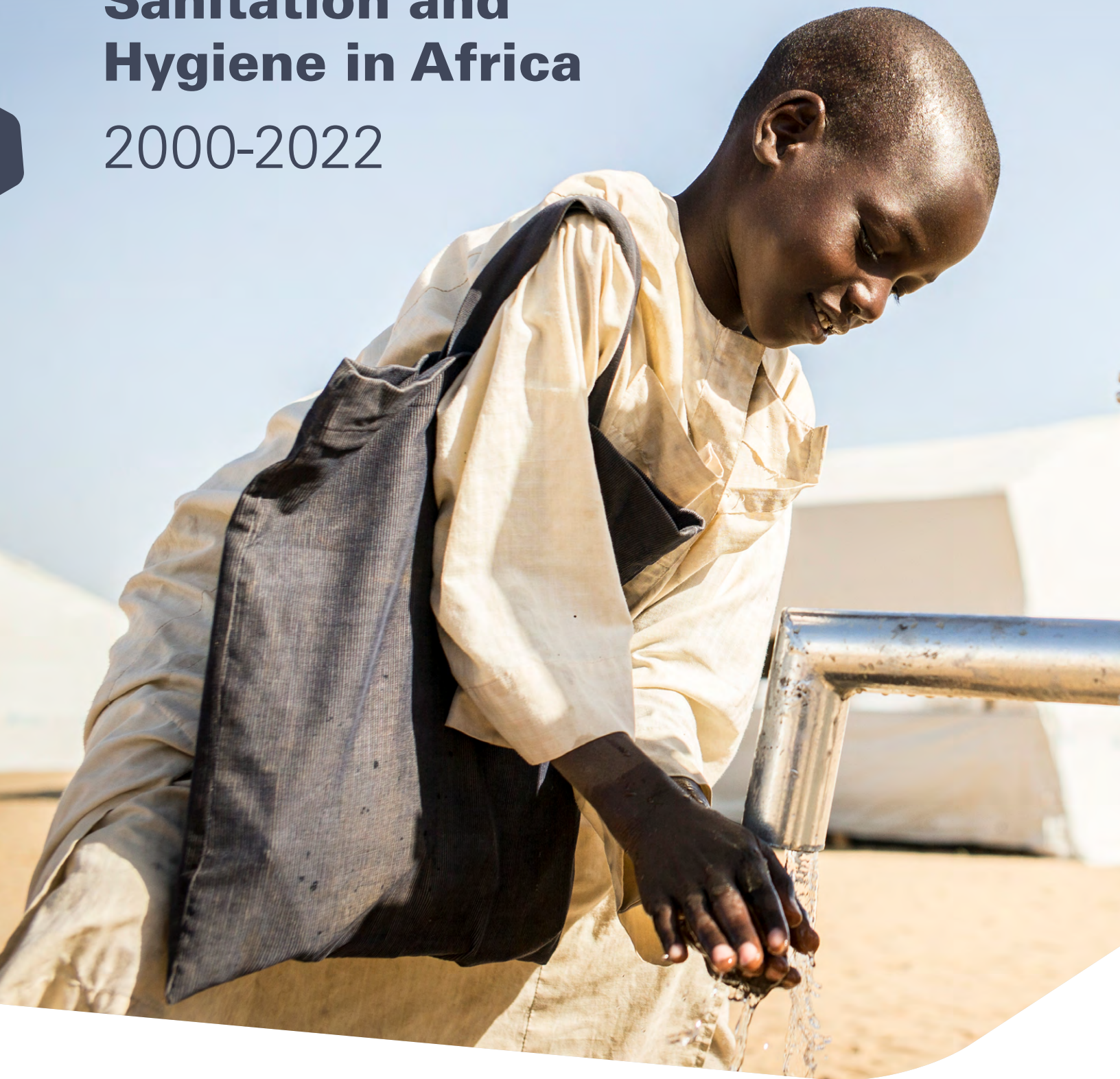


Progress on Sanitation and Hygiene in Africa

2000-2022





Introduction

This snapshot presents findings from the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) and the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS), implemented by WHO.

The JMP produces internationally comparable estimates of progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and is responsible for global monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets related to WASH. This snapshot provides first regional estimates

of progress on sanitation and hygiene in households in the African Union (55 countries) between 2000 and 2022.

GLAAS monitors the strength of WASH systems with a focus on governance, monitoring, regulation, human resources and finance and is a co-custodian of SDG targets 6.a and 6.b on the means of implementation. GLAAS collects data directly from national governments and the analysis for WASH systems shown in this snapshot is for the Sub-Saharan Africa SDG region from the GLAAS 2021/2022 cycle.

Achieving SDG targets for sanitation and hygiene in Africa will require a dramatic acceleration in current rates of progress

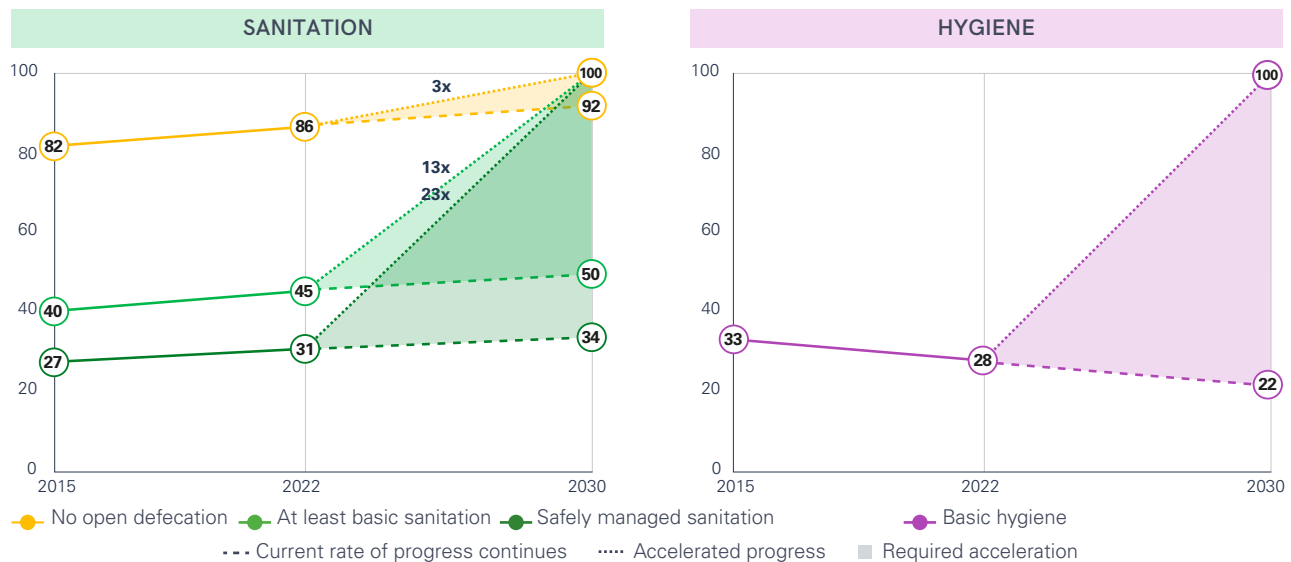


FIGURE 1 Coverage of sanitation and hygiene services in Africa, 2015–2022 (%), and acceleration required to meet universal coverage (>99%) by 2030

Source: WHO/UNICEF JMP 2023.

