

# FINAL REVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS THE 2014 HLM COMMITMENTS



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# Foreword

by **Catarina de Albuquerque**,

Executive Chair of the Sanitation and Water for All global partnership.



This report marks the culmination of SWA's third High-level Commitments Dialogue, a multi-stakeholder process that was first undertaken in 2010.

This 2014–2016 cycle has provided an unprecedented opportunity for learning, both within and between countries. With 383 rich and varied commitments spanning 11 categories, set within three priority areas, made by 43 countries and 12 donors, there have been too many successes and lessons learnt to highlight every one of them here.

All SWA partners commit to a common vision: of universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene for all, always and everywhere. The nationally led commitments process identifies the priorities and context for each country, leading to a roadmap of specific and relevant actions that will assist countries to achieve their vision.

Significant efforts have been made by countries and donors to increase the political prioritization of water and sanitation at global and national levels. The deepened engagement between ministries of finance, sector ministries, development agencies, the private sector and civil society has led to better coordination and alignment between stakeholders, enhanced planning and policies and stronger national monitoring systems. It has also encouraged sharing between countries, providing opportunities to learn from each other's experiences, using the commitments to inform discussions at SWA's High-level meetings.

Governments are not only showing leadership in this process, they are also strengthening stakeholder involvement to sustain current progress and accelerate performance where it is weak. Through this process our partners are replicating the multi-stakeholder engagement at the national level that SWA has already established at the global level.

Countries and donors responded to the 2014 High-level Meeting focus on inequalities and sustainability with commitments that considered the needs of indigenous peoples, disadvantaged rural and urban populations, and women and children, through poverty reduction strategies and other policy approaches. The sustainability of systems likewise received the attention it deserved, with commitments relating to rehabilitation, operation and maintenance of existing services. These commitments have led to better services for some of the most marginalized people in the world.

The far-reaching vision of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires that all actors collaborate in their realization. As a global multi-stakeholder partnership, SWA clearly has a crucial role to play. As this 2014 commitments cycle comes to an end, SWA is deliberating how to adapt its mutual accountability system to the ambitions of the SDGs. The commitments process that we describe in this report and the experience our partners gained through it will provide a strong foundation on which to build.

# Executive summary

## Significant progress reported on more than half of the commitments made by 43 developing countries and 12 donor partners

The third High-level Meeting (HLM) of the Sanitation and Water for All global partnership was held in April 2014 in Washington, D.C., bringing together 21 ministers of finance, 35 ministers responsible for water and sanitation, 16 donors and development agencies (six of them represented by ministers or heads of agencies) and senior representatives of UN agencies, civil society organizations and the private sector.

SWA partners attending the meeting made a total of 383 commitments, to eliminate inequalities, ensure sustainability and remove barriers to progress on water and sanitation services. Forty-three developing countries (referred to in this report as 'countries') made 313 commitments, and 12 donor and development agency partners (referred to in this report as 'donors') made 70 commitments. These commitments were developed through government-led, consultative processes, often

engaging multiple stakeholders. Fifteen of the countries, for instance, reported involving civil society in developing their commitments.

As part of the commitments process, nationally led, country-specific reviews, engaging multiple government agencies and other stakeholders, took stock of progress, reporting on achievements and barriers being faced to the SWA global partnership.

In June 2016, 38 of the 43 developing countries and all 12 donors reported on the results of their reviews. This global report is the summary and consolidation of the partners' reports. This 2016 report only refers to reported data, therefore excluding the 64 commitments for which no information was provided.

The figures below show progress on all commitments by countries and donors for which data was provided in 2016.

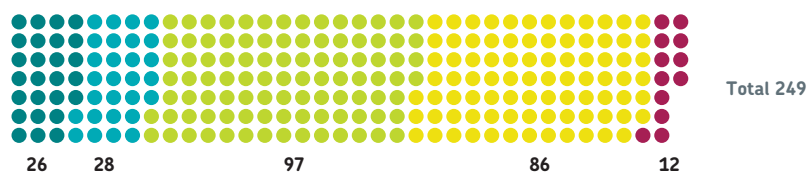
### TAKEN TOGETHER, COUNTRIES AND DONORS HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON OVER HALF OF ALL COMMITMENTS MADE:

#### Donors (2016)



- Complete
- Almost complete
- Good progress
- Slow progress
- No progress/barriers

#### Countries (2016)



## Overall performance



Significant progress, meaning that countries have partially or completely fulfilled their commitments or have made good progress, has been reported on almost half of the country commitments. Donors report significant progress on 80% of all commitments made.

The commitments made by countries that have met with most success relate to coordination and alignment, and to the development and enhancement of national policies and plans. Progress has also been significant on commitments made by countries to improve the visibility of the water, sanitation and hygiene sector, to increase institutional and human capacity, and to develop and implement national monitoring systems. For example 15 countries have made significant progress on at least one of their commitments to improve institutional and human resource capacity, and information systems have been developed, strengthened or rolled-out in the seven of the 12 countries that made a commitment relating to this issue.

Conversely, countries have reported slow or no progress on 68% of their commitments relating to financing. Only seven countries report significant progress on their commitments related to increasing budget allocations, while 17 countries report slow progress on such commitments. This is a poorer outcome than had been anticipated.

Donors report significant progress on more than three quarters of their commitments, including one-third

that are near completion or have already been achieved. Donors have been particularly successful in completing commitments relating to political prioritization, specifically in increasing financing and visibility of water and sanitation, and in enhancing national policies and plans, which are also the categories where most donor commitments were made.

Significant progress is reported on half of the commitments related to the 2014 HLM themes of sustainability and inequality. Significant progress is reported on 38 out of the 77 countries' commitments relating to improving sustainability and on 28 of the 44 commitments with a focus on eliminating inequalities. Donors also made significant progress on their commitments relating to inequalities (6 out of 9 commitments) and sustainability (13 out of 17 commitments).

Over the period of this cycle of the commitments processes, countries are continuing to involve key stakeholders in the review of progress. Many countries facilitated a multi-stakeholder process involving the lead sector ministry and other national and local ministries and agencies. In a number of countries, ministries of finance were also consulted.

Lastly, it is encouraging to see that both countries and donors are clearly expanding the dialogue on water and sanitation, engaging with civil society, international agencies and the private sector as part of the multi-stakeholder process.

