

Align to Accelerate:

Launch of the public consultation on the set of WASH systems core indicators



AGENDA FOR CHANGE

Webinar convened by Agenda for Change

8 October 2026

Housekeeping



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In case of **technical problems**, feel free to **ask for assistance in the chat**.



Please **use the chat** for questions and comments – which will be address at the end of the webinar, or later by email.



Webinar will be recorded – recording and slides will be shared with attendees.



Please keep your **questions relevant to the topic of the webinar**.



Who is here? –

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You can switch between French, Spanish and English interpretation by clicking the interpretation icon at the bottom of your Zoom window.

Objectives of today's webinar

- Provide background information on A2A
- Share the shortlist of A2A candidate core indicators
- Launch the global public consultation on the shortlist of A2A candidate core indicators

Agenda

Time	Content	Person responsible
14:00-14:05	Welcome / housekeeping	• Fiona Gore, WHO
14:05-14:10	Opening / setting the scene	• Bethlehem Mengistu, Agenda for Change
14:10-14:25	About A2A: background, progress to date	• Marina Takane, WHO
14:25-14:40	Shortlist of A2A candidate core indicators	• Kelly Ann Naylor, WHO
14:40-14:55	About the public consultation	• Betsy Engebretson, WHO
14:55-15:20	Partner reflections & Q&A	• Facilitated by Claire Chase, World Bank ○ Rajit Ojha, Government of Nepal ○ Vivek Raman, ADB ○ Juliet Willetts, University of Technology Sydney
15:20-15:30	Next steps and closing	• Janet Atim, UNICEF

Opening

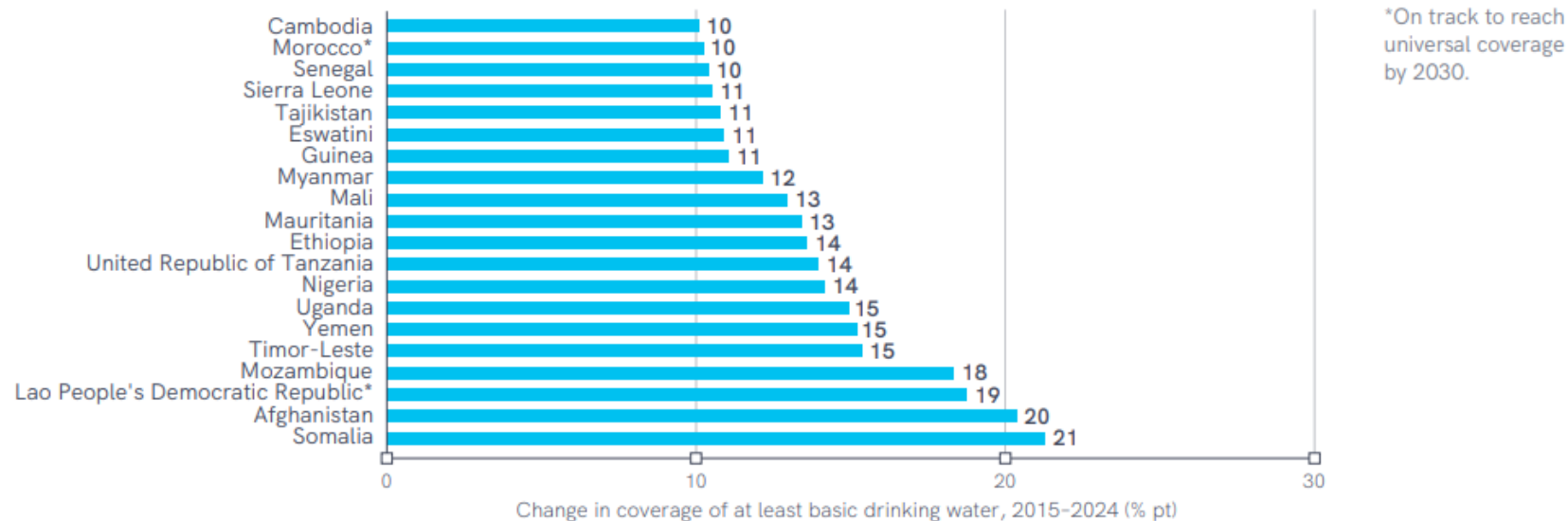
***Bethlehem Mengistu
Executive Director
Agenda for Change***



Progress needed to reach SDG 6.1 and 6.2

- According to the **JMP 2025 report** the world is not on track to reach SDG 6.1 and 6.2
- Yet some countries have successfully and rapidly increased coverage of WASH services

Since 2015, 20 countries have increased coverage of at least basic drinking water by at least 10 % pts



What are the factors that lead some countries to make rapid progress towards increasing access to WASH services and others not?

