

UN-Water Global Analysis  
and Assessment of  
Sanitation and Drinking-  
Water (GLAAS) Strategy:  
**2023–2030**



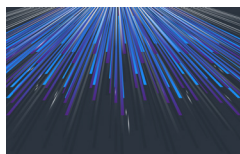
World Health  
Organization



UN-Water Global Analysis  
and Assessment of Sanitation  
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# Acronyms

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>ESA</b>   | External support agency  |
| <b>GLAAS</b> | UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water       |
| <b>JMP</b>   | WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene |
| <b>SDG</b>   | Sustainable Development Goal   |
| <b>UN</b>    | United Nations   |
| <b>WASH</b>  | Water, sanitation and hygiene  |
| <b>WHO</b>   | World Health Organization  |

## Introduction

The UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) has been implemented by the World Health Organization (WHO) since 2008. After a successful pilot with seven countries in 2008, GLAAS has grown tremendously with 124 countries and 23 external support agencies (ESAs) participating in the GLAAS 2021/2022 cycle. Over the past 12 years, WHO published six global GLAAS reports on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) systems, created the TrackFin methodology to develop WASH accounts, monitored the means of implementation targets for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, launched the GLAAS data portal and worked closely with partners at national, regional and global levels. GLAAS has become a go-to source for information on WASH systems and is able to collect, analyze and share data on WASH systems that are not easily accessible elsewhere. Partners and governments rely on the GLAAS process, data and analysis for their work.

This strategy outlines WHO's approach for monitoring WASH systems, including determining a set of key WASH systems indicators, and improving data use through 2030.

## GLAAS within the Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health Unit at WHO

GLAAS is part of the Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health Unit at WHO. WHO's overall vision for WASH is:

**To substantially improve health through the safe management of water, sanitation and hygiene services in all settings.**

The monitoring work under GLAAS is key to achieving this vision. The principles and strategic approaches outlined in this strategy are aligned with WHO's WASH strategy<sup>1</sup> and vision. Additionally, the GLAAS team works closely with WHO regional and country offices. Collaboration among the three levels of WHO is critical for achieving the outcomes and impact of GLAAS.

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<sup>1</sup> The WHO WASH strategy is available at: <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/274273/WHO-CED-PHE-WSH-18.03-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

## ■ GLAAS outcomes, impact and vision

GLAAS activities aim to achieve the following outcomes:

- **National monitoring systems for WASH are strengthened; and**
- **Decisions by governments and development partners are informed by easily accessible data on WASH systems.**

These outcomes will contribute to the following impact:

- **Accelerated progress towards universal sustainable access to drinking-water, sanitation and hygiene by 2030 as part of the SDGs.**

The ultimate vision of GLAAS is to be able to draw upon existing and reliable sources of data to monitor and analyse WASH systems, which contributes to increased access and better health outcomes; if these data sources are missing or inadequate, the GLAAS country survey will fill the gap. While this vision may not be entirely feasible during this strategy period, GLAAS activities will work to strengthen national monitoring systems and data sources that can be drawn upon in the future.

## ■ Guiding principles

Through GLAAS, WHO will:

- Strengthen, complement and work within national processes and systems;
- Be inclusive of information from a range of perspectives, including national governments and development partners around the world;
- Align with and build on the SDGs, including the SDG principles of universality and equity;
- Focus on areas where GLAAS is well-positioned for impact to uniquely complement – and not duplicate – the roles of other WASH sector actors;
- Promote the use of data collected through GLAAS and WASH accounts with a focus on using the GLAAS data portal; and
- Be a resource for all stakeholders to strengthen WASH systems and improve access to WASH.

# Monitoring WASH systems

WHO, through GLAAS, focuses on monitoring the following components of WASH systems – governance (including legislation, policies, plans and regulatory frameworks), institutional arrangements, financing streams and financial systems, monitoring systems for informed assessments and reviews, and human resources and capacity development.

Ultimately, WHO through GLAAS would like to draw upon existing, reliable data sources to monitor and analyse WASH systems; however, reliable data sources do not exist across all countries, and at this time there is still a need for data collection through the GLAAS country survey and other activities. Until data can be harvested from existing, reliable sources, GLAAS will continue to collect data from countries and external support agencies.

