

Meeting the MDG Drinking Water and Sanitation Target “A Mid-Term assessment of Progress”, August, 2004

Executive Summary

The report is the mid-term assessment of progress of the targets on safe drinking water and sanitation. It provides information on definitions of indicators, purposes of the report, why meeting the targets matter, drinking water coverage, progress towards the drinking water target, sanitation coverage, progress towards the sanitation target, disparities in coverage, the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP), country/region and global estimates on water and sanitation. The JMP assembles reviews and assesses household surveys and census data. A rigorous review process, based on a set of objective criteria, ensures that only reliable data are included in the database.

Summary of Findings, Conclusion and Recommendations

The World is on track to meet the drinking water target, but sub-Saharan Africa lags behind.

- Eighty-three percent of the world's population are using improved drinking water sources, but 1.1 billion people, most of them in Asia, are still without coverage.
- Progress in sub-Saharan Africa is impressive, moving from 49 per cent coverage in 1990 to 58 percent in 2002. But at this rate it will not meet the MDG target by 2015.
- More than half the world's population use water piped to their homes, which frees them from the drudgery of water collection and protects their health.

Without a sharp acceleration in the rate of progress, the world will miss the sanitation target by half a billion people.

- An estimated 2.6 billion people – half of the developing world – lack improved sanitation.
- Despite major progress in South Asia, little more than a third of its population use improved sanitation; coverage in sub-Saharan Africa is only 36 per cent.
- Global population growth is canceling many of the gains already made. Though more than a billion people gained improved sanitation between 1990 and 2002, the population without coverage declined by only 100 million.

From now until 2015, greater effort must be made to reach the poor and those in rural areas, whose deprivation is hidden behind national averages.

- For every person in urban areas, there are six people in rural areas without improved drinking water sources.
- An estimated 560 million people lacked sanitation in urban areas of the developing world, compared with the staggering 2 billion in rural communities.

Recommendations

- For those countries in which progress has been slow, the report's findings should provide an incentive to accelerate action in the crucial year ahead

- For countries 'on track', they should remind us that our work is not finished until every citizen is served.

Research Geographic Coverage by Area

The study area covers 3 regions as follows:

- 1) DEVELOPED REGIONS;
- 2) EURASIA,
- 3) DEVELOPING REGIONS (Northern Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern Asia, South Asia, South-eastern Asia, Western Asia and Oceania)

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