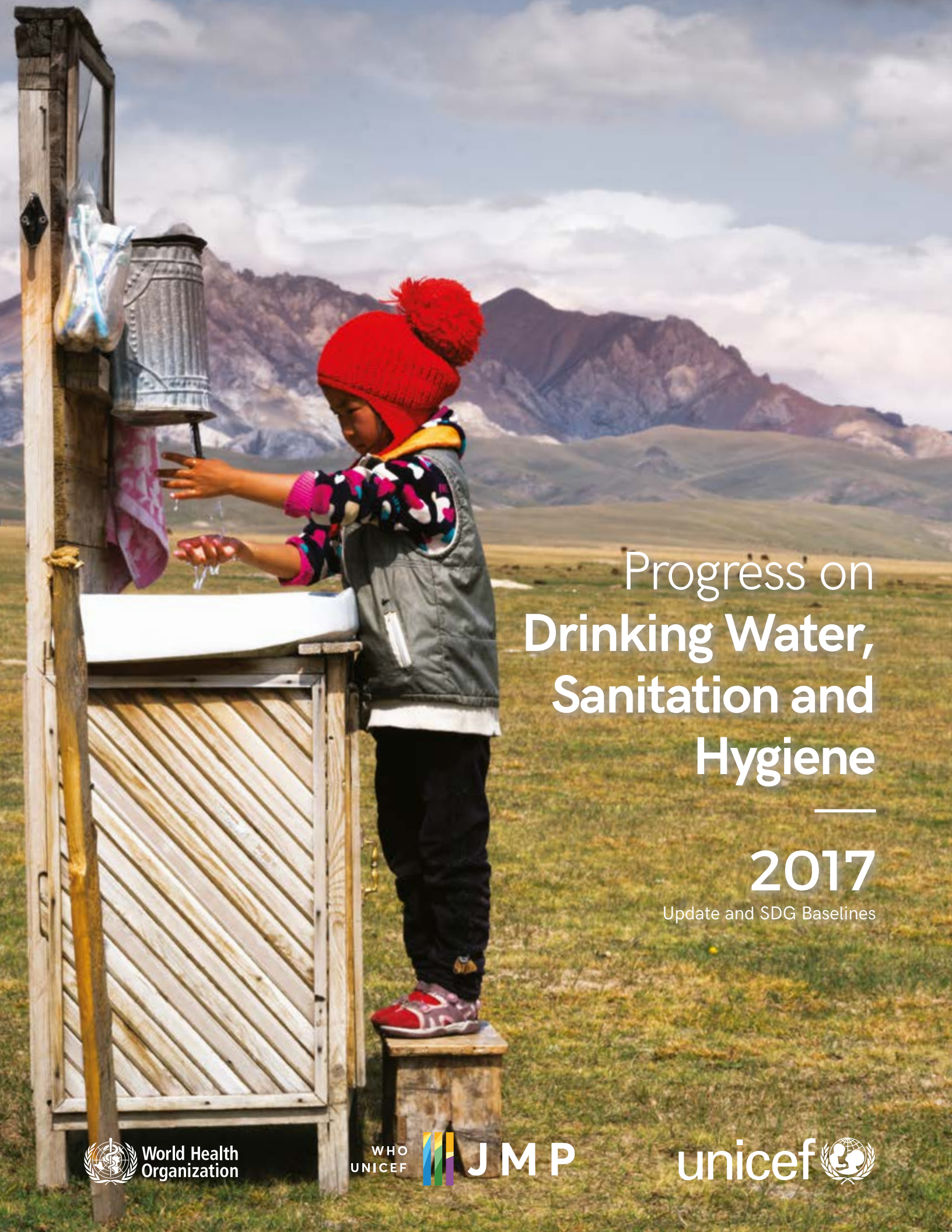


Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

2017

Update and SDG Baselines

World Health Organization

WHO UNICEF JMP

unicef



1. Highlights

The WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) has produced regular estimates of national, regional and global progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) since 1990. The JMP service 'ladders' enable benchmarking and comparison of progress across countries at different stages of development. This 2017 report introduces updated water and sanitation ladders which build on established indicators and establish new rungs with additional criteria relating to service levels. A third ladder has also been introduced for hygiene. The JMP will continue to monitor all rungs on each ladder, with a particular focus on those that relate to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) global targets and indicators.