Under the umbrella of GLAAS, WHO undertakes various WASH systems monitoring work ranging from global monitoring through GLAAS cycles to more focused, national-level work on WASH finance in collaboration with WHO regional and country offices. GLAAS achieves its outcome and impact through the following areas of monitoring work:

- **GLAAS data collection cycles:** Collect data from governments and ESAs and publish results and analyses in GLAAS reports and on the GLAAS data portal.
- **WASH accounts:** Support and increase capacity to develop WASH accounts by governments, increasing the availability of financial data for decision-making.
- **SDG monitoring:** As a co-custodian, monitor SDG 6 means of implementation targets: 6a on international cooperation and capacity-building support and 6b on participation of local communities.

All data collected through GLAAS monitoring are publicly available on the interactive GLAAS data portal (<https://glaas.who.int/>). On the GLAAS data portal, users can download GLAAS data as well as create visualizations and conduct trend analysis. For more information on the GLAAS data portal, see the section GLAAS data portal in this strategy.

## Defining and monitoring WASH systems

An additional area of work that will complement those outlined above is defining the key components of a WASH system and then monitoring them through a set of agreed upon key indicators. A systems approach has become increasingly widespread for WASH in recent years and different organizations define WASH systems differently. Having an agreed upon definition of a WASH system and key indicators will contribute to more effective and efficient WASH work.

During this strategy period, WHO will work with partners to come to a common definition of a WASH system and determine a set of key indicators and monitoring framework to monitor the strength of that system. These indicators can be monitored through GLAAS data collection cycles until WHO can draw upon existing, reliable data sources, and data will be publicly available on the GLAAS data portal. Through GLAAS and WASH systems monitoring, WHO will work to have the key indicators of WASH systems integrated into national monitoring systems that GLAAS can draw upon to conduct regional and global analyses on the strength of WASH systems.

# ■ Responding to a changing world

WHO has the ability to effectively monitor emerging issues affecting WASH through GLAAS data collection cycles, WASH accounts and new tools (if necessary). In the GLAAS 2018/2019 and 2021/2022 cycles, WHO collected information on countries' national targets and how they aligned with safely managed services outlined in the SDGs and in the GLAAS 2021/2022 cycle added questions on COVID-19 response. Because of its flexibility, the GLAAS country survey was able to respond to these data needs of the WASH sector.

During this strategy period, WHO will work to better monitor the following topics as they relate to WASH:

- climate resilience,
- gender, and
- other emerging issues.

## Climate resilience

WHO has included questions on climate in its country and ESA surveys; however, this monitoring can be improved upon and GLAAS will work to better monitor how governments are responding to climate change. To do this, WHO, through the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) and GLAAS, will convene an expert group to consolidate existing metrics and indicators as well as develop new indicators that can be incorporated into GLAAS and JMP monitoring. WHO will also conduct a systematic landscaping on how different countries/sectors define/monitor climate resilience and what actions are being taken. This landscaping will be used as background/evidence by the expert group. Once the climate indicators are defined and agreed upon, they will be reported on by GLAAS and the JMP.

## Gender

WHO has included questions on gender, including on menstrual health and hygiene management, in the GLAAS country survey since the 2011/2012 cycle. Additionally, both JMP and GLAAS have been engaged since 2020 in an assessment of how their monitoring programmes do or could capture aspects of gender and WASH and are committed to enhancing data collection and analysis efforts in the coming years. GLAAS will work to improve its monitoring of how governments and development partners are addressing menstrual health and hygiene management as well as continue to monitor gender aspects of WASH systems.

## Emerging issues

As noted above, GLAAS has the flexibility to respond to emerging issues either through additional and/or revised questions in the GLAAS country and ESA surveys or by creating new tools. Throughout this strategy period, GLAAS will be ready to respond to emerging issues as needed.



