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

*UNICEF and World Health Organization 2015*

**Introduction**

In 2000 the Member States of the United Nations signed the Millennium Declaration, which later gave rise to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Goal 7 of MDGs, to ensure environmental sustainability, included a target that challenged the global community to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. Throughout this period, the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) has monitored the progress.

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. There is need to identify specific challenges and strengthen policy-making.

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.

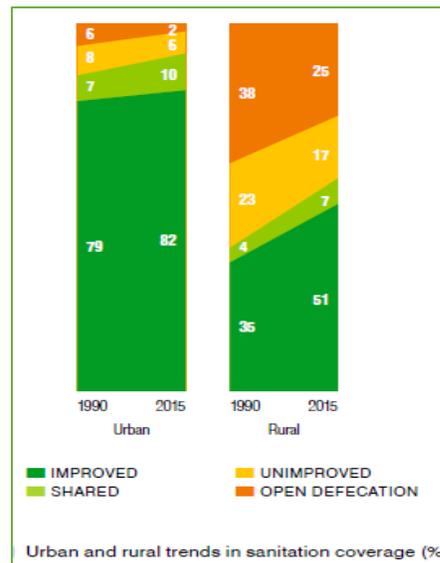
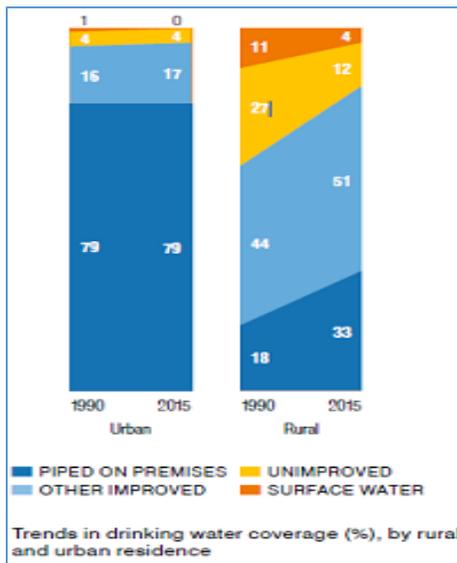
This report shows how the world has changed since 1990. Despite significant progress in water and sanitation, much still remains to be done. It provides an overview of the following.

1. Progress against the parameters specified in the MDG target for water and sanitation, in both urban and rural areas.
  2. Compares progress across regions.
  3. Examine trends over the MDG period by region and by level of service. It pays particular attention to the numbers of people who have gained the highest level of service in drinking water supply – piped water on premises – and those with no service at all, who use surface water for drinking and practice open defecation.
  4. Quality gaps between urban and rural dwellers and between the richest and poorest segments of the population and an insight into the great challenge that still exists in ensuring that progress reaches everyone.
  5. Analysis of the evolution of water, sanitation and hygiene monitoring over the past 25 years by the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP), which began monitoring the sector in 1990
  6. To identify future priorities to be addressed in the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals.
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## Highlights

### 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.
- 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.
- 2.1 billion, gained access to an improved sanitation facility since 1990. However 2.4 billion people still lack improved sanitation facilities.
- 96% of the global urban population uses improved drinking water sources, compared with 84% of the rural population.
- 82% of the global urban population, and 51% of the rural population, uses improved sanitation facilities.



In 2011, the 1<sup>st</sup> international consultation on WASH was held in Berlin. Next year 2<sup>nd</sup> international consultation was held in Hague. In 2013, UN Deputy Secretary - General launched a 'Call to Action' for all stakeholders.

\*SDGs are to replace the MDGs. They were first discussed in Rio 20+ in 2012. In 2014, the UN General Assembly's Open Working Group on SDGs (OWG) forwarded a proposal for the SDGs. In September 2015, world will decide upon *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Financing for Development had concluded in 2015.

## Highlights

- The Joint Monitoring Program (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.
- Globally, 69% and 66% of schools have access to adequate water and sanitation in 2013, respectively (*Advancing WASH in Schools Monitoring report, 2015*).

Development of proposed post-2015 targets and indicators

By 2030:

- eliminate open defecation
- achieve universal access to basic drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for households, schools and health facilities
- halve the proportion of the population without access at home to safely managed drinking water and sanitation services
- progressively eliminate inequalities in access

<b>% of schools in 2013</b>	<b>World</b>	<b>Least Developed</b>	<b>Developing</b>
<b>Have access to adequate water</b>	69	51	89
<b>Have access to adequate sanitation</b>	66	47	90

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