Costa Rica



Highlights based on country-reported GLAAS 2018/2019 data

The data presented in this UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) country highlight are country government responses to the GLAAS 2018/2019 country survey. Since 2008, GLAAS has monitored key elements of national drinking-water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) systems with a focus on governance, monitoring, human resources and finance. The data presented in this highlight are a snapshot of the WASH systems in the country and do not cover all aspects of the WASH sector. For more information, see https://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/monitoring/investments/glaas/en/

I. To what extent has the government assumed responsibility for WASH and made themselves accountable?

NATIONAL POLICIES AND PLANS: EXISTENCE AND IMPLEMENTATION

	Policy status	Policy shared via public notice?	Year policy approved/ expected	Plan status	Plan costed?	Sufficient finance for plan?	Human resources assessed for plan?	Sufficient human resources for plan?	Year plan approved/ expected	Estimated cost
Urban sanitation	•	~	2017	•	~	0	×	•	2017	US\$ 6 448 million 2017-2045 total; of which US\$ 2 145 million corresponds to urban sewage systems and US\$ 1 363 million for treatment expansion
Rural sanitation	•	~	2017	•	✓	0	×	•	2017	US\$ 6 448 million 2017-2045 total; of which US\$ 1 698 million corresponds to rural sewage systems and sanitation and US\$ 1 095 million for treatment rehabilitation
Urban drinking-water		✓	2018	0						
Rural drinking-water		✓	2018	0						
Policy status: ○ No national policy; Policy under development; Existing policy undergoing revision; Policy formally approved. Plan status: ○ No plan; Under development; Approved, not implemented; Approved, partially implemented; Approved, fully implemented. Policy shared, Plan costed and Human resources assessed: Yes; No. Sufficient finance and Sufficient human resources: ○ Less than 50% of what is needed; Between 50% and 75% of what is needed; More than 75% of what is needed.										

SYSTEMS IN PLACE TO TRACK FUNDING FLOWS TO WASH

	Financing plan	Availability of WASH budgets	Expenditure reports	Traceable donor funding channels	Tracking of expenditure sources		
Urban sanitation	•		•				
Rural sanitation	•				•		
Urban drinking-water		•					
Rural drinking-water	•						
Hygiene promotion					0		
Financing plan: O No plan;	; 🖰 Under de	evelopment; ${ m extsf{G}}$	Agreed, insuff	iciently imple	mented;		
Agreed, used in some de							
WASH budgets: O No WAS							
have budget data; Budg disaggregated data available			alf of ministries	listed; To	tal and		
Expenditure reports: O No			donor. NGO or	government	reports		
available; Donor, NGO a				дотеннисть			
Donor funding channels:				but no disagg	gregation		
by funding channel; Tota							
Tracking expenditure sources: O No expenditure data; O Some exenditure data provided							
but not disaggregated by su	bsector; 🛈 E	xpenditure da	ta available for s	some sources	;		
Expenditure data available for all sources.							
NOTE: More information on	budgets and	finance is avail	able in section I	V of this high	light.		

MONITORING PROGRESS TOWARDS NATIONAL TARGETS

	Monitoring WASH targets
Government-led process for monitoring	
Frequency of assessment	
Sufficiency of human resources for monitoring	•
Government-led process: ✓ Yes; ➤ No. Frequency of assessment: ○ Ad hoc; ○ Every 4+ years; 0 to 4 years; ● Annually. Sufficient human resources: ○ Less than 50% of what is not needed; ● More that what is needed.	eeded;

PROGRESS TOWARD NATIONAL TARGETS

	Baseline value	Baseline year	Current value	Current year	Target value	Target year	Target description
Urban sanitation							
Rural sanitation							
Urban drinking-water							
Rural drinking-water							
Hygiene promotion							





II. What regulatory framework has been developed to support the quality and sustainability of services?

REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS

SANITATION	SANITATION DRI			Urban	Rural
Formal national treatment standards - on-site sanitation	>	(Formal national standards - drinking-water	~	✓
Formal national treatment standards - faecal sludge	✓		Surveillance requirements defined in formal instruments	~	~
Formal national treatment standards - wastewater	✓		Roles and responsibilities for drinking-water safety defined	~	~
Formal national treatment standards - safe reuse	~	/	Service delivery requirements beyond water quality	✓	✓
Surveillance requirements defined in formal instruments	∀	/			
SANITATION RISK MANAGEMENT	Urban	Rural	DRINKING-WATER RISK MANAGEMENT		
Sanitation safety planning	0	0	Water safety planning		
✓ Yes; X No.					
Risk management: O No such instrument; O Instrument anticipated; O Ins	trument und	der develo	oment; Instrument fully approved.		

REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES	Urban sanitation	Rural sanitation	Urban drinking-water	Rural drinking-water
Responsible for setting tariffs	✓	✓	✓	✓
Oversee drinking-water quality			✓	✓
Oversee effluent quality	✓	✓		
Oversee service coverage and quality of service delivery	✓	✓	✓	✓
REGULATORY AUTHORITY MANDATE				
Established by law	✓	✓	✓	✓
Located in different institution than service providers	✓	✓	✓	✓
Can publish findings independently without clearance	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓ Yes; X No.				

FUNCTIONS OF REGULATORS

SANITATION	Urban	Rural	DRINKING-WATER	Urban	Rural
Collect population service coverage data from operators	~		Collect population service coverage data from providers	✓	
Set standards and monitor design, construction, use of plants/sewers	~	~	Collect water quality data from service providers	✓	_
Set standards and monitor design, construction, use of on-site systems		Δ	Publish accessible reports on drinking-water quality	✓	~
Set standards and monitor faecal sludge management			Publish accessible reports on water service delivery	✓	
Publish accessible reports on flows and sludge volumes	✓		Take corrective action against nonperformers	✓	✓
Publish accessible reports on quality of on-site sanitation services	×	×			
Take corrective action against nonperformers	~	4			
✓ Yes; A Partially; No.			-		

INDEPENDENT SURVEILLANCE

SANITATION	Sewered wastewater effluent quality	On-site facilities	DRINKING-WATER	Urban	Rural			
Testing of effluent and sludge quality against national standards	•	0	Testing of water quality against national standards					
Independent assessment of risk management approaches	0	0	Independent assessment of risk management approaches					
Independent sanitary inspections at premises to assess risks	0	0	Independent sanitary inspections to assess risk					
Collection and review of service provider monitoring records	•	1	Collection and review of service provider monitoring					
$igcirc$ Not done or insufficiently performed; $oldsymbol{0}$ Performed but data not used	; Performed	and inform	ns remedial action.					
SANITATION	Urban	Rural	DRINKING-WATER	Urban	Rural			
Adequacy of testing frequency	•	•	Adequacy of testing frequency	1	•			
Sufficiency of human resources for surveillance activities	0	0	Sufficiency of human resources for surveillance activities	0	0			
Adequacy of testing frequency: O No frequency requirement; C Less than 50%; D Between 50% and 75%; Between 75% and 100%; 100% of required frequency. Sufficiency of human resources: C Less than 50% of what is needed; Between 50% and 75% of what is needed;								

III. To what extent are stakeholders coordinated and what data are available for evidence-based decision-making?

INSTITUTIONAL ROLES - NUMBER OF LEAD AGENCIES

	Govern / Regulate	Provide Service	Monitor / Surveillance
Drinking-water	2	3	1
Hygiene promotion	0	0	0
Basic sanitation	1	0	0
Municipal wastewater	1	3	3
Faecal sludge collection and treatment	2	3	3

NOTE: Number indicates number of lead ministries and national institutions.

LIST OF MINISTRIES / INSTITUTIONS WITH ROLES IN WASH

Costa Rican Institute of Aqueducts and Sewers; Administrative Associations of Communal Aqueduct and Sewer Systems; municipalities (local governments); regulatory authority of public services

INSTITUTIONAL WASH IN NATIONAL POLICY AND PLANS

	Included in policies / plans	Year that policy was approved or is expected
WASH in health care facilities	✓	2018
WASH In schools	×	
Infection prevention and control	×	
✓ Yes; X No.		

COORDINATION BETWEEN ACTORS

	Formal or informal coordination process
Mechanism to coordinate work of different ministries exists	0
O No; O In development; O Informal mechanism exists; Formal mechanis	m exists.
The coordination mechanism:	
· includes all ministries/agencies influencing service delivery	
· includes non-governmental stakeholders	
· includes donors that contribute to WASH activities nationally	
· includes mutual review and assessment	
· applies evidence-based decision-making	
· bases work on agreed sectoral framework or national plan	
· includes documentation of processes and activities	
· has a budget line allocated for coordination activities	
✓ Yes; A Partially; No.	

JOINT SECTOR REVIEW

						Secto	rs covered		
		Year of			D. J. Live		WASH in	NA/ACILL.	
		most recent			Drinking-		health care	WASH In	
	Conducted	JSR	Title of JSR	Sanitation	water	Hygiene	facilities	schools	Other
Joint sector review (JSR)	×	2017 and 2018	Health Sector Planning; Regional Report on the progress of SDG6 in the V Latinosan (2019)	~	~	×	~	×	×
✓ Yes; X No.									