FIGURE 26

Change in proportion of population using at least basic drinking water services, among countries with at least a 10 % pts change, 2015-2024 (% pts)

Our common goal: a multi-stakeholder initiative

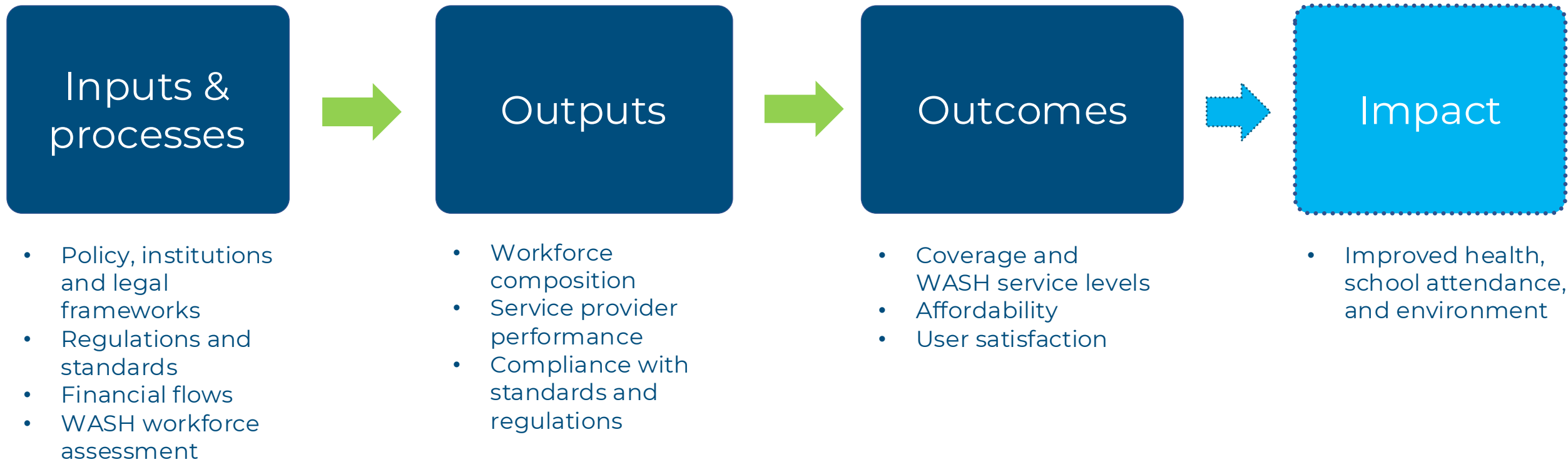
To develop a **common monitoring and review framework** comprised of an **agreed set of core indicators** that operate together as “vital signs” to measure and track the strength of the WASH system at national level.

To steer a process for development of a set of core indicators and a common monitoring and review framework to monitor the strength of WASH systems.

