

**GUIDE
FOR
FORMING AND MANAGING
WATSAN YOUTH CLUBS**



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WATSAN YOUTH CLUBS**

Prepared by
UN-HABITAT



Capacity Building International



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The Guide Book for formulating and managing WATSAN Youth Clubs is the collaborative effort of United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and the Capacity Building Institute (CBI), a Non-Governmental Organisation in Nairobi, Kenya, specialised in promoting appropriate strategies for improved water, sanitation, health and hygiene by involving children, youth and the communities. The Publication has been prepared under the overall guidance of Mr. Kalyan Ray, Senior Advisor, Office of the Executive Director, UN-HABITAT, close supervision of Mr. Andre Dzikus, Programme Manager, Water for Cities Programmes, Water, Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch, UN-HABITAT and with the support of Dr. Kulwant Singh, Chief Technical Advisor, Water for Asian Cities Programme Regional Office, New Delhi, India.

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Abbreviations

| | |
|-----------|---|
| CBO | Community Based Organization |
| FPAK | Family Planning Association of Kenya |
| IRC | International Rescue Committee |
| MDG | Millennium Development Goal |
| NGO | Non Governmental Organization |
| SIDA | Swedish International Development Cooperation |
| SWD | Swedish Water Development |
| UNHABITAT | United Nations Human Settlements Programme |
| UNICEF | sUnited Nations Child Education Fund |
| WATSAN | Water and Sanitation |
| WHO | World Health Organization |

Globally, more than one billion people, majority from Asia, are without access to improved drinking water sources and around 2.6 billion people without improved sanitation. Lack of clean water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene practices contribute to ill-health, disease, hunger and sustained poverty and in the process the children and youth are the most affected ones, representing 1.7 billion (over a quarter of the world population).

The focus on water and sanitation affirms that children have a right to the basic facilities of safe drinking water, school toilets, clean surroundings and information on hygiene. Children and youth are the Agents of Change at home, in the community and as future citizens to the society and are especially concerned about the issues affecting them.

WATSAN Youth Club, formed as a group of adolescents, both male and female, of 9 to 28 years age within the communities, is a means by which young people can organize themselves to learn about the issues and take action as well. It aims at educating the youth in school or outside on water and sanitation issues, help promoting safe water, sanitation and hygiene practices within their environments and bringing behavioural change among the youth relating to water and sanitation.

The publication is intended to serve as a Guide Book for global coverage and has been prepared in cooperation with Capacity Building Institute (CBI), a Non-governmental organization in Nairobi, Kenya, specialized in promoting strategies for improved water, sanitation, health and hygiene conditions by involving communities, children and youth. This Guide Book is an effort to demonstrate practical solutions in scaling up water and sanitation services for achieving the MDG by adopting an innovative approach of formulating and managing WATSAN Youth Clubs to address the issues of water and sanitation in a sustainable manner.

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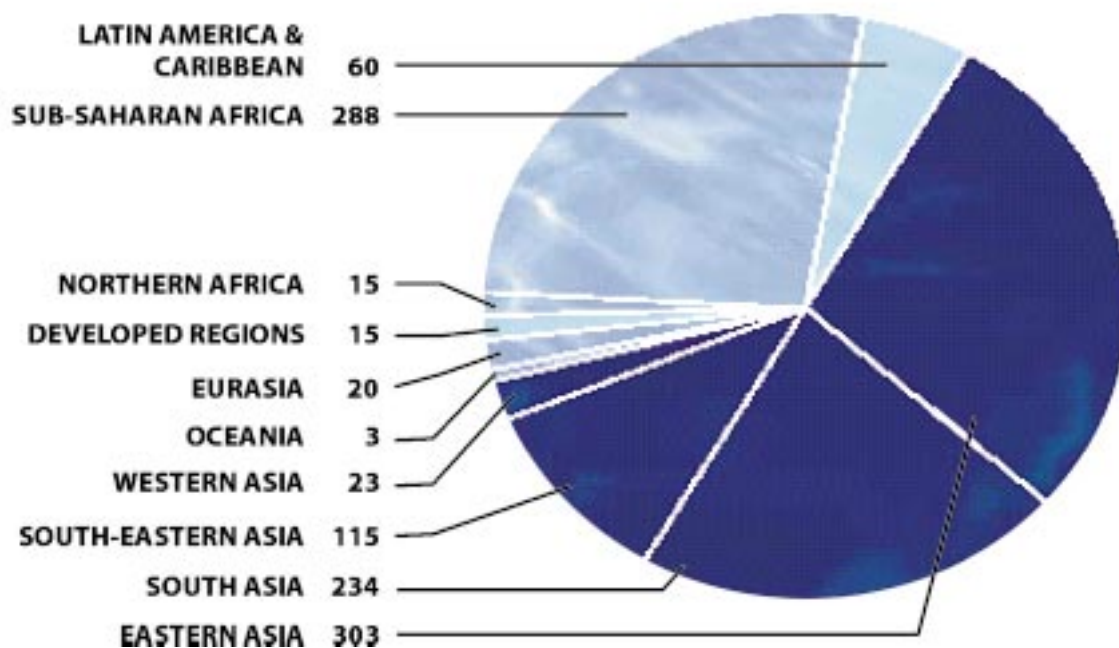
Introduction

