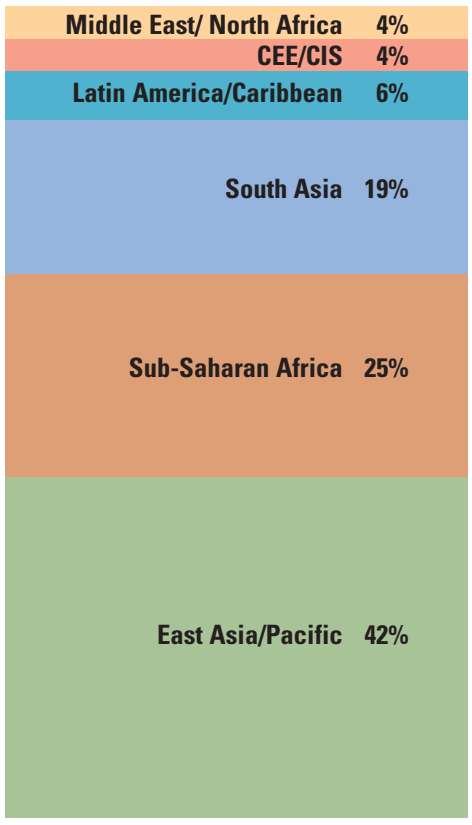
Goal
Universal access to safe drinking water

» Safe Drinking Water

1.1 billion people still without access to safe drinking water



Result

During the decade, global coverage rose from 77 per cent to 82 per cent. This means that nearly 1 billion more people gained access to improved drinking water sources* during the 1990s.

… but

Some 1.1 billion people still lack access. Coverage remains low, especially in poor rural areas of Africa and in informal peri-urban settlements. Water quality problems have grown more severe, as dangerous levels of arsenic in groundwater have emerged in several Asian countries during the decade.

Issue

In 1990, the challenge of ensuring universal access to safe drinking water by 2000 meant reaching 1.2 billion people, or 23 per cent of the world's population, with clean, sustainable water supplies. This challenge remained despite the gains made during the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990).

*Access to safe drinking water is determined by percentage of population using improved water sources.

Improved: Household connection, public standpipe, borehole, protected dug well, protected spring, rainwater collection.

Not improved: Unprotected well, unprotected spring, river, pond, vendor-provided water, tanker truck water.

Per cent of population with access to safe drinking water, (1990) and 2000

Sub-Saharan Africa

Mauritius (100)	100
Comoros (88)	96
Botswana (93)	95
Gabon (-)	86
South Africa (86)	86
Zimbabwe (78)	83
Côte d'Ivoire (80)	81
Burundi (69)	78
Lesotho (-)	78
Senegal (72)	78
Namibia (72)	77
Cape Verde (-)	74
Ghana (53)	73
Central African Rep. (48)	70
Tanzania (38)	68
Mali (55)	65
Zambia (52)	64
Benin (-)	63
Gambia (-)	62
Nigeria (53)	62
Niger (53)	59
Cameroon (51)	58
Kenya (45)	57
Malawi (49)	57
Mozambique (-)	57
Sierra Leone (-)	57
Regional average (53)	**57**
Guinea-Bissau (-)	56
Togo (51)	54
Uganda (45)	52
Congo (-)	51
Guinea (45)	48
Madagascar (44)	47
Eritrea (-)	46
Congo, Dem. Rep. (-)	45
Equatorial Guinea (-)	44
Burkina Faso (-)	42
Rwanda (-)	41
Angola (-)	38
Mauritania (37)	37
Chad (-)	27
Ethiopia (25)	24

