



Almost half of the world's population face a scarcity of water.

Current trends suggest that the world may meet the target for improved drinking water sources by 2015 but not for access to basic sanitation facilities. However, an additional 784 million people worldwide are still denied access to an improved drinking water source with sub-Saharan Africa lagging far behind. At any one time, half the people in the developing world are suffering from diseases associated with inadequate water supply and sanitation services, and more than half the hospital beds in the world are filled with people suffering from water-related diseases.

"More than 2.5 billion people remain without improved sanitation, Almost 1.8 billion of them - 70% live in Asia"

FACT BOX

Dirty water and inadequate sanitation kill over 4,100 children every day

As part of fulfilling MDG no.7C governments are required to ensure that:

- Every school and health clinic has a safe water supply;
- At least 2/3 of development assistance for water and sanitation goes to low-income countries;
- The number of people with access to safe drinking water will increase by over 85 million every year;
- Water resources are managed in an effective and equitable way;
- The effectiveness of programmes to get Africa back on track towards achieving the MDG target are increased.

