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United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**

**Joint Monitoring Programme on Water Supply and
Sanitation (JMP)**

**Report of the first meeting of the Advisory Group
Geneva, 23–25 April 2003**

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Acronyms

DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
JMP	WHO and UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation
LSMS	Living Standards Measurement Studies
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WSSCC	Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council
WHO	World Health Organization

List of participants^a

A. Members of the Advisory Group

Core group members

Maria Helena Alegre

Senior Research Officer, National Civil Engineering Laboratory, Government of International Water Services Association, Lisbon, Portugal (did not attend).

Manuel Alvarinho (Chairman)

President, Water Regulatory Council (CRA), Maputo, Mozambique.

Kristof Bostoan

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, UK.
(alternate of Dr. S. Cairncross).

Andrew Cotton

Director, Urban Programme, Water, Engineering and Development Centre, Loughborough University, UK.

Eckhard Kleinau (Chairman)

Senior Technical Director, Environmental Health Project (EHP II), Arlington, VA, USA.

Agency representatives

Fred Arnold

Vice President, Macro International Inc., Calverton, MD, USA.

Andre Dzikus

Human Settlements officer, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, Water, Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch, Nairobi, Kenya (did not attend).

Ghorisankar Ghosh

Executive Director, Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, Geneva, Switzerland.

^a Detailed addresses are given in Annex IV.

Peter Kolsky

World Bank, Washington, DC, USA.

Darren Saywell

Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, Geneva, Switzerland.

B. Executing Agencies

For the United Nations Children's Fund:

Mark Henderson

Senior Adviser, Water, Environment and Sanitation Section, New York, NY, USA.

Rolf Luyendijk

Water, Environment and Sanitation Section, New York, NY, USA.

Vanessa Tobin

Chief, Water, Environment and Sanitation Section, New York, NY, USA (did not attend).

Tessa Wardlaw

Senior Advisor, Monitoring and Statistics, New York, NY, USA.

For the World Health Organization:

Jamie Bartram

Coordinator, Water Sanitation and Health, Geneva, Switzerland.

José Augusto Hueb

Water, Sanitation and Health, Geneva, Switzerland.

Luiz Carlos Rangel Soares

Regional Office for the Americas, Washington, DC, USA.

Terrence Thompson

Regional Office for South-East Asia, New Delhi, India.

Acknowledgements

The Executing Agencies (World Health Organization and United Nations Children's Fund) of the Joint Monitoring Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation wish to acknowledge the members of the Advisory Group for agreeing to attend this first meeting. The relevance and quality of their inputs were excellent and will be helpful for improving the process in future meetings. Special thanks to Eckhard Kleinau and Manuel Alvarinho who kindly agreed to chair the meeting and did commendable work.

Thanks must be given to the agencies for participating in this initiative and for releasing their staff to attend this event and dedicate their time, experience and enthusiasm to providing advice to the Joint Monitoring Programme Executing Agencies and to promoting the programme in the future.

The World Health Organization, as the host organization for this first meeting of the Advisory Group, would like to acknowledge the important contribution of the United Kingdom Department for International Development, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, for financially supporting the Joint Monitoring Programme activities.

This report was prepared by José A. Hueb (World Health Organization), and Mark Henderson and Rolf Luyendijk (United Nations Children's Fund).

Background

Before 1990, a report on the global status of the water-supply and sanitation sector was issued regularly by the World Health Organization (WHO), using information provided by country water-supply and sanitation agencies and by ministries of health. The information was obtained through questionnaires that included an exhaustive set of questions that not only dealt with water-supply and sanitation coverage, but also with institutional, financial and management issues. Following the end of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade in 1990, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and WHO established a Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP), the main objective of which was to strengthen the monitoring capacities of national agencies.

The first three reports of the JMP (published in 1991, 1993 and 1996) described coverage data provided by governments, as well as progress in national monitoring capacities. In December 2000, at the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) Global Forum, held in Iguazu, Brazil, the Global Water Supply and Sanitation Assessment 2000 report was launched. The methods used in the report marked a departure from those used in earlier reports, in that they allowed verifiable data sources to be used, and the data were linked to a more comprehensive analysis of the situation that went beyond determining coverage only. For example, with both the Global Water Supply and Sanitation Assessment 2000 report and the 2001 revision of the JMP report, household survey data were used extensively to estimate coverage figures, as opposed to relying solely on data provided by governments. The main reason for moving away from data provided by governments and water agencies is that the definition of access varies from country to country and even within the same country over time. Another reason is that while governments and water utilities can estimate access through household connections fairly well, they may be unable to determine access through other types of improved services. Current estimates are now based on data sets from household surveys that include Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), national census reports, and other reliable country surveys that allow data to be compared.

