

Water supply and sanitation: basic human rights, fundamental in poverty alleviation.

“Effective water supply and sanitation underpin long-established health gains in industrialized countries and are proven interventions with large scale health benefits when deployed in the developing world.”

Gro Harlem Brundtland
Director-General,
World Health Organization

All people have the right to safe water and sanitation.



- 2.4 billion people lack access to basic sanitation.
- 1.1 billion lack access even to basic improved water sources.
- These numbers remained unchanged from 1990 to 2000.

Improving water supply and sanitation is fundamental in breaking the vicious cycle of poverty, improving health and promoting economic and social development.



- 3.4 million people, mostly children, die annually from water-related diseases.
- Diarrhoeal diseases, including cholera, account for 2.2 million deaths annually.

Water and sanitation interventions can benefit particularly the poor.



- Provision of safe water and adequate sanitation, combined with hygiene education, reduces the mortality caused by diarrhoeal diseases by 65% and the morbidity by 26%.

