challenges for SWA Membership

SWA is built on three priority areas: 1) Political Dialogue; 2) Promote development of a strong evidence base; 3) Strengthening Government-led National Processes. High-level political engagement is a driving factor for success and greater the level of country engagement, greater will be the

contribution to and benefit for country, regional and global-level WASH objectives. With SWA member countries representing 12 of 26 Steering Committee (SC) members, the opportunity to promote country needs, to ensure accountability of SWA partners and to help shape the future direction of SWA is very much there. Countries wishing to be involved in the SWA SC need to have a thorough understanding of SWA's vision and objectives; in-depth knowledge of the WASH sector; experience in representation and networking with a wide range of stakeholders. Countries discussed the benefits and challenges of SWA membership and particularly opportunities for engaging in South to South support. For Middle Income Countries (MIC) with both recipient and donor roles, there is an opportunity to drive the conversation about what the framework means, the setting and what drives it forward.

Expected Role

- Consult with & give feedback to constituency
- Represent constituency & be recognized as a leader
- Make informed decisions to steer the partnership & oversee the Secretariat

Expected Efforts

- Read all documents
- Accept bi-lateral prep calls with EC
- Attend all meetings reach out effectively to the constituencies
- Report back on activities twice a year
- Support working groups
- Contribute to resource mobilization

Insights and recommendations from six country studies of SWA framework implementation were also presented. Examples of productive and less productive engagement with SWA are provided below.

Unproductive Engagement

Interaction with SWA limited to a few stakeholders

Engagement reactive to external SWA meetings

Development partners not modelling collaborative behaviours

SWA engagement and requests creating a parallel process & additional work

Productive Engagement

Tools & knowledge broadly shared & expanded; greater understanding of BBs Engagement complements a country-led process

CBs and BBs provide a structure for country planning approaches

SWA engagement serves as a catalyst for sector coordination and accountability

Understanding SWA Building Blocks and Collaborative Behaviors

The SWA Four Collaborative Behaviors

The SWA Collaborative behaviors not only urge governments to act, but also require the full and responsible participation of all stakeholders from civil society to service providers and the private sector" Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque, CEO, SWA said in her opening remarks.

SWA Collaborative Behaviors



During the course of the two-day meeting, participants benefited from a series of presentations on the SWA BBs and CBs which were further unpacked during the course of discussions and group work. The CBs serve as the basis for driving indicators for development. This process is enhanced by focusing on the core elements of each behavior, by pushing the WASH sector to attempt to measure aspects not previously measured, by leveraging existing monitoring initiatives and adapting the tools accordingly, and by ensuring the development of an indicator for governments and development partners against each behavior, and which draws on the success of the IHP and indicators. Participants took the opportunity to gain a better understanding of how the SWA BBs and CBs were applicable and could be helpful in country contexts. Then they were engaged in an energetic analysis of how the application of these tools at country level could serve to bolster current programming.

A quick analysis of the country assessment shows that while countries are progressing well with government leadership of the sector planning process, use of one information and mutual accountability

platform remains constrained with 9/12 countries reporting slow progress. Similarly, water and sanitation sector financing strategies are lacking in many countries in the region requiring serious attention if the SDGs are to be realized. The other area requiring increased attention is the use of national systems for sector planning, monitoring, financing and capacity building and not parallel systems by the donors and development partners for synergistic results. The details of country assessment on core indicators of Collaborative Behaviors are captured in the table in Annex 1.

Collaborative Behaviors (CB) & Country Assessments					
Indicators	Good Progress	Slow Progress	No Progress		
Enhance government leadership of sector planning processes					
Strengthen and use country systems					
Use one information and mutual accountability platform	•		•		
Build sustainable water and sanitation sector financing strategies			•		

Box 1: SWA Collaborative Behaviours

CB1: Enhance government leadership of sector planning processes Government leadership is essential for effective coordination of both domestic and external resources around nationally agreed sector priorities, strategies and plans. Sector development requires a government-led, multi- stakeholder cycle of planning, monitoring, and learning and if systems aren't meeting the need then partners should jointly support the efforts to build and strengthen them.

CB2: Strengthen and use country systems Core country systems are key to financing capital expenditure for water and sanitation services as well as for monitoring and regulating services. Government and partners should agree on a set of intermediate steps to progressively strengthen and use country systems to develop, monitor and regulate water and sanitation services

CB3: Use one information and mutual accountability platform built around a multi-stakeholder, government-led cycle of planning, monitoring and learning. Effective development cooperation requires appropriate, and inclusive processes that encourage all partners to demonstrate and demand mutual accountability for sector progress.

CB4: Build sustainable water and sanitation sector financing strategies which includes financial data on all 3Ts (taxes, tariffs and transfers), as well as estimates for non-tariff household expenditure and also provides realistic estimates for all costs categories (including costs for building new WASH infrastructure and costs for governance and sector capacity strengthening). These are the critical components of effective sector planning in the medium and longer term.

