

Human Rightsu to Water and Sanitation

*Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe
drinking water and sanitation*



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Legal basis for the human rights to water and sanitation

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (art. 25(1)), 1948
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (art. 11), 1966/76
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (art. 24(2)(h))
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (art. 14(2)(h))
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (art. 18 (2)(a))
- General Comment 15, 2002
- UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions 292/64 and 15/9, respectively
- Human Rights Council resolution 24/41 affirmed the normative content of the HR to water and sanitation



What is the Human Right to Water and Sanitation?

The human right to **water** entitles everyone, without discrimination, to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use.



The human right to **sanitation** entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, which is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable, which provides privacy and dignity.



Normative content of the rights to water and sanitation

AVAILABILITY: **sufficient** and **continuous** for personal and domestic uses; within immediate vicinity

QUALITY: **safe** for consumption and other personal uses; hygienically and technically safe to use

ACCESSIBILITY: to **everyone** without discrimination, within the immediate vicinity

AFFORDABILITY: price must be affordable for all **without compromising** the ability to secure other essential necessities guaranteed by human rights

ACCEPTABILITY: culturally acceptable and gender-specific, and to ensure privacy and dignity

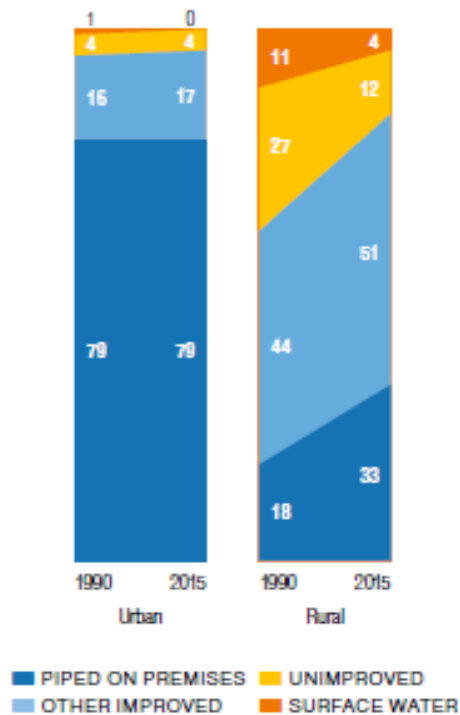


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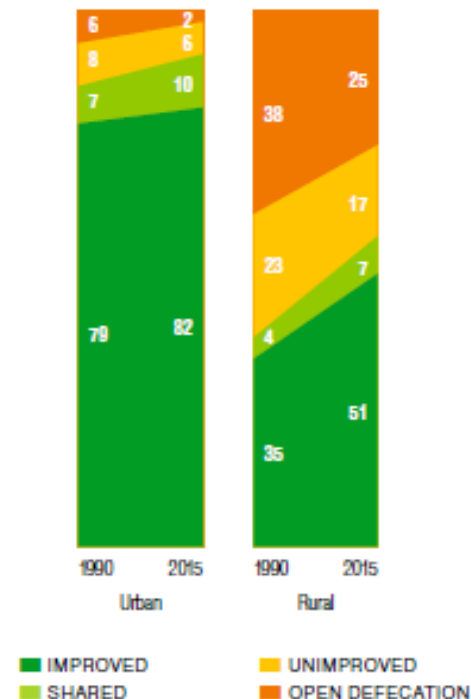
Striking Inequalities in Access: Urban-Rural

Global rural-urban disparities have decreased, but large gaps remain

Despite progress, sanitation coverage in rural areas still lags behind urban areas



Water



Sanitation

Urban-Rural disparities (2015) (source WHO-UNICEF)

Improved water: 96% vs. 84%. Improved sanitation: 92% vs. 58%

Averages mask inequalities

Access to piped water on premises depends on location and wealth, as shown in Kazakhstan

