



PROGRESS ON SANITATION AND DRINKING-WATER

2010 UPDATE



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INTRODUCTION

This report by the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) confirms that advances continue to be made towards greater access to safe drinking-water. Progress in relation to access to basic sanitation is however insufficient to achieve the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking-water and basic sanitation.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THIS REPORT

This report describes the status and trends with respect to the use of safe drinking-water and basic sanitation, and progress made towards the MDG drinking-water and sanitation target.

As the world approaches 2015, it becomes increasingly important to identify who are being left behind and to focus on the challenges of addressing their needs. This report presents some striking disparities: the gap between progress in providing access to drinking-water versus sanitation; the divide between urban and rural populations in terms of the services provided; differences in the way different regions are performing, bearing in mind that they started from different baselines; and disparities between different socioeconomic strata in society.

Each JMP report assesses the situation and trends anew and so this JMP report supersedes previous reports. The information presented in this report includes data from household surveys and censuses completed during the period 2007-2008. It also incorporates datasets from earlier surveys and censuses that have become available to JMP since the publication of the previous JMP report in 2008. In total, data from around 300 surveys and censuses covering the period 1985 - 2008, has been added to the JMP database.

The updated estimates for 2008, 2000 and 1990 are given in the statistical table starting on page 38. This table for the first time shows the number of people who gained access to improved sanitation and drinking-water sources in the period 1990-2008.

It is important to note that the data in this report do not yet reflect the efforts of the International Year of Sanitation 2008, which mobilized renewed support around the world to stop the practice of open defecation and to promote the use of latrines and toilets.

A NEW STRATEGY FOR JMP

A new JMP strategy was formulated by WHO and UNICEF, with support from a newly created Strategic Advisory Group to better position JMP to address the monitoring challenges in the run up to the MDG target year of 2015 and beyond.

The JMP vision contained in this strategy is to accelerate progress towards universal sustainable access to safe water and basic sanitation by 2025, including the achievement of the MDG target by 2015 as a key milestone.

The four strategic priority areas of activity proposed for the 2010-2015 period are:

- maintaining the integrity of the JMP database and ensuring accurate global estimates;
- disseminating data to stakeholders;
- fulfilling JMP's normative role in developing and validating target indicators;
- enhancing interaction between countries and JMP.

With this strategy, JMP is well placed to provide a platform for developing post-2015 targets and associated meaningful and measurable indicators.

FUTURE CHALLENGES

We all recognize the vital importance of sanitation and water to human health and well-being, and their role as an engine of development. The question is how to accelerate progress towards achieving the MDG target, and how to go beyond it in order to ultimately achieve the vision of universal access.

The estimates that JMP publishes every two years help policy-makers, donors, governmental and nongovernmental agencies decide what needs to be done and where to focus their efforts. With each successive report, a clearer picture emerges of the current use of improved sanitation facilities and improved sources of drinking-water throughout the world.

Data collection and analysis are, however, not ends in themselves. The estimates and trends must be an impetus for action. With this in mind, JMP constantly seeks to provide more accurate and detailed information, to see where there is most catching-up to be done, where there are vulnerabilities, or where progress is starting to falter.

Better decision-making to speed progress requires a greater disaggregation and a higher resolution in the datasets. JMP faces methodological challenges of analysing data from over 200 different countries and territories, of adhering to common indicators so that estimates are comparable globally, and of accommodating new or previously unavailable data.

The present report documents how much the world has changed in terms of the use of improved sanitation facilities and improved sources of drinking-water. The practice of open defecation is declining, but still too many people have no access to any kind of sanitation facilities. Piped water is reaching ever more households, but not yet all and often not reliably so. The challenge of assessing the safety of drinking-water from improved sources also needs to be addressed.



