

Out of Order

The State of the World's Toilets 2017



Introduction

It is easy to take a toilet for granted – lock the door, do your business, flush when finished, and forget all about it. But for 2.3 billion people worldwide – almost one in three – such a normal part of daily life is out of reach.

A lack of decent toilets and clean water causes diarrhoeal diseases that, on average, claim the lives of almost 800 children every day – one every two minutes.

The health impacts of poor sanitation trap people in poverty, making it difficult to get an education or to work to support their families.

It goes without saying that everyone without this basic human right is affected, but it's worse for some than others. For example, women and girls, people who are transgender or intersex, older people, and people with disabilities all have their own specific needs and challenges in accessing toilets.

The State of the World's Toilets 2017 explores how the lack of decent toilets around the world prevents women and girls from fulfilling their potential.

Using new data from Unicef and the World Health Organization's Joint Monitoring Programme, we reveal the countries where women are struggling most to access a toilet, and highlight those that have made significant progress. We recommend ways to overcome the challenge of making a decent toilet normal for everyone by 2030, and to ensure these services meet the needs of women and girls everywhere.

A child walks down a road with no drainage facility and full of waste from hanging toilets, Gazipur, Bangladesh.

What is 'basic' sanitation?



Everyone, everywhere has the right to a decent toilet – or, to use the language of Unicef and the World Health Organization, at least 'basic' sanitation.

The sanitation service ladder

The world has committed to ending open defecation and achieving access to 'safely managed' sanitation for all by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), paying special attention to the needs of women and girls. But progress to date has not been fast enough, and, **today, almost one in three women and girls do not have a decent toilet of their own.**

39% have access to a 'safely managed' sanitation service.

This means 2.9 billion people use a hygienic household toilet where human waste is treated and safely disposed of.

29% have access to 'basic' sanitation.

This means 2.2 billion people have a hygienic household toilet, such as a pour-flush latrine, but the waste ends up flowing into rivers or is emptied untreated in the environment putting communities at risk of disease.

8% have access to 'limited' sanitation.

This means 600 million people have a toilet that is similar to a basic service, but shared between several households.

12% use an 'unimproved' toilet.

This means 881 million people use a toilet that does not hygienically separate human waste from human contact, such as a latrine over an open pit or water.

12% practise 'open defecation'.

This means 892 million people relieve themselves in open fields, near railway tracks, or in secluded areas.

The impact on women and girls

Everyone has a right to health and dignity, and women and girls have specific needs too. Meeting these requires their equal and active participation in decision-making about sanitation and hygiene.

Female biological needs make a lack of toilets particularly harmful for women and girls, from birth, through childhood, into puberty, throughout adult life, and into old age.

Social factors, like gender discrimination, add to the problem, and intersect with other issues like disability to make life without a decent toilet especially hard for some.



Childhood

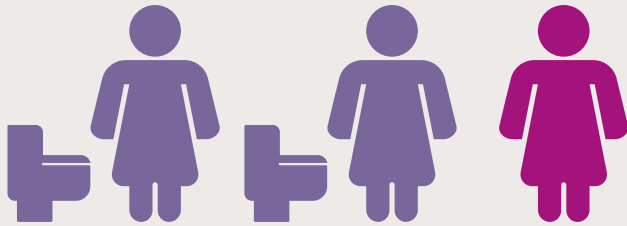
Every minute, a newborn baby dies due to infection, often linked to unsafe environments.¹ Diarrhoea caused by dirty water and poor toilets and hygiene kills 289,000 children under five every year.² Those who survive may be unable to properly absorb nutrients, and therefore susceptible to malnutrition and stunting. One in four children under five are stunted,³ causing impaired physical and mental development and weakened immune systems. Undernutrition costs African and Asian countries up to 11% of their annual GDP.⁴ While this does not discriminate according to gender, in some cultures, parents feed boys ahead of girls, leaving girls at greater risk of malnutrition. This has an impact later

on too; women who are stunted face a higher risk of pregnancy complications and giving birth to a low-weight baby, and the cycle continues.



Adolescence

Girls who don't have decent toilets at school or near home have to defecate in the open or use unsafe, unhygienic toilets, often shared with boys. Aside from the health risks, this is uncomfortable, embarrassing and puts them at risk of verbal and even physical abuse. To avoid the experience, they will often avoid eating and drinking during the day, making it hard to concentrate at school. Once they start their periods, girls are more likely to miss classes or drop out if there is not a decent toilet at school. In sub-Saharan Africa, one in ten girls miss school during their period.⁵



1 in 3

women around the world do not have a decent toilet of their own.



Adulthood

A lack of toilets and facilities for managing menstruation in the workplace holds women back from earning a living. A study in Bangladesh showed that women miss up to six days of work a month when they lack these services.⁶ Closing the gender gaps in the workforce would add as much as \$28tn to global annual GDP by 2025.⁷ For the 446 million women around the world with no choice but to defecate in the open,⁸ and millions of others who use toilets that are not hygienic or safe, going to the toilet means shame and the risk of harassment and attack.



Motherhood

A lack of decent toilets affects pregnant women and their babies. One-fifth of stunting begins in the womb, because mothers are malnourished.⁹ Hookworms, which can be spread by open defecation, cause diarrhoea, anaemia and weight loss in women, and are linked to low birth weight and slow child growth.¹⁰ Poor sanitation and hygiene also increase the risk of infection during and after childbirth, with sepsis accounting for 11% of maternal deaths worldwide.

