

WATER AND SANITATION

WHY ARE WATER AND SANITATION IMPORTANT?

Currently, nearly 300 million people in sub-Saharan Africa do not have access to clean water and nearly 440 million do not have access to basic sanitation.¹ Lack of access to clean water and adequate sanitation has a detrimental impact on a wide range of development factors, including infant mortality, gender equality, education, health and economic development.

- Severe diarrhoea is caused by a number of viruses and bacteria that spread in contaminated water. In extremely poor countries, 4,900 children die every day from severe diarrhoea. Together, unclean water and poor sanitation are the world's second biggest killer of children.²
- Collecting water is a major burden in Africa, especially for women and girls. It uses up an estimated 40 billion hours each year – time that could be spent on income-generating activities or on going to school.³
- Studies show that children are 12% more likely to attend school if water is available within 15 minutes' rather than one hour's walk.⁴
- The economic benefit of achieving universal access to water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa would be \$23.5 billion per annum.⁵

WHAT DID THE G8 PROMISE?

While the G8 made no new promises on water and sanitation at Gleneagles, they did reiterate an earlier commitment made at Evian:

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.'

TWO YEARS EARLIER THEY HAD STATED IN EVIAN:

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 allocation to sound water and sanitation proposals of developing country partners. This can be a catalyst to mobilise other financial flows.'

THIS IN TURN REFERS TO:

WSSD PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION 25 'Launch a programme of actions, with financial and technical assistance, to achieve the Millennium Development Goal on safe drinking water. In this respect, we agree to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water, as outlined in the Millennium Declaration, and the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation.'

UPDATING THE COMMITMENT

There were no further commitments relating to water and sanitation made at the 2006 G8 summit in St. Petersburg.

INTERPRETING THE COMMITMENT

The Gleneagles Communiqué lacks any firm quantitative targets for access to water and sanitation or for increased financial support. It does commit to 'increasing aid in this sector', and refers to the earlier commitment made at Evian to 'give high priority in Official Development Aid allocation' to water and sanitation proposals. DATA interprets this commitment to mean that, as overall development assistance increases, the proportion given to the water and sanitation sector in sub-Saharan Africa should be at least the same percentage given to water and sanitation globally.

In order to measure this priority, we have evaluated the average proportion of total development assistance given to water and sanitation globally over the period 1990–2005 – which was 5.5%.⁶ In order to both increase development assistance and give high priority to this sector, DATA has measured the extent to which 5.5% of total development assistance for Africa is directed to water and sanitation.

HOW AMBITIOUS WAS THE G8 PROMISE?

DATA's analysis shows that maintaining a 5.5% share of total development assistance directed to water and sanitation would result in an increase from \$2.2 billion in 2006 to \$3.3 billion from DAC donors by 2010, yielding an annual average of \$2.8 billion over this period. In order to measure the ambition of this commitment, we have compared these assistance levels with the cost of meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa.

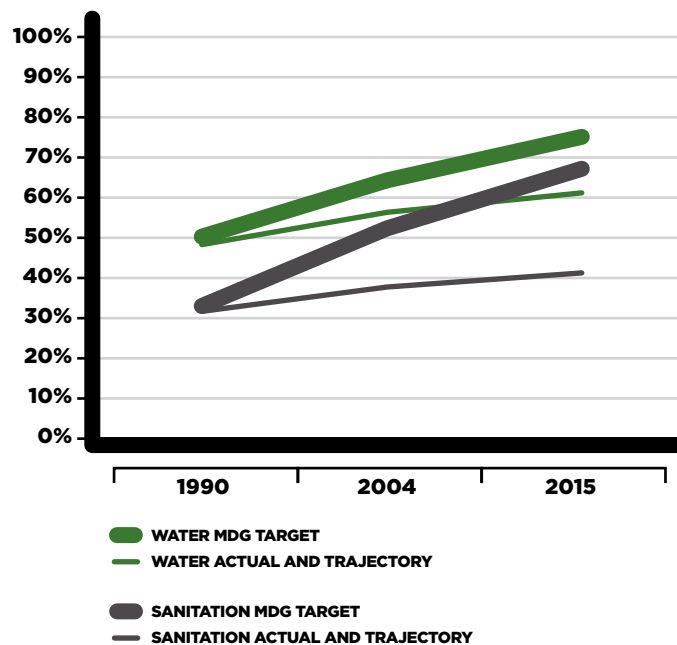
The MDG for water is to halve by 2015 the proportion of people without access to an improved water source, compared with 1990 levels. Likewise, the MDG for sanitation is to halve the proportion of people without access to improved sanitation compared with 1990 levels.