Global goals, targets and indicators for drinking water, sanitation and hygiene

WASH SECTOR GOAL	SDG GLOBAL TARGET		SDG GLOBAL INDICATOR	
Ending open defecation	6.2	By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and **end open defecation**, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations	6.2.1	Population practising **open defecation**
Achieving universal access to basic services	1.4	By 2030, ensure all men and women, in particular the poor and vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as **access to basic services**...	1.4.1	Population living in households with access to basic services (including **basic drinking water, sanitation and hygiene**)
Progress towards safely managed services	6.1	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to **safe and affordable drinking water** for all	6.1.1	Population using **safely managed drinking water services**
	6.2	By 2030, achieve access to **adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene** for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations	6.2.1	Population using **safely managed sanitation services**
			6.2.1	Population with a basic **handwashing facility** with soap and water available on premises

Table 1

Updated JMP ladders for drinking water and sanitation and a new ladder for hygiene

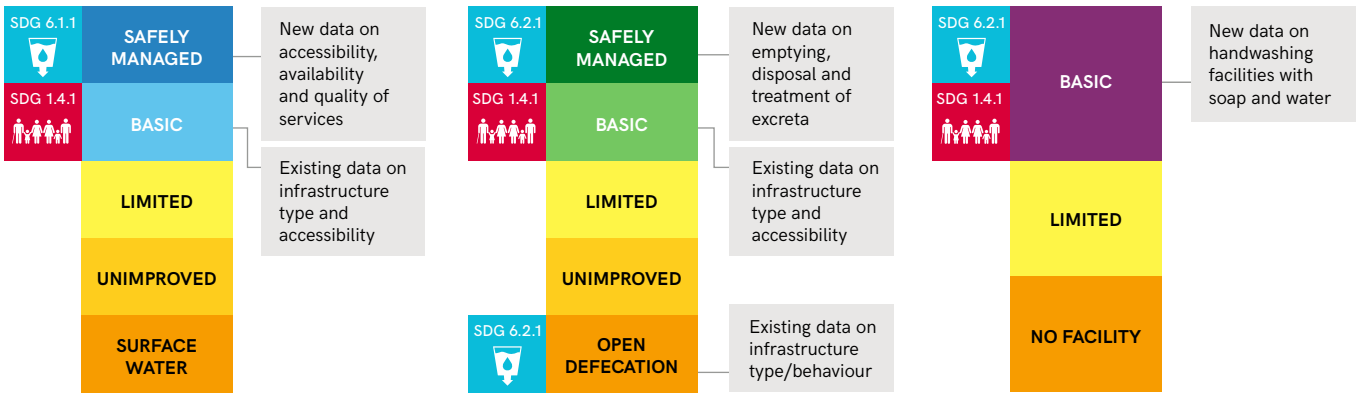


Fig. 1 Updated JMP service ladders

Drinking Water

Key messages

In 2015,

1. 71 per cent of the global population (5.2 billion people) used a **safely managed** drinking water service; that is, one located on premises, available when needed and free from contamination.
2. Estimates for **safely managed** drinking water were available for 96 countries (representing 35 per cent of the global population), and for four out of eight SDG regions[1].
3. One out of three people using **safely managed** drinking water services (1.9 billion) lived in rural areas.
4. Eight out of ten people (5.8 billion) used improved sources with **water available when needed**.
5. Three out of four people (5.4 billion) used improved sources **located on premises**.
6. Three out of four people (5.4 billion) used improved sources **free from contamination**.
7. 89 per cent of the global population (6.5 billion people) used at least a **basic** service; that is, an improved source within 30 minutes' round trip to collect water.
8. 844 million people still lacked even a **basic** drinking water service.
9. 263 million people spent over 30 minutes per round trip to collect water from an improved source (constituting a **limited** drinking water service).
10. 159 million people still collected drinking water directly from **surface water** sources, 58% lived in sub-Saharan Africa.

