

World Health Organisation



WHAT IS THE WHO?

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the UN responsible for international public health. It work closely with decision-makers: Ministries of Health, government agencies, other government departments at the national level. They engage with the United Nations at the global, regional, and country level. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, with six semi-autonomous regional offices and 150 field offices worldwide.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF WHO?

The WHO Constitution

(7 April 1948) establishes the agency's governing structure and principles, stating its main objective as "the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health".

The WHO's broad mandate includes

Advocating for universal healthcare

Monitoring public health risks

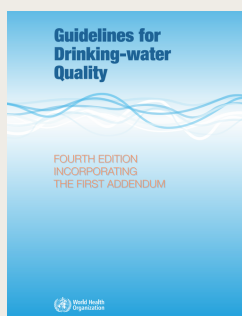
Coordinating responses to health emergencies

Promoting human health and well being

It provides **technical assistance** to countries, sets **international health standards and guidelines**, and **collects data** on global health issues. WHO works within the health sector to highlight the value of WASH in preventing and managing a wide range of diseases and health-relevant issues such as antimicrobial resistance and climate change

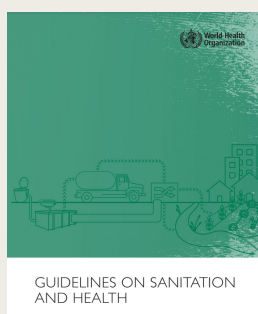
THE WHO AND WASH

WHO Guidelines for drinking-water quality



WHO produces drinking-water quality guidelines, as a global reference point for the development of national drinking-water standards, and guidance to water suppliers and others. The guidelines are based on risk assessment and management, and since 2004 the Guidelines for drinking-water quality promote the Framework for Safe Drinking Water. The Framework recommends establishment of health-based targets, the development and implementation of Water Safety Plans by water suppliers to most effectively identify and manage risks from catchment to consumer, and independent surveillance to ensure that Water Safety Plans are effective and targets are being met.

WHO Guidelines on Sanitation and Health, Safe Use of Wastewater, Recreational Water Quality and promotion of Sanitation Safety Planning



WHO works with partners on promoting effective risk assessment and management practices for sanitation in communities and health facilities through the WHO Guidelines on Sanitation and Health, Safe Use of Wastewater, and the Guidelines for Safe Recreational Water Environments. WHO also supports collaboration between WASH and health programmes such as neglected tropical diseases, cholera, polio and antimicrobial resistance.

WHAT IS THE JMP?

WHO and UNICEF, through the **Joint Monitoring**

Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP), are custodian agencies for the SDG targets on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene:

- **6.1** By 2030, to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- **6.2** By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

These targets are measured with three indicators:

- **6.1.1** Proportion of the population using safely managed drinking water services
- **6.2.1a** Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services,
- **6.2.1b** Proportion of population with handwashing facilities with soap and water at home



In addition to partnering with UNICEF through the JMP, WHO collaborates with UN-Habitat for global monitoring of SDG indicator 6.3.1, the proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated.



UN-Water Global Analysis
and Assessment of Sanitation
and Drinking-Water

WHAT IS GLAAS?

The **Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS)** is a UN-Water initiative implemented by WHO. The objective of GLAAS is to provide policy- and decision-makers at all levels with a reliable, easily accessible and comprehensive analysis of WASH systems to make informed decisions for sanitation, drinking-water and hygiene. GLAAS collects data through country and external support agency (ESA) surveys and publishes reports summarizing WASH systems data every two to three years.

Additionally, GLAAS, in collaboration with OECD and UNDP, monitors the means of implementation targets **6a** and **6b** for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6.

WHO supports the development of WASH accounts at country level, using the TrackFin methodology based on Health accounts.

THE WAY FORWARD

The experience of the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted that WASH are the foundation of health. It essential to enhance the global leadership of UN-Water in the face of the world water crisis and efforts to achieve SDG6 and the enjoyment of the human rights to water and sanitation. Central to this is the leadership of WHO which must also be strengthened in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and future risks to global public health (A/HRC/48/50, para 86).



Pedro Arrojo-Agudo
UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

*The Special Rapporteur held a meeting with WHO representatives in February 2021

**PARTNERING WITH ORGANIZATIONS
WORKING ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO
SAFE DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION**

**Who's who
in WASH?**