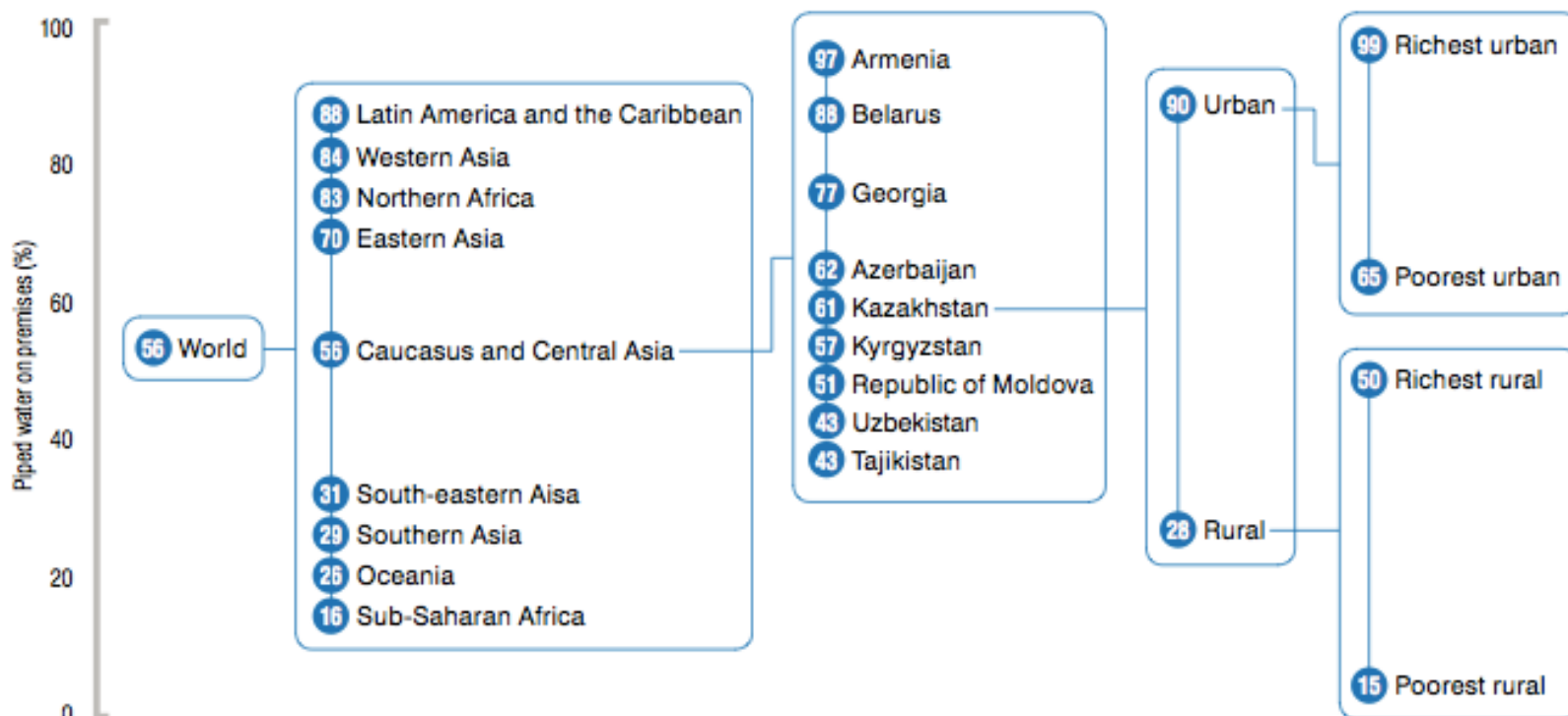