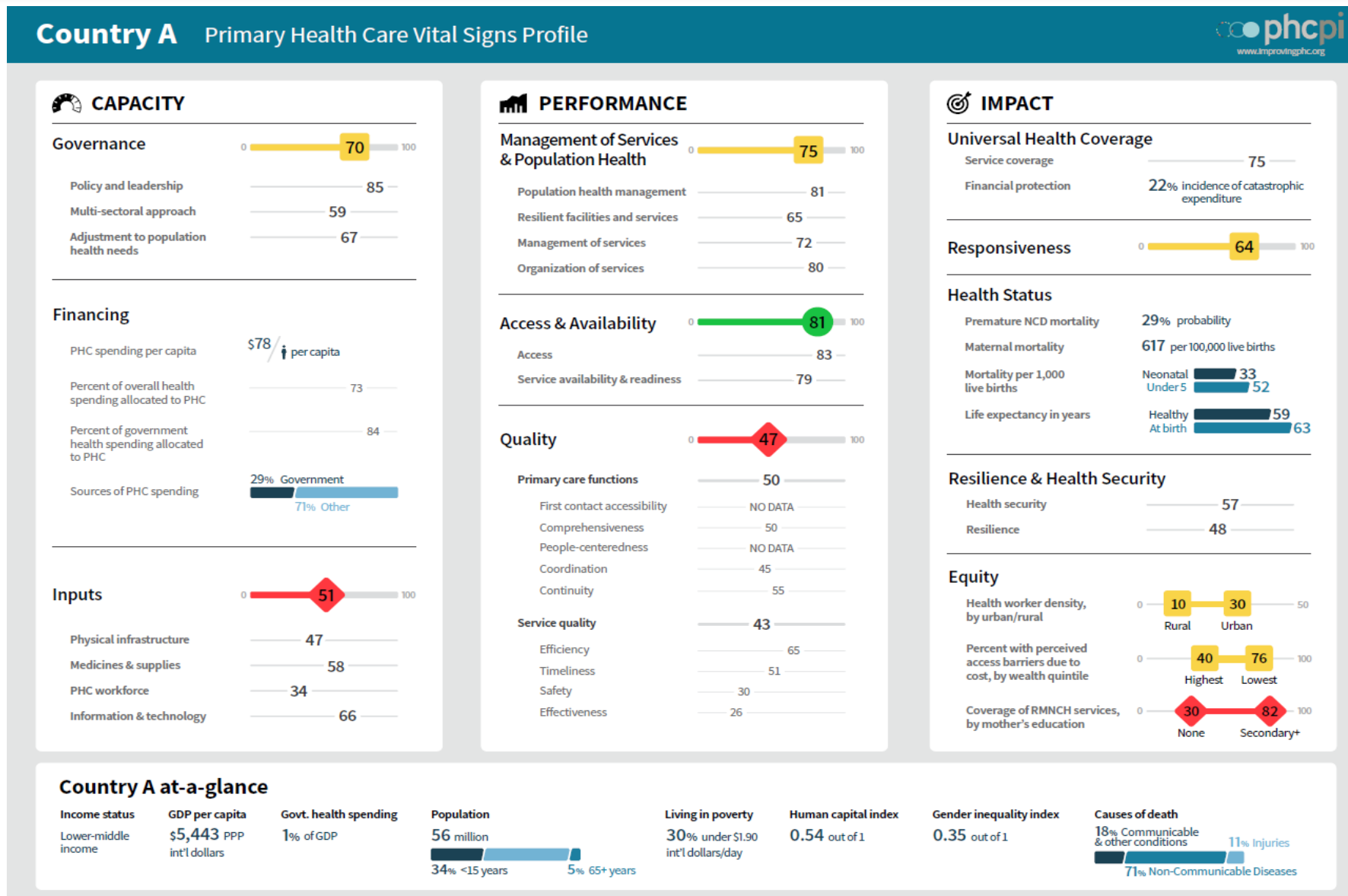
To pilot in a few selected, but diverse country settings: data collection, data visualization and data use by national and regional/global actors, based upon a localized approach

To support governments and partners in the establishment of a process for regular national monitoring and review of the strength of WASH systems, e.g. evidence-based joint sector review-type process, based on a set of national indicators that will include the core indicators.

