

Water and Sanitation Sector Overview

- Ghana's targets following the Millennium Development Goals for 2015 for use of improved drinking water and improved sanitation are 78 and 53 percent respectively (1990 as base year).
- Use of improved drinking water for 2008 was 83.8¹ percent and 12.4 percent for improved sanitation (DHS 2008).²
- This indicates that, according to the JMP definition for access to improved drinking water, Ghana continues to be on track to meeting the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target for use of improved drinking water, which is 78%, but the same cannot be said about improved sanitation, which will be difficult to achieve by 2015 at the current rate of use.
- In general, there is continuous increase in the percentage of the population that uses improved drinking water and improved sanitation between 1990 and 2008. The increase for improved sanitation is however not substantial.

Findings of this document were derived from 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003 and 2008 Ghana Demographic and Health Surveys (GDHS) and the 2006 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) reports, both published by the Ghana Statistical Service.

¹ This includes the proportion of the population that uses bottled and sachet water as their main source of drinking water but use improved sources of water for cooking and washing.
² Following the definition by WHO/UNICEF JMP, the definition of improved sanitation (toilet facility) excludes shared toilet facilities.

Status of Ghana's Drinking Water and Sanitation Sector

Basic Indicators

Total Population (GSS 2005)	22,008,000
% Urban Population: (UN Population Division Est 2005)	46.3%
Under-five Mortality (DHS 2008)	80 per 1000
% of Population living on less than US\$1 per day (GLSS V)	28.5

Table 1. Improved Water and Sanitation Coverage (2008)

Indicator	Urban (%)	Rural (%)	Total (%)
Improved Drinking Water	93.0	76.6	83.8
Improved Sanitation(toilet) Facility	17.8	8.2	12.4

Source: DHS (2008)

Water and Sanitation Monitoring Platform (WSMP) Ghana

Water and Sanitation sector monitoring systems in Ghana are inadequate in providing data/information for decision-making on national water and sanitation sector investments, sub-sector resource allocation, sub-national disbursing, accountability of funds and actual disbursement. Equally, civil society groups do not have ready access to user friendly, relevant data/information to support or challenge sector decisions.

Generally, data streams are not harmonized and sector data literacy is low resulting in poor and limited interpretation and dissemination of sector related data and information to stakeholders. The potential for good sector monitoring impacting on resource allocation is therefore lost at all levels. It is due to these challenges that UNICEF and the EU agreed to support the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing (MWRWH) to establish the Water and Sanitation Sector Monitoring Platform (WSMP) in Ghana as one of three pilots (Mozambique and Nigeria) in Africa.

Readers to note!

The term 'Sanitation' as used in this document refers to 'a toilet facility,' as used in the indicator for measuring MDG progress for sanitation delivery. 'Improved sanitation' also implies use of an improved toilet facility.

The WSMP, an independent sector monitoring mechanism, seeks to achieve the following specific objectives:

- Seek convergence of existing national and sub-national Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) information and data streams
- Increase accessibility by different stakeholders to relevant water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector information through assembling, analyzing, re-packaging and disseminating available sector data.
- Contribute to building national monitoring capacity in the WASH sector.

The overall objective of the WSMP is to contribute to accelerated progress towards the MDG targets on safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

Coverage statistics for Water and Sanitation

Improved sources of drinking water

The proportion of the population with access to improved drinking water, according to the WHO/ UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP), is an indicator expressed as the percentage of people using improved sustainable drinking water sources or delivery points (Table 2).

Table 2. Sources of drinking water	
Improved water sources	Unimproved water sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household connection • Public standpipe • Borehole • Protected dug well • Protected spring • Rainwater Collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unprotected well • Unprotected spring • Rivers or ponds • Vendor-provided water • Tanker truck water • Bottled (& sachet) water

Source: JMP 2008

- Within a period of five years, the proportion of the Ghanaian population that uses improved drinking water recorded a significant increase of about 16 percent, moving from 68 percent (2003) to 83.6 percent (2008).
- Urban drinking water coverage also increased by 10 percent over the same period from 83 percent to 93 percent.
- Use of improved drinking water by the rural population increased remarkably by approximately 22 percent moving from 55 percent in 2003 to 76.6 percent in 2008 (Figure 1).