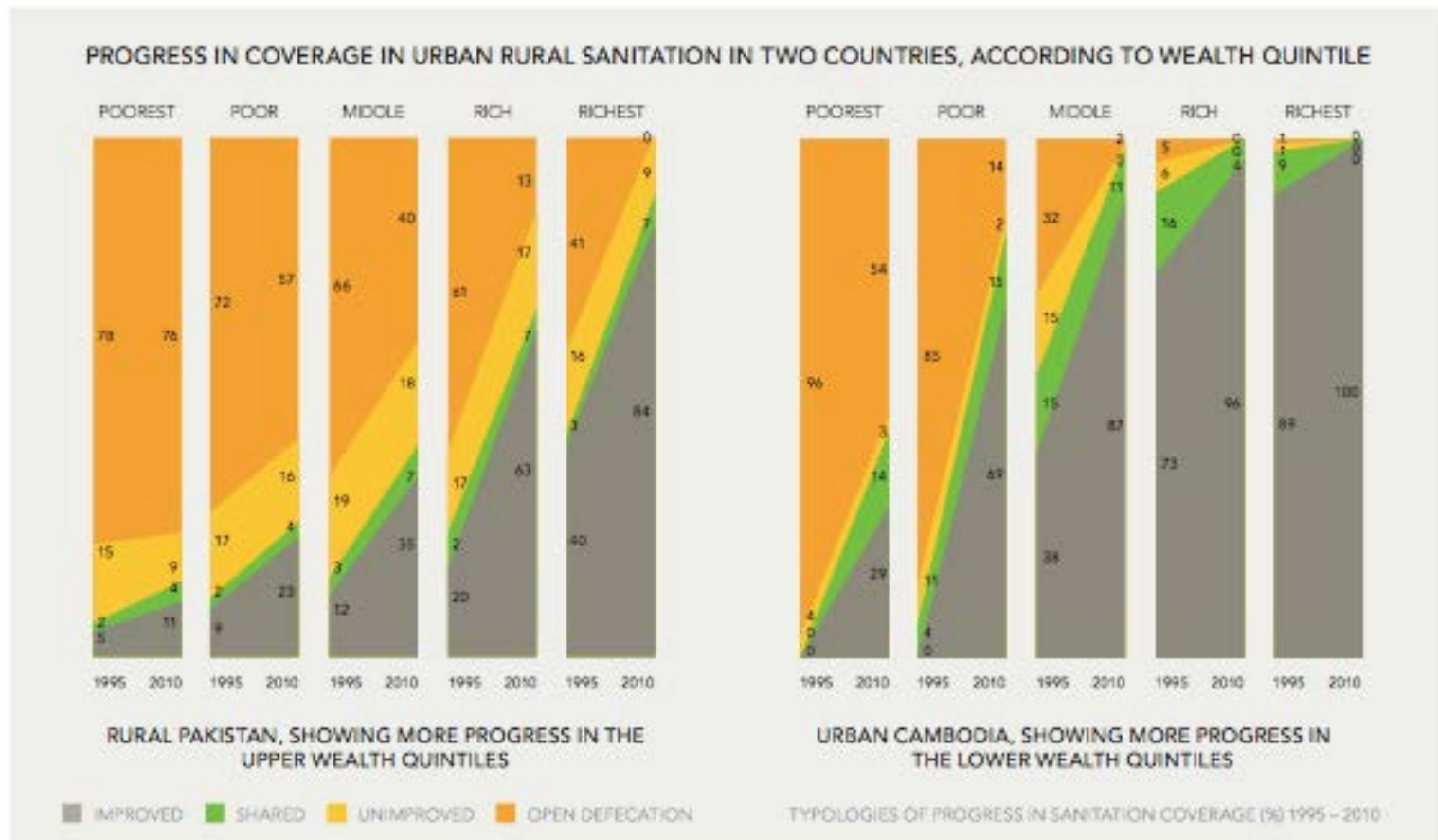


