

## WATER AND SANITATION

JANUARY 09

### Millennium Development Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability.

**Target 10:** By 2015, halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

**Progress:** The world, except sub-Saharan Africa, is on track to meet the target of halving the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water while at the current rate we will miss the MDG sanitation target by over 700 million people. Progress is slowest in sub-Saharan Africa, where 28 per cent of the population does not have access to any form of sanitation and has the largest population using unimproved water sources.

### Are we on track to meet the target?

		Africa		Asia				Latin America & Caribbean	Commonwealth of Independent States	
		Northern	Sub-Saharan	Eastern	South-Eastern	Southern	Western	Europe	Asia	
Progress on halving the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water		high coverage	low coverage	moderate coverage	moderate coverage	moderate coverage	high coverage	high coverage	high coverage	moderate coverage
Progress on halving the proportion of people without sustainable access to basic sanitation		moderate coverage	very low coverage	low coverage	low coverage	very low coverage	moderate coverage	moderate coverage	moderate coverage	high coverage
Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility	1990	62	26	48	50	21	79	68	89	95
	2006	76	31	65	67	33	84	79	88	93

**Line 1 (progress)** - The words describe current levels. The colours show the trend towards meeting the 2015 target.

**Key:** **Dark Green** = target met. **Light Green** = almost met, or on target. **Orange** = some/negligible progress, but insufficient to meet target. **Red** = no change or negative progress

**Line 2 (level) - Population using improved drinking water sources (percentage)** - **Key:** Please refer to map key below.

**Source:** United Nations Statistics Division - UN Millennium Development Goals Report 2008

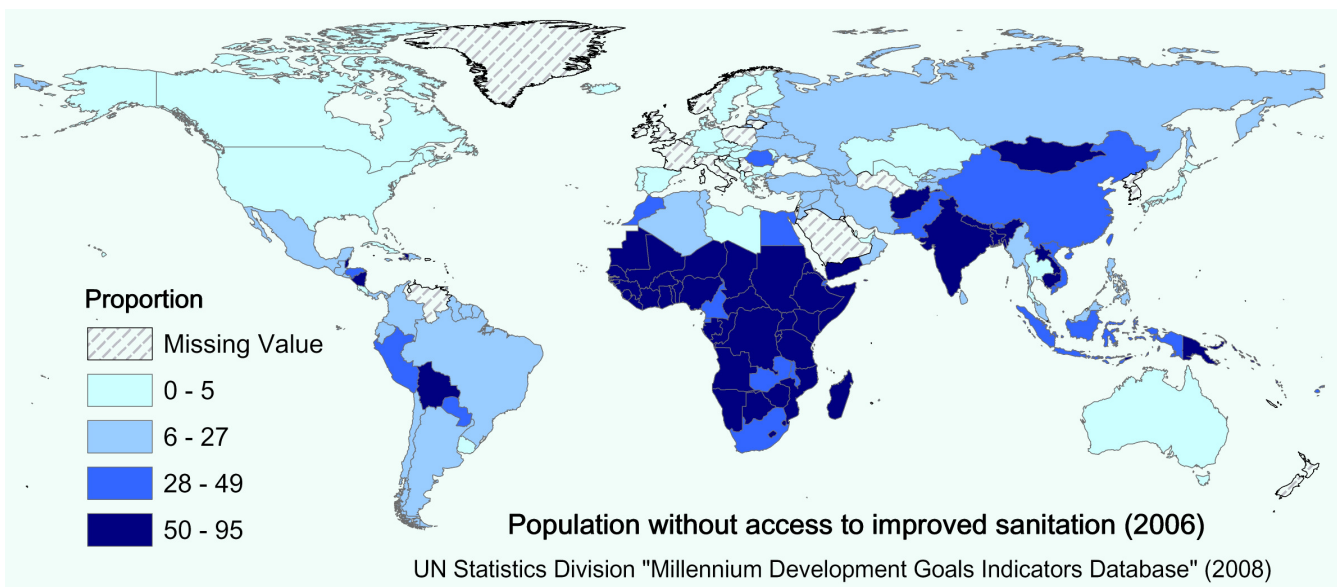
## Progress

### Access to basic sanitation:

- Between 1990 and 2006, the proportion of people without improved sanitation decreased by only 8 percentage points. <sup>1, p.8</sup>
- To meet the target, at least 173 million people on average per year will need to begin using improved sanitation facilities. <sup>1, p.8</sup>
- Most countries that are not on track to meet the MDG sanitation targets are in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia. <sup>1, p.8</sup>

