



The Sustainable Development Goals and WaterAid

Investment in WASH

There is increasing global awareness of the importance of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) to alleviate poverty. Investing in WASH requires an integrated approach with first steps required at the household, community, district and country level.

Given the number of intersections between business and WASH, and the diversity of business activities and models globally, the business case for engaging on WASH is multi-faceted. The most obvious alignment and in fact, greatest need, is in providing WASH access and education for working people, both in their places of employment and wider communities.

Access to water and other services such as toilets are basic human rights. With improved access we are able to stop the spread of deadly diseases and improve people's health and living conditions.

Businesses that are already engaging on WASH make a clear link between business value, and the societal benefit or development impact generated by investing in WASH.

A global vision to end extreme poverty by 2030 beginning with water and sanitation.

The SDGs call for worldwide collective action among governments, business and civil society to end poverty and create a life of dignity and opportunity for all, within the boundaries of the planet.



On 25 September 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, redefining how the global community will work together to address poverty and improve living standards, while ensuring development is sustainable. The 17 goals cover a range of issues from water and sanitation to poverty, gender equality, health and climate change.

The United Nations Member States and other World leaders have publicly acknowledged that universal access to water and sanitation is vital for eradicating poverty and fundamental to sustainable development. Goal 6 therefore provides an opportunity to ensure that water, sanitation and hygiene are prioritised within the sustainable development agenda at all levels.

Become a champion of WASH with WaterAid and part of the broader global movement to achieve the SDGs.



Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Access to water and sanitation has far-reaching impacts, it creates fairer, more productive and healthier communities. Therefore, water, sanitation and hygiene extends far beyond Goal 6. WASH

is an essential component of an integrated approach to tackling poverty, hunger, health and inequality. Successful realisation of goal 6 will underpin progress across many other goals, including:

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere - The definition of poverty used for the Global Goals is that everyone has access to basic services, of which water and sanitation are two of the most fundamental.



Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture - Reducing malnutrition is the second target in this goal. 50% of malnutrition is attributable not just to lack of food consumption, but also repeated episodes of diarrhoea.



Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages - Universal access to WASH will help reach targets for global health, including reducing infant mortality and water-related diseases.



Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all - Improving access to appropriate, private toilets in schools contributes to adolescent girls staying in school for longer



Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls - Access to WASH has a direct impact on the health of women and girls throughout their lives.



Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable - Lack of WASH services is enough to classify a dwelling as a slum, so improvements in these areas is a necessary condition to achieve this goal.

Other Global Goals that have links to WASH



Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.



Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.



Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.





The Opportunities and challenges

Today, more than 650 million people live without safe, clean water and 2.3 billion live without sanitation. However, there is real hope for the future, with countries across the world strongly supporting the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals.

Rapid Urbanisation, population growth and economic development present increasing and competing demands for water. Based on current trends, the population in Asia is expected to reach 4.9 Billion by 2030. Meeting domestic needs as well as those of agriculture, energy and industry presents complex and competing challenges for water resource management, environmental protection and the treatment of waste.

Climate change is likely to lead to more frequent, unpredictable and extreme weather episodes, with poor people disproportionately affected by floods, droughts and contaminated water. It will be increasingly important that communities can access climate resilient water and sanitation facilities and that action is taken to mitigate the impact.

Public Health depends on safe water, sanitation and good hygiene. Without these services deadly outbreaks of diseases such as cholera and Ebola are likely to be more prevalent and the impact of infectious diseases will be exacerbated.

Financing universal access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene will require a significant increase in public and private funding. It will be essential to target investment where it is most needed and improve coordination with programs in health, education and the environment.

Sustaining water and sanitation services and hygiene is a significant challenge in many developing countries. More attention needs to be paid by governments and other service providers to ensure the maintenance of facilities that are appropriate affordable and accessible.

Against this backdrop, WaterAid's strategy is to bring strong partnerships and coalitions together as we work towards our goal of water, sanitation and hygiene for everyone by 2030. Through four interconnected aims we will influence

change: address inequality to access; strengthen sustainable services; integrate WASH with other essential areas of development; and improve hygiene behavior.