

PROGRESS ON SANITATION AND DRINKING-WATER | 2013 UPDATE



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JMP 2013 UPDATE: HIGHLIGHTS

This JMP 2013 update presents country, regional and global estimates for the year 2011. Since the JMP 2012 update, which presented 2010 estimates, results of 230 surveys have been added to the JMP database, bringing the total number of surveys in the JMP database close to 1700. As is to be expected from an annual update, the global estimates have hardly changed. Drinking-water coverage in 2011 remains at 89% – which is 1% above the MDG drinking-water target. In 2011, 768 million people relied on unimproved drinking-water sources.

Sanitation coverage in 2011 was 64%. The world remains off track to meet the MDG sanitation target of 75% and if current trends continue, it is set to miss the target by more than half a billion people. By the end of 2011, there were 2.5 billion people who still did not use an improved sanitation facility. The number of people practising open defecation decreased to a little over 1 billion, but this still represents 15% of the global population.

Since 2011, the JMP has facilitated broad discussions among more than 200 representatives from the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector, academia and the human rights and global monitoring communities to formulate new global WASH targets and indicators for consideration under

the post-2015 development agenda. On page 10 of this report, this process is further explained, and the preliminary outcomes of these discussions are presented for further consideration.

With less than three years to go, a final push is needed to meet the MDG sanitation target. This requires providing around 1 billion people with access to sanitation – a daunting task that can only be accomplished through the concerted efforts of many partners.

In March 2013, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations called upon the world to increase global efforts to accelerate progress towards the MDG sanitation target, which is among the targets for which progress has fallen furthest behind. In particular, he called upon governments, civil society, the private sector and UN agencies to pull together and help end the practice of open defecation by the year 2025. Page 6 of this report shows which countries have decreased open defecation rates the most since 1990. Some of these countries still have a rather large proportion of the population practising open defecation, while others have reduced the practice to only a few per cent of the population.

1.

GLOBAL SANITATION TRENDS

1990–2011

In 2011, almost two thirds [64%] of the world population relied on improved sanitation facilities, while 15% continued to defecate in the open. Since 1990, almost 1.9 billion people have gained access to an improved sanitation facility. The world, however, remains off track to meet the Millennium Development Goal [MDG] sanitation target, which requires reducing

the proportion of people without access from 51% in 1990, to 25% by 2015. The greatest progress has been made in Eastern Asia, where sanitation coverage has increased from 27% in 1990 to 67% in 2011. This amounts to more than 626 million people gaining access to improved sanitation facilities over a 21-year period.

There are 45 countries where sanitation coverage is less than 50 percent

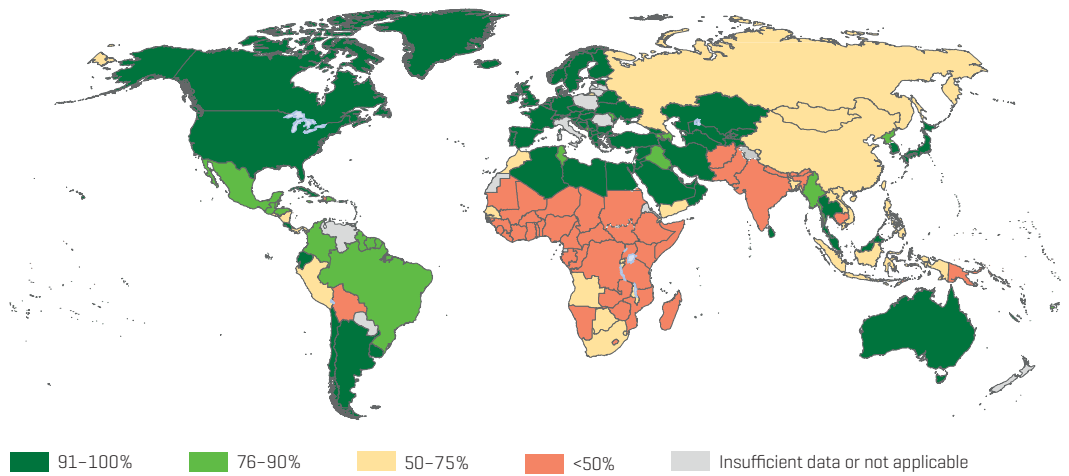


Figure 1. Proportion of the population using improved sanitation in 2011.

