

Key Sanitation Issues: Contribution by UN-HABITAT

1. First and foremost, Sanitation needs an institutional home. Currently, the responsibility for sanitation provision is spread over a number of ministries and departments, both at national and local levels.
 2. For effective policy response, official statistics need to adequately reflect the current sanitation gap, in low-income, including illegal settlements.
 3. Investment in sanitation remains to a large extent a household choice and is closely linked to security of tenure. From these considerations, there is a good case to locate the institutional responsibility for sanitation within the Ministry of Housing / local authorities.
 4. The creation of demand for sanitation remains a major challenge for national and local authorities. Much greater emphasis is required on social marketing and on public awareness raising. Support to sanitation and hygiene education and campaigns such as WASH should be closely linked to investments in physical provision of sanitation.
 5. Future water supply expansion projects supported through ODA should include a component on low-cost sanitation, targeted to the poor.
 6. Building partnerships among CBOs, NGOs, Local Authorities and the private sector is crucial to scale up sanitation initiatives city-wide. National policies and budgetary support to local authorities should pro-actively promote such partnerships. There is proven experience that such partnerships can generate additional income / employment for the poor.
 7. Improving sanitation facilities in schools should be seen as strategic to reducing current gender gap in school enrolments.
 8. Innovative financing mechanisms such -as loan guarantee schemes should be promoted to provide low-income households with access to institutional finance for the provision of basic sanitation facilities.
 9. Monitoring mechanisms should reflect the voices and choices of the people, particularly the poor communities, who are the real targets of MDGs.
- IO. The impact of poor sanitation on water quality should be taken into account in developing IWRM plans at national level.
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