Middle East/North Africa

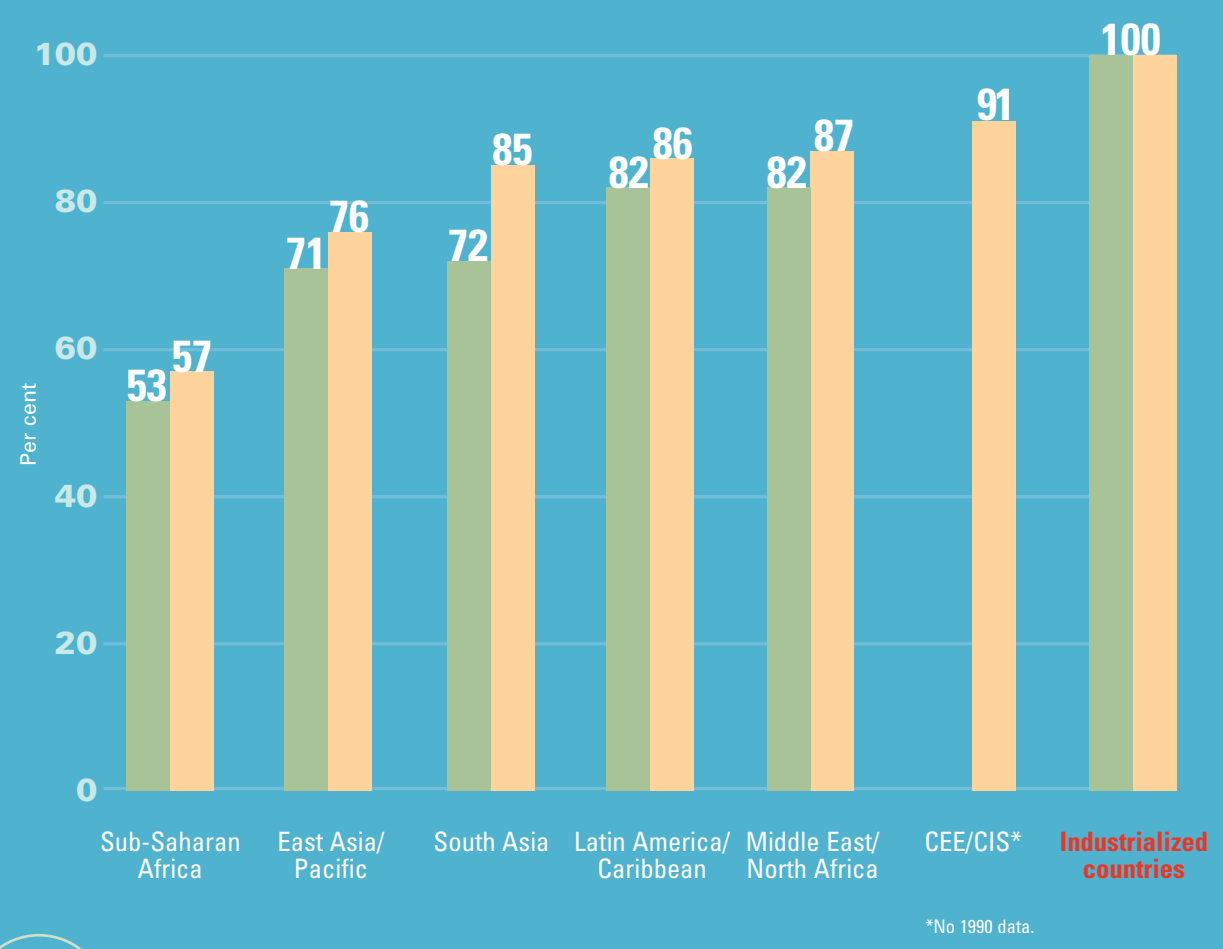
Cyprus (100)	100
Djibouti (-)	100
Lebanon (-)	100
Egypt (94)	97
Jordan (97)	96
Saudi Arabia (-)	95
Iran (-)	92
Algeria (-)	89
Regional average (82)	**87**
Occupied Palestinian Terr. (-)	86
Iraq (-)	85
Morocco (75)	80
Syria (-)	80
Tunisia (75)	80
Sudan (67)	75
Libya (71)	72
Yemen (-)	69
Oman (37)	39

East Asia/Pacific

Cook Islands (100)	100
Korea, Dem. People's Rep. (-)	100
Niue (100)	100
Singapore (100)	100
Tonga (-)	100
Tuvalu (-)	100
Samoa (-)	99
Korea, Rep. (-)	92
Vanuatu (-)	88
Philippines (87)	86
Thailand (80)	84
Palau (-)	79
Indonesia (71)	78
Viet Nam (55)	77
Regional average (71)	**76**
China (71)	75
Myanmar (-)	72
Solomon Islands (-)	71
Mongolia (-)	60
Kiribati (-)	48
Fiji (-)	47
Papua New Guinea (40)	42
Lao People's Dem. Rep. (-)	37
Cambodia (-)	30