Open defecation rates have sharply declined in almost all developing regions

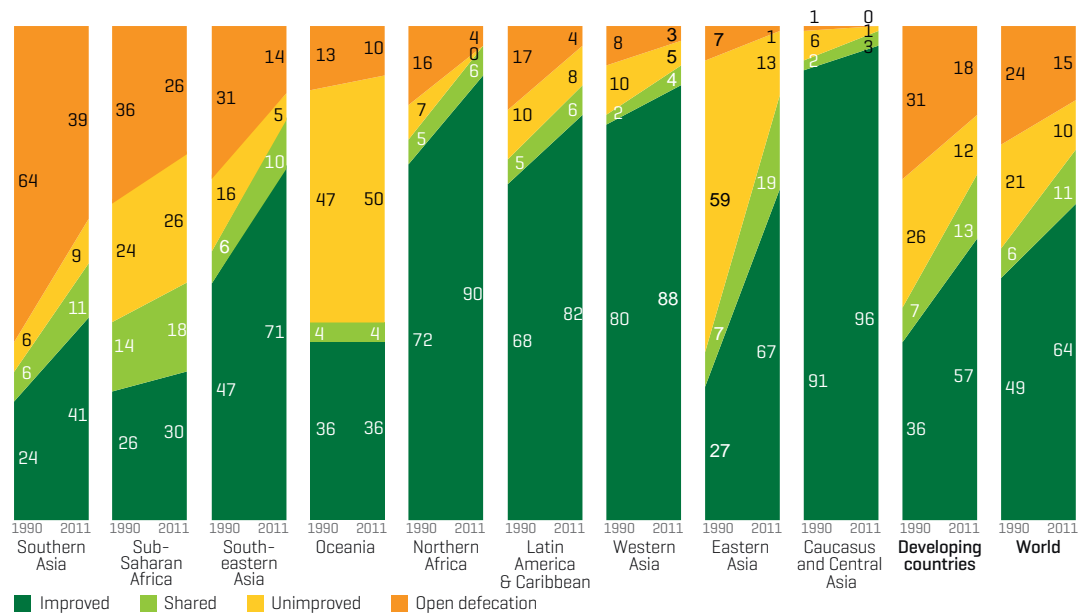


Figure 2. Sanitation coverage trends by developing regions and the world, 1990–2011.

By the end of 2011, there were 2.5 billion people who lacked access to an improved sanitation facility. Of these, 761 million use public or shared sanitation facilities and another 693 million use facilities that do not meet minimum standards of hygiene (unimproved

sanitation facilities). The remaining 1 billion (15% of the world population) still practise open defecation. The majority (71%) of those without sanitation live in rural areas, where 90% of all open defecation takes place.

Since 1990, 1.1 billion people in urban areas gained access to improved sanitation whereas the urban population grew by 1.3 billion people

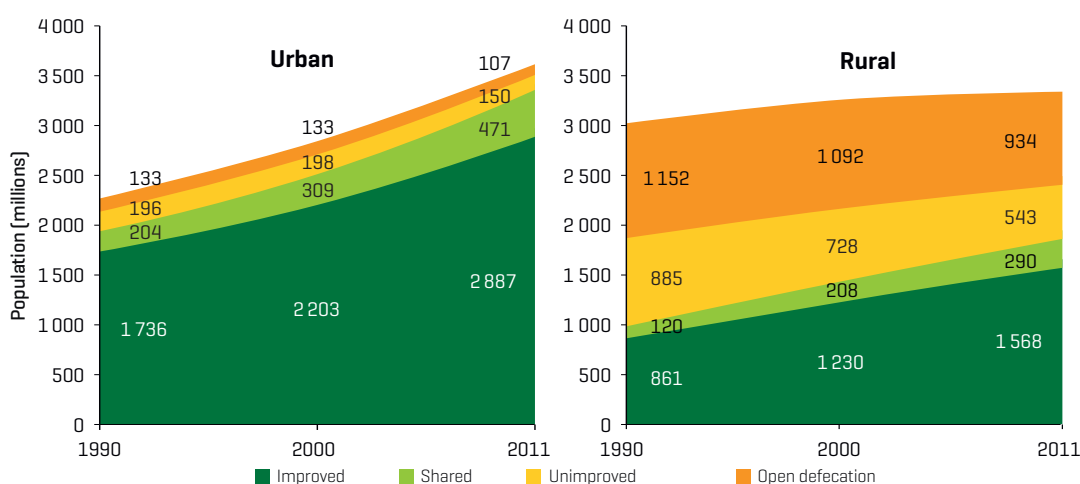


Figure 3. Global sanitation coverage and open defecation trends in urban and rural areas by population, 1990–2011.