Fig.26 Equity tree for piped water on premises, Kazakhstan 2012

Different approaches to improving access: Entrenching inequalities, or addressing inequalities?



Adapted from source: Demographic and Health Surveys, Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys and World Health Surveys 1995 – 2010

Sustainable Development Goals

Before 2030...

- **End poverty and hunger** everywhere
- **Combat inequalities** within and among countries
- **Build peaceful, just, and inclusive societies**
- **Protect human rights** and promote **gender equality**
- **Empower women and girls**



Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development

- “A world where we reaffirm our **commitments regarding the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation** and where there is **improved hygiene**” (“Transforming Our World”)

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- 6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- 6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and **hygiene for all** and **end open defecation**, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations



Sustainable Development Goals

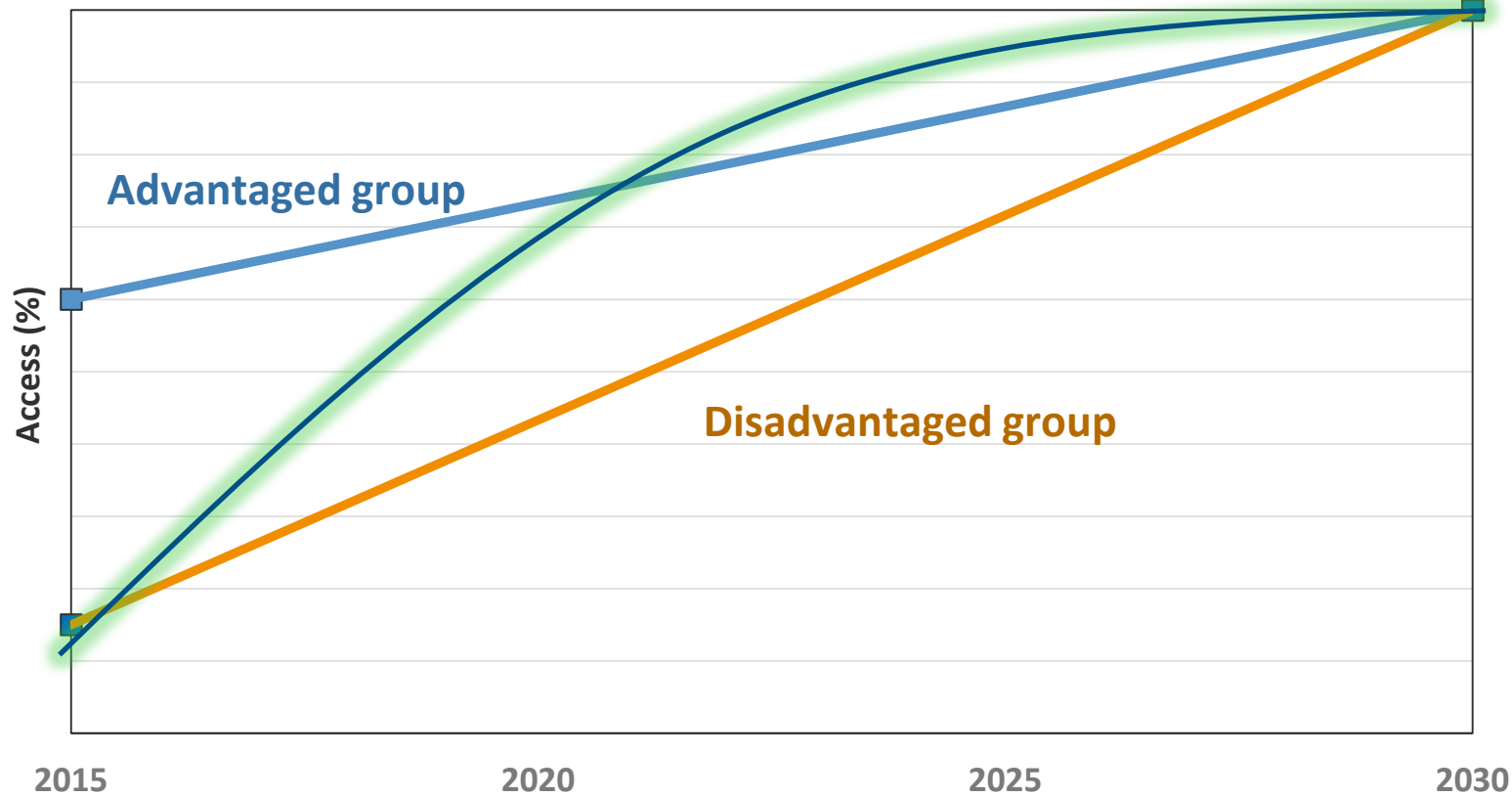


Appropriate indicators are key.

Providing information on...

- Inequalities
- Hygiene
- Regional differences
- Social groups
- Affordability
- Quality and safety

Progressive elimination of inequalities



Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation

- The Human Rights Council established the mandate of the special rapporteur on the human rights to water and sanitation in 2008.
- The special rapporteur is mandated to:
 - contribute to discussions on the United Nations post-2015 development agenda
 - with special regard to the ***elimination of inequalities***, and
 - the ***full realization*** and ***sustainability*** of the HRtWS.
 - facilitate the provision of technical assistance in the implementation of the HRtWS, including cooperation with relevant stakeholders.
- The role is independent and unpaid



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The Special Rapporteur's tasks

1. Country missions
2. Thematic reports
 - In 2015...
 - a. The report to the Human Rights Council is on **affordability**
 - b. In October, the report submitted to the General Assembly discusses **service** levels
 - For 2016...
 - a. One report will be on gender
 - b. The second report's theme is still open, but may be on **human rights obligations of donors and funders** with respect to the HRtWS
3. Engagement with stakeholders on relevant issues
4. Receiving and considering complaints from victims of alleged rights violations
5. Follow up



For further information

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/WaterAndSanitation/SRWater/Pages/SRWaterIndex.aspx>

