

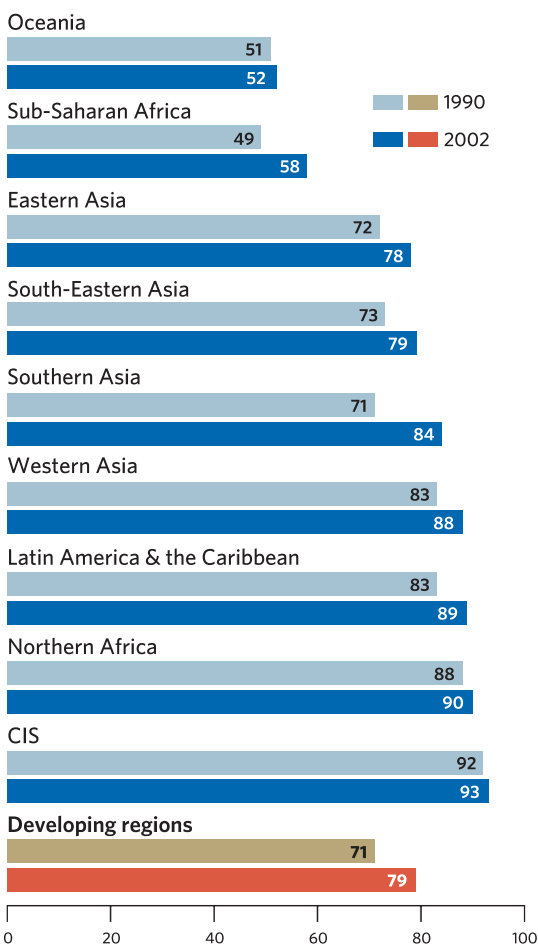
TARGET

Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

During the 1990s, access to improved drinking water sources increased substantially. However, over a billion people have yet to benefit, with lowest coverage in rural areas and urban slums. Much slower progress has been made globally in improving sanitation. An estimated 2.6 billion people — representing half the developing world — lack toilets and other forms of improved sanitation.

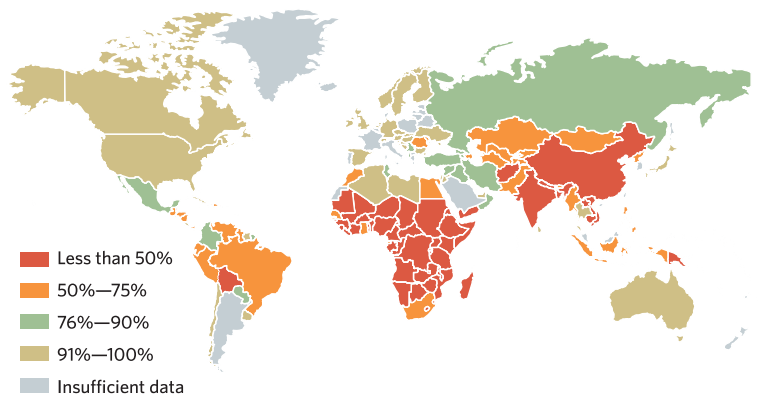
Access to safe drinking water has improved worldwide

Proportion of population using improved sources of drinking water, 1990 and 2002 (Percentage)



The proportion of population using safe sources of drinking water in the developing world rose from 71 per cent in 1990 to 79 per cent in 2002. The most impressive gains were made in Southern Asia. This jump was fuelled primarily by increased coverage in India, home to over 1 billion people. The good news — gains in all regions since 1990 — is counterbalanced by the fact that 1.1 billion people were still using water from unimproved sources in 2002. In sub-Saharan Africa, where 42 per cent of the population is still unserved, the obstacles to progress, which include conflict, political instability and low priority assigned to investments in water and sanitation, are especially daunting given high population growth rates.

