



# Overflowing cities

The State of the World's Toilets 2016

## Introduction

Human beings are now largely an urban species: for the first time in history, more than half of the world's population (54%, or 3.9 billion people) lives in towns, cities and megacities.<sup>1</sup> By 2050, that's expected to rise to two-thirds.<sup>2</sup>

Many new urbanites, and particularly the poorest, are not moving into gleaming apartment blocks or regenerated post-industrial areas. They are arriving – or being born into – overcrowded, rapidly expanding slums.

Economic growth is usually driven by urbanisation, and all industrialised countries already have a mostly urban population. This means that nearly all the current urban population growth is happening in developing countries.<sup>3</sup> UN Habitat estimates that more than one-third of the developing world's urban population – over 863 million people – live in slums.<sup>4</sup> Often, city planning and infrastructure building have been unable to keep pace.

### Nowhere to go

More often than not, these neighbourhoods have no safe, private toilets or clean water sources. The logistics, not to mention the politics, of trying to bring sanitation into an established slum can be extremely problematic. Worldwide, it is estimated that almost one-fifth of all urbanites – over 700 million people – live without a decent toilet.<sup>5</sup> To put that into context, the queue for people waiting for toilets in our cities and towns would stretch around the world 29 times.

When governments ignore their citizens' most basic needs, people are left with a haphazard mix of services to empty latrine pits and dispose of the waste, often with scant regard for cleanliness, either for workers or nearby residents.

Without access to any system for removing human waste, almost 100 million urban-dwellers have little option but to practise open defecation.<sup>6</sup> The remaining 600 million people rely on toilets that do not fulfil minimum requirements of hygiene, safety or privacy – including dirty and crowded communal toilets, and rudimentary pit or bucket latrines.

Communities near water may use 'hanging' latrines suspended over a river or lake, where human waste drops straight into the water. Streets and common areas quickly become open sewers and rubbish dumps.

### Expanding threat to a shrinking world

Beyond the humiliation and health risks to people living in slums, this lack of sanitation threatens the health and security of the city as a whole, and the world beyond.

Cholera, Ebola and many other diseases spread faster and further without sanitation and good hygiene practices to block their path. In today's interconnected world, many of the diseases found in an urban slum in South Asia or Sub-Saharan Africa can quickly become an issue in the developed world too.

Last year, all UN member states committed to the new Global Goals for Sustainable Development, which included in Goal 6 the target to ensure everyone everywhere has access to basic toilets by 2030.

In this year's State of the World's Toilets, we look at some of the world's worst countries for urban sanitation, and some of the jobs that are created when the challenge is addressed head-on. With only 14 years to achieve the UN goals, there's no time to waste.



In Nima slum, Accra, a new concrete drainage channel has been built, taking wastewater from other parts of the city through the middle of the community. However, no provision has been made for the drainage needs of the slum. Abdul's house has been badly damaged by the resulting erosion. Here, he stands in a collapsed room.

WaterAid/Geoff Bartlett

# The impact of poor sanitation in urban areas

Slums typically have very poor sanitary conditions: badly constructed or malfunctioning latrines, toilets emptying into open drains and inadequate waste removal services. Millions of people defecate in the open – using roadsides, railway tracks and even plastic bags dubbed ‘flying toilets’ – because they have no other option.

## The crisis

**700 million** people are living in urban areas without a basic toilet.

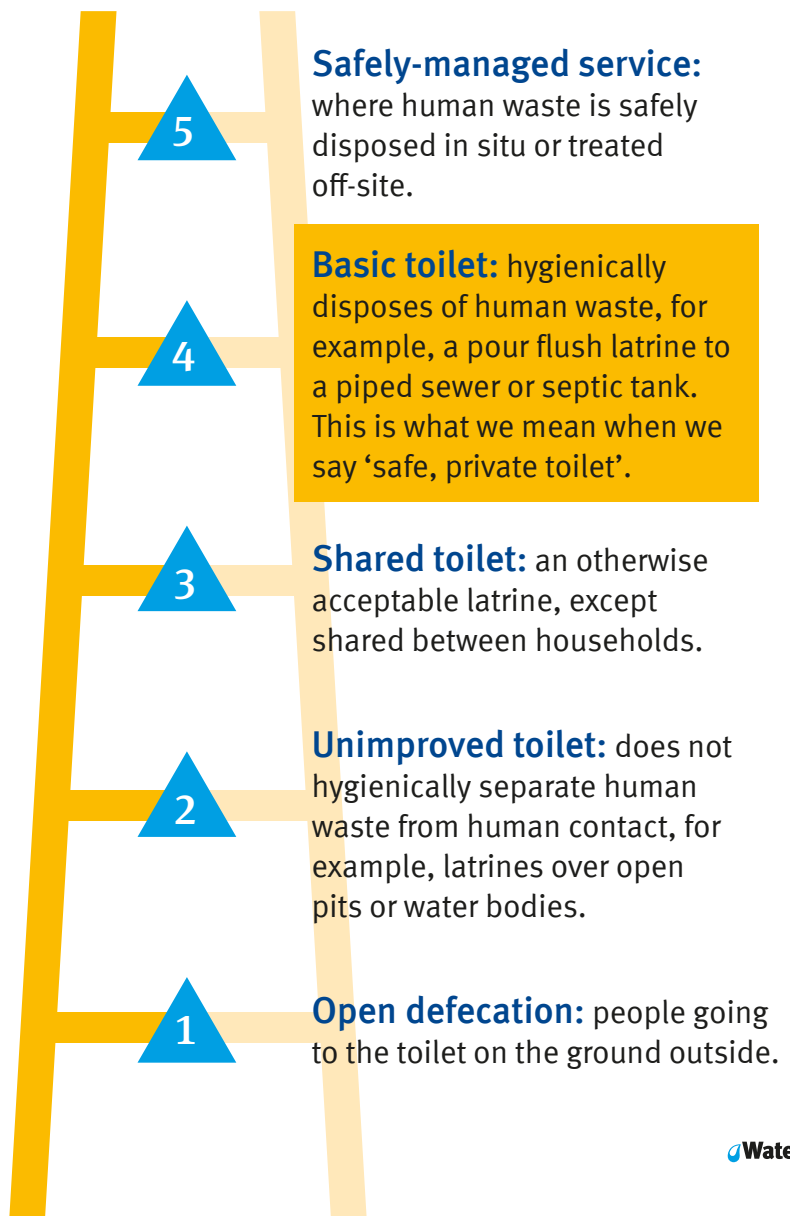


Of these, **100 million** people practise open defecation.<sup>7</sup>



## The sanitation ladder

Everyone everywhere has the right to a ‘basic toilet’: something which hygienically separates people from their waste, in dignity and privacy. But 700 million urban dwellers are near the bottom of the sanitation ladder, with services that do not meet minimum needs.<sup>8</sup>