7 out of 10 people used safely managed drinking water services in 2015

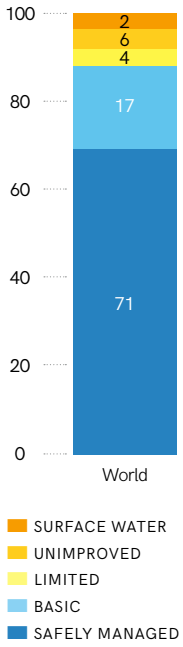


Fig.2 Global drinking water coverage, 2015

Estimates of safely managed drinking water services are available for four out of eight SDG regions

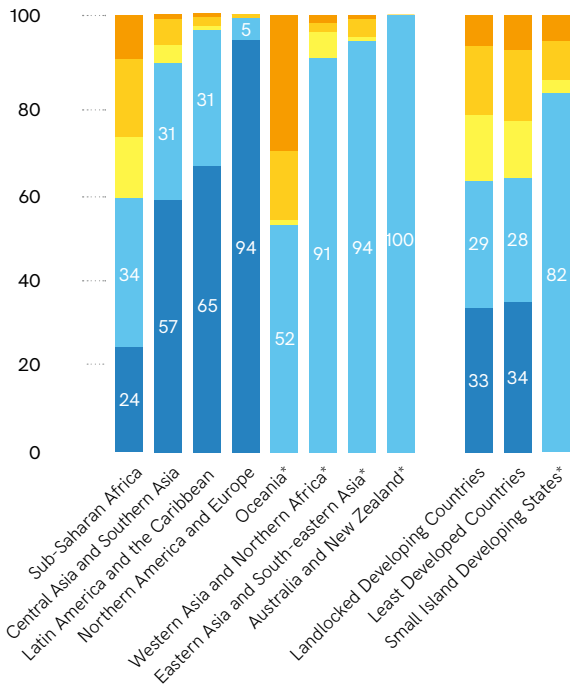


Fig. 3 Regional drinking water coverage, 2015[2]

* Insufficient data to estimate safely managed services.

By 2015, 181 countries had achieved over 75% coverage with at least basic drinking water services[3]

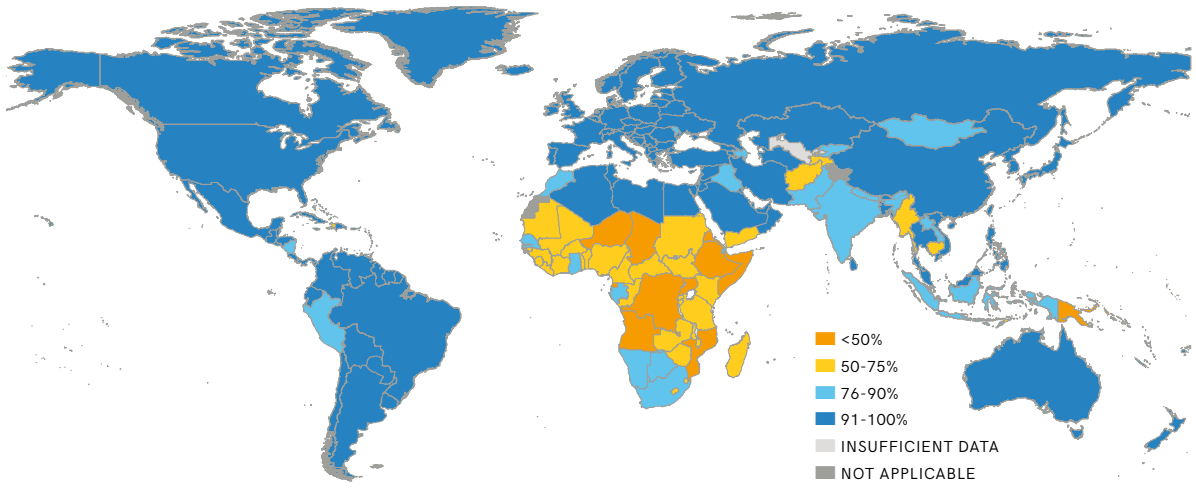


Fig. 4 Proportion of population using at least basic drinking water services, 2015

[1] National estimates are made where data are available for at least 50% of the relevant population. Regional and global estimates are made where data are available for at least 30% of the relevant population.
[2] This report refers to the SDG region of "Oceania excluding Australia and New Zealand" as Oceania.
[3] The JMP tracks progress for 232 countries, areas and territories, including all United Nations Member States. Statistics in this report refer to countries, areas or territories.