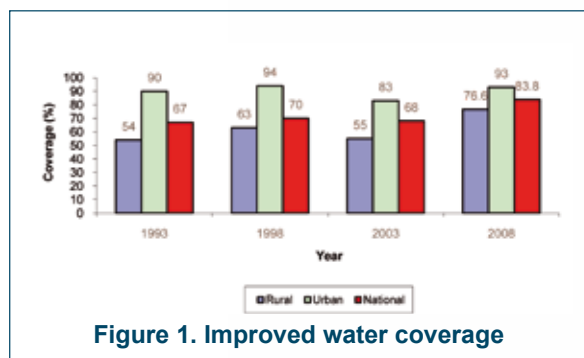


Figure 1. Improved water coverage

Source: GDHS (1993, 1998, 2003, 2008)

Note: the distinction between protected and unprotected well was not made in 1998 GDHS

Coverage for improved drinking water in rural Ghana has recorded consistent increase over the past fifteen years; gradually reducing the gap between urban and rural coverage over the years to about 16 percentage points (Figure 1).

This finding is also supported by provider based data³ from the Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA) where there was an 11 percent increase in improved rural drinking water coverage from 46 percent (2003) to 57 percent (2008) within the same period (Figure 2).

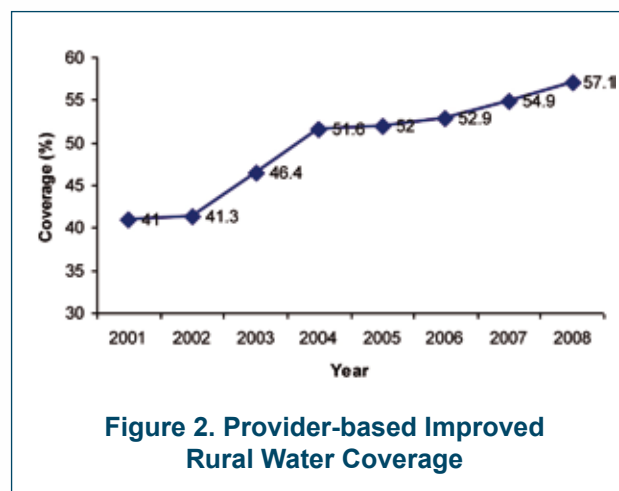
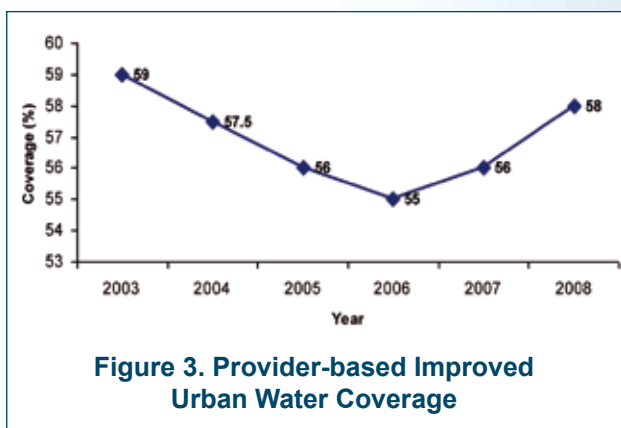


Figure 2. Provider-based Improved Rural Water Coverage

Source: Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA)

Available provider based data by the Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL) shows that urban water coverage declined consistently between 2003 and 2006 but rose gradually thereafter from 2006 to 2008 (Figure 3).

³ Provider based data refers to data generated by service providers such as the GWCL and CWSA on water and sanitation coverage. Note that provider-based data is not considered for UN MDG monitoring because methodologies, definitions and indicators differ from country to country and even from agency to agency within the same country, making international comparison sometimes unfair.