# 1.

## Introduction

### There was significant progress made on over half of all commitments made by donors and countries

In April 2014 the Sanitation and Water for All partnership held its third High-level Meeting (HLM) in Washington, D.C.

This meeting brought together 21 ministers of finance, 35 ministers responsible for water and sanitation, 16 external support and development agencies (six of which were represented by ministers or heads of agencies) and a number of senior representatives of United Nations (UN) agencies, civil society organizations and the private sector.

The themes of the 2014 HLM were universal access, inequalities and sustainability. During the preparations for the meeting, developing countries and external support agency partners (hereafter referred to as 'countries' and 'donors' respectively) presented their long-term vision for the sector and tabled specific commitments to sustain, improve progress, and remove barriers to access to water, sanitation and hygiene services.

Over half of the countries tabled statements with long-term visions to achieve universal access for both sanitation and water by or before 2030. Two-thirds set clear targets to eliminate or reduce inequalities through actions such as eliminating open defecation or prioritizing services for specific areas or population groups. Two-thirds of countries also committed to improve sustainability of access to services. These aspirations demonstrated the partners' vision for the post-2015 era, while remaining focused on 2015, the final year of the Millennium Development Goals.

After the meeting, 43 countries made a total of 313 commitments and 12 donor partners together made 70 commitments. These commitments were developed through government-led, consultative processes, often engaging multiple stakeholders with a target end-date of April 2016. Fifteen of the countries reported involving civil society in developing their commitments.

At least two-thirds of partners used the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) or other analytical tools such as the Bottlenecks Analysis Tool (WASH-BAT) developed by UNICEF, and the Country Status Overviews developed by the World Bank. These tools strengthened the use of evidence and helped to make the commitments 'smarter', by making them more specific and appropriate to the country context.

SWA is guided by partners' strong commitment to mutual accountability, and this commitments process consistently demonstrates this principle. Countries and donors agreed to report regularly on their progress in meeting their commitments, often using in-country multi-stakeholder dialogues. This global report, which relies on the self-reporting of countries and donors, attempts to bring these individual country reports together. It stands as a guide to the final achievements on the 2014 commitments and a platform for future HLMs.

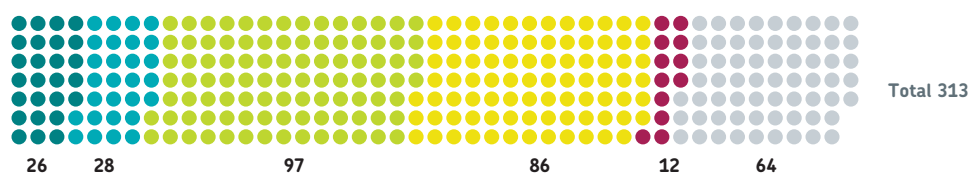
#### SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS MADE ON ALMOST HALF OF ALL COMMITMENTS MADE

##### Donors (2016)



- Complete
- Almost complete
- Good progress
- Slow progress
- No progress/barriers
- No data

##### Countries (2016)





# 2. Methodology for this report

The SWA Secretariat was mandated by the partnership to facilitate the process and prepare a global report on countries' and donors' self-reported progress on the commitments made at the 2014 HLM. Information was gathered and compiled in a four-step process:

- 1. Guidance:** The SWA Secretariat consulted with partners to develop guidelines and a reporting format. Based on feedback in 2013 and 2014, countries were not requested to provide more than simple written evidence of progress. The guidelines encourage countries to be inclusive by seeking the appropriate level of political endorsement and engagement with civil society organizations and other partners, and to align the reporting process with other country or global reviews.
- 2. Government-led reviews:** Countries and donors followed their own processes to conduct the reviews. In the case of countries, this often entailed national consultations, while donors consulted with national level offices. In some countries, consultations involved sub-national level government, such as provincial authorities. Often, other SWA partners were involved to triangulate information and agree on the indicators of success.
- 3. Report preparation and submission:** Each report was endorsed by the appropriate authorities in the government or donor agency and submitted in mid to late 2016, together with a list of stakeholders who had participated in the preparation of the report, where relevant.
- 4. Global report compilation:** This global report is the final step and was prepared by the SWA Secretariat based on partner submissions. In a few instances submissions were followed up with qualitative interviews for clarification.

Countries made commitments that were relevant to their country and context and these were then categorized to facilitate global analysis. Countries were asked to assign

their commitments to one of three SWA priority areas and then to one of 11 categories, grouped under the priority areas.

Priority areas	Categories
<b>1. Increased political prioritization</b>	Financing Visibility
<b>2. Evidence-based decision-making</b>	National monitoring systems Evidence Linking monitoring to planning Transparency Global monitoring systems
<b>3. National planning processes</b>	Coordination and alignment Policy and plans Capacity Decentralization

There were two further cross-cutting themes to guide development of the commitments: elimination of inequalities, and sustainability – the focus areas of

the 2014 High-level Meeting. All commitments were assessed for relevance to these themes and reported on by partners.

## 2.1 Limitations in preparing this global report

Although the guidance provided to partners while developing their commitments encouraged countries to focus on a small number of priority commitments, there was no limit to the total number each partner could table at the 2014 High-level Meeting. The number of commitments made by each partner (country or donor) ranged between one and twenty-four and ranged widely in their complexity and potential difficulty to achieve success.

For clarity and relevance, this report focuses only on five of the eleven categories (Policies and plans, National monitoring systems, Coordination and alignment, Capacity building and Financing), which makes it possible to present a meaningful overview of performance across partners.

While some commitments, such as a commitment to strengthen transparent monitoring processes for financing strategies, could have been categorized as either monitoring or financing, each country made its own decision on which single category to link each commitment to, depending on relevance and appropriateness.

Notwithstanding the challenges this heterogeneity poses, this report presents an overview of progress towards realizing the commitments, as reported by countries and donors. It also highlights specific examples of progress and experience, which can help guide the SWA partnership's work in the future.

Countries and donors were requested to assess their progress to achieving each commitment on the following scale:

### Progress status

- Complete
- Almost complete
- Good progress
- Slow progress
- No progress/barriers
- No data

In this report, the assessments 'complete', 'almost complete' and 'good progress' are collectively assessed as 'significant progress'.

