

# WATER AND SANITATION

With 322 million people lacking access to clean water and 463 million people without adequate sanitation services, sub-Saharan Africa has the world's lowest rates of water and sanitation coverage.<sup>1</sup> A growing body of evidence reveals the potential returns from a comprehensive investment in water and sanitation for these un-served populations.<sup>2</sup>

## IMPROVED HEALTH

Together, unclean water and poor sanitation are a leading cause of child mortality: an estimated 5,000 children die daily from diarrhoea, which is spread through poor sanitation and poor hygiene. Universal access to improved sanitation could reduce diarrhoea-related morbidity by more than a third.<sup>3</sup> If the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets on water and sanitation are met there will be 124,000 fewer child deaths in sub-Saharan Africa in 2015.<sup>4</sup>

## MORE TIME FOR WORK AND SCHOOL

On average, women and girls in developing countries walk 6 kilometres a day to collect water, greatly limiting their time for other productive work or school.<sup>5</sup> In total, an estimated 40 billion hours are spent collecting water each year in sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>6</sup> Access to water and sanitation has a direct effect on school attendance: studies have found that about half of girls who drop out of primary school in sub-Saharan Africa do so because of a lack of separate toilets and easy access to safe water.<sup>7</sup>

## HIGH ECONOMIC RETURNS

It is estimated that every \$1 spent on water and sanitation generates returns of \$8 in saved time, increased productivity and reduced health costs.<sup>8</sup> If the MDG targets on water and sanitation are met by 2015, the reduced expenditure on water-related diseases would save national governments in sub-Saharan Africa about 12% of annual public health spending, which translates into \$2 per capita.<sup>9</sup>

Scarcities of water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa will be exacerbated as new challenges such as climate change and urbanisation emerge. Projections indicate that by 2020 climate change will expose an additional 75 to 250 million people to water stress in the region.<sup>10</sup> In cities, water and sanitation systems will struggle to provide for an urban population that is expected to double between 2000 and 2030.<sup>11</sup> Past experience demonstrates the stress that this increased demand will place on water and sanitation services: between 1990 and 2004, sub-Saharan Africa saw an 85% increase in its urban population and a doubling in the number of urban dwellers without access to water and sanitation.<sup>12</sup>

## WHAT DID THE G8 PROMISE?

### PARAGRAPH 18i

‘Implementing the G8 water action plan agreed at Evian, in partnership with the African Development Bank initiative on rural water and sanitation, including through increasing aid in this sector; maintaining political momentum and commitment on the water issue; and reinforcing co-ordination and monitoring mechanisms.’<sup>9</sup>

### INTERPRETING THE COMMITMENT

With no quantitative target set by the G8, DATA's interpretation of their commitment to water and sanitation is derived from their pledge at Gleneagles to ‘increase aid’ to water and sanitation and their reference to the Water Action Plan from the 2003 G8 summit in Evian. In the Water Action Plan, the G8 agreed to the following:

### PARAGRAPH 2.1

‘In line with the Monterrey Consensus and the WSSD Plan of Implementation, bearing in mind the different needs of rural and urban populations, we are committed to give high priority in Official Development Aid (ODA) allocation to sound water and sanitation proposals of developing country partners. This can be a catalyst to mobilise other financial flows.’<sup>9</sup>

DATA interprets the Gleneagles commitment to ‘increase aid’ and the Evian commitment to ‘give high priority’ to the water and sanitation sector to mean that, at a minimum, the proportion of development assistance dedicated to water and sanitation should be held constant as overall development assistance increases. Because sub-Saharan Africa has the lowest rates of access in the world to improved water and sanitation sources, the region should receive at least the same proportion of ODA that is given to water and sanitation globally. Water and sanitation comprised 5.5% of global ODA from 1990–2005.<sup>13</sup> Thus to fulfil its Gleneagles commitment on water and sanitation and to prioritise sub-Saharan Africa as a region, DATA believes that each G8 donor nation should dedicate at least 5.5% of its ODA to water and sanitation.