Half the developing world lacks improved sanitation

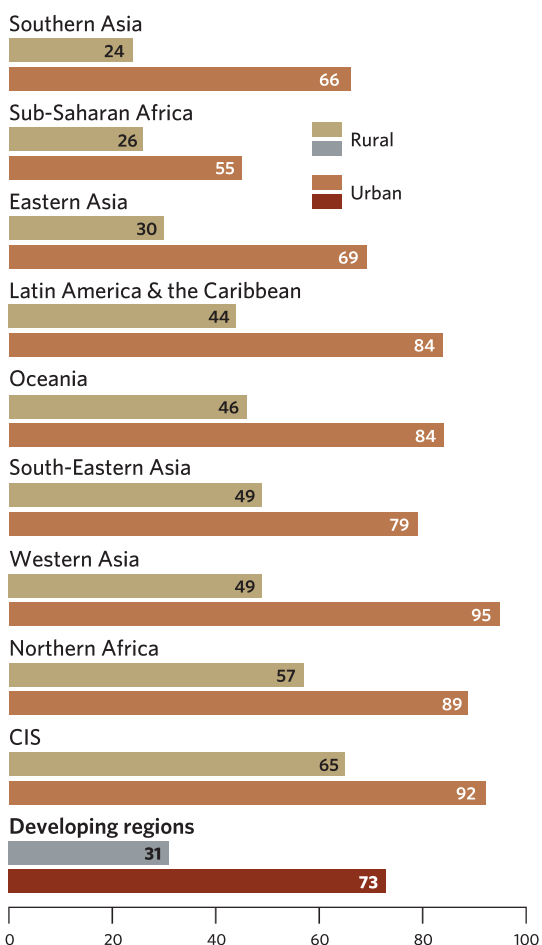


Proportion of population using improved sanitation, 2002 (Percentage)

Sanitation coverage in the developing world rose from 34 per cent in 1990 to 49 per cent in 2002. If present trends continue, however, close to 2.4 billion people worldwide will still be without improved sanitation in 2015, that is, almost as many as there are today. The sanitation target can be met only with a dramatic increase in investment in services.

Policy makers must focus on the poor in rural areas and urban slums

Proportion of population using improved sanitation in urban and rural areas, 2002 (Percentage)



Sharp disparities in access to sanitation exist between urban and rural areas. Rural populations have less than half the coverage of urban areas. But statistics on coverage in urban areas mask the deprivation in urban slums. Both use of safe water and basic sanitation coverage remain extremely low in the burgeoning slums of the developing world.

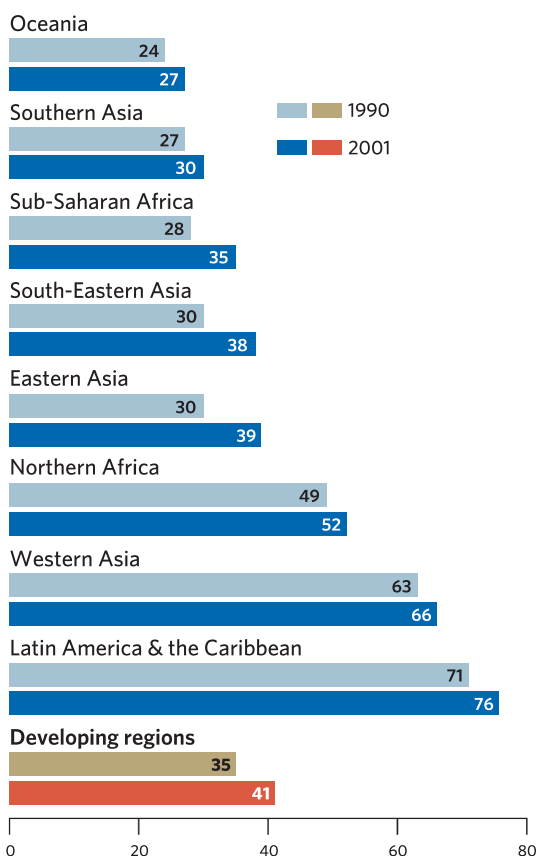
Overall in the developing world, the richest 20 per cent of households are twice as likely to use safe drinking water sources as the poorest 20 per cent of households, and four times more likely to use improved sanitation.

TARGET

By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers

City dwellers are about to outnumber rural populations in the developing world

Proportion of people living in urban areas, 1990 and 2001 (Percentage)

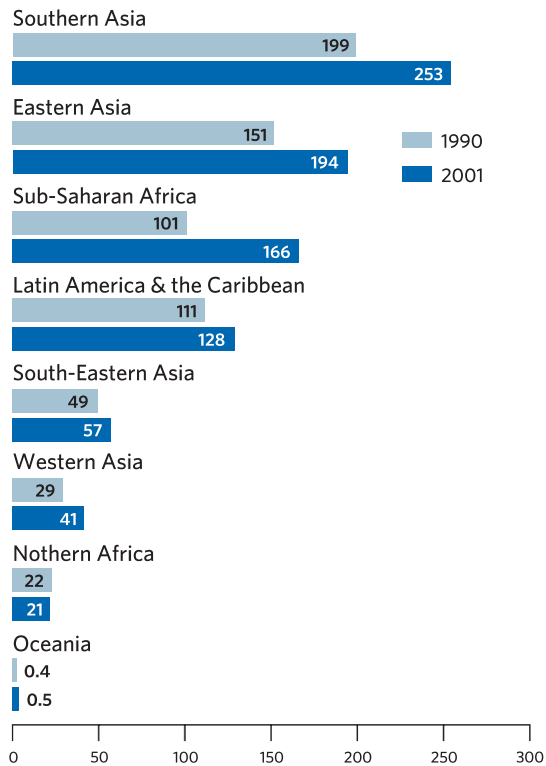


The urban population of developing countries is growing at a rate of more than 3 per cent per year, three times faster than in rural areas. This means that, because of migration to the cities and additional births, about 100 million people are added to urban communities of the developing world each year. By 2007, the number of people living in cities is expected to exceed the rural population in developing regions.

