

Response to IAEG Open Consultation on Global Goals 'Grey' Indicators.

15th December 2015

Summary

1. **Definition of basic services under indicator 1.4.1 must include basic water and basic sanitation**
2. **Tracer interventions under indicator 3.8.1 must include: "Percentage of health care facilities with safely managed water, sanitation and hygiene"**

Consultation can be found here: <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/open-consultation-3/>

Background

The Inter Agency Expert Group tasked with developing indicators for the global goals recently closed their 2nd meeting. Certain indicators were labelled 'grey', indicating that additional work and discussion are needed before reaching a final agreement on them. Therefore an online consultation has been launched for seven days for comments to be shared.

This consultation is open to all organisations, but only until 9pm EST Tuesday 15th December, so it is **absolutely critical that organisations that are supportive of these comments access the consultation and submit their comments as soon as possible. The link is here: <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/open-consultation-3/>**

Indicator 1.4.1

WaterAid strongly recommends that the definition of basic services must include basic water and basic sanitation.

The WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme already measures the proportion of population with access to these services (available here: http://www.wssinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/resources/JMP-Update-report-2015_English.pdf) so this does not represent an additional reporting burden.

To achieve the vision of Goal 1 to eradicate poverty everywhere in all its forms, basic services must include basic water service and basic sanitation service. These are long established elements of multidimensional poverty and essential to health and dignity in ways that greater income alone cannot compensate.

Indicator 3.8.1

It is impossible for people to receive quality essential health care services in health centres if these facilities do not use safely managed water, sanitation and hygiene services (WASH).

According to the World Bank and World Health Organisation first Global Monitoring Report on Tracking Universal Health Coverage (UHC) (available here: http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/174536/1/9789241564977_eng.pdf), access to WASH is critical to delivering quality health services, including ensuring patient safety, effectiveness of interventions, prevention of health care acquired infections and the provision of care that responds to people's preferences, needs and desires.¹ As a vital component of quality health services, access to WASH in health care facilities is therefore central to one of the pillars of UHC.

The recent WHO and UNICEF report (available here: http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/154588/1/9789241508476_eng.pdf) on WASH in health care facilities states that 38% of health care facilities do not have an improved water source, 19% do not have improved sanitation and 35% do not have water and soap for handwashing.²

WaterAid strongly recommends that tracer interventions for UHC must include the following, and these should be explicitly stated within the document endorsed by the UN statistical commission in March 2016: "Percentage of health care facilities with safely managed water, sanitation and hygiene." This data will be captured as part of the WHO/UNICEF WASH in health care facilities Global Action Plan: therefore adapting indicator 3.8.1 in this way does not represent an additional reporting burden.

WaterAid is also supportive of health sector recommendations that target 3.8 is tracked using two indicators covering i) financial risk protection and ii) service coverage. Effective tracking of both components will be vital to the realisation of UHC and the SDGs. In order to deliver the commitment to "Leave No-One Behind", we urge the IAEG-SDGs to strongly reaffirm the commitment by Member States to disaggregate data by all of the groups set out in agenda 2030 across all indicators.

¹ Consensus exists between the WHO Health Systems and Innovation team and the WHO WASH team on the importance of WASH in health care facilities, and "WASH in health care facilities as a tracer indicator for UHC" is listed as one of their joint actions here:

http://www.washinhcf.org/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/WASH-and-qualityUHC.pdf

² The draft list of core indicators being developed by WHO and UNICEF for collecting data on WASH in health care facilities is available here:

http://www.washinhcf.org/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/Core-Questions-for-WASH-in-HCF-October-2015.pdf