Results chain

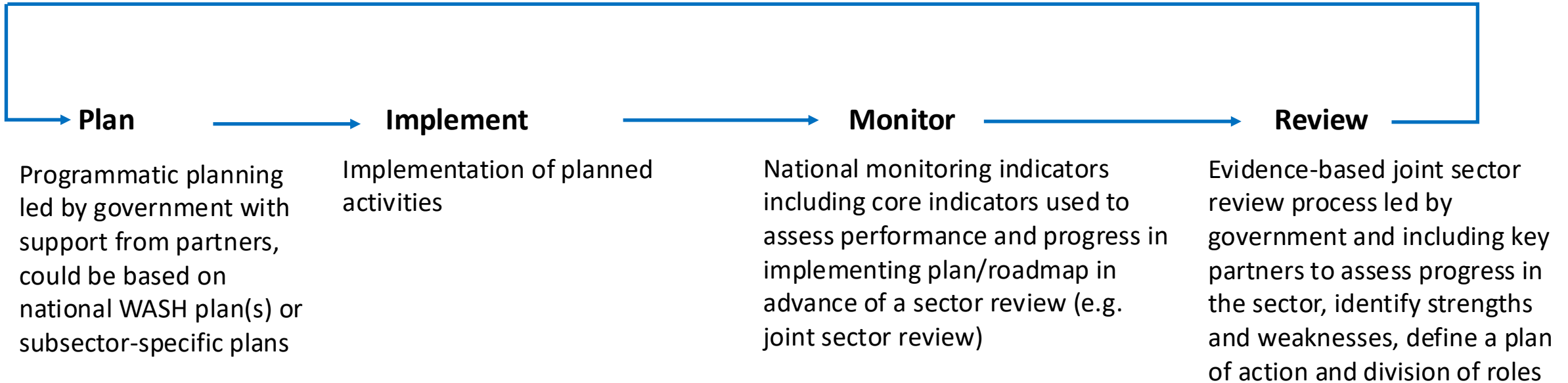


Monitoring Primary Health Care (PHC) performance: an example of a national performance dashboard for country use

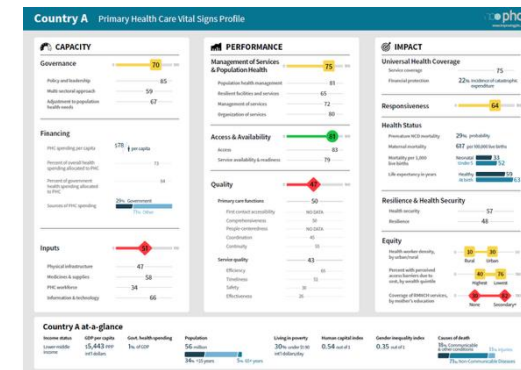


- A snapshot of PHC in individual countries – where systems are strong and where there are challenges.
- Identify priority areas for improvement and track improvements over time.
- Supports transparency and accountability for results.

National-level monitoring of the WASH system



Ideally, baselines are established and national targets set with a plan of action to achieve them, with a set of indicators to monitor progress including core indicators