27 Countries have more than a quarter of the population still practising open defecation

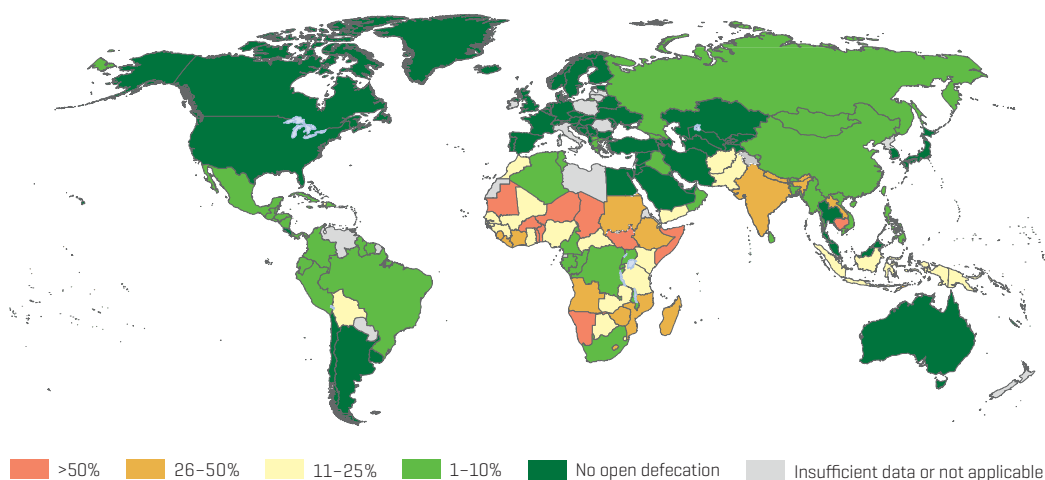


Figure 4. Proportion of the population practising open defecation in 2011.

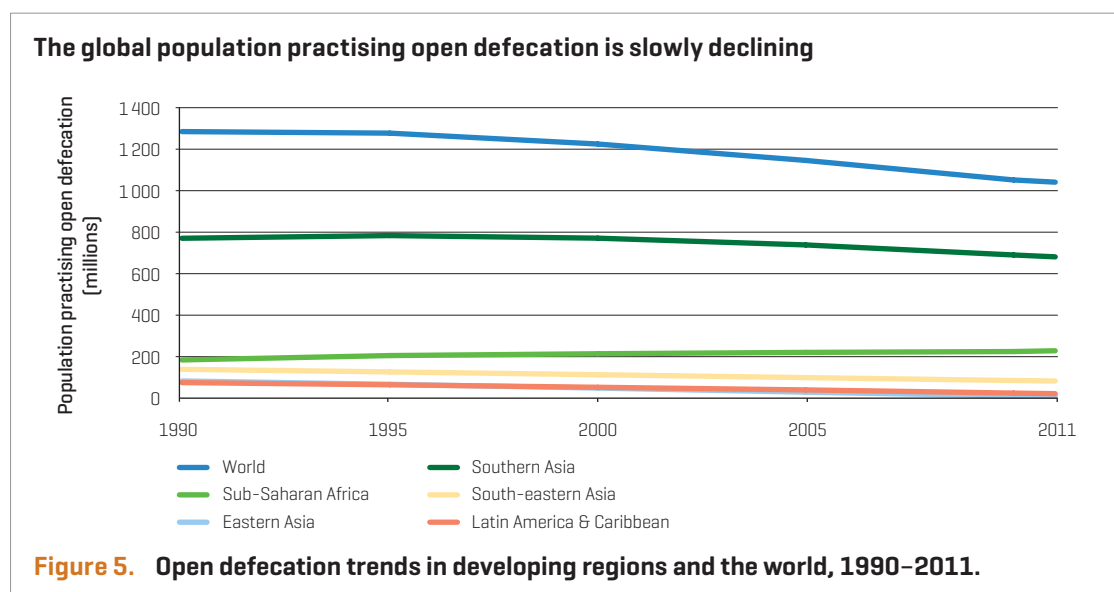
2.

TRENDS IN OPEN DEFECCATION

1990–2011

Open defecation rates declined globally from 24% in 1990 to 15% in 2011. In absolute numbers, this signifies a drop of 244 million people to 1.04 billion in 2011. The decline in the population practising open defecation has differed from region to region. Eastern Asia, South-eastern Asia and the Latin America and

Caribbean regions have seen a steady decline since the JMP's earliest measurements describing conditions in 1990. In Southern Asia, the population practising open defecation peaked around 1995, after which it declined. Only in sub-Saharan Africa is the number of people defecating in the open still increasing.



