

Joint Sector Reviews (JSR)

for WASH in Fragile and Non-Fragile States

What is a Joint Sector Review?

There is no standard definition of a Joint Sector Review.

For our purposes, a Joint Sector Review is a **process** that brings **different stakeholders** together to **review** the status and progress of the sector, **discuss**, (and disagree) and take decisions on **priority actions** (often called "Undertakings").

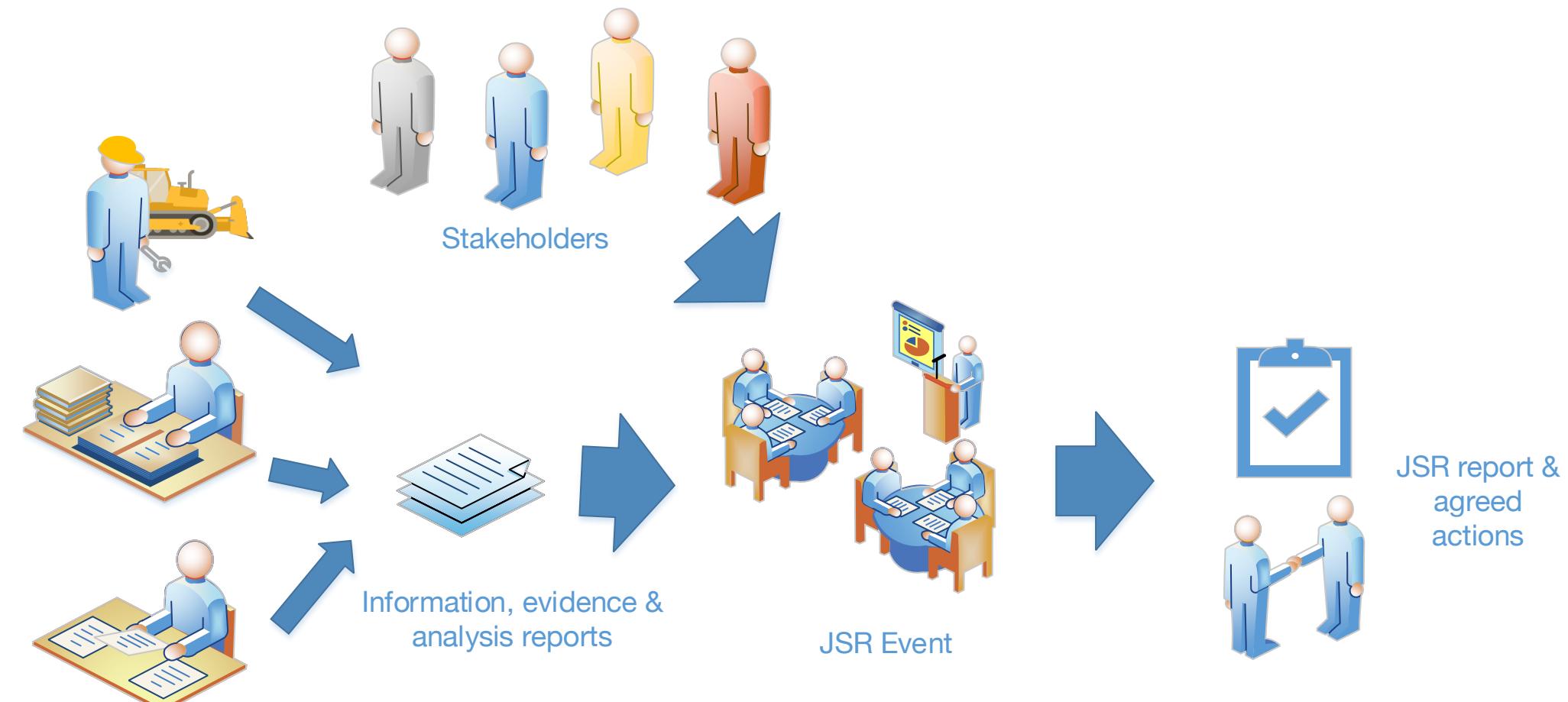


Figure 1: Basic components of a Joint Sector Review (JSR)

There is a widespread problem with poor reporting and little accountability in the WASH sector. This makes it unattractive for financial ministries and donors.

External actors can play a helpful facilitating role, but JSRs only work if the government, and key people in a range of government organisations, want to make it work.

JSRs do not automatically remove barriers, tensions and conflicts between individuals or between organisations.

JSRs are a way to address this but so far the majority have failed to fulfil their potential.

This study has shown no strong relationship between fragility of a state and success/continuity of JSRs.

However, JSRs should not be a cosy process - mutual accountability needs constructive criticism.

Where have JSRs taken place?

The GLAAS report 2014 (UN-Water, 2014) states that 76 countries conducted a national assessment for WASH such as JSRs within the last four years. However, only about 24 of these assessments actually resemble JSR processes, or meetings.