Yet infection control is difficult in the 38% of healthcare facilities in developing countries without clean water, and the 19% without decent toilets.¹¹ Women's sanitation needs often change after birth too, when they may experience incontinence or obstetric fistula from prolonged or obstructed childbirth. Fistulas are more common in women whose growth has been stunted. Women also typically carry the burden of caring for children who fall sick from dirty water and poor toilets and hygiene.



Old age

Older women have specific needs for decent, accessible toilets with space for washing. Hormonal changes during menopause can result in heavy bleeding. And older women need to urinate more often and are more likely to suffer from incontinence, as well as from decreased physical mobility and other disabilities.

1. Top 10 countries with most people without decent toilets – by percentage¹²



Rank	Country	% population without access to at least basic sanitation	No. people without access to at least basic sanitation
1	Ethiopia	92.9	92,354,960
2	Chad	90.5	12,697,120
3	Madagascar	90.3	21,886,092
4	South Sudan	89.6	11,062,628
5	Eritrea	88.7	4,639,271
6	Niger	87.1	17,324,706
=7	Benin	86.1	9,364,257
=7	Togo	86.1	6,285,700
9	Ghana	85.7	23,495,896
10	Sierra Leone	85.5	5,515,157

All ten of the world’s worst countries for access to basic sanitation are in sub-Saharan Africa. Here, on average, only 28% of the population has somewhere decent to go to the toilet¹³ and children are 15 times more likely to die before they reach the age of five than in developed regions.¹⁴

Ethiopia is both top of the list of countries with the greatest percentage of people living without decent toilets, and best improved in reducing the number of people practising open defecation. What this means is, Ethiopia has made significant strides in reducing the number of people at the bottom of the sanitation ladder (see page 3) through access to rudimentary community latrines. However, only 7.1% of the population has access to basic sanitation.

This means more than 46 million women and girls in Ethiopia have nowhere safe to go to the toilet – that’s equivalent to the entire population of Spain.

In second place is Chad, at only 9.5% coverage. Nearly half of the population lives below the poverty line and life expectancy at birth is just 52. Around 9,150 children die every year from diarrhoea caused by dirty water and poor toilets.

Madagascar is close behind in third place. The large island is also among the world’s poorest countries, with 75% of people living in poverty,¹⁵ and is fifth in the world for the highest percentage of children who are stunted.¹⁶

Sierra Leone concludes the top ten worst places to find a toilet, with 85.5% lacking at least basic sanitation.

Sierra Leone – Newborn mortality

With its wealth of natural minerals, sea port and beautiful landscapes, Sierra Leone should be a hotspot of trade and tourism. Instead, it is still recovering from a decade of civil war and a widespread Ebola outbreak.

Sanitation coverage has improved from 10% in 2000 to 15% in 2015; still, of a population of 6 million, 5.5 million have no decent toilet. The lack of sanitation and clean water in homes and health centres creates a dangerous environment for newborns. Over 2,000 newborn babies die here each year from sepsis and other conditions linked to an unhygienic environment and women have a 1 in 21 chance of losing a baby to sepsis during their lifetime.¹⁷



WaterAid/ Monique Jaques



Kema James was referred to Kenema Government Hospital when she had an infection, which midwives worried could be passed on to her baby. After an obstructed labour, she gave birth to a baby boy. Sadly, after five days in intensive care, he died of sepsis.

It is impossible to say for certain how Kema's baby was infected at birth, but women stunted by malnutrition – often linked to chronic diarrhoea from dirty water and poor toilets – are more likely to have complications in pregnancy, including obstructed labour, and both mothers and babies are susceptible to infection if giving birth in unhygienic conditions.

1,270
children under five die each year from related diarrhoeal diseases

38%
of children under five are stunted

5.5
million people lack decent toilets

22%
of healthcare facilities have no decent toilets

19%
of people practise open defecation

Ethiopia – Futures stunted

Ethiopia, Africa’s second-largest country by population, has ambitious sanitation targets. And it is making progress, having increased political focus, human resources and financing for sanitation. Although basic household access remains low, it has more than doubled since 2000, when only 3.15% had access to basic sanitation. The proportion of people defecating in the open has also decreased dramatically, from 80% in 2000 to 27%.

However, population growth and urbanisation put a strain on existing infrastructure. There is also a real need to promote behaviour change to sustain progress. Child deaths and malnutrition linked to diarrhoea are a major concern. Each year, 8,500 under-fives die from diarrhoea caused by dirty water and poor toilets, and an estimated 5.8 million children under five are stunted.



Woinshet, from Yubdo in Oromia, says her daughter, Kisi, is often sick and almost died last year because of a lack of decent toilets and clean water.

She said: “We don’t have a toilet so we go to the bush. My eight-year-old is skinny and fragile because whatever she eats gets lost through diarrhoea and vomiting. The doctor said she has worms because of dirty water and the lack of sanitation. Medical fees are expensive. Last time I paid 180 birr, which I could have used to buy enough maize to feed my family for a month.”