All charts in this report show progress as of 2016. To improve understanding of progress made, this report considers only the commitments for which countries and donors provided data.



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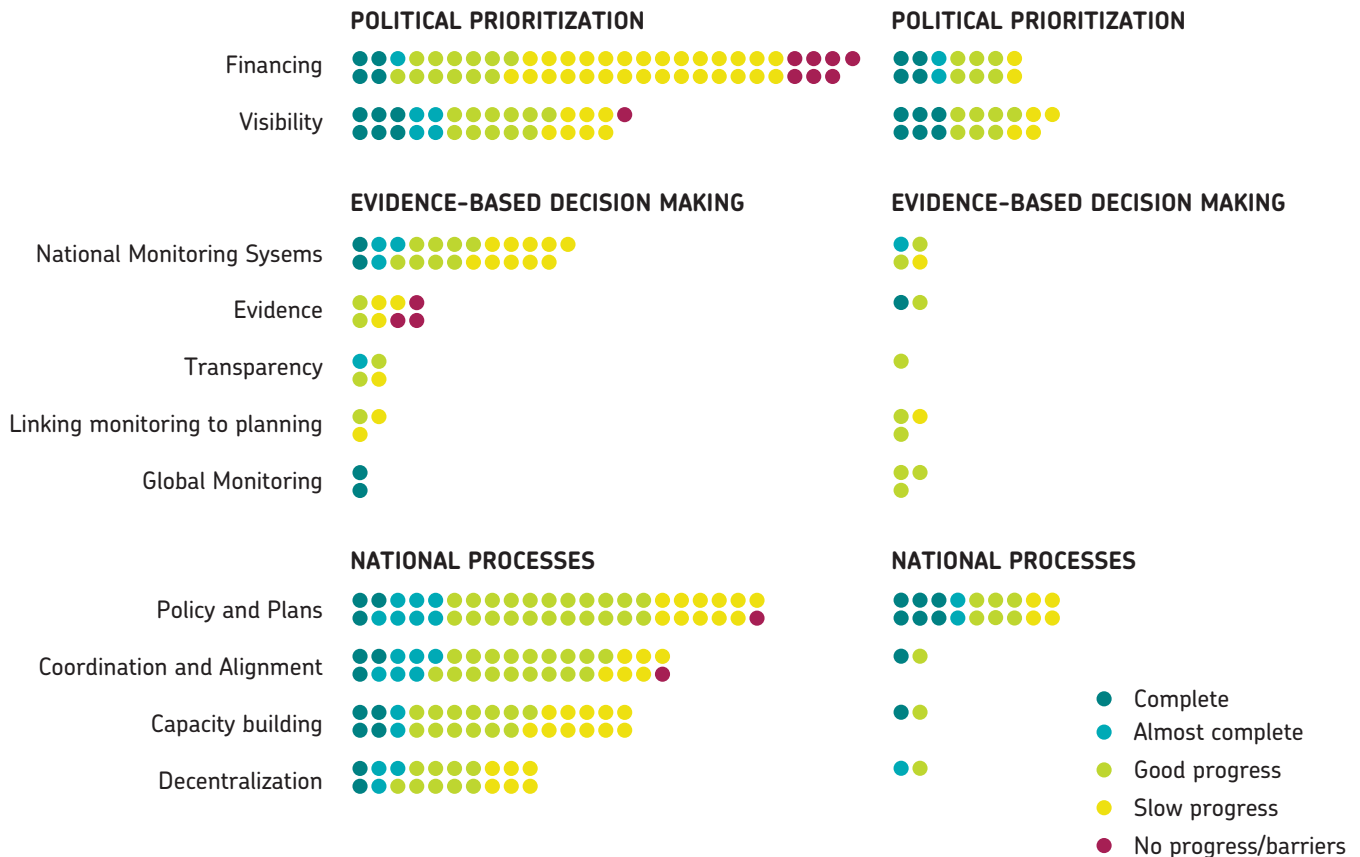
# 3. Overall performance

For the reporting period for this report (mid 2015 to mid 2016), 38 of the 43 countries and all 12 donors provided data. This represents a slight decline in the reporting rate for countries, as 40 of the 43 country partners reported back at the mid-term reporting stage in 2015.

As a multi-stakeholder platform, SWA encourages engagement by all actors in the commitments reporting process. Most countries did involve multiple government agencies in their reporting on commitments, and many also involved development agencies. Some countries also involved civil society organizations.

**COUNTRIES SHOW SLOW PROGRESS ON THE MAJORITY OF COMMITMENTS RELATING TO FINANCING, BUT SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON ALMOST ALL OTHER COMMITMENTS.**

**DONORS SHOW SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON ALMOST ALL COMMITMENTS**



As can be seen in the figure, the category with the largest number of commitments was financing, followed by policy and plans, and visibility.

Slow progress is reported against the financing commitments, while there was significant progress in the

commitments relating to policy and plans and visibility. It therefore appears that the increased prioritization of sanitation and water in both raising awareness, as well as in policies and plans is not being matched by an increase in financing, particularly in national budgeting processes.

# 4. Performance by selected category

## 4.1 Policies and plans

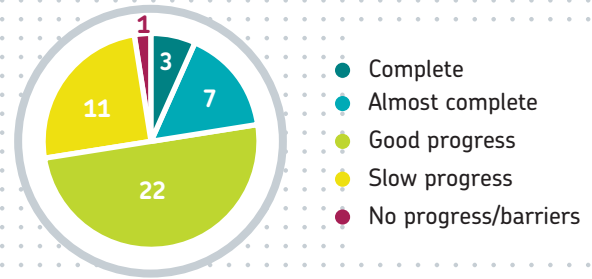
Thirty-one countries made a total of 57 commitments aimed at developing or strengthening existing policies and plans, setting new sector targets and implementing, accelerating and scaling up progress. Of the 44 commitments reported on in 2016, there has been significant progress on 32.

Many countries made significant progress on commitments to adopt Community-Led Total Sanitation projects or plans to eliminate open defecation, including **Afghanistan, Gambia, Guinea (Conakry), Kenya, Nigeria, South Sudan, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam, Zambia** and **Zimbabwe**.

