

## **Sustainable Development Goals for Achieving Water and Sanitation**

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Water and sanitation is the key to a sustainable future. The primary goals are to achieve safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, good water quality, water efficiency, effective water resources management and water related ecosystems.

The sustainability of urban water supply and sanitation operations can be improved by learning from recent developments and changing attitudes across the region. Successful reduction of nonrevenue water, such as occurred in Manila, as well as successful reforms and innovation in other cases in the People's Republic of China, Bangkok, and Jakarta should be promoted and widely publicized. Lessons from these success stories can be simplified and delivered to the public and politicians to influence change. Reforms also take shape through response to crises. Water shortage in Pakistan and a possible water crisis in the whole of Asia can possibly motivate preemptive change in some situations, but in others might lead to calamities that will hopefully lead to belated reforms. Globalization, economic growth and rapid urbanization will hopefully increase acceptance of the need to pay for water services, increase demands on the quality of water supply and sanitation, and improve sustainability.

In other to improve water supply and sanitation project sustainability measures like careful estimation of project costs and evaluation of demand, proper planning for operation and maintenances, more attention to system interdependencies, and long term engagement with clients should be taken into consideration. Appropriate tariffs should be set and cost recovery is essential to the long-term sustainability of water sanitation and supply operations. Tariffs can be linked with budgetary transfers provided a policy reform framework exists. Participation of communities in selected cases in Indonesia, Bangladesh, Philippines, and Nepal contributed to project sustainability. Efficiency measures such as assessing human capacity and nonrevenue water can also improve project sustainability.

Institutional reform is another key element and a foundation for long term sustainability. Although institutional reform takes time, it is critical for sanitation development and water supply. Asian countries have been pushed to implement institutional reforms very quickly, more rapidly than the pace of reform that occurred in advanced countries. However, some Asian countries have success stories that have experienced a relatively quick reform of organizations, whereas expecting full implementation of aggressive reforms under single project loans is not realistic.

Moreover, institutional reform has been successful in Asia, although it can be seen as just a starting for the last 25 years as a period of gestation. The decision to remain

engaged should rest on policies that acknowledge the crucial relation of water sanitation investments to inclusive and environmentally sustainable growth, and the complex and slow-making nature of the sector.

Lastly, taking into account the current pandemic that has hit has resulted in a lot of changes globally. Especially now due to COVID-19 the provision of safe water, sanitation and hygienic conditions is essential to protect human health. According to the WHO, it is necessary to ensure proper facilitates during all infectious disease outbreaks by for example, ensuring consistently applied and good wash and waste management practices in communities, schools, homes, prisons, marketplaces and health care facilities that will help to further prevent the transmission of the COVID-19 virus from human.-to-human.