The clean water gap

References

CURRENT SITUATION (latest available data)
- Better situation
- Above average
- Below average
- Worse situation
- Insufficient data

EVOLUTION (since 1990 or closest available year)
- Significant progress
- Slight progress
- Stagnant
- Regression
- Major regression

Complete table at: **www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008**

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO SANITATION (%)		POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO IMPROVED WATER SOURCES (%)	
→	Afghanistan (52)	34	→	22*	→
=	Albania (94)	91	=	97*	=
←	Algeria (94)	92	→	85*	←
=	Andorra (—)	100	=	100*	=
→	Angola (62)	31	=	51*	→
=	Anguilla (—)	99	=	60	=
=	Antigua and Barbuda (—)	95	=	91	=
→	Argentina (98)	91	→	96*	=
→	Armenia (96)	83	=	98*	→
=	Aruba (—)			100	=
=	Australia (99)	100	=	100*	=
=	Austria (—)	100	=	100*	=
→	Azerbaijan (85)	54	=	78*	→
=	Bahamas (99)	100	=	97	=
→	Bangladesh (57)	39	→	80*	→
=	Barbados (99)	100	=	100*	=
=	Belarus (99)	84	=	100*	=
=	Belize (93)	47	=	91	=
→	Benin (68)	33	→	65*	=
→	Bhutan (78)	70	=	81*	→
→	Bolivia (80)	46	→	86*	→
=	Bosnia and Herzegovina (—)	95	=	99*	=
→	Botswana (92)	42	→	96*	→
→	Brazil (92)	75	→	91*	→
=	Bulgaria (99)	99	=	99*	=
→	Burkina Faso (64)	13	→	72*	→
→	Burma/Myanmar (76)	77	→	80*	→
←	Burundi (58)	36	←	71*	=
→	Cambodia (66)	17	→	65*	→
→	Cameroon (70)	51	→	70*	→
=	Canada (99)	100	=	100*	=
→	Cape Verde (93)	43	→	80	=
→	Central African Republic (65)	27	→	66*	→
→	Chad (42)	9	=	48*	→
→	Chile (100)	91	→	95*	→
→	China (90)	44	→	88*	→
→	Colombia (90)	86	→	93*	=
←	Comoros (79)	33	=	85*	←
→	Congo, DR (69)	30	→	46*	→
→	Congo, Rep. (79)	27	=	71*	→
→	Cook Islands (90)	100	→	95*	=
→	Costa Rica (94)	92	=	98*	→
→	Côte d'Ivoire (79)	37	→	81*	→
=	Croatia (99)	100	=	99*	=
=	Cuba (99)	98	=	91*	=
=	Cyprus (99)	100	=	100*	=
=	Czech Republic (99)	98	=	100*	=
=	Denmark (98)			100*	=
→	Djibouti (75)	82	→	92*	→
=	Dominica (97)	84	=	97	=
→	Dominican Republic (88)	78	→	95*	→