Country	Fragile State	Protracted Crisis	No of Years with JSRs	JSR in the Year ('20')													
				02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
Afghanistan	✓+P		✓														
Burkina Faso	✓		7														
Burundi	✓	✓	5														
East Timor	✓		0														
Ethiopia	✓	✓	6														
Ghana			4														
Indonesia			0														
Jordan			0														
Kenya	✓	✓	9														
Liberia	✓+P	✓	3														
Malawi	✓		7														
Nepal	✓		2														
Niger	✓		7														
Rwanda	✓		11														
Senegal			8														
South Sudan	✓+P		4														
Somalia	✓		0														
Sierra Leone	✓	✓	2														
Tanzania			9														
Uganda	✓	✓	14														
West Bank & Gaza	✓		0														
Yemen	✓		2														
Zambia			1														
Zimbabwe	✓	✓	1														

Figure 2: Known JSR and JSR-type events since 2002

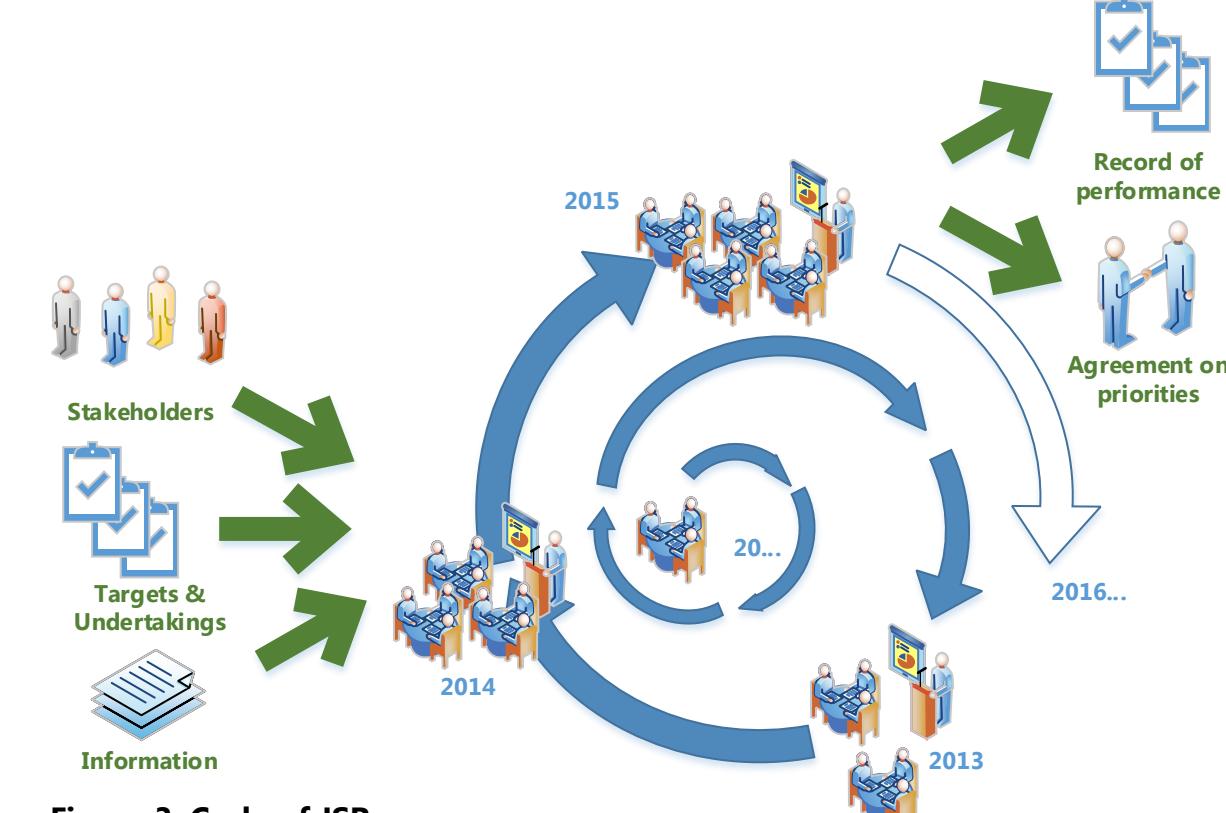


Figure 3: Cycle of JSR processes

Improving the effectiveness of JSRs

The words in **bold** in the text above are particularly important:

- A JSR is a **process** rather than a one-off event
- status and progress is **reviewed**:
- different **stakeholders** come together;
- there is considerable **discussion** (including disagreement)
- evidence-based **information** is reviewed;
- an **event**, forum or meeting takes place;
- the process is **government led**;
- **Priority actions** are agreed.
- Those who delegated responsibility to deliver those actions should be held **accountable**.



Figure 4: A proposed framework of detailed components of a Joint Sector Review (JSR) process, from 24 examples analysed

SO WHAT?

Joint Sector Reviews are generally **imperfect** and the **quality** of the follow-up is often poor and there is frequently a lack of **accountability** for failure or inaction.

BUT in most countries where they happen there is **enthusiasm** from stakeholders as an essential way of planning, coordinating and monitoring.

"It is the only way to discuss plans and implementation and do monitoring. It is an important and positive process".
— anon. Rwanda

Questions for SWA partners:

- (1) Where do SWA HLM commitments fit into this landscape of JSR "Undertakings"?
- (2) How do the Sustainable Development Goals create new opportunities and challenges for improving national WaSH sector monitoring frameworks, like JSRs?

We found it very hard to determine when and whether JSRs happened, and even harder to track down reports and documents, which were rarely found on government websites.