

- More than 1.6 billion people have gained access to improved drinking water sources between 1990 and 2006 (DevInfo).
- Still, there are 2.5 billion people lacking access to improved sanitation facilities (DevInfo).
- The number of people who need to be reached with improved sources of drinking water by 2015 to meet the MDG target is 1.1 billion (DevInfo).
- Dirty water and inadequate sanitation kill over 4,100 children every day (DFID).
- Huge disparities exist between regions: while access to drinking water through a household connection in rural areas is as low as 5% in sub-Saharan Africa, it is much higher in Eastern Asia (62%), North Africa (63%) and Western Asia (57%), (DFID).
- The lowest sanitation coverage is found in sub-Saharan Africa, where only 31% of the population uses improved sanitation, up just 5% since 1990 (DFID).