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO SANITATION (%)		POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO IMPROVED WATER SOURCES (%)	
→	Ecuador (83)	89	→	95*	→
→	Egypt (88)	70	→	98*	→
→	El Salvador (79)	62	→	84*	→
=	Equatorial Guinea (59)	53	=	43*	=
→	Eritrea (67)	9	=	60*	→
=	Estonia (99)	97	=	100*	=
→	Ethiopia (54)	13	→	42*	→
→	Fiji (99)	72	→	47*	=
=	Finland (100)	100	=	100*	=
=	France (99)			100*	=
=	French Guiana (—)	78	=	84	=
=	French Polynesia (—)	98	=	100	=
→	Gabon (82)	36	=	87*	→
→	Gambia (70)	53	=	86*	→
→	Georgia (89)	94	←	99*	→
=	Germany (100)	100	=	100*	=
→	Ghana (66)	18	→	80*	→
=	Greece (100)			100*	
=	Grenada (92)	96	=	95	=
=	Guadeloupe (—)	64	=	98	=
=	Guam (—)	99	=	100	=
→	Guatemala (68)	86	→	96*	→
→	Guinea (66)	18	→	70*	→
→	Guinea-Bissau (61)	35	→	57*	=
→	Guyana (81)	70	=	93*	→
→	Haiti (—)	30	→	58*	→
→	Honduras (78)	69	→	84*	=
=	Hungary (99)	95	=	100*	=
=	Iceland (100)	100	=	100*	=
→	India (71)	33	→	89*	→
→	Indonesia (84)	55	→	80*	→
=	Iran (91)	83*	=	94	=
←	Iraq (83)	79	=	77*	←
=	Israel (100)			100*	=
→	Jamaica (95)	80	→	93*	=
=	Japan (99)	100	=	100*	=
=	Jordan (97)	93	=	98*	=
→	Kazakhstan (98)	72	=	96*	→
→	Kenya (71)	43	→	57*	→
→	Kiribati (88)	40	→	65*	→
=	Korea, DPR (—)	59	=	100*	=
=	Korea, Rep. (100)			92	=
→	Kyrgyzstan (95)	59	=	89*	→
→	Lao, PDR (58)	30	→	60*	→
=	Latvia (99)	78		99*	=
=	Lebanon (95)	98	=	100*	=
=	Lesotho (72)	37	=	78*	=
←	Liberia (65)	27	←	64*	→
=	Libya (98)	97	=	71	=
=	Luxembourg (97)			100*	=
=	Macedonia (96)			100*	

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO SANITATION (%)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO IMPROVED WATER SOURCES (%)
→	Madagascar (61)	32 →	47* →
→	Malawi (62)	61 →	76* →
=	Malaysia (99)	94 =	99* =
←	Maldives (86)	59 →	83* ←
→	Mali (69)	46 →	60* →
=	Malta (100)		100* =
←	Marshall Islands (93)	82 →	87 ←
→	Mauritania (66)	34 →	60* →
=	Mauritius (98)	94 =	100* =
→	Mexico (94)	79 →	95* →
→	Micronesia (—)	28 =	94* →
←	Moldova (96)	68 =	90* ←
=	Monaco (—)	100 =	100 =
→	Mongolia (95)	59 =	72* →
	Montenegro (—)		98
=	Montserrat (—)	100 =	100 =
→	Morocco (79)	73 →	83* →
→	Mozambique (66)	32 →	42* →
→	Namibia (85)	25 =	93* →
→	Nepal (65)	35 →	89* →
=	Netherlands (100)	100 =	100* =
=	New Zealand (98)		97* =
→	Nicaragua (72)	47 =	79* →
→	Niger (52)	13 →	42* →
→	Nigeria (63)	44 →	47* =
=	Niue (—)	100 =	100* =
→	Northern Mariana Islands (—)	95 →	99 =
=	Norway (100)		100* =
→	Oman (99)	88* →	82 =
→	Pakistan (64)	59 →	90* →
→	Palau (99)	80 →	89* →
=	Panama (91)	73 =	92* =
=	Papua New Guinea (68)	44 =	40* =
→	Paraguay (85)	80 →	77* →
→	Peru (86)	63 →	84* →
→	Philippines (77)	72 →	93* →
	Portugal (99)		99*
=	Qatar (96)	100 =	100* =
→	Romania (96)		88* →
→	Russian Federation (98)	87 =	97* →
→	Rwanda (53)	42 →	65* →
←	Samoa (97)	100 =	88* ←
→	Sao Tome and Principe (82)	25 =	86* →
=	Saudi Arabia (97)		93 =
→	Senegal (71)	57 →	77* →
	Serbia (—)		99

