WASH FOR AFRICA IN 15 YEARS?

African Futures Project
28 June 2016
REFRESHING AFRICA’S FUTURE
Prospects for Achieving Universal WASH Access by 2030

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1. WASH & sustainable development
2. Progress under the MDGs
3. Assumptions & limitations
4. Scenario analysis
   - International Futures
   - Current Path, Universal Access, & Balancing WASH
   - Alternative resources for sustainable development
5. Key findings & conclusions
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
‘...a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity’
SDG 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

**Target 6.1** - By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

**Target 6.2** - By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme

Definitions of ‘safe water’ and ‘adequate sanitation’
WASH & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Education - SDG 4
Population - SDG 1
Governance & International Politics

WASH Infrastructure - SDG 6
Health - SDGs 2 & 3
Economy - SDG 8

Equity and Empowerment - SDGs 5 & 10

@ISSAfrica @PardeeCenterIFs
Millennium Development Agenda

Target 7.C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation
At the closing of the MDG cycle, 663 million people still lacked access to improved drinking water globally.

While 2.4 billion lacked access to basic sanitation services.
Northern and Sub-Saharan Africa were two of five regions that missed the mark for water access under the MDGs.

Northern Africa met the MDG target for sanitation, but sub-Saharan Africa made the least progress globally.
ASSUMPTIONS & LIMITATIONS

1. WASH infrastructure equates WASH access
   • Access is determined by social relations of inequality
   • Gender and poverty are two well-documented sources of inequality
   • There is a difference between infrastructure and services

2. Access to improved water sources is the same as the consumption of safe water
   • Poor water quality and management can nullify the positive human development outcomes of improved infrastructure
   • Households may combine improved and unimproved water sources
   • Improved water can be vulnerable to contamination
3. Countries will rely on ‘traditional’ forms of water and sanitation to address WASH access
   • Many countries are experimenting with lower-cost means of expanding access
   • Community-led Total Sanitation has been a successful approach
   • Shared sanitation could be another feasible alternative

4. The paper uses a universal access threshold of 97%
   • The UN leaves it up to individual countries to define ‘universal’
   • A 97% threshold takes into account the 3-5% of ‘hard-to reach’ households
Integrated assessment model
Includes over 3,000 historical series
Forecasts over 500 variables
 Allows for the modelling of long-term futures concerning development across human, social and natural systems
Forecasts are highly contingent scenarios – not predictions
Country groups based on combined access to water and sanitation

- Group A: 75+
- Group B: 50 – 74
- Group C: Below 50
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The Current Path scenario reveal that Africa is **not** on track to meet SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2 by 2030.
• Sub-Saharan Africa is forecast to reach an access rate for water of 75%
• It continues to be the region with the least access to improved sanitation
• The absolute number of people without access increases
SCENARIO ANALYSIS: UNIVERSAL ACCESS

- Africa must quadruple its expected annual growth rate in water access
- From 0.5 to 2.0 percentage points annually
- Africa’s annual growth in water access was around 0.7 percentage points under the MDGs
SCENARIO ANALYSIS: UNIVERSAL ACCESS

- Africa will have to more than quadruple its growth rate in sanitation access.
- From 0.8 percentage points to 3.7 percentage points annually.
- The growth rate in sanitation access was around 0.3 percentage points annually in Africa under the MDGs.

![Graph showing growth in sanitation access from 2016 to 2030 for different groups.](image-url)
SCENARIO ANALYSIS: UNIVERSAL ACCESS

IFs estimates that Africa will require an additional US$122 billion in infrastructure spending above the Current Path.

However, a cumulative total of US$526 billion is added to Africa’s GDP by 2030.

And a major push for universal access to improved water and sanitation also has a significant impact on human development.

Source: International Futures v 7.18
In the Universal Access scenario many African states are wealthier on a per capita basis...
SCENARIO ANALYSIS: UNIVERSAL ACCESS

…and see significant improvements to human health and wellbeing
The cost of achieving universal access will have to come from domestic sources, resulting in spending diversion from other priorities…
...unless alternative resources become available
The Addis Ababa Action Agenda
Seven financial tools for achieving the SDGs

1. ODA
2. International trade
3. Direct investment from the private sector
4. Responsibly managed debt obligations and refinancing
5. Capacity building through technology transfer
6. Improved global economic governance
7. More efficient mobilisation of domestic resources
In this scenario access growth rates are on par with those achieved by the highest-performing countries under the MDGs.

Water access in Africa grows by 1.1 percentage points annually.

Group C sees the fastest growth at 1.5 percentage points annually.
SCENARIO ANALYSIS: BALANCING WASH

- The increase in access is most prominent where human development outcomes are the most significant.
- Sanitation access in Africa grows by 1.6 percentage points annually.
- Group C sees the fastest growth at 2.1 percentage points annually.
IFs estimates that Africa will require an additional US$36 billion in infrastructure spending above the Current Path…

…but cumulative economic gains total US$139 billion
In Balancing WASH Group C countries see around 50% the benefit for about 30% the cost of Universal Access…
...but relative gains for Group A and Group B are more modest
Achieving near-universal access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in Africa will require near-unprecedented rates of growth in access…

…and spending on infrastructure will have to increase by US$122 billion.

However, the human development benefits of increasing WASH access are substantial, especially in the area of health…

…and in countries with very low rates of access.

The Balancing WASH scenario shows that taking a less aggressive approach these countries could see around 50% of the benefits of expanding WASH for around 30% the cost.
Achieving universal access will result in **domestic spending diversion** unless countries can find alternative funding…

…so aggressively pursuing targets 6.1 and 6.2 could **compromise the advancement** of a broad-based development agenda.

**Health and education** are two critical sectors that see significant spending cuts in the Universal Access scenario…

… which may have **detrimental long-term effects** on human capital.

This research suggests that **Africa’s leaders will need to consider both the benefits and the costs** (economic and to human development) of WASH as they set national development agendas.
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