

TOWARDS A POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

WASH targets and indicators post-2015: outcomes of an expert consultation

JMP  World Health Organization  unicef



Photo: Katherine Anderson/WSSCC.

1 BILLION
PEOPLE STILL
PRACTICE OPEN
DEFECATION

36% OF
THE GLOBAL
POPULATION ARE
STILL WITHOUT
IMPROVED
SANITATION

768m
PEOPLE REMAIN
WITHOUT
ACCESS TO
AN IMPROVED
DRINKING
WATER SOURCE

Foundational principles: water, sanitation and hygiene are fundamental to human development

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are human rights, and key determinants of health, nutrition and education outcomes; they underpin all international development goals, are critical to economic growth and fundamental to human dignity. Turning these rights into reality is a compelling challenge in all countries with large numbers of people in need. The importance of increasing access to water and sanitation was recognized in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which will come to term in 2015. However, much remains to be done – progress is still needed to realize a world where there is sustainable and universal access to water, sanitation, and hygiene. Given this challenge, and the lessons of the MDGs, WHO and UNICEF, via their Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP), took the lead in gathering the larger development community to begin to contextualize and formulate new targets and indicators for WASH in the Post-2015 world.

The MDGs: where are we now?

The MDG target for water was met five years ahead of the 2015 deadline: 89% of the global population now has access to an improved drinking water source. However, 768 million people remain without access and many of those with improved sources still use water that is unsafe to drink. Two and a half billion people are still without improved sanitation (36% of the global population),

almost three-quarters of whom live in rural areas. Open defecation is still practiced by around 1 billion people (15% of the global population). The sanitation MDG will not be met and 2.5 billion people continue to lack access to basic sanitation. Inequalities exist in rural and urban environments: rural areas have the lowest coverage and are the poorest, whilst high levels of urbanization and environmental degradation mean that the future challenges are urban, in particular in informal settlements. However, inequalities extend beyond wealth and geography: girls and women are more likely to bear the burden of water collection, women without access to sanitation suffer the indignity of being forced to defecate in the open and are at risk from rape and assault, and the widespread lack of menstrual hygiene management facilities limits the participation of women and girls in education and the workplace. Furthermore, many groups that suffer exclusion for reasons such as their ethnicity or caste are also disadvantaged in their access to WASH.



Photo: World Bank / WSP. Sanitation workers in Burkina Faso.

**NO ONE
PRACTICES OPEN
DEFECATION**

**EVERYONE
HAS SAFE WATER,
SANITATION
AND HYGIENE
AT HOME**

**ALL SCHOOLS
AND HEALTH
CENTRES
HAVE WATER,
SANITATION
AND HYGIENE**

**WATER,
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A new era: the Post-2015 consultations

Anticipating the discussion on post-2015 development goals, WHO and UNICEF convened a first consultation with broad stakeholder representation in Berlin in May of 2011, to start a process of formulating proposals for post-2015 targets and corresponding indicators for water, sanitation, and hygiene, in the context of possible goals.

The first consultation reviewed the current global drinking-water and sanitation monitoring landscape, identified the strengths and weaknesses of the current MDG target and indicators, discussed the relevance of the principles underlying the human right to water and sanitation for consideration in future goals and targets, and reached agreement on a roadmap towards the formulation of a limited number of viable global targets and indicators for WASH.

To technically define and measure progress in the achievement of these visions, four working groups were created: **Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, and Equity and Non-Discrimination (END)**, each made up of technical experts and tasked with the development of targets and indicators for the specific sub-sector (except for END which was cross-sectoral). Participants agreed to reconvene for a second consultation in The Hague, Netherlands, in December of 2012 to review the work of the respective groups.

Process

Over the ensuing 18 months, the working groups, which included WASH sector and Human Rights experts and representatives from academia and the global monitoring community, developed proposals for targets and indicators. These were presented in a consolidated document to the wider development community during the second consultation held in The Hague in early December 2012.

The shared vision is that:

- **No one** practices open defecation
- **Everyone** has safe water, sanitation and hygiene at home
- **All schools and health centres** have water, sanitation and hygiene
- Water, sanitation and hygiene are **sustainable** and **inequalities have been progressively eliminated**.