Nine of the 12 donors made commitments related to policies and planning, with 18 commitments between them. Of these, there was significant progress made on all but four.

**France, Germany, the Netherlands** and the **USA** have all made significant progress on commitments for increasing access to water and sanitation.

Countries show significant progress on the majority of commitments relating to policies and plans.



number of countries

### The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

made and met commitments to improve treatment of faecal waste, and to strengthen private sector participation in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector.

**Germany and Switzerland** committed to improving understanding and realization of the human rights to water and sanitation, and to incorporating these into policies, and is continuing to work on these issues.

**Finland** has continued its policy to focus on least developed areas of its partner countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Nepal and Viet Nam). A focus on gender equity and inclusion has also been continued in the Finnish-supported projects.

In **Nepal**, a special emphasis has been laid on menstrual health. In 2016, Finnish disability NGOs prepared a manual on inclusion in sanitation practices.

**Pakistan's** Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform included universal access to sanitation and water in its Vision 2025 document. This includes specific indicators for water and sanitation, which state that improved sanitation should increase from 48% to 90% by 2025. The country's Ministry of Climate Change is also revising the National Policies of Drinking Water and Sanitation to ensure alignment with the SDGs.

**Sierra Leone** has completed drafting its Environmental Health and Sanitation Policy, which has been sent to the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) Secretariat for review. **Cote d'Ivoire** has made similar progress with defining national policies and strategies for sustainable development post-2015.

**Rwanda** committed to developing a comprehensive Sector Investment Plan, with multi-stakeholder input to complement the existing Sector Strategic Plan. This will be finalized in 2017 and will be closely monitored and evaluated, to effectively track progress towards Rwanda's Vision 2020 and the SDGs.

**Uganda** reports good progress on its commitment, prioritized by the President, for the Ministry of Health to ensure sanitation ordinances and bylaws are enacted and enforced in 25% of the districts by 2016.

**Australia** reports good progress in the capacity development of private sector actors to work in this sector, including through removing policy and institutional barriers to engagement.

## 4.2 National monitoring systems

Twenty-one countries made 25 commitments that focused on strengthening national monitoring systems. According to the 2016 data, 12 countries have made significant progress on 13 of those commitments.

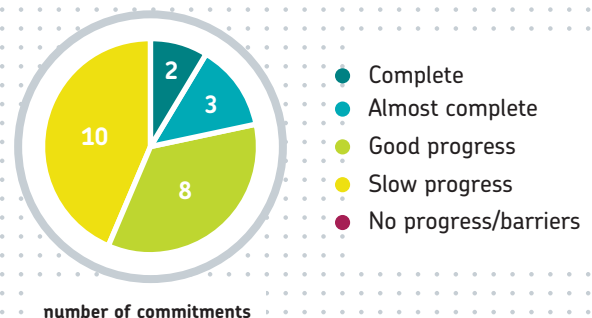
Information management systems or databases were developed, strengthened or rolled out in 11 countries: **Central African Republic, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Paraguay, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Zambia and Zimbabwe.** While in most of the countries these information systems have been developed at the national level, some countries have made systems available at sub-national levels.

Monitoring and evidence-based decision-making are clearly important areas of work for most country partners, but unfortunately this is also an area in which many could only show slow progress. Despite successes in setting up the systems, countries also noted that there is still considerable work to be done in operationalizing and maintaining monitoring processes.

**Australia, the African Development Bank, the Netherlands, Switzerland** and the **USA** also committed to improving both global and national monitoring systems.

The **USA** committed to strengthening governments' ability to monitor and report on access to water and sanitation. To support this, USAID has finalized new indicators that align with the SDGs and that are tracked across its programming world-wide. In addition, two new programmes have been initiated to support national and regional institutions, sector monitoring and coordination in Africa, and to increase and better track financial flows in the sector.

Significant progress shown on commitments to create national monitoring systems



**Paraguay**, along with **Kenya**, made a specific commitment to integrate the human rights to water and sanitation into monitoring processes. Kenya developed a framework for monitoring the human rights to water and sanitation, which is now being finalized and is to be disseminated to all counties.

The Ministry of Public Works in **Liberia** pledged to work with the Ministry of Health to monitor and prepare quarterly reports on the functionality and sustainability of water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.

Countries such as **Mauritania** and **Gambia** successfully met commitments to support global monitoring processes through JMP and GLAAS, incorporating multi-stakeholder discussions.

The **United Kingdom** now has an on-line tracking system (<http://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk>). It has demonstrated that their target of reaching 60 million people with water, sanitation and hygiene programmes in their global portfolio (2011–2015) was exceeded, with a total of 62.9 million people reached.

**Switzerland** committed to increasing funding for support to monitoring and research by 5% and 2% respectively. While it did not quite reach these targets, support to the GLAAS and GEMI processes was increased.

In **Sudan**, the Ministry of Water Resources and Electricity worked with the Ministry of Health and sector agencies to complete sector bottleneck analyses in 11 out of 18 states.

**Australia** and the **Netherlands** made good progress on their commitments to improve the monitoring of their own investments globally in order to ensure effectiveness and sustainability.

**Mongolia** made good progress on a commitment to carry out regular public expenditure reviews to monitor the actual budget expenditure from domestic resources allocated to the water and sanitation sector.

**South Sudan** made a commitment to develop mechanisms that ensure transparency and accountability of all financial resources allocated to the water, sanitation and hygiene sectors in collaboration with partners and stakeholders.

**Nepal** has developed a web-based water, sanitation and hygiene data collection system run by its central National Management Information Program.

**Malawi** achieved a commitment to set up a monitoring and evaluation system. However there have been challenges ensuring the database is consistently updated at the district level and that it covers all key water, sanitation and hygiene indicators.

### 4.3 Coordination and alignment

Thirty countries made 43 commitments relating to coordination and alignment between ministries, departments and stakeholders working on water, sanitation and hygiene issues, demonstrating how significant this is to realizing universal access.

Commitments were made by countries on many fronts in this area, including:

- Coordinating action between ministries and departments;
- Establishing joint sector reviews;
- Working to harmonize policies and plans with legal documents, such as the constitution;
- Clarifying roles and responsibilities between stakeholders within the sector;
- Setting up regulatory frameworks that take into account the responsibilities of service providers and local authorities;
- Setting up multi-stakeholder forums on sanitation;
- Initiating public sector expenditure reviews; and
- Establishing co-ordination groups as part of national monitoring systems.

