

# UNICEF

## Human rights assessment of development cooperation for water and sanitation

### Main policies and frameworks for human rights and water and sanitation

- UNICEF WASH Strategy 2016-2030
- UNICEF Strategic Plan 2014-2017, 2018-2021
- UNICEF Gender Action Plan 2014-2017
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (normative mandate)

### Main human rights WASH policy priorities

UNICEF's vision for WASH is the realization of the human rights to water and sanitation for all.

The objectives of the WASH Strategy align with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 targets for drinking water, sanitation and hygiene.

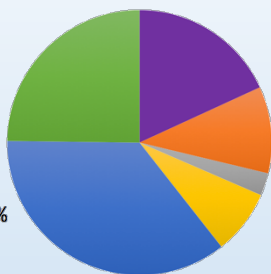
### WASH outcome indicators

UNICEF's current Strategic Plan (2014-2017)<sup>1</sup> outlines a WASH indicator framework including quantitative targets for access in households and schools. Each of these targets is expressed through additional indicators:

- Enhanced support for children & families leading to sustained use of safe drinking water, adoption of adequate sanitation and good hygiene practices (includes targets for access to services in schools)
- Increased national capacity to provide access to sustainable safe drinking water & adequate sanitation
- Strengthened political commitment, accountability and national capacity to legislate, plan and budget for scaling-up of interventions to promote safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and good hygiene practices.
- Increased country capacity and delivery of services to ensure girls, boys and women have protected and reliable access to efficient safe WASH facilities in humanitarian situations
- Increased capacity of governments and partners, as duty-bearers, to identify and respond to key human rights and gender equality dimensions of WASH practices
- Enhanced global and regional capacity to accelerate progress in safe WASH practices

#### 1. UNICEF disaggregated WASH expenditure, 2014/2015

- Water supply, 18%
- Sanitation, 11%
- Hygiene, 3%
- WASH in Schools and ECD Centres, 8%
- WASH in Emergencies, 36%
- WASH General, 25%



Source: UNICEF Annual Results Report: WASH, 2015.

#### 2. Beneficiaries of non-emergency water supply and sanitation projects (millions), 2014/2015

- Water supply, 54%
- Sanitation, 46%



	2014	2015
<b>Water</b>	13.78	14.12
<b>Sanitation</b>	11.33	12.11

Source: UNICEF Annual Results Report: WASH, 2015.

#### 3. Average annual WASH disbursements: UNICEF vs. DAC<sup>2</sup> Members and multilaterals (ODA<sup>3</sup>), 2011-2015

	VALUE \$ MILLION
<b>DAC + MULTILATERALS</b>	5,889
<b>UNICEF</b>	564
<b>%</b>	9

Source: UNICEF Annual Results Report: WASH (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015) & OECD Creditor Reporting System (CRS), consulted April 2017.

#### 4. Breakdown of UNICEF WASH funding in period 2014-2017

	VALUE \$ MILLION
<b>UN-EARMARKED, UNRESTRICTED</b>	548
<b>RESTRICTED</b>	2,014
<b>TOTAL</b>	2,562

Source: UNICEF Annual Results Report: WASH, 2015.

*\*UNICEF provides funding exclusively in grant form*

- UNICEF's WASH expenditure (\$855 million in 2015) is thoroughly disaggregated, including allocated funds for emergency situations (36% of total expenditure) as well as schools and early childhood development (ECD) centres (8%). Among funding for specific subsectors, greater funding is allocated to water supply (18%) than to sanitation (11%).
- Among all development funding in the period 2014-2015, projects funded by UNICEF benefited moderately more people with drinking water services (27.9 million) than sanitation services (23.44 million).
- While OECD data makes UNICEF funding to WASH seem less relevant (apparently \$38 million/year average in the period 2011-2015), UNICEF reports indicate significantly greater expenditure for WASH (a yearly average of \$565 million in the same period), representing 9% of all ODA funding from States and multilaterals. Thanks to growing funding from partners, UNICEF's expenditure has continually increased in recent years, reaching \$949 million in 2016.<sup>4</sup>
- In the 2014-2017 period, the majority of WASH funding (about \$2 billion) was designated as "other resources": funds that are earmarked or restricted for a particular programme, geographical area, strategic priority or emergency response. Although UNICEF's WASH expenditure is composed of a greater share of restricted funds, levels of restriction can vary and at times allow for considerable flexibility, permitting funding for any WASH-related project.

<sup>1</sup> An analysis of UNICEF's 2018-2021 Strategic Plan is not included in the present brief as the bulk of the information researched herein was prepared before the publication of said Strategic Plan. It is notable, however, that the new Strategic Plan includes targets concerning water supply and sanitation in both household and institutional settings.

<sup>2</sup> The Development Assistance Committee (DAC) is a 30-member forum of the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) made up of many of the largest funders, including the European Union.