The Human Development Report 2006 states that the MDGs for water and sanitation could be met in sub-Saharan Africa if development assistance to the sector was increased to an average of \$2.9 billion per annum over the period 2006–15. On this basis, the G8's commitment to water and sanitation is ambitious in that it would be close to the level of assistance needed to deliver the MDGs on water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa.

DELIVERING THE PROMISE

Africa is behind the rest of the world in progress toward meeting the MDG on water; it is also very unlikely to meet the MDG on sanitation. Looking at sub-Saharan Africa in isolation, the progress made on both water and sanitation since 1990 is unsatisfactory. The proportion of people with access to an improved water source had increased from 49% in 1990 to 56% in 2004 but, to be on track, 63% of people should have had access by 2004. The proportion of people with access to improved sanitation increased only marginally, from 32% in 1990 to 37% in 2004. The target figure for 2004 in order to be on track for meeting the MDG was 51%.

PROGRESS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA TO MEET THE MDGs FOR WATER AND SANITATION



THE COST OF UNCLEAN WATER

300m

People in sub-Saharan Africa that do not have access to clean water.

4,900

Number of children that die from severe diarrhoea every day.

\$23.5bn

The annual economic benefit to achieving universal access to water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa.

AFRICAN PROGRESS: WATER AND SANITATION

African governments launched the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW), a part of NEPAD, in 2001 in Abuja, Nigeria at the inaugural meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on Water. The aims of the Council are to assess the progress of African countries towards meeting their national water supply and sanitation goals and to support national initiatives to measure and track progress. The council is funded by African government contributions to a trust fund managed by the United Nations Environment Programme.

With the support of AMCOW, several African countries have mapped the resources needed to achieve their water and sanitation goals and have developed strategies to reform the sector, granting water and sanitation a higher priority in their national budgets – with significant results.

- Between 1990 and 2004, the percentage of the population with sustainable access to water in Malawi increased from 40% to 73%; in Chad from 19% to 42%; and in Burkina Faso from 38% to 61%.⁷
- Uganda is taking a lead role in reforming its water sector after identifying it as a priority in its national development strategy. Budget allocations to water increased from 0.5% of public expenditure in 1997 to 2.8% in 2002. Coverage levels increased from 39% in 1996 to 51% in 2003. This was equivalent to an additional 5.3 million people having access to safe water, most of them in rural areas.⁸
- Tanzania is in the early stages of reform, but developments are encouraging. An additional 2 million people have gained access to water and sanitation (or just water) since 1999, and the government has set a target of providing 85% of the rural population with access to clean water by 2010 as part of its costed Mkukuta (national development strategy). An estimated \$1.9 billion is required in investments in the sector; the government has identified \$251 million from its budget, with a further \$951 million estimated from ODA.⁹

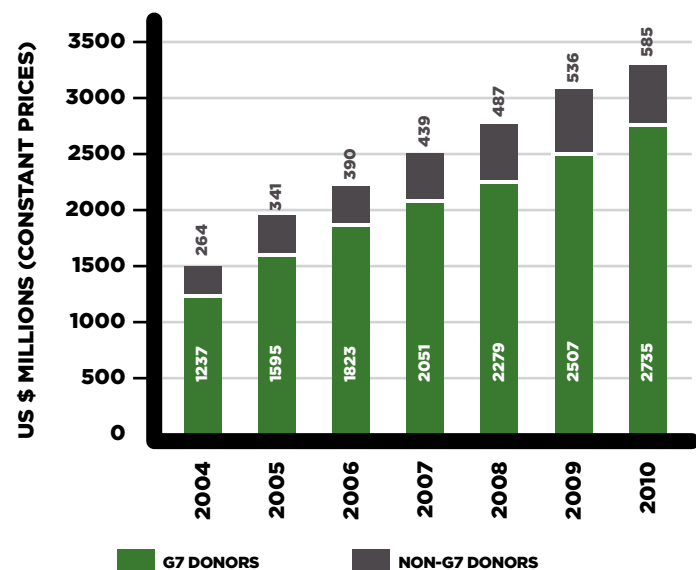
- South Africa is one of the few sub-Saharan countries that is making important progress on the delivery of clean water. During apartheid, black communities' access to water was restricted, and the lack of clean water remains one of the enduring images of the era. Post-apartheid, the South African government has treated access to clean water as a basic human right, and access has greatly expanded. Since 1994, 10 million more people have gained access to safe water, with coverage rates rising from 60% to 86%. Today some 31 million people are served by a free basic water supply, and South Africa spends more on water and sanitation than it does on its military budget – one of the few sub-Saharan African countries to prioritise clean water in this way.¹⁰

WHAT DO THE G8 NEED TO DO?

As set out above, in order to fulfil the Gleneagles commitment on water and sanitation, the proportion of total development assistance going to the sector should not dip below 5.5% – the global average over the period 1990–2005, assuming that overall ODA levels increase as promised.

