



Clean water and sanitation

6

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

More than 90 percent of the world's people now have access to improved water sources. In the past 25 years 2.1 billion people gained access to improved sanitation facilities. At the same time the share of people practicing open defecation halved, from 27 percent to 13 percent. While such improvements show progress toward access for all, these measures do not capture all dimensions of providing water and sanitation. Goal 6 introduces a new, more comprehensive monitoring framework to ensure access that is safe, equitable, and universal.

Expanding access to drinking water and sanitation

Until recently countries reported their populations' access to water and sanitation by distinguishing between "improved" and "unimproved" coverage. In 2015, 663 million people were drinking from unimproved sources such as unprotected dug wells, and 2.4 billion lacked improved sanitation facilities. The bulk of those without were in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia (see figures 6d and 6e on page 34), where rural dwellers, especially the poorest, lagged behind others in access to both water and sanitation (figures 6a, 6b, 6f and 6g).

and more refined monitoring framework (targets 6.1 and 6.2). The unimproved-improved distinction is replaced by "safely managed" services. For water, this requires that the household's drinking water source is on premises, available when needed, and free of fecal and locally relevant chemical contaminants. For sanitation, emphasis is on the links in the sanitation chain from initial defecation through waste management (including containment, disposal, and transport of human excreta), and on the availability of an appropriate handwashing facility. Monitoring these components and inequalities will help assess progress toward the longer term aim of universal access.

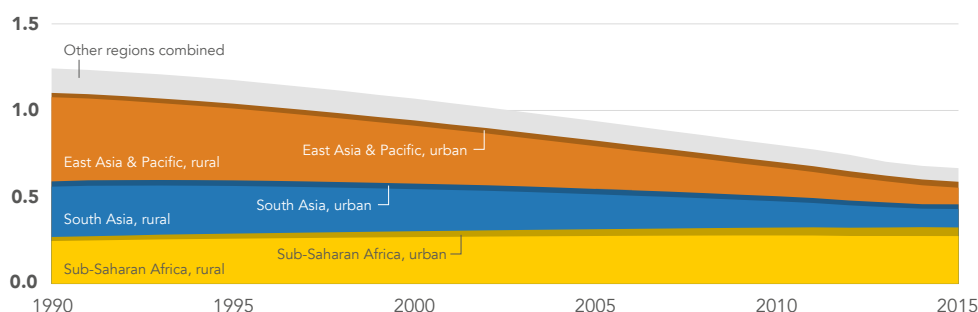
Measuring access more comprehensively

Goal 6 commits to universal access to water, sanitation, and hygiene under a new, broader,

Household surveys will increasingly measure these new components, but at present, data are limited. Available data show how the refined methodology can affect measures

6a The number of people without access to an improved water source is declining

Number of people without access to an improved water source (billions)



Source: World Health Organization/United Nations Children's Fund Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation; WDI (SH.H2O.SAFE.RU.ZS, SH.H2O.SAFE.UR.ZS, SP.URB.TOTL, SP.RUR.TOTL).