# Five big reasons why people are living without safe, private toilets in urban areas

## 1. Patchy coverage

While high-income areas are usually lucky enough to have a properly planned public sewerage system, poorer areas are often left to improvise. Toilets may be too difficult to access, or too poorly constructed, to allow for proper emptying and so people make do with dumping and burying their waste themselves – contaminating the environment.



## 2. Politics

Often, politicians prefer to invest in roads, schools and other visible infrastructure, neglecting the dirty issue of sanitation, which happens mostly underground. Poor people don't always express their desire for safe, private toilets – sometimes because of cultural norms, but more often because they don't feel able to effect change. Also, poor sanitation affects women and girls most, yet typically they are sidelined when it comes to discussions about community or household needs, or priorities in city planning.

## 3. Land tenure

The question of who owns and is responsible for the land on which many slums are built is a major roadblock when it comes to provision of services, including sanitation. Whether their homes are on public or privately-owned land, residents of slums are often seen as illegal or temporary; there's little incentive and no clear responsibility for investment and improvements. Slum residents are socially and politically excluded and their basic needs shamefully ignored.

## 4. Inadequate systems

Even where toilets exist, infrastructure and institutions may not be able to take care of them properly. Lack of budget and lack of training lead to poor operation and maintenance, so they quickly fall into disrepair. Managing all that waste also requires major investment and planning for transport and treatment. Governments often see toilets as a household responsibility, so the large-scale planning needed doesn't happen.

Managing all that waste also requires major investment and planning for transport and treatment. Governments often see toilets as a household responsibility, so the large-scale planning needed doesn't happen.

## 5. Technical challenges

Poor communities are often situated on low-lying land next to rivers or seafronts, and so drainage and flooding are constant problems. Trucks that empty pit latrines may not be able to get through narrow paths and streets in crowded slums. As the population grows, already weak existing services can't keep up.

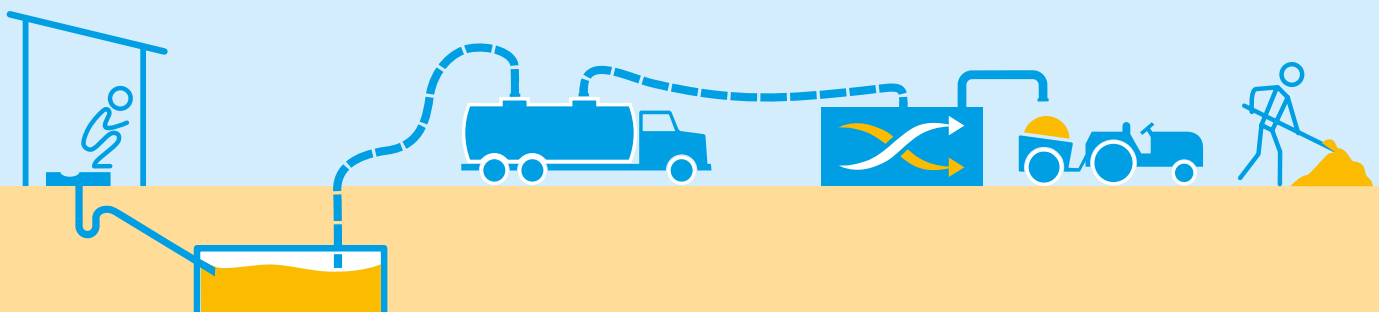


## Six ways not having safe toilets affects people's lives

- 1. It makes you and your children ill.** Diarrhoea caused by dirty water, and poor sanitation and hygiene kills 315,000 children every year<sup>9</sup> and is linked to 50% of child undernutrition,<sup>10</sup> which can lead to stunted physical and mental development.
- 2. It puts women and girls at risk.** Having no access to a safe, private toilet means women and girls often wait until dark to find a quiet place to defecate, making them more vulnerable to attack or rape.
- 3. It's hard to manage periods.** Managing menstruation safely and with dignity is all but impossible without private toilets in the home and school. Girls often drop out of education completely when they start their periods.
- 4. It makes it hard to deliver good healthcare.** Poor sanitation in a community means poor sanitation in medical clinics as well, putting patients and health workers at risk from life-threatening, preventable infections.
- 5. It keeps people in poverty.** If filthy surroundings are constantly making a community ill, it's hard for people to engage in productive work or for children to stay in school. No city or country ever achieved true modernity and prosperity without good sanitation.
- 6. It's bad for the economy.** Health spending and productivity losses due to illnesses caused by lack of sanitation, unclean water and poor hygiene practices cost many countries up to 5% of GDP.<sup>11</sup> That's more than the decline of developing economies during the peak of the 2008 financial crisis.<sup>12</sup>

## Where does the poo go?

A toilet is only the beginning of the 'sanitation chain': the processes that human waste must go through to be properly disposed of. Each link in this chain needs to be effective to keep communities clean and residents healthy.