Sanitation

Key messages

In 2015,

1. 39 per cent of the global population (2.9 billion people) used a **safely managed** sanitation service; that is, excreta safely disposed of in situ or treated off-site.
2. Estimates for **safely managed** sanitation were available for 84 countries (representing 48 per cent of the global population), and for five out of eight SDG regions[4].
3. Two out of five people using **safely managed** sanitation services (1.2 billion) lived in rural areas.
4. 27 per cent of the global population (1.9 billion people) used private sanitation facilities connected to sewers from which **wastewater was treated**.
5. 13 per cent of the global population (0.9 billion people) used toilets or latrines where excreta were **disposed of in situ**.
6. Available data were insufficient to make a global estimate of the proportion of population using septic tanks and latrines from which excreta are **emptied and treated off-site**.
7. 68 per cent of the global population (5.0 billion people) used at least a **basic** sanitation service.
8. 2.3 billion people still lacked even a **basic** sanitation service.
9. 600 million people used a **limited** sanitation service; that is, improved facilities shared with other households.
10. 892 million people worldwide still practised **open defecation**.

Two out of five people used safely managed sanitation services in 2015

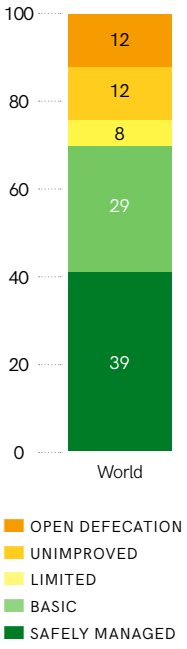


Fig.5 Global sanitation coverage, 2015

Estimates of safely managed sanitation services are available for five out of eight SDG regions

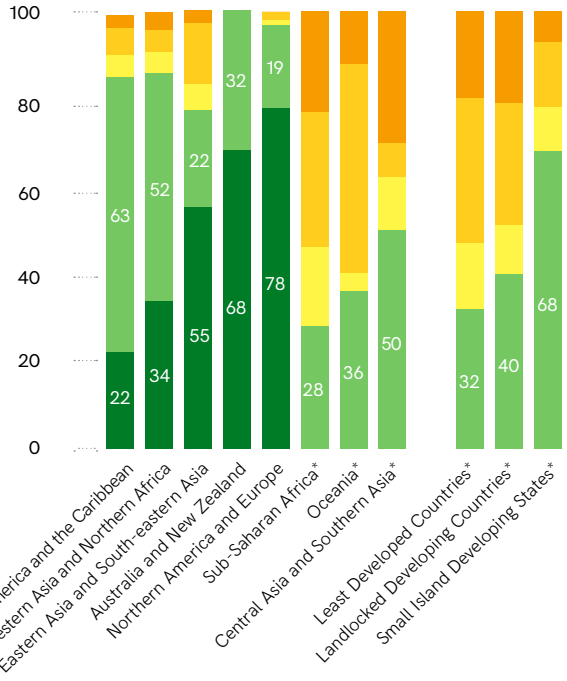


Fig. 6 Regional sanitation coverage, 2015

* Insufficient data to estimate safely managed services.