The current JMP coverage indicators do not refer directly to “safe” water supplies or to “adequate” sanitation, terminology used in previous reports. The JMP now reports on access to “improved” water-supply sources and “improved” sanitation facilities, simply because convincing evidence is not available on the safety of the water sources, nor on the adequacy of sanitation facilities. Certain technologies have been adopted as “improved”, in an attempt to identify those more likely to provide access to safe water and adequate sanitation. At this point, however, there is no evidence that all the technologies defined as improved actually provide safe water, nor that all the improved sanitation technologies are adequate. For example, coverage figures have not been discounted for intermittent service, nor for the poor quality of piped water supplies. WHO and UNICEF are currently working on water-quality surveys that better characterize technologies that can provide a safe water supply and adequate sanitation services. Annex I provides additional information on efforts to define access to water supply and sanitation in terms of the technologies available and the levels of service provided.

UNICEF and WHO consider that the recent methodological changes in JMP coverage estimates have increased the complexity of the data analysis, and have added to the responsibilities of JMP as the official United Nations mechanism for reporting on progress in achieving the water and sanitation targets of the Millennium Development Goals. Consequently, UNICEF and WHO felt that colleagues from other agencies should be involved and provide input to this process. The establishment of a JMP Advisory Group ensures such an involvement, and ensures that the inputs from sector experts and representatives of different organizations will be incorporated into the regular procedures of the JMP. This document provides a comprehensive summary of the discussions and outputs of the first meeting of the Advisory Group of the WHO and UNICEF JMP.

Objectives of the meeting

The main objectives of the first meeting of the JMP Advisory Group were to:

- establish the Advisory Group of the WHO and UNICEF JMP by defining its membership, the scope of its work, and its collaborating mechanisms
- introduce the JMP and discuss problems relating to the calculation of water-supply and sanitation coverage estimates, and to their adoption
- advise on issues such as global reporting, standardization of indicators, updating coverage estimates, the JMP database, and the JMP web site
- advise on the promotion, dissemination and use of JMP data
- establish mechanisms for future consultation on key JMP issues.

The programme of the meeting is given in Annex II.

Presentations

Members of the JMP Advisory Group were briefed on the following issues, using plenary presentations and handouts:

- establishing the JMP Advisory Group
- current JMP methodology
- country estimates
- analysing complex problems at country level
- consultation with governments on the acceptability of coverage data according to criteria defined by the JMP
- comparing surveys from WHO, DHS, MICS, WSSCC, and the Living Standards Measurement Studies (LSMS)
- improving/harmonizing/standardizing selected questions
- promoting, disseminating and using JMP information (the JMP web site)
- the JMP data base
- promoting the existing information base to academic institutions
- building capacity at country level
- a pilot project for water quality that is supported by UNICEF and WHO
- mechanisms for updating coverage estimates, and the frequency of updates
- global reporting issues (e.g. frequency and types of reports, reporting mechanisms).

These presentations were followed by plenary discussions that generated useful information for the findings presented in the subsequent sections of this document.

The work of the Advisory Group

At the meeting, a tentative description of the work of the Advisory Group was agreed upon, and the following terms of reference were revised:

Purpose

The purpose of the JMP Advisory Group is to provide strategic and technical advice to WHO and UNICEF on the implementation and development of the JMP.

Membership

The JMP Advisory Group is composed of two groups: a core group of experts, who bring individual technical expertise; and experts from institutions with a stake in JMP products. A third group, composed of members of the Executing Agencies (WHO and UNICEF), implements the directions and actions defined by the Advisory Group. The Executing Agencies seek a balance in both geographical and gender representation on the Advisory Group. The following criteria for selecting members were considered:

- expertise and experience in monitoring the water and sanitation sector, and in collecting data
- knowledge of water-supply and sanitation issues
- commitment to participate actively in the Advisory Group.

Operating mechanisms

The JMP Advisory Group will meet at least once annually. More frequent consultations and interactions will be carried out electronically as Advisory Group members respond to questions or to requests for guidance from the JMP Executing Agencies. Smaller ad hoc working groups might be formed to advise on specific matters. The Executing Agencies will retain responsibility for decisions and actions by JMP.

Roles of JMP Advisory Group members

Advisory Group members will be proactive advocates of the JMP with respect to:

- their own work programmes
- their attendance at meetings, fora, conferences
- their lobbying activities with decision-makers.

Functions

The primary function of the Advisory Group is to offer strategic and technical advice to the JMP Executing Agencies in the following areas:

Overall strategic goals

- to improve the availability and use of relevant, reliable and comparable data on safe water supply and sanitation, which will help inform policy-making at national and international levels
- to use the data to meet and sustain water and sanitation needs
- to position the JMP as the authoritative source for estimates of water-supply and sanitation coverage at national, regional and global levels
- to identify evolving challenges and emerging needs that the JMP should address
- to identify opportunities for mobilizing resources for JMP activities.

