



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



WATER SECURITY AND SANITATION

Progress and Possibility

USAID's water and sanitation assistance has resulted in millions of people gaining access to improved drinking water and sanitation services. Reliable access to safe water and sanitation saves lives, reduces extreme poverty, and makes communities more resilient. Investments in water and sanitation are critical for progress in nearly all aspects of global development.

USAID's Vision for Water

The U.S. Government believes in a water-secure world, where people and nations have the water they need to be healthy, prosperous, and resilient. To support this goal, USAID helps partner countries on their development journey to become self-reliant. Access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation and hygiene are key steps on that journey.

Through its Water and Development Plan in support of the 2017 [U.S. Government Global Water Strategy](#), USAID helps partner countries plan, finance, and deliver safe water and sanitation services for the neediest, while sustainably managing water resources. The Agency works closest with countries that have 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 programing and progress, visit Globalwaters.org

A Global Water and Sanitation Crisis

Many women, children, impoverished families, and marginalized groups live every day without safe water to drink or access to sanitation facilities. The consequences of this global crisis are immense.

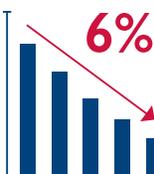
Three in Ten people lack safe drinking water in their homes.¹



Six in Ten people lack hygienic toilets at home.²



297,000 CHILDREN UNDER AGE 5 are estimated to die each year from diarrhea as a result of unsafe **drinking water, sanitation, and hand hygiene.**³



By 2050, some nations could see their economic growth decline by as much as **6 percent** of Gross Domestic Product as a result of water pollution, increasing water demand, and dwindling water supplies.⁴

Delivering Results

Since 2008, USAID's water and sanitation assistance has resulted in 42 million people gaining access to improved drinking water and more than 27 million people gaining access to improved sanitation, globally. As a result of USAID programs, communities around the world are benefiting from access to improved water and sanitation services.

Number of people gaining access to an improved drinking water service



Cumulative: **42 million***
FY 2017: **3.6 million**

Women and Girls
FY 2017: **1.7 million**



Number of people gaining access to an improved sanitation service



Cumulative: **27.2 million**
FY 2017: **3.2 million**

Women and Girls
FY 2017: **1.9 million**



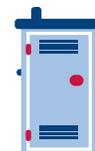
*Cumulative from FY 2008–FY 2017 and for FY 2017 specifically

More Than Taps and Toilets

Going forward, USAID set targets to help provide 15 million people with sustainable access to safe drinking water services and 8 million people with sustainable access to sanitation services by 2022. To reach these targets and help countries increase their self-reliance, USAID seeks to:



Strengthen sector governance and mobilize innovative financing



Increase sustainable access and use of sanitation and promote the practice of key hygiene behaviors



Increase sustainable access to safe drinking water



Improve management of water resources

¹ World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Joint Monitoring Programme. 2019. Progress on Household Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene 2000–2017: Special Focus on Inequalities. New York: WHO and UNICEF.

² *ibid.*

³ WHO. 2019. Drinking-water webpage: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/drinking-water>.

⁴ World Bank Group. 2016. High and Dry: Climate Change, Water, and the Economy. Washington, DC: World Bank.