By 2015, 154 countries had achieved over 75% coverage with basic sanitation services

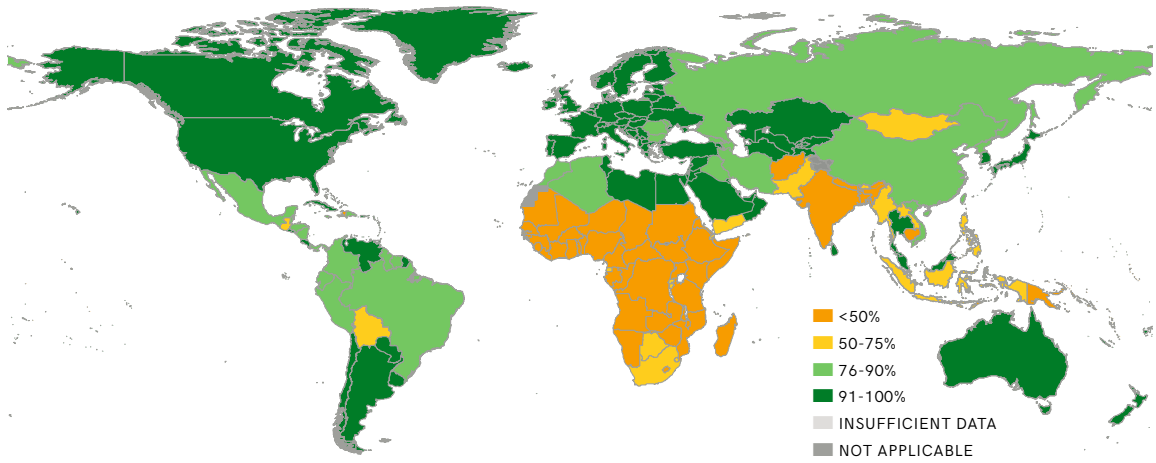


Fig. 7 Proportion of population using at least basic sanitation services, 2015

[4] National estimates are made where data are available for at least 50% of the relevant population. Regional and global estimates are made where data are available for at least 30% of the relevant population.

Hygiene

Key messages

In 2015,

1. 70 countries had comparable data available on handwashing with soap and water, representing 30 per cent of the global population.
2. Coverage of basic handwashing facilities with soap and water varied from 15 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa to 76 per cent in Western Asia and Northern Africa, but data are currently insufficient to produce a global estimate, or estimates for other SDG regions.
3. In Least Developed Countries, 27 per cent of the population had basic handwashing facilities with soap and water, while 26 per cent had handwashing facilities lacking soap or water. The remaining 47 per cent had no facility.
4. In sub-Saharan Africa, three out of five people with basic handwashing facilities (89 million people) lived in urban areas.
5. Many high-income countries lacked sufficient data to estimate the population with basic handwashing facilities.

70 countries had comparable data available on handwashing in 2015

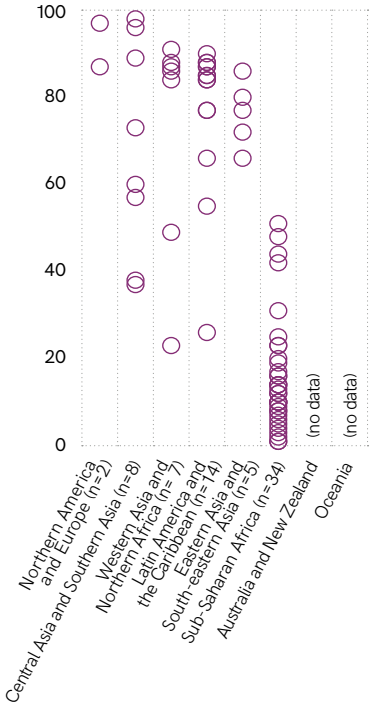


Fig.8 Proportion of population with basic handwashing facilities in 70 countries, 2015

A substantial acceleration is needed to end open defecation by 2030

Between 2000 and 2015, the number of people practising open defecation declined from 1229 million to 892 million, an average decrease of 22 million people per year. As shown in Figure 9, progress will need to accelerate in order to end open defecation by 2030.

All SDG regions saw a drop in the number of people practising open defecation, except for sub-Saharan Africa, where high population growth led to an increase in open defecation from 204 to 220 million, and in Oceania, where open defecation increased from 1 to 1.3 million.