8,500
children under five die each year from related diarrhoeal diseases

40%
of children under five are stunted

92.4
million people lack decent toilets

15%
of healthcare facilities have no decent toilets

27%
of people practise open defecation

2. Top 10 worst countries for access to basic sanitation – in numbers¹⁸



Rank	Country	No. people without access to at least basic sanitation	% population without access to at least basic sanitation
1	India	732,207,000	56
2	China	343,499,264	25
3	Nigeria	122,802,379	67
4	Ethiopia	92,354,960	93
5	Bangladesh	85,449,092	53
6	Indonesia	82,712,477	32
=7	Pakistan	78,873,482	42
=7	DRC	62,034,676	80
9	Tanzania	40,886,656	76
10	Kenya	32,306,737	70

India, the world’s second-largest country by population, once again comes out top for the highest number of people without basic sanitation.

In India, a staggering 355 million women and girls are still waiting for a toilet; if they were all to stand in a queue, it would stretch around the Earth more than four times!



There has undoubtedly been immense progress made in improving access to sanitation by working with the Swachh Bharat (Clean India) Mission – with 52 million household toilets built between October 2014 and November 2017, according to Government data. India also ranks in the top ten for reducing open defecation and improving access to basic sanitation. But there is still a long way to go.

China, the world’s most populous country, comes in second, with 343 million people without decent toilets. However, it too has made a lot of progress since 2000, when 40% of the population lacked basic sanitation.

Africa’s most populous country, Nigeria, is in third place. Seven in ten Nigerians lack basic sanitation and two-thirds of schools have no decent toilets, revealing a real need for it to step up its efforts.¹⁹

Bangladesh – Menstrual hygiene matters

Severe flooding in the north of Bangladesh in summer 2017, and the overwhelming Rohingya refugee crisis in the south, have been only some of the challenges faced by the country, placing additional strain on sanitation provision. More than 85 million people have no decent toilets. But Bangladesh is moving up the sanitation ladder (see page 3). The country has almost eradicated open defecation in cities by investing heavily in shared latrines, particularly in fast-growing slums. One-fifth of the population now has access to limited sanitation, an important stepping stone to better health and dignity.

There is still much to do. A WaterAid survey found that 40% of girls miss school during their period for an average of three days a month.²⁰



Dr Muhammed Shahidullah School in Dhaka only had a few dirty toilets for 1,400 students, until WaterAid helped install modern toilet blocks with locks, including space for girls to wash themselves and stay clean during menstruation. Pupils now learn about menstruation as part of the curriculum, and can purchase sanitary towels at school. Attendance and performance have both improved as a result.

Ishrat, 13, said: “Before, we had to go home and stay away from school during our periods. Now, if we are menstruating, we can ask the teacher for a pad and go to the toilet.”

2,220
children under five die each year from related diarrhoeal diseases

36%
of children under five are stunted

85.4
million people lack decent toilets

47%
of healthcare facilities have no decent toilets

40%
of schools do not have decent toilets

Tanzania – Keeping girls in school

Tanzania ranks ninth in the world for the most people without a decent toilet: nearly 41 million – or 76% of the population. Nine children die every day as a result of preventable diarrhoea;²¹ one in three children are stunted²² and only one in ten schools have decent toilets,²³ hitting girls the hardest. Taboos and myths around menstruation compound the problem.

In April 2017, the Ministry of Education, with support from WaterAid and other partners, introduced national guidelines on minimum standards for water, sanitation and hygiene in schools. The Government has also launched a campaign to end open defecation by 2019 and ensure everyone has access to basic sanitation by 2025.



WaterAid/ Priya Sippy



Girls at Mchangani Primary School in Dar es Salaam used to share basic pit latrines with another school. There was little privacy and the facilities were unhygienic, until WaterAid helped install decent toilets.

Naima, 14, said: “Previously, I would go home to change when on my period, and I missed many classes, meaning I fell behind with my studies. The toilets were very dirty so it was easy for diseases to spread. Many students used to get diarrhoea and there were also cases of cholera. I used to get stomach ache but I don’t anymore. I feel good because now I am passing exams. When I’m older, I want to be a doctor.”

3,390
children under five die each year from related diarrhoeal diseases

35%
of children under five are stunted

40.9
million people lack decent toilets

93%
of healthcare facilities have no decent toilets

89%
of schools do not have decent toilets

3. Top 10 worst countries for addressing open defecation – by percentage²⁴



Rank	Country	% point increase	% of people practising open defecation in 2000	% of people practising open defecation in 2015	No. people practising open defecation in 2015
1	Djibouti	7.2	15.6	22.8	202,680
2	Madagascar	6.2	37.8	43.9	10,645,915
3	Cape Verde	4.8	23.3	28.1	146,177
4	Equatorial Guinea	4.4	0	4.4	37,363
5	Grenada	3.5	0	3.5	3,783
6	Nigeria	2.9	22.6	25.5	46,529,909
7	Sri Lanka	2.6	0	2.7	548,572
8	DRC	1.9	10.2	12.1	9,332,090
=9	Nauru	1.7	0.9	2.6	265
=9	Tanzania	1.7	9.6	11.3	6,021,264

The good news is, between 2000 and 2015, the number of people in the world defecating in the open dropped from 1.2 billion (20% of the global population) to 892 million (12%).

Open defecation is still a huge problem, resulting in enough faeces to fill seven bathtubs every second!

All regions have seen a drop in the number of people practising open defecation, except sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania, where progress has not kept up with population growth.

