

UNICEF-WHO JOINT MONITORING PROGRAMME PROCESS FOR DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION ON POST-2015 GLOBAL MONITORING OF WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Summary of the Final Report of the Working Group on Equity and Non-Discrimination

As the 2015 development deadline for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approaches, the UNICEF-WHO Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) has created four working groups in order to develop possible goals, targets and indicators (GTIs) for post-2015 global monitoring for WASH: the Equity and Non-Discrimination (END) Working Group alongside three sub-sector working groups on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). The purpose of the END Working Group is to advise on how proposed GTIs for the post-2015 development framework can be formulated to address inequalities and discrimination. It is comprised of experts from the water and sanitation sector, statisticians and human rights specialists and is chaired by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, Catarina de Albuquerque.

Even though the MDGs have produced many important gains for people around the world, these improvements have often eluded the marginalized, and those experiencing discrimination and exclusion. The END WG strongly recommends embracing the human rights principles of non-discrimination and equality, as well as the equity approach which should be at the centre of any post-2015 development framework.

To achieve this, the END Working Group offers recommendations regarding the post-2015 GTIs in following three areas:

1. EQUALITY CHECKLIST: A TOOL FOR INTEGRATING EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

The END Working Group offers an Equality Checklist as a tool for sector specialists and policymakers to formulate and evaluate proposed GTIs for WASH. The Checklist allows decision-makers to determine whether issues of equity, equality and non-discrimination are adequately addressed given the demands and limits of global monitoring.

Equality Checklist

When examined as a whole, do the goals, targets, and indicators:

- ✓ prioritize basic access and focus on progressive realization toward safe and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene for all, while reducing inequalities?
- ✓ address spatial inequalities, such as those experienced by communities in remote and inaccessible rural areas and slum-dwellers in (peri-)urban areas?
- ✓ focus on inequities, shining the light on the poorest of the poor?
- ✓ address group-related inequalities that vary across countries, such as those based on ethnicity, race, nationality, language, religion, and caste?
- ✓ attend to the impacts of individual-related inequalities that are relevant in every country of the globe, such as those based on sex/gender, age, disability, and health conditions imposing access constraints—as they are experienced both inside and beyond the household? Do they address menstrual hygiene management?

2. RECOMMENDATIONS ON ELEMENTS FOR GOALS, TARGETS AND INDICATORS

The END Working Group recommends elements to be comprised in the post-2015 architecture, including:

- A stand-alone goal on equality: Equality should be included as an overarching, cross-cutting concern at the goal level, while attention to inequalities must be integrated across sectors.
- Attention to both universality and elimination of inequalities in the WASH goal: The future goals and targets should explicitly embrace equality alongside universality as emphasizing equality underscores both the need to eliminate discrimination and to affirmatively ensure substantive equality by adopting special measures where required.
- Targets and indicators that require the elimination of equality gaps by targeting the most disadvantaged groups: Targets and indicators should be crafted that specifically call for the reduction and ultimate elimination of gaps in access through targeting of the “most disadvantaged groups” while retaining attention to improvements for the lowest quintile. The END Working Group proposes that States themselves be required to identify the specific groups to be monitored on the global level using a participatory process.
- Specific language in targets and indicators requiring reduction in intra-household inequalities: Targets and/or indicators focusing on closing gaps in the actual use of WASH by all individuals within a household should be included in the future framework.
- Targets aimed at reducing inequalities due to individual status and indicators requiring monitoring of equality in access beyond the household: Targets and indicators should be crafted to focus specifically on equality in accessing WASH in educational institutions and health facilities, as well as in other facilities, as feasible.
- Language in targets or indicators capturing menstrual hygiene management: Because menstrual hygiene management has such a strong impact on gender equality, a target or indicator(s) should be crafted to capture the ability of all women and adolescent girls to manage menstruation hygienically, in safety, and with dignity.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS ON MEASUREMENT AND DATA SOURCES

As additions and extensions to the main JMP data sets relying on household surveys and census data, the END Working Group recommends that JMP:

- Make appropriate use of tools for measuring inequalities, particularly gap analyses.
- Ensure that materials created to guide the implementation of WASH targets and indicators address human rights concerns related to data collection.
- Work to improve household data sources, especially the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), including by amending household surveys; adding a questions to surveys concerning menstrual hygiene management and improving the categorization and sampling of slums.
- Expand data sources to ensure equality dimensions are captured, including access beyond the household for disadvantaged groups and those experiencing inequalities related to individual status.

The full report is available at: www.wssinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/resources/JMP-END-WG-Final-Report-20120821.pdf