IMPROVE ACCESS TO SANITATION
Results for children in Pakistan

IMPROVE ACCESS TO SANITATION

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In recent years, the Government of Pakistan has demonstrated increased commitment to social sector development, consequently leading to some notable successes. In particular, the country is celebrating the recent achievement of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) for sanitation, halving the proportion of the population without sustainable access to basic sanitation. Over the past two decades, the government has also made notable strides in combatting polio, increasing routine immunization and decreasing the number of out-of-school children.

UNICEF, along with its partners, is supporting the Government of Pakistan to achieve the MDGs and will continue to do so in the post-2015 era. More specifically, UNICEF is providing support to achieve the following results in Pakistan:

- **BIRTH REGISTRATION**: Achieve universal birth registration by 2024
- **EDUCATE ALL CHILDREN**: Provide access to improved education to more than 1.2 million children in Pakistan by 2017
- **ERADICATE POLIO**: Eliminate the disease by May 2016
- **STOP STUNTING**: 1.9 million fewer children with stunted growth and development by 2017
- **IMPROVE ACCESS TO SANITATION**: 10 million fewer people practising open defecation by 2017
- **DECREASE CHILD DEATHS**: Reduce newborn mortality from 55 to 20 live births per 1,000 by 2017, and have 90 percent fully immunized children (aged 12–23 months) by 2017

These progress reports take a deeper look into these issues, including the latest data and how government interventions have positively impacted children and communities in Pakistan. These reports also present key challenges, recent research, knowledge and evaluations, and strategic direction for the future.

Through these reports, we seek to foster productive collaboration, demonstrate the collective contribution of UNICEF and its partners, and reassert our commitment to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Angela Kearney
UNICEF Representative in Pakistan
OVERVIEW

**A HUGE SUCCESS**

**Pakistan reaches the MDG goal for improved sanitation in 2015**

By halving the proportion of the population without sustainable access to basic sanitation from 76 percent in 1990 to 36 percent in 2015, Pakistan has successfully reached the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) for sanitation.

This means that 64 percent of Pakistanis are now using an improved sanitation facility - an incredible achievement. Pakistan is one of only 95 countries in the world to meet the global targets for sanitation.

**Ending open defecation**

The practice of open defecation detrimentally affects children's lives, making them more susceptible to stunting and exposing them to the risk of diarrhoea, polio and other easily preventable diseases. It also poses safety concerns, especially for women and girls.

Overall, the number of open defecators in Pakistan has reduced from 46 million to 25 million in the past ten years – a huge contributor to the country’s recent successes achieving the sanitation MDG. Ending open defecation will continue to be a crucial step to ensuring sustainable access to improved sanitation in Pakistan.

However, these tremendous improvements hide large disparities that still exist – the majority of people who have stopped practicing open defecation since 2005 are primarily among the richest or urban populations.

The remaining 25 million people (or 13 percent of the population) still practising open defecation in Pakistan are largely residing in poor rural dwellings and insecure urban informal settlements, making them the most difficult to reach. Open defecation is still socially accepted and practiced in many communities.

UNICEF strongly supports the Pakistan Approach to Total Sanitation (PATS), the Government of Pakistan-led approach, which has proven to be successful in forming and promoting the new ‘No Open Defecation’ mind-set. This progress report summarises trends, projections, innovative approaches, recent evaluations and research relevant to the elimination of open defecation in Pakistan.
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Mr. Mamnoon Hussain
H.E. Honourable President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

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GLOBAL TARGET
End open defecation by 2025

UNICEF PAKISTAN TARGET
10 million fewer individuals practising open defecation by 2017.
An additional 15 million fewer individuals practising open defecation by 2025, ending open defecation in Pakistan.

Inadequate sanitation in Pakistan costs the country PKR 343.7 billion every year – equal to 3.94 percent of GDP.

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HOW UNICEF WILL HELP ACHIEVE RESULTS
Since 2011, after major floods devastated much of the country, UNICEF has been supporting the government to end open defecation and improve access to sanitation. Following the floods, the Pakistan Approach to Total Sanitation (PATS) was developed as a country specific strategy to scale up rural sanitation programmes.

To date, UNICEF’s work has included implementing large scale sanitation programmes, advocating for policy change and providing strategic advice, improving institutional and stakeholders’ coordination, developing public private partnerships, advocating for increased allocation of public funds and improving sector financing – all vital activities that will help achieve and sustain the target results.

Since 2011, more than 11 million fewer people live in Open Defecation Free (ODF) villages as a result of the PATS programmes – of which 6.5 million can be directly attributed to UNICEF funded programmes.
DATA PROFILE

Trends in reduction of open defecation in the richest and poorest wealth quintiles
The majority of the 25 million people not using a toilet in Pakistan live in poor rural households or insecure urban informal settlements. This makes them the most difficult to reach – an equity issue which requires focused strategies and more effort in years to come.

Closing equity gaps in sanitation will remain a challenge. The graph below highlights the inequities in access to sanitation between the poorest and wealthiest quintiles in four countries in South Asia, including Pakistan.

Current trends will be difficult to maintain
If current trends are maintained, Pakistan will reduce the number of open defecators by 10 million by 2017. However, maintaining the current trend will be challenging as we start targeting the hardest-to-reach populations. To ensure that people from the poorest families start using a toilet, we need more resources to implement programmes with a strong focus on equity. This means increasing investment in sanitation.