The quality and quantity of data and information

This area covers such issues as:

- the methods and assumptions used by the JMP
- calculating the estimates for specific countries
- the quality of the coverage data
- selecting and defining new indicators
- technical questions arising from monitoring activities
- collecting additional data.

Coordination and harmonization

- maintaining and developing active linkages between JMP and related initiatives
- coordinating monitoring activities among partners (including data collection, indicator definition and methods of analysis).

Communication and information dissemination

- promoting information/communicating about developments within institutions and working groups that are relevant to JMP activities
- promoting opportunities for the JMP (e.g. events, papers)
- contributing to, and reviewing, JMP information products
- identifying target audiences and ways to meet demands for JMP products.

Capacity building

- identifying, and advising on, capacity-building needs, so as to improve the assessment and monitoring of water-supply and sanitation access at the national level.

Summary of issues and follow-up actions

The range of issues discussed at the meeting are summarized in this section. Some of these issues require follow-up actions by both the JMP Advisory Group and the Executing Agencies (WHO and UNICEF). A summary of the issues and follow-up actions is also given in Annex III.

Overall strategic direction

Review membership

The initial list of members of the JMP Advisory Group may have omitted representatives of key agencies that could utilize JMP products and that could contribute to the JMP. Consequently, the participants of the first JMP Advisory Group meeting provided suggestions to the Executing Agencies about additional members. When considering new members to the Advisory Group, gender and representation from developing countries should be addressed.

Scope of JMP work

The scope of the work of the JMP should be reviewed in the light of new demands. For example, what will be the role of JMP in capacity building at country level? Some members of the Advisory Group suggested that

monitoring is important, not only at the national and global levels, but also at the community level, where progress in bringing water supply and sanitation to communities, slums, etc., should be monitored. The question then arises: how can JMP help to strengthen monitoring so that local institutions can monitor their own development? Another question is: should the joint pilot project of WHO and UNICEF, to assess the water quality delivered by different sources in selected countries, be expanded and become a normal function of JMP? Discussions on these issues are expected to continue over the forthcoming months.

Quality/quantity of data and information

Documentation on emerging needs

A special effort will be needed to complement currently available data with the indicators established by the Millennium Development Goals and those proposed by the WSSCC Vision 21. For practical and financial reasons, the policy of Macro International Inc., UNICEF and WHO towards household surveys (currently, the major source for JMP data) is to keep to a minimum the number of indicators not specifically focused on water supply and sanitation. Extra indicators could be added if there were valid reasons to do so, and if the indicators could be adequately measured using household surveys.

Several JMP Advisory Group members expressed interest in including additional indicators in the JMP, especially hygiene indicators. It is likely that individual organizations will be pressured to obtain data on additional indicators and that JMP will be asked to respond to such demand. It is recognized that measuring hygiene behaviour at national and global levels, using indicators that are comparable over time and between countries, will require considerable additional effort from the JMP. However, owing to its importance, every effort should be made by the JMP to include this crucial issue in its monitoring system.

Questions and pictorial materials to be promoted by agencies dealing with surveys

Although surveys from Macro International Inc., UNICEF and WHO include questions about water supply and sanitation, the data are not always comparable. For example, DHS and MICS include bottled water as a source of clean water, whereas the World Health Survey considers that most interviewees reporting access to bottled water might have another source of water for personal hygiene (which could be a household connection, yard tap, etc.). Another example is that DHS includes as a sanitation option the “flush toilet”, whereas MICS includes “flush to sewage system or septic tank”, and the World Health Survey disaggregates the two types of system (“flush to piped sewage system” and “flush to septic tank”).

Four main types of surveys were presented during the meeting, as well as the results of a pilot survey held by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, that used the indicators drawn up within the context of Vision 21:

- World Health Survey (funded by WHO)
- Demographic and Health Survey (funded by Macro International Inc., and United States Agency for International Development (USAID))
- Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (funded by UNICEF)
- Living Standards Measurement Studies (funded by the World Bank).

The World Health Survey was conducted between 2002–2003 in 70 countries and included a section on water supply and sanitation. The section included questions based on MICS and DHS and used an innovative pictorial aid to interviewers that reflected the different types of improved and unimproved technologies defined by JMP. The survey was usually conducted by ministries of health with support from national statistical services. The first public results of the World Health Survey are expected to be released in September–October 2003. Although the number of World Health Surveys to be conducted annually will depend of several factors, WHO intends to continue this work since it is viewed as an important source of data for the World Health Report.

About eight DHS are undertaken each year, half in sub-Saharan Africa. Usually, the surveys are carried out by national statistical centres. The centres usually also carry out MICS. These surveys were initiated in 1995, to address a data gap in the mid-decade goals of the World Summit for Children. A second round of MICS was completed in 1999–2000, and the data again used to evaluate the World Summit for Children goals. A third

round of MICS is planned for 2004–2005, to report on progress with the goals of the World Fit for Children document. MICS and DHS are usually coordinated to ensure a sampling frequency of no more than once every two-and-a-half to three years. This avoids duplication and saves resources.