## HOW AMBITIOUS WAS THE G8 PROMISE?

The G8's commitment to water and sanitation at Gleneagles failed to set a concrete quantitative target for filling the financing gap faced by sub-Saharan Africa in meeting the MDG water and sanitation targets. Meeting these targets would mean that by 2015 the proportion of people without access to improved water and sanitation sources would be halved in comparison with 1990 levels.

DATA's interpretation of the Gleneagles commitment is ambitious because, if fulfilled, by 2010 it would mean scaling up G8 development assistance for water and sanitation to exceed the G8's equitable share of sub-Saharan Africa's financing gap. If the G8 abide by their ODA and water and sanitation commitments as interpreted in this report, a total of \$2.57 billion would be directed from the G8 to water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa in 2010; this would exceed the G8's annual share of the total financing gap to meet the MDG targets on water and sanitation of \$2.27 billion a year.<sup>14</sup> However, the financing gap is annual and therefore, up until 2010, the G8 would be falling short of the total required. The following graph compares the G8's share of the estimated resource gap for meeting the MDG target with the resources that would be mobilised if the G8 dedicated 5.5% of their total ODA to sub-Saharan Africa to the water and sanitation sector.

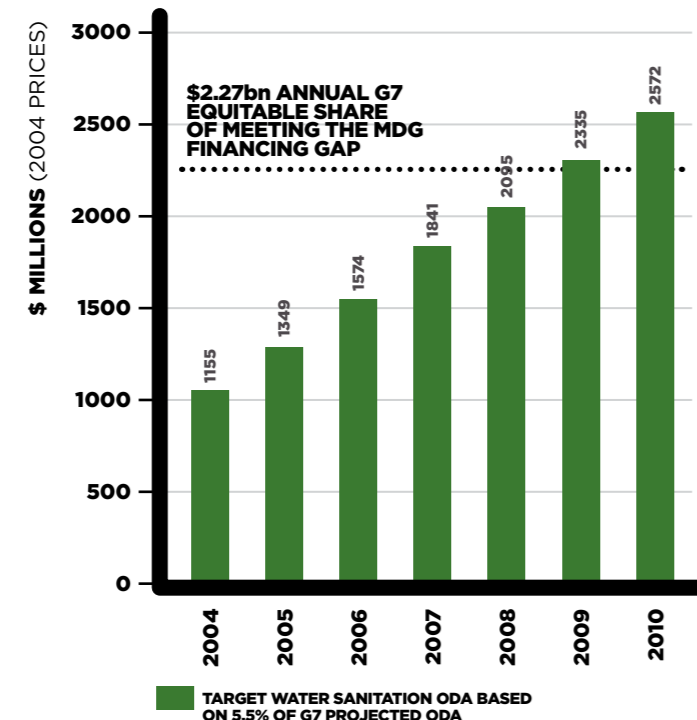
## DELIVERING THE PROMISE

With the lowest levels of coverage in the world, sub-Saharan Africa is set to miss the MDG water target by 25 years and the sanitation target by 61 years.<sup>15</sup> The proportion of people with access to an improved water source increased from 49% in 1990 to 56% in 2004 but, to be on track, 63% of people should have had access by then. If current trends continue, the number of people without access to clean water in sub-Saharan Africa will grow by 47 million by 2015.<sup>16</sup>

