East Asia and Pacific Region is on track to achieve near universal access to basic drinking water and sanitation services; a doubling of efforts is required to meet the safely managed sanitation SDG target.

Progress on Household Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
East Asia and Pacific Region 2000 - 2020

Coverage of WASH services, 2015-2020 (%), and acceleration required to meet targets by 2030, East Asia and Pacific Region

What the data say...
At the current rate of progress near universal access to basic drinking water and sanitation in East Asia and the Pacific will be achieved by 2030.

At current trends 79% of the population is estimated to have safely managed sanitation services by 2030.

A doubling of efforts is required to achieve the SDG target of safely managed sanitation by 2030.

There are no regional averages for safely managed drinking water services and insufficient data to estimate regional access to basic hygiene services at home.

Since 2000, over half a billion (542 million) people in East Asia & Pacific gained access to a basic drinking water service

Since 2000, almost 1 billion (944 million) people in East Asia & Pacific gained access to a safely managed sanitation service

Population using different levels of drinking water service, in 2000 and 2020, East Asia and Pacific Region (each unit represents 5 million people)

Population using different levels of sanitation service, in 2000 and 2020, East Asia and Pacific Region (each unit represents 5 million people)
Lack of safely managed drinking water estimates for rural areas hinders estimating coverage for East Asia and Pacific

Seven out of ten people in urban areas and four out of ten in rural areas have access to safely managed sanitation services

Progress on safely managed drinking water services varies widely; most countries in East Asia and Pacific lack nationally representative estimates on access to safely managed drinking water services

Some progress on safely managed sanitation services; most countries in East Asia and Pacific still lack nationally representative estimates on access to safely managed sanitation services

Based on: Regional and National Drinking Water and Sanitation Coverage Trends

www.washdata.org
From basic to safely managed drinking water services: Available, Accessible and Free from Contamination

Safely Managed Drinking Water Services defined:
- **Accessible on premises**: Located within the dwelling yard or plot
- **Available when needed**: Sufficient water available or at least 12 hours per day
- **Free from contamination**: Compliant with standards for faecal contamination (E. coli) and priority chemical contamination (arsenic and fluoride)

Significant acceleration required across East Asia to meet the SDG target of safely managed drinking water services

Coverage of drinking water services, 2015-2020 (%), and acceleration required to meet targets by 2030, countries in East Asia with data on safely managed drinking water services

Large gaps in accessibility, availability and water quality between rural and urban areas

Fecal contamination of drinking water is still of great concern throughout East Asia and Pacific

E. coli risk levels at the point of collection from selected household surveys, 2017-19 (%)

E. coli contamination (CFU/100mL)
- Low risk (<1)
- Medium risk (1-10)
- High risk (11-100)
- Very high risk (>100)
- Medium to very high risk (contaminated >1)
**From basic- to safely managed sanitation services: Treated and disposed of off-site or -in situ**

To meet the SDG criteria for safely managed sanitation services, households must use an improved type of sanitation facility that is not shared with other households. There are three possible pathways to safely managed services:

- **Wastewater treated offsite**: excreta are conveyed with wastewater through sewer lines and treated off-site at wastewater treatment plants
- **Excreta emptied and treated off-site**: excreta are emptied from septic tanks and latrine pits, removed and treated offsite at facilities designed for faecal sludge
- **Excreta treated and disposed of in situ**: excreta are treated and disposed of in situ in septic tanks with appropriate leachfields, or in latrine pits that are covered and left undisturbed when full

**Significant acceleration required to progress from basic- to safely managed sanitation services**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2015</th>
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**SDG challenge of ending open defecation predominantly affects poorest and those in remote rural areas**

- **World**: 6% of the population still practices open defecation.
- **West and Central Africa**: 22% of the population practices open defecation.
- **East Asia & Pacific**: 2% of the population practices open defecation.

**What the data say....**

Globally, 6% of the population still practices open defecation. In the region this ranges from 45% in the Solomon Islands to <1% in China, Thailand and several other countries. In province of Saravane, Lao PDR, 65% of the population still practices open defecation. Among the 20% rural poorest in Lao PDR open defecation prevalence is as high as 71%
Despite high overall basic drinking water coverage, progress in many countries is not enough to meet universal access by 2030.

Progress on basic drinking water services

None of the countries with estimates for safely managed sanitation are on track for meeting the SDG target.

Progress in most countries falls well short of meeting the SDG target for safely managed drinking water services by 2030.

Five of ten countries with at least two percent open defecation prevalence in 2020, are on track to end open defecation by 2030.

What the data say...

These graphs show the rate of progress that countries in East Asia and Pacific have made over the period 2000 – 2020 (y-axis) by the 2020, levels of access (x-axis), for both basic, and safely managed drinking water and sanitation services and, ending open defecation. It only shows countries for which there are estimates for both the years 2000 and 2020, which allows the calculation of an annual rate of change. Countries with >99% coverage in 2020, have been left out, as have countries with <1% open defecation.

The data show that good progress has been recorded towards the targets of universal access to basic drinking water and sanitation services. No country is on track to meet the SGD target of universal access to safely managed services. Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Kiribati, are among those with the lowest coverage and least progress for almost all indicators. China, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Myanmar and Viet Nam have achieved relatively high coverage through good progress over the past 20 years.
Progress integrating SDG indicators into national monitoring systems; household surveys of crucial importance

The country examples provided in this snapshot about safely managed services and access to basic hygiene only cover 13 of the 27 countries in the East Asia and Pacific region. These countries have conducted household surveys which included updated questions for monitoring the SDG WASH indicators. In addition, the surveys provide the information from which inequalities in access can be gauged, like urban/rural disparities, disparities among provinces, and disparities in access by socio-economic status expressed by wealth quintiles.