Action under the LSMS is carried out in response to a request from a host country, and the study specifically caters to the needs of the country. It does not necessarily measure the same water and sanitation indicators as those used in the World Health Survey, DHS and MICS. To date, surveys carried out under LSMS have not provided enough detail about the types of facilities used, and sometimes the data are not disaggregated according to urban and rural areas. The Executing Agencies should contact the World Bank to explore the possibility of including questions in future LSMS questionnaires that address the harmonization and comparability of data.

Participants of the meeting considered there to be a need to standardize fundamental core questions. The standardized questions could then be presented for consideration to the agencies responsible for conducting household surveys. Most water-supply and sanitation questions are similar, but some differences continue to exist. The JMP Advisory Group agreed that a next development would be the preparation of a core set of questions, based both on existing questionnaires and on the experience of the Advisory Group members. The questions would cover “improved” and “not improved” technologies, and a set of pictures would illustrate the technologies. Hopefully, each of the above agencies would then incorporate this set of questions into their surveys. In the future, mechanisms will be sought to incorporate these questions into national demographic surveys and country surveys, as well.

Developing an image library

In most countries, a simple set of pictures will be sufficient to help interviewers conduct surveys, but in some cases a set of country-specific pictorial images may be needed. WHO has requested that the Water, Engineering and Development Centre at Loughborough University (UK) develop an image library from which countries can assemble individual image sets to accompany household questionnaires.

Developing a validated set of guidelines for calculating coverage

During the 1980s and 1990s, total access data provided to WHO by national governments were not comparable because the definition of “access” often varied from country to country, and even within the same country in different years. To address this issue, and to avoid subjectivity when estimating coverage, the Global Water Supply and Sanitation Assessment 2000 (as well as subsequent revisions) followed precise rules. The rules were presented at the meeting and participants’ reactions to the rules were solicited. WHO also proposed rules for calculating access through household water connections. The rules are still being discussed with UNICEF and have not yet been finalized.

WHO has made considerable efforts to track household coverage both by piped water supply, and by sanitation systems that flush to sewage collectors. Estimates are now available for most countries and WHO is proposing to include this information in the JMP reporting system and display it on the JMP web site. WHO believes that JMP needs to evolve and provide information on different levels of services, to be able to meet new demands from partners (e.g. the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (HABITAT), World Bank, Millennium Development Goals Task Force, etc). Currently, access to water supply or sanitation through household connection appears to be the only category that can be disaggregated. Other categories do not seem to be properly defined in many household surveys, and many of them are not comparable. On the other hand, in presenting this information, JMP does not endorse any specific improved technology, as the selection of appropriate technologies depends on each context.

Representatives of UNICEF indicated that there was a need for agreement on the different rules, and also on how household connection data should be presented in reports and on the internet. Although there was general agreement that data need to be differentiated, no final conclusion was reached at the meeting. The JMP Advisory Group was asked to give its opinion on these issues.

New data set

At the JMP Advisory Group meeting, it was indicated to the participants that, by the end of 2003, WHO and UNICEF were planning to issue an updated set of coverage estimates for the year 2002. The set will contain estimates based on linear regression analyses of data from user-based surveys and censuses obtained over the period 1990–2002. The year 2002 also coincides with the half-way point for measuring the Millennium

Development Goals (1990 was baseline and 2015 is the end-point). A big launch could be planned for early 2004, to draw attention to the half-way point and the progress made so far. After this launch, the data set will be updated more frequently than has been done so far, with the frequency to be decided after consultation with Advisory Group members.

Coordination and harmonization

Consistent approaches with HABITAT on urban and periurban slum definitions

JMP is the official UN programme responsible for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals related to water supply and sanitation. The following Millennium Development Goals indicators are monitored by JMP:

Target 10: by 2015, halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking-water. The indicator (No. 30) used to measure this target is “the proportion of the population with sustainable access to an improved water source, urban and rural”. JMP also monitors the sanitation target established at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002: “to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to basic sanitation”.

Target 11: by 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers. The indicator (No. 31) to be monitored by JMP is: “the proportion of the urban population with access to improved sanitation”.

