



Water, Environment and Sanitation (WES) China

Basic Indicators

Total population (1000s)	1,304,196
Under-five mortality rate (per 1000)	37
Total adult literacy rate (%)	85

Water and Sanitation Coverage

	Water (%)	Sanitation (%)
Urban	92	69
Rural	68	29
Total	77	44

Country Setting

- ▶ The economy is growing at a rate of 9 per cent but 12 per cent of the urban population – 37 million people – are poor.
- ▶ Son preference is increasing. The ratio of male to female births was 108:100 (international norm is 106:100) in 1982; now it is 117:100.
- ▶ HIV/AIDS incidence continues to increase and in 2002, the government acknowledged that 1.5 million people were living with HIV/AIDS.

WES Sector Setting

- ▶ About 300 million people lack access to safe water, 110 million people are at risk for fluorosis, and 14.6 million people are at risk of chronic arsenic poisoning from contaminated drinking water.
- ▶ An estimated 785 million people have no access to sanitation facilities. Due to poor sanitation and hygiene, an estimated 190 million children are infected with worms.
- ▶ The central government has a specific budget for water supply, but not for sanitation.
- ▶ Continued restructuring at provincial and county levels has resulted in downsizing and high turnover of staff, leading to weakened implementation, monitoring and management.

UNICEF WES Programme

Main Components

- ▶ Environment, Sanitation and Hygiene
- ▶ Safe Drinking Water in Rural Areas
- ▶ Demonstration of low-cost water technologies
- ▶ Demonstration of safe sanitation (pollution-free and ecological technologies) models in poor areas in 24 counties

Programme Highlights and Achievements

- ▶ Access to sanitary latrines in UNICEF-supported rural areas increased from 5-10 per cent in 1996 to 35-40 per cent in 2000.
- ▶ More than 77,000 water and sanitation technicians, village and women's leaders, health workers and teachers were trained.
- ▶ The project demonstrated the viable, low-cost option of deep-well handpumps, benefiting 857,000 people and 1 million livestock.
- ▶ One million families gained access to new sanitary latrines, ten times more than expected.
- ▶ Government has replicated an ecological sanitation technology (piloted by SIDA and UNICEF) that uses no water and causes no pollution, constructing 20,000 urine-diversion latrines in more than 15 provinces.