Djibouti, the tiny country at the gateway to the Suez Canal that has become a major route for refugees from the Yemen war, has the worst figures for addressing open defecation, with a 7.2% increase, meaning nearly a quarter of people now go to the toilet in the open.

Madagascar – known as an ‘aid orphan’ due to its reputation for political instability – has made the top three again for its poor sanitation record, coming second for failing to cut open defecation rates.

Nigeria – Fear and risk

Nigeria is sub-Saharan Africa’s most populous nation and its biggest economy. Yet the percentage of people defecating in the open has increased from 22.6% in 2000 to 25.5% in 2015. The percentage of people without basic sanitation has also gone up.

In addition to the impact on health and dignity, a WaterAid survey revealed one in five women in Lagos had experienced verbal harassment and intimidation or had been physically threatened or assaulted when going to the toilet.²⁵ Anecdotal evidence from communities suggests the true scale of the problem may be much larger.



WaterAid/ Simi Vijay



Rahab, 20, escaped from violence in Borno State and now lives in a camp for internally displaced people in Abuja, where there are no decent toilets.

She said: “We go to the toilet in the bush. There are many germs there, and it is risky as there are snakes, and I have also experienced some attacks from boys. It is not safe early in the morning or in the night as you can meet anyone. They drink alcohol and will touch you, and if you don’t like it, they will force you. If I see men when I go to the toilet, I go back home and hold it in.”

59,600
children under five die each year from related diarrhoeal diseases

33%
of children under five are stunted

122.8
million people do not have decent toilets

67%
of people do not have decent toilets

25.5%
of people practise open defecation

Madagascar – Access all areas

Madagascar’s attempts to increase access to decent toilets have been held back by severe financial restraints.

The World Bank estimates that ending open defecation by 2030 will cost Madagascar \$10 million a year, and providing access to basic sanitation will cost \$90 million a year.²⁶ Despite being one of the most in-need countries, Madagascar received just \$12.5 million in aid for water, sanitation and hygiene projects in 2015. Of that, only \$1 million was solely for sanitation and \$6.3 million was for projects covering water and sanitation.²⁷ As a result, nine out of ten women are still waiting for a decent toilet. Those with disabilities face even greater struggles.



WaterAid/ Ernest Randriamalala



Irene Raveloarisoa, 41, from Ambohimalaza village in the Alaotra Mangoro region, cannot walk unaided after suffering from polio as a child.

When her community had no toilets, it was particularly difficult for her.

She said: “I loved school but had to drop out because of a lack of toilets. My family built an accessible toilet for me at home but before WaterAid worked in our village, I couldn’t go out and visit friends and family because most didn’t have a toilet. Imagine me taking a chamber pot with me! Now, every household has a toilet and I can go out. A toilet means a lot to me.”

3,870
children under five die each year from related diarrhoeal diseases

49%
of children under five are stunted

21.9
million people lack decent toilets

90%
of people lack decent toilets

43.9%
of people practise open defecation

4. Top 10 best countries for reducing open defecation – by percentage²⁸



Rank	Country	% point decrease	% of people practising open defecation in 2000	% of people practising open defecation in 2015	No. people practising open defecation in 2015
1	Ethiopia	52.7	79.8	27.2	26,997,570
2	Cambodia	42.2	82.7	40.6	6,319,829
3	Laos	39.9	62	22.1	1,501,104
4	Nepal	34.8	64.6	29.8	8,504,753
5	Pakistan	29.9	41.5	11.5	21,813,413
6	India	26.1	66	39.8	522,261,058
7	Sudan	24.3	50.9	26.7	10,728,934
8	Burkina Faso	23.4	71.4	48	8,686,380
9	Solomon Islands	22	63	41.1	239,588
10	Sao Tome and Principe	20.8	70.6	49.8	94,775

Ethiopia might be worst off for decent toilets, but at the bottom of the sanitation ladder (see page 3) huge progress has been made. The number of people defecating in the open has dropped from nearly 80% to 27%. However, this is still one in four women having to risk their health and safety by going to the toilet outside.

Cambodia has emerged from decades of conflict to become one of the fastest growing economies in Asia. It has also made huge strides in reducing open

defecation, meaning 3.8 million more people now have a toilet.

Cambodia’s northern neighbour, Laos, is not far behind, reducing open defecation by two-thirds, followed by Nepal. Midway through the list is India, which – with the help of the Swachh Bharat (Clean India) Mission – has reduced the proportion of people defecating in the open by 40%, meaning more than 100 million people no longer face this indignity.

India – Healthy mothers

Reaching all 1.28 billion people in India with basic services is a huge challenge, but change is happening. The Indian Government has a target of eliminating open defecation by the end of 2019, which has made toilets front-page news. WaterAid has also helped 1,171,000 people in India get decent toilets in the last year, by working with the Swachh Bharat (Clean India) Mission.²⁹

However, the work is far from done, and the need stretches beyond households to schools and hospitals. According to the World Health Organization, two in five health centres lack basic sanitation,³⁰ putting patients and health workers at risk of infection.



WaterAid/ Tejaswi Balasundaram



Maheshwari, 25, from Raichur, Karnataka, experienced difficulties defecating in the open during her pregnancy. She said: “We cannot afford a toilet, nor do we have any space here. When I got pregnant, it was hard to walk to the field to defecate as the path was not safe. My mother-in-law used to accompany me because I needed help sitting down and getting up.”

