



GLAAS Report 2022

For Prelims: GLAAS 2022 Report, World Health Organization, climate change, WASH Strategy

For Mains: Access to water and sanitation and related issues

Why in News?

Recently, the Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) report was released by the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) and UN-Water.

What is UN-Water?

- UN-Water coordinates the United Nations' work on water and sanitation. UN-Water is a 'coordination mechanism'.
- It is composed of United Nations entities (Members) and international organizations (Partners) working on water and sanitation issues.
- UN-Water's role is to **ensure that Members and Partners' deliver as one'** in response to water-related challenges.

What is the GLAAS Report?

- The UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) 2022 report **compiles new data on drinking-Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** from 121 countries and territories and 23 External Support Agencies (ESAs).
- It serves as a **global reference to inform commitments, priority-setting and actions during the second half of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and for the 2023 Conference for the Midterm Comprehensive Review of Implementation of the **United Nations Decade for Action on Water and Sanitation (2018-2028) (UN 2023 Water Conference)**.
- The report also **highlights opportunities to accelerate progress in key WASH areas** that positively affect the quality and sustainability of WASH services and delivery, pandemic preparedness and resilience to [climate change](#).

What are the Highlights of the Report?

- **Human Resource:**
 - **Less than one-third of countries reported maintaining enough human resources** to manage essential Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) tasks.
- **National Coverage Targets:**
 - 45% of countries are on track to meet their drinking-water coverage targets, but only 25% are meeting their sanitation targets.
 - More acceleration is needed to achieve national targets.

- **Finance:**
 - While WASH budgets in some countries have increased, **a significant portion — more than 75% of them — reported having inadequate resources** to carry out their WASH plans and objectives.
- **Climate Resilience of WASH Systems:**
 - Most WASH policies and plans **do not consider climate change threats to WASH services**, nor do they take the climate resilience of WASH technology and management systems into account
 - The **increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events caused by climate change continue to hamper the delivery of safe WASH services**, thus affecting the health of users.
- **External Support:**
 - **Aid for water and sanitation decreased by 5.6% between 2017 and 2020**, and the geographical targeting of the aid shifted.
 - In sub-Saharan Africa, the **proportion of WASH aid dropped from 32% to 23%**, while in Central and Southern Asia, it increased from 12% to 20%, and in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, it increased from 11% to 20%.

What is WASH?

- WASH is an **acronym that stands for the interrelated areas of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**.
- The [World Health Organisation \(WHO\) WASH Strategy](#) has been developed in response to Member State Resolution (WHA 64.4) and the 2030 Agenda for [Sustainable Development](#) (SDG 3: Good Health and Well Being, SDG 6: Clean Water And Sanitation).
- It is a **component of WHO's 13th General Programme of Work 2019-2023** which aims to contribute to the health of three billion through multisectoral actions like better emergency preparedness and response; and one billion with [Universal Health Coverage \(UHC\)](#).
- It also **takes on board the need for progressive realization of the human rights** to safe drinking-water and sanitation, adopted by the [UN General Assembly](#) in July 2010.

Way Forward

- **Leaving no one Behind:**
 - **Governments must target underserved populations and settings** – such as people living in poverty or in remote or hard-to-reach areas – to ensure they also have access to safe, sustainable WASH services.
 - **Local participation is a way to ensure no one is left behind.**
 - Strengthening community participation is fundamental to adapt and sustain SDG 6 solutions to local community contexts.
- **Gender:**
 - **Increased inclusion, financial support and monitoring are needed to ensure women are considered in WASH decisions** and services Gender and WASH are connected in many ways – from menstrual health and hygiene to local participation and women working in WASH.
- **Increasing Investment:**
 - Governments and development partners **need to strengthen WASH systems and dramatically increase investment to extend access to safely managed drinking water** and sanitation services to all by 2030, beginning with the most vulnerable.

[Source: DTE](#)

