

# **A Snapshot of Sanitation in South Asia with a focus on inequities**

A regional perspective based on data from the  
WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation

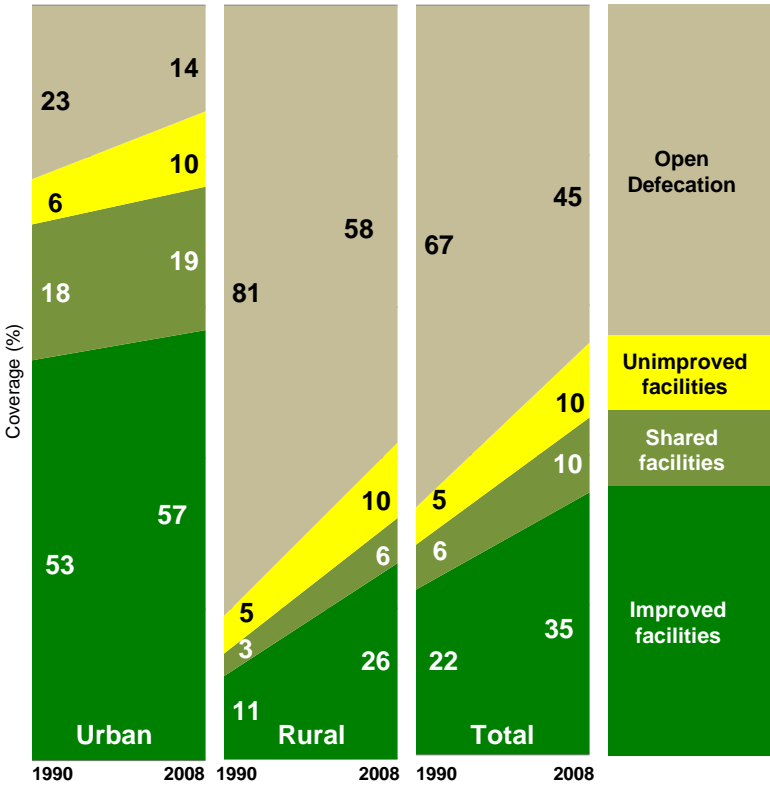


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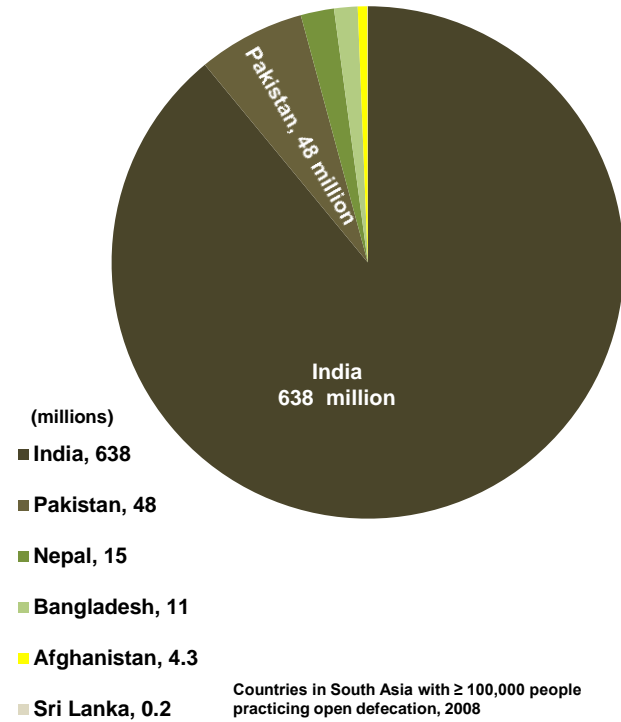
Prepared by the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme  
for Water Supply and Sanitation  
for  
**Fourth South Asia Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN-4)**  
4-7 April 2011  
Colombo, Sri Lanka

