

Chapter 16 Highlights

1. The global burden of disease associated with inadequate WASH has declined over the past several decades, but is still unacceptably high.
2. The SDG goal of ensuring universal access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene is critical for human health, economic development, environmental protection, human dignity, and gender equity.
3. Translating SDG WASH goals into specific, measurable indicators is a complex task, and in the past has relied heavily on technological distinctions (between unimproved and improved solutions) that may not always be relevant.
4. The JMP ladders are a way of monitoring progress towards improved WASH; they show progress but there is a long way to go.
5. When urban slums do not have access to water infrastructure, poor households must pay more for water (in both money and time), exacerbating inequality.
6. Ending open defecation is high on the development agenda, but methods to achieve this goal are sometimes coercive and ineffective.
7. People around the world use many different types of sanitation solutions, often involving a *pit latrine* of some type. Depending on how they are managed, both *networked* and *on-site* sanitation solutions can result in either safe or unsafe disposal of human waste; *SFDs* are useful tools for understanding the complex fate of fecal matter.
8. Hygiene is now included in the SDGs, but menstrual hygiene has been largely neglected.
9. A central question for the future of water is whether LMICs should (or will be able to) replicate Water 3.0 for all their citizens, or whether there are decentralized or alternative models that may be more appropriate in the short and long terms.
10. Successful WASH interventions must take into account local physical and cultural conditions, and avoid creating other problems.
11. There are three basic sources of funding for WASH: tariffs, taxes, and transfers. Where WASH solutions are unaffordable to local residents, taxes and transfers (as well as tariff cross-subsidies) are absolutely necessary. Meeting WASH goals is unaffordable locally but affordable globally, and has a high BCR.