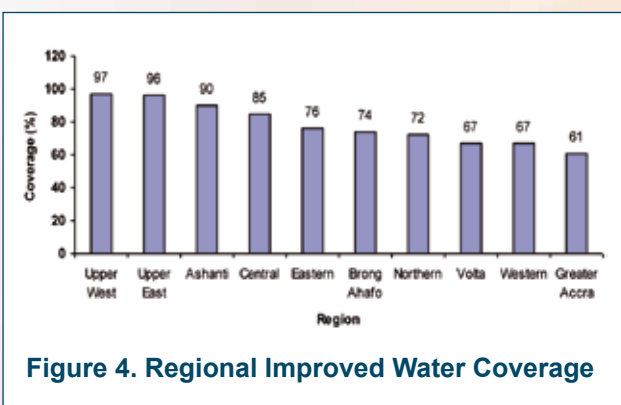
Source: Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL)

Year	Improved Drinking Water (%)		
	Total	Urban	Rural
1990	56	86	39
2008	83.8	93.0	76.6

Source: JMP 2008, GDHS 2008

Improved Water Coverage by Region

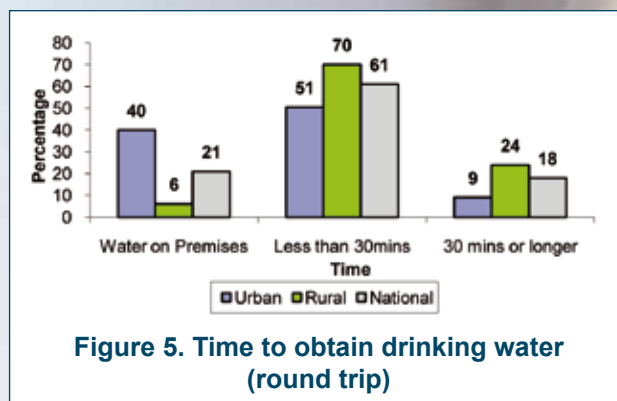
Improved drinking water coverage among the populations of the ten regions of Ghana varied strongly with the Upper West region recording the highest coverage of 97percent and Greater Accra the lowest of 61 percent (Figure 4).



Source: GDHS 2008

Time to obtain drinking water

The amount of time spent (round trip) to obtain drinking water is an important measure in determining the ease or difficulty in gaining access to drinking water. From figure 5, nationally, approximately 8 out of 10 households use less than 30 minutes to obtain their drinking water in a round trip. In the rural areas, more than 7 out of 10 households use less than 30 minutes whilst in the urban areas about 91% of the households use less than 30 minutes.



Improved Sanitation

An improved sanitation facility, according to the WHO/UNICEF JMP, is defined as one that hygienically separates human excreta from human contact. It is important to note that only users of 'improved' sanitation facilities are considered as having 'access' to sanitation on condition that the facility is not shared by multiple households and not public. Facilities in the improved and unimproved categories are set out in Table 4.

Improved Sanitation Facilities	Unimproved Sanitation Facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flush or pour-flush to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -piped sewer system -septic tank -pit latrine Ventilated improved pit latrine (VIP) Composting toilet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flush or pour-flush to elsewhere Pit latrine without slab or open pit Bucket Hanging toilet or hanging latrine No facilities or bush or field (open defecation)

Source: JMP 2008

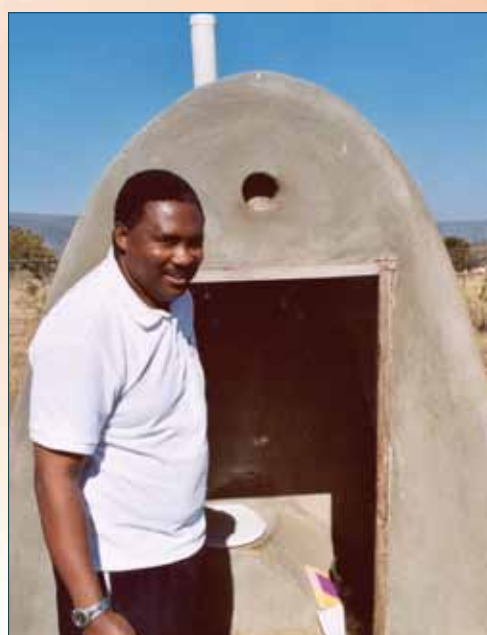


Photo: Water, Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC)

- National coverage for improved sanitation increased from 4 percent to 12.4 percent between 1993 and 2008.
- Among urban populations, improved sanitation coverage increased by approximately 8 percent appreciating from 10 percent in 1993 to 17.8 percent in 2008.
- For rural populations, improved sanitation coverage increased from 1 percent to 8.2 percent between 1993 and 2008.
- It is worth noting that there was an appreciable increase of 6 percent in improved sanitation coverage for the rural population between 2003 and 2008 compared to just 3 percent increase in coverage for the urban population during the same period (Figure 6).
- The gap between the present national coverage on improved sanitation of 12.4 percent and the 53 percent target by 2015 indicates that there must be approximately five times increase in coverage to be able to achieve the set target.