Investment is also critical to ensure that people continue to use toilets. This two-pronged approach focused on 1) reaching the unreached and 2) sustaining the social norm to ensure all gains are sustainable. Government sanitation programmes will also need to include urban informal settlements to reach the last 13 percent by the year 2025.
Supporting national action on sanitation

In 2015, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Climate Change to organize the second Pakistan Conference on Sanitation (PACOSAN). The event drew together more than 500 Ministers, Parliamentarians, senior Government officials, private sector and development partners to discuss the issue of sanitation at the national level.

The impact of the event has been immense, as decision makers and influencers have continued to act on their commitment to eradicate open defecation in Pakistan. Most significantly, the national government has included open defecation free targets into the Government of Pakistan’s Vision for 2025. At the provincial level, the Punjab Government has allocated PKR 400 million of public funding for sanitation, and the Sindh Government is developing a combined Water, Sanitation and Hygiene and Nutrition programme to reduce stunting in the province.

Subsidies for extremely vulnerable families

In UNICEF-funded programmes across Pakistan, extremely vulnerable families are being given subsidies in the form of sanitation vouchers. Identified by the communities themselves, the families use these vouchers to acquire materials to construct latrines. These latrines also serve as ‘demonstration’ latrines, showing other community members acceptable standards and design.

In the coming year, UNICEF will continue to research and model the use of subsidies for the most vulnerable, including in the context of populations affected by disasters and urban slum populations. This will also help to further elaborate strategies for the hardest-to-reach people.
Using the power of mass media to end open defecation

UNICEF is providing major support to sector partners, the Government and political leaders to launch a mass awareness campaign through online and print media to promote ‘No Open Defecation’ in both rural and urban communities. The campaign aims to reach 15 million people over the next three years and will leverage the influence of celebrities, the private sector and the media.

EQUITY

Only 64 percent of Pakistan’s population uses improved sanitation, with a wide disparity between urban (83%) and rural areas (51%).

Wealth quintiles: Only 13 percent (8 percent rural, 65 percent urban) of the poorest have access to improved sanitation compared to 80 percent (68 percent rural, 85 percent urban) among the richest.

Rural versus urban: There is a very high disparity between people who openly defecated in rural (21%) and urban (1%) areas.

From 1995 to 2010, the progress in increased access of the poorest to improved sanitation in rural areas has only been 6 percent (from 5% to 11%) whereas for the rich and richest this has been significant, 43 percent and 44 percent respectively.

LOOKING FORWARD

As the Government of Pakistan and partners celebrate the achievement of the sanitation MDG and the reduction in the number of people who defecate in the open, the ultimate objective of ending the practice of open defecation by 2025 must be kept in view.

Substantially more progress is needed to eliminate open defecation over the next 10 years. Based on the considerable progress made to date, eradicating open defecation in Pakistan by 2025 is possible.

UNICEF will continue to integrate research and evidence into its programmes and policy advocacy, focusing on the poorest and hardest-to-reach communities. Innovations will be sought in all areas, including technical design, financing, incentives, demand generation and supply chain improvement. We will also seek to strengthen partnerships with the private sector, academia and other development partners to reach this common goal.

CHALLENGES

A key challenge for the next 10 years will be to close existing inequity gaps, particularly between urban and rural communities and between the richest and poorest.

UNICEF is committed to supporting the Government and people of Pakistan to meet this challenge.

While continuing to support programme implementation, UNICEF will also focus on strengthening governance structures surrounding sanitation, water and hygiene, with a specific emphasis on monitoring and sustainability.
RESEARCH, KNOWLEDGE, EVALUATION

An evaluation of UNICEF’s large-scale rural sanitation programme based on the Pakistan Approach to Total Sanitation: Results and findings from evaluations of Rural Sanitation in Flood Affected Areas (RuSFAD) Phase III in 2013, and the Sanitation Programme at Scale (SPSP) in Pakistan Phase I in 2014.

United Nations Children’s Fund 2015, Mapping of Inequities in Basic Water Supply and Sanitation Services in Pakistan: A presentation of provincial and district analysis of access to water supply and sanitation with regards to the disparities that exist based on wealth or geography.


REAL LIVES, REAL CHANGE

Building household toilets in rural Pakistan

In 2014, Mai Sayani became the first woman from her village to build a toilet in her home. Mai, who lives in the Tangwani village in the Kashmore District of Sindh, Pakistan, is a widow and mother of four.

“All our lives we have been defecating in the fields far from our houses.”

“Women in our community used to manage their diet in such a way that the need to defecate would not arise during the day, as they didn’t want to be seen defecating in the fields. They preferred going after sunset, though it was more insecure.”

“The community workers in our village introduced us to the concept of improved sanitation and its importance. With their help, I and my daughters built a toilet in our house. It cost us only 5,000 rupees (USD 50). The idea is common now and all houses in our village have toilets.”
Endnotes


2 An improved sanitation facility is defined as one that hygienically separates human excreta from human contact.


7 Ibid.

The maps in this publication are stylized and not to scale. They do not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers. The dotted line between Jammu and Kashmir represents approximately the Line of Control agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the Parties.