



Liberia Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Joint Sector Review 2018

1. Background

The WASH Sector Strategic Plan (SSP), 2012-2017 identifies an annual Joint Sector Review (JSR)



as a priority activity in the Sector Operations Matrix (SOM) to be convened by the National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion Committee (NWSHPC) with the involvement of the Ministries of Public Works (MPW), Health (MOH), and Lands, Mines & Energy (MLME). The National

Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion Committee is the implementer of the JSR with the Ministry of Public Works as lead Ministry, to be supported by other ministries and agencies and partners, as outlined below. The Government of Liberia conducted three major joint sector performance reviews (JSR) in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

The second annual JSR was held in May 2014. It provides a forum for stakeholders to present sector progress against the SSP and identifies gaps. Additionally, a Sector Performance Report was produced ahead of the JSR II.

The third JSR, covering progress for 2013-2014, was held in early July 2015. Post-review evaluation from the third JSR was produced and circulated based on key recommendations. The third JSR was different from the second JSR in organization, scope, design, and objectives and included financing and outputs from all sector actors.

The fourth review is expected to be particularly different mainly in context, structure and outputs. Current trends in the global water and sanitation landscape¹, heightened by the adoption of the new global goals have contributed to these changes in the JSR structure. With the new goals also come the need to align indicators, set new realistic national targets and conceive a national programme that syncs with the global conversation on WASH.

Furthermore, a recent study of JSR processes around the world suggests that despite its effectiveness in assessing performance and *"providing a reliable overview of finance,*

¹ <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2017/launch-version-report-jmp-water-sanitation-hygiene.pdf>

*implementation, institutions, gaps and bringing sector stakeholders together*², governments have been largely unable to include an operative element within JSRs to ensure that undertakings and priorities are followed-up on.

In order to ensure that this forum of mutual accountability is not continuously undermined by the increasing inaction observed following the last three events, some new elements are being considered this year. This concept note outlines details of the event developed in consultation with the JSR Steering Committee.

1.1 Organization

The JSR Steering Committee will continue to provide oversight to the event. The National WASH Secretariat will facilitate the process leading up to the JSRIV. Consultancy will be required to assist the WASH Secretariat organise regional presentation, build analytical writing skills and provide in-depth quality assurance to the development of the Sector Performance Reports, as well as in the overall development of the One WASH plan.

1.1.1 Steering Committee (SC)

The SC provides oversight to the entire JSR process which includes the development of the Sector Performance Report and the Organisation of the JSR event. The JSR SC meets every Friday at 11:00 am.

Composition of the SC

Government	Donors and Support Partners	Civil Society
MOS, MPW, NPHIL, The WASH Commission, LWSC, MFDP, LWSC, MLME, MOH, MOE	UNICEF, UNDP, World Bank, USAID, WASH Consortium, Water Aid	Youth and Disable Network, WASH CSO Network, WASH R/E, Youth WASH coalition etc

1.1.2 Core Team

The JSR Core Team carries out the day to day functionalities of the JSR process which includes the operations and administrative activities necessary to ensure the process is a success. The core team works with technicians' from sector ministries and agencies including consultants to develop relevant paraphernalia and products to facilitate the hosting and process the outcomes of the event. The core team works daily but meets twice a week (Tuesday and Thursday) at 3:00pm

The core team consists of

- National WASH Secretariat
- Consultants

² Effective Joint Sector Reviews for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) A Study and Guidance (2016), World Bank Group/ Water and Sanitation Program

1.2 Scope

Preparation for the JSR will include training to enhance the capacity of sector professionals to formulate and produce the **SPR, SSP, and the One WASH Plan** in advance of the JSR.

The **SPR** would provide a detailed overview of investments, targets, achievements and activities; include analysis with respect to access, functionality and equity of improved water systems, sanitation, hygiene, per capita investment cost, water quality, water storage, community management (including gender mainstreaming); and outline collaborative arrangements between the WASH Commission, other line ministries, development partners and other stakeholders. This year however, the SPR will also propose a **new set of national targets** which will be agreed upon at the JSR plenary and included in the One WASH plan to guide implementation.