On this basis, development assistance for water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa should increase from \$1.5 billion in 2004 to \$3.3 billion per annum from DAC donors by 2010. Of this total, the G8 donors should contribute \$2.7 billion by 2010, based on their equitable share of OECD GNI, with the remaining \$585 million coming from non-G8 donor countries.

TARGET LEVEL OF ODA TO WATER & SANITATION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA



ARE THE G8 ON TRACK?

The G8 are currently off-track with their commitments on water and sanitation. To be on track in 2005, total ODA for water and sanitation from DAC donors would have had to reach \$1.9 billion. However, the most up-to-date figures show that total ODA to the water and sanitation sector in sub-Saharan Africa from DAC donors actually decreased from \$1.5 billion in 2004 to \$1.1 billion in 2005.¹¹ Similarly, G8 donors should have provided \$1.6 billion to the water and sanitation sector in sub-Saharan Africa in 2005, but actual spending was just \$666 million. Water and sanitation clearly fell as a donor priority in 2005, representing just 2.9% of total commitments to the region, compared with the target of 5.5%.

As well as reducing the proportion of total development assistance given to water and sanitation in Africa, donors also gave Africa a low priority as a region, with spending accounting for just 6% of the global total for water and sanitation. In particular, whilst Japan is the largest bilateral donor to the water and sanitation sector, committing \$2 billion globally in 2005, just \$60 million or 3% of this went to sub-Saharan Africa. The US, the second largest bilateral donor in 2005,

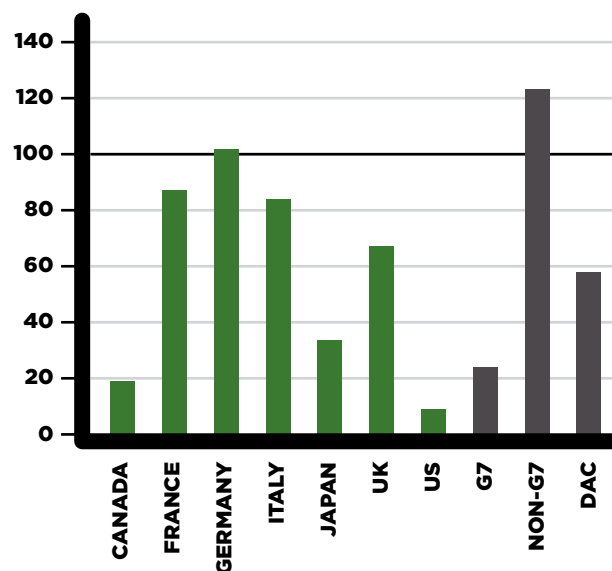
committed just \$17 million bilaterally to sub-Saharan Africa out of \$1 billion committed to the sector globally, while dedicating \$700 million to Iraq.

In summary, overall the G8's performance on water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa has been very poor. The G8 need to prioritise the water and sanitation sector at a global level, and concentrate more spending in sub-Saharan Africa, which has the lowest access levels of any region.

INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY PERFORMANCE BASED ON 2005 FIGURES

Based on their equitable share of contributions, the G8 donors should have provided \$1.6 billion to the water and sanitation sector in sub-Saharan Africa in 2005; however, G8 donors gave just \$666 million, indicating that the G8 donors met just 42% of the target.

PROPORTION OF EQUITABLE SHARE OF TARGET MET IN 2005



“
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 ”

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

ON TRACK ON WATER AND SANITATION

GERMANY's commitments to the sector in sub-Saharan Africa just exceeded its target based on its equitable share. In terms of global commitments, Germany is the third largest donor for bilateral water projects, with \$400 million spent globally in 2005.

FRANCE was just short of its target for water and sanitation in 2005.

ITALY provided 85% of its target for water and sanitation in 2005.

OFF TRACK ON WATER AND SANITATION

UK only met 65% of its target for commitments to the sector in sub-Saharan Africa in 2005. The UK has its own target to increase development assistance to the water sector to \$187 million by 2007/08,¹² and more than doubling funding to \$370 million a year by 2010/11 which is consistent with the commitment DATA has calculated for that year.¹³

JAPAN committed \$115 million to water and sanitation in the region, meeting 34% of its target based on its equitable share (\$338 million). While Japan is not contributing its equitable share to water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa, globally it is the largest donor for bilateral water projects, with commitments of \$2 billion in 2005.

US made bilateral and multilateral commitments of \$62 million to the sector in sub-Saharan Africa in 2005, meeting just 10% of its target (\$639 million) based on its equitable share. Globally, its bilateral commitments to the sector were around \$1 billion in 2005.

CANADA made commitments of \$11 million in 2005, which amounted to 17% of its target of \$62 million based on equitable shares. Globally, its bilateral commitments to the sector were just \$35 million in 2005.