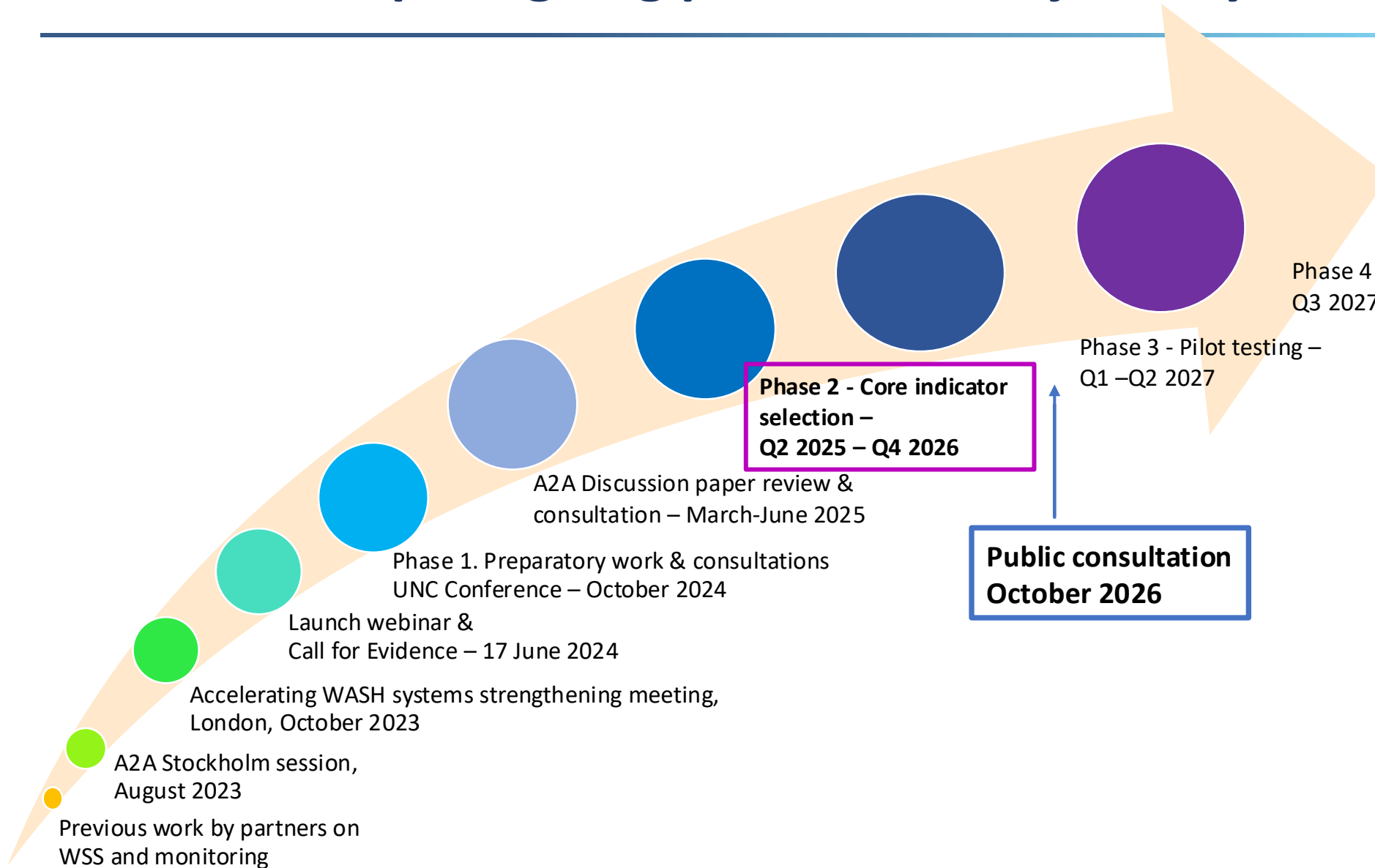
Core indicators reported to GLAAS for global monitoring

Analytical review based on national monitoring indicators

A2A Roadmap- ongoing process & our journey ahead!



Accelerate progress on SDG 6



*Preparations for
« Post-2030 »*

Phase 2 – how it worked

- **Objective:** Nominate, prioritize and ultimately identify a slim set of candidate core indicators to monitor the strength and performance of WASH systems.
- **Approach:**
 - Identified and established nine Expert groups
 - Expert groups selected 2-3 indicators for their indicator domain family using A2A core indicator selection criteria and a scoring model
 - TWG reviewed and helped prioritize candidate core indicators to identify a balanced and coherent ‘slim set’ of core indicators
 - Public consultation process will review and refine the candidate core indicators to use for Phase 3 pilot testing

Process to select A2A core indicators

**Step 1. Nominate
potential core indicators**

**Step 2. Select candidate
core indicators**

**Step 3. Prioritize a slim
set of core indicators**

**Prioritized set
of core indicators**

Slim set of 15-18 indicators

Selected candidate core indicators

*2-3 indicators per domain family:
~27 candidate core indicators*

Nominated potential core indicators

*1-2 per expert, 9 indicator domain families:
~150 potential core indicators*

Assessment of indicators: rating criteria

USEFULNESS

- **Does the indicator generate data that are useful to policy-makers, practitioners and governments at national level?** It should provide contextually relevant insights for decision-making, policy-setting and review processes with sufficient incentives for sustained reporting.

FEASIBILITY

- **Can the indicator be measured using national WASH monitoring systems?** This could include, for example, data collected through WASH or other management information systems (MIS), administrative data, regulatory data, household and other surveys, census data, and regularly conducted national assessments. In later stages we will assess and define measurement methods more specifically for each indicator.

CHANGE SENSITIVITY

- **Does the indicator detect changes achievable within a 3 to 5-year policy time frame through WASH-specific actions?** i.e. changes that can be achieved within the time frames of National WASH policies, strategies and plans (e.g. 3-5 years) with change accomplished through WASH-specific actions.

RELEVANCE

- **Is the indicator relevant across different country typologies and contexts?** (e.g., income groups, regions, etc.)

