



Sanitation for Millions

IMPROVING ACCESS TO SAFE SANITATION AND HYGIENE GLOBALLY

Background

Safe sanitation is a human right and one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 6.2). Nevertheless, around 3.6 billion people globally remain without access to safely managed sanitary facilities. About 540 million students do not have basic sanitation in their school and circa 780 million people depend on healthcare facilities without any sanitation. Financial resources and knowledge that are required to build, renovate, operate, and maintain sanitary facilities are often missing. In addition, the importance of safe hygiene practices for human health and wellbeing is commonly overlooked. A lack of access to safe sanitation and hygiene particularly affects disadvantaged and vulnerable groups as well as women and girls.

In this context, in 2016, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) commissioned *Sanitation for Millions* to improve access to safe sanitation and hygiene with a focus on disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. Since then, around two million people have benefitted directly from the project's measures.



Handover of toilets with handwashing facilities at a school in Uganda



Female students in Pakistan

Approach

Sanitation for Millions builds female-friendly and inclusive sanitary facilities, trains local professionals to operate and maintain them, and promotes safe hygiene practices through targeted campaigns and knowledge transfer. The project is committed to destigmatising menstruation and thus facilitates the participation of women and girls in public life. Furthermore, the project promotes the treatment and reuse of sanitary wastewater and faecal sludge through the elaboration of concepts and the construction of appropriate facilities.

Sanitation for Millions strengthens the management capacities of institutional partners and municipal administrations in direct cooperation. To ensure the operation of the facilities in the long term, financing mechanisms are developed jointly with the local partner. As a global project, *Sanitation for Millions* can flexibly test and anchor new approaches in different cultural contexts. Based on proven quality standards, successful approaches are replicated and expanded.



Plumbing training at an orphanage in Jordan

Countries and Donors

Sanitation for Millions has been working in Jordan, Pakistan, and Uganda since 2016. Since 2022, the project is also active in Colombia.

As a multi-donor programme, Sanitation for Millions has received additional funding between 2016 and 2022 from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Hungary, the British Solidarity Fund Water Unite, the Inter-American Development Bank within the framework of the GEF CREW+ project, and the share GmbH.



Inclusive toilets in Uganda



Highlights 2016-2022

- Around two million people are benefitting directly from improved access to safe sanitation and hygiene.
- 284 public institutions, like schools, healthcare facilities, and faith-based institutions, were provided with sanitary infrastructure, accompanied by measures to ensure their operation and maintenance. All infrastructural measures are inclusive and female-friendly.
- In addition, 680 separate handwashing facilities were built and put into operation at other public institutions.
- Around 1000 activities to spread knowledge and raise awareness have been carried out with the aim of achieving positive behavioural change concerning hygiene practices. These include measures in the area of hand hygiene, menstrual hygiene management and infection control in general.
- Around 3000 professionals were qualified for the provision of sanitary services through tailor-made training formats.



Safe hand hygiene at a school in Pakistan

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