The SWA Building Blocks

The Building Blocks capture the key elements that the sector must have in place to be able to deliver sustainable WASH services and progressively eliminate inequalities in access and coverage with quality. At the SMM in March 2016, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, SWA partners recognized these five elements as the critical BBs of a well-functioning WASH sector. Participants' feedback on the utility of BBs was very positive. For some, the BBs provided insights on how to analyze coverage – for example, where there was slow progress yet high coverage, the BBs could be a useful lens for taking a more detailed look at the weak points in order to facilitate, sustain and improve basic access. For others, the BBs served as a useful guide to monitor progress and to inform policy development. Overall, the BBs enable countries to take corrective action, regularly review progress, agree upon intermediate steps to be taken by all actors and develop a common agenda/vision and to deepen sector analysis.

SWA Building Blocks





arrangements





review



Sector Financing

A quick analysis of the group work on SWA Building Blocks shows that while many countries are progressing well on sector policies and strategies, there is slow progress on sector financing strategies.

SWA Building Blocks	Country Progress on SWA BB			
SWA building blocks	Good Progress	Slow progress	No Progress	
Sector Policy/Strategy	10	2	0	
Institutional Arrangement	5	6	1	
Sector Financing	2	10	0	
Planning Monitoring & Review	3	6	3	
Capacity Development	5	6	1	

The countries also reported slow

progress on critical building blocks like having proper institutional arrangements, planning and capacity building. More specific insights from group work are included in the annexes table below.

Availability of Support Mechanisms for Country Processes:

How can the countries undertake country assessment?

National goals for the WASH sector increasingly focus on Universal Access influenced by the SGDs, specifically: at scale delivery and behavior change; reducing inequality and improving

Box 2: SWA Building Blocks

BB1: focuses on strategies for implementation, beside sector policy and strategies, also on agreements on implementation models / sustainable service delivery approaches at national and subnational levels.

BB2: focuses on identification and allocation of institutional roles and responsibilities, including decentralization commitments; country driven and inclusive coordination mechanisms; legal and regulatory frameworks to underpin the desired targets and reinforce roles and allocation of resources.

BB3: focuses on the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework which aligns with government priorities with available resources; and development of a realistic and transparent sector budget with identifiable funding streams. Availability and use of funding streams including the 3Ts is also a focus.

BB4: focus on the effective, inclusive and systematic planning, monitoring and evaluation of sector performance to ensure the most effective route to achieve goals.

BB5: focuses on the capacity of institutions to meet the needs of sector roles and responsibilities for sustainable service delivery at scale, including the availability of necessary structures, tools, training, and incentives and also the capacity of individuals and sector stakeholders.

sustainability. Strengthening the Enabling Environment and the leadership role of governments is critical to achieving universal access. It was briefed by Guy Hutton that there are many existing tools for conducting sector analysis including GLASS, CSO or SDA and the UNICEF EE Framework and WASH BAT. These tools are designed to help countries to undertake a thorough diagnostics of the sector barriers and support the achievement of their commitments. Countries can choose the most relevant tools for their context. The SWA Tools Portal is http://sanitationandwaterforall.org/tools-portal/ In addition, SWA partners may also upload their own tools for sharing.

WASH BAT

Aligning with the SWA Framework, UNICEF-developed WASH Bottleneck Analysis Tool (WASH-BAT) which is the primary online tool for analyzing sector challenges and progress on the WASH BBs. The tool was created to provide a step-by-step methodology to collaboratively identify and propose solutions. The tool follows a systematic process, led by the governments and is currently used in >40 countries globally. WASH BAT uses the UNICEF EE Framework and incorporates the five SWA BBs. The process should be implemented by SWA constituencies and led by the governments to ensure national ownership and regularity. Consultative workshops are a central component of WASH BAT and these workshops are designed to support capacity building, evidence strengthening, discussion around solutions and prioritizing actions. Ideally a lead time for three months is necessary to facilitate in organizing the workshop and ensuring the participation of trained facilitators for sub-groups will result in enhancing the outcomes. UNICEF also offers the online training to sector stakeholders and its staff on WASH EE and the link to WASH EE and WASH BAT can be accessed here.

TrackFin

In 2016, a World Bank study showed that USD 114 billion is needed annually to meet the capital costs of SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2. In order to mobilize political will and to achieve commitments for a rapid and significant increase in financial resources for WASH, countries need to know how to assess the cost of meeting their SDG targets and commitments. Without adequate financing, the achievement of SDG 6 will remain a big challenge. The TrackFin initiative was developed to help countries analyze the total expenditure in the sector, the distributions of funds by services and expenditure types, who pays for the services and also, what are the main funding channels. Through this tool, it is possible to compare data across countries beside just collecting data on multiple sources (tariffs, HH expenditures for self-supply, domestic public transfers etc.). Before implementation of TrackFin, a rapid assessment is conducted to assess current country practices (PET, mid-term reviews, financial analysis etc.). Track Fin is expected to be implemented and owned by governments providing sustainable and useful information and its adoption is to be strongly encouraged.

Countries discussed at length how to implement these tools within their specific contexts. For example, the Philippines team expressed interest in TrackFin but was concerned that the fragmented nature of WASH across 30 different government agencies may preclude implementation. However, examples from other countries such as Ghana and Tunisia were provided underscoring that tools are able to be adapted to specific environments with the right support. More detail on country responses to the tools is summarized in Annex 4.