# Sanitation coverage trends South Asia

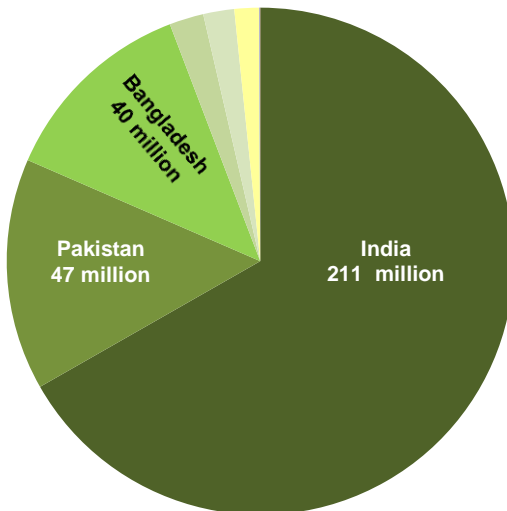
Sanitation coverage trends, South Asia, 1990 – 2008



716 million people in South Asia practiced open defecation in 2008

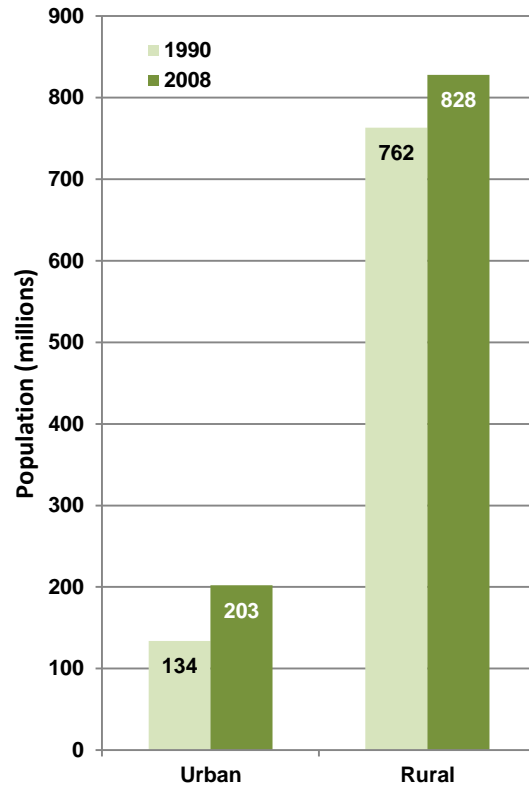


218 million people in South Asia gained access to an improved sanitation facility since 1990



There were more people *without* access to improved sanitation in 2008 than in 1990

Since 1990, the population *without* an improved sanitation facility increased by 135 million



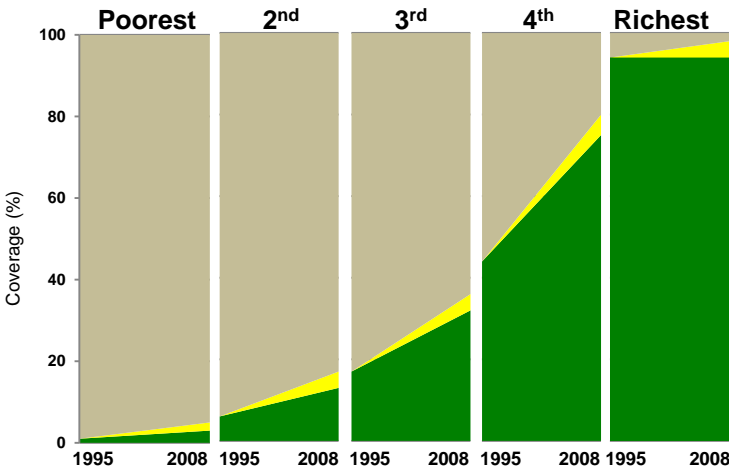
Urban/rural disparities in the population without improved sanitation, South Asia, 1990 and 2008 (millions)

Population gaining access to improved sanitation facilities, 1990-2008..