DATA AVAILABILITY FOR DECISION-MAKING

DATA AVAILABILITY FOR DECISION-MAKING						
SANITATION AND DRINKING-WATER	Sanitation	Drinking- water	Health sector			
Sector review and/or planning processes		•				
Resource allocation		•				
National standard or regulation development						
Targeting surveillance activities	•	•				
HEALTH SECTOR						
Identifying public health priorities for reducing WASH-related diseases			0			
Responding to WASH-related disease outbreaks			•			
Identifying priority health care facilities needing WASH improvements			0			
O Limited data collection and availability; O Partial availability and little use of data; O Data available and used for minority of decisions;						

IV. How sufficient are current resources and what actions are being taken to close resource gaps?

SUFFICIENCY OF HUMAN RESOURCES

	Sanitation	Drinking-water	Hygiene	WASH in health care facilities	WASH in schools			
Achieving national targets								
	WASH sector							
Operations and maintenance	(0						
Design/construction of WASH facilities and	/							
networks		J						
O Less than 50% of what is needed; • Between 50% and 75% of what is needed; • Over 75% of what is needed.								

UTILIZATION OF AVAILABLE FUNDS (ABSORPTION)

				Rural drinking-
	Urban sanitation	Rural sanitation	Urban drinking-water	water
Domestic commitments	0	0		0
Donor commitments	0	0	0	0
O Less than 50%; Between 50% and 75%; Over 75%.			·	

COST RECOVERY STRATEGIES

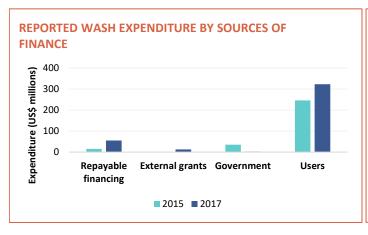
				Rural drinking-			
	Urban sanitation	Rural sanitation	Urban drinking-water	water			
Operations and basic maintenance covered by tariffs		•					
Cost recovery addressed in financing plan/budget							
Operations and maintenance covered by tariffs: ○ Less than 50%; Between 50% and 80%; Over 80%. Cost recovery addressed in plan: Yes; No.							

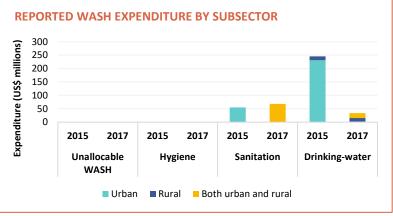
SUFFICIENCY OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES

	Urban sanitation	Rural sanitation	Urban drinking- water	Rural drinking- water	Hygiene	WASH in health care facilities	WASH in schools
Implementation of national plan	0	0					
Achievement of national targets			•	•			
Estimated annual need to reach national targets (US\$ millions)	354.31	142.00	129.45	28.40			
Identified available finance from all sources (US\$ millions)	27.80	13.12	30.70	3.45			
O Less than 50% of what is needed; O Between 50% and 75% of what is needed; Over 75% of what is needed.							

WASH BUDGETS AND EXPENDITURES

	2013	2015	2018
Government WASH budget (US\$ millions, current US\$)	271.33	308.52	
Government WASH budget per capita (current US\$)	57.66	64.17	
Government WASH budget as a percentage of GDP	0.55%	0.56%	
		2015	2017
National WASH expenditure (US\$ millions, current US\$)		296.03	402.08
National WASH expenditure per capita (current US\$)		61.57	81.96
National WASH expenditure as a percentage of GDP		0.54%	0.70%





V. What actions are being taken to leave no one behind?

HUMAN RIGHTS

	Sanitation	Water
Does the constitution recognize the human rights to water and sanitation?	×	×
Do laws recognize the human rights to water and sanitation?	×	×
Has a court recognized the human rights to water and sanitation?	✓	✓
✓ Yes; X No.		

REACHING VULNERABLE GROUPS

			Sanitation					rinking-wat	er	
					Financing					Financial
	Measures to extend				plan includes	Measures to extend				plan includes
	services to				measures to	services to				measures to
	group	Level of	Specific		target	group	Level of	Specific		target
	included in	implementa	coverage	Progress for	resources to	included in	implementa	coverage	Progress for	resources
	policies or	tion of	targets for	group is	reduce	policies or	tion of	targets for	group is	to reduce
	plans	measures	group	monitored	inequities	plans	measures	group	monitored	inequities
Poor populations	✓					✓				
Populations living in slums or informal settlements	×				•	×				•
Populations living in remote or hard-to-reach areas	✓				NA	×				NA
Indigenous populations	√					✓				
Internally displaced persons and/or refugees	X					×				
Women	×					×				
Ethnic minorities	X					×				
People living with disabilities	×					×				
Populations with a high burden of disease	×					×				
Other: Groups immersed in conflicts over water, populations with limited access to drinking water supply, and populations in coastal areas	~	•				✓	•			
Measures included in plans, Specific coverage targets, and Progress is monitored: ✓ Yes; メ No; NA = Not applicable. evel of implementation: ○ Not yet implemented; ● Partially implemented; ● Fully implemented. Measures in financing plan to reduce inequities: ○ No; ● Yes, but not consistently applied; ● Yes and measures applied.										