Lowest coverage in sub-Saharan Africa

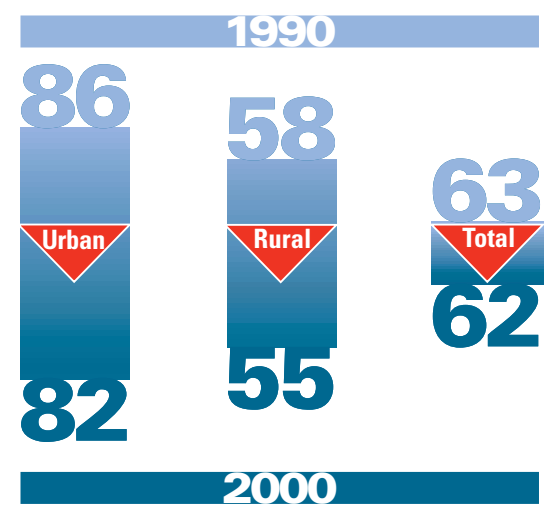
Change in drinking water coverage rates by region



*No 1990 data.

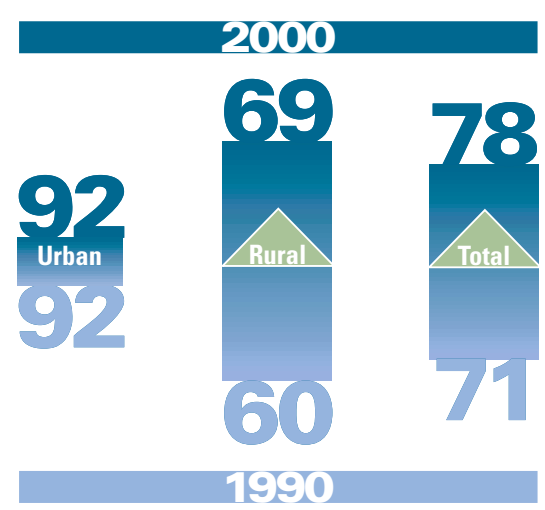
Poorest countries lose out

Coverage falls in least developed countries.



Rural areas gain

Change in drinking water coverage in all developing countries



South Asia

Maldives (-)	100
Bangladesh (94)	97
Pakistan (83)	90
Nepal (67)	88
Regional average (72)	**85**
India (68)	84
Sri Lanka (68)	77
Bhutan (-)	62
Afghanistan (-)	13

Latin America/Caribbean

Barbados (-)	100
Saint Kitts and Nevis (-)	98
Saint Lucia (-)	98
Uruguay (-)	98
Bahamas (-)	97
Dominica (-)	97
Costa Rica (-)	95
Grenada (-)	95
Guyana (-)	94
Chile (90)	93
Saint Vincent/Grenadines (-)	93
Belize (-)	92
Guatemala (76)	92
Jamaica (93)	92
Antigua and Barbuda (-)	91
Colombia (94)	91
Cuba (-)	91
Panama (-)	90
Trinidad and Tobago (91)	90
Honduras (83)	88
Mexico (80)	88
Brazil (83)	87
Dominican Rep. (83)	86
Regional average (82)	**86**
Ecuador (71)	85
Bolivia (71)	83
Venezuela (-)	83
Suriname (-)	82
Peru (74)	80
Paraguay (63)	78
El Salvador (66)	77
Nicaragua (70)	77
Haiti (53)	46

CEE/CIS

Belarus (-)	100
Bulgaria (-)	100
Slovakia (-)	100
Hungary (99)	99
Russian Federation (-)	99
Ukraine (-)	98
Yugoslavia (-)	98
Albania (-)	97
Moldova, Rep. (-)	92
Kazakhstan (-)	91
Regional average (-)	**91**
Uzbekistan (-)	85
Turkey (79)	82
Georgia (-)	79
Azerbaijan (-)	78
Kyrgyzstan (-)	77
Tajikistan (-)	60
Romania (-)	58

Industrialized countries

Andorra (-)	100
Australia (100)	100
Austria (100)	100
Canada (100)	100
Denmark (-)	100
Finland (100)	100
Malta (100)	100
Monaco (-)	100
Netherlands (100)	100
Norway (100)	100
Slovenia (100)	100
Sweden (100)	100
Switzerland (100)	100
United Kingdom (100)	100
United States (100)	100
Regional average (100)	**100**

No data for 2000:

Sub-Saharan Africa: Liberia, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Somalia, Swaziland
Middle East/North Africa: Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates
East Asia/Pacific: Brunei Darussalam, East Timor, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Fed. States of), Nauru
Latin America/Caribbean: Argentina
CEE/CIS: Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, TFYR Macedonia, Turkmenistan
Industrialized countries: Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Portugal, San Marino, Spain

Source for all graphs and tables: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme, 2001.