Urban Sanitation Situation in Africa: Coverage, Trends & Issues

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Accelerating access to urban sanitation services:
For Every Child in Africa
Rapid Urbanization in Sub-Saharan Africa

• 1 in 4 of the world’s people will be Sub-Saharan African (SSA) in 2050; the ratio was 1 in 13 in 1960

• Urban population growing fastest in SSA.

• Region is home to the world’s youngest and fastest-growing population

• 45% of the population will reside in small towns and cities

• Secondary cities are reception centers for rural-urban migration

• Authorities focus more on primary cities
The Case of Secondary Cities & Towns

- Are mid-sized cities the engine of our world’s fast-paced urbanization?
- Secondary cities in SSA: 100,000 - 500,000 people

- In SSA over 46% of urban population live in cities below 300,000 in population; only 28% in primary cities
- Secondary cities are primary reception centers to rural-urban migration
- Future SSA secondary cities will be unique because of the youth bulge
- But are challenged because “Africa is not fully prepared for this population explosion”
A Glimpse into the Future of Secondary Cities & Towns

• More urban growth on East and West Africa;
• Growth happening more on coastal areas;
• West African coast, around L. Victoria & L. Tanganyika;
• These zones are climate change hotspots
**Urban Sanitation Coverage & Trend**

**Major Highlights:**
- Between 2000 and 2017, increase in population using safely managed and basic sanitation services in SSA.
- Decrease in population defecating in the open.
- In 2017, 44% of the urban population (180 million people) in SSA had access at least basic sanitation.
- 23 million people (6%) still defecating in the open.

Although there is some progress in urban sanitation services,
- deep inequalities exist across countries and;
- large inequalities exist by wealth quintiles.

Population (million):
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 78
- Urban: 104
- Rural: 317

Sewer connections (2017):
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 71
- Urban: 88
- Rural: 153

Septic tanks (2017):
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 16
- Urban: 153
- Rural: 164

Latrines and other improved (2017):
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 100
- Urban: 100
- Rural: 100

Wastewater treated (%):
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 0
- Urban: 0
- Rural: 0

Sewer connections vs wastewater treated
Basic Sanitation by Wealth Quintile (Urban)

Use of basic sanitation - urban (%)
Changes in Basic Sanitation Coverage and Inequalities between richest and poorest by country and residence: 2000 – 2017 (%)
Progress in Sanitation Coverage and Inequalities: 2000 – 2017 (%)

**Progress on achieving universal basic sanitation**

- **SDG: Sub-Saharan Africa Urban**
  - 2 countries on track
  - 13 countries insufficient progress
  - 9 countries decreasing coverage

**Progress on elimination of open defecation**

- **SDG: Sub-Saharan Africa Urban**
  - 13 countries on track
  - 15 countries insufficient progress
  - 8 countries increasing open defecation

**Progress on achieving universal basic sanitation among the poorest urban quintile**

- **SDG: Sub-Saharan Africa**
  - 0 countries on track
  - 28 countries insufficient progress
  - 11 countries decreasing coverage

**Progress on elimination of open defecation among the poorest urban quintile**

- **SDG: Sub-Saharan Africa Poorest urban quintile**
  - 8 countries on track
  - 10 countries insufficient progress
  - 14 countries increasing open defecation
Urban Sanitation Challenges

• Rapid urban population growth and high population density

• The lack of secure land tenure and space for residents in informal urban settlement

• Unequal access to and ineffective coverage of urban WASH services.

• A critical gap for national and global monitoring of safely sanitation services, especially for on-site sanitation systems.

• Limited political will and capacity for planning, funding, and a lack of an enabling policy environment for implementing inclusive urban sanitation services

• Social structures in urban areas are often complex and differ from rural ‘norms’.

• The periphery of cities and towns or intra-urban spaces are often where urban refugees, IDPs and migrants are forced to settle.

• The impact of climate change, environmental hazards and natural disasters in urban areas is high, especially in informal settlements
Rationale for UNICEF Engagement in Urban Sanitation

• Growing inequalities in access to sanitation services and challenges of reaching the most vulnerable children wherever they are.

• Human rights and universality of access to sanitation services to achieve SDG objectives and other global commitments;

• UNICEF’s core accountability and commitments as provided in UNICEF’s strategic plan (2018-2021); and global WASH strategy (2016-2030).

• Humanitarian imperative of responding to WASH emergencies (including sanitation) in urban areas. UNICEF is the global lead for WASH humanitarian response and provider of last resort.

• Public health threat of poor sanitation coverage especially in high density urban areas with poor sanitation services.
UNICEF’s Global Framework for Urban WASH

• Creates a common vision for UNICEF’s approach to urban WASH programming.

• The framework enables country, regional and global WASH teams to have a clear and shared sense of direction and purpose.

• Provides basis for urban WASH engagement across global, regional and country levels.

• Define what UNICEF is best-placed to contribute to urban WASH based on its mandate, capacity and comparative advantage.
UNICEF Global Framework for Urban WASH

**Realisation of the human rights to water and sanitation**

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

**Equitable access to WASH services for the poor and most vulnerable population in urban areas**

- **Urban slums**
- **Small towns**
- **Urban areas in humanitarian and protracted crisis settings**

**Support type**

- **Sector-level support**
- **Service-level support**
- **User-level support**

**UNICEF programming approaches**

- **Strengthen enabling environment**
  - SWA building blocks
    - Policy & strategy development
    - Institutional arrangement & coordination
    - Sector financing
    - Capacity development
    - Planning, monitoring & review
- **Building sustainable markets**
- **Leveraging sustainable financial resources**
- **Deliver services and supplies**
- **Empower communities**
- **Leveraging sustainable financial resources**

**Utilise evidence to promote child rights**