The Sector Strategic Plan (SSP) should align with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6. The SSP articulates a five year vision for the WASH sector. It provides a clear link to government Agenda for Transformation and her pro-poor agenda. In 2015, world leaders signed into action new set of development goals known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which surpassed the tasks required by the MDGs. By comparison, it now seems as if pulling a water cart up a hill, now been substituted by pulling a mini truck of water up a mountain. The Sustainable Development GOAL 6 aspires to “ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, has all the elements of all forms of water, sanitation and hygiene”.³ Successively, it goes beyond basic needs for water and sanitation but stresses the importance of quality, availability and access on premise

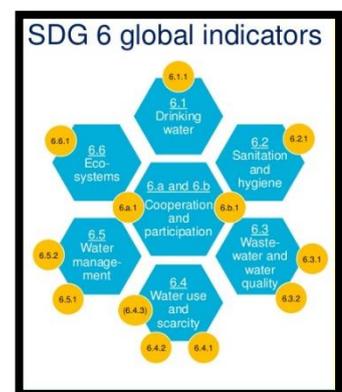


Figure 1: Global Goal 6
Source: OECD 2017

The **One WASH Plan** is an annual work program which links to County WASH Plans (CWP). The epistemic basis of the CWP can be linked to three documents; the Sector Strategic Plan, the National Rural WASH Study, Water Point Atlas and the Sector Investment Plan. A single annual budget presented in the One WASH plan will guide resource mobilization efforts in the sector as well as facilitate a mechanism for pooled resources. The One WASH is also expected to indicate predictable investments and expenditures in the WASH sector. Liberia will adopt the use of AKVO Lumen alongside AKVO FLOW, a single Information collection, storage, analysis and sharing system and make these accessible laterally to all political jurisdictions. Based on Liberia’s single plan, it is anticipated that partners at the JSR will agree on a mutual monitoring and evaluation System based on recommendations from the recently concluded country led monitoring exercise. Common indicators and targets will be used to monitor country wide progress of WASH program implementation.

1.3 Participation

Participation at the fourth JSR will primarily target high-level government officials as well as donors and support partners while technical staff will be more involved in data collection,

³ <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation/>

regional presentation, analysis and validation. Civil society, youth groups, women groups, community representatives, subnational WASH personnel and other relevant actors will participate in terms of technical discussions and the preparation of the county plans as well as the Joint Programme of Undertakings.

1.4 Objectives

There are three primary objectives of this year's Joint Sector Review in terms of reviewing performance:

- a. To investigate and report on the status of the defunct SSP (2012-2017)
- b. To determine the extent of interventions carried out by partners relative to achieving the undertakings set forth by JSR III

Furthermore, in terms of the structural changes to the review, the JSR will allow partners to enhance collaborative behaviour by:

- c. Providing an opportunity for Liberia to set her national SDG targets for goal 6 through the One WASH program, and finally
- d. Develop a list of priorities by county through a costed and signed annual work programme

2 Details

County WASH Plans Preparation

Date(s): *March 3-10, 2018 (tentative)*

Venue: (Various county locations) Participants: 15-20 key selected representatives of the governments' institutions and donors and support partners based in the counties

Field visits for data collection and SPR (preparation and writing period)

Dates: *March 1-30, 2018(tentatively)*

Venue: Various selected counties

Participants: SPR writing team/ Consultant

One WASH Plan draft consolidation

Dates: *March 20- April 15, 2017 (tentatively)*

Venue: various office locations

Participants: One WASH drafting team

SPR Validation Workshop

Date(s): *Deadline April 20, 2017 (tentatively)*

Venue: Libassa Ecologe (proposed)

Participants: About 50 sector stakeholders, including representatives at national- and county-level from WASH-related government institutions, donors and support partners, NGOs, CSOs, etc

Joint Sector Review

Date(s): Last week of April/1st week of May (*tentative*)

Venue: **Hotel Buchanan, Buchanan, Grand Bassa County**

Participants: 150 high-level representatives at national- and county-level from WASH-related government institutions and donors and support partners

3 Outputs

The 2018 JSR is expected to lead to the following tangible outputs

- SPR with new and improved structure.
- Clear targets for SDG 6 especially 6.1-6.3
- JSR undertakings articulated in the One WASH Plan
- A Joint Work program for WASH for the period 2018/2019 (using the GOL fiscal budget year)

A detailed budget will be presented to the steering committee for inputs at the SC meeting.