Shortlist of A2A candidate core indicators

No.	Short title	Indicator
1	National WASH legal framework	National WASH legal framework is adopted, recognizes the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation, provides institutional mandates, and is enacted at all levels.
2.a	National WASH policy framework	National WASH policy framework(s) is adopted, sets policy objectives/targets including equity and resilience, and is translated into a programme/plan.
2.b	National WASH programmes and plans	National WASH programmes/plans with implementation measures including equity and resilience, are adopted, costed with budget allocations, and implemented.
2.c	Sub-national WASH programmes and plans	Number (%) of sub-national service authorities with WASH programmes/plans with implementation measures including equity and resilience that are adopted, costed with budget allocations, and implemented.
3	Institutional framework	WASH institutional framework is established with coherent, well-defined and distinct roles and responsibilities and institutions are adequately staffed and funded (budget allocations) to perform their mandated functions.
4	National WASH coordination mechanism	Government-led, national-level WASH coordination mechanism is established that is (i) cross-sectoral, (ii) inclusive of different stakeholders, (iii) meets at mandated frequency, (iv) is used in decision-making and (v) maintains a record of actions that are implemented.
5	National WASH monitoring framework	National WASH monitoring framework is established that (a) tracks progress on (i) implementation of policies, strategies and programmes/plans, including measures and targets for equity and resilience and (ii) the performance of institutions, service authorities and service providers; and (b) provides timely, relevant, and actionable information that is (i) used for decision-making and (ii) publicly available.
6	Sector review process	Government-led sector review process is established and regularly conducted; it involves (i) ministries and institutions with WASH-related roles and responsibilities and (ii) representatives of stakeholder groups; it (iii) reviews progress, (iv) uses data and evidence for prioritization and decision-making and (v) produces publicly available reports.
7	WASH Workforce capacity	Capacity of the WASH workforce has been assessed, and staffing and capacity building plan has been agreed, costed, included in WASH programmes/plans and implemented. The assessment and strategy/plan are (a) disaggregated by WASH services and different stakeholders; and (b) consider gender, geographic and equity aspects.
8	WASH Workforce composition	Number of water and sanitation staff per population, disaggregated by: (a) institution type; (b) national and sub-national level; (c) staff level/role; (d) disaggregated by gender/sex, age, and ethnicity.

Shortlist of A2A candidate core indicators *(cont'd)*

No.	Short title	Indicator
9	Staff vacancy rate	Staff vacancy rate in public water and sanitation institutions, disaggregated by: (a) institution; (b) national and sub-national level; (c) staff level/role.
10.a	Regulatory framework	The regulatory framework is (i) formally adopted, (ii) provides clear institutional mandates for surveillance and enforcement, (iii) recognizes and establishes targeted measures for populations in vulnerable situations (equity), including affordability of tariffs.
10.b	Regulatory authority	A mandated regulatory authority (i) periodically reviews and revises tariffs, (ii) issues penalties/non-compliance enforcement actions, and (iii) regularly publishes reports that are publicly available.
11.a	National regulations and standards - climate resilience	Standards and regulations that take into account current and future climate are available to support the design and construction of resilient infrastructure.
11.b	Design and construction standards - climate resilience	Proportion of population/ schools/health care facilities served by WASH services that conform to national regulations and standards for design and construction that take into account current and future climate. Water: (a) water supply source; (b) water treatment; (c) storage and distribution; Sanitation services: (d) capture and containment; (e) conveyance; (f) treatment; and Hygiene services: (g) hand hygiene; (h) menstrual hygiene.
12.a	National regulations and standards - equity	Standards and regulations are available to support the design and construction of infrastructure that takes into account accessibility and safety of populations in vulnerable situations.
12.b	Design and construction standards - equity	Proportion of population/ schools/health care facilities served by WASH services that conform to national regulations and standards for design and construction that take into account accessibility and safety of populations in vulnerable situations.
13	Risk management plans	Proportion of population/ schools/health care facilities served by service providers that implement risk management plans which consider current and future climate (for example climate-resilient water safety plans).
14	Service provider targets	Percentage of service providers that regularly set, monitor, and actively report performance targets and indicators.
15	Non-revenue water	Weighted average of non-revenue water for service providers.
16	Operating ratio	Weighted average of the operating ratio for service providers.
17	Collection efficiency	Weighted average of the collection efficiency (%) of service providers.
18	Hours of supply	Average number of hours per month that a service provider provides (a) water supply and (b) sanitation services to its customers.

