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WATER IS AT THE HEART OF DEVELOPMENT

Lack of access to water supply and sanitation (WSS) constitutes a public health, economic, and environmental emergency across the developing world. Urgent action is needed to provide sustainable WSS services to all.

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WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

As the world becomes increasingly urbanized, the World Bank is working to foster a comprehensive approach to water and sanitation in cities that is green, resilient, and inclusive. This entails considering all sources and uses of water, improving efficiency in the use of resources, considering a wide range of shocks and stresses in planning, applying circular economy principles, and ensuring universal access to WSS.
In Sub-Saharan Africa, only \( \frac{1}{4} \) of all health care facilities have no basic water services. Some 827,000 people in low- and middle-income countries die annually as a result of inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene.

2 billion people lack access to safely managed drinking water services. 3.6 billion people lack access to safely managed sanitation. 494 million people practice open defecation.

Diarrhea kills an average of 1,400 children under age 5, despite the availability of a simple treatment solution.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, only 57% of the population report having an improved water supply that is fully functional, available, easily accessible – and which provides good quality, safe water.

Achieving green, resilient and inclusive universal access to WSS services requires:

- Effective Policies, Institutions and Regulations.
- Efficient and responsive utilities that provide reliable, inclusive and resilient WSS services.
- Sound financing and effective pricing policies.
- Innovation and fit-for-purpose service delivery models.

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