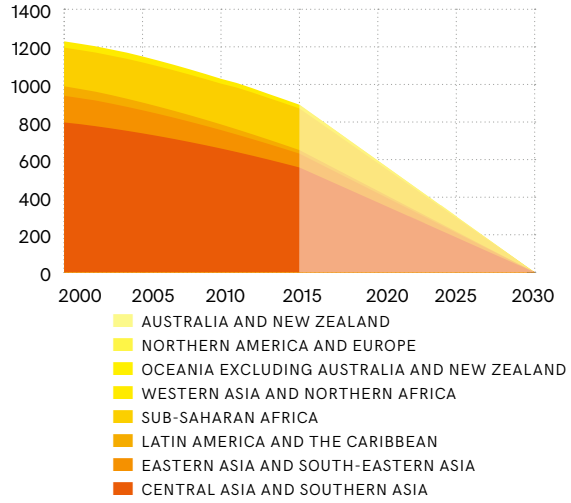


Fig. 9 Regional trends in national population practising open defecation, 2000–2015 (in millions)

In 2015, most countries in Africa had less than 50% coverage with basic handwashing facilities

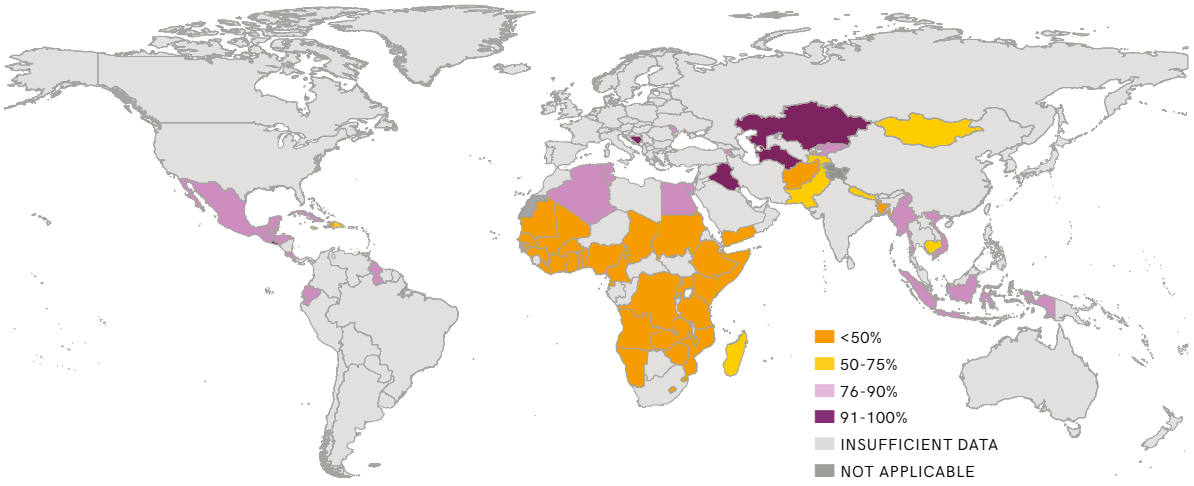
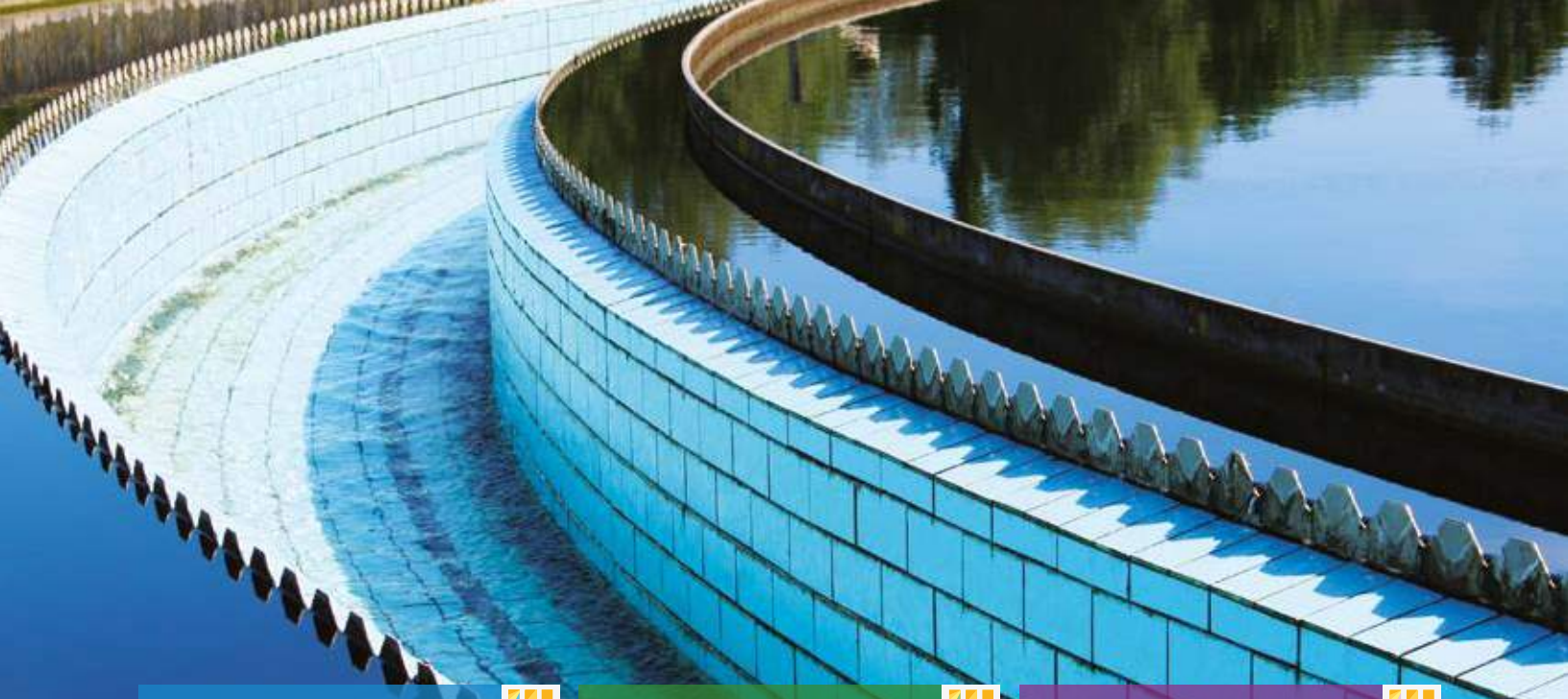