## ■ Embracing technology and improving accessibility of information

### GLAAS data portal (<https://glaas.who.int>)

Data accessibility, dissemination and use are a priority for GLAAS during this strategy period. While GLAAS data have been publicly available online since 2008, the interface was not interactive. To improve the usability of GLAAS data and its dissemination, GLAAS developed an online, interactive data portal, which was launched in February 2022. On the data portal, users can generate charts and graphs, conduct trend analyses and download data. Analyses and downloads can be for specific countries, regions or globally.

The data portal is a powerful platform for analysis, access to and dissemination of all GLAAS information. Country and ESA data from GLAAS cycles and WASH accounts data will be available on the data portal as well as a document library featuring reports and materials produced by WHO as well as national documents. During the strategy period, work will continue to maintain, update, improve and promote the GLAAS data portal for improved data access, dissemination and use.

### Electronic data collection

In the GLAAS 2021/2022 data collection cycle, WHO launched an online version of the GLAAS country survey called eGLAAS. In the GLAAS 2021/2022 cycle, 11 countries submitted their surveys as part of the eGLAAS pilot. The pilot was a success and electronic versions of the GLAAS country and ESA surveys will be rolled out at a larger scale in future GLAAS cycles.

### WASH accounts production tool

The WASH accounts production tool (WAPT) aids analyses of WASH financial data during the development of WASH accounts – it is a critical tool for WASH accounts development. During this strategy period, WHO will continue to improve the WAPT to meet the growing demands and requirements of users and national governments. Work will also focus on improving the integration of data from the WAPT into the GLAAS data portal, making WASH financial data more easily accessible.

## ■ Improving monitoring capacity and increasing data use

A critical aspect of all GLAAS areas of work is increasing data use and improving governments' capacity to monitor and effectively use data. While data use spans all areas of GLAAS work, in this strategy period GLAAS will specifically undertake the following:

- Continue to identify good practices and examples of data use from GLAAS data collection cycles and WASH accounts which will be compiled and shared with stakeholders;
- Continue to work with partners at national, regional and global levels to lessen the monitoring burden on countries and streamline different data collection processes;
- Build the capacity of government officials through workshops, training materials and tools developed as part of GLAAS data collection cycles, WASH accounts and SDG monitoring; and
- Promote the GLAAS data portal and continue to increase its usability.

A key aspect of increasing data use and improving governments' capacity to monitor is the increasing quality of data collected and analysed by GLAAS. Over GLAAS cycles, WHO has worked to increase the quality of GLAAS data by implementing a more rigorous quality assurance process following country survey submissions with stronger engagement with WHO regional and country offices. WHO will continue to work to improve the quality of data collected through GLAAS during this strategy period by improving processes, continued collaboration with the three levels of WHO and utilizing the GLAAS data portal to aid in quality assurance processes.