KEY MESSAGES

- In Africa, 31% of the population used safely managed sanitation and 28% used basic hygiene in 2022.
- Achieving universal coverage (>99%) by 2030 will require a 23x increase in rates of progress for safely managed sanitation, a 13x increase for basic sanitation and 3x increase for open defecation.
- In urban areas, 2 out of 3 people lack safely managed sanitation, and over half the population lacks basic hygiene services.
- In rural areas, 3 out of 4 people lack safely managed sanitation, and 4 out of 5 lack basic hygiene services.
- Between 2000 and 2022, the population of Africa has increased from 812 million to 1.43 billion. 375 million have gained access to at least basic sanitation services and 36 million fewer people practise open defecation.
- But over 987 million people still lack safely managed sanitation services, including 780 million people lack even a basic sanitation service (with 193 million who still practise open defecation), and 1 billion still lack basic hygiene services.
- Significant inequalities persist between and within countries, including between urban and rural, between sub-national regions and between the richest and the poorest.
- At current rates of progress, no country in Africa is on track to achieve universal access to safely managed sanitation by 2030, 3 countries are on track to achieve universal coverage of basic sanitation services and 9 countries are on track to eliminate open defecation by 2030.
- Data availability is improving but large data gaps remain. In 2022, estimates for safely managed sanitation were available for 32 countries and estimates for basic hygiene services were available for 36 countries. While 13 countries had national estimates for treatment of wastewater, no country had estimates treatment of faecal sludge.
- In order to achieve SDG 6.2 on sanitation and hygiene in Sub-Saharan Africa, more must be done to strengthen sanitation and hand hygiene systems.
- The majority of countries in Sub-Saharan Africa lack sufficient human and financial resources to implement sanitation policies and plans in urban and rural areas.
- Vulnerable populations and settings are being left behind. While countries often have policy measures in place to reach vulnerable populations and settings, these measures are often not monitored or supported financially.



Sanitation in households

7 out of 10 people in Africa lacked safely managed sanitation services in 2022

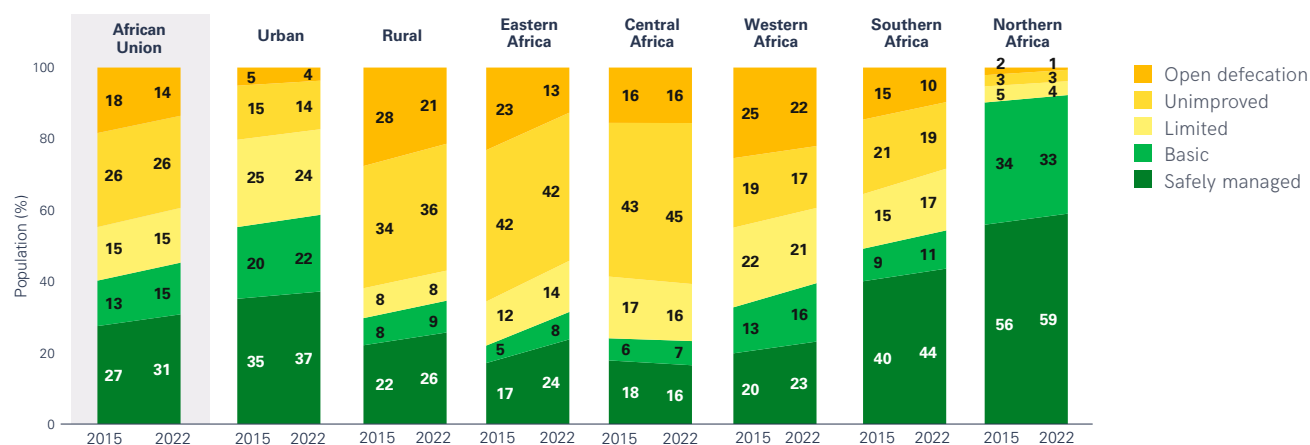


FIGURE 2 Regional, urban and rural sanitation coverage, 2015–2022 (%)

Source: WHO/UNICEF JMP 2023.

32 countries in Africa had estimates for safely managed sanitation services in 2022

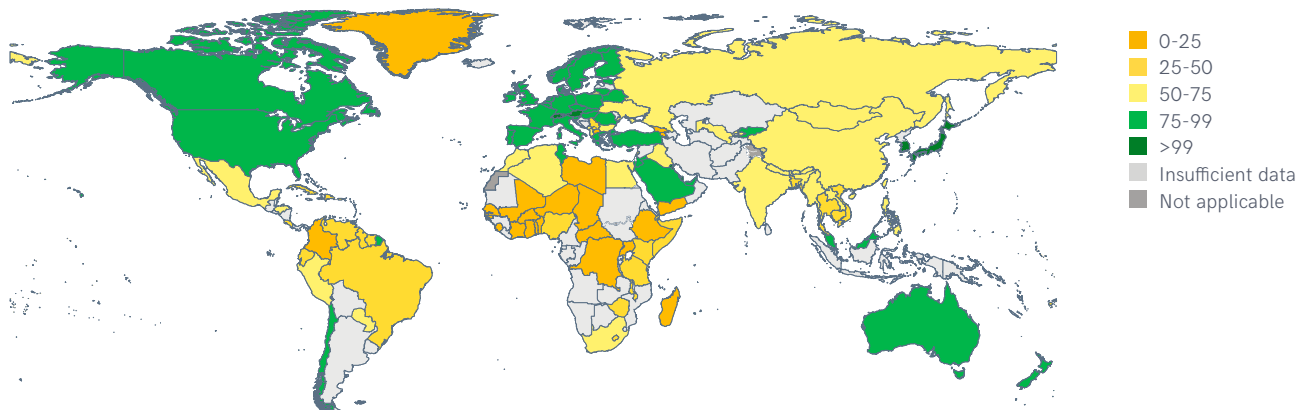


FIGURE 3 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, 2022 (%)

Source: WHO/UNICEF JMP 2023.