**Capture:**  
a latrine that safely and effectively takes human waste away from human contact.

**Storage:**  
a sealed tank or pit that holds human waste away from human contact.

**Transport:**  
latrine emptying services or piped sewerage.

**Treatment:**  
a facility that filters and processes human waste.

**Disposal or reuse:**  
ways in which waste by-products can be safely disposed of or used, for instance as fertiliser.

## Ebola and cholera don't discriminate

The high population density of urban areas means people are exposed to the pollution created by fellow citizens. If open defecation is rife, or if a slum has so little space for new latrine pits that some are overflowing, or the waste management trucks do not serve them, then human excreta will contaminate the environment and undermine the health of people well beyond the slum, no matter what their income or social status. Similarly, high groundwater levels in riverside or coastal cities can be contaminated by raw sewage seeping through pits or being discharged into wastewater systems.

**Ebola** – spread by contact with the blood, urine and faeces of sufferers – was a stark reminder that poor sanitation has the power to contribute to a global health emergency. After originating in a remote rural community in Guinea it quickly spread across borders to bigger towns and cities, killing more than 11,000 people in a matter of months.

**Cholera** – an acute diarrhoeal disease that can kill within hours if left untreated – is another example of the devastating impact poor sanitation can cause. Provision of safe water and sanitation is critical to control cholera and other waterborne diseases.



Roselyn Kwesi, on her way home after bathing in a washing and latrine facility that empties straight into the water. Fanti town, West Point slum, Monrovia, Liberia.

WaterAid/Ahmed Jallanzo

# The world's worst countries for urban sanitation

## 1. Top 10 countries with most urban-dwellers without safe, private toilets – by percentage<sup>13</sup>

South Sudan tops the list of countries with the greatest percentage of the urban population living without safe toilets. What little infrastructure there was in towns and cities has been smashed by years of violence, which continues to this day, leaving 83% of urbanites in desperate need of a functioning latrine.<sup>14</sup>

Perhaps surprisingly, Ghana – featured right – comes fourth. Despite making great strides in development, this beacon of relative stability and growth in West Africa still has 80% of its people in urban areas living without sanitation<sup>15</sup> – with nearly 1 million of them having no choice but to go to the toilet in the open.<sup>16</sup>





# Ghana

Human Development Index rank out of 188 countries<sup>18</sup>

# 140

Ghana has one of the highest GDPs in Africa and yet nearly 45% of people in towns and cities have no choice but to defecate in the open.<sup>17</sup>

11,639,000

Number and percentage of urban population living without improved sanitation

79.8%



984,000

Number of urban-dwellers practising open defecation



2,100+

Annual child deaths from preventable diarrhoeal diseases



19%

Percentage of children under five who are stunted



For all its natural riches, Ghana's economy leaves a quarter of its population living below the poverty line. Access to basic services in urban areas is inadequate for the vast majority of people. While Ghana has made some improvements to urban sanitation services, particularly in providing community toilets, there is still a long way to go. Since 2000, over 1.6 million people have been reached but the numbers in cities without sanitation have grown by more than 4.6 million.<sup>19</sup> As a result there have been several outbreaks of cholera, including more than 6,000 cases in Accra in 2014 alone.

## Case study: Ghana

Abdulla Saidu is the manager of the local public toilet in Nima, one of the poorest parts of Accra. The facility is well-presented, with tiled floors and porcelain toilet pans. Abdulla's job is to maintain and clean the toilets, to help encourage residents to use them and abandon unsafe practices such as defecating in the open or using badly constructed, unhygienic latrines.

Abdulla says, "I am proud of this toilet and the community appreciates my work. Soon, there will be a biogas converter fitted to the waste tanks to generate cheap fuel for cooking."



WaterAid/Geoff Bartlett



Nima slum is in a shocking state of disrepair and squalor. Here, rubbish flows from a side drain into an open ditch.

WaterAid/Geoff Bartlett

## 2. Top 10 countries with the most urban-dwellers without safe, private toilets – by numbers<sup>20</sup>

India comes top for having the greatest number of urbanites living without sanitation. China is not far behind. Like most of the states in this list, they have huge populations and extremely rapid rural–urban migration. Economic development and urban planning have not kept pace with the sheer volumes of people arriving – and being born – every day in towns and cities.



Rank	Country	Numbers
1	India	157,191,476
2	China	104,166,548
3	Nigeria	58,920,884
4	Indonesia	38,044,712
5	Russian Federation	24,231,920
6	Bangladesh	23,272,773
7	DR Congo	21,632,993
8	Brazil	20,945,314
9	Ethiopia	14,023,089
10	Pakistan	12,321,093

# India

Human Development Index rank out of 188 countries<sup>22</sup>

# 130

**India – the third-biggest economy on Earth – is the worst country in the world for numbers of urban-dwellers without safe, private toilets and for open defecation.<sup>21</sup>**

**157,191,000**

Number and percentage of urban population living without improved sanitation

**37.4%**



**41,039,000**

Number of urban-dwellers practising open defecation



**68,000+**

Annual child deaths from preventable diarrhoeal diseases



**39%**

Percentage of children under five who are stunted



India is going through the largest rural-to-urban migration of this century.<sup>23</sup> Prime Minister Modi's Swachh Bharat (Clean India)<sup>24</sup> campaign recognises that the health and wealth of India largely depends on towns and cities growing in a sustainable, equitable way.

In today's India, 381 million people – a population roughly the size of Western Europe's – live in rapidly expanding urban areas,<sup>25</sup> and 157 million of those people have nowhere decent to go to the toilet.<sup>26</sup> Even though the government has made sanitation a priority, as cities expand at breakneck speed the numbers of urbanites living without sanitation has swelled by 26 million since the year 2000.<sup>27</sup>