Photo: Water, Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC)

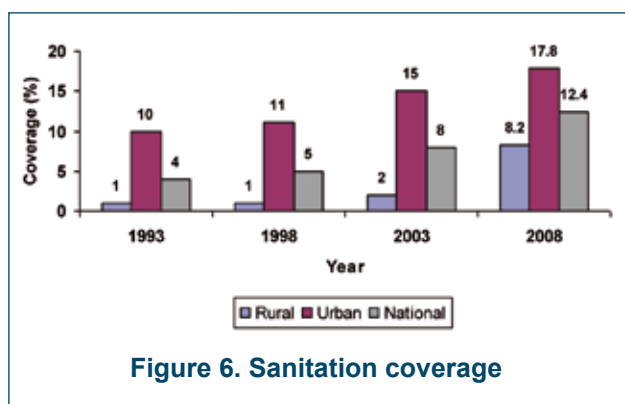


Figure 6. Sanitation coverage

Source: GDHS (1993, 1998, 2003, 2008)

Table 5. Percentage of the population with improved toilet facility for 1990 and 2008

Year	Improved Sanitation (%)		
	Total	Urban	Rural
1990	6	11	3
2008	12.4	17.8	8.2

Source: JMP 2008, GDHS 2008

Note: Provider based data for improved sanitation was unavailable for analysis. Subsequent updates of this document shall make efforts to obtain this data.

Improved Sanitation Coverage by Region

The use of improved sanitation facilities at the regional level varies considerably as coverage is highest in the Greater Accra, Eastern, Western and Central Regions. Residents of the three regions in the north (Northern, Upper East and Upper West) are less likely than others to use improved facilities as only 3 percent of the population in the Northern region use improved sanitation facilities (not shared) whilst 25 percent in the Greater Accra region use such facilities (Figure 7).

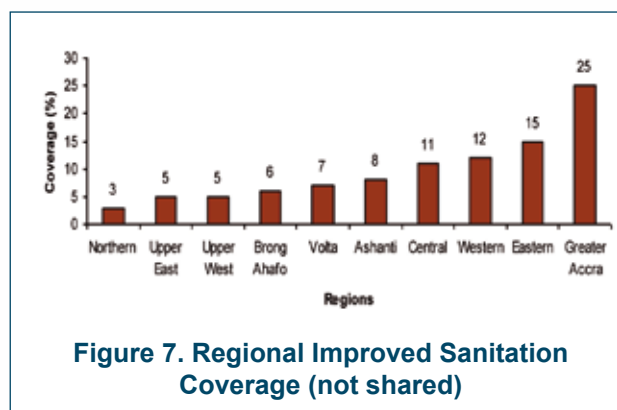


Figure 7. Regional Improved Sanitation Coverage (not shared)

Source: GDHS (2008)

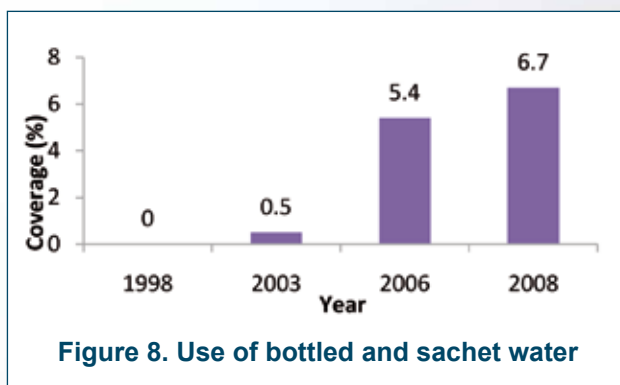
There was a marginal 1.3 percent decline in open defecation from (24.4%) in 2006 to 23.1% in 2008



Emerging Trends

Sachet and bottled water are considered as unimproved drinking water sources under the defined criteria in Table 2.