Only 3 out of 46 countries are currently on track to achieve universal coverage of at least basic sanitation services by 2030

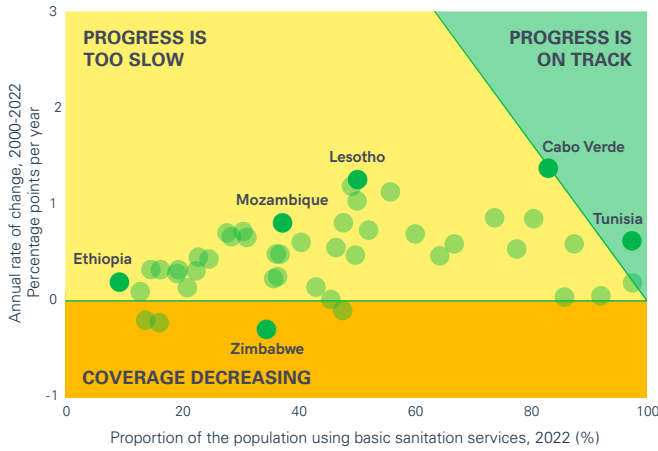
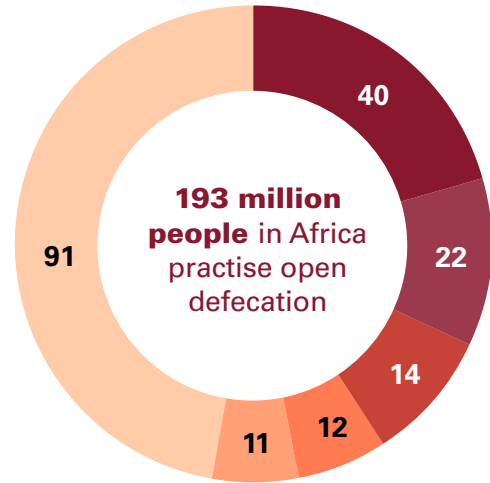


FIGURE 4 Progress towards universal access to at least basic sanitation services (2000-2022) among countries with <99% national coverage in 2022

Note: Does not include countries (1) that already had universal (>99%) coverage in 2022, (2) with no estimates for rates of change, i.e. missing data for at least one of the years, (3) with zero (at two decimal digits) or no trend, and (4) with only one estimate

Source: WHO/UNICEF JMP 2023.

193 million people in Africa still practised open defecation in 2022



- Nigeria
- Ethiopia
- Niger
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Chad
- Rest of the Region

FIGURE 5 Countries in Africa with the largest number of people practicing open defecation in 2022

Source: WHO/UNICEF JMP 2023.

In most of the countries in Africa, the progress is very slow to eliminate open defecation by 2030

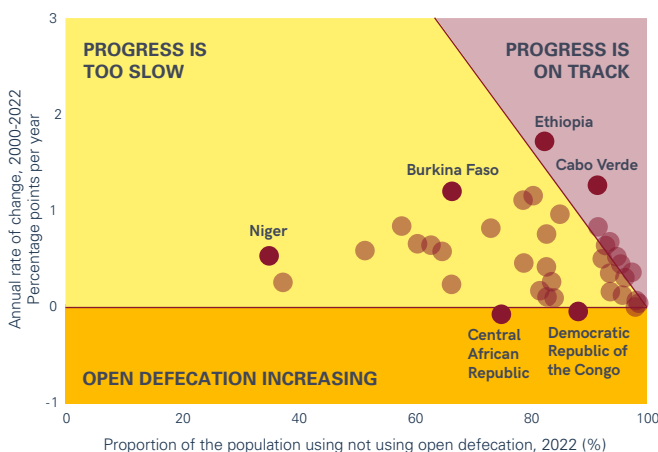


FIGURE 6 Progress towards eliminating open defecation (2000-2022) among countries with >1% in 2022

Note: Does not include countries (1) that already eliminated (<1%) open defecation in 2022 (<1%), (2) with no estimates for rates of change, i.e. missing data for at least one of the years, (3) with zero (at two decimal digits) or no trend, and (4) with only one estimate

Source: WHO/UNICEF JMP 2023.



There are significant disparities in practicing open defecation between and within countries in Africa

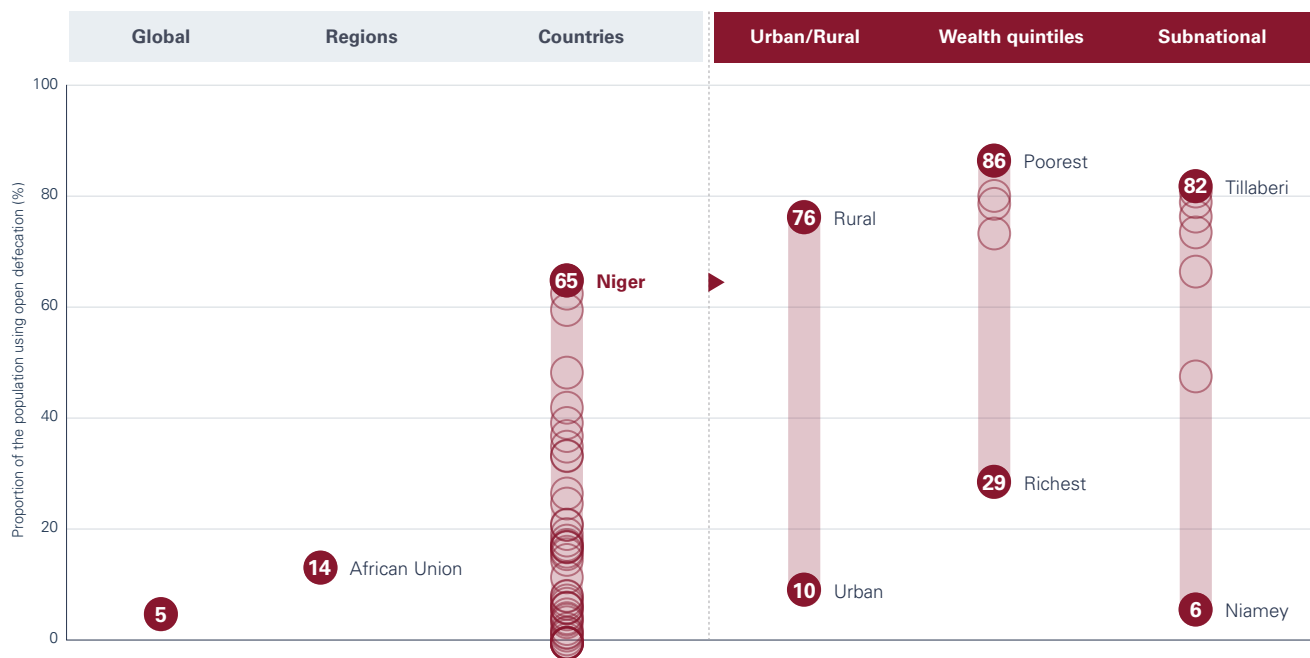


FIGURE 7 Population practising open defecation disaggregated by countries in the Africa and by urban-rural region and wealth quintiles within Niger (%)
 Source: WHO/UNICEF JMP 2023.

