Global platform for the formulation of proposed Post-2015 WASH Goals, Targets and Indicators

Introduction
Since 1990, the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) has monitored progress in global drinking-water and sanitation coverage. Since 2000 it has a mandate to monitor progress towards the MDG drinking-water and sanitation target. In this context JMP has combined analytical, normative, advocacy and capacity development functions supporting accelerated efforts to ensure better access to safe drinking-water and basic sanitation globally. Admittedly, current global indicators fall short of measuring progress in some key areas, such as those mentioned under the Human Right to Water and Sanitation¹: drinking-water quality, and accessibility, reliability, affordability, sustainability and equality in access of drinking-water and sanitation facilities, as well as on the broader aspects of sanitation and wastewater management. In the vision of water, sanitation and hygiene professionals universal sustainable access to safe drinking-water and basic sanitation, and improved hygiene practices are fundamental to attain a healthy and dignified standard of living allowing all children to develop to their full potential and all people to live productive lives in harmony with nature.

Anticipating the need for a strengthened, comprehensive and more responsive post-2015 monitoring framework, WHO and UNICEF created an inclusive JMP platform for all drinking-water, sanitation and hygiene stakeholders to reach consensus on a menu of options for global WASH goals and corresponding targets and indicators, for consideration by the UN Member States in their deliberations on post-2015 development goals and targets.

WHO/UNICEF JMP post-2015 monitoring discussion platform on WASH
In May 2011 the WHO and UNICEF convened a global stakeholder Consultation in Berlin, hosted by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), to kick-start the process of formulating proposed post-2015 WASH goals, targets and corresponding indicators. This Consultation² brought together over 70 WASH professionals, representing civil society, academia, professional associations, multilateral and bilateral agencies, as well as statistical and data collection experts and representatives from the human rights community. The objectives were to review the current global drinking-water and sanitation monitoring landscape, identify the strengths and weaknesses of the current MDG target, discuss the relevance of the principles underlying the human right to water and sanitation for consideration in future goals and targets, and reach agreement on a roadmap towards the formulation of a limited number of viable global WASH Goals, corresponding targets and indicators.

In the wake of this Consultation, four working groups were established, for drinking-water, sanitation, hygiene and equity and non-discrimination; the remit of the fourth working group cuts across the first three. The working groups are coordinated by leading global institutions³ and membership consists of recognized experts from both the North and the South. They are guided by terms of reference, with the JMP coordinating the overall process.

³ The Water Working Group is led by WaterAid (UK) and the IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre (Netherlands). The Sanitation Working Group is led by the World Bank Water and Sanitation Program. The Hygiene Working Group is led by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The Equity and Non-Discrimination Working Group is led by the UN Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights (with personal leadership from the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Drinking-Water and Sanitation).
During the first seven months of 2012, the working groups will have regular telephone conferences and face-to-face meetings. In addition, a range of other viewpoints and proposals will be gathered from global and regional WASH meetings as well as a web platform (WHO/UNICEF JMP site www.wssinfo.org), and close links with regional bodies and processes will be maintained.

The working groups have been asked by JMP to:

- Focus on a Goal that is aspirational, measurable, of global relevance and behind which politicians at the highest levels can comfortably rally to lend their voice and support, with the formulation of targets and indicators to be derived from the Goal.
- Review existing relevant indicators and monitoring mechanisms for their potential to be used for global monitoring post-2015.
- Ensure that the principles underlying the Human Right to Water and Sanitation are incorporated/reflected in new indicators, to the extent possible.
- Build on existing indicators and monitoring mechanisms to ensure continuity in monitoring.
- Deliver a menu of options of one or more global goals, with corresponding targets and indicators, in each of the categories (drinking-water, sanitation, hygiene and equity and non-discrimination).

The outcomes of the working groups will be discussed in a second stakeholder Consultation in the Netherlands in December 2012, where the consolidated menu of options will be agreed for consideration by UN Member States and for tabling at the UN General Assembly in September 2013.

During 2013, proposed indicators and their data sources will be further validated to ensure that the indicators robustly measure the proposed targets. Time permitting, the JMP may also collect information on the most promising indicators in order to be able to establish a credible baseline by 2015.

While the WHO/UNICEF JMP facilitates the technical process, a parallel political process will be started reaching out to UN member states with an interest in championing the outcome of the platform discussions on a global WASH goal into the wider post-2015 discussions. The Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Water and Sanitation will take a supportive role in facilitating the political process.

The timeframe is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Working groups – members invited</td>
<td>January 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working groups hold two face-to-face meetings</td>
<td>February-Sept 2012</td>
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<td>Feedback at global and regional meetings</td>
<td>March-Sept 2012</td>
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<td>Working groups submit initial consolidated proposal</td>
<td>October 2012</td>
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<td>Second stakeholder consultation (The Hague, Netherlands)</td>
<td>3-5 December 2012</td>
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<td>Core group produces consolidated proposal</td>
<td>February 2013</td>
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<td>Proposal circulated to Member States</td>
<td>March-April 2013</td>
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<td>Proposals tabled at UN General Assembly</td>
<td>September 2013</td>
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