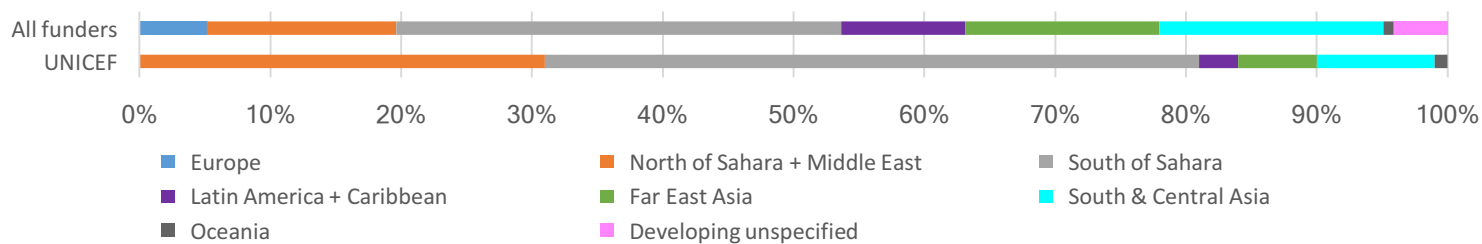
<sup>3</sup> OECD defines official development assistance (ODA) as financing that is concessional in character with a grant element of at least 25 per cent (using a fixed 10 per cent discount rate).

<sup>4</sup> UNICEF Annual Results Report: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, 2016.

## Incorporation of normative content & principles relevant to the human rights to water and sanitation in development cooperation policy

<u>Normative content</u>	<u>Description of policy/measure</u>	<u>Details</u>
Availability	Concrete part of policy mandate as per SDG agenda; Direct and indirect policy goals related to guaranteeing availability	<b>UNICEF Strategic Plan:</b> Beyond targets to guarantee universal, continuous access, other targets aiming at preparing governments for climate change and risk management provide further assurances for availability.
Accessibility	Concrete part of policy mandate as per SDG agenda	<b>UNICEF Strategic Plan:</b> Several specific targets to increase total percent of countries' population with access to improved sources of water/sanitation/handwashing facilities. Access to a minimum of basic sanitation systems is promoted by concrete targets to eliminate open defecation.
Affordability	Concrete part of policy mandate as per SDG agenda	<b>Strategy for WASH:</b> UNICEF's normative interpretation of SDG 6 targets is that payment for water and sanitation services must not present a barrier to access or prevent people meeting other basic human needs
Acceptability	Normative interpretation of SDG goals provides a rationale for acceptability	<b>Strategy for WASH:</b> UNICEF's normative interpretation of SDG 6 targets is that services must be suitable for use by men, women, girls and boys of all ages including people living with disabilities
Quality/Safety	Concrete part of policy mandate as per SDG agenda	<b>Strategy for WASH:</b> Committed to providing water that is: "compliant with national water quality standards with respect to fecal contamination & chemical contaminants, including arsenic, fluoride."
<u>Human rights principles</u>	<u>Description of policy/measure</u>	<u>Details</u>
Participation	Policy commitments and strategic targets	<b>Strategy for WASH:</b> Includes supporting communities in actively participating in WASH-related processes (programme design, delivery); obtaining necessary support and resources; and creating, changing or reinforcing social norms to establish and sustain health WASH practices <b>UNICEF Strategic Plan:</b> Several targets aiming at ensuring women's participation
Transparency / Access to information	Policy commitments	<b>Strategy for WASH:</b> Includes supporting communities in accessing information, knowledge and tools – including monitoring tools - on WASH-related processes.
Accountability	Central part of policy framework and programming principles;	<b>Strategy for WASH:</b> Includes a focus on strengthening regulation and accountability frameworks between service providers, policy-makers and communities/users. "[Accountability] refers to sets of mechanisms that make institutions in the public and private sector answerable for their actions and ensures that sanctions can be applied against poor performance, illegal acts and/or abuses of power". Related targets for the WASH strategy specifically seem to improve accountability, political commitment and national capacity.
Non-Discrimination / Equality	Reducing inequality is the first programming principle of UNICEF's Strategy for WASH; Several methods and targets aim at boosting equality and universality	<b>UNICEF Strategic Plan:</b> Several targets aiming to reduce inequalities and particularly gender equality: "countries undertaking WASH bottleneck analysis to identify barriers to reaching disadvantaged populations"; "countries having developed/revised policies/plans that provide guidance on women's participation in all WASH decision-making processes" <b>Gender Action Plan:</b> Prioritizes reducing the time it takes for women and girls to access water and sanitation services. Performance benchmarks include: programme expenditures on gender results, gender staffing and capacity. Targets to achieve, by 2017, 15% of programme expenditure on programming that advances gender equality and empowerment of girls and women.
Sustainability	Part of policy mandate as per SDG agenda; thorough articulation throughout programming principles.	<b>Strategy for WASH:</b> UNICEF and other partners in the UN family commit to providing strategic long-term support for strengthening national capacity to deliver quality and sustainable services at scale. Support is intended to focus not only on technical factors, but also on financial, social, institutional and environmental factors.