Progress in closing the gap in open defecation between the richest and poorest varies across countries

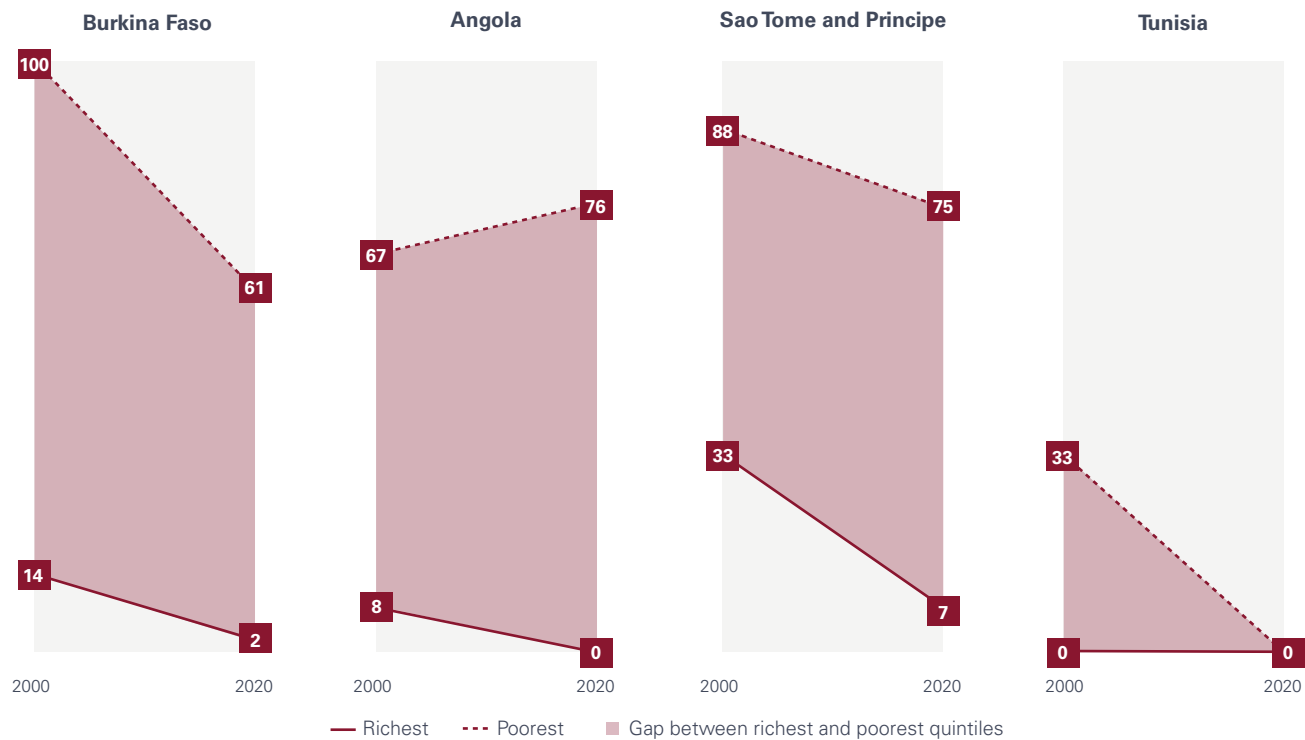


FIGURE 8 Changes in the gap in open defecation between richest and poorest, by country, 2000–2020 (%)
 Note: Does not include countries (1) with no estimates for rates of change, i.e. missing data for at least one of the years, and (2) with zero or no trend.
 Source: WHO/UNICEF JMP 2023.





Hygiene in households

7 out of 10 people in Africa lacked basic hygiene services in 2022

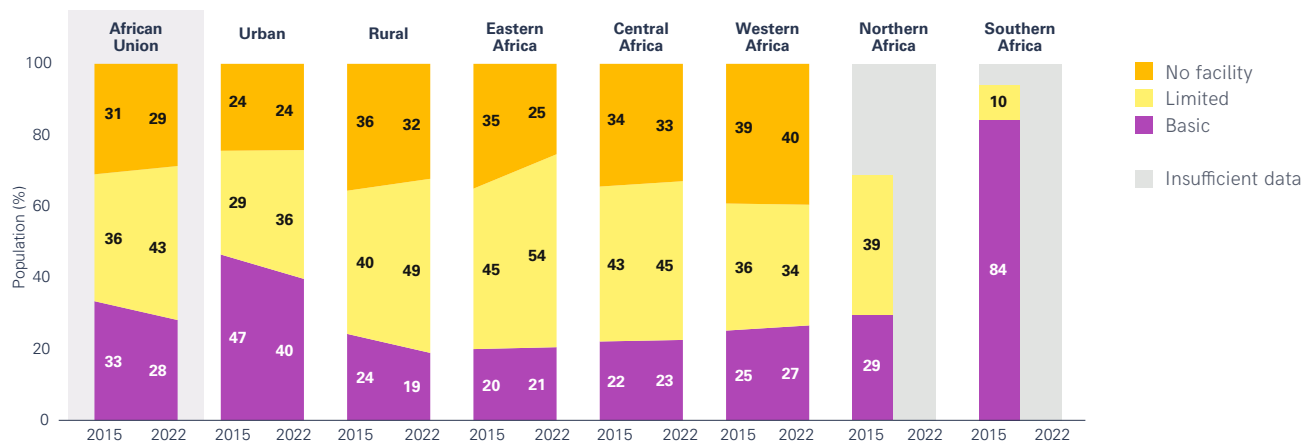


FIGURE 9 Regional, urban and rural hygiene ladders, 2015–2022 (%)
 Source: WHO/UNICEF JMP 2023.

36 countries in Africa had estimates for basic hygiene services in 2022

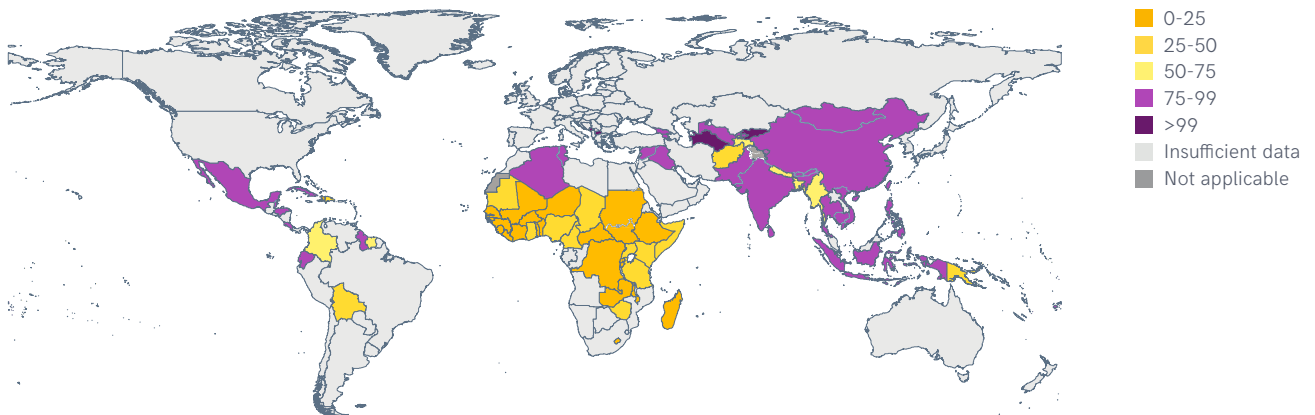


FIGURE 10 Proportion of population using basic hygiene services, 2022 (%)
 Source: WHO/UNICEF JMP 2023.

