



Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2014

Quick Facts

- 2.5 Billion – Number of people lacking access to basic sanitation worldwide.
- 750 Million – Number of people without access to clean water worldwide.
- August 1, 2013 – Water for the World Act of 2014 was introduced into Congress.
- December 19, 2014 – Water for the World Act of 2014 was signed into law by President Obama.

Summary/Background

The Water for the World Act of 2014 will help address the needs of over one-third of world's total population who lack access to basic sanitation or clean water.

In 2005, the Water for the Poor Act was signed into law, making water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) a U.S. foreign policy priority. The Water for the World Act of 2014 builds on the Water for the Poor Act of 2005 and sets principles for WASH projects to achieve maximum impact by focusing on priority countries, and emphasizes that resources go to those that are in most need of WASH programming. It also emphasizes the importance of WASH and making WASH programs more efficient. The Water for the World Act of 2014 also ensures that all U.S. Government agencies focusing on WASH are working closely together to achieve long-term impact. The enactment of the law was led by a strong bipartisan effort in Congress by Reps. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Ted Poe (R-TX), and Sens. Richard Durbin (D-IL) and Bob Corker (R-TN).

What the 2014 Act Means

- The [Water for the World Act of 2014](#) is a legislation that will **build upon the Water for the Poor Act**, which was passed by Congress and signed into law in 2005.
- The Water for the World Act of 2014 is bipartisan legislation focused on **making the most of existing investments** in these lifesaving programs without creating new bureaucracy. It focuses on efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency, so we can all share in the mission of helping to save lives and create opportunity worldwide.
- Reinforces key components of the [USAID Water and Development Strategy \(2013-2018\)](#).
- Ensures that WASH assistance is targeted to countries of greatest need and opportunity.
- In addition, the Water for the World Act of 2014 requires a government-wide Global Water Strategy by October 1, 2017.

For More Information

- Contact our Water Office POC, Seema Johnson at sejohnson@usaid.gov.
- Subscribe to our Global Waters e-magazine at waterhelpdesk@usaid.gov.
- Visit our website at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/water-and-sanitation>.