Shortlist of A2A candidate core indicators *(cont'd)*

No.	Short title	Indicator
19	Complaints mechanism	Complaints mechanism is available, accessible, operational and responsive (service-provider level). (a) Proportion of the population with covered by complaints mechanism. (b) Total complaints per 1000 customers (weighted average across service providers). (c) Average time to resolve complaints (weighted average across service providers).
20	Household satisfaction	Proportion of households reporting satisfaction with the responsiveness of WASH service providers to community needs.
21	Public participation	Clearly defined procedures exist in law or policy for participation by service users (e.g. households) and communities [SDG 6b.1] and: (a) include provisions for the participation of women and populations in vulnerable situations, (b) there is a mandated agency/institution to support implementation and monitoring of participation procedures, (c) there are sufficient financial and human resources to support participation of users and communities, (d) proportion of the population for which opportunities for participation occur at least every six months.
22	Wastewater treatment, recycling and safe reuse	Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows, including faecal sludge, safely collected, treated [SDG 6.3.1], recycled and safely reused.
23	Social and Behaviour Change Communication	Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) strategy for WASH is adopted, costed/budgeted, translated into an operational plan (at national or subnational level) and implemented.
24.a	Government WASH budget	Total annual government WASH budget: (a) per capita, (b) as a % of the GDP, and (c) percentage annual increase in budget amount.
24.b	Government WASH expenditure	Total annual government WASH expenditure: (a) per capita, (b) as a % of the GDP, and (c) percentage increase in expenditure.
24.c	Government budget execution rate	Percentage of the total annual government WASH budget spent.
25	Total WASH expenditure (all financial flows)	Total WASH expenditure: (a) per capita, (b) as a % of the GDP, and (c) percentage increase in expenditure.

“Country context at-a-glance” candidate indicators

Indicator	About the indicator	Source
Income classification	Every year, the World Bank Group classifies the world’s economies into four income groups: low, lower-middle, upper-middle, and high. A country’s income classification not only reflects its level of development, but it also has the potential to influence its development trajectory.	The World Bank Group
GDP per capita	GDP per capita is a country’s economic output divided by its total population. It gives a rough estimate of how much economic wealth is available per resident in a nation.	The World Bank Group
Population	Population is the number of people living in a country.	Government reported
People living in poverty / Poverty rate	Extreme poverty is defined as living on less than \$3.00 per person per day in 2021 purchasing power parity terms.	The World Bank Group
Creditworthiness of utilities	The creditworthiness of a water utility measures its financial stability and ability to repay debt, evaluated through credit ratings from agencies like Moody’s Investors Service, S&P Global Ratings, and Fitch Ratings.	Moody’s Investors Service, S&P Global Ratings, Fitch Ratings
Global WASH Sector Resilience Index (GWSRI)	GWSRI evaluates how WASH systems can withstand a broad spectrum of unpredictable and inter-connected hazards. By considering multiple stressors – whether environmental, economic or social – it provides a more comprehensive understanding of resilience.	UNICEF
WASH insecurity analysis (WIA)	It provides a structured way to identify which areas within a country face the highest levels of WASH insecurity.	UNICEF
Multidimensional Fragility Dashboard	The OECD’s multidimensional fragility framework tracks exposure to risk and coping capacities to manage those risks. Using this, the OECD measures the intensity of fragility in 177 countries and territories. It also monitors official development assistance (ODA) and other financial flows to measure international support to countries that need it most.	OECD
Children’s Climate Risk Index (CCRI)	The Children’s Climate Risk Index (CCRI) provides the first comprehensive view of children’s exposure and vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. It ranks countries based on children’s exposure to climate and environmental shocks, such as cyclones and heatwaves, as well as their vulnerability to those shocks, based on their access to essential services.	UNICEF
Inequality-adjusted HDI (IDHI)	The IHDI accounts for inequalities in HDI dimensions by “discounting” each dimension’s average value according to its level of inequality. The IHDI value equals the HDI value when there is no inequality across people but falls below the HDI value as inequality rises. In this sense, the IHDI measures the level of human development when inequality is accounted for.	UNDP