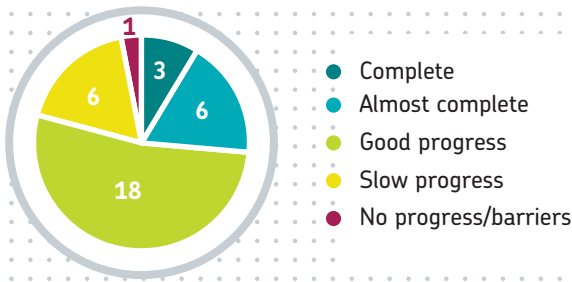
The data submitted in 2016 (34 commitments) shows that most countries have made significant progress towards completion of these commitments.

The **Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lao PDR, Nepal, Niger, Sri Lanka, Sudan** and **Togo** all made significant progress on commitments to increase collaboration between different stakeholders, particularly for the creation of national-level coordinating mechanisms that require multi-stakeholder monitoring systems.

Although only **France** and the **USA** made specific commitments at the 2014 HLM relating to coordination and alignment, most countries made commitments that implicitly require coordination and alignment, recognizing that these are critical to the success of their work at international, national and sub-national levels.

The **USA** committed to creating a platform coordinating the work of countries and donors, and has made good progress towards this.

Most countries show significant progress on commitments relating to coordination and alignment:



number of commitments

In cooperation with the European Union, **Germany** was able to increase its support to regional cross-sectoral dialogue processes in Africa, Latin America, Middle East, Central Asia and Mekong regions. **Germany** committed to strengthen cross-sectoral linkages between the water, energy and food sectors, with the objective of increasing coherence in policies and implementation.

**Burkina Faso** consulted with parliament, national and local elected representatives to enhance the discussions on water and sanitation.

**Sri Lanka** reports good progress on their commitment to strengthen the national WATSAN coordination forum

**Ethiopia** reports that their commitment to strengthen the National Coordination Office and to establish and fully staff the Regional WaSH Coordination Offices is almost complete.

The **African Development Bank** met its commitment to contribute to or host six regional water, sanitation and hygiene initiatives and events, advocating for better funding and sustainability as part of its continued strong support for the sector. According to the bank, the influence of SWA and the public visibility accorded through it strengthened the commitment to promote water and sanitation.

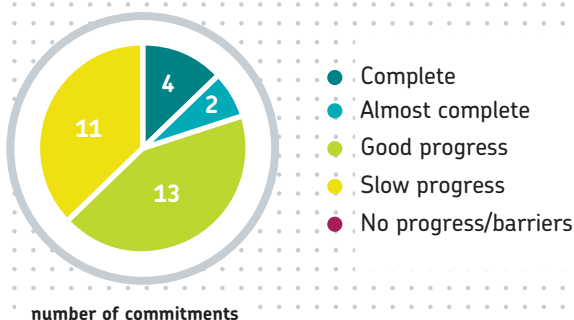
## 4.4 Capacity building of people and institutions

More than half of the countries (26) made 35 commitments aimed at improving institutional capacity and human resources. In 2016, significant progress was reported by 15 countries, covering 19 of these commitments.

The most significant progress was on those commitments that focused on establishing new institutions or strengthening existing ones. This includes commitments made by **Afghanistan, Nepal, Paraguay, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tanzania** and **Zambia**. Other commitments in this category include a focus on carrying out capacity needs assessments, as well as building the capacity of local officials.

Despite these successes, challenges do still exist – including building the capacity of the private sector to improve sanitation services and, in some countries, inadequate recruitment of local authority officials is leading to a lack of human resources at the local level.

Countries show significant progress on commitments to build the capacity of people and institutions



**Mauritania** is employing more engineers, **Malawi** is increasing the number of trained mechanics and utility operators, and **Tanzania** is training more community health workers, as well as building private sector capacity to engage in the delivery of sanitation and hygiene service.





**France** exceeded their target for including capacity building in 80% of all water and sanitation projects.

The **Netherlands** committed to including capacity building in all projects, specifically to support requirements for sustainability in all funding; the country spent over €35 million on capacity building in 2015.

By the end of March 2016, **Japan** had contributed to increasing the capacity of over 2,000 engineers in the countries where they work.

**Liberia** has developed a capacity building plan for staff to coordinate activities and ensure better service delivery. The commitment prioritized only a few districts but this has been far exceeded; the plan has been fully rolled out across the entire country.

In **Viet Nam**, a national strategy for capacity building to implement sanitation promotion for the health sector, at both national and local levels, has been developed and implemented. A new set of training modules on sanitation is currently being tested and finalized.

**Malawi** committed to recruiting an additional 3,500 Health Surveillance Assistants in the district structures for the implementation of Community-Led Total Sanitation and Sanitation Marketing and Hygiene Promotion strategies. While the Health Surveillance Assistants were initially hired on a temporary basis through funding from the Global Sanitation Fund, the Government has since created permanent, centrally funded posts.

**Pakistan** committed to developing a human resources development plan. One province created a programme to orient the locally elected representatives and government staff working in the district and sub-district levels about local government functions including water, sanitation and hygiene related interventions.

## 4.5 Financing

Almost all countries (40 out of 43) made a total of 63 commitments related to financing, which relate to mobilizing, increasing or sustaining sector funding, and creating separate budget lines for water and sanitation in order to track allocations and expenditure.

