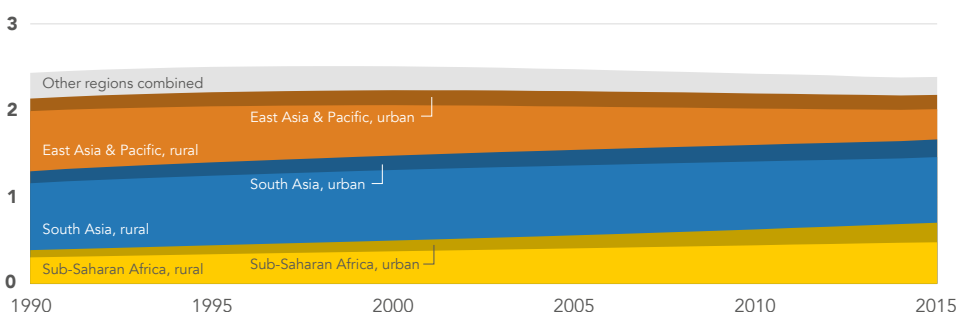


6b 2.4 billion people still lack access to improved sanitation facilities

Number of people without access to improved sanitation facilities (billions)



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

of access. For example, in Niger 66 percent of the population has access to an improved source of water, but new data show that only 10 percent have access on premises (figure 6c). Those without on-premise access must plan ahead to collect water, an exercise that can take up to 30 minutes (the threshold for "basic water"—another measure sometimes used) or even longer (improved, but not basic).

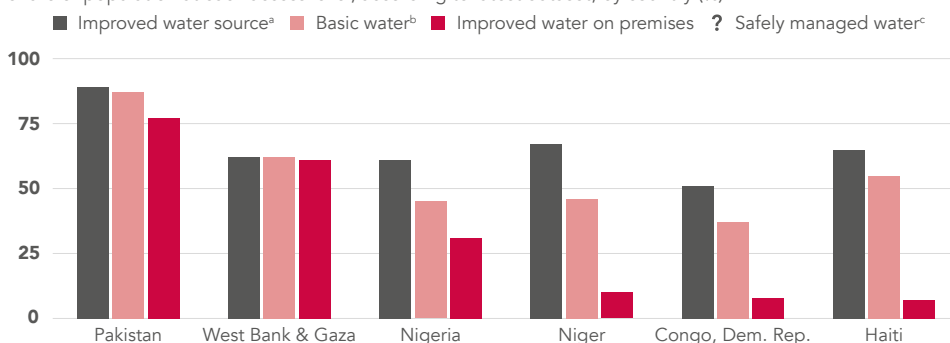
Even if data are not yet available on all aspects of safely managed water, there generally is information on improved water on premises, and access to safely managed water can be no higher than that. On average across six countries, 60 percent of urban dwellers and 75 percent of rural dwellers previously classified as having access would now be considered to be without access. When other new requirements

of access are considered, the shares are likely to fall further.¹ These refined measures can help quantify major issues invisible in previous definitions.

Incorporating handwashing in the definition of sanitation access has a similar impact. A 54-country study found that the handwashing criterion was unmet for between 4 percent (Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina) and 99 percent (Liberia and Ethiopia) of the population.² In another study of 10 countries, access to cleansing materials—fundamental to women for menstrual hygiene management—was below 25 percent in more than half the countries.³ Such data⁴ can give new insights to sanitation challenges facing different populations and enable countries and the international community to refine and focus service provision.⁵

6c Under stricter definitions, fewer people have access to water

Share of population at each access level, according to latest dataset, by country (%)



a. Differs from the WDI indicator SH.H2O.SAFE.ZS, which is based on multiple surveys.

b. Improved water source, with no more than a 30-minute round-trip collection time.

c. Safely managed water access has not yet been assessed and is not shown but can be no greater than improved water on premises.

Source: World Bank WASH Poverty Diagnostics 2016.