

ENVIRONMENT

The ongoing struggle for water and sanitation

References

CURRENT SITUATION
(latest available data)

- Better situation
- Above average
- Below average
- Worse situation
- Insufficient data

EVOLUTION
(since 1990 or closest available year)

- ➡ Significant progress
- ➡ Slight progress
- || Stagnant
- ➡ Slight regression
- ➡ Significant regression

Complete table at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO SANITATION (%)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO IMPROVED WATER SOURCES (%)	Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO SANITATION (%)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO IMPROVED WATER SOURCES (%)
EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)				EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)			
➡	Afghanistan (—)	34	➡ 39		Dominica (94)	84	97
	Albania (95)	91	96	➡	Dominican Republic (85)	78	➡ 95
➡	Algeria (95)	92	➡ 85	➡	Ecuador (81)	89	➡ 94
	Andorra (—)	100	100	➡	Egypt (90)	70	➡ 98
➡	Angola (—)	31	53	➡	El Salvador (80)	62	➡ 84
	Anguilla (—)	99	60		Equatorial Guinea (59)	53	43
	Antigua and Barbuda (—)	95	91	➡	Eritrea (67)	9	60
➡	Argentina (94)	91	➡ 96		Estonia (99)	97	100
	Armenia (96)	83	92	➡	Ethiopia (50)	13	➡ 22
	Aruba (—)		100	➡	Fiji (99)	72	➡ 47
	Australia (99)	100	100		Finland (99+)	100	100
	Austria (99+)	100	100		France (99+)		100
➡	Azerbaijan (91)	54	77		French Guiana (—)	78	84
	Bahamas (—)	100	97		French Polynesia (—)	98	100
➡	Bangladesh (57)	39	➡ 74	➡	Gabon (82)	36	88
	Barbados (99)	100	100		Gambia (70)	53	82
	Belarus (97)	84	100	➡	Georgia (95)	94	➡ 82
	Belize (91)	47	91		Germany (99+)	100	100
➡	Benin (73)	33	➡ 67	➡	Ghana (66)	18	➡ 75
	Bhutan (69)	70	62		Grenada (92)	96	95
➡	Bolivia (80)	46	➡ 85		Guadeloupe (—)	64	98
	Bosnia and Herzegovina (—)	95	97		Guam (—)	99	100
➡	Botswana (91)	42	➡ 95	➡	Guatemala (72)	86	➡ 95
➡	Brazil (89)	75	➡ 90	➡	Guinea (68)	18	➡ 50
	Bulgaria (97)	99	99	➡	Guinea-Bissau (—)	35	➡ 59
➡	Burkina Faso (71)	13	➡ 61		Guyana (81)	70	83
➡	Burundi (56)	36	➡ 79	➡	Haiti (—)	30	➡ 54
➡	Cambodia (59)	17	➡ 41	➡	Honduras (76)	69	➡ 87
➡	Cameroon (70)	51	➡ 66		Hungary (97)	95	99
	Canada (99)	100	100		Iceland (99+)	100	100
➡	Cape Verde (92)	43	➡ 80	➡	India (71)	33	➡ 86
➡	Central African Republic (—)	27	➡ 75	➡	Indonesia (85)	55	➡ 77
➡	Chad (43)	9	42		Iran (91)	83*	94
➡	Chile (99)	91	➡ 95		Iraq (79)	79	81
➡	China (93)	44	➡ 77		Israel (99+)		100
➡	Colombia (89)	86	➡ 93	➡	Jamaica (95)	80	➡ 93
➡	Comoros (72)	33	86		Japan (99+)	100	100
➡	Congo, Rep. (80)	27	58		Jordan (99)	93	97
➡	Cook Islands (—)	100	➡ 94		Kazakhstan (95)	72	86
	Costa Rica (96)	92	97	➡	Kenya (68)	43	➡ 61
➡	Cote d'Ivoire (77)	37	➡ 84	➡	Kiribati (88)	40	➡ 65
	Croatia (97)	100	100		Kyrgyzstan (96)	59	77
	Cuba (99)	98	91	➡	Lao, PDR (58)	30	➡ 51
	Cyprus (99+)	100	100		Latvia (99)	78	99
	Czech Republic (99)	98	100		Lebanon (96)	98	100
➡	Congo, DR (—)	30	➡ 46		Lesotho (69)	37	79
	Denmark (99+)		100	➡	Liberia (—)	27	➡ 61
➡	Djibouti (78)	82	➡ 73		Libya (—)	97	71*

Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO SANITATION (%)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO IMPROVED WATER SOURCES (%)	Summary: CURRENT SITUATION (colour) EVOLUTION (arrow-icon)	COUNTRIES (BCI value, 0-100)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO SANITATION (%)	POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO IMPROVED WATER SOURCES (%)
	Luxembourg (97)		100		Sierra Leone (—)	39	57
→	Madagascar (63)	32 →	46 →		Singapore (—)	100	100
→	Malawi (63)	61 →	73 →		Slovakia (—)	99	100
	Malaysia (98)	94	99		Solomon Islands (—)	31	70
←	Maldives (86)	59 →	83 ←		Somalia (—)	26	29
→	Mali (66)	46 →	50 →		South Africa (87)	65 ←	88 →
	Malta (99+)		100		Spain (99+)	100	100
←	Marshall Islands (94)	82 →	87 ←	→	Sri Lanka (—)	91 →	79 →
→	Mauritania (75)	34 →	53 →		St. Kitts and Nevis (99)	95	100
	Mauritius (99)	94	100		St. Lucia (96)	89	98
→	Mexico (94)	79 →	97 →	→	Sudan (81)	34	70 →
→	Micronesia (—)	28	94 →	→	Suriname (85)	94 →	92
	Moldova (96)	68	92		Swaziland (77)	48	62
	Monaco (—)	100	100		Sweden (99+)	100	100
	Mongolia (96)	59	62		Switzerland (99+)	100	100
	Montserrat (—)	100	100	→	Syrian Arab Republic (87)	90 →	93 →
→	Morocco (78)	73 →	81 →	←	Tajikistan (86)	51	59 ←
→	Mozambique (61)	32 →	43 →	→	Tanzania (70)	47	62
→	Myanmar (73)	77 →	78 →	→	Thailand (—)	99 →	99 →
→	Namibia (86)	25	87 →		Timor-Leste (—)	36	58
→	Nepal (55)	35 →	90 →		Togo (70)	35	52
	Netherlands (99+)	100	100	→	Tokelau (—)	78 ←	88 →
→	Nicaragua (74)	47	79 →		Tonga (94)	96	100
→	Niger (55)	13 →	46 →		Trinidad and Tobago (98)	100	91
→	Nigeria (63)	44 →	48	→	Tunisia (95)	85 →	93 →
	Niue (—)	100	100	→	Turkey (92)	88 →	96 →
→	Northern Mariana Islands (—)	95 →	99		Turkmenistan (—)	62	72
	Norway (99+)		100	←	Turks and Caicos Islands (—)	96	100 ←
→	Oman (97)	88 * →	82 *	→	Tuvalu (89)	90 →	100 →
→	Pakistan (60)	59 →	91 →	→	Uganda (63)	43 →	60
→	Palau (—)	80 →	85 →		Ukraine (97)	96	96
	Panama (91)	73	90		United Arab Emirates (98)	98	100
	Papua New Guinea (73)	44	39		United Kingdom (99)		100
→	Paraguay (85)	80 →	86 →		United States of America (99)	100	100
→	Peru (86)	63 →	83 →		Uruguay (95)	100	100
→	Philippines (77)	72 →	85		Uzbekistan (—)	67 ←	82 →
	Qatar (97)	100	100		Vanuatu (85)	50	60
	Romania (96)		57		Venezuela (94)	68	83
→	Russian Federation (97)	87	97 →	→	Viet Nam (90)	61 →	85 →
→	Rwanda (51)	42 →	74 →		Virgin Islands (UK) (—)	100	100
←	Samoa (97)	100	88 ←		Wallis and Futuna (—)	80	100
	Sao Tomé and Príncipe (78)	25	79		West Bank and Gaza (96)	73	92
	Saudi Arabia (95)		92 *		Yemen (64)	43 ←	67 →
→	Senegal (72)	57 →	76 →	→	Zambia (75)	55 →	58 →
	Serbia and Montenegro (—) ¹	87	93	→	Zimbabwe (76)	53 →	81 →
	Seychelles (—)		88				

Notes: (*) Data refers to years or periods other than those specified in indicator definition.
(1) Prior to separation.

Source: Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply & Sanitation, UNICEF and WHO (www.wssinfo.org).

For more detailed information on the reference years of the data see complete tables at: www.socialwatch.org/statistics2007

DEFINITION OF INDICATORS:

Population with access to sanitation (%): Percentage of the population with at least adequate excreta disposal facilities (private or shared, but not public) that can effectively prevent human, animal, and insect contact with excreta. Improved facilities range from simple but protected pit latrines to flush toilets with a sewerage connection. To be effective, facilities must be correctly constructed and properly maintained.
Last available data: 2004; evolution since 1990.