Although indicator No. 31 does not correspond exactly to Target 11, it can provide a good proxy of the progress being made to improve sanitation in slums, because most urban dwellers not served with improved sanitation probably live in slums. The goal of Target 11, to significantly improve the lives of 100 million slum dwellers, is relatively modest compared to the estimated 1032 million urban people to be reached under Target 10. Direct figures on the access status of slum dwellers are not currently available, and most sample household surveys cannot disaggregate this information, since the accuracy of the resulting data would be poor. As a consequence, there are three possible ways of reporting on Target 11:

- The first approach, which is the current approach, is to report on urban dwellers with access to sanitation, and to calculate the number of urban people who gained access compared to the number in the baseline year (1990). It is assumed that access to sanitation is a significant improvement in the life of a slum dweller. A figure for the proportion of slum dwellers in the urban population must be agreed upon.
- The second approach would be to use data from existing household surveys that were specifically conducted in slums. Since the number of surveys of slums might be insufficient to estimate coverage in these areas, it would be unrealistic to adopt this alternative. Specific methodologies could be designed to address this issue in future surveys, but even then it would be several years before the data would be available in sufficient quantity.
- The third alternative would be to ask governments or local agencies to provide the required information, but this would be a regression to old methods that did not work in the past.

The JMP Advisory Group and the JMP Executing Agencies should take seriously the demands of organizations, such as HABITAT, to find ways of measuring progress towards providing improved water supply and sanitation in urban areas (including slums). Of course, duplication of reporting on water supply and sanitation should be avoided both within and without the UN system.

Harmonize definitions with the Millennium Development Goals Task Force on Water and Sanitation

One of the major functions of the JMP Advisory Group is to ensure that the different organizations that report on water-supply and sanitation development adopt a common set of definitions and criteria to describe access to water-supply and sanitation services. Of utmost importance for the JMP is to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals Task Force on Water and Sanitation agrees to use the same indicators defined by the JMP to measure progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. WHO and UNICEF are mandated by the UN Secretary General, through the JMP, to provide coverage estimates on water supply and sanitation that feed into the reporting system of the Millennium Development Goals. It was decided that UNICEF should represent the JMP on the Task Force on Water and Sanitation, since WHO was already represented on the task forces of most other Millennium Development Goals. To facilitate discussion between the Water and Sanitation Task Force

and the JMP Advisory Group, it was suggested at the meeting that a representative of the Millennium Development Goals Task Force should be invited to become a member of the JMP Advisory Group.

A Millennium Development Goals Task Force meeting was scheduled for 15–16 May 2003 in Nairobi, where definitions for water supply and sanitation were to be discussed. It was strongly suggested that UNICEF should prioritize its attendance so that JMP would be represented.

Communication and dissemination of information

Periodic reporting plan

There is a considerable demand for up-to-date coverage figures on water and sanitation. Since the Global Water Supply and Sanitation Assessment 2000 report, the JMP has updated its figures (in 2001), but has not produced a joint report containing the updated information. Global updates of coverage are required at intervals to fulfil the reporting mandates of several programmes, such as the UN Secretary General reports on the Millennium Development Goals, the World Fit for Children, the World Health Report, the World Water Development Report and the Human Development Report.

Some meeting participants urged that all country estimates be updated once a year. But at the Advisory Group meeting it was argued that changing the estimates for a country without changing the country, regional and global tables would cause confusion. It was therefore decided to “park” new evidence (e.g. from a new DHS, MICS or World Health Survey) on the JMP web site, with an indication that the information would be taken into consideration for the next global update. The “parked” data will be presented as a Microsoft Excel® data table, similar to that used for country estimates.

The final conclusions of this session were:

- to launch a report in early 2004 that updates estimates of country coverage
- to launch a global sector assessment report in 2006, similar to the Global Water Supply and Sanitation Assessment 2000 Report, that provides information on the status of the water and sanitation sector as of 2005.

In due course, the JMP Executing Agencies will circulate a proposal among the Advisory Group members for the periodic reporting of JMP data.

New information materials for JMP

JMP needs to be more actively promoted as the authoritative source on water-supply and sanitation coverage at global, regional and national levels. Proposals as to how to do this included:

- issue publications, information leaflets, booklets or other materials for presentation and dissemination at major sector events
- coordinate the representation of JMP at water and sanitation events, such as conferences and fora
- develop a strategy to link the JMP web site to partner web sites
- keep the JMP web site attractive and updated.

Meeting demand for JMP products

JMP should evolve to meet new demands for its products. At the meeting, issues such as solid wastes, hygiene, and school water and sanitation were mentioned as examples of potential new demands. Is it feasible for JMP to use additional indicators? To what extent should the JMP indicators be expanded? JMP should assess the needs of target agencies that might use JMP products, as well as the ability of JMP to respond to these needs. The Advisory Group is expected to advise the Executing Agencies on this issue.

Use of information on questionnaires

The WHO Regional Offices of the Americas and South-East Asia, in collaboration with UNICEF and respective country and Regional Offices, have developed country assessments based on information collected for the Global Water Supply and Sanitation Assessment 2000. National reports were prepared for most countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and in South-East Asia. In developing the country estimates, considerable experience was gained in using the JMP questionnaire (prepared in 1998), and it would be useful if such experiences could be consolidated into two short reports and shared with the members of the JMP Advisory Group at the next meeting in October 2003.

