



Aid Works

America Making A Difference

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

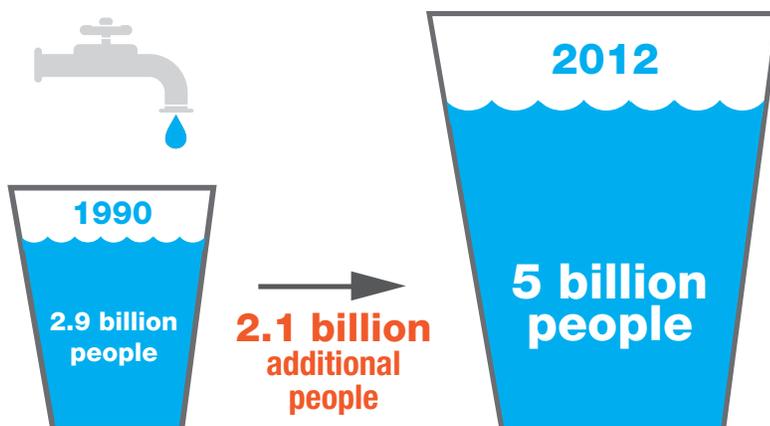
The U.S. Role

The U.S. has provided significant leadership to help tens of millions of people gain access to safer drinking water and sanitation facilities globally. USAID leads U.S. efforts in this sector, focusing primarily on improving health outcomes through the provision of sustainable safe drinking water and sanitation, as well as managing water for agriculture to improve food security.¹ (continued on back)

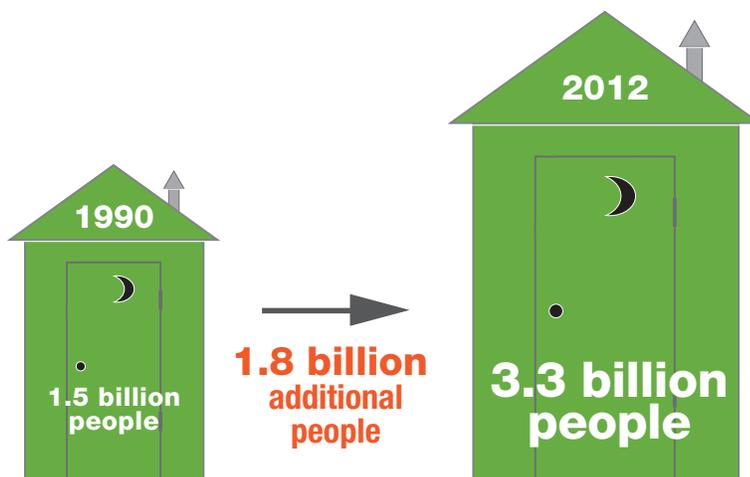
Achievements

- » As a result of USAID assistance, since 2005, **31 million people** gained access to safer drinking water, and **12 million people** gained access to improved sanitation.³ To reach these numbers, USAID invested in hardware suitable for less-developed-country use; strengthening of service providers; behavior-change programs; and promotion of more favorable host-country policies.
- » Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) projects since 2004 have provided cleaner water to **680,000 people** and access to improved sanitation to **218,000 people**. The MCC has also supported the enactment of numerous policy reforms and significant capacity-building by partner governments to maximize the durability of the improvements achieved.⁴

Between 1990 and 2012
2.1 billion people
gained access to
safer drinking water,



and **1.8 billion people**
gained access to
improved sanitation.²



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Why it Matters

- » **748 million people** still lack access to clean, safe drinking water and **2.5 billion (1 out of 3 globally)** do not have access to adequate sanitation (such as a toilet or latrine).⁵
- » In 2012, an estimated 842,000 people died – **including 361,000 children** – from diarrhea caused by inadequate drinking water, sanitation, and hand-washing in low and middle income countries.⁶
- » The lack of safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene contributes significantly to undernutrition,⁷ parasitic worm infections⁸, stunting, and cognitive development delays.⁹
- » According to recent research, each \$1.00 invested in clean water and sanitation yields a **\$4.30 return** through increased productivity and decreased health care costs.¹⁰

The U.S. Role (continued)

USAID partners with private sector actors in this sector, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation¹¹, Rotary International¹², and Coca-Cola¹³. The MCC and other U.S. government agencies also play important roles.¹⁴



Photo: USAID/LGCD

Success Story:

A Winning WASH Formula in Afghanistan: It Starts with Sustainability¹⁵

▲ Children in Nawa, Afghanistan fill their containers with fresh running water.