AFFORDABILITY

			Urban	Rural
	Urban	Rural	drinking-	drinking-
	sanitation	sanitation	water	water
Financial schemes to make access to WASH more affordable for vulnerable groups	•	•	•	•
O No schemes exist; O Schemes exist, but not widely used; ● Schemes exist and are widely used.				

SDG means of implementation target 6.b aims to support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management. WHO, in collaboration with partners, monitors this target through the GLAAS initiative, looking at existence of participation procedures, participation of women and availability of resources for participation.

PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED AT NATIONAL LEVEL

	Participation procedures defined in laws or policy	Extent of participation by the service users	Women's participation specified	Extent of women's participation
Urban sanitation	✓	•	×	•
Rural sanitation	✓	•	×	•
Urban drinking-water	✓	•	×	•
Rural drinking-water	✓	•		•
Hygiene promotion	×			
Water resources management	✓	•	×	1
Participation procedures in law/policy and Women's p Extent of participation: O Very low; D Low; D Medi		-	No.	

GOVERNMENT RESOURCES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Financial resources	Human resources	Agency responsible for monitoring extent and effectiveness of participation			
•	•	✓			
1	1	✓			
Financial and human resources: O Less than 50% of what					
is needed; $lacktriangle$ Between 50% and 75% of what is needed;					
● Over 75% of what is needed. Responsible agency: ✓ Yes; ➤ No.					
	ources: O Lo	ources: O Less than 50% of 0% and 75% of what is nee eeded.			

VI. To what extent have countries pursued the ambition of SDG 6?

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) establish global aspirational targets leading up to 2030. Goal 6 aims to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. Governments are expected to set their own national targets guided by the global level of ambition while taking into account national circumstances. This section presents findings on the extent to which countries are pursuing the ambition of SDG 6 by incorporating elements of safely managed services and other SDG themes into national WASH policies, plans and coverage targets. In addition, WHO is a co-custodian of SDG 6 means of implementation targets 6.a and 6.b through the GLAAS initiative.

NATIONAL POLICIES AND PLANS: INCORPORATING SDG 6 ELEMENTS

	I I ala a a	Domail		Urban	Rural
	Urban	Rural		drinking-	drinking-
SANITATION	sanitation	sanitation	DRINKING-WATER	water	water
Access to safely managed services	✓	✓	Access to safely managed services	✓	✓
Access to improved sources or facilities	✓	✓	Access to improved sources or facilities	×	×
Climate resilience of WASH technology	✓	✓	Climate resilience of WASH technology	✓	✓
Open defecation	✓	✓	Affordability measures	×	×
Reuse of municipal wastewater and faecal sludge	×	×	Household connections	V	✓
Municipal wastewater and sewerage	✓	✓	HYGIENE		
Faecal sludge collection and transport	✓	✓	Promotion of handwashing with soap		
Faecal sludge treatment	✓	✓	Safe menstrual hygiene management		
✓ Yes; X No.					

NATIONAL COVERAGE TARGETS: INCORPORATING SDG 6 ELEMENTS IN NATIONAL COVERAGE CRITERIA

SANITATION	Urban sanitation	Rural sanitation	DRINKING-WATER	Urban drinking- water	Rural drinking- water	
Excreta is transported via a sewerage network and treated off-site			Minimum volume of water per day			
Excreta is temporarily stored, emptied, and treated offsite			Minimum service hours per day			
Excreta is treated and disposed of on-site			Maximum roundtrip collection time, including queuing			
Improved sanitation facilities			Maximum roundtrip distance			
Shared sanitation facilities between two or more households			Drinking-water is accessible on premises			
			Drinking-water is free from contamination			
Target year			Target year			
Target value			Target value			
HYGIENE						
Handwashing facility on premises						
Soap and water on premises						
O Not included in target; 🛈 Included in target, but monitoring data not available; 🗨 Included in target and monitoring data available.						

TARGET-SETTING PROCESSES: ARE THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS INCLUDED?

	Sanitation	Drinking- water	Hygiene	WASH in health care facilities
Inclusion of stakeholders				
Baseline analysis				
Financial analysis				
Human resources needs				
assessment				
Public consultation				
Revisions based on public				
consultation				
Political endorsement				
Public sharing of final targets				
✓ Yes; X No.				

SDG means of implementation target 6.a aims to expand international cooperation and capacity-building support for water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes. WHO monitors international cooperation between donor and recipient governments for this target.