7. LOOKING FORWARD

During two days of intense and lively discussions, participants were able to gain a better understanding of the benefits of the SWA partnership and its unique role as a platform for achieving the SDGs. While some concerns were yet be answered, such as how to convince ministries about the added value of SWA for existing country systems, there were a number of specific recommendations that emerged as mentioned below:

Key Recommendations

- **Document SWA benefit for the regions and membership:** Successful Country cases (Business case) to be developed and showcased reflecting the SWA benefits to all the countries in the region. Cambodia, Vietnam and Indonesia involvement in SWA needs to be documented.
- Country Support for application of SWA BB and MAM framework: SWA and UNICEF to support country offices lagging behind to update data and implement Collaborative Behaviours
- **SWA support for adoption of Tools box:** Countries have shown interest to use most of the tools presented and requested support from SWA for all partners to conduct implementation in EAPR countries. Few of the countries have agreed to implement WASH BAT and TrackFin by 2020.
- **Nationalisation of SWA meeting:** Support from UNICEF was expected in each country and at subnational level such as Pacific region for nationalizing SWA mechanism.
- **Institutional triggering:** to be utilized to stimulate engagement of senior government members in water and sanitation.
- **SWA support on private sector engagement:** SWA and other partners to help countries to develop mechanisms to promote private sector engagement in country processes.
- **Exploring the approaches for country coordination mechanisms** for developing in country coordination mechanisms involving the 7 constituencies.
- Investigate how technical working groups (TWGs) can feed into higher level policies and how to promote the role of local governments in the context of national priorities.
- Integration of regular WASH sector development with disaster management requires further discussion at global, regional and national levels.
- **SWA to consult with WHO** on a regional training on TrackFin.
- **Development of Inter-institutional working groups** at country level from all ministries including natural leaders/community consultants to be explored by the countries.

8. CONCLUSIONS:

A key to success for SWA is recognition of the importance of government-led, collaborative and multi-stakeholder decision making processes. The SWA is a true partnership evinced by its commitment to strengthening political prioritization, increasing financing, improving the efficient use of funds, building better governance structures and institutions, creating a healthy enabling environment, building mutual accountability between stakeholders, and improving the use of data to inform decision-making.

In the East Asia Pacific region, information sharing, and collaboration is stronger in some areas whereas there are some challenges in others. Countries are showing their full commitment in making a real difference at national, regional and global levels by working together to identify specific fragilities and to discuss solutions. The convening of regional meetings was identified by participants as a highly valuable activity. It is really important to sit together and openly share challenges and exchange ideas for solutions to reinforce commitment, motivation and willingness to try new and innovative approaches, concluded the participants of the meeting.

In the concluding remarks, Peter O'Connor, Director of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Section, DFAT also highlighted the policy challenges for the way forward. Peter reminded participants that water is increasingly being considered by DFAT and other donors as a priority agenda in their foreign policy and growing water security issue. Increasing natural disasters coupled with changing climate intensifies the impacts of water scarcity and adds uncertainty. As countries move forward on meeting their national WASH targets, climate adaptation and resilience needs to be fully integrated into WASH policies and strategies. SWA has made very important contributions in WASH, particularly putting sanitation up front and providing a political platform for WASH through the Sector Ministers Meetings and Finance Ministers Meetings. The challenge now is to intensify efforts and commitments to march forward together to 2030 with renewed determination and recognition as the most the only option.

The event culminated with the celebration of World Water Day on 22 March 2019 with Ms. Karin Hulshof, UNICEF Regional Director stressing on greater need for collaboration among all stakeholders. This, she said would be a significant step forward in spurring a greater regional commitment for advocating high-level political engagement across all countries. Leveraging the necessary resources to transform the goal of SDG6 into a reality and to truly ensure that no one is left behind with WASH services, is achievable, she concluded.



9. ANNEXES

1: Country Mapping on SWA Collaborative Behaviors, Water and Sanitation for All Meeting, 18-19 March 2019

	Good Progress	Slow Progress	No Progress/ Barriers	No Data
Country	Enhance government leadership of sector planning processes	Strengthen and use country systems	Use one information and mutual accountability platform	Build sustainable water and sanitation sector financing strategies
Cambodia	CB 1. NAPI, NAP II PAPI, PAP II TWGs PWGs 1.	CB2 SOP (National) More on infrastructure	CB3 -TWG, PWG -Sub working group -Watsan -MIS	CB4 Data on national O&M for water On budget
China	CB1. Govt. led national plan and alignment is good; multi sectoral coordination mechanism is being established	CB2. Financial management and procurement follow certain requirements and audited Not much ODA for WASH	CB 3 No one universal system collects and monitors all information (only on sector level) Ongoing monitoring systems Data is not drawn from one accountable system may conflict Country monitoring frameworks are not completely well built	CB4. Aggregated data on Gov. funding for WASH available. Finance plan on guiding principle exists, allowing local decision on sharing between govt. and household on budget
DPRK	CB1. Good progress with some exceptions =DP plans fed to government plans rather than implementing the overall government plan	Good progress finance management system perfect Work projects also provide capacity building of the government information systems not only policy support	Data needs to be combined with SDGs and indicators developed and compatible with global expectations	N/A