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO SANITATION (%)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO IMPROVED WATER SOURCES (%)
=	Seychelles (—)		88 =
←	Sierra Leone (61)	39 =	53* ←
=	Singapore (91)	100 =	100 =
=	Slovakia (97)	99 =	100* =
=	Solomon Islands (82)	31 =	70* =
=	Somalia (—)	26 =	29* =
=	South Africa (89)	65 ←	93* →
=	Spain (99)	100 =	100* =
→	Sri Lanka (98)	91 →	82* →
=	St Kitts and Nevis (95)	95 =	99* =
=	St Lucia (98)	89 =	98* =
→	Sudan (76)	34 =	70* →
→	Suriname (86)	94 →	92* =
←	Swaziland (77)	48 =	60* ←
=	Sweden (100)	100 =	100* =
=	Switzerland (97)	100 =	100* =
→	Syria (94)	90 →	89* →
→	Tajikistan (85)	51 =	67* →
→	Tanzania (73)	47 =	55* →
→	Thailand (96)	99 →	98* →
→	Timor-Leste (60)	36 =	62* →
→	Togo (71)	35 =	59* →
→	Tokelau (—)	78 →	88 ←
=	Tonga (95)	96 =	100* =
=	Trinidad and Tobago (95)	100 =	94* =
→	Tunisia (95)	85 →	94* →
→	Turkey (92)	88 →	97* →
=	Turkmenistan (—)	62 =	72 =
←	Turks and Caicos Islands (—)	96 ←	100 =
→	Tuvalu (89)	90 →	93* →
→	Uganda (59)	43 =	64* →
=	Ukraine (99)	96 =	97* =
=	United Arab Emirates (99)	98 =	100* =
=	United Kingdom (99)		100* =
=	United States of America (99)	100 =	99* =
=	Uruguay (96)	100 =	100* =
→	Uzbekistan (—)	67 →	88* ←
=	Vanuatu (87)	50 =	60 =
=	Venezuela (95)	68 =	83 =
→	Vietnam (90)	61 →	92* →
=	Virgin Islands (UK) (—)	100 =	100 =
=	Wallis and Futuna (—)	80 =	100 =
=	West Bank and Gaza (—)	73 =	92 =
=	Yemen (61)	43 →	66* ←
→	Zambia (73)	55 →	58* →
→	Zimbabwe (80)	53 →	81* →

NOTE: (*) Data refer to years or periods other than those specified in the indicator definition.

SOURCE: Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply & Sanitation, UNICEF and WHO (www.wssinfo.org).

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2008

DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:

Population with access to sanitation (%): Percentage of the population with at least adequate excreta disposal facilities (private or shared, but not public) that can effectively prevent human, animal, and insect contact with excreta. Improved facilities range from simple but protected pit latrines to flush toilets with a sewerage connection. To be effective, facilities must be correctly constructed and properly maintained.
Last available data: 2004; evolution since 1990.

Population with access to improved water sources (%): Percentage of the population who use any of the following types of water supply for drinking: piped water, public tap, borehole or pump, protected well, protected spring or rainwater. Improved water sources do not include vendor provided waters, bottled water, tanker trucks or unprotected wells and springs.
Last available data: 2004/2006; evolution since 1990.

Methodological notes and guidelines at the end of the section.

WATER AND SANITATION

The clean water gap

Access to drinkable water and adequate sanitation facilities are fundamental components of sustainable human development and the reduction of poverty and hunger in the world. In the world today, according to United Nations, a child dies every 20 seconds due to lack of adequate sanitation and 2.6 billion people – including almost one million children – live without access to sanitation facilities.

Although water is a crucial component for a decent and healthy life, more than one billion people have no access to improved water sources; the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) warns that, by 2025, 1.8 billion people will be living in countries or regions with severe limitations in the access to water. A restricted access to water in adequate quantity and quality diminishes the capacity to produce food, energy and industrial products, while also conspiring against the hygienic conditions indispensable for reducing the impact of diseases.

