

Online resources for data on water and sanitation

Compiled by **GIB CLARKE**

Factsheet on Water and Sanitation

United Nations Water for Life Decade 2005 – 2015

<http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/factsheet.html>

A great first step, the “International Decade for Action: Water for Life” campaign presents key statistics for water supply and sanitation and their connections to global health and gender. Each statistic links to more exhaustive data sheets from the United Nations, World Health Organization (WHO), and UNICEF.

Beyond Scarcity: Power, Poverty and the Global Water Crisis UN Human Development Report 2006

United Nations Development Program

<http://hdr.undp.org/hdr2006/pdfs/report/HDR06-complete.pdf>

This year’s *Human Development Report* is dedicated to water issues including water and sanitation; water scarcity; water competition in agriculture; and managing transboundary water resources. This comprehensive volume includes five chapters narrating the major aspects: the current crisis, human consumption, sanitation, agriculture, and transboundary management. Colorful boxes, tables, and maps, as well as essays from former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, the UK’s Gordon Brown, former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and Brazilian President Luiz Inácio da Silva, illustrate water’s importance. However, half of the report’s 422 pages are dedicated to the year’s Human Development Indicators, and among those scores of statistics, only two measure population access to water and sanitation.

Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation

WHO/UNICEF

<http://www.wssinfo.org/>

The JMP website provides comprehensive data on water and sanitation at global, regional, and country levels, including statistics for developed, developing, and least-developed countries, updated in August 2006 with the most recent set of comprehensive and validated data (2004). JMP also includes data on common water-related diseases and other health impacts of inadequate water supply and sanitation. The *JMP Report 2006* reports on the progress of individual developing countries and includes key trends and predictions—including population growth—for 2005-2015 to help the international community know where to focus to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on water and sanitation by 2015.

Progress for Children No. 5: A Report Card on Water and Sanitation

UNICEF

http://www.unicef.org/wes/files/Progress_for_Children_No._5_-_English.pdf

This progress report discusses regional successes and failures in efforts to expand access to safe water and basic sanitation, focusing on its impact on children's health. Statistics include nearly every country in the world in both rural and urban areas, and measure the country's progress towards the MDGs. Overall, UNICEF says the world is on track to meet the targets.

Challenges to International Waters: Regional Assessments in a Global Perspective

Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA)

http://www.giwa.net/publications/finalreport/giwa_final_report.pdf

GIWA's report, published by the UN Environment Programme, examines how human activities have weakened aquatic ecosystems and thus compromised human well-being and sustainable development. Tables and charts, both statistical and qualitative, include a unique scoring matrix that quantifies the social, economic, environmental, and health impacts of freshwater shortage, pollution, overfishing, habitat modification, and global change by water "Mega-Region." The report rates each impact from none to severe, and predicts whether they are likely to increase or decrease in the future.

Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS) Water Programme

United Nations

<http://www.gemstat.org/>

GEMS provides data on surface and ground water quality for many countries at very local levels (by watershed and from more than 2,700 measuring stations). More than 100 measurements include physical and chemical characteristics, nutrients, organic matter, metals, and major ions present in surface and ground water. Users can display data as maps or graphs; coming soon, GEMS will offer downloads of data tables.

AQUASTAT

UN Food and Agriculture Organization

<http://www.fao.org/ag/agl/aglw/aquastat/main/index.stm>

AQUASTAT updates its water and agriculture data every few months. The main country database can be queried by countries or regions; year(s); and a wide range of variables including population, climate, water use, and irrigation. There are a few environmental and health variables including “population affected by water-related disease.” The site also includes separate databases on African dams, water or agriculture institutions, annual river sediment yields, and investment costs for over 250 irrigation projects.

Visit our website <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/water> for water-related news, events, and publications, and our blog <http://www.newsecuritybeat.blogspot.com> for more population, environment, health, and security links.