In Raichur district, about 45% of deliveries take place at public healthcare facilities within rural areas, where women and babies are often at risk of infection due to unsafe environments. There were inadequate facilities at the health centre where Maheshwari delivered her baby, who was born very underweight. She said: “There was no water and the toilets were smelly and dirty.”

60,700
children under five die each year from related diarrhoeal diseases

40%
of people practise open defecation

732
million people lack decent toilets

56%
of people lack decent toilets

39%
of children under five are stunted

Nepal – Helping generations

Nepal’s extreme landscape makes it hard to reach the most remote people with decent toilets and hygiene promotion. However, it has cut open defecation rates in half since 2000.

This progress is in part a result of the community-led total sanitation approach adapted from Bangladesh. Most of Nepal’s progress has occurred in rural areas, where the greatest proportion of people live and where the major challenges in eradicating open defecation still lie.

A WaterAid pilot project has succeeded in bringing sanitation and hygiene classes to mothers during their children’s regular immunisations.



Mandari, 22, from Jajarkot, started using toilets after learning how important they are for good health when attending immunisation sessions for her baby.

She said: “We used to defecate anywhere and throw baby faeces here and there, but this has changed since we learned about sanitation. These days we wash our hands, dispose of faeces in the toilet, and have soap near the toilet. My children’s health is good. My first child would fall sick often, but the second one does not fall sick.”

730
children under five die each year from related diarrhoeal diseases

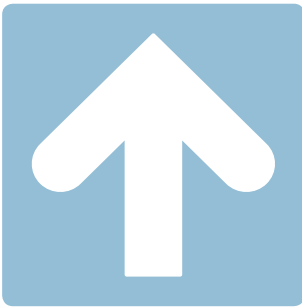
41%
of children under five are stunted

15.4
million people lack decent toilets

54%
of people lack decent toilets

30%
of people practise open defecation

5. Best improved countries for basic sanitation – by percentage³¹



Rank	Country	% point increase in access to at least basic sanitation 2000-15	% of population without access to at least basic sanitation in 2000	% of population without access to at least basic sanitation in 2015	No. people without access to at least basic sanitation in 2015
1	Laos	44.6	72	27.4	1,864,143
=2	Lesotho	36.6	92.8	56.2	1,200,072
=2	Cambodia	36.6	87.7	51.2	7,971,920
4	Cape Verde	27.7	62.5	34.8	181,098
5	Nepal	26.9	80.8	53.9	15,361,302
6	Pakistan	26.6	68.4	41.7	78,873,482
7	Viet Nam	24.8	46.6	21.8	20,336,583
8	Azerbaijan	23.7	34.4	10.7	1,038,887
9	Indonesia	23.6	55.8	30.1	82,712,477
10	India	22.5	78.3	55.8	732,207,000

Laos is one of East Asia’s poorest countries. Nearly a quarter of the population lives under the poverty line.³² Yet it takes the lead for reducing the proportion of people without decent toilets, with its fast-growing economy and government policy on poverty reduction and development.

Lesotho comes in second and is one of only two African countries in the top ten for improving access to basic sanitation, despite most of its villages being in hard-to-reach highlands. Between 2011 and 2014, there was a major sanitation push in rural areas, contributing to a

ten-fold increase in basic sanitation access, rising from 4.5% to 43.1%. However, despite improvements, 56% of the population still lacks decent toilets, and average life expectancy is just 50.³³

In joint second place is Cambodia, which has improved sanitation coverage by more than a third since 2000. This tremendous progress has been helped by the Government’s action plan for achieving universal access to water and sanitation by 2025, supported by strong donor funding and creative toilet marketing.

Cambodia – Technological challenges

Although Cambodia has made significant progress, there are still challenges, including how to provide sanitation in its floating villages.

Tonlé Sap lake, home to more than 100,000 people, is used for fishing and washing; it is also where the community goes to the toilet. As a result, diarrhoea is rife. Children have drowned when going to the toilet into the water, and older and disabled people faced many obstacles.

WaterAid worked with Wetlands Work to introduce household floating toilets known as 'Handy Pods'. These break down waste and filter pathogens before they pass into the lake. Innovations like this are enabling Cambodia to help even the hardest to reach communities to access toilets.



WaterAid/ Laura Sumner



Suon Ny, 51, a grandmother, lives on the banks of the Tonlé Sap lake. This means her house is on land in the dry season and surrounded by water in the rainy season.

She said: "Our whole family used to go to the toilet in the field behind the house. When it flooded, I would have to go further away or would go out in the boat. It was very difficult because I was scared of snakes and insects and worried I might meet other people. I felt ashamed. The Handy Pod is easier to use and better for my health."

270
children under five die each year from related diarrhoeal diseases

32%
of children are stunted

8
million people lack decent toilets

51.2%
of people lack decent toilets

41%
of people practise open defecation

Pakistan – Dignity in old age

Pakistan has the world’s sixth-largest population and is rapidly urbanising, which makes reaching everyone with basic services extremely challenging. People are moving to towns faster than in any other South Asian country, straining already limited services. And natural disasters present further obstacles to development and the sustainability of sanitation services.

Despite this, Pakistan is making great progress on sanitation. It was the sixth best country for improving access to decent toilets, increasing coverage by 27%, meeting the target for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and transforming hundreds of thousands of lives.