Country	Good Progress	Slow Progress	No Progress/ Barriers	No Data
Fiji	CB.1 Slow progress. Policy is available but in draft —ongoing consultations / Finalization and tabled to the Cabinet. CB1.2- Good progress: Currently using WASH cluster — proposed policy includes the formulation of a Sector Steering Committee. TOR has been developed to monitor National Plan and Policy Cb2.1 Good progress: Ministry of Economy coordinates all financial management and transaction as well as procurement. CB1.3 Same as CB1.1 Policy draft will provide overarching plan to be implemented and enacted.	CB2.2 ODA is both on systems and infrastructure (UNICEF/WHO support systems strengthening) and ADB, JICA, KOICA, WHO all support WASH infrastructure. CB.3 Slow progress	CB3.1 Slow progress-awaiting approval of Policy — National Sector Steering Committee (NGO sit and DP and UN are observers) CB 3.2.1 Ministry of Economy — Coordinates all financial management an transactions as well as procurement. CB 3.2. Moving from Individual monitoring system to a sector harmonized data collection analysis, visualization and reporting -Data for decision culture but located at individual agency level -Work is being done to consolidate under one dashboard. 3.4 More project focused monitoring without linkages to National Monitoring Frameworks	CB.4.1 – Urban – data available and collected -Rural – data not collected and no plans exist 4.3 Development partners assistance on budget and treasury
Lao PDR	CB1. Government led National WASH plan exists -WASH JSR process- TWG.	CB2. Procurement system in place Support community systems	CB3. JSR in place Still lacking systematic coordination Data is inconsistent and not regular	CB4. Mainly in urban setting — 3T data available Finance plan in place but needs improvement On treasury, on budget — not practiced.

Country	Good Progress	Slow Progress	No Progress/ Barriers	No Data
Indonesia	CB1. National plan and multistakeholder coordination mechanism exist Working group of Watsan, Watsan network, Sanitation Partners Group -need more reaching out/identification of partners in the sector	CB2. Ministries have procurement systems	CB.3 Coordination mechanisms exist DPs use the same indicators and data as the governments Requires more reaching out to DP/CSOs	CB4. No data on tax and sanitation tariff No data on finance plan – city/district Most OD: on treasury (loans)
Mongolia	CB1. National Program on water -National program on Environmental health	CB2: -Law on tender -Agency for govt. procurement	CB3. Routine monitoring data exist -Usage & DMs is limited	CB4. Available data on taxes, transfers, tariffs (WSRC)
Myanmar	-National WASH investment plan launched and endorsed by Govt. and operationalized to achieve the target -Myanmar govt. has led sector coordination to strengthen sector planning and integration	-Myanmar govt. has established 2017 guidelines for bidding /tendering and procurement process -There is a strong 2017 PFM framework in place to ensure the effectiveness of expenditure	-Govt. led coordination mechanism is in place -National level monitoring system is being developed to have one system -Evidence based data is still needed to inform	-Most DPs are not aligned with Govt. budget for WASH assistance and follow the government budget rule -Investment plan includes the contributions of tariffs from HHs for O&M of the systems No data available on tariffs (limited)/transfers/taxes. Proper data collection for this required

Country	Good Progress	Slow Progress	No Progress/ Barriers	No Data
Papua New Guinea	-WASH policy 2015- 2030 -National WASH task force in place since 2010 -All DPs, NGOs and other WASH stakeholders aligned WinS policy launched	-PMFA -New Procurement Commission established -WB, EU, UNICEF, ADB, JICA, DFAT, China Aid	-WASH Taskforce -WASH MSE to be developed but currently using mwatar	-NWSHA to be established to segregate role of operator and regulator -All DPs support are captured in the national budget
Philippines	CB1: Slow progress but will hopefully be improved once the new Master Plan is rolled out -Intention to regularly renew -Proposal to strengthen NWRB to coordinate the sector -Intention to encourage partners to align	CB2: slow progress: defined procurement/ financial systems but not necessarily best practice followed -UN very systems focused but bigger bilateral/multilateral donors are quite infrastructure focused	Slow to no progress: Quality and reg surveys by PSA Used for national level planning -No overall coordination mechanism -Admin data is poor quality/not timely and not always used for planning	CB4: slow progress UFF under development to support master plan – some aspects covered in Water Regulations Manual -No data on Development partners WASH assistance -No data on taxes, tariffs and transfers for WASH sector
Timor Leste	-UPMA (Decree Law 22/2015 on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation) -Sanitation working group/WASH forum -Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030	-MFM -GF/EU/UN agencies -ADB, JICA, WB/ KOIKA, DFAT	-UPMA -Provided by MoH through UPMA -AAP — MOH-JMP	Taxes only for water in urban areas, not for sanitation Maintenance through Govt
Viet Nam	-National strategy for rural water supply and sanitation to 2020 -National target program for rural development -National action plan on water safety plan to 2025	-Coordination mechanism exists but not worked till now -Law on Bidding -Law on Public Investment -Very low % of ODA for WASH sector	-Sanitation working group -Water Supply working group -Monitoring system exists but needs to be improved -Not all decisions can be implemented -Monitoring frameworks are not harmonized	-Donor funds are integrated to Government finance flow -Data on taxes & tariffs are available but not enough (hard to access?