\*Afghanistan: 1995-2008; \*\*Bhutan: 2000-2008

# Sanitation trends by wealth quintiles

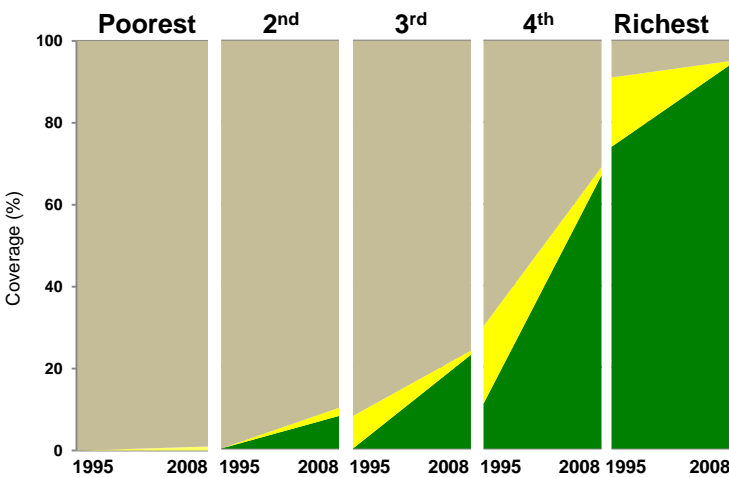
Household sample surveys like the India National Family Health Survey (NFHS), the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) and the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) allow for the classification of households by wealth based on an index comprised of different household assets. Such classification allows the comparison of sanitation practices between the poorest and richest 20% of the households. For the three countries below there are at least three such household surveys available, based on which trends for different sanitation practices have been assessed over the period 1995 – 2008.



## India

*India provided more than 166 million people with access to sanitation since 1995. That is more people than the population of Japan and the Canada combined!*

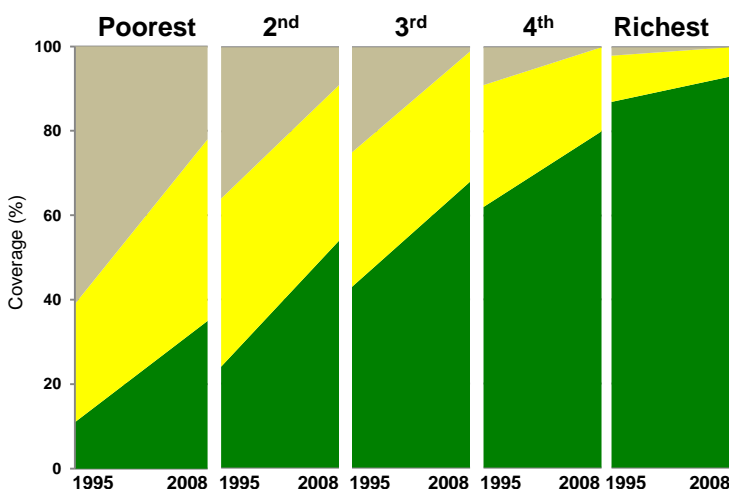
*Progress was, however, highly inequitable: the poorest households hardly benefitted*



## Nepal

*Since 1995, 5.4 million people in Nepal gained access to an improved sanitation facility. Due to population growth, the number of people without improved types of sanitation facilities increased from 18.1 million to 19.8 million.*

*Little or no progress was recorded among the poorest 40% of the population.*

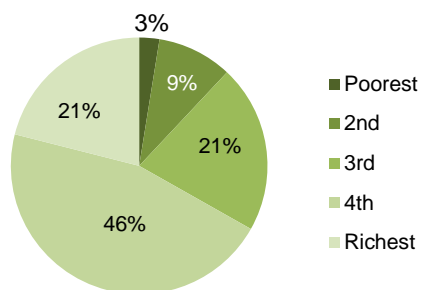


## Bangladesh

*Open defecation rates across all quintiles decreased dramatically. Use of improved types of sanitation facilities more than tripled among the poorest and more than doubled among those in the second quintile.*

# Beyond averages and percentages is there equitable progress?

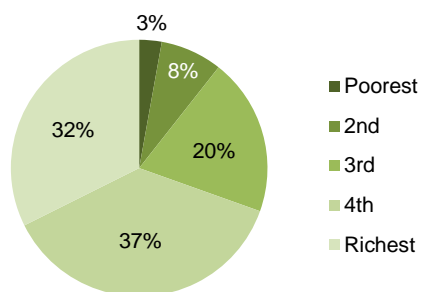
More than 166 million people gained access to improved sanitation, but gains were highly inequitable



## India

Proportion of the population gaining access to an improved type of sanitation facility 1995 – 2008 by wealth quintiles; special tabulation based on NFHS 1996, 2001 and 2006