Sarwar Mai, 60, from Kacha Naseer Wala Village in Punjab province, used to face the indignity of open defecation as she had no toilet at home. She said: “We used to answer the call of nature in nearby fields. Open defecation was very tough, especially for me as an old woman. I get tired and sometimes feel sick. We built the washroom so that our dignity is saved and it’s now made life easier.”

WaterAid organised a sanitation committee in the village and helped them raise awareness of the importance of good toilets and organise funds to build washrooms.

19,500
children under five die each year from related diarrhoeal diseases

45%
of children under five are stunted

79
million people lack decent toilets

41.7%
of people lack decent toilets

11.5%
of people defecate in the open

Conclusion

Since 2000, the world has made huge progress in reducing the number of people living in poverty. But the success of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to eradicate extreme poverty and create a fairer, healthier, more sustainable world, will be limited while hundreds of millions of people lack a decent toilet and the potential of women and girls is held back.

What is WaterAid calling for?

More money, better spent

Governments and donors must see sanitation as a long-term investment. For every \$1 spent, \$4 is returned in increased productivity.³⁴ More aid needs to be directed to the countries and communities where it is most needed, so that no one is left behind. Funds must be used transparently and efficiently. Particular attention should be paid to the needs of women and girls, and they must be involved in decision-making about how the money is spent.

Promote the value of sanitation for women, by women

Safe sanitation is vital for gender equality and female empowerment. Involving women as leaders, and in non-traditional roles, in water and sanitation work will ensure solutions meet the challenges women and girls face. Stigma and taboos around women and sanitation must be challenged to overcome harmful practices. With increased skills and confidence, women will be able to play a visible role in making lasting change happen in their communities.

Improve coordination to create gender-friendly toilets

Government departments must work together to ensure all schools, healthcare facilities, work environments and public spaces have toilets that are safe, accessible for all, and gender-friendly. That involves including spaces for menstrual hygiene, and ensuring privacy and safety in appropriately-located toilets with good lighting, solid doors and locks. These provisions can also be tailored to cater for the needs of people who are transgender or intersex.

Support efforts to redistribute water and hygiene work

Water collection is predominantly the responsibility of women and girls. More toilets can mean more water is needed, so it is important that efforts to have more and better sanitation facilities are combined with reducing and redistributing the labour of water collection. Meeting women's specific sanitation needs will have a ripple effect on health, education and gender equality, making whole communities and countries better off, and changing lives for good.

Sharon, 14, prepares to wash the floor of the newly built school latrine block, Namalu, Uganda.





Appendix

Global access to basic sanitation³⁵

Country, area or territory	% of people without at least basic sanitation	No. people without access to at least basic sanitation
Afghanistan	61	19769503
Albania	2	66894
Algeria	13	4963199
American Samoa	38	20975
Andorra	0	0
Angola	61	15155954
Anguilla	3	450
Antigua and Barbuda	12	11473
Argentina	5	2240356
Armenia	8	254008
Aruba	2	2552
Australia	0	0
Austria	0	2275
Azerbaijan	11	1038887
Bahamas	8	30998
Bahrain	0	0
Bangladesh	53	85449092
Barbados	4	10072
Belarus	6	545632
Belgium	1	58071
Belize	13	46143
Benin	86	9364257
Bermuda	0	60
Bhutan	37	287690
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	47	5082006
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5	198824
Botswana	40	905992
Brazil	14	28790308
British Virgin Islands	3	946
Brunei Darussalam	4	15529
Bulgaria	14	1002321
Burkina Faso	77	14026008
Burundi	50	5538002

Country, area or territory	% of people without at least basic sanitation	No. people without access to at least basic sanitation
Cabo Verde	35	181098
Cambodia	51	7971920
Cameroon	61	14278471
Canada	2	539099
Cayman Islands	4	2669
Central African Republic	75	3670942
Chad	90	12697120
Channel Islands	2	2455
Chile	0	20064
China	25	343499264
China, Hong Kong SAR	4	269655
Colombia	16	7504774
Comoros	66	519084
Congo	85	3926849
Cook Islands	2	494
Costa Rica	3	137093
Côte d'Ivoire	70	15906563
Croatia	3	107444
Cuba	9	1045732
Curaçao	1	1857
Cyprus	1	7345
Czech Republic	1	91076
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	23	5751851
Democratic Republic of the Congo	80	62034676
Denmark	0	22833
Djibouti	49	431695
Dominica	22	16068
Dominican Republic	17	1821729
Ecuador	14	2237897
Egypt	7	6250478
El Salvador	9	543730
Equatorial Guinea	25	215170

Country, area or territory	% of people without at least basic sanitation	No. people without access to at least basic sanitation
Eritrea	89	4639271
Estonia	0	5134
Ethiopia	93	92354960
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	0	0
Faroe Islands	9	4394
Fiji	4	38567
Finland	1	30383
France	1	868047
French Guiana	10	26494
French Polynesia	3	8894
Gabon	59	1019123
Gambia	58	1160833
Georgia	15	604903
Germany	1	630077
Ghana	86	23495896
Greece	1	113494
Greenland	1	373
Grenada	22	23179
Guadeloupe	1	5683
Guam	10	16393
Guatemala	33	5333844
Guinea	78	9840718
Guinea-Bissau	79	1448422
Guyana	14	106133
Haiti	69	7439501
Honduras	20	1633064
Hungary	2	198132
Iceland	1	4027
India	56	732207000
Indonesia	32	82712477
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	12	9263837
Iraq	14	5223370
Ireland	8	366734
Israel	0	0
Italy	1	429680
Jamaica	15	408561
Japan	0	0
Jordan	3	250008
Kazakhstan	2	386819
Kenya	70	32306737
Kiribati	60	67709
Kuwait	0	0