Many countries have made remarkable progress in reducing open defecation rates

Country	Open defecation rate [%]		Percentage point decline	Annual rate of decline [%]
	1990	2011	1990–2011	1990–2011
Viet Nam	40	3	37	12.3
Bangladesh	32	4	28	9.9
Peru	34	6	28	8.3
Malawi	31	6	25	7.8
Honduras	33	7	26	7.4
Lao People's Democratic Republic*	69	32	37	4.8
Plurinational State of Bolivia	46	19	27	4.2
Pakistan	52	23	29	3.9
Angola	57	26	31	3.7
Haiti	50	23	27	3.7
Ethiopia	93	45	48	3.5
Nepal	84	43	41	3.2
Benin	80	54	26	1.9
Cambodia	84	58	26	1.8

* There are no 1990 open defecation estimates for Lao People's Democratic Republic, so the range given here is for 1995–2011.

Table 1. Countries where open defecation rates declined 25 percentage points or more since 1990



3.

GLOBAL DRINKING-WATER TRENDS

1990—2011

By the end of 2011, 89% of the world population used an improved drinking-water source, and 55% enjoyed the convenience and associated health benefits of a piped supply on premises. An estimated 768 million people did not use an improved source for drinking-water in 2011, including 185 million who relied on surface water to meet their daily drinking-water needs. Urban drinking-water coverage has remained high over the past two decades, and currently only 4% of the urban population relies

on unimproved sources. However, in spite of the high urban drinking-water coverage rates, issues of service quality remain. Supplies are often intermittent and this increases contamination risks. Of the 2.1 billion people who gained access since 1990, almost two thirds, 1.3 billion, lived in urban areas. By the end of 2011, 83% of the population without access to an improved drinking-water source lived in rural areas.

Sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania have the lowest drinking-water coverage

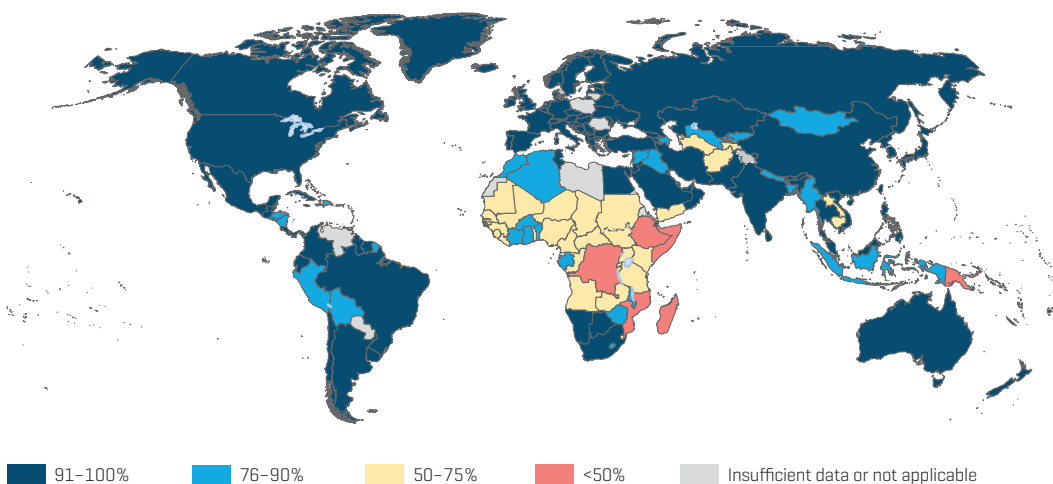
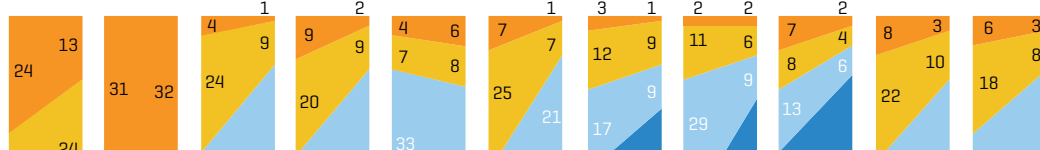


Figure 6. Proportion of the population using improved sources of drinking-water in 2011.

Less than a third of the population in four regions enjoy piped water on premises



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