The proposed targets address the objectives of progressive realization through **increasing the numbers of people using services**, through **reducing inequalities**, through **increases in service levels**, by driving progress in **schools and health centres** as well as households, by achieving **universal coverage** for as many parameters as possible within the 2015-2040 timeframe and by **sustained coverage** over the long term. At their core, the targets are aspirational and visionary. They do not merely formulate what is practical to achieve, but instead strive for the best we can do as a global society.

In the development of target and indicators, all working groups were asked to:

1. Focus on a “politically bankable” and relevant goal and let the formulation of targets and indicators be derived from there
2. Use the principles underlying the human right to safe drinking-water and sanitation as guidance for the formulation of goals, targets and indicators
3. Review relevant indicators and monitoring mechanisms for their potential to be used for global monitoring post-2015
4. Build on existing indicators and monitoring mechanisms to ensure continuity in global monitoring
5. Deliver a menu of options in their respective fields of one or more global goals, with corresponding targets and indicators

1 Working group leads: Drinking water: WaterAid and International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC); Sanitation: World Bank Water and Sanitation Program; Hygiene: US Agency for International Development (USAID); Equity and non-discrimination: UN-SG Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Water and Sanitation/Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR).

Photo: UNICEF. Village Khemji, Warora Block, Dist. Chandrapur. A home made toilet whose walls are made out of grass stacks is seen in Khemji.



Detailed Targets

The four targets include both interim and final targets and indicators and have received broad support among experts in the sector.

Target 1:

By 2025, no one practices open defecation, and inequalities in the practice of open defecation have been progressively eliminated.

Target 2:

By 2030, everyone uses a basic drinking water supply and handwashing facilities when at home, all schools and health centres provide all users with basic drinking water supply and adequate sanitation, handwashing facilities and menstrual hygiene facilities, and inequalities in access to each of these services have been progressively eliminated.

Target 3:

By 2040, everyone uses adequate sanitation when at home, the proportion of the population not using an intermediate drinking water supply service at home has been reduced by half, the excreta from at least half of schools, health centres and households with adequate sanitation are safely managed, and inequalities in access to each of these services have been progressively reduced.

Target 4:

All drinking water supply, sanitation and hygiene services are delivered in a progressively affordable, accountable, and financially and environmentally sustainable manner.

Scope of Targets: Reducing inequalities, realizing gain

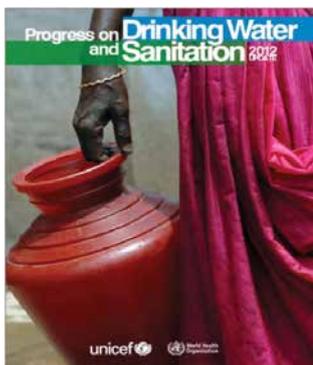
The targets are global, outcome-focused, and reflect a progressive realization of the human rights to water and sanitation. Based on the simple inspirational vision of the universal use of water, sanitation, and hygiene, they focus on the poor, disadvantaged, and excluded, at individual and household level, as well as in schools and health centres, through the progressive elimination of inequalities. The targets seek to both increase the number of people using water, sanitation, and hygiene as well as progressively improve levels of service. Lastly, the scope of the targets does not limit the scope in terms of what the Working Groups think needs to be regularly monitored and reported on.

Format of Targets: cohesive and simple:

There are between one and three targets per sub-sector, each with a set of accompanying indicators that are unambiguous, expressed in simple language to be as easily communicable as possible, and without professional jargon and excessive adjectives. The targets are cohesive, each with clear and comprehensive definitions, expressed in terms of a set of dates by which various levels of inequality reduction and improvements in service levels and practices will have taken place. They respect each sub-sector equally (not allowing one sub-sector to subsume another). As the target year of the future global development framework has not yet been set, a 25 year-period is assumed, between 2015 and 2040.

Photo: World Bank / WSP.
Children washing their hands in Peru.





Moving forward

During 2013, proposed indicators and their data sources will be further validated to ensure that the indicators robustly measure the proposed targets. The JMP will then collect information on the indicators where data is available in order to be able to establish a credible baseline by 2015.

While the WHO/UNICEF JMP is facilitating the technical process, a parallel political process has begun, with many groups reaching out to UN member states, championing WASH in the wider post-2015 discussions. No matter what framework is adopted for the post-2015 development agenda, these ambitious yet realistic targets can guide the way towards better water, sanitation and hygiene for all people, and in doing so will help reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development.



Photo: World Bank / WSP. Toilet on water in the Philippines.