JMP plans to analyse the information from the Global Water Supply and Sanitation Assessment 2000, as well as information from specific research, to see if there are important facets of the sector that were not part of the assessment. Terms of reference for this work will be prepared by the JMP Executing Agencies in due course.

Questionnaire forms revised for the 2005 Global Assessment

The Advisory Group will advise the JMP Executing Agencies on the preparation of a revised set of questionnaire forms for the Global Assessment 2005 report. The JMP Advisory Group believes it is important to prepare such reports, since their preparation is an important step in analysing the institutional and management issues that affect the development of the water-supply and sanitation sector at country and regional levels. Such reports are also important promotional and advocacy instruments and they assist countries in lobbying and fund-raising efforts directed towards donors both within and external to a country.

The revised set will build on the 14 forms sent out by WHO for the Global Assessment 2000 report, since the forms generated such valuable information. For example, most of the information was used in the Global Assessment 2000 report, and the WHO Regional Office in South-East Asia, in cooperation with UNICEF country offices, used individual country information to generate assessment reports for seven countries of the Region. The Pan American Health Organization also used the information to promote assessment reports on the water-supply and sanitation sector in over 30 countries in the Region. WHO will produce an initial revision of the forms, based on the experiences of the Global Water Supply and Sanitation Assessment 2000, and the revised set will be circulated among members of the JMP Advisory Group for comments.

Launch of coverage report (March 2004)

A possible strategy for launching the coverage report was discussed at the meeting and it was concluded that launching it in connection with an expressive event would result in synergy. Two events were proposed as possible candidates: the WSSCC Global Forum, and the World Water Day. There was some concern that the report might not be ready for the Global Forum, which was planned for November/December 2003, but the event was rescheduled to the week of the World Water Day 2004. As a result, it was proposed to launch the coverage report during the World Water Day 2004, if possible in connection with the WSSCC Global Forum. This issue should be followed-up with the Executing Secretary of the Collaborative Council.

JMP web site

A JMP web site prepared by WHO is nearly ready to be promoted, with only a few legal and institutional issues yet to be resolved by UNICEF and WHO. The JMP Executing Agencies have requested that the JMP Advisory Group review the site and provide the Executing Agencies with suggestions for improvement. The site address is: www.wssinfo.org.

JMP database

The JMP data, including household surveys conducted by different organizations, is currently stored in Microsoft Excel® and Microsoft Word® files. WHO is currently developing a database that might interact with the JMP web site. The JMP Advisory Group will be asked to provide advice on this issue.

Capacity building and support for national monitoring

A guide to the questions, indicators and terminology used by household surveys

JMP should promote the use of comparable indicators and methodologies for household surveys at the national or subnational levels. While substantial progress has been made in aligning the DHS and MICS questions and methodologies, other national statistical authorities and survey implementers have not adopted the standard wording. Participants at the meeting felt that JMP should generate and test guidelines, to be used as reference standards at the national and subnational levels. The guidelines should include questions and indicators known to have been successful in surveys, and that are compatible with the needs of JMP.

Disaggregation of data at subnational level

Meeting participants agreed that the aggregation of data at national level often does not meet the needs of national decision-makers. The MICS and DHS, for example, use sampling techniques that usually do not allow the data to be disaggregated on a geographical basis, although the data can be disaggregated into socioeconomic quintiles. The Executing Agencies were asked to prepare guidance materials to help national partners obtain disaggregated data, if possible the raw data from existing household surveys.

JMP estimates submitted to countries

It was announced to the meeting that WHO will insert a section on the Millennium Development Goals into the next World Health Report (by September 2003). The status of each WHO Member State, according to access to water-supply and sanitation services, will be included in the section, as well as an analysis of progress towards the water-supply and sanitation goals in the Millennium Development Goals report. A recent decision of the WHO Executive Board makes it compulsory for WHO to submit any health data to Member States before they can be published. This decision is also valid for reports of which WHO is only one of the sponsor agencies, such as with a JMP report. Consequently, before JMP publishes revised data in 2004, the countries will be provided with the revised data and will be requested to agree with the data, or provide evidence that the data are inadequate. If solid evidence is provided, then the JMP Executing Agencies will revise the estimates according to the new evidence.

Next JMP Advisory Group meeting (October 2003)

Agreement on new coverage data set

The WHO and UNICEF data sets will be revised and updated based on new evidence, using well-established rules that both organizations have agreed on. A tentative plan is for WHO and UNICEF staff to meet by September 2003 to revise and reach agreement on the new coverage estimates for all countries. For cases in which an agreement cannot be reached, the JMP Advisory Group will provide advice, but in any case this will occur by the end of September 2003. After WHO and UNICEF have revised the data files, WHO and UNICEF offices will be requested to review the data files and submit them to the local authorities. If existing new evidence is available, then the data files and estimates will be revised accordingly. This process will be concluded by the end of 2003 when the new official data set will be ready.

