

Keep Your Promises on sanitation and water



Solving the sanitation and water crisis requires urgent political prioritisation, with a major increase in resources, better targeted funding to reach those most in need, and better planning for sustainable provision of sanitation and water for all.

Decision makers have committed to action at global level in the Millennium Development Goals; at the regional level in the Colombo Declaration at SACOSAN and eThekweni Declaration at AfricaSan; and made both regional and national commitments at the Sanitation and Water for All High Level Meeting in April 2012.

We welcome all of these commitments but too many remain unfulfilled or off-track, and we want to see an end to empty promises.

End Water Poverty are calling for a step change from all governments not only to reach the Millennium Development Goal targets, but to keep all of their promises to improve access to sanitation and water, and go beyond to achieve universal access.

We call on all leaders to honour the commitments that they have made and to move forward, taking decisive action to end the sanitation and water crisis:

1 Meet and surpass funding commitments for sanitation, water and hygiene to achieve universal access

• Country governments and donors should:

- Accelerate efforts towards the sanitation Millennium Development Goal target of halving, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to basic sanitation, and move beyond this towards universal coverage by 2020.¹

Funding for sanitation in particular needs

to be prioritised to enable all countries to reach and move beyond their MDG targets.

- Increase the proportion of funding for safe drinking water services to ensure that countries off-track for the water MDG target make rapid progress towards realising this, and move beyond to universal coverage.

• Country governments should:

- Take steps to meet their national water and sanitation budgetary commitments, including those made at the Sanitation and Water for All High Level Meeting in April 2012.
- Develop robust and accountable national planning processes for water and sanitation to deliver on these commitments.
- Establish adequate public sector budget allocations and ensure clear budget lines for water, sanitation and hygiene.

- African countries who signed the eThekweni Declaration must honour their pledges to commit at least 0.5 percent of GDP to funding sanitation and hygiene by 2015. In order to meet the MDG target, all off-track countries in Sub-Saharan Africa should go beyond this to spend at least 1% of GDP on sanitation and 2.5% on water supply each year.²

- The countries who signed the Colombo Declaration at the SACOSAN IV conference should keep their commitments to progressively increase, in real terms, allocations to sanitation and hygiene over time and, in order to meet the MDG target, the countries off-track in South Asia should spend at least 1% GDP on sanitation each year.³

- Donor governments and organisations should double global aid flows to sanitation, water and hygiene to enable off-track countries to reach their MDG targets (i.e. an additional US \$10 billion per year up to 2015 and beyond).⁴

Water and sanitation underpin all aspects of human development and investing in them will accelerate progress in health, education and economic productivity

2 Better target funding and utilise and monitor this funding to ensure the poorest countries and most vulnerable communities are reached:

- **Donors should:**
 - Retarget their funding to the most off-track regions and countries, including sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Oceania.
- **Country governments and donors should:**
 - Target investment at basic services in both rural and urban areas to ensure all vulnerable communities are reached, rather than neglecting rural areas where more than three quarters of those who lack access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation live.⁵
 - Allocate funding to ensure that access to WASH services is equitable across the entire population including the most vulnerable, specifically women and girls and those living with disabilities.
 - Ensure long-term sustainability and quality of services by allocating more funding and attention towards water quality testing, management, operation and maintenance of services in addition to training and capacity building. Increased investment in locally-led, affordable, sustainable technology in rural areas.
 - Develop transparency and accountability mechanisms, including a tracking system for sanitation and water financing, to enable participatory monitoring, and feedback systems between users and service providers.

3 Governments support and promote the prioritisation of sanitation and water nationally, regionally and globally beyond 2015, specifically by:

- Prioritising the achievement of sustainable and universal access to safe sanitation and drinking water and putting key mechanisms in place for delivering this.
- Going beyond basic or minimum access towards efficient, affordable and sustainable clean sanitation and water services.
- Giving a higher priority to safe sanitation and drinking water than they were given within the MDGs, when they were agreed as targets within a much broader global Goal.
- Setting local, national, regional and global sanitation and water goals with clear localised annual or biennial milestones.
- Focusing on the implementation of the human right to water and sanitation and the indicators of accessibility, affordability, availability, safety and non-discrimination.
- Developing appropriate monitoring mechanisms to ensure joint accountability and support civil society participation in the monitoring process.

¹ For countries making this commitment at The 4th UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries, May 2011

² Off track, off target, WaterAid report, November 2011 (Scale of spending on average needed if MDG targets are to be achieved in all regions)

³ Off track, off target, WaterAid report, November 2011

⁴ Off track, off target, WaterAid report, November 2011 (Scale of spending needed if MDG targets are to be achieved in all regions)

⁵ GLAAS Report, UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water, 2012



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