2: Country Mapping of SWA Building Blocks, Water and Sanitation for All Meeting, 18-19 March 2019

	Good Progress	Slow Progress	No Progress	No da	ata
Country	Sector Policy/ Strategy	Institutional Arrangements	Sector Financing	Planning, Monitoring and Review	Capacity Development
Cambodia	Sector National Strategic plan	TWG with sub- working groups PWGs in all provinces	-Budget increased annually but not sufficient -No financial strategy in place yet -NAP II + costing/Partners mapping	-MIS -NAP indicators	One of the objectives strategies of NAP II
China	-Targets in place for 2020/2030 -Disaggregated -Some focus on subnational needed	-WASH sector coordination needs improvement -Legal framework is strong -Participation of citizens can be improved	-Current investment is strong -Need sustainable finance	Efforts are made to establish feedback loop — additional work needed for integrated WASH reporting	Strong -Technical strengths -Some improvement in program planning
DPRK	-SDG monitoring unit in the cabinet -5-year WASH strategy -5-year State Economy Development Strategy -Well-defined service level and ?? line ministries, tasked both ??services -National-level strategy -subnational and centralized -implementing national -Only beginning on the pathways for monitoring, financing, and ?? and maintenance	-There are regulators — MOLEP, MPH —and health standards -Resources are planned and allocated at country level -National — planning, implementation and supervision -Subnational — implementation -Consultation mechanism to measure the needs of the under- served -Private sector is limited in DPRK	-Government is allocating operation expenditure -No taxes, tariffs or transfers	-Mechanisms for monitoring but there is room for improvement – inequalities to PWD	Capacity development strategy but not costed

Country	Good Progress	Slow Progress	No Progress	No d	ata
Fiji	1.1, 1.2, 1.3 – good progress -1.4 Slow progress 1.5, good progress 1.2 Draft policy available –sectoral overarching -mostly urban data and monitoring -rural to be strengthened -sub-national level strategies from national to be developed	.1 – good progress 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 – slow progress 2.5, good progress 2.2 – Institutional arrangement yet to be centralized (still at national level) -no clear roles and responsibilities -poor community and HH consultations	3.1-Good progress 3.2 Slow progress 3.3 Good progress 3.4 Slow progress -Most budgeting targeted and monitored in urban areas -No data on private sector resources	4.1/4.2 – good progress 4.3 No progress 4.4 to 4.7 – Slow progress -No tracking of inequalities within existing monitoring mechanisms -Most data from urban systems, little to no data in rural areas -No to little information flow from National to subnational	Most capacity development still at national level and within the government agencies – not continuous -Some form of community training but not standardized
Lao PDR	WASH policy strategy, GL, Laws in place	MOH and MPWT are two key ministries overseeing WASH	The country has medium-term Expenditure Programme in urban water supply but rural areas are not properly reflected -Sector financing strategy in place to some extent — 3Ts	In terms of sector monitoring, good initiatives have been taken such as WASH JPR. Need to do more in sector planning monitoring, learning and knowledge management	Capacity building strategies need to be updated and further developed and implemented

Country	Good Progress	Slow Progress	No Progress	No	data
Indonesia	-National Medium Term Development Plan -Presidential Regulation on SDGs	-Decentralization scheme- responsibility at LG level -Transfer of funds (to LGs and to villages); increase overtime -Independent regulator and private sector regulation exists only in water sector	-Insufficient budget -Expenditure framework unmatched with priorities -Financing strategy still needs to leverage other sources	-Central Statistics Bureau — monitors progress -Mechanism to track sustainability, affordability and reliability; and for rightsholders to claim the rights only exists in water sector — most cities have water operators.	-Capacity building exists in programs and projects; regularly -Smaller proportion of CB effort for service providers (more for regulators)- Decentralization makes it hard to retain staff (at LG level)
Mongolia	-Limited policies -No specific targets -No pathways	-Limited institutional arrangements (water service/ regulatory commission)	-Limited data -use of data / evidence is limited	-No plans on inequalities -Limited mechanism for tracking	-No capacity building strategy -Limited assessment
Myanmar	-National WASH strategy and Investment plan developed (2016-2030); Both at national and subnational levels -No data for safely managed water and sanitation services because no defined SDG targets and indicators at the time of formulation of the strategic investment plan	-No independent regulator and no dedicated body on Development to coordinate at national level (WASH subsector working group is under Agriculture and Rural Development Group and Task team -No regulation for private sector engagement	-Investment plan developed (2017-2030) -Govt. has increased budget allocation for WASH sector but it is still limited for achieving the targets and sustaining the services	Priority area for increased focus to develop the national level WASH monitoring to track progress -No webbased monitoring system in place yet (still in pilot stage)	-Capacity development strategy embedded in National WASH strategy -No capacity needs assessment done yet -Trainings related to technical capacity are being carried out.

Country	Good Progress	Slow Progress	No Progress	No d	ata
Philippines	Policy/Strategy: - Good progress but some remaining gaps -New Master Plan for Water Supply and Sanitation and strategies for trying to reach the unreached are included	Institutional Arrangements: - Decentralized roles and responsibilities but overlapping mandates; no decentralization of resources -No independent regulator and weak enforcement of regulations	Financing: - Master plan will implement a unified financing framework but not yet fully defined as the mechanism to operationalize is still untested -Insufficient investments in sustaining programs	Planning, monitoring and reviews: -No overarching WASH MIC/ database -Existing systems slow/ weak (FHSIS — plans to revamp and add an envrionmental sanitation monitoring model (started to move forward)	Capacity development: - Partial/ agency specific initiatives but not based on capacity assessments, nor comprehensive (overall for sector); not costed
PNG	Outlined in WASH Policy, MTDP III, tailored SDGs	WASH PMU WASH taskforce, NWSHA Bill going through	First budget in 2019 but need more money for sustainability	Slow progress but currently in the process of developing MSE Framework	-Capacity assessment ongoing so that strategy can be clearly costed
Timor Leste	-Water policy in draft form -Strategic development plan -SDGs -Sanitation policy in place (2020 zero ODF – CLTS) -focus on safe management and sustainability	-Sanitation working group -WASH Forum -Health cluster - water group -Health emergency cluster, includes WASH -decentralization and clear rules and regulations exist	-Budget limited for every ministry	-Health Ministry (HMIS) SIB5, EMIS -Census 2015 -National Data	-FDCH - VCDF -HR - Each ministry -International partnership