No country in Africa is currently on track to achieve universal coverage of basic hygiene services by 2030

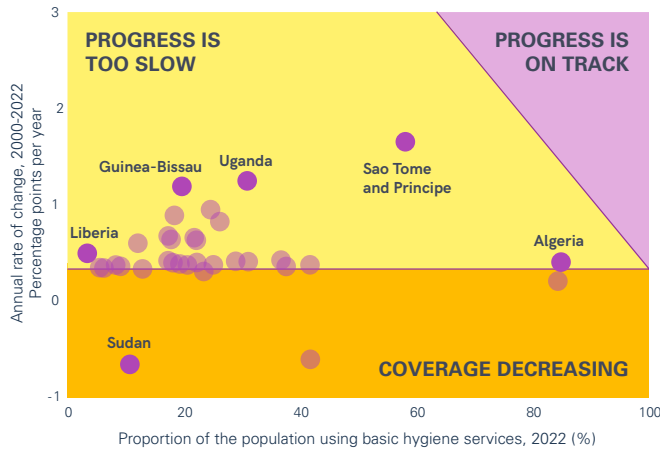


FIGURE 11 Progress towards universal access to basic hygiene services (2000–2022) among countries with <99% national coverage in 2022

Note: Does not include countries (1) that already had universal (>99%) coverage in 2022, (2) with no estimates for rates of change, i.e. missing data for at least one of the years, (3) with zero (at two decimal digits) or no trend, and (4) with only one estimate

Source: WHO/UNICEF JMP 2023.

One billion people in Africa still lacked basic hygiene services in 2022

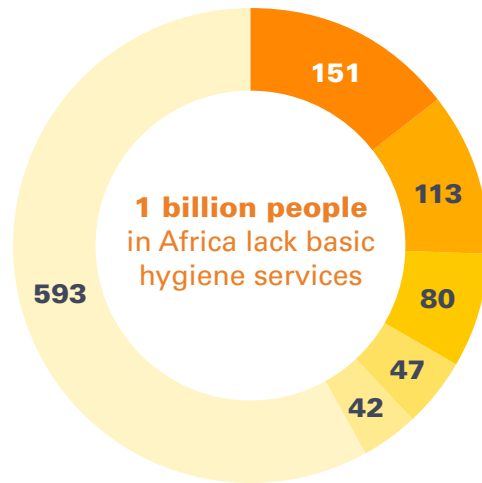


FIGURE 12 Countries in Africa with the largest number of people lacking a basic hygiene service in 2022

Source: WHO/UNICEF JMP 2023.

There are large disparities in coverage of basic hygiene services between and within countries in Africa

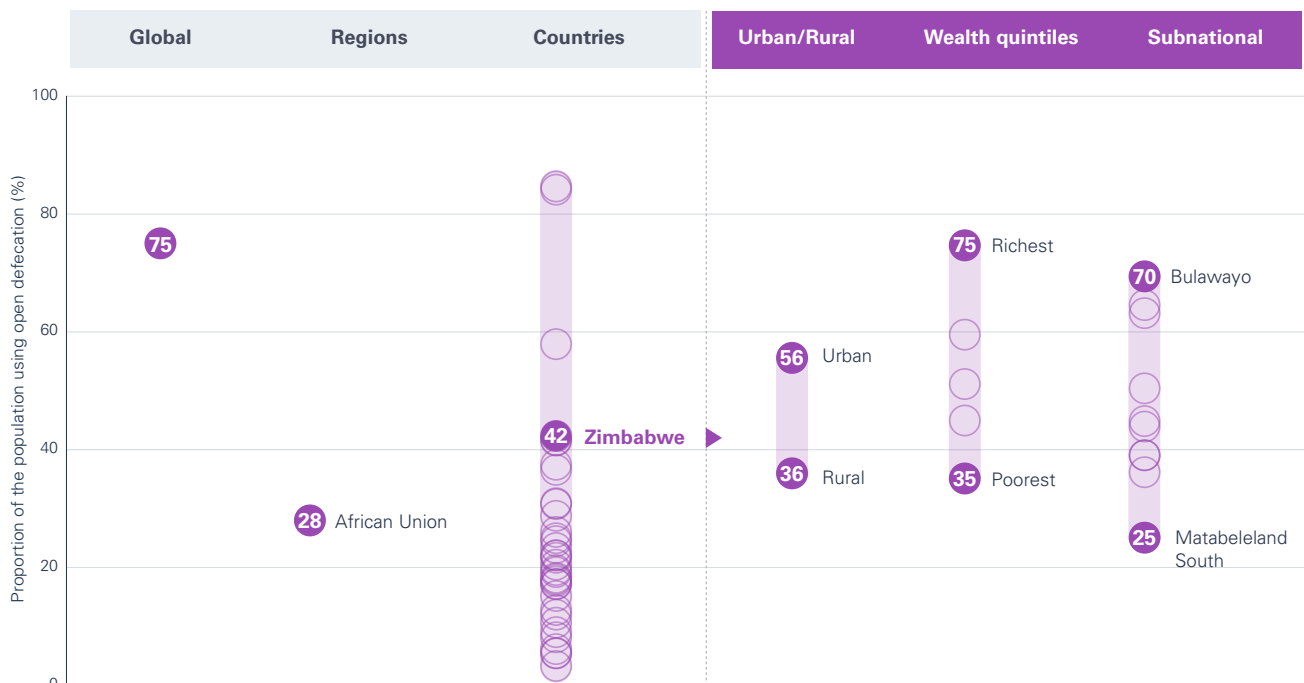


FIGURE 13 Population with basic hygiene services disaggregated by countries in the Africa and by urban-rural, sub-national region and wealth quintiles within Zimbabwe (%)

Source: WHO/UNICEF JMP 2023.