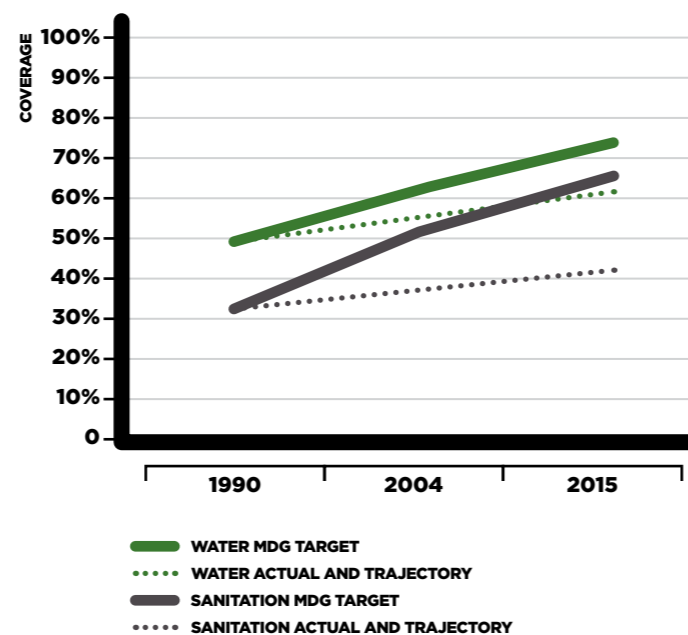
Progress in sanitation coverage has been even less impressive. The proportion of people with access to improved sanitation in the region only increased from 32% in 1990 to

37% in 2004. By then, 51% of people should have had access to improved sanitation to be on track to reach the MDG target. At the current rate, the number of people in sub-Saharan Africa without access to improved sanitation is projected to increase by 91 million between 2004 and 2015.<sup>17</sup>

**HOW AMBITIOUS IS THE 5.5% TARGET FOR MEETING THE WATER AND SANITATION MDGS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA?**



**IS SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA ON TRACK TO MEET THE MDG TARGETS FOR WATER AND SANITATION?**



**MEETING URBAN AND RURAL NEEDS**

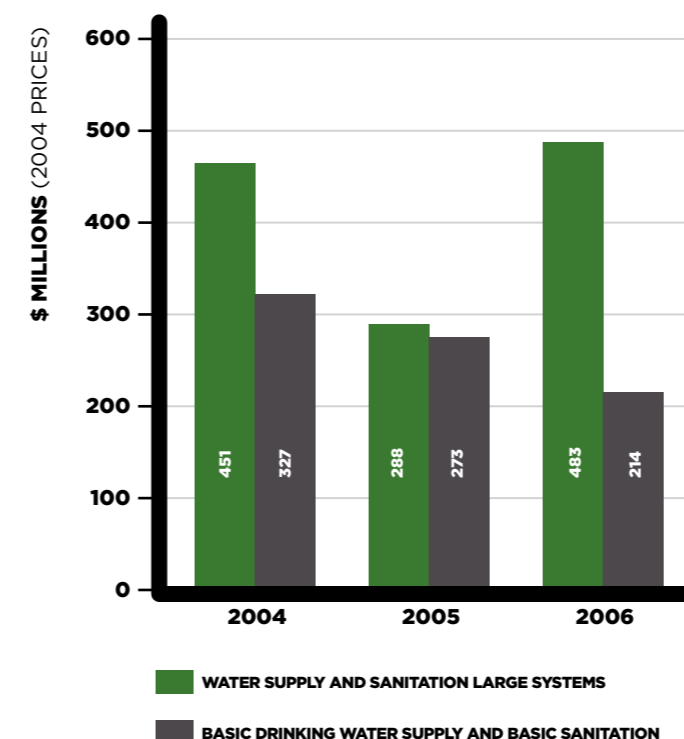
A key area of focus in the water and sanitation sector must be the provision of services to both urban and rural populations. Africa has the world's starkest disparity between urban and rural areas in terms of access to clean water and the second largest gap in access to sanitation.<sup>18</sup> In 2004, only 42% of people in Africa's rural areas had access to clean water (compared with 80% in urban areas) and only 28% had access to basic sanitation (compared with 53% in urban areas).<sup>19</sup>

