



Water, Environment and Sanitation (WES)

Ethiopia

Basic Indicators

Total population (1000s)	70,678
Under-five mortality rate (per 1000)	169
Total adult literacy rate (%)	39

Water and Sanitation Coverage

	Water (%)	Sanitation (%)
Urban	81	19
Rural	11	4
Total	22	6

Country Setting

- Ethiopia has Africa's third largest population and a growth rate of 2.7 per cent. It ranked 170 out of 177 countries on the 2004 Human Development Index.
- Agriculture accounts for half of the GDP, 85 per cent of exports, and 80 per cent of employment.
- HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is 4.4 per cent and life expectancy is 43.
- The magnitude and depth of poverty means drought and other unanticipated crises can rapidly transform into the potential for famine.
- Ethiopia's low health status, high population growth, and low literacy rates exert a heavy burden on the state to increase delivery for water, health, education and other social services.

WES Sector Setting

- Low level of water and sanitation coverage with low level of hygiene awareness create high health risks in the country – 80 per cent of communicable diseases are water and sanitation-related.
- Urban-rural and regional access disparities remain very high in Ethiopia.
- Weak infrastructure, low investment and natural and human-made disasters account for minimal increases in water and sanitation coverage.
- Chemical water quality is another major problem both in rural and urban areas.

UNICEF WES Programme

Main Components

- The Programme has three main components -- rural water supply, environmental sanitation and hygiene education, and Dracunculiasis (guinea worm) eradication – as well as an emergency programme that accounts for about half of the overall WES budget.
- The programme aims to empower communities through training, participatory approaches, capacity building and community management; contribute to gender equality; support increases to water supply and sanitation coverage in the rural areas; support standardization of technologies, facilities and services; and contribute to cost reduction through introduction of appropriate technologies and performance improvement.

Programme Highlights and Achievements

- UNICEF assistance over the past 5 years reached more than 4.5 million people.
- The programme supported the development of the water sector policy and the sanitation strategy.
- The program supplied 7 shallow well drilling rigs to regional water bureaus over the last 5 years.
- Area-focused approaches for sanitation and hygiene improvements have been developed and implemented.
- Guinea worm cases were reduced from 60 cases in 2000 to 17 cases in 2004.