In Africa there are large disparities in access to basic hygiene services between and within countries among different income groups

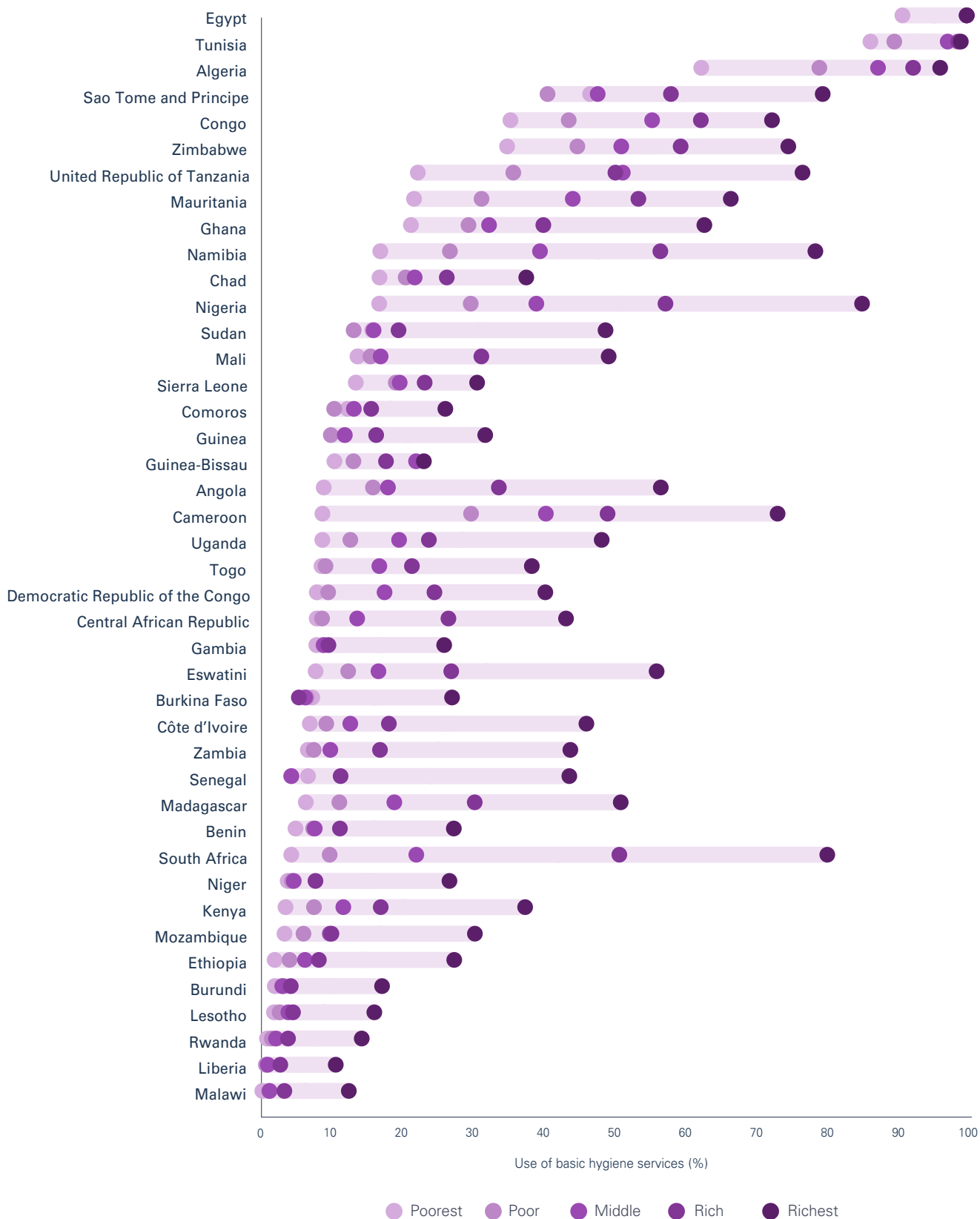


FIGURE 14 Proportion of people from different wealth quintiles with basic hygiene services, selected surveys, 2010–2020 (%)

Source: WHO/UNICEF JMP 2023.





Systems for sanitation and hand hygiene in Sub-Saharan Africa

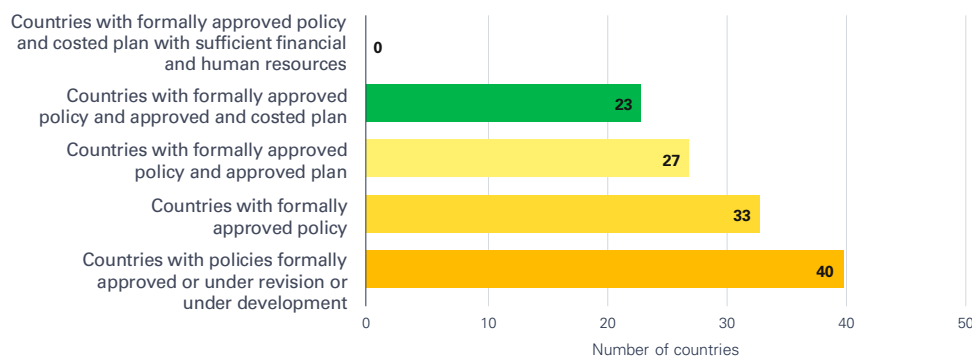
GOVERNANCE

A majority of countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have policies and plans in place or under development for urban or rural sanitation, but they are not supported with sufficient human and financial resources.

FIGURE 15

Number of countries that reported formally approved policies supported by resourced plans for urban sanitation in the Sub-Saharan Africa SDG region (n=43)

Source: GLAAS 2021/2022 country survey.



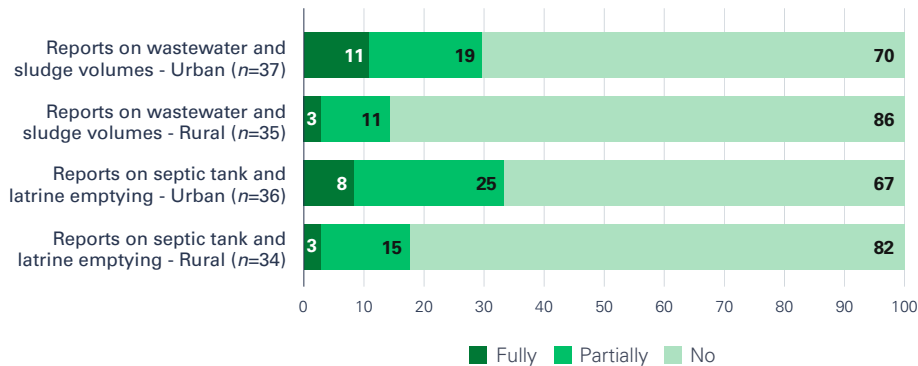
REGULATION

Very few Sub-Saharan African countries have regulatory authorities that fully publish publicly accessible reports on wastewater and sludge volumes or septic tank and latrine emptying.

FIGURE 16

Percentage of countries with regulatory authorities that publish publicly accessible reports on sanitation in urban and rural areas in the Sub-Saharan Africa SDG region

Source: GLAAS 2021/2022 country survey.