In the 2003 Evian Water Action Plan, the G8 promised to take into account 'the different needs of rural and urban populations'. The G8 can address the unique needs of urban and rural populations through the allocation of development assistance within the water and sanitation sector. Development assistance for water and sanitation is channelled into four

main areas: basic water and sanitation, large systems, systems support and waste management. While urban areas usually receive funding that is directed to large systems, rural areas are typically outside formal networks and rely on basic water and sanitation services which include low-cost technologies such as hand pumps, rainwater collection, latrines and small-bore sewers.<sup>20</sup>

Development assistance for basic water and sanitation (which would benefit rural populations) has declined since 2004. The following graph shows how G8 funding for basic water and sanitation services fell from \$327 million in 2004 to \$273 million in 2005, and then dropped again to \$214 million in 2006. If the G8 are committed to meeting the needs of rural populations in sub-Saharan Africa as indicated in the Water Action Plan, they must reverse this trend to ensure that basic systems receive robust funding.

**G8 COMMITMENTS TO BASIC WATER AND SANITATION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (COMPARED TO LARGE SYSTEMS)**



**WHAT DO THE G8 NEED TO DO?**

Most importantly, the G8 need to make a concrete financial commitment to water and sanitation that is based on cost estimates for meeting the MDG targets in sub-Saharan Africa.

At a minimum, the G8 should recommit to honouring their Gleneagles pledges to water and sanitation, as interpreted in this chapter. As outlined above, this means increasing and prioritising aid to water and sanitation, which requires that each G8 donor nation should allocate at least 5.5% of its ODA to sub-Saharan Africa to the water and sanitation sector every year. Such a commitment would ensure that the G8 are on track to deliver an equitable share of the financing requirements for the sector by 2010.

**ARE THE G8 ON TRACK?**

The G8 are **OFF-TRACK** in their commitment to increase and prioritise aid to water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa.

In 2006 (the most recent year for which data are available), the G8 directed 3.83% (\$1.127 billion) of their total ODA to sub-Saharan Africa towards the sector. To have been on track in 2006, they should have allocated 5.5% (\$1.627 billion) of their ODA.

Although sub-Saharan Africa is the region furthest from reaching the water and sanitation MDG targets, the G8 have not prioritised it in their allocation of global development assistance for the sector.<sup>21</sup> In 2006, only 27% of total ODA for water and sanitation went to sub-Saharan Africa. For the past two years, there has been only one African country among the top ten recipients of funding for water and sanitation, compared with five in 2004. The following chart shows how water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa has been left behind as global development assistance for the sector has increased. Between 2004 and 2006, global funding to water and sanitation increased by 24%, but only by 7% for sub-Saharan Africa. G8 funding for water and sanitation in the same period increased by around 1%, compared with more than 18% globally.

**THE WATER AND SANITATION DEFICIT**

**40 billion**

Hours spent collecting water each year in sub-Saharan Africa.

**5000**

Number of children who die every day from diarrhoeal diseases.