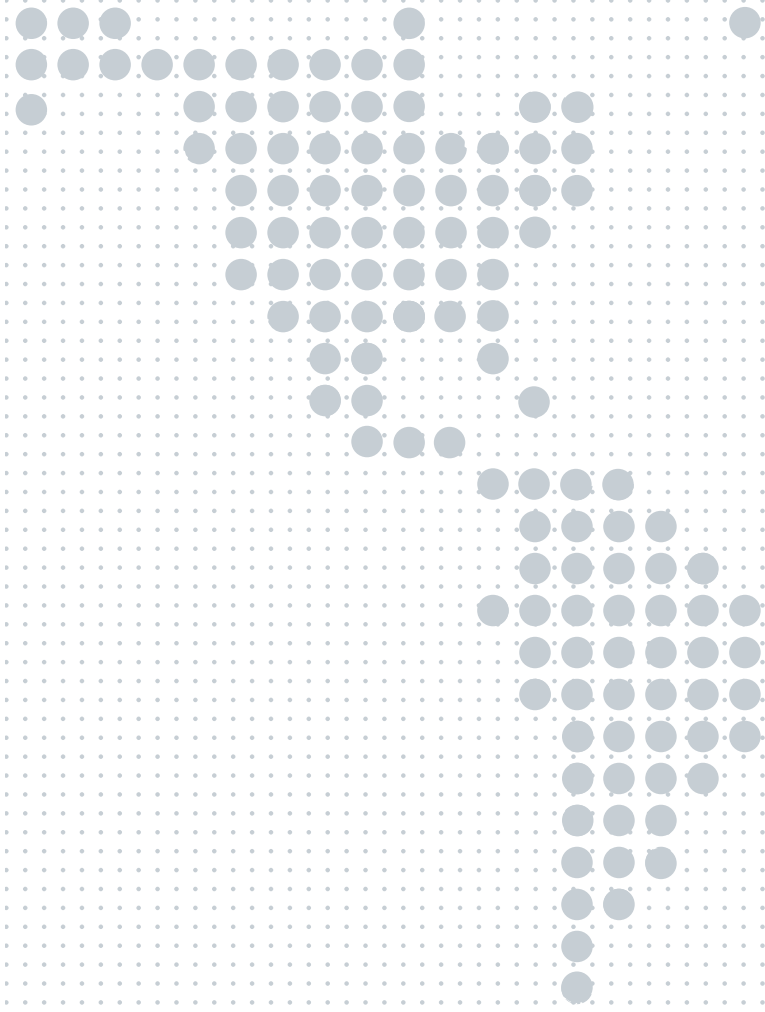
However, of the 53 commitments reported on in 2016, countries only reported significant progress on 17. Countries report slow progress or major barriers to progress on 36 of the commitments, the majority of which relate to increasing budget allocations and the creation of dedicated budget lines for water, sanitation and hygiene.

Of 30 commitments to increase sector funding for sanitation and water within the national budgets, only six countries – **Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Lao PDR, Niger, Rwanda** and **Sri Lanka** – successfully completed or made good progress on the seven commitments made. **Cameroon** has increased their budget, but not succeeded in doubling it, as committed.

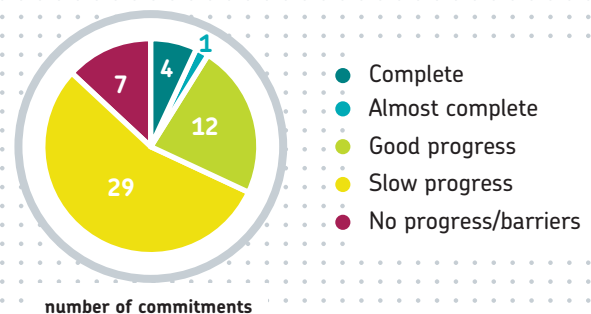
This demonstrates a continued need for effective advocacy to ensure the political prioritization of water and sanitation.

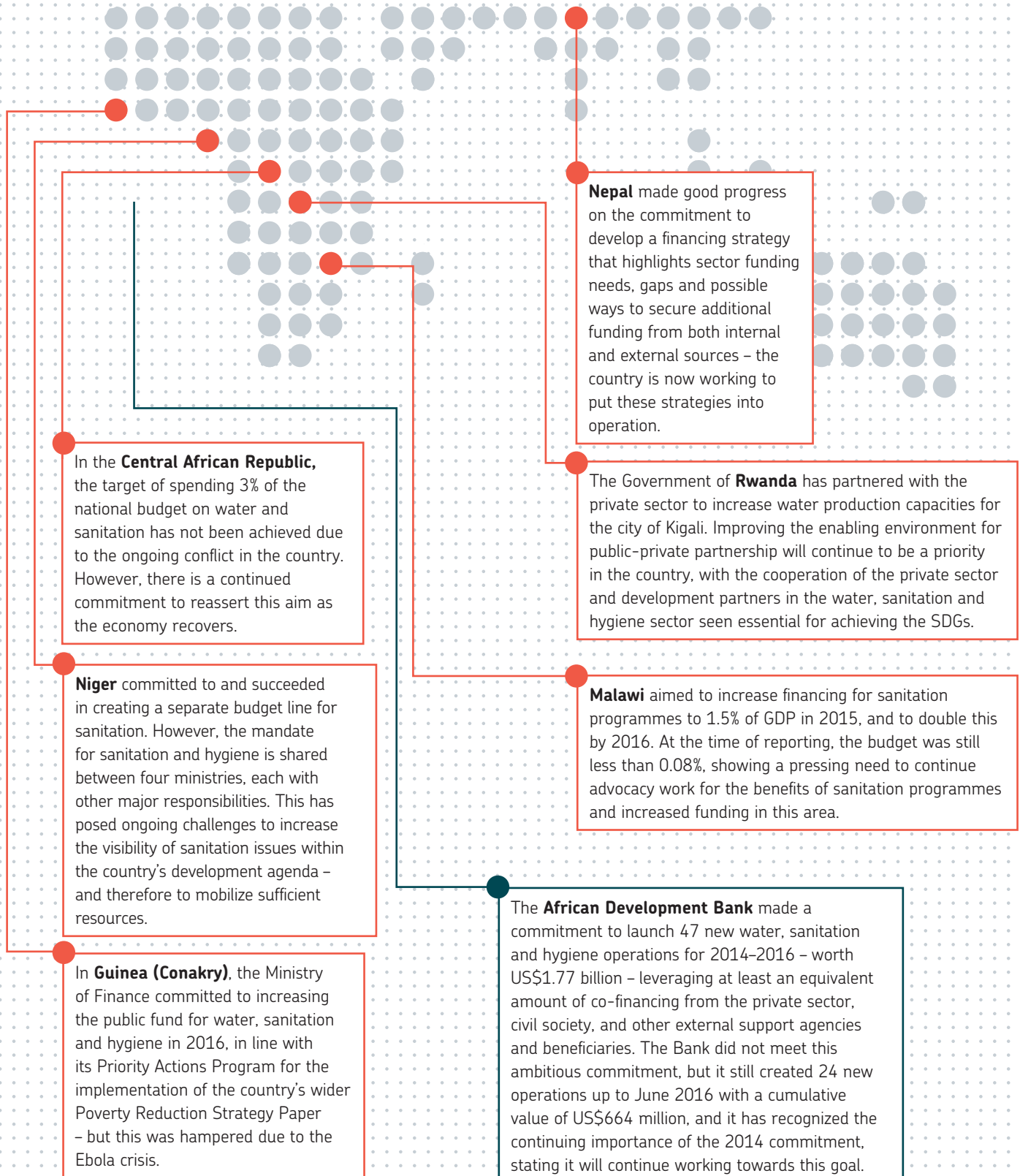
The **Democratic Republic of the Congo, Niger** and **Rwanda** prioritized finding funding for water, sanitation and hygiene, particularly from private sector partners. On this there has been more positive news; in all three countries there has been good progress.

