

INVESTING IN WATER AND SANITATION: INCREASING ACCESS, REDUCING INEQUALITIES

UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of
Sanitation and Drinking-Water
GLAAS 2014 Report



Foreword

Access to safe drinking-water and basic sanitation is essential to human health and survival. But for many people living in low-resource settings, these vital services remain out of reach.

AN ESTIMATED

748 MILLION
women, men and children
lack ready access to
an improved source of
drinking-water.

BILLIONS

LACK ACCESS
to safe water that is
reliably and continuously
delivered in sufficient
quantities.

SOME **2.5**

BILLION PEOPLE
—more than one third of
the global population—
live without basic
sanitation facilities.

HUNDREDS

OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE
do not have clean soap
and water to wash their
hands, a simple practice
that prevents the spread
of diarrhoeal and
respiratory illness.

The urgent need for increased access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services is a key theme of this report. The UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS 2014) led by WHO on behalf of UN-Water, draws on data from 94 countries and 23 external support agencies. It is the most comprehensive report, to date, on country efforts and approaches to extend WASH services to all.

There are important achievements to note. Between 1990 and 2012, for example, 2.3 billion people around the world gained access to an improved drinking-water source. In that same time frame, the number of children who died from diarrhoeal diseases—strongly associated with poor water, sanitation and hygiene—fell from approximately 1.5 million to just over 600,000. However, key areas of concern remain. In many countries, for example, inadequate water and sanitation policies and practices are fuelling the spread of disease, not only in households and communities, but in schools and health centres. At the time of writing, poor WASH conditions in communities and institutional settings, especially health facilities, have been exacerbating the spread of Ebola in West Africa.

Introduction

Safe and sufficient drinking-water, along with adequate sanitation and hygiene have implications across all Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – from eradicating poverty and hunger, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating infectious diseases, to ensuring environmental sustainability. Much progress has been achieved over the past decade:

- 2.3 billion people gained access to improved drinking-water between 1990–2012¹.
- The number of children dying from diarrhoeal diseases, which are strongly associated with poor water, inadequate sanitation and hygiene, have steadily fallen over the two last decades from approximately 1.5 million deaths in 1990 to just above 600,000 in 2012.²

As the world turns its attention to the formulation of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) much remains to be done particularly to reduce inequalities across populations:

- 2.5 billion people lack access to improved sanitation.
- 1 billion people practice open defecation, nine out of ten in rural areas¹.
- 748 million people lack access to improved drinking-water and it is estimated that 1.8 billion people use a source of drinking-water that is faecally contaminated¹.
- Hundreds of millions of people have no access to soap and water to wash their hands, preventing a basic act that would empower them to block the spread of disease.

UN-Water GLAAS 2014

The UN-Water GLAAS 2014 Report, Investing in Water and Sanitation: Increasing Access, Reducing Inequalities is the third biennial GLAAS report. It presents data from 94 countries, covering all MDG regions. It also includes data from 23 external support agencies (ESAs)³, representing over 90% of official development assistance (ODA) for sanitation and drinking-water (Figure 1.1). Since the start of GLAAS in 2008, the number of participating countries, and the amount of information collected, has grown. More detailed information about the survey and GLAAS methodology can be found in Annex A.

COUNTRIES

Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic (the), Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo (the), Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo (the), Timor-Leste, Dominican Republic (the), El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia (the), Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic (the), Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger (the), Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines (the), Republic of Moldova (the), Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan (the), Tajikistan, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania (the), Uruguay, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, West Bank and Gaza Strip, Zimbabwe.

EXTERNAL SUPPORT AGENCIES (ESAs)

African Development Bank (AfDB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Australia, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), BRAC, Canada, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD), Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DANIDA), European Commission (EUROPAID), France, Agence française de développement (AFD), Germany, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Inter-american Development Bank (IDB), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Japan, Global Environment Department (JICA), Portugal, Camões Cooperation and Language Institute, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation SDC, The Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS), United Kingdom, Department for International Development (DFID), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), United States, Department of State (DOS), WaterAid, World Bank.

¹ WHO/UNICEF (2014) Progress on drinking-water and sanitation – 2014 update. Geneva, World Health Organization.

² WHO (2014) Preventing diarrhoea through better water, sanitation and hygiene. World Health Organization, Geneva.

³ External Support Agencies (ESAs) comprise donors (governments) and other sources of funding/support (e.g. Nongovernmental organisations and foundations) that provide Official Development Assistance (ODA).