### Access to safe drinking water:

- Current trends suggest that more than 90% of the global population will use improved drinking water sources by 2015. <sup>1, p.24</sup>
- 87% of the global population now uses an improved source of drinking water, compared to 77% in 1990. <sup>1, p.24</sup>
- An additional 784 million people worldwide will need to get access to an improved drinking water source to meet the MDG target. <sup>1, p.24</sup>
- Accelerated progress is needed in sub-Saharan Africa, home to more than a third of those using unimproved drinking water sources. <sup>1, p.24</sup>



## Key messages

Access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation are essential for the achievement of the other MDGs. For example, it is a fundamental requirement for effective primary health care, increasing enrolment of boys and girls in schools and a pre-condition for success in the fight against poverty, hunger, child mortality and in achieving greater gender equality. <sup>4 p.2</sup>

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that for every 50 pence invested in safe water and basic sanitation, the **economic returns** will range from £1.50 to £17, depending on the region and the technology. This means that while achieving the MDG targets on water and sanitation will require an annual investment of over £5 billion, doing so will deliver economic benefits of around £42 billion a year. This includes savings of approximately £3 billion a year in the health sector. (*Assuming an exchange rate of US\$1=£0.5*) <sup>3</sup>

Hitting the targets will also save many lives. **Diarrhoea** causes nearly 1.5 million deaths each year, mostly among young children, and is the third largest cause of death from infectious disease. In fact, one child dies approximately every 20 seconds from diarrhoea. About 90 per cent of those deaths could be prevented through safer water, sanitation and hygienic practices, according to the WHO. <sup>2</sup>

## DFID's country-level work to improve water management

**China** DFID supports the improvement of water resources management through five key projects, which will help over two million people living in the poor western part of the country to gain more secure access to water. These projects focus on ensuring poor people benefit from watershed management and fair allocation of water.

**India** DFID supports the improvement of water and land management in Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Karnataka to support better livelihoods for 15 million people. In Andhra Pradesh, this has lifted one million people above the poverty line.

**Sudan** DFID is supporting UNEP to help local government bodies implement more effective water resources management plans. This will ensure more secure access to water for seven million people, including two million people living in camps.

## Facts and figures

- Dirty water and inadequate sanitation kill over 4,100 children every day. <sup>1, p.2</sup>
- At any one time, half the people in the developing world are suffering from diseases associated with inadequate water supply and sanitation services and more than half the hospital beds in the world are filled with people suffering from water related diseases. <sup>4</sup>
- Huge disparities exist between regions: while access to drinking water through a household connection in rural areas is as low as 5% in sub-Saharan Africa, it is much higher in Eastern Asia (62%), North Africa (63%) and Western Asia (57%). <sup>1, p.28</sup>
- More than 2.5 billion people remain without improved sanitation. Almost 1.8 billion of them – 70% – live in Asia. <sup>1, p.12</sup>
- The lowest sanitation coverage is found in sub-Saharan Africa, where only 31% of the population uses improved sanitation, up just 5% since 1990. <sup>1, p.12</sup>

## Challenges and Solutions

Improving access to water can be difficult because responsibility for water resource management is usually spread across many different parts of the government in developing countries. No single government department can take the lead as they often have conflicting views. The UN Human Development Report 'Beyond scarcity: Power, poverty and the global water crisis' published in November 2006 <sup>6</sup> highlighted four foundations for success: *Make water a human right – and mean it; Draw up national strategies for water and sanitation; Support national plans with international aid; Develop a global action plan.* DFID affirmed water as a human right on the day the report was published.

Working with partner governments and regional and national development agencies, DFID aims to be a major part of the global effort to achieve the following:

- increase the effectiveness of multilateral and bilateral programmes to get Africa on track towards achieving the water and sanitation MDG targets;
- increase the number of people with access to safe water by over 85 million every year and to basic sanitation by over 170 million every year, to improve health, livelihoods and well-being and reduce infant mortality;
- see sanitation championed globally in a way that leads to substantial behaviour change and significant progress towards the sanitation MDG target;
- ensure that every school and health clinic has a safe water supply and well maintained toilets, separate for boys and girls;
- ensure that at least two-thirds of development assistance for water and sanitation goes to low-income countries;

### Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS)

is an initiative that was started in Bangladesh by the Village Education Resource Centre, a local NGO. It uses peer pressure and participatory methods to stamp out open defecation in villages. The programme has been so successful that the Government of Bangladesh and a number of Indian states have taken it up. So has the World Bank's Water and Sanitation Program, which is now promoting it in Africa, as well as in India and other parts of Asia. DFID is also promoting CLTS and is funding research by the Institute of Development Studies to find out why the initiative is so successful and how its success can be replicated.

