

WHAT PROGRESS LOOKS LIKE

PAKISTAN – SANITATION

(SDG TARGET 6.2)

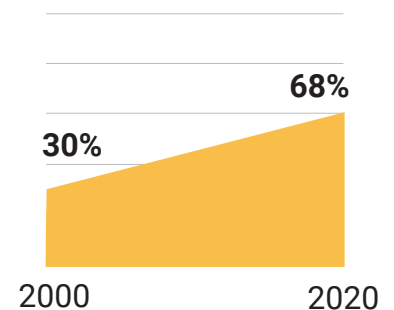


Progress indicator: Proportion of population using basic sanitation services

Level of impact: (227.2 million people and \$1,137 billion in gross domestic product)

Result: Coverage of basic sanitation services increased by 39 percentage points, now totalling 68% of the population, while the number of people who practise open defecation fell by 32 percentage points, to 7% of the population. Pakistan is on track to eliminate open defecation by 2030.

Progress 2000–2020:



SITUATION

Target 6.2 of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 is to achieve universal access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene and end open defecation by 2030. Adequate and equitable sanitation means that people are using a safely managed sanitation service, which is an improved sanitation facility that is not shared with other households and where excreta are safely disposed of in situ or transported and treated off-site. If the safe disposal and treatment of excreta cannot be met or is unknown, the sanitation service is referred to as basic.

Over the last few decades, the number of people who practise open defecation has dropped significantly in Pakistan, from 39 per cent in 2000 to 7 per cent in 2020, and the country is on track to eliminate the practice by 2030. This reduction has been especially notable in rural areas, where rates have fallen by more than 2 percentage points per year, from 55 per cent to just 12 per cent.

Pakistan made good progress on basic sanitation in the same period, with national coverage more than doubling

from 30 per cent in 2000 to 68 per cent in 2020. However, the current improvement rate of nearly 2 percentage points per year is still not enough to achieve universal access by 2030.

Pakistan lacks data on safely managed sanitation, including the treatment of wastewater from sewer connections and the emptying and treatment of faecal sludge from septic tanks and pit latrines. Further work is needed to address these gaps and assess the coverage of safely managed sanitation.

PROGRESS MADE

Work to increase sanitation coverage in Pakistan began to accelerate under the Millennium Development Goals (2000–2015), and continued to do so with the 2015 adoption of the 2030 Agenda. The National Sanitation Policy, approved in 2006, was the first strategic milestone to give direction on the national sanitation challenge. In 2010, through the 18th amendment of the Pakistani constitution, provinces were granted self-governing,



legislative and financial autonomy, including on sanitation policymaking and implementation.

In the same year, massive floods hit the country, and the Pakistan Approach to Total Sanitation (PATS) was introduced as a strategy for making best use of the flood response funding available. This enabled synergies between non-subsidized development approaches and subsidized humanitarian approaches for increasing access to improved sanitation. PATS became a popular implementation approach among sanitation-sector partners and two years later, provincial governments adopted it as their implementation strategy and formulated provincial policies to support it.

In 2015, Pakistan met the Millennium Development Goal target of 'halving the 1990 population without access to improved sanitation', by achieving 68 per cent coverage of improved sanitation. This was a morale boost for both the government and its partners in the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector, inspiring rapid institutionalization of the new SDG targets in 2016. This included progress monitoring and an expansion of national household surveys to collect data on SDG indicators, as well as follow-up and review through a regular joint sector review. The country also set a national target for 72 per cent of the population to be using safely managed sanitation by 2030.

Since 2016, these reviews have resulted in costed sanitation targets in provincial WASH Sector Master Plans, supported by a WASH bottleneck analysis tool and an SDG 6 costing tool. The most prominent milestone was met in 2018, when the Prime Minister launched Clean Green Pakistan. Since 2018, provincial and national progress towards SDG targets has been regularly recorded in the Ministry of Finance's Pakistan Economic Survey reports, published ahead of budget announcements.

Continued implementation of PATS programmes by provincial governments, leveraging of public-sector funds for Clean Green Pakistan and an overall increase in WASH-sector allocations and expenditure by these governments have allowed for continuous progress in recent years. The national government recently developed a plan to eliminate open defecation among the remaining (and hardest to reach) 7 per cent of the population that still engages in this practice.

To achieve the national target on safely managed sanitation, or even basic sanitation, increased allocations are still needed, including from non-traditional sources such as climate financing, as well as increased implementation capacity among service providers. This is especially true as a result of the most recent massive floods that took place in 2022, which slowed down sanitation progress.

KEY SUCCESS FACTORS

- Innovative approach to use flood response measures for sanitation
- Regular joint sector reviews resulting in costed provincial WASH Sector Master Plans
- Political and financial support via the Prime Minister's Clean Green Pakistan programme
- Boost from achieving MDG target on sanitation, setting of national target for SDG 6.2

LEARN MORE

- [Pakistan National Sanitation Policy](#)
- [Clean Green Pakistan programme](#)
- [WASH data from WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme](#)
- [Overall progress on SDG 6 in Pakistan](#)

Version February 2023

Water data from sources listed under 'Learn more' (2000–2020)

[Socioeconomic data from World Bank \(2020\)](#)

Gross domestic product in constant 2017 international \$ using purchasing power parity rates