## Case study: India



WaterAid/Poulomi Basu

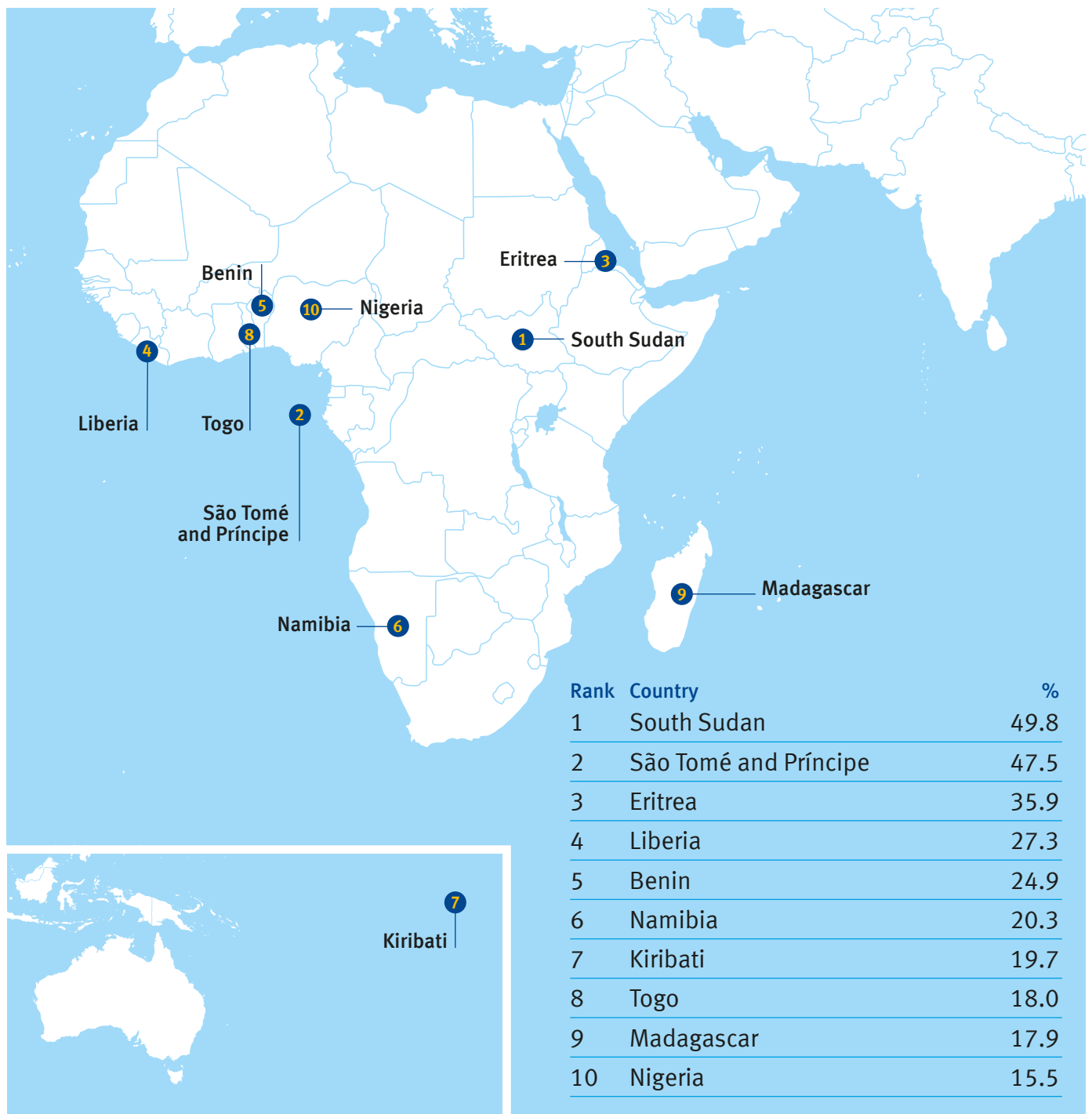
Uma Devi lives in a slum in Patna, in Bihar state, and has been a 'manual scavenger' – clearing out latrines by hand – for over 50 years. Manual scavenging is now illegal, but the practice persists. Uma was married off at 11 and her husband's family forced her into this livelihood. Today, as millions of Indians build better lives, Uma and people like her are condemned to an existence of squalor and humiliation.

“My day starts with someone coming to call me to their house to do this work. I take my bucket and the bowl to scoop up the waste. I collect the waste in the bucket and carry it on my head to the dumping place. The smell is unbearable so I try to go as fast as I can. I've fainted and vomited when working. It is very dirty doing this job. Waste used to get on me all the time, but I've learned how to do it without letting things spill on me. I've tried to get a sanitation job, but I am old now.”

### 3. Top 10 countries with the most urban-dwellers practising open defecation – by percentage<sup>28</sup>

Not only is South Sudan the worst country in the world for the percentage of people living without sanitation in urban areas, it also claims top spot for the percentage of those people who defecate in the open: nearly 50%.

Liberia, the West African nation which was one of three countries at the heart of the recent Ebola epidemic, comes fourth. Years of civil war destroyed infrastructure and left the population traumatised and in poverty; recent economic progress and development ground to a halt in the face of this devastating virus.



# Liberia

Human Development Index rank out of 188 countries<sup>30</sup>

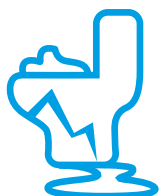
# 177

Half of Liberia's population lives in towns and cities and nearly one-third of these people practise open defecation.<sup>29</sup>

## 1,620,000

Number and percentage of urban population living without improved sanitation

### 72%



## 612,000

Number of urban-dwellers practising open defecation



## 500+

Annual child deaths from preventable diarrhoeal diseases



## 32%

Percentage of children under five who are stunted



Liberia's difficult history has included civil war, widespread corruption, unemployment and poor services. Liberia has a tiny population of just 4.5 million people and yet 1 in 4 people practise open defecation in urban areas.

The capital Monrovia still lacks electricity and running water in many areas. The West Point slum, established in the 1940s, now houses 75,000 residents in just four square kilometres of waterlogged land, and has only four functioning toilets.<sup>31</sup> Hundreds of people died there during the peak of the Ebola outbreak in summer 2014.<sup>32</sup>

## Case study: Liberia

Cheaco Pah is the caretaker for one of the few toilets that exist in West Point slum, Monrovia. Many of the people who now use this facility used to go to the toilet on the beach or in overflowing makeshift latrines dotted around the community.

Cheaco has been the caretaker since 2008 and says he prides himself on offering a good service. "If I had my own way, I would create more awareness among people [of good toilet and hygiene habits] and provide running water systems to reduce my burden in carrying water to this latrine block."