The standard questions that the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) has developed can readily be included into existing survey programs. The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) module for water quality testing that provides one of the indicators for safely-managed services has already been adopted by more than 40 countries worldwide. To download this report, and other monitoring guidelines go to: www.washdata.org

Significant disparities between the poorest and richest in access to a facility for washing hands with water and soap

Use of single-use menstruation products is most prevalent

What the data say....

This graphs depicts the proportion of the population living in households that have access to all three basic WASH services. The information can be derived from the household surveys used to estimate WASH coverage. Some households have only basic drinking water services but no basic sanitation, or basic hygiene services, while others may have both basic drinking water and sanitation services, but no basic hygiene services. The population living in households with all three WASH services reap the highest health and socio-economic benefits associated with drinking water, sanitation and hygiene.
Limited progress on basic hygiene services; most countries in East Asia and Pacific still lack nationally representative estimates on a handwashing facility with soap and water present in the household.

National hygiene coverage, countries in East Asia and Pacific, 2015 - 2020 (%).

### Availability of basic drinking water services on premises is not the liming factor for a handwashing facilities with soap and water

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**Availability of basic drinking water services on premises and basic hygiene, countries in East Asia and Pacific, 2020 (%).**

**Large variety in distribution of excreta disposal methods across countries in East Asia and Pacific**

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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Distribution of excreta disposal methods of basic and shared sanitation services, countries in East Asia and Pacific, 2020 (%).
The population that relied on unimproved sanitation services in rural areas decreased by 402 million, from 474 million in 2000 to 74 million in 2020, with 563 million people to 58 per cent of the total population. The rural population declined with 262 million to 914 million people in 2020.

The population that relied on unimproved drinking water services in rural areas decreased by 199 million, from 273 million in 2000, to 74 million in 2020.

The population that relied on unimproved drinking water services in rural areas decreased by 53 million, from 65 million in 2000, to 12.6 million in 2020.

The population that relied on unimproved sanitation services almost quadrupled from 206 million in 2000 in urban areas to 877 million in 2020, and from 106 million in 2000 to 379 million in 2020, in rural areas.

The population that relied on unimproved sanitation services in rural areas decreased by 402 million, from 474 million in 2000, to 74 million in 2020.

The population that practiced open defecation in rural areas decreased by 97 million, from 128 million in 2000, to 31 million in 2020.

### What the data say...
Over the period 2000 – 2020:
- The population that relied on unimproved drinking water services in rural areas decreased by 199 million, from 273 million in 2000, to 74 million in 2020.
- The population that relied on unimproved drinking water services in rural areas decreased by 53 million, from 65 million in 2000, to 12.6 million in 2020.
- The population that relied on unimproved sanitation services almost quadrupled from 206 million in 2000 in urban areas to 877 million in 2020, and from 106 million in 2000 to 379 million in 2020, in rural areas.
- The population that relied on unimproved sanitation services in rural areas decreased by 402 million, from 474 million in 2000, to 74 million in 2020.
- The population that practiced open defecation in rural areas decreased by 97 million, from 128 million in 2000, to 31 million in 2020.
| Countries & Region | Drinking water | | Sanitation | | Hygiene |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                    | National       | Rural                           | Urban                           | National                        | Rural                           | Urban                           |
|                    | At least basic | Available within 30 min          | Available when needed           | At least basic                  | Available within 30 min          | Available when needed           |
|                   | Limited (more than 30 min) | Unimproved                     | Unimproved                       | Limited (more than 30 min)      | Unimproved                     |  Unimproved                     |
|                   | Safe basic     | Available when needed           | Available when needed           | Safe basic                      | Available when needed           | Available when needed           |
|                   | Limited (more than 30 min) | Unimproved                     | Unimproved                       | Limited (more than 30 min)      | Unimproved                     |  Unimproved                     |
|                   | Open defecation | Unimproved                     | Unimproved                       | Open defecation                 | Unimproved                     |  Unimproved                     |
|                   | Limited (planned) | Unimproved                     | Unimproved                       | Limited (planned)               | Unimproved                     |  Unimproved                     |
|                   | Open defecation | Open defecation                 | Open defecation                 | Limited (planned)               | Open defecation                 |  Limited (planned)              |
|                   | Wastewater treated | Wastewater treated              | Wastewater treated              | Deposed in situ                 | Deposed in situ                 |  Deposed in situ                |
|                   | Safely managed | Safely managed                  | Safely managed                  | Safely managed                  | Safely managed                  |  Safely managed                |
|                   | Deposited in situ | Deposited in situ              | Deposited in situ               | Deposited in situ              | Deposited in situ               |  Deposited in situ             |
|                   | Safely managed | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           | Safely managed                  | Deposited and treated           |  Safely managed                |
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|                   | Deposited and treated | Deposited and treated          | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           |  Deposited and treated         |
|                   | Safely managed | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           |  Deposited and treated         |
|                   | Deposited and treated | Deposited and treated          | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           |  Deposited and treated         |
|                   | Safely managed | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           |  Deposited and treated         |
|                   | Deposited and treated | Deposited and treated          | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           |  Deposited and treated         |
|                   | Safely managed | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           |  Deposited and treated         |
|                   | Deposited and treated | Deposited and treated          | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           |  Deposited and treated         |
|                   | Safely managed | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           |  Deposited and treated         |
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|                   | Safely managed | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           |  Deposited and treated         |
|                   | Deposited and treated | Deposited and treated          | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           |  Deposited and treated         |
|                   | Safely managed | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           |  Deposited and treated         |
|                   | Deposited and treated | Deposited and treated          | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           | Deposited and treated           |  Deposited and treated         |

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Source: Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000–2020 – Five years into the SDGs, WHO/UNICEF JMP, 2021

All data can be downloaded from www.washdata.org

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