Country, area or territory	% of people without at least basic sanitation	No. people without access to at least basic sanitation
Kyrgyzstan	3	202786
Lao People's Democratic Republic	27	1864143
Latvia	7	140615
Lebanon	5	271512
Lesotho	56	1200072
Liberia	83	3742831
Libya	0	18835
Liechtenstein	0	19
Lithuania	6	183589
Luxembourg	2	13548
Madagascar	90	21886092
Malawi	56	9721509
Malaysia	0	129208
Maldives	4	15023
Mali	69	12096563
Malta	0	162
Marshall Islands	13	6946
Martinique	1	2475
Mauritania	55	2252592
Mauritius	7	87226
Mayotte	23	55499
Mexico	11	13694498
Monaco	0	0
Mongolia	41	1206690
Montenegro	4	25603
Montserrat	11	576
Morocco	17	5683954
Mozambique	76	21386074
Myanmar	35	19027596
Namibia	66	1626841
Nauru	34	3517
Nepal	54	15361302
Netherlands	2	384709
New Caledonia	0	0
New Zealand	0	0
Nicaragua	24	1438450
Niger	87	17324706
Nigeria	67	122802379
Niue	3	52
Northern Mariana Islands	21	11654
Norway	2	101167
Oman	1	30622

Out of Order – The State of the World’s Toilets 2017

Country, area or territory	% of people without at least basic sanitation	No. people without access to at least basic sanitation
Pakistan	42	78873482
Palau	0	0
Panama	23	908927
Papua New Guinea	81	6201810
Paraguay	9	582767
Peru	23	7274516
Philippines	25	25198106
Poland	2	720993
Portugal	1	57737
Puerto Rico	3	104704
Qatar	0	0
Republic of Korea	0	56561
Republic of Moldova	22	878925
Réunion	1	8827
Romania	18	3548579
Russian Federation	11	16086257
Rwanda	38	4371292
Saint Helena	0	4
Saint Lucia	9	16820
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	13	14028
Samoa	3	6531
San Marino	0	0
Sao Tome and Principe	60	114011
Saudi Arabia	0	0
Senegal	52	7813039
Serbia	5	474157
Seychelles	0	0
Sierra Leone	85	5515157
Singapore	0	0
Sint Maarten (Dutch part)	1	496
Slovakia	1	58160
Slovenia	1	18457
Solomon Islands	69	401119
Somalia	84	9040519
South Africa	27	14642213
South Sudan	90	11062628
Spain	0	44111
Sri Lanka	6	1200088
Sudan	65	26319204
Suriname	21	112835
Swaziland	42	540195

Country, area or territory	% of people without at least basic sanitation	No. people without access to at least basic sanitation
Sweden	1	68110
Switzerland	0	9042
Syrian Arab Republic	7	1304947
Tajikistan	5	382350
Thailand	5	3390290
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	9	188906
Timor-Leste	56	663337
Togo	86	6285700
Tokelau	7	87
Tonga	7	6935
Trinidad and Tobago	8	106814
Tunisia	7	773364
Turkey	4	2853451
Turkmenistan	3	184468
Turks and Caicos Islands	12	4125
Tuvalu	9	852
Uganda	81	31557309
Ukraine	4	1820812
United Arab Emirates	0	2088
United Kingdom	1	574217
United Republic of Tanzania	76	40886656
United States of America	0	97977
United States Virgin Islands	2	2552
Uruguay	4	148418
Uzbekistan	0	0
Vanuatu	47	123147
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	5	1575814
Viet Nam	22	20336583
Wallis and Futuna Islands	1	115
West Bank and Gaza Strip	4	188996
Yemen	40	10818030
Zambia	69	11167993
Zimbabwe	61	9581865