## ■ Working with partners

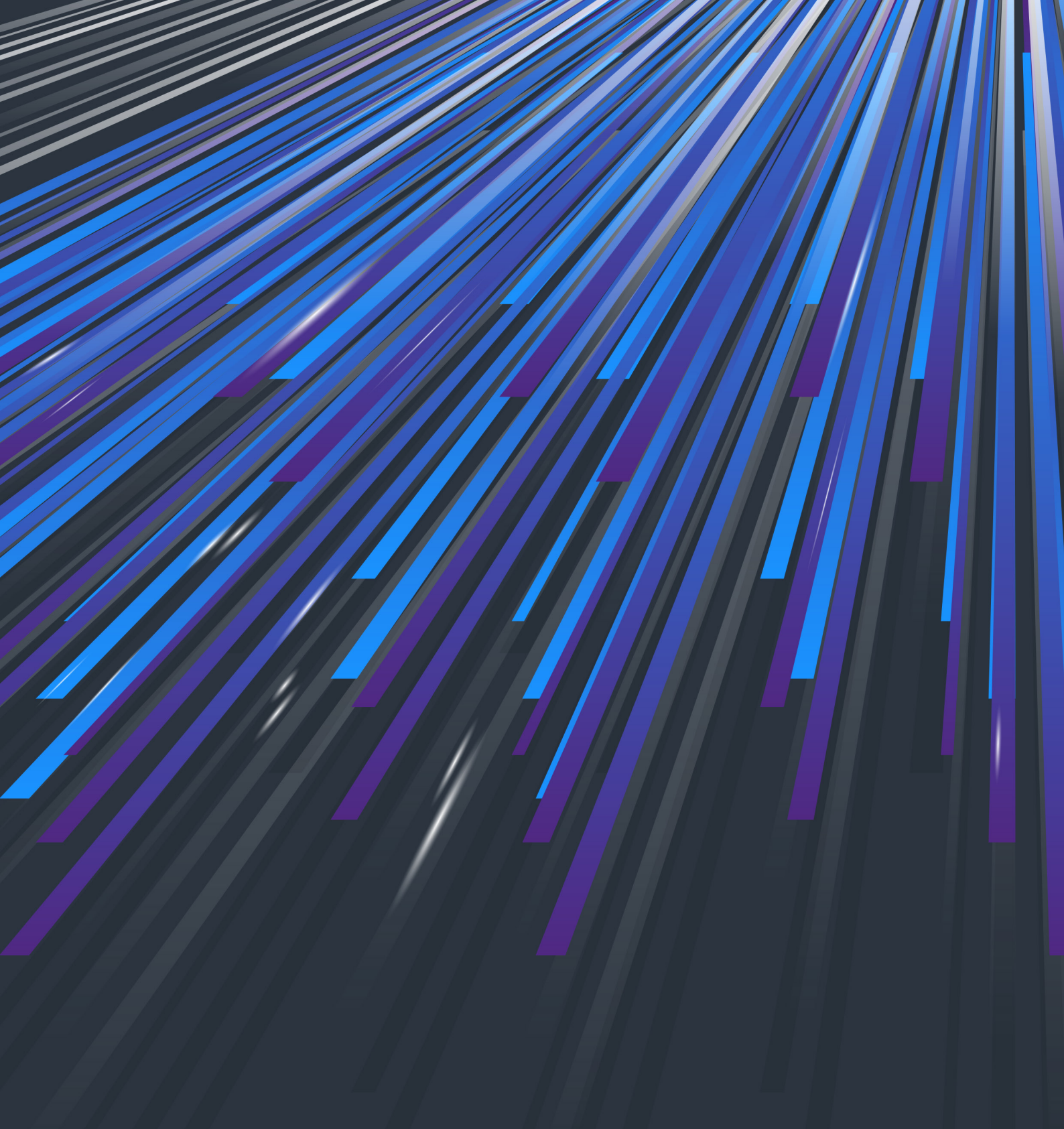
The WASH sector has a complex global architecture of partnerships and initiatives working towards achieving SDG 6. GLAAS plays an active, key role in this architecture and provides the sector with consistent, comparable data on WASH systems that informs programming and monitoring.

Across the GLAAS areas of work, WHO actively collaborates with partners and stakeholders as well as WHO regional and country offices. GLAAS provides important data and analyses that can be used by WHO and partners to further review and address bottlenecks and aspects of WASH systems. GLAAS has a strong history of collaborating with partners at national, regional and global levels since its inception in 2008. GLAAS was created to be the evidence arm of the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) partnership and has worked closely with the partnership since its inception. This collaboration has included preparing reports and materials for high-level meetings, providing evidence for SWA's results framework and leading monitoring of the SWA Collaborative Behaviours. GLAAS continues to be actively involved in SWA working groups.

GLAAS's collaboration goes beyond SWA. GLAAS works closely with partners including the African Ministers' Council on Water, IRC, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Speak Up Africa, UN-Water, the UN Environment Programme, UNICEF, WaterAid and the World Bank. Partners help support GLAAS processes at national and regional levels and GLAAS provides information and analyses that are not otherwise readily available.

## ■ Preparing for the post 2030 world

As Agenda 2030 will conclude at the end of this strategy period, WHO will work to ensure that GLAAS and its WASH systems monitoring is well positioned for what comes after the SDGs. WHO, through GLAAS, is a co-custodian for monitoring SDG targets 6.a and 6.b on the means of implementation. It is likely that means of implementation for WASH will continue to be part of the global agenda and WHO will engage with partners and play an active role in discussions on the global agenda post 2030.



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