

HEALTH, DIGNITY AND DEVELOPMENT: WHAT WILL IT REALLY TAKE?

MEETING THE MDGs FOR WATER AND SANITATION

Launch of Final Report
UN Millennium Project Task Force on Water and Sanitation

Hans Olav Ibrekk, Member of MDG Task Force

Photo: SRI / D. Dubois

The work of the Task Force

The Millennium Project's Task Force on Water and Sanitation focuses on MDG Target 10:

To halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

What's new about this report?

- Set out to answer a different question: What will it really take (policies, investments, resources, responsibilities) to meet the Goals for water and sanitation?
- Question answered as part of MDG-wide analysis of larger Millennium Project – important since making progress in WS&S requires action outside water sector

Why focus on water and sanitation?

At least 1.1 billion people lack access to safe water, and 2.6 billion lack access to basic sanitation

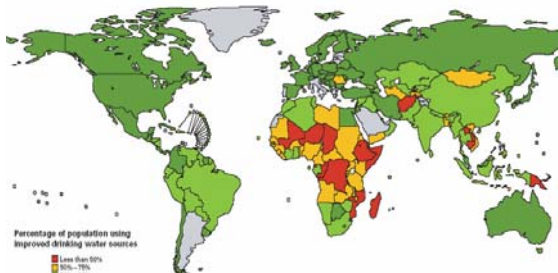


Photo: UNICEF/HOPP/GEIZ/ROGER LEAMING

- Shared regard for human values: equity, dignity, and compassion for all the world's peoples
- Recognition of water as a human right
- Increasing access to water and sanitation is economically sound decision-making

The challenge of meeting the water and sanitation Goals

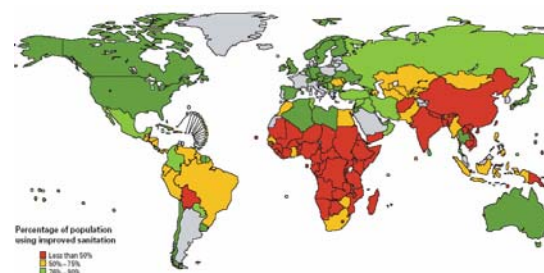
Access to improved water supply, 2002



Source: Meeting the MDG Drinking Water & Sanitation Target: A Mid-Term Assessment of Progress, 2004. UNICEF and World Health Organisation

The challenge of meeting the water and sanitation Goals

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What's holding us back?

- Political constraints – lack of political leadership and commitment to allocating resources.
- Institutional constraints – lack of appropriate institutions at all levels and chronic dysfunction of institutions that do exist.
- Financial constraints – lack of financial investment and inability of the poor to pay.
- Technical Challenges – extending services to the poor in dispersed rural settlements or dense urban communities is one of the toughest design problems!

Task Force Conclusions: the "Five and Ten"



- **Five guiding principles**
- **Ten critical actions**

Task Force guiding principles

At the conclusion of its three-year project, the Task Force is unanimous in its belief that the water and sanitation target will not be reached unless:

1. There is a ***deliberate*** commitment by ***donors*** both to refocus their development assistance and to target sufficient aid to the ***least developed countries***.
2. There is a ***deliberate*** commitment by governments of ***middle-income countries*** that are not aid-dependent to reallocate their resources such that they target funding to the ***unserved poor***.

Guiding principles

3. There are ***deliberate*** activities to create buy-in, support, and ownership for water supply and sanitation initiatives among both women and men ***in poor communities***.
4. There is a ***deliberate*** recognition that basic sanitation in particular requires ***an approach that centers on community mobilization*** and ***actions that support and encourage that mobilization***.