Country	Good Progress	Slow Progress	No Progress	No data	
Viet	Good progress but	No independent	Good progress	Almost good	apacity
Nam	new indicators are needed; more policy and strategies for sanitation	regulator (slow progress) -no regulation that allows leveraging and control of private sector	but no full cost recovery	progress but the mechanisms to claim for water supply are not	development strategies are not comprehensive nor budgeted
		private sector		applied in all provinces	

3: Online Commitments Template

Online Commitments Template



COUNTRY NAME:
Constituency / Institution:
Commitment (including target date):
Was this commitment made through a participatory process including other constituencies?:
Date of adoption:
Target date:
Means of verification (indicator and source):
Source document:
Notes:

4. Country Responses to SWA Tools, WASH BAT and TrackFin

Country	Costing and Financial Tools National targets tool. Is it useful? If yes, why? If no, why not?	Financial tracking tool. Is it useful? If yes, why? If not, why not?	WASH BAT - is it useful? If yes, why? If no, why not?
Cambodia	Interested - try in 2 provinces Useful tool - Enabling environment - Contextualize	Interesting Budget allocation Gaps analyses Better planning and prioritization	Interested and need to explore more
China	Partial interest. Some building blocks are relevant (feedback mechanism, Joint Review, sector coordination across different ministries)	No. We have our own financial/audit system. No capacity Political sensitivity	Partial – pilot at Provincial level. Localize to China context at Country and Provincial levels.
DPRK	Interested to use to identify bottlenecks and give rankings to priority interventions to achieve the government targets	SGD costing tool- Interested to use however explore global costing tool and adapt to the existing country level costing tool	DPRK has a centrally planned economy so public financial expenditure is well tracked.
Fiji	Interested to use Helps to identify priorities/ those bottlenecks preventing achievement of those priorities. Provides clearer sector vision/targets Helps operationalize national government documents	Interested to use the tool Puts monetary value to WASH Service Provision Good advocacy tool Identifies: • benefits –reaching the most vulnerable/hard to reach places/communities/ HH Revenue & return (mainly urban areas)	Ministry of Economy does PER for all government Need for ministry level tracking & review Good advocacy tool (Linkages to beneficiaries, including vulnerable groups) Sector/Ministerial tracking (is it being used per the plan?)
Indonesia	Yes, interested. Done at 1 province and will be done in another. To identify bottlenecks, causes & priority interventions towards SGD targets.	Yes, interested. We have developed our own costing tool, adjusted to our National Policy and technical regulations	Interested in FinTrack and need more learning on this tool Have introduced Public Expenditure Analysis to subnational level for tracking public expenditure on WASH.
Lao PDR	Lao PDR has started WASH BNA using WASH BAT in 2 provinces. To address the issues in WASH sector / to remove the barriers in order to achieve SDG 6.1 & 6.2	Costing for WASH SDG – interested! It is a good tool to estimate the sector SDG financial needs.	FinTrack: To identify the financial gap in the sector. Flow of financial resources for more transparency and accountability.

Country	Costing and Financial Tools National targets tool. Is it useful? If yes, why? If no, why not?	Financial tracking tool. Is it useful? If yes, why? If not, why not?	WASH BAT - is it useful? If yes, why? If no, why not?
Mongolia	Yes, there is government interest- start at national level	SWA costing tool applied in 2017. Update	
Myanmar	Yes, govt. is interested to conduct it. TOT is 25-26. At subnational level in Magway Division and Shan State, 3 day workshop (28 March-3rd April 2019) Lead agencies are MOALI, MOHS, MOE with technical support from UNICEF. Focused sub sectors —Rural water supply; Rural Sanitation & Hygiene; WASH in Schools. Participants are Govt. officials, parliamentarians Outcome/Reasons: local govt; Dev. Partners (UN & CSOs). To identify the bottlenecks & gaps with solutions with fundable actions to address the gaps and barriers.	Yes, interested to apply. This is one tool to generate budget requirements to increase allocation to achieve the target set in National WASH Strategy and Investment Plan (Strategy 5.3 of Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan).	Introduce this tool to stakeholders & share the outcomes of WASH BAT. Have all stakeholders evaluate the investments of WASH sector Budget brief: Yes, will start with Rural water supply sub section.
Philippines	Yes, Bangsamoro Autonomous Region will use (in 2020). National level – potential tool to support review of new Master Plan &/or for NEHAP.	Yes, but Master Plan just finalized, though costing doesn't consider some aspects. Could use to cost zero OD program Can link to BARMM WASHBAT & follow up Regional WASH planning	rack Fin: yes: WHO & USAID have presented to NEDA and other sector agencies. Government want further costing/ sustainability information before deciding; how to resolve implementation/ data gathering concerns (linked to fragmentation & data confidentiality). Could support monitoring of WASH UFF once in place. Should consider presenting to BARMM too.