WaterAid/Ahmed Jallanzo

## 4. Top 10 countries with the most urban-dwellers practising open defecation – by numbers<sup>33</sup>

For the sheer scale of its urban sanitation crisis, India is the world leader: it has both the largest amount of urban dwellers without sanitation and the most open defecators on the planet – over 41 million people.<sup>34</sup> The waste they produce would fill eight Olympic swimming pools with poo, every day.

In third-ranked Nigeria, the size, density and poverty of the urban population, combined with chronic governmental failure to provide sanitation services to slums, forces over 13 million people to find anywhere they can to relieve themselves.<sup>35</sup>



# Nigeria

Human Development Index rank out of 188 countries<sup>37</sup>

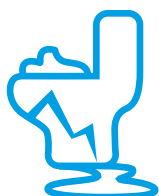
# 152

For every one urban dweller reached with sanitation in Nigeria since 2000, two people were added to the number living without.<sup>36</sup>

## 58,920,000

Number and percentage of urban population living without improved sanitation

## 67.2%



## 13,588,000

Number of urban-dwellers practising open defecation



## 44,000+

Annual child deaths from preventable diarrhoeal diseases



## 33%

Percentage of children under five who are stunted



Nigeria has the biggest population in Africa and nearly half (48%) live in urban areas.<sup>38</sup> Sanitation is not prioritised by the Nigerian government. Except in the capital Abuja and some areas of Lagos, there are no sewer systems across communities. Instead, sanitation is usually seen by government as the responsibility of individual households, who cannot afford to make improvements.

## Case study: Nigeria



WaterAid/Tom Saater

Francis Alagun is a 35-year-old father of three and works as a fisherman. He has lived in the waterside Ago-Egun slum community in Bariga, Lagos, since he was born.

“The major problems facing our community are the lack of drinkable water, toilet system, electricity and schools for the kids. During the rainy season, the area gets flooded because of the high tide. It used to get flooded to chest level and belongings got destroyed. Now we’ve used sand bags so that it only floods to knee level.”

For Francis’s community, stopping the flood water is about reducing disease in the slum, because the surrounding water is an open toilet. Everyone in the neighbourhood has little choice but to take a boat under a nearby bridge to defecate straight into the water.

## 5. Top 10 most-improved countries for reaching the most people in urban areas with safe, private toilets<sup>39</sup>

When it comes to reaching everyone everywhere with toilets, cities face a particular challenge in reaching growing populations: often one neighbourhood may be reached with sanitation, only to have a new one pop up without it. The countries in this category have managed to build toilets faster than the pace of new arrivals, meaning they are winning at not just reaching more people, but also ensuring the overall number of people without toilets continues to shrink.

Fast-growing China, for instance, has reached more than 329 million people since 2000 through the provision of urban sanitation systems, outpacing population growth by 9 million. Even so, another 104 million Chinese city-dwellers still rely on shared, rudimentary and often unsafe latrines.



Reduction in number of people without sanitation, 2000 to 2015

1	China	9,137,000
2	Brazil	3,382,000
3	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	2,885,000
4	Vietnam	2,821,000
5	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2,499,000
6	Mexico	1,504,000
7	Pakistan	1,226,000
8	Argentina	985,000
9	Cambodia	902,000
10	Venezuela	869,000



# Pakistan

Human Development Index rank out of 188 countries<sup>41</sup>

# 147

**In urban areas, Pakistan has reached 26.5 million people with sanitation since 2000 and the number of people living without a toilet has dropped by 1.2 million.<sup>40</sup>**

## 12,321,000

Number and percentage of urban population living without improved sanitation

## 16.9%



## 48,400

Number of urban-dwellers practising open defecation



## 22,000+

Annual child deaths from preventable diarrhoeal diseases



## 45%

Percentage of children under five who are stunted



Pakistan's towns and cities are growing so fast that by 2050 it is estimated that more than half the population will be urban. Today, there are nine cities with populations over 1 million people.<sup>42</sup>

While Pakistan has made considerable progress, stark inequalities remain, and the poorest are still being left behind. The inability of urban areas to provide enough employment, housing and services to newcomers from rural areas pushes up slum growth rates and inflames tensions between different ethnic and social groups.

The proportion of urbanites living without a toilet has halved since 1990, but the diarrhoea resulting from the ongoing crisis contributes to the deaths of more than 22,000 children every year.<sup>43</sup>

## Case study: Pakistan

Orangi Town – among Asia's biggest slums – was deprived of basic services for many years until, in 1980, local people set up an organisation called the Orangi Pilot Project to help citizens improve their streets, connect their houses and lanes to city utilities, and install 72,000 household toilets.<sup>44</sup> The organisation has laid around 1.3 million feet of sewer lines and one man, Muhammad Abdul Qadir, estimates he was involved in 75% of that work.

“Now, the wastewater flows directly to the main sewerage line. So, a lot of people have benefited and are at ease now.”

Gone are the murky open sewers which once blighted this community. The residents of Orangi, most of whom make a meagre living and are trying to escape a life of poverty, value the vital work done by people like Muhammad.



WaterAid / Sibtain Haider

## 6. Countries falling furthest behind in reaching people with safe, private toilets in urban areas<sup>45</sup>

It is a case of one step forward, two steps back for Nigeria, ranked number one in the countries falling furthest behind in reaching people with sanitation in urban areas. For every one urban dweller reached with sanitation since 2000, two people were added to the number living without. A general lack of awareness among people about the benefits of good sanitation, and

government neglect of slums, makes a bad situation even worse.

In Bangladesh, in fourth place, it is a similar story. While more than 15 million people were reached between 2000 and 2015, nearly 8 million people were added to the total number of those without a toilet.<sup>46</sup>



# Bangladesh

Human Development Index rank out of 188 countries<sup>48</sup>

# 142

In the last 40 years, the population of Dhaka has increased from 500,000 to over 17 million people, with approximately half a million people moving into Dhaka City every year.<sup>47</sup>

## 23,272,000

Number and percentage of urban population living without improved sanitation

### 42.3%



## 0

Number of urban-dwellers practising open defecation



## 4,000+

Annual child deaths from preventable diarrhoeal diseases



## 36%

Percentage of children under five who are stunted



In Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka, a 2011 survey revealed there were only 47 public toilets to serve 7 million people.<sup>49</sup> Still, the country has made massive progress in ending open defecation, reporting a near-zero rate in its cities.