The WHO/UNICEF JMP however considers bottled water a source of improved drinking water *only when* another improved source is also used for cooking and personal hygiene. This implies that though the respondent has access to other improved sources of drinking water, he/she has decided, as a matter of choice, to drink packaged water. Where people are 'compelled' to drink packaged water (as was the case for 0.8% of the population in 2008), they are not counted among users of improved water sources.



From Figure 8, use of bottled and sachet water as primary source of drinking water has increased from 0% to 6.7% within ten years and this trend is likely to continue. It is to be noted that approximately 6% of the population used bottled/sachet water in 2008 even though they could have used other improved sources of water. The trend is more widespread in the urban areas where 12% prefer to drink sachet/bottled water though they could have drank from other improved sources. It is, however, insignificant in the rural areas (1.1%).

Progress towards achieving MDG targets

Estimates for projected and expected trends for water and sanitation appear in Figure 9. Projected trends are based on a linear regression of the available data points whereas expected trends indicate the progression that will be necessary to reach the MDG targets.

Projected coverage for 2015 for improved water and sanitation will be 91.5% and 15% respectively if progress made between 1990 and 2008 remains constant.

This indicates that Ghana is on track to meeting the MDG target of 78% for the proportion of its population that uses improved drinking water by 2015; and could exceed this target by 13 percent. Achieving the MDG target for improved sanitation however, requires an average of six (6) percent coverage per annum between 2008 and 2015 for Ghana to reach the MDG target of 53% by 2015.

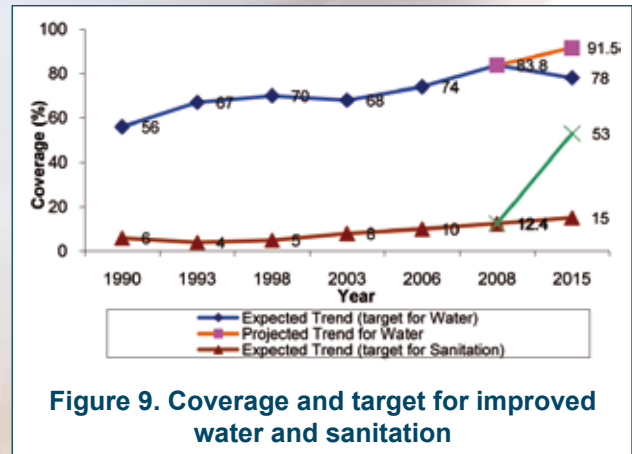


Photo: Water, Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC)

Conclusion

The proportion of the population that uses improved drinking water was 83.8 percent and improved sanitation facility was 12.4 percent in 2008.

This means that about **3.5 million** people living in Ghana did not use improved drinking water and as much as **19.2 million** did not use improved sanitation facilities in 2008.

The projected trend (Figure 5) however, indicates that Ghana could reach 91.5 percent coverage for improved drinking water by 2015 and reduce the population that would **not use** improved drinking water to about **1.9 million** at the current pace.

It is however to be noted that there is an emerging increasing use of sachet and bottled water by households. But this will only be classified as improved source if households also use improved sources for other household needs (such as cooking, and personal hygiene).

At the current pace of increase in the use of improved sanitation (toilet facilities), the number of people in Ghana who would not use improved toilet facilities will be **18.7 million** by 2015.

WSMP (Ghana) is funded by EU Water Facility, with additional funding and technical support from UNICEF, hosted by the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing-Ghana.



Population needed to be served to meet the targets by 2015

Based on the JMP's definition and estimates, Ghana has currently exceeded its 2015 target of 78% coverage for use of improved drinking water by 6%, it should however be noted that a significant proportion of the population (**about 3.5 million**) still do not use improved sources of drinking water and more effort is still needed to extend coverage to these people

On sanitation, further analysis of available data indicates that for Ghana to reach its MDG target of 53% for use of improved sanitation by 2015, will mean that as much as **1.2 million** people need to use or have access to improved sanitary facilities **every year** till 2015 (from 2008).



Photo: WaterAid