Country	Costing and Financial Tools National targets tool. Is it useful? If yes, why? If no, why not?	Financial tracking tool. Is it useful? If yes, why? If not, why not?	WASH BAT - is it useful? If yes, why? If no, why not?
PNG	Consultation with communities to identify issues and challenges. Priority for communities Plan fully costed that feeds into the National WASH Policy Priorities Source funding to implement plan with specific projects targeted Monitor progress – policy & project level		
Timor Leste	Interested. Has been implemented in a few countries. Has advantages & Disadvantages. From our perspective, we will use the advantages of this tool to apply it in Timor Leste.	Interested = budget allocation and partner support.	Interested if the tools are useful to apply.
Vietnam	Very interested; has been applied in Vietnam 6 years ago Gap: follow up actions after BAT analysis	Interested. Has been applied in Vietnam in 2017. Costing for SGD6	FinTrack – yes, interested. Not yet used in Vietnam. It will be good to use in the future!

List of Participants (government partners and other agencies)

Mobilizing Political Will & Mutual Accountability and Monitoring for Sanitation, Water & Hygiene for All in the East Asia and Pacific Region

18-21 March 2019, Grande Centre Point Ploenchit, Bangkok

No.	Title	Name	Position	Agency	Country
1	Mr.	H.E. Chreay Pom	Director General of Technical Affairs	Ministry of Rural Development	Cambodia
2	Mr.	Lay Chhan	Deputy Director General	National Institute of Statistics	Cambodia
3	Mr.	James Wicken	Country Director	WaterAid	Cambodia
4	Mr.	Sokha Mok	Programme Coordinator	WaterAid	Cambodia
5	Ms.	Alison Macintyre	Regional Technical Lead, Health	WaterAid	Cambodia
6	Mr.	Liu Hongbo	Deputy Division Chief	Division of Household Income & Expenditure Survey, Dept. of Household Surveys, National Bureau of Statistics	China
7	Mr.	Jia Lianqi	Secretary of the Party Committee	Chinese Academy of Agricultural Engineering Planning & Design	China
8	Mr.	Meng Haibo	Institute Director	Chinese Academy of Agricultural Engineering Planning & Design	China
9	Mr.	Rim Yong Chol	Director	General Department of International Organization, MoFA	DPRK
10	Mr.	Kim Kang	Senior Officer	External Affairs Department, Ministry of Urban Management	DPRK
11	Ms.	Choe Son Yong	Officer	Renewable Energy Institute, Ministry of Urban Management	DPRK
12	Ms.	Kim Song Hui	Senior Officer	Data Analysis Dept., Centre Bureau of Statistics	DPRK
13	Mr.	Iliesa Koli	Assistant Deputy Secretary Infrastructure	Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management & Meteorological Services	Fiji
14	Mr.	Phomma Veoravanh	Director General	Department of Water Supply, Ministry of Public Works & Transport	Lao PDR
15	Dr.	Panom Phongmany	Deputy Director General	Department of Hygiene & Health Promotion, Ministry of Health	Lao PDR

No.	Title	Name	Position	Agency	Country
16	Mr.	Vilaysook Sisoulath	Deputy Director General	Social Statistics Department, Lao Statistics Bureau	Lao PDR
17	Mr.	Laisa Wahanudin	Deputy Director of Sanitation	National Development Planning Agency, Bappenas	Indonesia
18	Mr.	Aldy K. Mardikanto	Planner	National Development Planning Agency, Bappenas	Indonesia
19	Mr.	Gary Alfrits Muntu Adam	Staff	National Development Planning Agency, Bappenas	Indonesia
20	Ms.	Nana Mintarti	Commissioner	Badan Amil Zakat Nasional (BAZNAS)	Indonesia
21	Mr.	Gantjang Amannullah	Director of Social Welfare Statistics	National Bureau of Statistics, BPS	Indonesia
22	Ms.	Zahra Shahab	Researcher	National Institute of Health Development Research, MoH	Indonesia
23	Ms.	Lkhagvatseden Orsoo	Director General	Public Utility Policy Implementation & coordination Dept, Ministry of Construction & Urban Development	Mongolia
24	Mr.	Amarbal Avirmed	Director, Population & Social Statistics Dept	National Statistics Office of Mongolia	Mongolia
25	Mr.	Thein Lwin	Deputy Director General	Department of Rural Development	Myanmar
26	Dr.	Thiha Aung	Deputy Regional Health Director	Regional Health Department, MoHS	Myanmar
27	Mr.	Than Zaw	Deputy Director General	Central Statistical Organisation, Ministry of Planning & Finance	Myanmar
28	Mr.	Joselito M. Riego de Dios	Chief Health Program Officer	Disease Prevention and Control Bureau, Department of Health	Philippines
29	Ms.	Maria Teresa Olivares	Senior Statistical Specialist	PHL Statistics Authority (WASH SDG Focal Point)	Philippines
30	Mr.	Francis Bryan C. Coballes	Chief Economic Development Specialist	National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)	Philippines
31	Mr.	Boni Magtibay	Environmental Health	WHO Philippines	Philippines
32	Ms.	Clara Momoi	Monitoring & Evaluation Officer	WaSH PMU, DNPM	PNG
33	Mr.	Martin Pomat	Officer-In-Charge, WaSH Programme Management Unit	WaSH Programme Management Unit, Dept. of National Planning & Monitoring	PNG

