

# Sanitation and Water for All: A Global Framework for Action



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**Sanitation and drinking water underpin all aspects of human and economic development. Yet some 2.6 billion people lack access to basic sanitation, of which 1.1 billion practice open defecation because they lack any facilities at all. If current trends continue, it is estimated that the MDG target related to sanitation will not be met globally until 2049. Investing in sustainable sanitation and drinking water improves health, reduces health care costs, boosts productivity and increases the return on investments in education. The economic benefits of achieving universal access to sanitation and drinking water are estimated at US \$171 billion per year.**

## A Global Partnership

Sanitation and Water for All is a global partnership that aims to address critical barriers to achieving universal and sustainable sanitation and drinking water for everyone. These barriers include insufficient political prioritisation, weak sector capacity to develop and implement effective plans and strategies, and uncoordinated and inadequate investments in these plans and strategies. Sanitation and Water for All aims to provide a common vision and a set of values and principles for a transparent, accountable and results-oriented framework for action to address these obstacles to global progress.

The partners of Sanitation and Water for All are developing countries, donors, multi-lateral agencies, civil society and other development organisations working together to achieve universal and sustainable access to sanitation and drinking water, with an immediate focus on meeting the Millennium Development Goals in the most off-track countries.

The partnership is based on mutual trust, support, and commitment to principles of aid effectiveness, including national ownership of plans. Together, the Sanitation and Water for All partners will work to:

- **INCREASE POLITICAL PRIORITISATION** for sustainable access to sanitation and drinking water through activities such as high level events that review progress, catalyse coordinated action, and focus on the impacts of access to sanitation and drinking on economic growth and human development.
- **PROMOTE EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION MAKING** on sanitation and drinking water by compiling, analysing and promoting information about what works to scale up sustainable delivery of services. Sanitation and Water for All will also enhance regional and bi-lateral collaboration between partners and support global and regional assessments on issues such as investment flows, coverage and institutional capacity.
- **SUPPORT STRONG NATIONAL PROCESSES** that align with agreed benchmarks for the development and implementation of sustainable sanitation and drinking water services. Sanitation and Water for All will mobilise catalytic funding and provide specific technical assistance to the most off-track countries, where this is not available through existing mechanisms.

By strengthening political prioritisation, evidence-based planning and national processes, Sanitation and Water for All aims to:

- **INCREASE THE IMPACT OF RESOURCES** as a result of generating high level support for improved targeting and effectiveness of existing and additional resources, with a focus on marginalised populations and countries that are most off-track to meet the MDG targets related to sanitation and water.
- **STRENGTHEN MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY** as a result of building political will, supporting strong national processes, and creating a forum for discussion on sustainable access to sanitation and drinking water for all.

For more information about Sanitation and Water for All, please visit:  
[www.sanitationandwaterforall.org](http://www.sanitationandwaterforall.org)