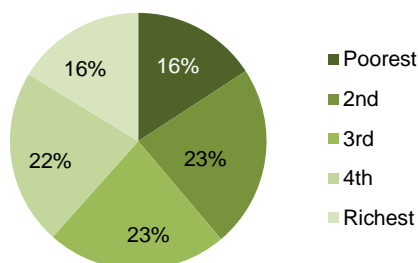
The richest 40% counted for almost 70% of the population gaining access to improved sanitation



## Nepal

Proportion of the population gaining access to an improved type of sanitation facility 1995 – 2008 by wealth quintiles; special tabulation based on DHS 1996, 2001 and 2006

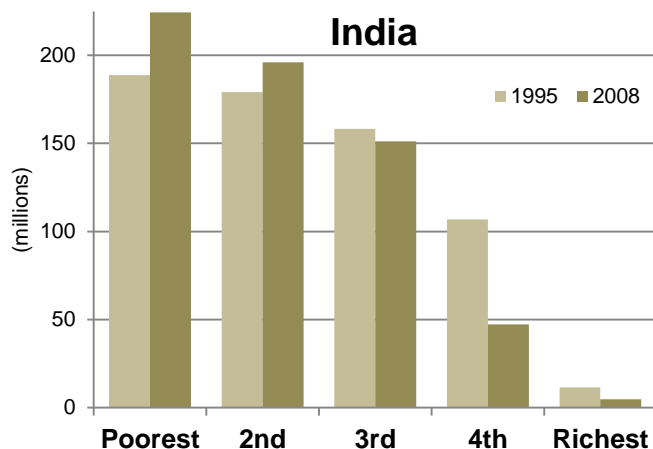
Progress more equitable across all wealth quintiles in Bangladesh



## Bangladesh

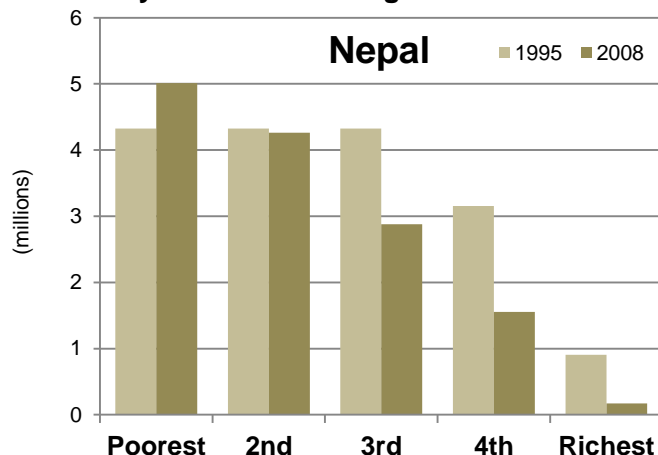
Proportion of the population gaining access to an improved type of sanitation facility 1995 – 2008 by wealth quintiles; special tabulation based on DHS 1994, 1997, 2000, 2004 and 2007

Among the poorest the number of people practicing open defecation increased



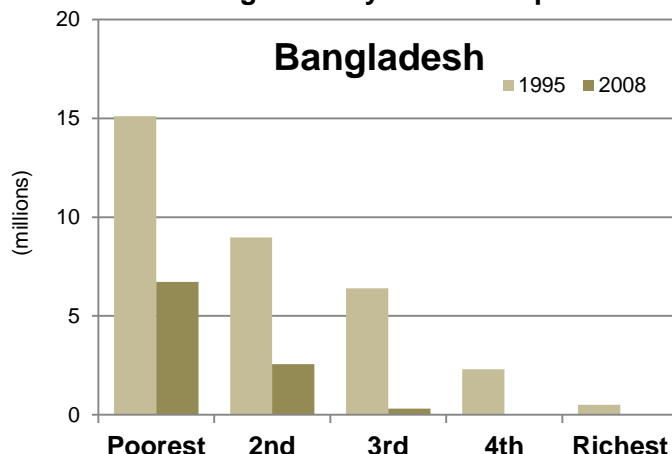
Population practicing open defecation, 1995 and 2008 by wealth quintiles; special tabulation based on NFHS 1996, 2001 and 2006

The number of people practicing open defecation only decreased among the 60% richest



Population practicing open defecation, 1995 and 2008 by wealth quintiles; special tabulation based on DHS 1996, 2001 and 2006

