

Briefing: *What is Sanitation and Water for All?*

Enough resources should be available for water, sanitation and hygiene, to be spent where they are most needed and in the way that is most effective.

Global solution

The Sanitation and Water for All partnership can be the global solution to the water and sanitation crisis through:



UNICEF/Marvin Jones



Liberian WASH Consortium/Awren Kind

- providing the political leadership by governments to reversing the neglect of the crisis through the bi-annual High Level Meetings for Finance and Development Ministers.
- gathering and use of information about what the solutions are and where the communities most in need are through the GLAAS report.
- co-ordination and targeting of funds towards the communities most in need to speed up progress towards the MDGs through the National Planning for Results Initiative. The Liberian Government is working with SWA partners to create and deliver a plan for success.

Human cost of the water and sanitation crisis

Provision of water, sanitation and hygiene services is increasing but is not keeping pace with population growth and currently leaves 884 million people without clean drinking water, and 2.6 billion people without access to healthy sanitation. In Africa 350 people (64% of the population) will still not have clean drinking water in 2015¹, and the current rate of progress sanitation will be the most off-track Millennium Development Goal globally.

Economic cost of the crisis

Water and sanitation form the building blocks of development across the MDGs, and the economic case for funding water and sanitation is clear:

- If everyone had access to adequate sanitation and water services, the world's health sectors would save around \$12 billion every year²
- Every \$1 spent on sanitation brings a \$9 return by keeping people healthy and productive³
- Half of all hospital patients are due to water-related disease
- Diarrhoea is the biggest killer of children in Africa⁴
In Bangladesh alone, inadequate sanitation causes economic losses totaling US\$ 4.22 billion (Taka 30,000 crore) each year. This is equivalent to 6.3 percent of the country's GDP in 2007. Poor households are the biggest victims of inadequate sanitation: they experience about 71 percent of the total economic impact of inadequate sanitation⁵.
- Girls are not able to attend school because of fetching water and then lack of washrooms during puberty
- The productivity of women is dramatically reduced because of the need to fetch water
- Care for sick family members, health workers' care is comprised through lack of water and sanitation facilities in clinics and households
- Existing water and sanitation services lie unused because of lack of funds for maintenance or on-going hygiene promotion
- Allocated funds are not spent because of lack of planning for results at the local level.

Sanitation and Water for All Achievements to date

At the Sanitation and Water for All High Level Meeting during the World Bank Spring Meetings in April 2010, Ministers and representatives of 17 governments made substantial commitments⁶ and progress has been made⁷. Information gathering has been improved through the compiling and publishing of the GLAAS report⁸. National Compacts between governments, donors, civil society and other partners have been made in Ghana and Liberia and the National Planning for Results Initiative (NPRI) will result in progress.

High Level Meeting: April 2012 in Washington

The next High Level Meeting will take place in advance of the World Bank Spring meetings in April 2012, and to be most effective will require:

- national multi-stakeholder sanitation and water policy and budget reviews which fully involve civil society, in advance of the meeting
- donor governments working with each other to agree better coordination and targeting of funds towards the most in need countries and communities both globally and nationally
- High Level attendance by Finance and Development Ministers to report back on existing commitments and agree politically binding future funding and actions

¹ WaterAid analysis of WHO/UNICEF joint monitoring programme

² WSSCC GDP for GDP campaign, 2011

³ UNDP Human Development Report, 2006

⁴ World Health Organisation: Safer Water, Better Health, 2008

⁵ The Economic Impacts of Inadequate Sanitation in Bangladesh, WSP, 2011

⁶ The list of commitments, by country can be found at: www.sanitationandwaterforall.org

⁷ A report on the commitments made can be found at: www.sanitationandwaterforall.org

⁸ GLAAS website: http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/glaas/en/, see also the civil society website: www.washwatch.org