The **African Development Bank, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom,** and the **USA** all made commitments to increase funding for water and sanitation. Most of these commitments have been met, or there has been good progress towards meeting them. However, **France** and **Sweden** have also had problems meeting their commitments due to a lack of capacity within recipient countries to manage the funding.



Countries reported slow or no progress on two-thirds of the commitments made





# 5.

## Focus on cross-cutting themes: Inequalities and sustainability

### 5.1 Inequalities

Between them, 27 countries made a total of 58 commitments that included a focus on eliminating inequalities – one of the two central cross-cutting themes of the 2014 HLM commitments – and significant progress has been reported on almost two thirds of them (28 out of 44 commitments reported on in 2016).

The majority of the commitments focus on targeting resources and services towards the areas that have been identified as lacking in services, such as rural and peri-urban areas (**Benin, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea (Conakry), Lao PDR, Niger, Paraguay, Togo** and **Viet Nam**) and on methodologies that are most likely

to reach marginalized or poor individuals or groups, such as Community-Led Total Sanitation and approaches to eliminate open defecation (**Benin, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Lao PDR, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria Togo** and **Chad**). **Guinea (Conakry)** and **Paraguay** committed to increasing attention to water, sanitation and hygiene in its poverty-reduction strategy. **Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire** and **Liberia** made commitments to monitor inequalities or with a focus on water and as human rights (**Kenya** and **Paraguay**). **Paraguay, Mali** and **Viet Nam** specifically committed to creating more inclusive programming processes.

#### COUNTRIES SHOW SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON MOST COMMITMENTS THAT INCLUDE THE AIM OF ELIMINATION OF INEQUALITIES



In **Liberia, Burundi** and **Benin**, the various ministries in charge of water, infrastructure, sanitation and health committed to developing comparative studies of sanitation approaches for the urban poor, in order to design better interventions that eliminate inequalities. In all three countries, there has been slow progress, with a pro-poor strategy agreed but not yet rolled out in Burundi, and in Benin the programme was temporarily blocked due to a funding problem.

**Viet Nam** is continuing to prioritize sanitation promotion and policies that address the needs of poor and ethnic groups. In **Paraguay** there has been good progress in prioritizing populations which are vulnerable due to their rural location, indigenous communities and people living in peri-urban zones, using a human rights and social equality perspective. **Paraguay** has rehabilitated water systems for Latin and indigenous populations of the Chaco.

**Bangladesh** has experienced difficulties in improving services in hard-to-reach areas, with special emphasis on people with disabilities and living in extreme poverty. To date it reports that only a few projects have been approved – but the programme continues.

Donors made specific commitments relating to reducing inequalities. **France, Finland, Japan** and **Sweden** all pledged to work on issues relating to gender equality and women's empowerment. However, targets for this commitment have not been realized – **France** missed its target of 50% of projects having a positive impact on gender equality, with only 31% showing a positive impact. **Sweden's** development budget was reduced mid-year, due to other priorities being set.

**Finland**, which made a commitment to strengthen inclusive policies, fully reached the targets set.



## 5.2 Sustainability

Sustainability of development interventions was recognized as an important part of development assistance. Thirty-eight countries made a total of 76 commitments that included a focus on sustainability – the second central, cross-cutting theme of the 2014 HLM commitments. These included critical sustainability factors, such as increasing budgets for operating and maintenance costs, developing policies and plans that specifically include sustainability, and increasing maintenance capacity.

In 2016, countries reported that they made significant progress on 29 out of the 45 commitments relating to sustainability. This includes nine countries that have nearly or already achieved their commitments: **Bangladesh**,

**Central Africa Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Liberia, Mauritania, Pakistan, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.**

In **Zimbabwe**, rural and urban water services have been rehabilitated in line with agreed benchmarks, and effective community-led operation and maintenance systems have been established.

**Afghanistan** has made good progress in integrating water safety plans and private sector operation and maintenance strategies, which aim to help ensure sustainability. **Afghanistan** has also formulated an Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction Framework to safeguard drinking water and sanitation programmes.

### COUNTRIES SHOW SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON COMMITMENTS THAT INCLUDE SUSTAINABILITY AS AN AIM:



**Madagascar** has made slow progress towards its commitment to prioritize financing for the maintenance budgets of existing systems to halve failure rates. However it expects to make better progress on this commitment in 2017 through the Government’s proposed Programme of Action.

The **Netherlands** committed to holding their partners to account for achieving the anticipated project results, and included a sustainability clause in the financing arrangements for water, sanitation and hygiene sector projects. This clause stipulates assurances for the sustainability of project investments for up to 10 years after the conclusion of any project. For example, a sustainability clause was incorporated into financing for the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council from 2016–2020. This sustainability clause is mandatory in all new proposals of the **Netherlands’** Sustainable Water Fund.

**Finland** committed to promoting national service delivery models that enhance sustainability. The management of water, sanitation and hygiene projects is to rest with the user groups, to enhance a sense of ownership. Funding, directed through national or local government systems, will also ultimately be given directly to user groups and people will be provided with skills for improved operation, maintenance and cost recovery. Finland’s support on the Community Managed Project in Ethiopia has been continued and the third phase was launched in summer 2016. It is also supporting similar community-based sanitation projects in Nepal.