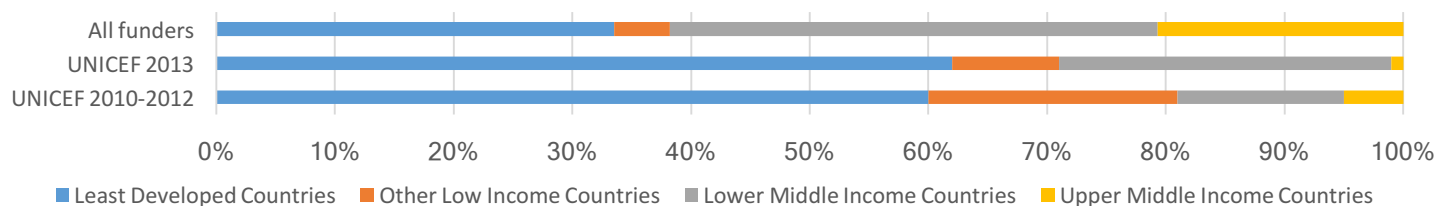
## UNICEF WASH disbursements (2015) vs. all funders' average yearly disbursements (2011-2015), by world region



Source: Based on GLAAS External Support Agency Survey (2016/2017) & OECD-CRS, consulted April 2017.

- ❖ With respect to the average yearly disbursements for WASH by all bilateral and multilateral funders in the period 2011-2015, in 2015 UNICEF disbursed comparatively more for WASH projects in the world regions: South of Sahara and North of Sahara & Middle East. More than 80% of all UNICEF funding was allocated to those regions.

## UNICEF vs. all funders' yearly average ODA WASH disbursements based on country income status, 2011-2015



Source: Based on UNICEF Annual Results Report: WASH (2013), GLAAS External Support Agency Survey (2014) & OECD-CRS, consulted April 2017.

- ❖ Compared to all funders' disbursement of funds for WASH in the period 2011-2015, UNICEF disburses comparatively more to Least Developed Countries and, to a lesser extent, to Other Low Income Countries. In 2016, UNICEF affirmed that "over two-thirds of UNICEF WASH expenditure is in LDCs".<sup>4</sup>

### Key tools

UNICEF has prepared and supported the creation of several operational instruments to develop and manage WASH services. Such tools report on lessons learned and provide guidelines and matrixes on WASH and other cross-cutting human rights issues:

- ❖ Making Rights Real: Clarifying human rights to local government officials (UNICEF and partners of Rural Water Supply Network, 2016)
- ❖ Gender-Responsive Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (UNICEF, 2017)
- ❖ Disability-Inclusive WASH practices (2017)
- ❖ Accessible and Inclusive WASH Mapping & Matrix (UNICEF, 2015)
- ❖ UNICEF Handbook on Water Quality (UNICEF, 2008)
- ❖ Guidance on Application of Monitoring Results for Equity Systems in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Programmes
- ❖ Towards Better Programming: A Sanitation Handbook (UNICEF, 1997)
- ❖ Sanitation Monitoring Toolkit (UNICEF, 2014)
- ❖ Handwashing Promotion - Monitoring and Evaluation Module (UNICEF, 2013)
- ❖ Accountability in WASH – Explaining the concept (UNDP Water Governance Facility/UNICEF, 2015)
- ❖ Water & Sanitation Health Facility Improvement Tool 'WASH FIT': A field guide to improving water, sanitation & hygiene in health care facilities in low-income countries (UNICEF/WHO, 2016)
- ❖ Field Guide: The Three Star Approach for WASH in Schools (UNICEF and GIZ, 2013)
- ❖ Toolkit for the Professionalization of Manual Drilling in Africa (UNICEF, PRACTICA, and EWV, 2010)
  - More relevant operational tools are listed in UNICEF WASH Strategy 2016-2030 (Annex I).

### Partnerships & Projects

- UNICEF is present in more than 190 countries in both development and emergency/humanitarian contexts. "In many countries, UNICEF is the only large WASH agency to support government and work with partners from multiple constituencies: in communities, and at the district, provincial and national levels"<sup>4</sup>. UNICEF also acts in the education, health, nutrition, social policy sectors.
- Country programmes are elaborated through dialogues and analyses performed together with partner State governments, providing broad context on a number of themes and key problems. They are a basis on which further analyses (e.g. "WASH bottleneck analysis tool") can help to determine the specific needs, difficulties and enabling factors related to the WASH sector in a given country or region.
- UNICEF hosts the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) Secretariat, a global partnership with over 170 members including the largest funders for WASH.
- Partnerships with private actors are an increasing part of UNICEF's WASH strategy, especially as a part of attaining the SDGs. A number of initiatives involving corporate partners are under way, such as the "WASH4Work" initiative which brings together 11 leading organizations to promote WASH in global workplaces and supply chains. There is no comprehensive assessment of the contribution of these partnerships to achieve human rights standards.
- A large part of UNICEF-funded projects is implemented through partnerships with NGOs. There is no comprehensive assessment of these partnerships' alignment with the principles that underpin UNICEF's action, notably those concerning the human rights to water and sanitation.
- UNICEF is one of the custodian agencies for SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2.

<sup>4</sup> UNICEF Strategy for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (2016-2030).