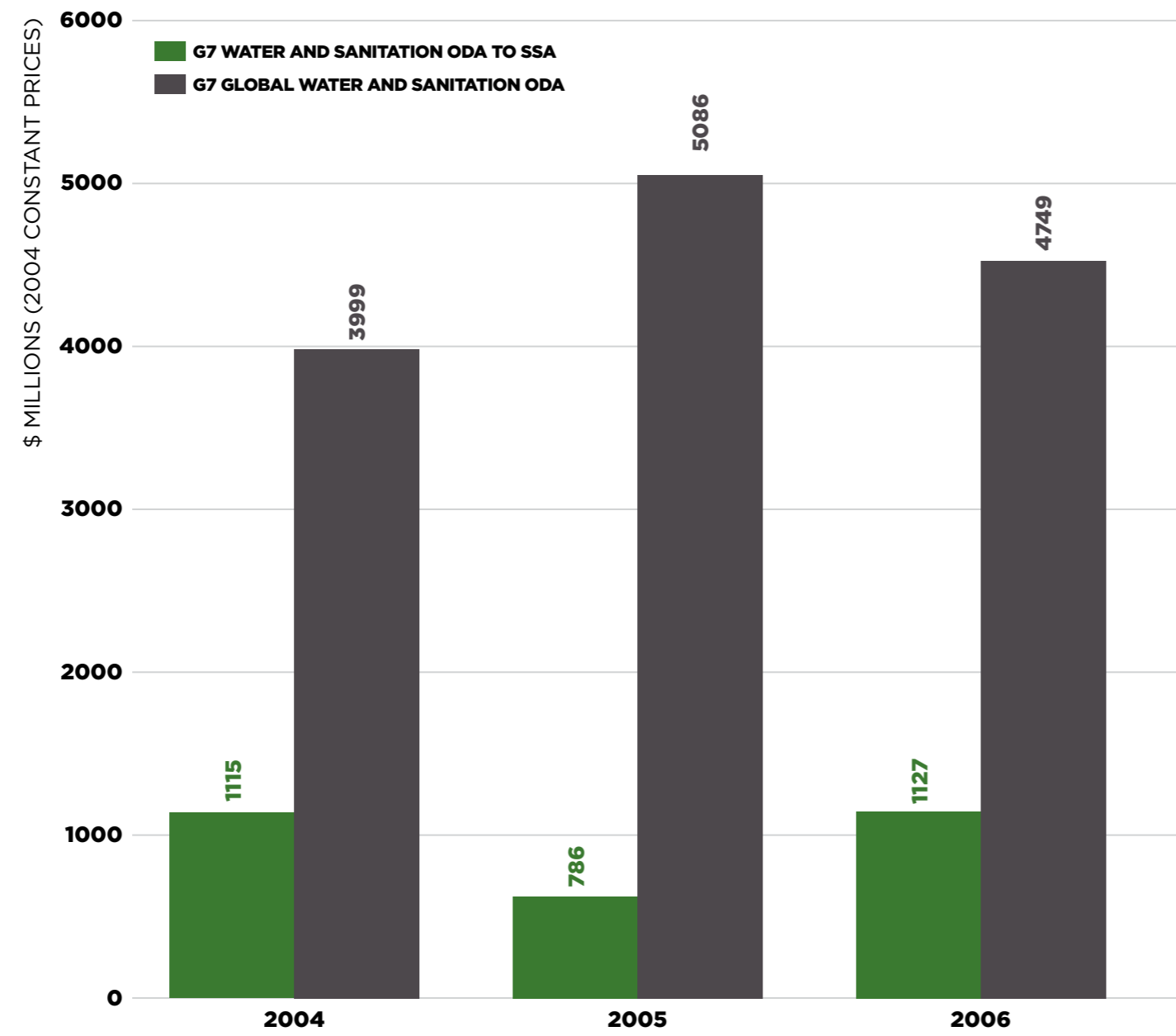
**1 in 2**

Girls who drop out of primary school in sub-Saharan Africa do so because their school lacks separate toilets or access to clean water.



