

Results achieved by sector – Water and Sanitation

Sustained utilisation of safe drinking water and hygienic latrines together with habitual hand washing with water and soap is effective in reducing diarrhoea and could prevent almost 1,000 unnecessary child deaths every day¹. The SDG 6 is to: '*Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*'. Under this Goal, target 6.1 is: By 2030 ensure universal access to safe and affordable drinking water; and target 6.2 is: By 2030, ensure access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations. These targets are a significant increase in ambition from the MDGs, which only required a halving of the proportion of the population that lacked access. At the end of the MDG period, 663 million people continued to lack access to an improved water supply and 2.4 billion people lacked access to improved sanitation, with almost 1 billion people continuing to defecate in the open². It has been estimated that 1.8 billion people drink water that is contaminated by faeces³.

DFID commitment

DFID has committed to help at least 60 million people get access to clean water and sanitation, to stop terrible diseases as part of Strategic Objective 4: *Tackling extreme poverty and helping the world's most vulnerable*. The commitment was also made in the UK Aid strategy published at the end of 2015 and reflects the manifesto commitment made by the Conservative party in the 2015 election.

Indicators used to measure progress

The indicator used to monitor progress is the:

- Number of people with sustainable access to clean water and/or sanitation through DFID support.

This indicator is composite (it is a combination of sub-indicators individually counting people gaining access to a water supply and those gaining access to sanitation) and cumulative (annual results are reported and summed over the entire reporting period). The indicator requires each person reached is counted only once, irrespective of whether they got access to both improved water supply and improved sanitation. It also assumes that all people receiving access to water supply and/or sanitation also receive hygiene education.

¹ WHO (2014), Preventing diarrhoea through better water, sanitation and hygiene: exposures and impacts in low- and middle-income countries

² WHO and UNICEF 2015. Joint Monitoring Program Report on Progress on sanitation and drinking water and MDG assessment.

³ Bai et al. 2014. Fecal contamination of drinking-water in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *PLoS Medicine*: 2014;11:e1001644

Results achieved

In 2015–16, DFID had achieved the following:

- Supported 11.3 million people to access clean water and/or better sanitation

A total of 19 DFID Departments contributed results to meeting the target.

The largest contributing programmes to these results were two centrally managed programmes managed by the Human Development Department (4.4 million). The majority of these came from the WASH Results Programme implemented by 3 consortiums of NGOs, with some results also contributed from a central programme with UNICEF. Contributions of more than 0.4 million came from 9 DFID Country programmes: Zimbabwe (1.14 million), Bangladesh (0.87 million), Zambia (0.84 million), DRC (0.63 million), Burma (0.58 million), Sierra Leone (0.5 million), India (0.46 million), South Sudan (0.45 million) and Somalia (0.43 million). Delivery channels vary, but overall UNICEF remain the largest delivery partner for DFID water and sanitation programmes.