

MDG 7

ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

MDG target: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to basic sanitation

Basic sanitation

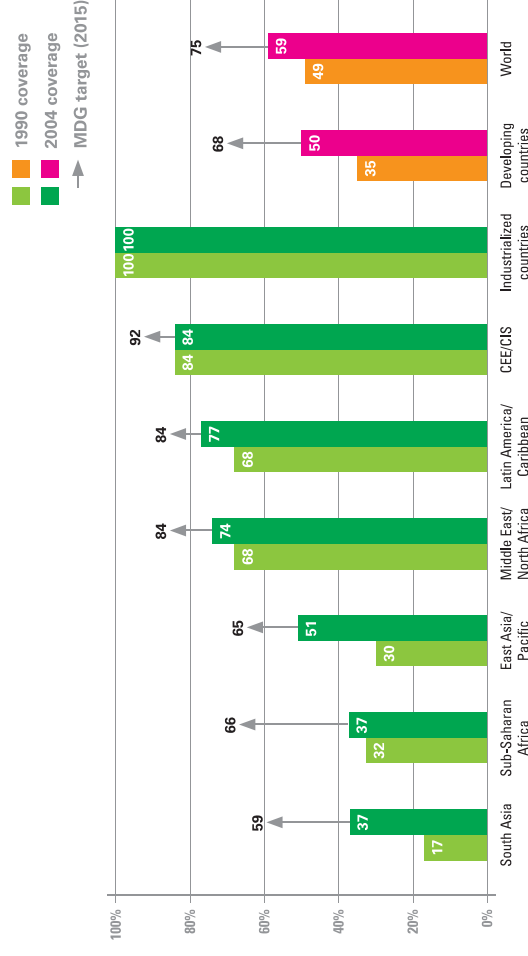
Sanitation coverage increased from 49 per cent in 1990 to 59 per cent in 2004. But the rate of progress is insufficient to meet the 2015 MDG target. If current trends continue, the target will be missed by more than half a billion people. In 2004, 41 per cent of the world's population – 2.6 billion people – did not use improved sanitation facilities.

Lack of sanitation – along with poor hygiene and unsafe drinking water – contributes to the deaths of more than 1.5 million children each year from diarrhoeal diseases. In addition, hundreds of millions of children suffer reduced physical growth and impaired cognitive functions due to intestinal worms.

Simply keeping pace with population growth remains a huge challenge, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, where the number of people without access to sanitation has increased by more than 100 million since 1990. Limited political support is one of the major barriers to progress.

EAST ASIA/PACIFIC, MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN ARE ON TRACK TO REACH THE MDG TARGET BY 2015

Progress towards the MDG target on basic sanitation, by region (1990 and 2004)



ABOUT 2.6 BILLION PEOPLE DID NOT USE IMPROVED SANITATION FACILITIES IN 2004

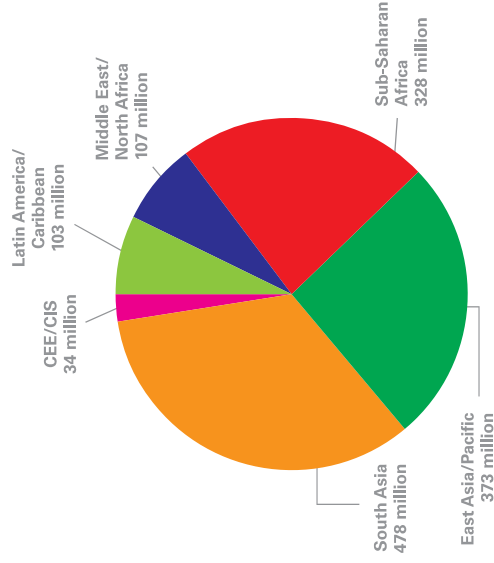
Most lived in rural areas

Population (millions) who did not use improved sanitation facilities, by region (2004)

Region	Rural (millions)	Urban (millions)	Total (millions)
East Asia/Pacific	722	222	944
South Asia	768	153	921
Sub-Saharan Africa	322	118	440
Latin America/Caribbean	64	60	124
Middle East/North Africa	74	22	96
CEE/CIS	45	18	63
Developing countries	1,995	593	2,588
World	1,996	593	2,590

