



MESSAGES FROM THE FRENCH WATER PARTNERSHIP
FOR THE WORLD WATER WEEK 2017

SANITATION: A KEY ELEMENT TO REACH THE SDGS



KEY FIGURES

- 4.5 billion people, or 60% of the world's population, lack safely managed sanitation (JMP 2017)
- 2.3 billion people still do not have basic sanitation services (JMP 2017)
- 0.9 billion people still defecate in the open, an increasing practice in sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania due to population growth. (JMP 2017)
- Globally, more than 80% of wastewater - and more than 95% in some developing countries - is released to the environment without treatment (WWDR 2017)
- 289,000 children under 5 die each year due to diarrheal diseases caused by poor water and sanitation. That's 800 a day, or 1 child every 2 minutes. (WashWatch)



2030, HERE WE COME!

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals target for significant progress:

- 6.2** By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
- 6.3** By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally



KEY MESSAGES FROM THE FRENCH WATER PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS :

Sanitation is a key element for the sustainable development of countries in a context of climate change. The consequences of the current delays in this field are enormous in terms of public health, gender equality, preservation of the aquatic environment, economic and social development.

FOR A SUSTAINABLE SANITATION

Sanitation is not limited to infrastructure, but consists in setting up an efficient and sustainable service (collective or non-collective), including all stages of the sector: **access** to equipment for excreta and waste water collection (toilets, sinks, etc.); **Collection and disposal** of discharges; **treatment** of wastewater and stormwater; and - according to local context and needs - the **recycling and reuse** of treated effluents and sludge.

Access to sanitation facilities should be systematically strengthened with **hygiene promotion campaigns**.

Wastewater management must be based on a **circular economy**, corresponding to the "4Rs":

- Reduce the pollution at source
- Remove pollutants from wastewater using appropriate and efficient technologies;
- Reuse treated wastewater when the local context is appropriate: treated wastewater is a reliable source of water, especially in the context of climate change where water scarcity is increasing;
- Recycling by-products for agriculture (land spreading) or for energy (biogas): Energy recovery from wastewater contributes to the fight against climate change.

The solutions are not only of a technological nature, but also concern the organization of the service, innovative financing methods, **nature-based solutions** which are still too little known, especially for the purification of waste water, etc.

Social engineering is also key to accompanying projects: taking into account the "human" (cultural and socio-economic practices) in its context (increasing urbanization, rapid demography, multiplication of humanitarian crises) is essential for the implementation of appropriate and sustainable sanitation service with a long-term vision and planning.

Sanitation also has a role to play in mitigating climate change. Not only does the energy recovery of wastewater, sludge or waste products enable the development of clean energy, but in addition the production of greenhouse gas emissions assessments lead many operators to choose less emitting processes for their activities. Some operators even do the carbon offsetting of their emissions.

In the event of a humanitarian crisis, all actors must be mobilized as quickly as possible to respect the dignity and meet the needs of populations (whether in displacement, informal settlements or humanitarian camps) in terms of sanitation in order to reduce the risk of disease. In particular, disaster risk reduction approach should be promoted.

FROM GLOBAL TO LOCAL

Sanitation must be a global priority in order to effectively implement the right to sanitation recognized by the UN General Assembly in 2010 and to meet the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is therefore important to put in place an intergovernmental body where political discussions around progress on water and sanitation can take place.

States should consider sanitation as a national priority and integrate it into their sustainable development and strategies. These strategies must be supported by appropriate funding, capacity-building, awareness-raising campaigns and the development of networks of information measures and systems

In France for example, priority actions announced on the 9th of august 2017 by N. Hulot, State Minister in charge of environment and S. Travet, Minister of agriculture, wish to « **sustain the implementation of water and sanitation working plans** in the overseas departments » and « continue the investments with the local authorities, especially on network maintenance in order to reduce pipe leaks and encourage waste water reuse, when relevant ».

Local authorities have a key role to play in the implementation and improvement of local public sanitation services. **Each local authority should adopt its own strategy**, drawn up in consultation with all local actors to best fit the needs of the populations. The actions to be developed require a recognition and dialogue between the different families of actors (local authorities, NGOs, private companies, users), supported by training and technical assistance.

At the project level, **the stakeholders on the field must develop actions that fit into the national and local frameworks**, while ensuring that the chosen **solutions are adapted to the local** cultural, economic, environmental and social specificities. They also have an important role to play in strengthening local capacities and gaining the people's support for the new services.



FRENCH EXPERTISE FOR SANITATION

Efficient and appropriate solutions are needed to meet the ambitions of the SDGs and reaching the targets by 2030. Discover numerous solutions in the publication "Solutions booklet from of French water stakeholders", as well as on our website: www.french-water-partnership.fr

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