

## Highlights

# Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water: 2015 Update and MDG Assessment

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Read the full report at the official website,

[https://www.unicef.org/publications/index\\_82419.html](https://www.unicef.org/publications/index_82419.html)

*Looking back on 25 years of water, sanitation and hygiene monitoring, this report provides a comprehensive assessment of progress since 1990.*

In 1990, global coverage of the use of improved drinking water sources and sanitation facilities stood at 76% and 54%, with respective MDG targets of 88% and 77% by 2015.

In a major global achievement, the target for safe drinking water was met in 2010, well ahead of the MDG deadline of 2015. Over 90% of the world's population now has access to improved sources of drinking water.

However, the world has fallen short on the sanitation target, leaving 2.4 billion without access to improved sanitation facilities. Inequalities such as the gap between urban and rural residents, the gender burden of water collection and the persistent exclusion of the poor from water and sanitation services still remains the challenge.

Not only sanitation issues are to be addressed, but also the difficult problem of open defecation. Still open defecation is practiced by almost a billion people. It is one of the clearest manifestations of extreme poverty and sanitation is inevitable for ensuring good health, a clean environment and human dignity for all.

## Key Findings

- 2.6 billion, gained access to an improved drinking water source since 1990. In 2015, 6.6 billion people use an improved drinking water source. However 663 million people still lack improved drinking water sources.
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- The rate of use of improved drinking water has increased in all regions of the world since 1990, but progress have varied during the MDG period. Coverage in Eastern Asia increased dramatically – by 27% points – and exceeded the MDG target, with over half a billion people gaining access in China alone. Access in Southern Asia and South-eastern Asia also rose steeply, by 20 and 19% respectively, and these regions also met the target.
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- 2.1 billion, gained access to an improved sanitation facility since 1990. However 2.4 billion people still lack improved sanitation facilities.
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- 96% of the global urban population uses improved drinking water sources, compared with 84% of the rural population.
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- 82% of the global urban population, and 51% of the rural population, uses improved sanitation facilities.

The Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) has drawn attention to disparities in access to drinking water and sanitation services since its very first report in 1992.

The JMP 2014 update focused on inequalities and the unfinished business of the MDGs, including the shortfall in progress on sanitation and the need to extend access to remaining unserved populations.

JMP provided technical support to agencies and Member States involved in developing indicators to support the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

For the purpose of global monitoring post-2015, the JMP proposes to prioritize schools and health care facilities.

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