Fig. 10 Proportion of population with handwashing facilities including soap and water at home, 2015



DRINKING WATER

In 2015,

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- Three out of four people (5.4 billion) used improved sources **located on premises**.
- Three out of four people (5.4 billion) used improved sources **free from contamination**.
- 844 million people still lacked even a **basic** drinking water service.
- 263 million people spent over 30 minutes per round trip to collect water from an improved source (a **limited** drinking water service).
- 159 million people still collected drinking water directly from **surface water** sources, 58% lived in sub-Saharan Africa.

SANITATION

In 2015,

- 39 per cent of the global population (2.9 billion people) used a **safely managed** sanitation service; that is, excreta safely disposed of in situ or treated off-site.
- 27 per cent of the global population (1.9 billion people) used private sanitation facilities connected to sewers from which **wastewater was treated**.
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- Available data were insufficient to make a global estimate of the proportion of population using septic tanks and latrines from which excreta are **emptied and treated off-site**.
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- 600 million people used a **limited** sanitation service.
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HYGIENE

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- Coverage of **basic handwashing** facilities with soap and water varied from 15 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa to 76 per cent in Western Asia and Northern Africa, but data are currently insufficient to produce a global estimate, or estimates for other SDG regions.
- In Least Developed Countries, 27 per cent of the population had basic handwashing facilities with soap and water, while 26 per cent had handwashing facilities lacking soap or water. The remaining 47 per cent had no facility.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, three out of five people with basic handwashing facilities (89 million people) lived in urban areas.
- Many high-income countries lacked sufficient data to estimate the population with basic handwashing facilities.

JMP website: www.washdata.org

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