This is evidence that progress is possible with political will and mass campaigns. But much more work is required to be sure cities don't regress and that sanitation, and health, continue to improve.

## Case study: Bangladesh

Alhaz Jalauddin is the head of the maintenance team at Gabtoli Bus Terminal in Dhaka. In 2014, as part of the H&M Foundation's Project SUNRISE, WaterAid helped build a public toilet facility inside the bus station – one of 30 such toilets across the city.

Alhaz says, "This is a model for the whole country. I never saw anything like this before in our country. In the last 18 months, we have had over 300,000 users. We need to add more toilet stalls for this."



WaterAid/GMB Akash



Sarah Quaye, 39, is blind and uses a disabled-friendly toilet built by a WaterAid partner in 2014, in Paynesville, Liberia. She says, “I like the place because no one is embarrassing me. It was difficult for me to use the old toilet because it was open to the public. People would use it, get it messed up and go. I am happy because I am no longer getting affected by infection and paying money to treat myself. I can now save some money to do other things.”

WaterAid/Ahmed Jallanzo

# Conclusion

For most of humanity, the future will unfold in towns and cities. The world's urban areas are growing at breathtaking speed, and so too are the inequalities within them.

In these circumstances, your neighbour's problems can easily become your problems too. All too quickly, a disease spread by poor sanitation in one area can kill a child living in luxury a stone's throw away. An outbreak can rapidly become a city-wide, national or international epidemic.

World leaders know that good sanitation is the bedrock of public health and must be available to everyone, all of the time. To achieve Global Goal 6 – to deliver sanitation to everyone everywhere by 2030 – every town and city in the world needs to prioritise providing safe toilets for all of their people, to pave the way to a healthier, more sustainable future.

## WaterAid is calling for

### 1. More money...

Governments, supported by donor agencies, must provide adequate sanitation, hygiene and clean water for urban populations, by dramatically increasing financing and building the strong institutions that deliver sanitation and water services.



### 2. Better spent...

This increased financing must be used transparently, efficiently and for maximum benefit to the poorest and most vulnerable people. Decision-makers at the city level need enough finance and human resources to extend coverage and cover the recurring costs (e.g. salaries, training, maintenance) required to sustain gains and provide good quality sanitation services over time.

### 3. To reach everyone...

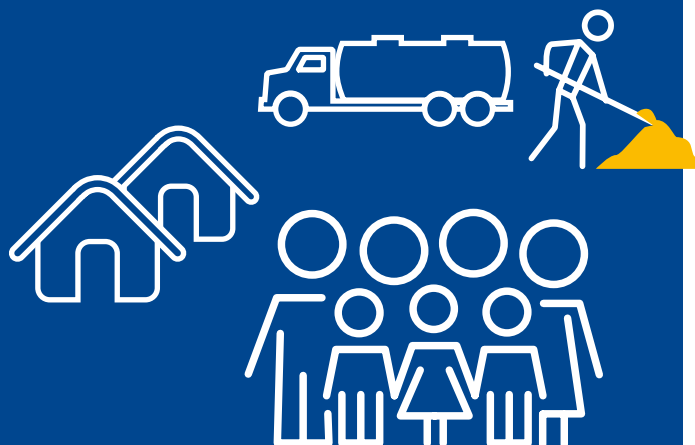
Governments, as part of a national strategy, should drive a 'city-wide' sanitation effort to ensure equitable access for all citizens – including those in slums and informal settlements – to ensure public health is protected. City-wide efforts must go beyond toilets and sewers and cover a wider range of services, because most of the urban poor rely on pit latrines that need emptying, and then the resulting sludge needs to be transported and treated.

### 4. By coordinating all actors...

Municipal sanitation planners must be empowered to bring together and lead the efforts of all service providers and funders. One coordinated, locally-led effort is needed that demands the collaboration of donors, NGOs, private sector, informal service providers and citizens.

### 5. And giving sanitation workers the respect they deserve

Governments and citizens must celebrate their sanitation workers – without them, good sanitation and healthy communities and cities are impossible. Sanitation workers must be given adequate working conditions with stable employment, safety and decent pay.



## Appendix: Countries by percentage of urban population living without safe, private toilets<sup>50</sup>

Country	% of population without access	Country	% of population without access
Afghanistan	54.9	Cape Verde	18.4
Albania	4.5	Cayman Islands	4.4
Algeria	10.2	Central African Republic	56.4
American Samoa	37.5	Chad	68.6
Andorra	0	Channel Islands	n/a
Angola	11.4	Chile	0
Anguilla	2.1	China	13.4
Antigua and Barbuda	n/a	China, Hong Kong SAR	n/a
Argentina	3.8	China, Macao SAR	n/a
Armenia	3.8	Colombia	14.8
Aruba	2.3	Comoros	51.7
Australia	0	Congo	80.0
Austria	0	Cook Islands	2.4
Azerbaijan	8.4	Costa Rica	4.8
Bahamas	8.0	Côte d'Ivoire	67.2
Bahrain	0.8	Croatia	2.2
Bangladesh	42.3	Cuba	5.6
Barbados	3.8	Cyprus	0
Belarus	5.9	Czech Republic	0.9
Belgium	0.5	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	12.1
Belize	6.5	Democratic Republic of the Congo	71.5
Benin	64.4	Denmark	0.4
Bermuda	n/a	Djibouti	40.2
Bhutan	22.1	Dominica	n/a
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	39.2	Dominican Republic	13.8
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1.1	Ecuador	13.0
Botswana	21.5	Egypt	3.2
Brazil	12.0	El Salvador	17.6
British Virgin Islands	2.5	Equatorial Guinea	20.1
Brunei Darussalam	n/a	Eritrea	55.5
Bulgaria	13.2	Estonia	2.5
Burkina Faso	49.6	Ethiopia	72.8
Burundi	56.2	Faeroe Islands	n/a
Cambodia	11.9	Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	n/a
Cameroon	38.2	Fiji	6.6
Canada	0	Finland	0.6