Furthermore, the Task Force is convinced that the MDGs as a whole will not be met unless:

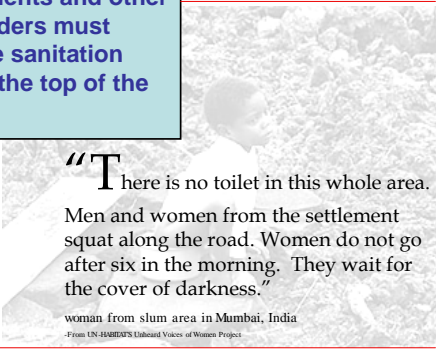
5. There is ***deliberate*** planning and investment in ***sound water resources management and infrastructure***.

Ten critical actions for achieving the water and sanitation target and fostering the sound management of water resources for all the MDGs



Action 1:

Governments and other stakeholders must move the sanitation crisis to the top of the agenda.

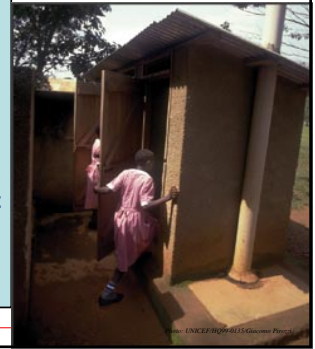


“There is no toilet in this whole area. Men and women from the settlement squat along the road. Women do not go after six in the morning. They wait for the cover of darkness.”

woman from slum area in Mumbai, India
-From UN HABITAT'S Unheard Voices of Women Project

Action 2:

Countries must ensure that policies and institutions for water supply and sanitation service delivery, as well as for water resources management and development, respond equally to the different roles, needs, and priorities of women and men.



Action 3:

Governments and donor agencies must simultaneously pursue investment and reforms for improved water supply, sanitation, and water management.

Waiting for reforms to be implemented before making the necessary investments will make it impossible to meet the 2015 deadline.

Photo from Degan/Isaac's "Environmental Issues"

Action 4:

Efforts to reach Target 10 must focus on sustainable service delivery, rather than construction of facilities alone.

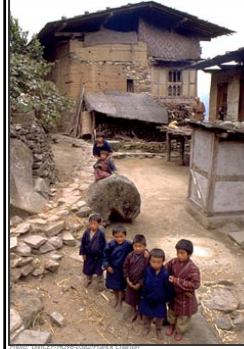


Photo: UNICEF/Photo: ISD/IFRANCE/UNICEF

Action 5:

Governments and donor agencies must empower local authorities and communities with the authority, resources, and professional capacity required to manage water and sanitation service delivery.

Partnerships with local businesses, women's organizations, and other NGOs can be used to help build capacity in local governments and move the service-expansion agenda forward.



Action 6:

Governments and utilities must ensure that users who can pay do pay in order to fund the maintenance and expansion of services – but they must also ensure that the needs of poor households are met.



Action 7:

Within the context of national MDG-based poverty reduction strategies, countries must elaborate coherent water resources development and management plans that will support the achievement of the MDGs.

Action 8:

Governments and their civil society and private sector partners must support a wide range of water and sanitation technologies and service levels that are technically, socially, environmentally, and financially appropriate.



A woman filters water into a jug through a strainer, to prevent guinea worm disease, in the village of Zitienga in the north-eastern province of Ouhritenga, Burkina Faso.

Action 9:

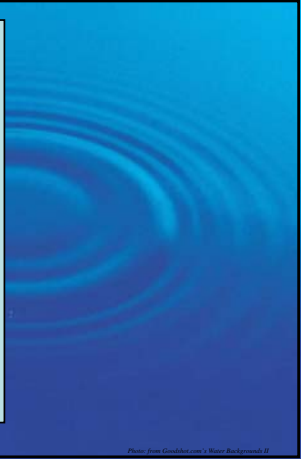
Institutional, financial and technological innovation must be promoted in strategic areas.



Innovations in appropriate technologies, social marketing, and institutional arrangements that improve access to water and sanitation services by the poor must be fostered.

Action 10:

The United Nations system organizations and their Member States must ensure that the UN system and its international partners provide strong and effective support for the achievement of the water supply and sanitation target and for water resources management and development.



THANK YOU