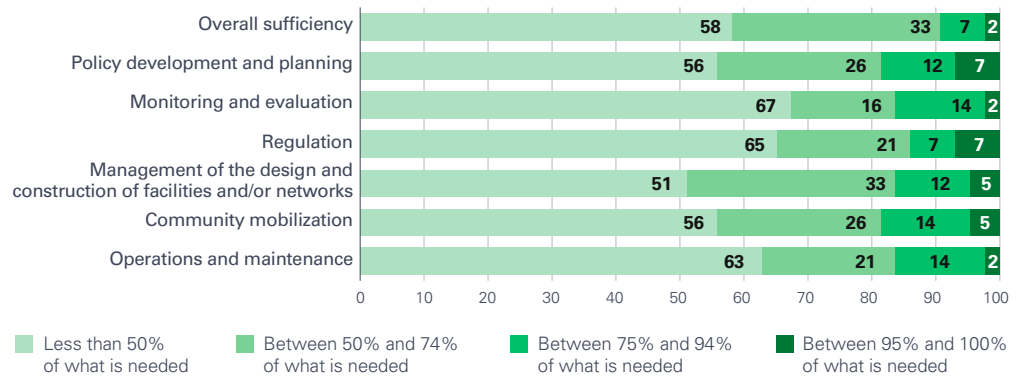
HUMAN RESOURCES

A majority of countries in Sub-Saharan Africa lack sufficient human resources to carry out sanitation activities.

FIGURE 17

Percentage of countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa SDG region with sufficient human resources to carry out sanitation activities (n=43)

Source: GLAAS 2021/2022 country survey.



EQUITY

While a majority of countries reported having specific measures in policies and plans to extend sanitation and hygiene services to remote or hard to reach areas, these measures are often not monitored or supported financially.

	World Bank income group	Number of countries	Governance	Monitoring	Finance
			Policies and plans have specific measures to reach populations in hard to reach areas	Progress in extending service provision to populations in hard to reach areas is tracked and reported	Specific measures in the financing plan to target resources to populations in hard to reach areas are consistently applied
Sanitation	All responding countries	43	79%	65%	23%
	Low income	21	71%	71%	10%
	Lower-middle income	16	88%	69%	31%
	Upper-middle income	5	100%	40%	60%
Hygiene	All responding countries	42	74%	57%	26%
	Low income	21	67%	57%	19%
	Lower-middle income	15	80%	60%	40%
	Upper-middle income	5	100%	60%	20%

FIGURE 18

Measures to extend sanitation and hygiene services to populations in hard to reach areas in Sub-Saharan Africa

Note: Percentages reflect percent of total country respondents.

Source: GLAAS 2021/2022 country survey.

FINANCE

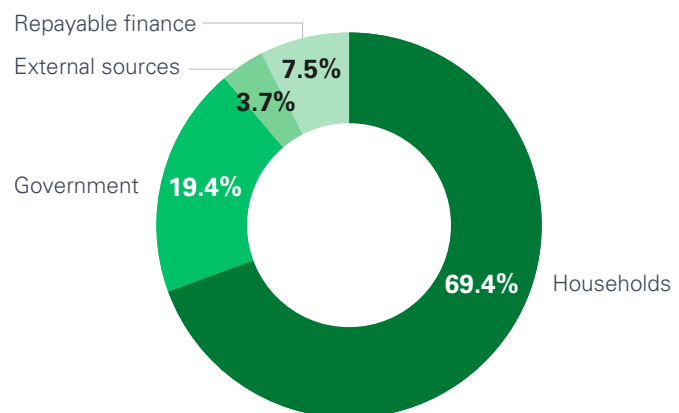
Households, through tariffs and out-of-pocket expenses, contributed to nearly 70% of overall WASH spending in 14 Sub-Saharan African countries.¹

FIGURE 19

Sources of funding for WASH in the Sub-Saharan Africa SDG region (n=14)

¹ Fourteen countries in the Sub-Saharan SDG region were able to provide WASH expenditure data from all sources: households, government, external support and repayable finance.

Source: GLAAS 2021/2022 country survey.



Data tables

Regional estimates for sanitation services in households in Africa

SANITATION	COUNTRY, AREA OR TERRITORY	Year	Population (thousands)	% urban	RURAL						URBAN						TOTAL					
					At least basic	Limited (shared)	Unimproved	Open defecation	Annual rate of change in basic	Annual rate of change in open defecation	At least basic	Limited (shared)	Unimproved	Open defecation	Annual rate of change in basic	Annual rate of change in open defecation	At least basic	Limited (shared)	Unimproved	Open defecation	Annual rate of change in basic	Annual rate of change in open defecation
					Central Africa	2000	87 270	35	23	12	42	23	-	-	32	33	32	3	-	-	26	19
	2022	173 378	46	16	7	52	25	-0,35	0,11	33	27	37	4	0,05	0,02	23	16	45	16	-0,14	-0,01	
Eastern Africa	2000	220 682	21	10	4	37	49	-	-	27	22	39	13	-	-	14	8	37	41	-	-	
	2022	415 976	30	26	7	50	17	0,72	-1,46	44	31	22	3	0,79	-0,44	31	14	42	13	0,81	-1,31	
Northern Africa	2000	148 714	51	75	8	2	16	-	-	91	7	1	1	-	-	83	7	1	9	-	-	
	2022	217 832	56	89	4	6	1	0,64	-0,66	95	4	1	<1	0,19	-0,05	92	4	3	<1	0,43	-0,37	
Southern Africa	2000	120 506	43	21	6	30	43	-	-	59	19	14	8	-	-	37	11	23	28	-	-	
	2022	193 901	52	42	10	29	19	0,96	-1,12	66	24	9	1	0,32	-0,30	54	17	19	10	0,79	-0,84	
Western Africa	2000	234 715	35	17	13	26	44	-	-	29	41	19	12	-	-	21	22	24	33	-	-	
	2022	424 343	49	27	12	25	36	0,45	-0,36	52	31	10	7	1,08	-0,20	39	21	17	22	0,83	-0,49	
AFRICAN UNION	2000	811 887	35	24	8	29	39	-	-	51	24	18	8	-	-	33	14	25	28	-	-	
	2022	1 425 431	44	35	8	36	21	0,48	-0,82	59	24	14	4	0,37	-0,17	45	15	26	14	0,54	-0,67	