Population with access to improved water sources (%): Percentage of the population who use any of the following types of water supply for drinking: piped water, public tap, borehole or pump, protected well, protected spring or rainwater. Improved water sources do not include vendor-provided waters, bottled water, tanker trucks or unprotected wells and springs.
Last available data: 2004; evolution since 1990.

ENVIRONMENT

The ongoing struggle for water and sanitation

Lack of access to improved water sources and household sanitation facilities are basic deficiencies in the quality of people's lives, and prevent citizens from exercising their right to a decent life.

There are a billion people in the world who do not have access to a safe source of drinking water and are thus obliged to use water that is potentially harmful, making them vulnerable to many illnesses. Without a doubt, the most serious aspect of this problem is that 4,500 children in the world die every day from illnesses connected to water quality. Perhaps the paradigm case is child mortality caused by diarrhoea.

But illnesses are not the only consequence of lack of access to improved water sources: a wide range of other threats to social development are also involved. Some of these have been listed by UNICEF: "Children – and particularly girls – are denied their right to education because they are busy fetching water or are deterred by the lack of separate and decent sanitation facilities in schools. Women are forced to spend large parts of their day fetching water. Poor farmers and wage earners are less productive due to illness, and national economies suffer."¹

There are approximately 2.6 billion people in the world today who do not have access to adequate sanitation, and more than half of them live in China and India. Sanitation problems arise in the context of poverty and the growth of cities. Many millions of people live in precarious settlements where they do not have the minimum conditions for a decent life. It is shocking to think that more than 40% of the human race is living without even the minimum sanitation facilities required by society today.

On average, the countries in the better relative situation have achieved nearly universal access to improved water sources (more than 98%) and sanitation (more than 95%) for their populations. In the countries in the worse relative situation, however, an average of 44% of the population does not have access to improved water sources, and when it comes to sanitation, the situation is even more alarming: two out of three people do not have access to basic sanitation facilities.

In almost every region in the world there are some countries that are in some way deficient as regards water and sanitation, but the differences between regions are striking. There is not one country from South Asia in the better relative situation group, and most of the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa are in the worse relative situation group.

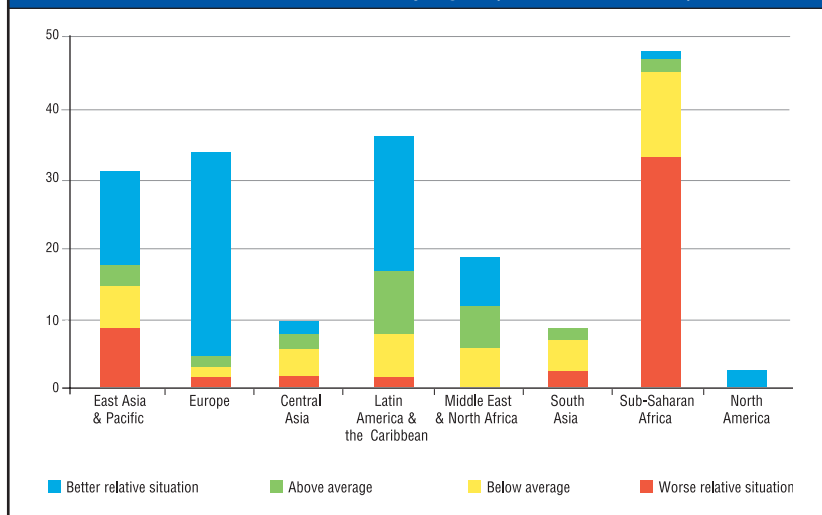
Although most of the European countries are in the better relative situation group, Romania is among the countries in the worse relative situation worldwide.

¹ UNICEF. "Water, environment and sanitation". Available from: <www.unicef.org/wes/index.html>.

Averages by environmental indicator of countries in better and worse relative situations

		Population with access to improved water sources (%)	Population with access to sanitation (%)
Worse relative situation	Average	56	33
	Number of countries	45	44
Better relative situation	Average	98	95
	Number of countries	75	67
Total	Average	83	69
	Number of countries	187	176

Current situation in water and sanitation by region (number of countries)



Current situation and evolution in environmental indicators (number of countries)

	←	↔		→	→	Total
Countries in worse situation	0	3	13	17	12	45
Countries below average	0	2	12	12	14	40
Countries above average	0	2	12	7	6	27
Countries in better situation	0	3	59	8	5	75
Total	0	10	96	44	37	187

In recent years no countries have regressed significantly in this area, but it is very noticeable that in most countries progress has stagnated. It is true that many of these countries have already achieved acceptable levels, but there are also many below the world average, such as the Comoros and Maldives, where the situation has worsened, and also countries in the worse relative situation, such as Burundi, Liberia and Tajikistan, that have regressed on these indicators. ■