Despite decades of conflict, the biggest threats facing children in Afghanistan are unsafe water and sanitation: six Afghan children die every hour from diarrheal diseases. Starting in 2009, Afghan villagers mobilized to improve water and sanitation with the help of USAID's Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation (SWSS) project, building or renovating 38,388 latrines and over 2,670 wells. SWSS trained local mechanics to maintain the wells and created a phone and website-based system for reporting and addressing maintenance issues leading to greater community ownership and sustainability.

To create a lasting impact, SWSS also engaged with Afghan ministries, community leaders, and villagers to promote behavior change that, when paired with improved facilities, would reduce disease. Part of the strategy included community-led total sanitation (CLTS) – a collective behavior-change methodology that invokes feelings of shame by demonstrating how fecal matter can contaminate water resources when people defecate in the open.

SWSS thus mobilized communities and focused on both infrastructure and behavior change, and villagers saw the fruits of their labor. "Clean water has decreased the level of diarrheal diseases and enhanced the economic status of local residents," said Sayed Wali of Nangarhar province.

Endnotes

- 1 "USAID Water and Development Strategy, 2013-2018," May 2013, USAID.
- 2 Numbers are from "Progress on Drinking-Water and Sanitation, 2014 UPDATE," World Health Organization (WHO)/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation. For definitions of "improved" water source and sanitation, see "Definitions and Methods," WHO/UNICEF JMP, www.wssinfo.org/definitions-methods/.
- 3 "Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005: Annual Report to Congress," 2006-2013. www.state.gov/e/oes/water/waterforthepeer. Also "Water and Sanitation," USAID. www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/water-and-sanitation.
- 4 MCC projects included construction of 1,138 water points, 37,371 latrines. "Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene Common Indicators," 12/10/13, www.mcc.gov/pages/sectors/evaluation/water-and-sanitation. Also, "Water Beneficiaries Fact Sheet – Mar14," provided by MCC. Also, "MCC's Commitment to Sustainable Clean Water, ..." www.mcc.gov/documents/press/factsheet-2010002010806-water.pdf, and MCC country briefs, e.g., "Mozambique: Water, Roads, Land Tenure, and Farmer Income," November 2013.
- 5 "Progress on sanitation and drinking-water: 2014 update," WHO and UNICEF, p. 8.
- 6 Prüss-Ustün, A., Bartram, J., et al. "Burden of disease from inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene in low- and ...," pp. 6, 7, 9. *Tropical Medicine & International Health*. April, 2014.
- 7 Dangour AD, Watson L, et al. "Interventions to improve water quality and supply, sanitation and ...," The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, 2013, Issue 8, Article CD009382.
- 8 "Eliminating soil-transmitted helminthiasis as a public health problem in children: progress report 2001-2010 ..." WHO, 2012, p. 1.
- 9 Spears, Dean. "How much international variation on height can sanitation explain?" World Bank, 2013, p. 2.
- 10 Hutton, Guy. "Global costs and benefits of drinking-water supply and sanitation interventions..." WHO, 2012, pp. 4-5.
- 11 "WASH FOR LIFE," USAID. www.usaid.gov/div/portfolio/wash-life.
- 12 "USAID and Rotary Clubs Join..." USAID. www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/usaaid-and-rotary-clubs-join-provide-clean-water-and-improved.
- 13 "Water and Development Alliance," Global Environment and Technology Foundation. www.getf.org/our-projects-partnerships/wada/.
- 14 "Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act: Report to Congress," U.S. Department of State, June 2010, pp. 71-74.
- 15 Adapted from "It Starts with Sustainability: A Winning WASH Formula in Afghanistan," USAID, Sept. 2013. www.usaid.gov/global-waters/june-2012/starts-with-sustainability.