MEETING THE MDG TARGET MEANS REACHING 1.6 BILLION PEOPLE WITH IMPROVED SANITATION FACILITIES BY 2015

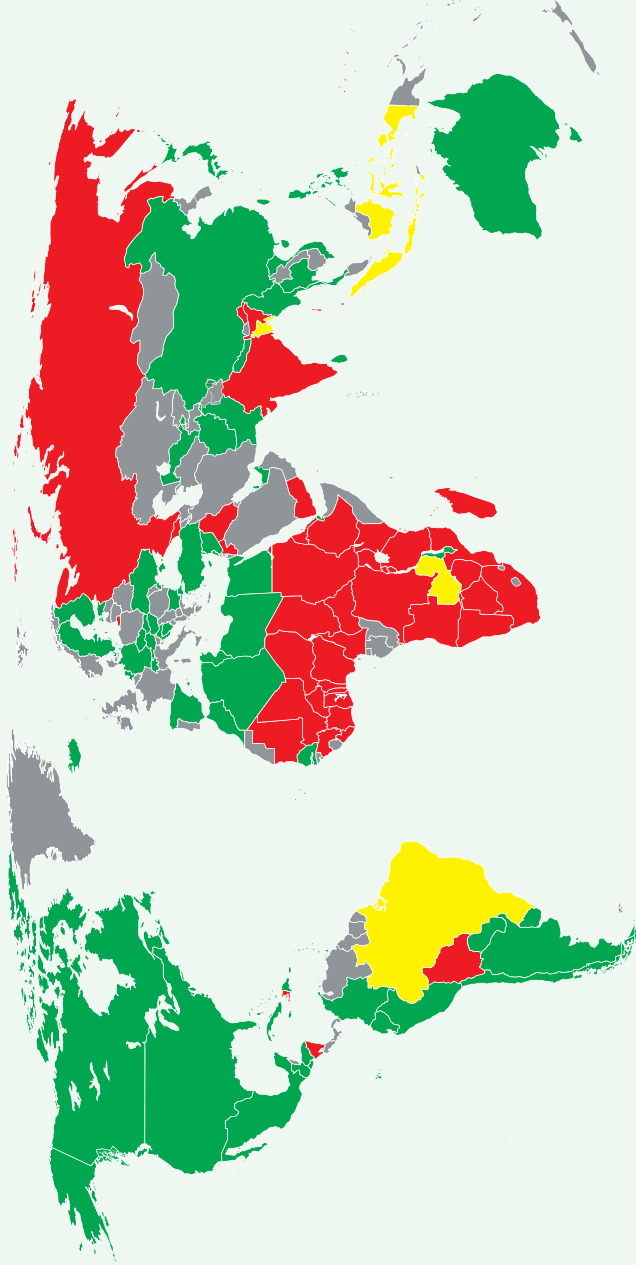
Population who will gain access to improved sanitation facilities if the MDG is met



Note: The difference between the global total (1.6 billion) and the sum of the regions (1.4 billion) is significant and is due to rounding of the global and regional MDG targets to an integer.

51 DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE ON TRACK TO REACH THE MDG TARGET ON BASIC SANITATION

Progress in 4 developing countries has been insufficient to reach the target, and 41 developing countries have made no progress

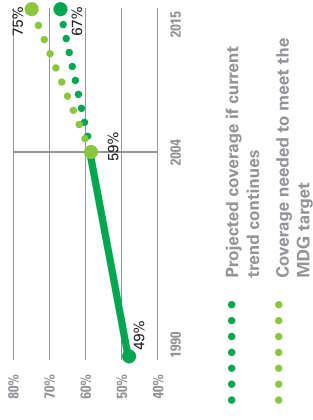


Progress towards the MDG target with countries classified according to the following thresholds:

- **On track:** Use of improved sanitation facilities in 2004 was less than 5 per cent below the rate needed for the country to reach the MDG target, or use was 95 per cent or higher
- **Insufficient progress:** Use of improved sanitation facilities in 2004 was 5 per cent to 10 per cent below the rate needed for the country to reach the MDG target
- **No progress:** Use of improved sanitation facilities in 2004 was more than 10 per cent below the rate needed for the country to reach the MDG target, or the 1990–2004 trend shows unchanged or decreasing use
- **Data were insufficient to estimate trends**

THE WORLD IS NOT ON TRACK TO MEET THE MDG TARGET ON BASIC SANITATION

Global trends in coverage of improved sanitation facilities



Notes on figures on pages 40–41: 'Improved sanitation facilities' is an MDG indicator and proxy for basic sanitation. Calculations of progress are based on WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) data for 1990–2004.

Source for figures: JMP data for 1990–2004.