

SANITATION AND HYGIENE



Sanitation is defined as access to and use of facilities and services for the safe disposal of human excreta. In addition to preventing disease by avoiding contact with pathogens or parasites contained in excreta, sanitation also aims to promote human dignity and well-being. Sanitation services range from the provision and emptying of toilets to the transport, treatment and final disposal or use of excreta. Handwashing, as part of personal hygiene, removes infectious agents from hands and prevents the spread of disease.

Faecal sludge being delivered to a treatment plant in Dakar, Senegal.

KEY RISKS TO HEALTH

BILLIONS OF PEOPLE DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO SAFE SANITATION



2/5

people used safely managed services in 2015. The remaining 3 used sanitation defined as basic sanitation (29%), open defecation (12%), unimproved (12%) or limited sanitation (8%).

4.5 B

Nearly 4.5 billion people still lacked access to sanitation services that safely manage excreta so that they do not contaminate water supplies, fresh produce and beaches.

2.3 B

2.3 billion people (or 32% of the global population) were still lacking basic sanitation (that is, a private household toilet).

892 M

892 million people still practised open defecation.

INADEQUATE SANITATION AND HYGIENE RESULTS IN THOUSANDS OF DEATHS



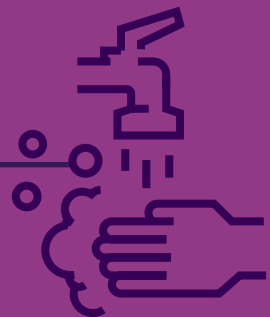
432 K

About 432 000 diarrhoea deaths were caused by inadequate sanitation, including 153 000 children aged under 5 years.



165 K

An estimated 165 000 diarrhoea deaths were caused by inadequate hygiene.



26%

Only an estimated 26% of the world population is estimated to wash hands with soap after contact with excreta.



Woman washing clothes at river Ganges in Varanasi, India.

WHAT ARE KEY ACTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT?

Key actions to improve sanitation and hygiene include the following:

1.

Open defecation

End open defecation through demand creation and supply of safe toilets.

2.

Safe toilets and handwashing facilities

Ensure entire communities have access to safe toilets that contain excreta and use basic handwashing facilities, at home, at school, in health facilities and at work.

3.

Safe excreta management

Work towards universal safe excreta management along the sanitation chain using risk assessment and management approaches, health protective technologies and efficient operation and maintenance.

4.

Hand hygiene

Increase hand hygiene with hygiene promotion interventions.

5.

Agriculture

Ensure safe practices where wastewater and excreta are used in agriculture and aquaculture.

6.

Antimicrobial resistance

Combat antimicrobial resistance through sanitation and hygiene for infection prevention and through improved wastewater management.

7.

Health sector function

Strengthen the health sector function to coordinate, target, and integrate sanitation and hygiene in health programmes where they are needed for primary prevention (for example neglected tropical diseases, nutrition, and disease outbreaks).

MAIN WHO ACTIONS

WHO actions on sanitation and hygiene include the following:

SDG indicators

Report on SDG indicators 6.2.1 (on proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services) and 6.3.1 (on proportion of wastewater safely treated), as well as indicators on WASH resource allocation (6.a) and WASH-related disease (3.9), in cooperation with partners.

Sanitation and health guidelines

Promote guidelines in sanitation and health and facilitate their application into country programmes.

Sanitation safety planning

Scale up support to sanitation safety planning for implementation of sanitation and health guidelines and guidelines on safe use of wastewater, greywater and excreta.

Recreational water safety

Update global guidance and promote preventive management of water quality at recreational beaches.

Health care facilities

Assist in improving safe WASH in health care facilities.

Neglected tropical diseases

Accelerate and sustain progress on control and elimination of neglected tropical diseases through the WASH and neglected tropical disease strategy and toolkit.

Antimicrobial Resistance

Support implementation of the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance through WASH for infection prevention and safer management of wastewater.

SECTORAL POLICIES INTERACTING WITH SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Cooperation with the following sectors may be required to sustainably reduce risks to health:



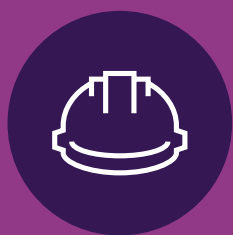
Water and sanitation



Industry



Agriculture



Labour



Health

Further information: http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/en/;
<https://washdata.org/>.

Source: <http://www.who.int/phe/publications/healthy-environments/en/index.html>, WHO, 2019



World Health Organization