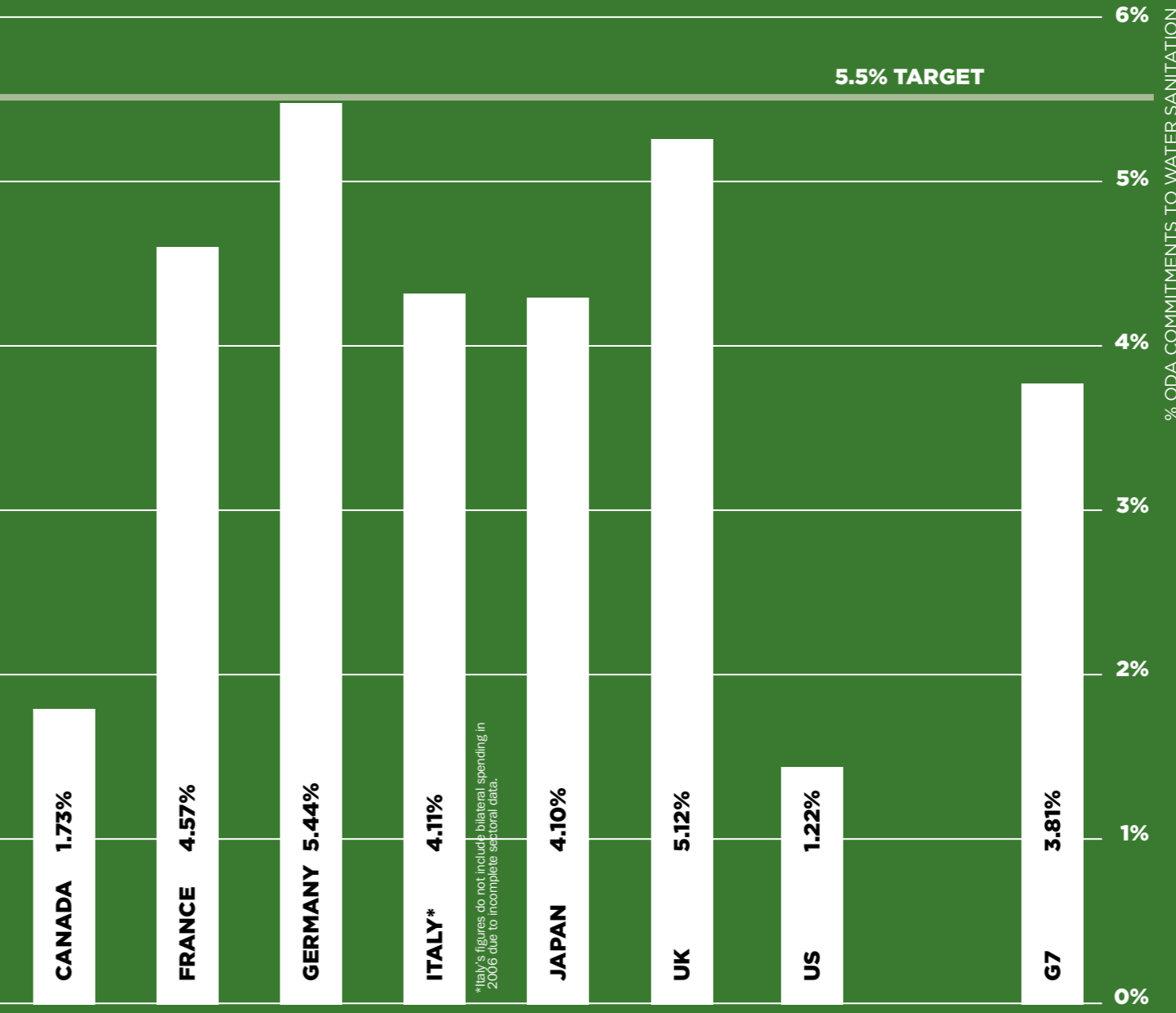
Sub-Saharan Africans in every ten who lack access to a proper toilet.

### G7 WATER AND SANITATION FINANCING (BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL) 2004-06



### 2006 ODA COMMITMENTS TO WATER AND SANITATION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

The graph below shows the percentage of each country's ODA that went towards water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa in 2006. No G8 donor fully met the 5.5% commitment, although some came very close.



## INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY PERFORMANCE

### NEARLY ON TRACK

#### GERMANY

Germany continues to be a lead donor to the water and sanitation sector. In 2006, it spent \$263 million on water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa. This amounted to 5.44% of its total ODA to the region, putting it extremely close to being on track with its Gleneagles commitment to increase and prioritise development assistance to the sector. To be fully on track in 2006, Germany should have directed \$266 million towards water and sanitation, which would have been 5.5% of its ODA to the region. Germany is the largest donor by volume to basic water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa, providing \$77 million to the sub-sector in 2006.