Country	% of population without access
France	1.4
French Guiana	n/a
French Polynesia	1.5
Gabon	56.6
Gambia	8.5
Georgia	4.8
Germany	0.7
Ghana	79.8
Greece	0.8
Greenland	0
Grenada	2.5
Guadeloupe	3.0
Guam	10.2
Guatemala	22.5
Guinea	65.9
Guinea-Bissau	66.5
Guyana	12.1
Haiti	66.4
Honduras	13.3
Hungary	2.2
Iceland	1.3
India	37.4
Indonesia	27.7
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	7.2
Iraq	13.6
Ireland	10.9
Isle of Man	n/a
Israel	0
Italy	0.5
Jamaica	20.1
Japan	0
Jordan	1.4
Kazakhstan	3.0
Kenya	68.8
Kiribati	48.8
Kuwait	0
Kyrgyzstan	10.9
Lao People's Democratic Republic	5.5
Latvia	9.2
Lebanon	19.3
Lesotho	62.7

Country	% of population without access
Liberia	72.0
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	3.2
Liechtenstein	n/a
Lithuania	2.8
Luxembourg	2.5
Madagascar	82.0
Malawi	52.7
Malaysia	3.9
Maldives	2.5
Mali	62.5
Malta	0
Marshall Islands	15.5
Martinique	n/a
Mauritania	42.5
Mauritius	6.1
Mayotte	n/a
Mexico	12.0
Micronesia (Fed. States of)	14.9
Monaco	0
Mongolia	33.6
Montenegro	2.0
Montserrat	n/a
Morocco	15.9
Mozambique	57.6
Myanmar	15.7
Namibia	45.5
Nauru	34.4
Nepal	44.0
Netherlands	2.5
Netherlands Antilles	n/a
New Caledonia	0
New Zealand	n/a
Nicaragua	23.5
Niger	62.1
Nigeria	67.2
Niue	0
Northern Mariana Islands	20.3
Norway	2.0
Oman	2.7
Pakistan	16.9
Palau	0

Country	% of population without access
Palestine	7.0
Panama	16.5
Papua New Guinea	43.6
Paraguay	4.5
Peru	17.5
Philippines	22.1
Poland	2.5
Portugal	0.4
Puerto Rico	0.7
Qatar	2.0
Republic of Korea	0
Republic of Moldova	12.2
Réunion	1.6
Romania	7.8
Russian Federation	23.0
Rwanda	41.5
Saint Kitts and Nevis	n/a
Saint Lucia	15.3
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	n/a
Samoa	6.7
San Marino	n/a
São Tomé and Príncipe	59.2
Saudi Arabia	0
Senegal	34.6
Serbia	1.8
Seychelles	1.6
Sierra Leone	77.2
Singapore	0
Slovakia	0.6
Slovenia	0.9
Solomon Islands	18.6
Somalia	n/a
South Africa	30.4
South Sudan	83.6
Spain	0.2
Sri Lanka	11.9

Country	% of population without access
Sudan	n/a
Suriname	11.6
Swaziland	36.9
Sweden	0.7
Switzerland	0.1
Syrian Arab Republic	3.8
Tajikistan	6.2
TFYR Macedonia	2.8
Thailand	10.1
Timor-Leste	31.0
Togo	75.3
Tokelau	n/a
Tonga	2.4
Trinidad and Tobago	8.5
Tunisia	2.6
Turkey	1.7
Turkmenistan	n/a
Turks and Caicos Islands	n/a
Tuvalu	13.7
Uganda	71.5
Ukraine	2.6
United Arab Emirates	2.0
United Kingdom	0.9
United Republic of Tanzania	68.7
United States of America	0.0
United States Virgin Islands	3.6
Uruguay	3.4
Uzbekistan	0
Vanuatu	34.9
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	2.5
Vietnam	5.6
Western Sahara	n/a
Yemen	n/a
Zambia	44.4
Zimbabwe	50.7