Follow-up on the Plan of Action

Although UNICEF and WHO prepared a JMP work plan, the Advisory Group has generated new demands, and has agreed to undertake a number of actions as a follow up to the first Advisory Group meeting. These issues will have to be discussed between the two organizations. Ways of following-up on these activities will be addressed shortly, and a progress report will be prepared by the JMP Executing Agencies for the next Advisory Group meeting.

Review of an interim draft of the Millennium Development Goals report

The JMP Executing Agencies will prepare a report based on the revised coverage data, to be launched during the World Water Day 2004. It is expected that this report will be ready in draft format by January 2004. It will be then submitted for consideration by the members of the Advisory Group.

Annex I Definitions of access

JMP currently defines access to water supply and sanitation in terms of the technology and the levels of service afforded. For water, the technologies include household connections, public standpipes, boreholes with handpumps, protected dug wells, protected springs and rainwater collection. Water sources such as tanker trucks and bottled water are not included in the definition of “improved” access, since they give neither reasonable nor ready access to water for domestic hygiene purposes. “Reasonable access” is broadly defined as the availability of at least 20 litres per person per day from a source within one kilometre of the user's dwelling.

“Improved” sanitation is defined to include a house connection to a sewer or septic tank, a pour-flush latrine, a simple pit latrine and a ventilated improved pit latrine. The excreta disposal system is considered adequate if it is private and if it hygienically separates human excreta from human contact.

The following are defined as improved water-supply and sanitation technologies:

Water supply

- household connection
- public standpipe
- borehole
- protected dug well
- protected spring
- rainwater collection.

Sanitation

- connection to a public sewer
- connection to a septic system
- pour-flush latrine
- simple pit latrine
- ventilated improved pit latrine.

The following technologies are not considered to be improved:

Water supply

- unprotected well
- unprotected spring
- water provided by a vendor
- bottled water
- water provided by tanker truck.

Sanitation

- service or bucket latrines (where excreta are removed manually)
- public or shared latrines
- open latrines.

Date	Morning	Afternoon
23 April 2003	<p>Session 1: Opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - welcome address - opening remarks - objectives of the meeting - introduction of participants - nomination of chairperson - overview of JMP - establishment of JMP Advisory Group: initial discussion. 	<p>Session 2: Coverage estimates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - current JMP methodology - examples of country estimates - analysis of complex country problems - consultation/validation of JMP data.
24 April 2003	<p>Session 3: Improving monitoring/standardization/indicator development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - presentations on surveys (WHO, DHS, MICS, WSSCC, LSMS) - discussion on improvement/harmonization/standardization of selected topics. 	<p>Session 4: JMP workplan 2003–2004</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - overview of workplan - promotion, dissemination and use of the JMP information (the JMP web site) - the JMP data base - promoting the use of the existing information base by academic institutions - capacity building at the country level - UNICEF and WHO water-quality pilot project.
25 April 2003	<p>Session 5: Global reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mechanisms and frequency of updating coverage estimates - global reporting issues (frequency, types of reports, reporting mechanisms). <p>Session 6: Establishment of JMP Advisory Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - scope of work - mechanisms for interaction - level of commitment - closure. 	

Annex II Programme of the first meeting of the JMP Advisory Group

World Health Organization, Geneva, 20 Av. Appia, M building, Room M105

Annex III Plan of action for the JMP Advisory Group, 2003–2004

Function area	Desired outputs	Timeframe	Specific actions	
			Advisory Group	Executing Agencies
Overall strategic direction	Review membership (e.g. of the Water Supply and Sanitation Task Force to the Millennium Development Goals)	Aug 2003	Nominate/propose new members	Select and approach new members
	Scope of JMP work reviewed	Ongoing	Provide feed-back on proposals	Prepare and circulate proposals
Quality/quantity of data and information	Documentation on emerging needs (Millennium Development Goals/Vision 21)	Sept 2003	Contribute ideas	Initiate consultation with ideas and issues
	Availability of a set of questions and pictorial materials to be promoted among agencies dealing with surveys	Aug 2003	Provide a revised data set	Prepare the initial data set
	Development of an image library (first draft extracted from the library of the Water, Engineering and development Centre, Loughborough, UK)	Sept 2003	Contribute additional images	WHO to commission Water, Engineering and development Centre, Loughborough, UK
	Validated set of guidelines (“rules-of-thumb”) for calculating coverage estimates	Jun 2003	Validate guidelines	Compile guidelines and circulate among Advisory Group members
	Agreed new 2002 (or 2003) data set by December 2003	Dec 2003	Validate problematic estimates	Carry out exercise to update data set