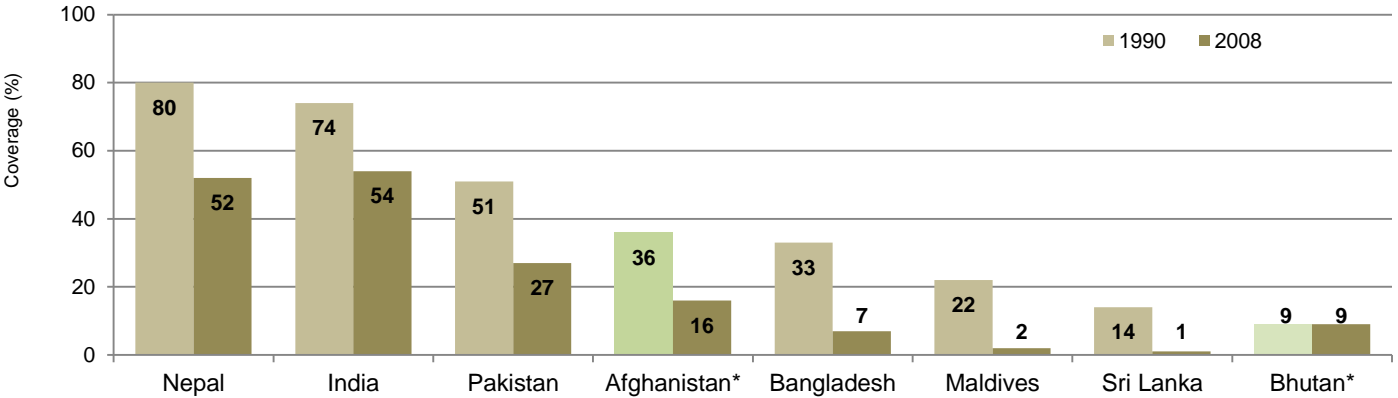
The number of people practicing open defecation decreased significantly across all quintiles



Population practicing open defecation, 1995 and 2008 by wealth quintiles; special tabulation based on DHS 1994, 1997, 2000, 2004 and 2007

# Sanitation coverage trends by country

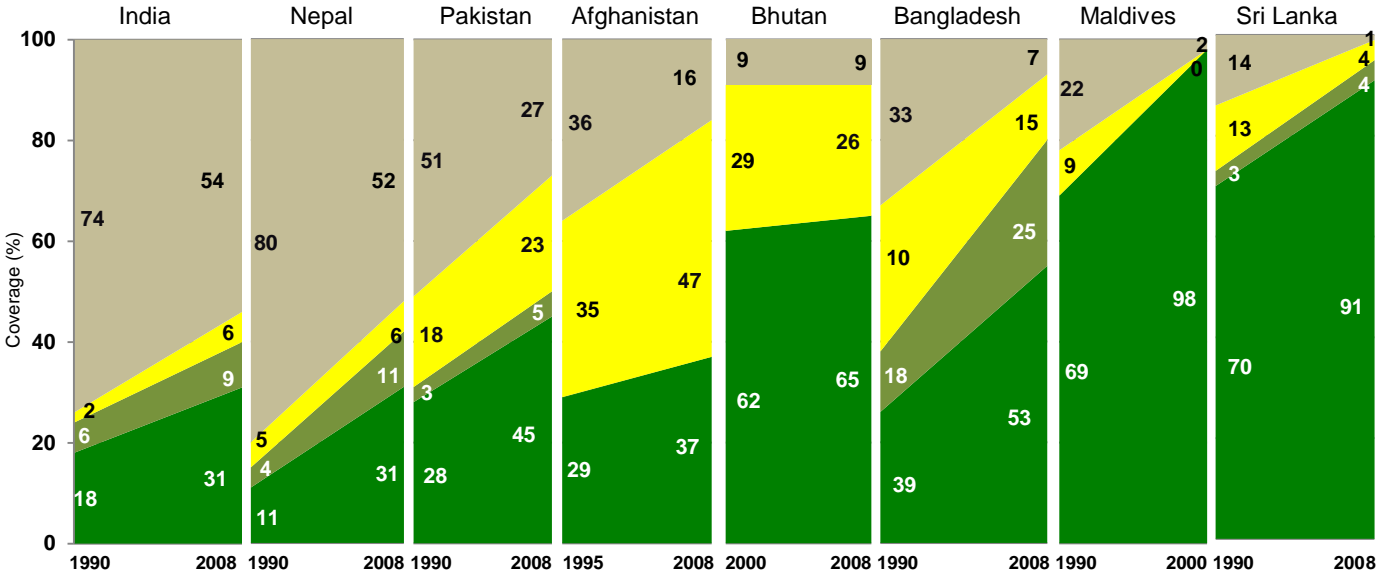
Open defecation rates across South Asia have declined by more than a third, several countries recorded much larger declines