SAFELY MANAGED SANITATION	COUNTRY, AREA OR TERRITORY	Year	Population (thousands)	% urban	RURAL						URBAN						TOTAL							
					Proportion of population using improved sanitation facilities (excluding shared)			Proportion of population using improved sanitation facilities (including shared)			Proportion of population using improved sanitation facilities (excluding shared)			Proportion of population using improved sanitation facilities (including shared)			Proportion of population using improved sanitation facilities (excluding shared)			Proportion of population using improved sanitation facilities (including shared)				
					Safely managed	Disposed of in situ	Emptied and treated	Wastewater treated	Latrines and other	Septic tanks	Sewer connections	Safely managed	Disposed of in situ	Emptied and treated	Wastewater treated	Latrines and other	Septic tanks	Sewer connections	Safely managed	Disposed of in situ	Emptied and treated	Wastewater treated	Latrines and other	Septic tanks
Central Africa	2000	87 270	35	21	21	<1	<1	35	<1	<1	22	21	<1	<1	51	9	4	22	21	<1	<1	41	3	2
	2022	173 378	46	13	13	<1	<1	23	<1	<1	20	20	<1	<1	38	19	2	16	16	<1	<1	30	9	1
Eastern Africa	2000	220 682	21	9	8	<1	<1	13	<1	<1	18	14	2	3	35	4	9	11	9	<1	<1	18	1	2
	2022	415 976	30	21	16	<1	4	23	5	5	31	22	<1	9	45	12	18	24	18	<1	5	30	6	10
Northern Africa	2000	148 714	51	40	20	12	8	15	55	13	56	8	4	44	9	15	74	48	14	8	26	12	34	44
	2022	217 832	56	57	15	8	33	12	34	47	61	2	<1	58	3	3	93	59	8	4	47	7	16	73
Southern Africa	2000	120 506	43	21	19	<1	2	23	<1	3	44	9	3	33	21	3	54	31	14	1	15	22	2	25
	2022	193 901	52	38	37	<1	1	45	5	1	49	15	1	32	18	25	48	44	26	<1	17	31	15	25
Western Africa	2000	234 715	35	13	13	<1	<1	28	<1	1	15	12	<1	2	47	11	12	14	13	<1	1	35	4	5
	2022	424 343	49	19	18	<1	<1	30	6	2	27	24	<1	3	42	33	9	23	21	<1	2	36	19	6
AFRICAN UNION	2000	811 887	35	17	14	2	2	21	8	3	32	12	2	19	31	9	34	23	13	2	8	25	8	14
	2022	1 425 431	44	26	19	1	6	26	8	8	37	17	<1	19	31	20	32	31	18	<1	12	28	13	19

'-' = no estimate. For unrounded estimates, see www.washdata.org.

Source: WHO/UNICEF JMP 2023.

Regional estimates for hygiene services in households in Africa

HYGIENE	COUNTRY, AREA OR TERRITORY	Year	Population (thousands)	% urban	RURAL				URBAN				TOTAL			
					Basic	Limited (without water or soap)	No facility	Annual rate of change in basic	Basic	Limited (without water or soap)	No facility	Annual rate of change in basic	Basic	Limited (without water or soap)	No facility	Annual rate of change in basic
Central Africa	2015	139 997	42	14	47	-	34	38	-	-	43	22	43	-	-	
	2022	173 378	46	14	48	-	32	40	-	0,09	45	23	45	-	-0,19	
Eastern Africa	2015	345 436	26	16	45	-	31	44	-	-	45	20	45	-	-	
	2022	415 976	30	16	54	-	31	54	-	0,00	54	21	54	-	0,01	
Northern Africa	2015	194 135	55	79	15	-	88	7	-	-	10	84	10	-	-	
	2022	217 832	56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Southern Africa	2015	166 030	49	18	45	-	42	32	-	-	39	29	39	-	-	
	2022	193 901	52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Western Africa	2015	354 332	44	18	40	-	35	31	-	-	36	25	36	-	-	
	2022	424 343	49	19	38	-	35	30	-	0,13	34	27	34	-	0,07	
AFRICAN UNION	2015	1 199 930	41	24	40	-	47	29	-	-	36	33	36	-	-	
	2022	1 425 431	44	19	49	-	40	36	-	-0,76	43	28	43	-	-0,98	

'-' = no estimate. For unrounded estimates, see www.washdata.org.

Source: WHO/UNICEF JMP 2023.

Data coverage for sanitation and hygiene services in households in Africa

% of population (number of countries, areas and territories) covered by available data in 2022	SANITATION						HYGIENE
	Open defecation	At least basic	Safely managed	Safely disposed in situ	Emptied and treated	Wastewater treated	Basic
WORLD (234)	96% (198)	98% (206)	86% (135)	85% (137)	1% (5)	59% (110)	69% (84)
Rural	97% (156)	98% (161)	80% (89)	84% (89)	0% (1)	9% (4)	82% (82)
Urban	94% (172)	94% (172)	81% (116)	83% (118)	24% (2)	44% (24)	59% (80)
AFRICAN UNION (55)	96% (48)	96% (48)	83% (32)	82% (32)	0% (0)	84% (13)	78% (36)
Rural	95% (46)	95% (46)	84% (32)	83% (32)	0% (0)	70% (2)	78% (34)
Urban	95% (47)	95% (47)	82% (31)	80% (31)	0% (0)	38% (3)	70% (34)

■ >50% coverage ■ 0-49% coverage

Notes:

- Proportion of the relevant population for which data are available.
- Cases where the population coverage is less than 50% are highlighted in yellow.

Source: WHO/UNICEF JMP 2023.

For more information visit washdata.org and glaas.who.int

PROGRESS ON SANITATION AND HYGIENE IN AFRICA 2000-2022

© United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organization (WHO), 2023

All rights reserved. Permission is required to reproduce any part of this publication. Requests for permission should be addressed to UNICEF, Division of Communication, 3 United Nations Plaza, New York 10017, USA (email: nyhqdoc.permit@unicef.org).

Suggested citation. Progress on Sanitation and Hygiene in Africa 2000-2022. New York: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organization (WHO), 2023.

Photographs. Cover: © UNICEF/UNI185058/Cherkaouih; Page 2: © UNICEF/UN0549867/Dubourthoumieu; Page 4: © UNICEF/UN0549969/Dubourthoumieu; Page 5: © UNICEF/UN0801846/Diarassouba; Page 7: © UNICEF/UN0854638/Owoicho; Page 8: © UNICEF/UN0718739/Ammar; Page 11: © UNICEF/UNI317696; Page 12: © UNICEF/UN0854565/Owoicho; Back cover: © UNICEF/UN0560198/Dubourthoumieu.

General disclaimers. The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of WHO or UNICEF concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

The mention of specific companies or of certain manufacturers' products does not imply that they are endorsed or recommended by WHO or UNICEF in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned. Errors and omissions excepted, the names of proprietary products are distinguished by initial capital letters.

The figures (1-14) and data tables generated by the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (<https://washdata.org>) present estimates ensuring compatibility; thus, they are not necessarily the official statistics of the concerned country, area or territory, which may use alternative rigorous methods.

The UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) figures (15-19) are data reported by countries, territories and areas to the GLAAS 2021/2022 country survey. All data are available and accessible on the data portal (<https://glaas.who.int>).

All reasonable precautions have been taken by the World Health Organization and UNICEF to verify the information contained in this publication. However, the published material is being distributed without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied. The responsibility for the interpretation and use of the material lies with the reader. In no event shall the World Health Organization and UNICEF be liable for damages arising from its use.

Design, layout and production by Elwa Design Studio.