“Country context at-a-glance” candidate indicators *(cont’d)*

Indicator	About the indicator	Source
Gender Inequality Index (GII)	GII reflects gender-based disadvantage in three dimensions— reproductive health, empowerment and the labour market—for as many countries as data of reasonable quality allow. It shows the loss in potential human development due to inequality between female and male achievements in these dimensions. It ranges from 0, where women and men fare equally, to 1, where one gender fares as poorly as possible in all measured dimensions.	UNDP
World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI): Government Effectiveness, Regulatory Quality, Rule of Law, Control of Corruption, Voice and Accountability	The Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) are one of the leading global initiatives for measuring governance. First published in 1999, they provide annual composite indicators summarizing six dimensions of governance: Voice and Accountability, Political Stability, Government Effectiveness, Regulatory Quality, Rule of Law, and Control of Corruption. The WGI draws on perception data from 35 cross-country sources—including household surveys, firm surveys, and expert assessments—to offer a comparable picture of governance quality across more than 200 economies from 1996 to 2024.	The World Bank Group
Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA)	The PEFA program provides a framework for assessing and reporting on the strengths and weaknesses of public financial management (PFM) using quantitative indicators to measure performance. PEFA is designed to provide a snapshot of PFM performance at specific points in time using a methodology that can be replicated in successive assessments, giving a summary of changes over time.	PEFA
Country Policy and Institutional Assessments (CPIA)	The World Bank's Country Policy and Institutional Assessment is done annually for all its borrowing countries. It has evolved into a set of criteria, which are grouped in four clusters: (a) economic management; (b) structural policies; (c) policies for social inclusion and equity; and (d) public sector management and institutions. The number of criteria, currently sixteen, reflect a balance between ensuring that all key factors that foster pro-poor growth and poverty alleviation are captured, without overly burdening the evaluation process. Ratings for each of the criteria reflect a variety of indicators, observations, and judgments. They focus on the quality of each country's current policies and institutions - which are the main determinant of present aid effectiveness prospects.	The World Bank Group

Internationally agreed water and sanitation-related indicators

- 11 officially adopted indicators for SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation)
- 3 water-related indicators for targets under other Goals:
 - SDG indicator 1.4.1 (End Poverty), 3.9.2 (Health and well-being), 4.a.1 (Education)
- 9 Belem indicators, Target 9 (a) of the Global goal on adaptation for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

About the public consultation

[Link to survey](#)

About the public consultation

- Public consultation survey is open from **8 to 31 October 2026**.
- All public consultation materials are on the [Align to Accelerate website](#) (link to survey, list of indicators, additional information).
- Feedback is individual not institutional, so please circulate to your colleagues and networks!
- We're looking for indicators that work together as a set to monitor the strength of WASH systems at the national level.
- The core set of A2A indicators will be integrated into the national monitoring system by governments to measure the strength of WASH systems.
- The following criteria were used when developing the indicators: usefulness, feasibility, change sensitivity and relevance, which may be helpful to consider when selecting your indicators.
- If you have any questions about the public consultation and/or survey, please write to washmonitoring@who.int.

Reflections from partners and Q&A

Claire Chase
Senior Economist
The World Bank Water Global Practice



A2A next steps

- Slides and webinar recording will be shared.
- Complete the online survey to provide feedback on the shortlist of A2A candidate core indicators and the “country at a glance” indicators by **31 October 2026**.
- If you have any questions about the public consultation and/or survey, please write to washmonitoring@who.int.
- Based on feedback from the public consultation, the A2A indicators will be revised and materials for piloting will be developed.
- *Coming next...* Phase 3 – Government-led piloting at country-level
- Join the [A2A news mailing list](#)



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The background is a complex, abstract pattern composed of numerous overlapping triangles of various sizes. The colors are soft and pastel, including shades of yellow, orange, pink, light blue, and pale green. The triangles are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and movement, with some triangles appearing more prominent than others. The overall effect is a vibrant yet soothing geometric design.

Thank you!