Coordination/ harmonization	Consistent approaches with the UN HABITAT on definitions of urban and periurban/slums	Jul 2003	Advise on definitions for “urban”, “periurban” and “slums”	Circulate a short discussion paper on these issues
	Harmonized definitions with the Millennium Development Goals Water Supply and Sanitation Task Force	Jun 2003	Validation, if required	Attend Nairobi meeting; present JMP position
Communication/ information dissemination	Periodic reporting plan	Jun 2003	Advise on periodicity and type of reporting	Prepare and circulate a plan on periodic reporting
	New JMP informational materials	Ongoing	Review materials	Prepare and circulate materials
	Strategy for meeting the demand for JMP products	May 2003	Complete target audience matrix	Circulate target audience matrix
	Recommendations on the use of information on the Global Water Supply and Sanitation Assessment 2000 questionnaires	Oct 2003	Recommendations presented at next meeting	Collect experiences and ideas on use of questionnaires
	Questionnaire forms revised for 2005 assessment report	Nov 2003	Operate as task force to provide inputs to the revision process	Obtain inputs from their experts and prepare revised version
	Launch of coverage report, March 2004	Mar 2004	Validate the report and advocate for the launch of the report	Prepare the report and launch it
	JMP web site finalized and launched	June 2003	Provide feed-back on structure and content	Resolve joint website obstacles
	JMP data base: continue development	June 2004	Review proposal and provide inputs	Develop data base

Capacity building/support for national monitoring	Guide/menu of existing and proven questions, indicators and terminology used by household surveys, for reference by national partners	Nov 2003	Guidance on target, format, packaging and dissemination strategy	Produce guide/menu
	Guidance on disaggregation of data at subnational level	Dec 2003	Guidance on collection and use of disaggregated data	Share coverage estimates with countries
	JMP estimates submitted to countries	Sept 2003	Support, endorsement and advocacy of estimates	Share coverage estimates and calculation methodology with countries
Next JMP Advisory Group meeting in New York, October 2003	Agreement on new coverage data set	Nov 2003	Active participation and contribution to move issues forward	Convene, organize and minute the meeting
	Follow-up on Plan of Action			
	Review of draft report on the midway progress of Millennium Development Goals			

Annex IV List of addresses

Name	Institution	Address	Telephone	Fax	e-mail
Alvarinho, Manuel	Water Regulatory Council (CRA)	Av. Amilcar Cabral 757, PO Box 235 Maputo, Mozambique.	+258 1 312825	+258 1 312826	Cra-presidente@teledata.mz
Arnold, Fred	Macro International Inc.	11785 Beltsville Dr., Calverton, MD 20705, USA.	1-301-572-0938	1-301-572-0999	Fred.arnold@ormacro.com
Bartram, Jamie	WHO	20 Avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.	+41 22 791 3537	+41 22 791 4159	Bartramj@who.int
Bostoan, Kristof	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	Keppel Street WC1E 7HT, London, UK.	+44 20 79272213 +44 7880 611 227	+44 20 79272164	Kristof.bostoan@lshtm.ac.uk
Cotton, Andrew	Water, Engineering and Development Centre	Loughborough University, Ashby Road, Leicestershire LE11 3TU, UK.	+44 1509 222633	+44 1509 2110798	a.p.cotton@lboro.ac.uk
Ghosh, Gourisankar	WSSCC	International Environment House, 9 Chemin des Anémones, 1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland.	+41 22 917 8653	+41 22 917 8084	Ghoshg@who.int
Henderson, Mark	UNICEF	3 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017.	1-212-637-8883	1-212-824-6480	Mhenderson@unicef.org
Hueb, José.	WHO	20 Avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.	+4122791 3553	+4122791 4159	Huebj@who.int
Kleinau, Eckhard	Environmental Health Project/USAID	1611 N. Kent St./S300, Arlington, VA 22209, USA.	1 703 247 8722	1 703 243 9003	Kleinauef@ehproject.org
Kolsky, Pete	World Bank/Water and Sanitation Programme	Mail stop F4K-407, 1818 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20433.	+1-202-473-5764		Pkolsky@worldbank.org
Luyendijk, Rolf	UNICEF	3 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10044.	1 212 303 7979	212 63 8883	Rluyendijk@unicef.org
Saywell, Darren	WSSCC	International Environment House, 9 Chemin des Anémones, CH-1219	41 22 917 8657	41 22 917 8084	Saywelld@who.int

Name	Institution	Address	Telephone	Fax	e-mail
Soares, Luiz Carlos	WHO/PAHO	Chatelaine, Geneve, Switzerland. 525 23 Street NW, Washington, DC 20047-2895.	1-202-974-3368	1-202-974-3645	Soareslu@paho.org
Thompson, Terrence	WHO South-East Asia Regional Office	Mahatma Gandhi Marg, New Delhi 110002, India.	+91 11 2337 0804 ext. 26442	+91 11 2337 9507	Thompsont@whosea.org
Wardlaw, Tessa	UNICEF	3 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10044.	1 212 824 6727		Twardlaw@unicef.org

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