



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

WATER SECURITY, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE FACTSHEET

Did you know?



One in four people does not have access to safe drinking water in their homes.



One in two people does not have access to safely managed sanitation services.



One in four people does not have basic hygiene services (including soap and water at home).

Universal access to clean water, toilets, and hygiene would:

- Boost the global economy by **trillions of dollars**
- Avoid up to **6 billion** cases of diarrhea, a leading cause of child and infant death

Investing in water resource management is one of the best ways to address climate change and improve resilience, with nearly a 5:1 benefit-cost ratio.

Global Progress and Possibility

Reliable access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene saves lives, improves livelihoods, and makes communities more resilient. Investments in water resources management power economies, support agriculture, and safeguard ecosystems. Despite the challenges posed by global pandemics, increased conflict, and climate change, more people have access to safe drinking water, safely managed sanitation services, and basic hygiene services than ever before. USAID works every day with governments, other local stakeholders, and partners to make it possible to achieve universal water and sanitation access by 2030 and a water-secure world forever.

USAID's Vision for Water Security

Under the [2022 U.S. Global Water Strategy](#), USAID envisions a water-secure world, where people and nations have the water they need to be **healthy, prosperous, stable, and resilient**. USAID helps partner countries plan, finance, and deliver safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services for the neediest, while sustainably managing water resources. USAID works with countries with both the greatest need for these services and the political will to expand access, engaged private sectors, and favorable conditions for improving the lives of vulnerable populations, especially women and children. For more information on USAID's water security programming and progress, visit [GlobalWaters.org](#).

Delivering Results

USAID's water, sanitation, and hygiene investments have resulted in millions of people gaining access to sustainable drinking water and sanitation services and hygiene facilities, and benefiting from improved water resources management.

As a result of U.S. Foreign Assistance, USAID has helped:



70 million people gain access to sustainable drinking water services since 2008



54.8 million people gain access to sustainable sanitation services since 2008



Mobilize **\$590 million** in new funding for water and sanitation since 2018

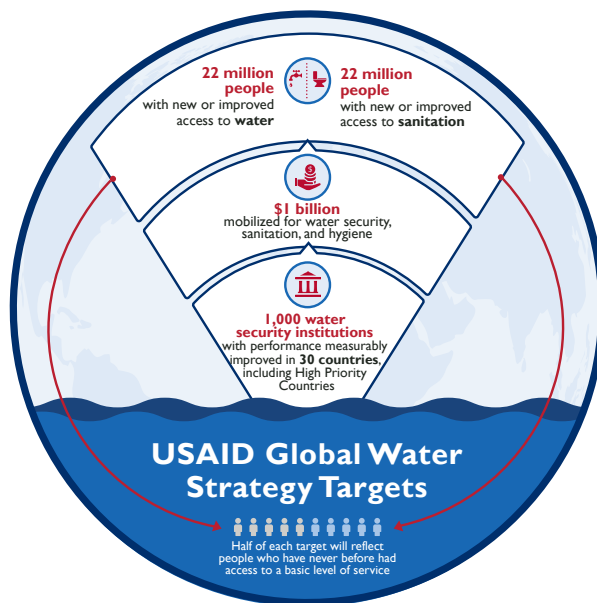
Learn more in the [Global Water Strategy 2023 USAID Annual Report](#) and explore the [Results Map](#).

Looking Forward

USAID has set ambitious targets that will directly increase the number of people reached with new or improved access to water and sanitation, including those who have never before had a basic level of service.

USAID has also set new types of targets on finance and institutional performance that capture how the Agency intends to strengthen essential systems, indirectly contributing to improved access to services for millions more people.

USAID has released [22 Global Water Strategy High-Priority Country plans](#) that outline how it will achieve these targets in the priority countries.



Sources

1. [JMP/World Health Organization, 2017.](#)
2. [World Development Indicators, World Bank, 2020.](#)
3. [“Mission-critical: Invest in water, sanitation and hygiene for a healthy and green economic recovery,” WaterAid, 2021.](#)
4. [“Adapt now: a global call for leadership on climate resilience,” Global Center on Adaptation, 2019.](#)