**France** nearly doubled its commitment to dedicate at least US\$267 million (€250 million) to climate change adaptation, with a total of US\$484 million (€454 million) going to projects with a climate change adaptation element.

# Conclusion

Countries' and donors' self-reporting on their 2014 SWA commitments has provided useful insights into the crucial work that partners are doing to improve access to water and sanitation for all, always and everywhere.

While countries and donors made significant progress on more than half of their commitments overall, it is particularly encouraging to see that the majority of commitments relating to the development and enhancement of policies and planning for better access to water and sanitation were met – suggesting that countries are determined to put the right systems in place.

Efforts to meet finance commitments that prioritize water, sanitation and hygiene were not as successful, with the majority of countries making only slow progress to increasing financing towards water and sanitation. This is despite good progress in increasing the visibility of water and sanitation through advocacy and prioritization of water and sanitation in poverty reduction strategies. In some cases the lack of increased financing was due to external events that prevented countries from making better progress, and in these cases they are committed to improving matters as soon as possible. Donors also did not always meet their funding target, in part due to a lack of capacity in the recipient country. Addressing the failure to translate advocacy and prioritization into increased financing is clearly a priority if countries are to realize their policies and meet the SDGs, and will be addressed at the upcoming 2017 High-level Meetings.

The 2014 HLM had a particular focus on inequalities and sustainability, and these issues were addressed across all categories of commitments, through the development of poverty reduction strategies, pro-poor financing and the realization of human rights. These themes will continue to be central to the work of SWA and the partnership will continue to use the platform to exchange good practices and lessons learnt.

Countries' and donors' self-reporting process is expanding to include more national and local agencies across all ministries involved in water and sanitation, and in some cases international agencies and local civil society organizations also engage in the process. As a multi-stakeholder partnership, all SWA's partners must continue to push for the policy space necessary to open up the dialogue on water and sanitation locally, nationally and globally.

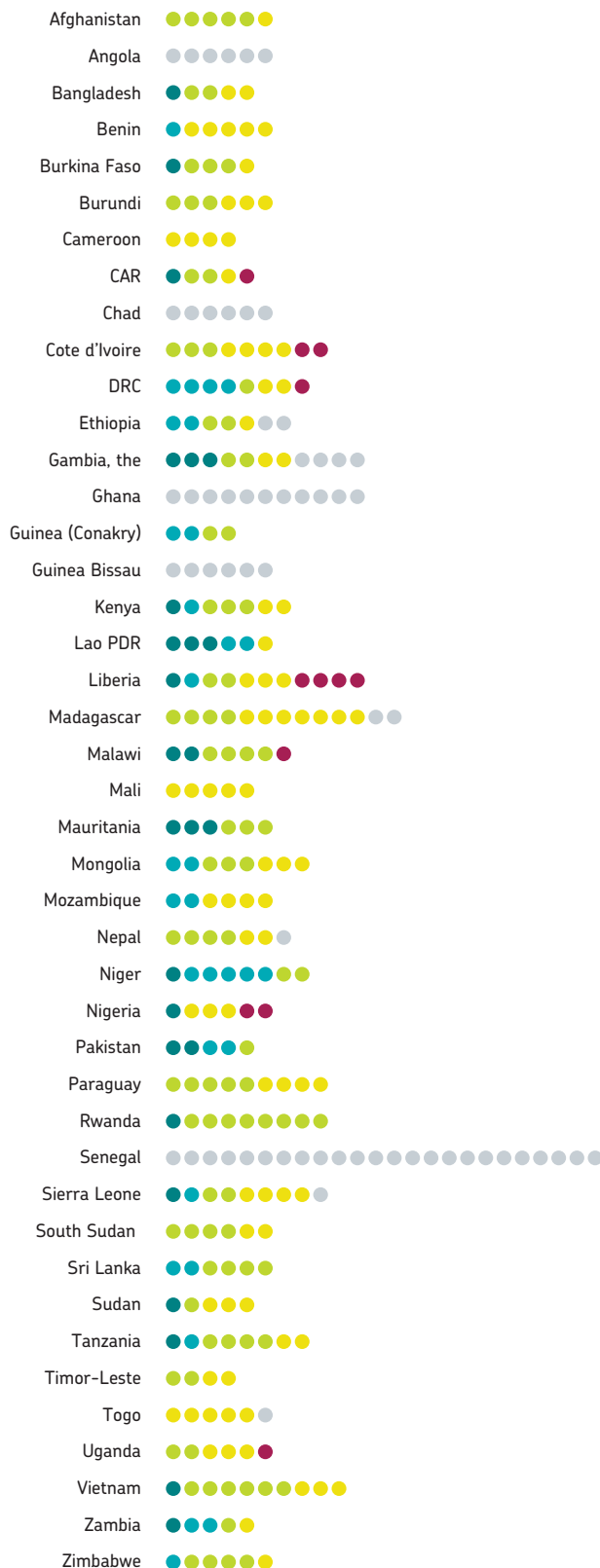
SWA partners are already integrating the outcome of the 2104 commitments process into the partnership's work. Since December 2016 the partnership has been engaged in revising and adapting its accountability mechanism, identifying and considering the lessons learnt from the 2014 commitments process. The partnership is benefiting from increasingly strong country engagement with all stakeholders and will be working to integrate the requirements of the Sustainable Development Goals into the next commitments phase.

Watch this space!

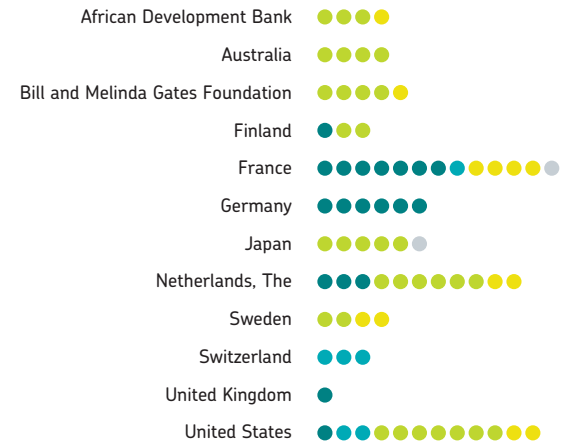


# Appendix - Overview of progress on commitments




## STATUS OF PROGRESS: COUNTRIES



## STATUS OF PROGRESS: DONORS



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