Problem of Water and Sanitation (WATSAN)

Sustainable Development in water and sanitation has been the global concern and access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation has multi-faceted benefits to the humanity. In reality, a disproportionate burden of protecting environmental benefits such as clean water, air, safe sanitation, etc is borne by the poor and vulnerable sections of the society, particularly affecting children and youth. Lack of access to safe water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene practices contribute to a cycle of diseases, the culture of poverty and mortality, especially among children and youth. Water and hygienic sanitation are a prerequisite for healthy living and potential for rescuing from the web of poverty.

More than one billion people, most of them in Asia, are still without improved drinking water sources.

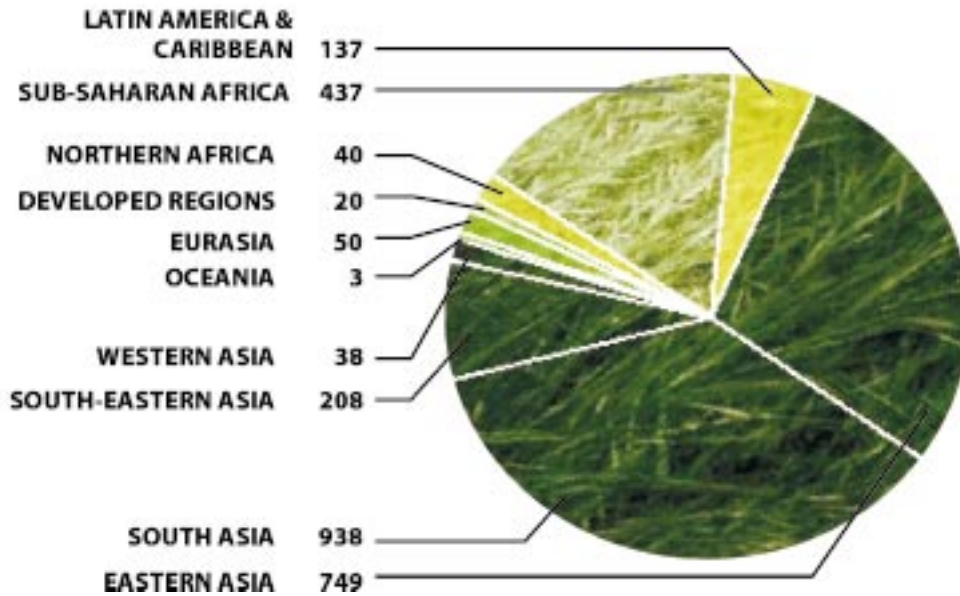
Population without improved drinking water sources by region in 2002 (in millions)



Source: Meeting the MDG Drinking Water and Sanitation Target: A Mid-Term assessment of Progress – UNICEF and WHO

2.6 billion people without improved sanitation

Population without improved sanitation by region in 2002 (in millions)



Source: Meeting the MDG Drinking Water and Sanitation Target: A Mid-Term assessment of Progress – UNICEF and WHO

Status of not having access to improved sanitation

80%
(1.9 billion)



Asia

13%
(0.3 billion)



Africa

5%
(0.1 billion)

Latin America and
The Caribbean

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