Different manifestations of inequality in access to water and sanitation

Rolf Luyendijk
Sr. Statistics and Monitoring Specialist
UNICEF - New York

LSHTM, UNC Water Institute,
UNICEF, WHO, WSSCC

University of North Carolina
Water and Health Conference
29 October 2012
Narrowing the Gaps - Equity Focus
Right in Principle, Right in Practice

Human Rights Principles
- Universality, non-discrimination and accountability

Conventional wisdom: equity is inefficient
- Reaching hard to reach: too costly, too difficult
- Reaching better off: easier, more cost effective

However....

The Poor and Disadvantaged Suffer Multiple Deprivations
- Greatest needs amongst the unreached

This suggests that a greater equity focus can:
- be more cost effective
- accelerate progress towards MDGs
Regional and country averages mask huge disparities in sanitation coverage

Sources: JMP 2012 for all estimates except the wealth quintiles, which are based on UNICEF special tabulation of Zimbabwe DHS 2010.
Disparities in access by ethnicity

Sanitation coverage by mother tongue of head of Household (%)

Source: Lao PDR MICS 2011
In-country geographic disparities

Sanitation coverage by geographic region (%)
Source: Lao PDR MICS 2011
Most people in informal settlements of Mombassa rely on water kiosks

Source: MICS, Mombassa informal settlements, 2009
The Human Right to Water and Sanitation

HRTWS principles:
- Safe
- Reliable
- Sufficient quantity
- Accessible
- Affordable
- Dignity

Scope:
- Households/population
- Schools/health centers
- Public institutions
- Geographic, urban/rural/slums
- Ethnicity/Caste/Religion/Stigma
- Gender
- Age
- Disability

Equity and non-discrimination

Water
Sanitation
Hygiene
Hand washing, MHM
Serving the poorest last
Serving the poorest last

Egypt

- **Poorest**: 22% in 1995, 99% in 2008
- **2nd**: 3% in 1995, 100% in 2008
- **3rd**: 1% in 1995, 100% in 2008
- **4th**: 1% in 1995, 100% in 2008
- **Richest**: 100% in both 1995 and 2008

- **Improved facilities** shown in green
- **Unimproved facilities** shown in yellow
- **Open defecation** shown in grey
Serving the poorest last

Jordan

Poorest

2nd

3rd

4th

Richest


- Improved facilities
- Unimproved facilities
- Open defecation
Equitable progress across wealth quintiles

Bangladesh

Poorest

2nd

3rd

4th

Richest

1995 2008

1995 2008

1995 2008

1995 2008

Improved facilities

Unimproved facilities

Open defecation

Improved facilities

Unimproved facilities

Open defecation

Improved facilities

Unimproved facilities

Open defecation

Improved facilities

Unimproved facilities

Open defecation

Improved facilities

Unimproved facilities

Open defecation

Improved facilities

Unimproved facilities

Open defecation

Improved facilities

Unimproved facilities

Open defecation

Improved facilities

Unimproved facilities

Open defecation

Improved facilities

Unimproved facilities

Open defecation

Improved facilities

Unimproved facilities

Open defecation

Improved facilities

Unimproved facilities

Open defecation

Improved facilities

Unimproved facilities

Open defecation
Inequitable progress across wealth quintiles

India

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quintile</th>
<th>1995</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poorest</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richest</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Open defecation
- Unimproved facilities
- Improved facilities

Source: UNICEF
Who benefitted from improvements in sanitation 1995 – 2008?

India

- Poorest: 3%
- 2nd: 9%
- 3rd: 21%
- 4th: 46%
- Richest: 21%
Open defecation declined from 25% to 15% yet the number of open defecators dropped from 1.2 to 1.1 billion.
What are the determinants underlying these different equity patterns?

– Policies?
– Social norms?
– Investments?
– Discrimination?
– Political?
– Geographical?
– Human resources?
– Poor governance?
– Overall (economic) development?
– All (or a combination) of the above?
– Other.....?
So we need to know more..........................

- We need to improve monitoring?
- Collect more information, more data, more research why the poor aren’t reached...

And/or do more........

We could support governments to prioritize the poor and most disadvantaged
- Use existing evidence that the poor are not reached
- Find out what the ‘bottlenecks’ are for reaching the poor
- Hold administrators accountable for reaching the poor
- Try to achieve equitable progress across wealth quintiles and disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged groups

After all........we knew all along that the poor are worst off
Thank You!

Visit:
JMP Website: www.wssinfo.org

UNICEF Statistics website: www.childinfo.org