### DFID's 'Five Ones' Framework:

#### At the international level:

1. Produce one global annual report.
2. Hold one global high-level annual meeting.

#### At the national level:

DFID is going to support at least five countries (starting with Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Mozambique and Bangladesh).

3. Draw up one national water and sanitation plan for each country.
4. Form one water and sanitation co-ordination group in each country.
5. Have one lead UN body in each country.

### Treadle pump irrigation reduces poverty in Burma

Simple treadle pumps, manufactured locally with DFID's support, boosted the incomes of families in Burma that used them by around £230 in just one year. Rural education and marketing campaigns are promoting the pumps across the country, and over 10,000 families have bought them from local shops and outlets. Around half these families use them to provide water for drinking as well as for irrigation. <sup>5</sup>

- ensure that human resources are strengthened to allow countries to develop coherent plans and policies, manage and maintain services and allocate public revenue effectively and fairly; and
- ensure that water resources are managed in an effective and equitable way that promotes economic growth, improves security and helps countries cope with climate change.

## What the UK government is doing to help

DFID's 2008 water and sanitation policy paper, *Water: An increasingly precious resource, Sanitation: A matter of dignity*<sup>5</sup>, committed us to spend £1 billion on water and sanitation in Africa over the next five years. DFID will support at least 30 million more people to get access to improved sanitation in South Asia by 2011. We will provide an additional £30 million over the next three years to improve the management of water resources in Asia and Africa, in response to the impacts of climate change, to support economic growth and avoid conflict. And we will continue to support innovative multilateral initiatives and strengthen our engagement in the development of international policy.

At the international level, we supported the first pilot annual global monitoring report for water and sanitation – the UN-Water Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water.<sup>7</sup> And at the country level, we are helping Ethiopia put in place an annual report on its increasingly harmonised water sector. We are also helping Ethiopia implement its seven-year Universal Access Programme (UAP). As demanded by the 'Five Ones', the UN is co-ordinating its support to the UAP through a single UN body – UNICEF.

## Impacts and Results

**India:** partnership with UNICEF on Child Environment Programme which aims to reach 213 million people in 14 states.

**Bangladesh:** £36 million on a sanitation, hygiene education and water supply programme. Delivered improved sanitation to seven million people in the first 5-year phase and will increase access to 30 million people over five years.

**Ethiopia:** £75 million programme that will provide water and sanitation to 3.2 million people and schools in small towns and rural areas.

**Ghana:** work with other donors to provide access to 200,000 people through a £7.5 million grant.

**Sierra Leone:** A £32 million programme will reach 1.5 million people over five years with links to achieving improved health outcomes.

**Western China:** £15 million programme over five years with the World Bank and UNICEF, improving rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion for 800,000 poor people and reach 400 schools.

**DRC:** £25 million programme with UNICEF that will provide water and sanitation to 3.7 million people

DFID has supported the **World Bank's International Benchmarking Network** for the past six years. This aims to strengthen transparency, accountability and capacity in order to ensure that utilities are better able to deliver water and sanitation services. Successes to date include the adoption of a five-year performance improvement plan by the Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority. The authority is now providing six-monthly reports, and is improving key areas based on targets and performance indicators. Another example involves the Rajshahi City Corporation, which greatly increased its water service coverage (from 67 per cent of households in 2004 to 85 per cent in 2007) after it put performance improvement plans in place.<sup>5</sup>

### Sources

- 1 – World Health Organization and United Nations Children's Fund (2008) Joint Monitoring Programme: Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation: Special Focus on Sanitation. WHO: Geneva.
- 2 – Prüss-Ustün A., Bos R., Gore, F. and Bartram, J. (2008) *Safer Water, Better Health: Costs, Benefits and Sustainability of Interventions to Protect and Promote Health*. World Health Organization: Geneva.
- 3- Hutton, G. and Haller, L. (2004) *Evaluation of the Costs and Benefits of Water and Sanitation Improvements at the Global Level*. Executive Summary of the document: WHO/SDE/WSH/04.04: Geneva.
- 4 – World Health Organization and United Nations Children's Fund (2006). *Meeting the MDG Drinking Water and Sanitation Target. The Urban and Rural Challenge of the Decade*. WHO: Geneva.
- 5- DFID (2008) water and sanitation policy paper, *Water: An increasingly Sanitation: A matter of dignity*. DFID: London
- 6 - Human Development Report. (2006) *Beyond Scarcity: Power, Poverty and the Global Water Crisis*. Palgrave Macmillan: Basingstoke. <http://hdr.undp.org/hdr2006/>
- 7 - World Health Organization (2008) *UN-Water Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water: 2008 pilot report – testing a new reporting approach*. WHO: Geneva. <http://www.unwater.org>