#### UK

The UK has made the biggest improvement since 2005 in terms of increasing and prioritising development assistance to water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2006, it spent \$219 million on water and sanitation in the region, compared with \$122 million in 2005. This represented 5.12% of its total ODA to sub-Saharan Africa, compared with only 1.93% in 2005. Despite this progress, the UK is still slightly off track in fulfilling its Gleneagles commitments on water and sanitation. To be fully on track in 2006, it should have directed \$236 million towards the sector.

### SLIGHTLY OFF TRACK

#### FRANCE

France remains slightly off track in its commitment to water and sanitation. In 2006, it spent \$276 million on the sector in sub-Saharan Africa. This made up 4.65% of its total ODA to the region. To be on track in 2006, France should have directed \$332 million towards water and sanitation, which would have been 5.5% of its ODA. However, of all the G8 countries, France has prioritised sub-Saharan Africa the most in its global allocation of ODA to the sector: in 2006, it dedicated 52% of its global development assistance to water and sanitation to sub-Saharan Africa. France has also made a substantial improvement since 2005, increasing funding for water and sanitation from only 2.25% of total ODA in 2005 to 4.65% in 2006.

#### ITALY

In 2006, Italy spent \$73 million on water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa through multilateral channels. This made up 4.11% of its total ODA to the region. To be on track in 2006, Italy should have directed \$97 million towards water and sanitation, which would have been 5.5% of its ODA to the region. Italy's figures do not include bilateral spending in 2006 due to incomplete sectoral data.

### JAPAN

In 2006, Japan spent \$197 million on water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa. This made up 4.10% of its total ODA to the region. To be on track in 2006, it should have directed \$263 million towards water and sanitation, which would have fulfilled the target of 5.5% of ODA. Japan is further off track than it was in 2005, when it directed 4.66% of its ODA to the sector. As the world's leading donor on water, Japan has a great deal of expertise in the sector. However, to date, very little of its water and sanitation ODA has been directed to sub-Saharan Africa. Only 12% of Japan's total development assistance for water and sanitation went to Africa in 2006. While this was an increase from just 6% in 2005, it did not reflect the reality that sub-Saharan Africa has the world's lowest water and sanitation coverage rates. To get back on track, Japan should use its Water and Sanitation Broad Partnership Initiative (WASABI) and its G8 presidency to mobilise financing for water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa.

### OFF TRACK

#### CANADA

Canada is further off track than it was in 2005. In 2006, it spent \$14 million on water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa, 1.73% of its total ODA to the region. The 2006 total reflected only a slight increase over the \$12 million (or 2.13% of its ODA) that Canada spent on water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa in 2005.

#### US

The US is further off track than it was in 2005, when it directed 1.37% of its ODA to water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2006, it spent \$86 million on water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa, 1.22% of its total ODA to the region. To be on track in 2006, the US should have directed \$388 million towards water and sanitation, which would have been 5.5% of its ODA to sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, although the US is the second biggest financier of water and sanitation globally (giving \$1.01 billion to the sector in 2006), it prioritises sub-Saharan Africa the least of all the G8 members. Of its total ODA spent on water and sanitation in 2006, the US allocated only 8% to sub-Saharan Africa.

BENEFITS IF MDG TARGETS MET

\$2

Per capita savings gained in sub-Saharan Africa from reduced expenditures on water-related diseases.

124,000

Child deaths averted in 2015 in sub-Saharan Africa with the reduction of water-related illness

Returns generated from every dollar invested in water and sanitation



272 million

School days gained with the reduction in diarrhoea.

2006 ACTUAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO WATER AND SANITATION COMPARED TO TARGET SHARE (BASED ON 5.5% OF COMMITMENTS)