Furthermore, the restrictions of access to basic sanitation facilities have negative impacts on human health and wellbeing; the lack of sanitation is linked to various diseases that cause illness and death to millions of people, among them cholera, diarrhea, pneumonia and malnutrition.

The poor and the lack of access to water

The poorest of the world are those without access to basic services and, therefore, the most exposed to suffer the consequences. In rural areas, it is impossible for many to ensure the daily production of subsistence food and income. Both in rural and in urban areas poor people are more prone to contracting diseases due to the use of water – including water contaminated by the absence of sanitation – unfit for human consumption.

The information in the Table "The clean water gap" summarized in Chart 1 shows the huge gap in access to water and sanitation between countries that are in a better or worse situation. The former have, on average, reached high levels of access to improved water sources (98.2%) and sanitation (95%). At the other extreme, the average situation indicates that more than 40% of the population in these countries do not have access to improved water sources, while almost 70% lack basic sanitation services.

The vast majority (91%) of the countries where there are severe restrictions to the population's access to these services are countries with a low level of income according to the World Bank's classification.

Access by region

The shortage of water and adequate sanitation affects practically all regions (Chart 2). The worst relative situation is in Sub-Saharan Africa, where there are more than 30 countries with a severe lack of access to these basic services. In East Asia and the Pacific there is also a high number of countries with in a deficient situation, although the majority of countries in the region do not suffer a significant shortage in the region. In South Asia there is no country in the better relative situation.

Europe is the region with the highest number of countries practically without restrictions in the population's access to these services. Romania, however, is among the countries in worse situation and still shows unacceptable limitations (43%) in access to improved water sources. Also in Europe, Moldova is below the world average and a high percentage of the population (32%) has no basic sanitation facilities.

Although the data shows no major regressions (Chart 3) in access to water and sanitation, the existence of some regression in this area is alarming. The figures for Algeria, Maldives, Marshall Islands and Uzbekistan register regression in access to drinkable water, while Burundi and Liberia register regression in access to sanitation.

Most countries are stagnant in their coverage of these services; although services reached acceptable levels, many countries are stagnant in a scenario of rigid limitations to the access of drinkable water and sanitation.■

CHART 1. Averages by indicator of countries in better and worse relative situations in water and sanitation

		Population with access to improved water sources (%)	Population with access to sanitation (%)
Worse relative situation	Average	58.5	32.9
	Number of countries	43	43
Better relative situation	Average	98.4	95.6
	Number of countries	81	67
Total	Average	84.4	68.6
	Number of countries	195	177

CHART 2. Current situation in water and sanitation by region (number of countries)

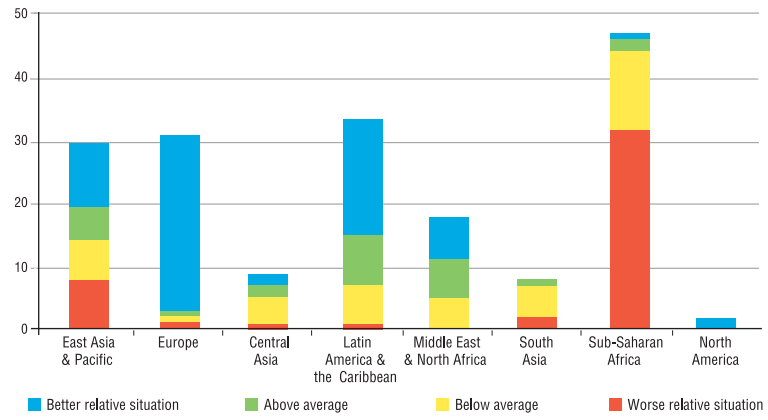

CHART 3. Current situation and evolution in water and sanitation (number of countries)

	←	←	=	→	→	Total
Worse relative situation	0	4	6	19	12	43
Below average	0	4	7	19	14	43
Above average	0	1	10	8	6	28
Better relative situation	0	3	59	11	5	76
Total	0	12	82	57	37	190