## References

- 1 World Bank (2015) figure: <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS>
- 2 United Nations (2014), Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision, Highlights*: <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/Publications/Files/WUP2014-Highlights.pdf>
- 3 United Nations (2014): <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news/population/world-urbanization-prospects-2014.html>
- 4 UN-Habitat (2014): <http://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/WHD-2014-Background-Paper.pdf>
- 5 World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (2015): [www.wssinfo.org](http://www.wssinfo.org)
- 6 World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (2015): [www.wssinfo.org](http://www.wssinfo.org)
- 7 World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (2012): [www.wssinfo.org](http://www.wssinfo.org)
- 8 World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (2015): [www.wssinfo.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/resources/JMP-WASH-Post-2015-Brochure.pdf](http://www.wssinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/resources/JMP-WASH-Post-2015-Brochure.pdf)
- 9 WASHwatch: [www.washwatch.org](http://www.washwatch.org)
- 10 World Health Organization (2008), *Safer water, better health: costs, benefits and sustainability of interventions to protect and promote health*: [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/43840/1/9789241596435\\_eng.pdf](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/43840/1/9789241596435_eng.pdf)
- 11 Based on percentage estimate from UN Development Programme (2006) Human development report: [www.hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR06-complete.pdf](http://www.hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR06-complete.pdf)
- 12 International Monetary Fund (2009), *World Economic Outlook*: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2009/01/pdf/text.pdf>
- 13 World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (2015): [www.wssinfo.org](http://www.wssinfo.org)
- 14 World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (2015): [www.wssinfo.org](http://www.wssinfo.org)
- 15 World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (2015): [www.wssinfo.org](http://www.wssinfo.org)
- 16 World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (2015): [www.wssinfo.org](http://www.wssinfo.org)
- 17 WaterAid (2016), *A tale of clean cities: Insights for planning urban sanitation from Ghana, India and the Philippines (Synthesis report)*.
- 18 WASHwatch: <http://www.washwatch.org/en/countries/ghana/summary/statistics/>
- 19 World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (2015): [www.wssinfo.org](http://www.wssinfo.org)
- 20 World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (2015): [www.wssinfo.org](http://www.wssinfo.org)
- 21 World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (2015): [www.wssinfo.org](http://www.wssinfo.org)
- 22 WASHwatch: <http://www.washwatch.org/en/countries/india/summary/statistics/>
- 23 World Bank (2016): <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/india/overview>
- 24 Government of India Ministry of Urban Development, Swachh Bharat Urban: <http://www.swachhbharaturban.in/sbm/home/#/SBM>
- 25 World Bank (2016): <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/india/overview>
- 26 World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (2015): [www.wssinfo.org](http://www.wssinfo.org)
- 27 World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (2015): [www.wssinfo.org](http://www.wssinfo.org)
- 28 World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (2015): [www.wssinfo.org](http://www.wssinfo.org)
- 29 World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (2015): [www.wssinfo.org](http://www.wssinfo.org)
- 30 WASHwatch: <http://www.washwatch.org/en/countries/liberia/summary/statistics/>
- 31 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- 32 World Health Organization: <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/ebola-6-months/surprises/en/>
- 33 World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (2015): [www.wssinfo.org](http://www.wssinfo.org)
- 34 World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (2015): [www.wssinfo.org](http://www.wssinfo.org)
- 35 World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (2015): [www.wssinfo.org](http://www.wssinfo.org)
- 36 World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (2015): [www.wssinfo.org](http://www.wssinfo.org)
- 37 WASHwatch: <http://www.washwatch.org/en/countries/nigeria/summary/statistics/>
- 38 World Bank (2015)
- 39 World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (2015): [www.wssinfo.org](http://www.wssinfo.org)
- 40 World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (2015): [www.wssinfo.org](http://www.wssinfo.org)
- 41 WASHwatch: <http://www.washwatch.org/en/countries/pakistan/summary/statistics/>
- 42 United Nations (2014), Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision, Highlights*: <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/Publications/Files/WUP2014-Highlights.pdf>
- 43 WASHwatch: <http://www.washwatch.org/en/countries/pakistan/summary/statistics/>
- 44 Massachusetts Institute of Technology: <http://web.mit.edu/urbanupgrading/upgrading/case-examples/ce-PK-ora.html>
- 45 World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (2015): [www.wssinfo.org](http://www.wssinfo.org)
- 46 World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (2015): [www.wssinfo.org](http://www.wssinfo.org)
- 47 Index Mundi (2015): [http://www.indexmundi.com/bangladesh/demographics\\_profile.html](http://www.indexmundi.com/bangladesh/demographics_profile.html)
- 48 WASHwatch: <http://www.washwatch.org/en/countries/bangladesh/summary/statistics/>
- 49 WaterAid Bangladesh and Centre for Urban Studies (2011), *An assessment of public toilets in Dhaka City*
- 50 World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (2015): [www.wssinfo.org](http://www.wssinfo.org)

Nana Ayisha, a water seller, walks through the Old Fadama slum on her rounds, Accra, Ghana.

WaterAid/Geoff Bartlett





Written by Tom Burgess with support from Jo Lehmann, Carolynne Wheeler, Fiona Callister, Laura Summerton, Tim Brewer, Andrés Hueso, Dan Jones, WaterAid India, WaterAid Nigeria, WaterAid Liberia-Sierra Leone, WaterAid Ghana, WaterAid Pakistan, WaterAid Bangladesh.

November 2016

[www.wateraid.org](http://www.wateraid.org)

#StateOfToilets

**For more information or to arrange interviews please contact WaterAid's global media team:**

**In London:** Fiona Callister on [FionaCallister@wateraid.org](mailto:FionaCallister@wateraid.org) or +44 (0)20 7793 5022, Carolynne Wheeler on [CarolynneWheeler@wateraid.org](mailto:CarolynneWheeler@wateraid.org) or +44 (0)20 7793 4485, or Jo Lehmann on [JoLehmann@wateraid.org](mailto:JoLehmann@wateraid.org) or +44 (0)20 7793 4909

**In Delhi:** Anil Cherukupalli on [AnilCherukupalli@wateraid.org](mailto:AnilCherukupalli@wateraid.org), or Pragya Gupta on [PragyaGupta@wateraid.org](mailto:PragyaGupta@wateraid.org)

**In Melbourne:** Kirrily Johns on [kirrily.johns@wateraid.org.au](mailto:kirrily.johns@wateraid.org.au) or +61 3 9001 8246

**In New York:** Alanna Imbach on [AlannaImbach@wateraid.org](mailto:AlannaImbach@wateraid.org) or +1 (212) 683-0430 ext 224 or +1 (646) 267 8006

**In Ottawa:** Christine LaRocque on [CLaRocque@wateraidcanada.com](mailto:CLaRocque@wateraidcanada.com) or +1 (613) 230-5182 ext 226

**In Stockholm:** Magdalena Olsson on [Magdalena.Olsson@wateraid.se](mailto:Magdalena.Olsson@wateraid.se) or +46 (0)8 677 30 33 or +46 (0)73 661 93 31, or Petter Gustafsson on [Petter.Gustafsson@wateraid.se](mailto:Petter.Gustafsson@wateraid.se) or +46 (0)8 677 30 21 or +46 (0)72 858 58 51

**Or call our after-hours press line on +44 (0)7887 521 552  
or email [pressooffice@wateraid.org](mailto:pressooffice@wateraid.org)**



WaterAid is a registered charity:  
Australia: ABN 99 700 687 141.  
Canada: 119288934 RR0001.  
India: U85100DL2010NPL200169.  
Sweden: Org.nr: 802426-1268, PG: 90 01 62-9, BG: 900-1629.  
UK: 288701 (England and Wales) and SC039479 (Scotland).  
US: WaterAid America is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization.

---

Cover image: A girl skips over a stream full of sewage in a slum in the Ajeromi-Ifelodun area of Lagos, Nigeria.

WaterAid/Tom Saater