Indicators on the Rights to Water and Sanitation

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Grace Sanico Steffan

Waterlex High Level Workshop on WASH Indicators – Measuring Progress in the realization of the human right to water and sanitation

Geneva, 21-22 November 2014
Building on existing work

- Normative Standards
- SR and other Experts
- UN and Int’l Agencies
- Good practices at National Level
- Regulatory and Monitoring Bodies
- Service Providers
### Table of Illustrative Indicators on the Rights to Water and Sanitation (OHCHR draft 14/05/2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Safety and Acceptability</th>
<th>Sufficiency and Continuity</th>
<th>Affordability</th>
<th>Physical Accessibility</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International human rights treaties relevant to the rights to water and sanitation ratified by the State</td>
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<td>Date of entry into force and coverage of all laws requiring service providers to ensure that all the persons in their service area have access to adequate water and sanitation, including access to information on water and sanitation issues</td>
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<td>Time frame and coverage of national action plans for universal access to water and sanitation, including within or in the immediate vicinity of each household, health center, educational institution and workplace, and for all population groups (e.g. nomadic and traveler communities, prisoners, detainees, urban dwellers, persons with disabilities)</td>
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<td>Time frame and coverage of response plans to action during armed conflict, emergency situations and natural disasters ensuring access to water and sanitation</td>
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**Structural**

- Number of years of minimum duration of water per person, per day sufficient for personal and domestic use stipulated by State's regulations
- Time frame and coverage of plan of action(s) on operation and maintenance of water and sanitation facilities
- Time frame and coverage of national plan of action for physical accessibility to safe drinking water supply and related services (e.g. pricing policies, technology choice, management systems, subsidies, cash transfers, or flexible payment schemes to low-income or disadvantaged households)
- Time frame and coverage of national standards for safe drinking water and secure and hygienic sanitation facilities in line with WASH guidelines
- Date of entry into force and coverage of mechanisms to oversee water and sanitation quality and review performance of suppliers
- Time frame and coverage of hygiene awareness programmes contained in the national health strategy and educational curricula

**Process**

- Government expenditure on water and sanitation as a proportion of gross national income or total public expenditure
- Net official development assistance for water and sanitation received or provided as proportion of public expenditure on water and sanitation or gross national income
- Proportion of total water and sanitation budget spent on operating and maintaining assets
- Proportion of water and sanitation services that are not provided due to lack of funds within the water supply system
- Proportion of householders' requests for financial support to pay their water bill or sanitation costs met during the period
- Proportion of households spending more than X % of expenditure on water and sanitation
- Proportion of households who experienced disruptions in water supply more than X hours per year
- Proportion of households in which the toilet or latrine is used by all members of household (including men and women, boys and girls, elderly persons, persons with disabilities) whenever needed
- Proportion of population using improved drinking water sources and sanitation facilities
- Proportion of households connected to safe drinking water sources and hand-washing facilities (e.g. with facilities for persons with disabilities, older persons)
- Proportion of sector performance data or reports publicly available according to plans

**Outcome**

- Proportion of population using drinking water which conforms to bacteriological standards (e.g. E. coli, arsenic, nitrates)
- Number of recorded deaths and incidence of disease (e.g. diarrhoea, cholera, arsenic) due to contaminated water sources or lack of adequate sanitation
- Proportion of persons with disabilities able to manage menstruation hygienically and with dignity (e.g. privacy for changing materials and for washing hands, access to water and soap, disposal facilities)
- Proportion of women or girls collecting water or washing clothes outside immediate vicinity of the home, especially at night
- Proportion of women of girls collecting water or washing clothes outside immediate vicinity of the home, especially at night
- Gross coefficient of household (and other relevant users) water consumption (number of litres per year)
- Gap (in percentage point or ratio between the rates of coverage of sustainable access to safe drinking water source and sanitation facilities for the best-off group(s) and the worst-off group(s))

*All indicators should be disaggregated by prohibited grounds of discrimination, as applicable and reflected in metadata sheets*

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Attributes

- Safety and acceptability
- Sufficiency and continuity
- Affordability
- Physical Accessibility

Structural, Process and Outcome

Cross-Cutting principles

- Equality and Non-discrimination
- Accountability/Access to Remedy
- Transparency and Access to Information
- Participation
Dimensions

- Core obligations
- Hygiene (Menstrual Hygiene Management, promotion, hand washing)
- Gender equality (stigma, dignity, security)
- End open defecation
- Access beyond the household
- Sustainability (integrated approaches, emergency relief, pollution, wastewater management)
- Different needs and experiences (urban/rural, formal/informal areas, vulnerable groups)
In selecting human rights indicators, the RIGHTS criteria, which take into account the desired statistical and methodological properties in an indicator as well as the principles and human rights concerns, could be useful.

- **R** Relevant and Reliable
- **I** Independent in its data-collection methods from the subjects monitored
- **G** Global and universally meaningful but also amenable to contextualization and disaggregation by prohibited grounds of discrimination
- **H** Human rights standards-centric; anchored in the normative framework of rights
- **T** Transparent in its methods, Timely and Time-bound
- **S** Simple and Specific
COMMON BUT DIFFERENTIATED APPROACH

- Reference to inform international and national stakeholders
- Support participatory and country-owned processes
- Promote a common language and dialogue
- Contextualization – local level monitoring
- Empowerment of rights holders
- Further consolidation, continue developing the indicators, metadata
This list is work in progress and feedback is welcomed!

hrindicators@ohchr.org
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