Endnotes

- 1 World Health Organization (WHO), 2015
- 2 www.washwatch.org
- 3 Unicef, WHO, World Bank Group (2017) *Levels and trends in child malnutrition*. Available at: www.who.int/nutgrowthdb/estimates/en/
- 4 International Food Policy Research Institute (2016) *Global nutrition report 2016: From promise to impact: Ending malnutrition by 2030*. Available at: <http://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/130565-1.pdf>
- 5 UNESCO (2014) *Puberty education and menstrual hygiene management 2014*. Available at: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002267/226792e.pdf>
- 6 Jennifer Schappert, HER project and BSR at the Celebrating Women meeting in Geneva, 8 March 2013
- 7 McKinsey Global Institute (2015) *The power of parity: How advancing women’s equality can add \$12 trillion to global growth 2015*. Available at: <https://www.mckinsey.com/global-themes/employment-and-growth/how-advancing-womens-equality-can-add-12-trillion-to-global-growth>
- 8 www.washwatch.org
- 9 RE Black, CG Victora, SP Walker, ZA Bhutta, P Christian, M de Onis, et al; the Maternal and Child Nutrition Study Group. Maternal and child undernutrition and overweight in low-income and middle-income countries. *Lancet*, 2013;371:243–60. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(13\)60937-X](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(13)60937-X)
- 10 M Beach, T Streit, D Addiss, R Prospero, J Roberts and P Lammie (1999) Assessment of combined ivermectin and albendazole for treatment of intestinal helminth and wucheraria bancrofti infections in Haitian schoolchildren. *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, 60, 479-486. Available at: www.ajtmh.org/content/journals/10.4269/ajtmh.1999.60.479
- 11 www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/wash-health-care-facilities/en
- 12 www.washwatch.org
- 13 <https://washdata.org/data>
- 14 www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs178/en
- 15 www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty
- 16 WaterAid (2016) *Caught short: How a lack of toilets and clean water contributes to malnutrition*. Available at: www.wateraid.org/what-we-do/our-approach/research-and-publications/view-publication?id=3622F9E333B24DA399F5227D10E38D5B
- 17 www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/wash-health-care-facilities/en
- 18 www.washwatch.org
- 19 Unicef (2015) *Advancing WASH in schools monitoring*. Available at: [https://www.unicef.org/wash/schools/files/Advancing_WASH_in_Schools_Monitoring\(1\).pdf](https://www.unicef.org/wash/schools/files/Advancing_WASH_in_Schools_Monitoring(1).pdf)
- 20 International Centre for Diarrheal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b), WaterAid Bangladesh and Policy Support Unit (PSU), Local Government Division Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Dhaka, Bangladesh (2014) *Bangladesh national hygiene baseline survey: preliminary report*. Available at: www.wateraid.org/~media/Publications/Bangladesh-national-hygiene-baseline-survey.pdf
- 21 www.washwatch.org
- 22 Global Nutrition Report. Available at: www.globalnutritionreport.org/the-data
- 23 Unicef (2015) *Advancing WASH in schools monitoring*. Available at: [https://www.unicef.org/wash/schools/files/Advancing_WASH_in_Schools_Monitoring\(1\).pdf](https://www.unicef.org/wash/schools/files/Advancing_WASH_in_Schools_Monitoring(1).pdf)
- 24 www.washwatch.org
- 25 www.wateraid.org/ng/global/home/news/news/take-action-to-support-the-1-in-3-women-without-a-toilet
- 26 Hutton G and Varughese M (2016) The costs of meeting the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal targets on drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene. World Bank.
- 27 OECD Creditor Reporting System. Accessed 1 November 2017.
- 28 www.washwatch.org
- 29 WaterAid (2017) *Annual report 2016-17*. Available at: <https://www.wateraid.org/uk/uk/the-wonderful-things-you-did-annual-report-2016-17>
- 30 WHO (2015) *Water, sanitation and hygiene in health care facilities: Status in low- and middle-income countries and way forward*. Available at: http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/154588/1/9789241508476_eng.pdf?ua=1
- 31 www.washwatch.org
- 32 World Bank Global Poverty Working Group. Available at: www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty
- 33 World Bank World Development Indicators. Available at: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.IN>
- 34 World Health Organization (2012) *Global costs and benefits of drinking-water supply and sanitation interventions to reach the MDG target and universal coverage*. Available at: www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/2012/globalcosts.pdf
- 35 World Health Organization / Unicef (2017) Joint Monitoring Programme. Available at: <https://washdata.org>

One in three people around the world have nowhere decent to go to the toilet, trapping entire communities in a cycle of poverty. Women and girls bear the brunt of the global sanitation crisis. Being denied access to this basic human right threatens their health and education, while also exposing them to shame, fear and an increased risk of attack.

WaterAid's report, *Out of Order: The State of the World's Toilets 2017*, reveals the countries where women are struggling most to access a toilet, and highlights those that have made the most significant progress. It also lays out recommendations to overcome the challenge of making decent toilets normal for everyone by 2030, and to ensure these vital services meet the needs of women and girls everywhere.

Written by Laura Crowley with support from Carolynne Wheeler, Fiona Callister, Andrés Hueso, Louisa Gosling, Amy Keegan, Stuart Kempster, Richard Steele, Laura Summerton, Sam James, Pragma Gupta, Oluseyi Abdulmalik, Blessing Sani, Priya Sippy, and WaterAid's Voices from the Field team.

November 2017

www.wateraid.org
#StateOfToilets #OutOfOrder



For more information or to arrange interviews, please contact WaterAid's global media team:

Global/UK:

Laura Crowley, LauraCrowley@wateraid.org;
Carolynne Wheeler, CarolynneWheeler@wateraid.org;
Fiona Callister, FionaCallister@wateraid.org

Australia:

Kirrily Johns, KirrilyJohns@wateraid.org.au

Canada:

Christine LaRocque, CLarocque@wateraidcanada.com

India:

Pragya Gupta, PragyaGupta@wateraid.org

Sweden:

Magdalena Olsson, Magdalena.Olsson@wateraid.se;
Petter Gustafsson, Petter.Gustafsson@wateraid.se

USA:

Emily Haile, EmilyHaile@wateraid.org

Cover:

Ladi Mathias, 36, in a camp for displaced people in Abuja, Nigeria, stands by public toilets that are out of order, meaning she has to defecate in the bush.

WaterAid/ Simi Vijay