

### Is access to waste water collection improving?

Access to an improved sanitation system (not necessarily including waste water treatment) is important, especially in urban areas where the risk of contact of the population with waste water is more frequent.

Access to sanitation is one of the Millennium Development Goals. It implies reducing by half by 2015 (compared to 1990), the proportion of people without access to a sanitation system.

*In the Mediterranean, about 47 million people do not have access to an adequate sanitation system.*

**In 2006, the proportion of the population with access to a sanitation system ranges from 66% in Egypt to 100 % in most of the northern Mediterranean countries.**

The percentage of the urban population with access to a sanitation system is about 100%, with the exception of Egypt and Morocco (85%) and the Palestinian Territories (84%).

The differences between urban and rural areas are still great (33 % in Egypt) and the access rate in rural areas can be less than 70% (Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Palestinian Territories).

Access to an improved sanitation system in the South and East Mediterranean Countries (81%) are higher than the world average (about 62 %) It is the same situation for the access rate in urban areas (93%) and in rural ones (60%).

**Definition**

This indicator represents the share of the population with access to a basic sanitation system for the evacuation of human excrement from homes or in the immediate neighbourhood (public waste water network, septic tanks and so on). It is one of the Millennium Development Goals Indicators (n°31) and it was proposed for the Horizon 2020 initiative.

**Précautions / Notes**

The fact that facilities are available is not necessarily proof that they are used. A town sanitation network should allow for the collection and evacuation of waste water of all types (cess-water, household water, industrial water, etc.) while ensuring transport of this waste as quickly as possible to the place where it is treated (waste water treatment plant).

Because of differences in the definition of the urban population from one country to the next, international comparisons can be biased.

This indicator should be made more precise in the Mediterranean region in order to show the progress made depending on the type of waste water collection (individual or collective) and the treatment methods.

**Sources / References**

United Nations Statistical Division, The Millennium Indicators Database.

The Millenium Development Goals Report 2008, United Nations, 2009

WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for the water supply and sanitation

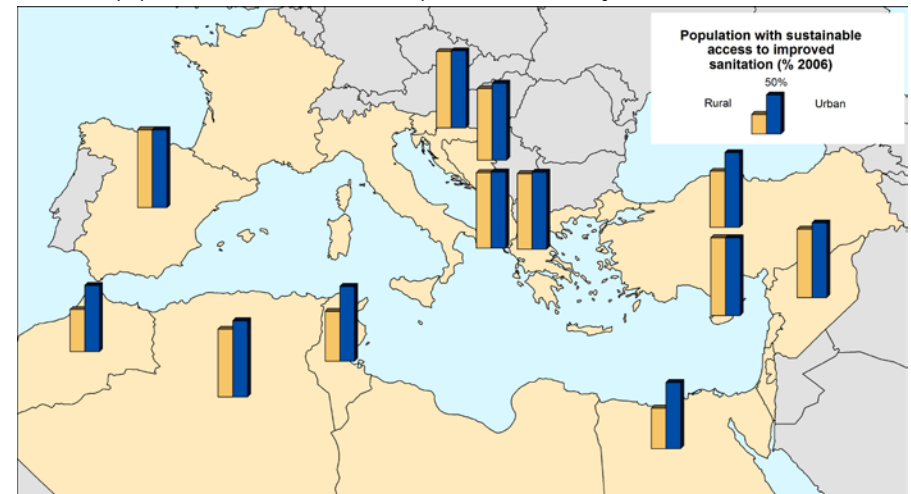
### 5. Share of population with access to an improved sanitation system

Share of population with access to an improved sanitation system, 1990 - 2006 (%)



Source : UNSD

Share of population with access to an improved sanitation system (Rural and Urban) 2006,



Source : UNSD