Water, sanitation, and hygiene

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A few key events

1977 Mar del Plata UN Water Conference
1981-1990 Intl Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade
1990 WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme established
2000-2015 Millenium Development Goals – Target 7c
2002 CESCJ General Comment No. 15
2010 UNGA/HRC resolutions
2016 Agenda 2030
From the MDGs to the SDGs

- MDGs target 7c: halve the population that had no sustainable access to water and basic sanitation before 2015
  - Indicators: population using an improved drinking water source; an improved sanitation facility

RESULTS: JMP: 2.6 billion people gained access to safe water and 2.3 billion people to basic sanitation

From improved to safely managed

- Critiques on indicators, e.g. not taking into account quality, or safe disposal of wastewater, lack of disaggregated data, who benefited the most, political angles
SDG 6: targets 6.1 and 6.2

• **Target 6.1.** « universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all »
  – Indicator 6.1.1 “population using safely managed drinking water services”
    • Safely managed: Drinking water from an improved water source that is accessible on premises, available when needed and free from faecal and priority chemical contamination

• **Target 6.2.** « access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations”
  – Indicator 6.2.1. « population using safely managed sanitation services and hand-washing facility with soap and water
    • Safely managed: Use of improved facilities that are not shared with other households and where excreta are safely disposed of in situ or removed and treated offsite
SDG 6: targets 6.1 and 6.2

- Call to leave no one behind
  - Need to characterise people who are left behind: who are they, what are the WASH issues they are facing, and where?
  - Are they part of the decision-making processes (from household to government)?

- Data collection also on health centres, schools, and menstrual health

- Other targets of goal 6 are key
  - Safely managed and other targets: WASH cannot be seen in silo
  - Also links to climate change, both adaptation and mitigation
Targets 6.1 and 6.2: highlights from JMP

- Not on track to achieve SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2
- Many countries still have little data points
- quadrupling of current rates of progress needed
- challenges in extending services to rural areas and to poor and vulnerable populations who are most at risk of being left behind
  - Eight out of ten people who still lacked even basic services lived in rural areas
- Nearly half the world’s population lacked safely managed sanitation services in 2020
- 2 billion people lacked safely managed water services (1 in 4 ppl)
  - 122 million drinking surface water!
Water and sanitation as human right(s)

- UNGA and HRC resolutions 2010 (++)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria (what does that right mean?)</th>
<th>Principles (procedural aspects to get there)</th>
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<td>Availability</td>
<td>Non-discrimination</td>
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<td>Accessibility</td>
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<td>Acceptability</td>
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<td>Quality</td>
<td>Sustainability</td>
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- Access is not sufficient, all criteria and principles are key
- More emphasis on environmental issues related to the HRWS
Importance of disaggregated data when statistics can hide inequalities
Final remarks

• WASH cannot be looked at in a silo
• WASH requires to look at water resources and the environment, take into account HRWS
• Technologies/local, climate resilience, financing
• Prioritisation of those left behind, special attention to women, children, elderly, marginalised, other groups -> call to speed up the process of inclusion
• Affected people must be part of decision-making
• Importance of monitoring, data availability, and disaggregation
• Quantitative progress vs. qualitative progress taking into account human rights dimensions