No.	Title	Name	Position	Agency	Country
34	Mr.	Gustavo da Cruz	National Director of Water Resources Management (DNGRA)	Directorate General of Water and Sanitation (DGAS), Ministry of Public Works RDTL	Timor Leste
35	Mr.	Joao N. Piedade Bras	National Director of Basic Sanitation (DNSB)	Directorate General of Water and Sanitation (DGAS), Ministry of Public Works RDTL	Timor Leste
36	Ms.	Maria do Carmo Moreira	Chief of Municipality Statistic Unit, GDS	Ministry of Finance RDTL	Timor Leste
37	Dr.	Odete Viegas	General Director of Health Services	Ministry of Health	Timor Leste
38	Mr.	Jose Moniz	Head of Environmental Department	Ministry of Health	Timor Leste
39	Mr.	Do Manh Cuong	Vice Head, Division of Environmental Health and Chemical Management	Vietnam Health Environment Management Agency (VIHEMA), Ministry of Health	Vietnam
40	Mr.	Nguyen Thanh Luan	Deputy Director of National Centre for Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation	Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development	Vietnam
41	Mr.	Michael Kibunja	Consultant	UNICEF EAPRO	Thailand
42	Mr.	Dick van Ginhoven	WASH Consultant	UNICEF EAPRO	Thailand
43	Mr.	Peter O'Connor	Director, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Section	DFAT	Australia
44	Ms.	Renee Paxton	Senior Policy Officer, WASH	DFAT	Australia
45	Mr.	Kamal Kar	Chairman	CLTS Foundation	India
46	Ms.	Dagmar Heemskerk- Verbeek	Hub Manager South East Asia and Pacific	Akvo Foundation	Netherlands

List of Participants (from UNICEF Country Offices)

Mobilizing Political Will & Mutual Accountability and Monitoring for Sanitation, Water & Hygiene for All in the East Asia and Pacific Region

18-21 March 2019, Grande Centre Point Ploenchit, Bangkok

No.	Title	Name	Position	UNICEF Office
1	Mr.	Santepheap Heng	WASH Specialist	Cambodia
2	Mr.	Anuradha Narayan	Chief Health	China
3	Ms.	Yan Fang	WASH Specialist	China
4	Mr.	Kencho Namgyal	Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist	DPRK
5	Mr.	Choe Yun Hyok	Monitoring & Evaluation Officer	DPRK
6	Mr.	Waqairapoa Tikoisuva	WASH Specialist	Fiji
7	Mr.	Muhammad Zainal	WASH Specialist	Indonesia
8	Mr.	Mitsunori Odagiri	WASH Specialist	Indonesia
9	Mr.	Bishnu Timilsina	Chief WASH	Lao PDR
10	Mr.	Batnasan Nyamsuren	WASH Officer	Mongolia
11	Ms.	Theingi Soe	WASH Specialist	Myanmar
12	Mr.	Bishnu Pokhrel	Chief WASH	Myanmar
13	Ms.	Louise Maule	Chief WASH	Philippines
14	Mr.	Carlos Vasquez	Chief WASH	PNG
15	Mr.	Rodolfo Pereira	WASH Officer	Timor Leste
16	Mr.	Friday Nwaigwe	Chief- Child Survival & Development	Vietnam
17	Mr.	Aaron Moore	International Programs Manager (WASH & Effectiveness)	Australia

Facilitators/Organisers

No.	Title	Name	Position	Agency
1	Mr.	Evariste Kouassi- Komlan	Regional Adviser, WASH	UNICEF EAPRO
2	Ms.	Anu Gautam	WASH Specialist	UNICEF EAPRO
3	Mr.	Guy Hutton	Senior Adviser, WASH	UNICEF HQ
4	Mr.	Tom Slaymaker	Senior Adviser, Statistics and Monitoring Data and Analytics	UNICE HQ
5	Mr.	Rick Johnston	WHO Lead, Joint Monitoring Programme	WHO HQ
6	Mr.	Siddhartha Das	SWA Regional Coordinator	SWA secretariat
7	Ms.	Karakate Chiarakul	Programme Associate, WASH	UNICEF EAPRO
8	Ms.	Lillian Mi Zewen	Intern, WASH	UNICEF EAPRO

10. PHOTO GALLERY









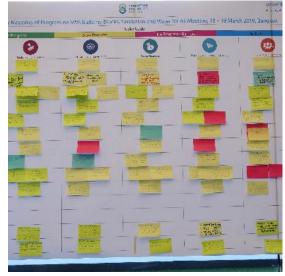
















11. REFERENCE TO RESOURCES:

- https://unicef-my.sharepoint.com
- https://unicef.sharepoint.com/teams/EAPRO-WASH/SitePages/Areas-of-Work.aspx





For more information contact:
Evariste Kouassi-Komlan,
Senior adviser Water, Sanitation and Hygiene,
Anu Paudyal Gautam
WASH Specialist
United Nations Children's Fund
UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office
www.unicef.org/eap