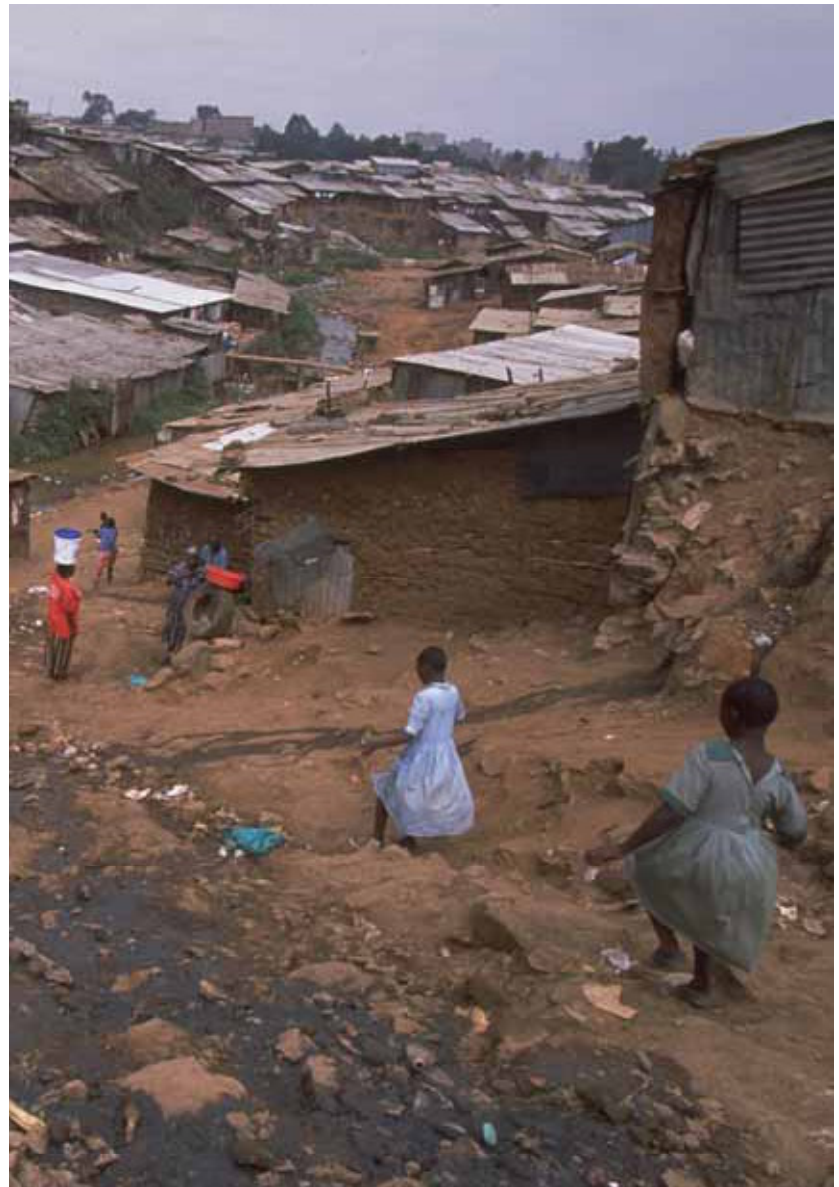
Nearly one in three city dwellers — almost 1 billion people — lives in slums, in conditions characterized by overcrowding, little employment or security of tenure, poor water, sanitation and health services, and widespread insecurity, including violence against women. Not surprisingly, disease, mortality and unemployment are considerably higher in slums than in planned urban settlements. Surveys suggest that in some African cities, the death rate of children under age 5 who live in slums is about twice as high as that of children in other urban communities.

The growth in the number of slum-dwellers is outpacing urban improvement

Number of urban dwellers living in slums, 1990 and 2001 (Millions)



Together, Southern Asia, Eastern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa account for more than two thirds of people living in slums. In most regions, countries are making efforts to provide alternatives to the formation of slums. But because of the rapid expansion in urban populations, the number of slum-dwellers is increasing in all developing regions, except Northern Africa.



Proven measures to improve slum conditions must be scaled up

Even as urban areas continue to grow, a number of developing countries have shown that it is possible to improve the living conditions of slum-dwellers. Doing so on a massive scale will be required to meet the Millennium Development Goals target. Senegal and South Africa, for example, have improved health and employment among people in urban slums. Policymakers in Brazil and India were successful in upgrading *favelas* and slums by strengthening protection against forced and unlawful evictions. In Egypt, South Africa and Thailand, secure tenure, coupled with access to credit, has encouraged residents to invest in their homes.