Proportion of the population practicing open defecation, 1990 and 2008 (unless otherwise noted)

\* Afghanistan relates to 1995 instead of 1990, Bhutan relates to 2000 instead of 1990

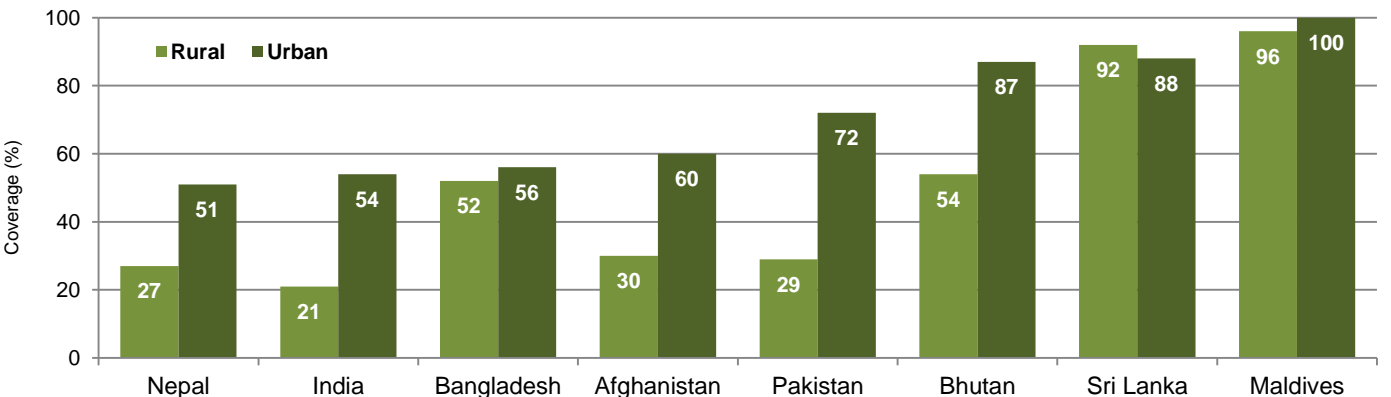
## Trends in sanitation coverage 1990 - 2008



Trend analysis of sanitation practices by country, 1990 – 2008, except for Afghanistan: 1995-2000 and Bhutan: 2000-2008

There are no data available for the proportion of the population that shares a sanitation facility of an otherwise improved type for Afghanistan, Bhutan and Maldives

## Some countries show much larger inequities between urban and rural areas than others



Proportion of the population using improved sanitation facilities, rural and urban, 2008

# Sanitation coverage data

Sanitation coverage: Country estimates by type of sanitation practices, 1990, 2000, 2008

Country, area or territory	Year	Population		Sanitation Coverage (%)												Population gaining access 1990 – 2008 (x1,000)	
		Total (x1,000)	Urban (%)	Urban				Rural				Total					
				Improved	Shared	Unimproved	Open defecation	Improved	Shared	Unimproved	Open defecation	Improved	Shared	Unimproved	Open defecation		
Afghanistan	1990	12,580	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,917*
	2000	20,536	21	46	-	43	11	28	-	40	32	32	-	40	28		
	2008	27,208	24	60	-	38	2	30	-	50	20	37	-	47	16		
Bangladesh	1990	115,632	20	59	27	7	7	34	16	10	40	39	18	10	33	39,704	
	2000	140,767	24	57	26	12	5	43	20	13	24	46	21	13	20		
	2008	160,000	27	56	26	15	3	52	24	16	8	53	25	15	7		
Bhutan	1990	549	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	99**	
	2000	561	25	87	-	9	4	54	-	35	11	62	-	29	9		
	2008	687	35	87	-	9	4	54	-	35	11	65	-	26	9		
India	1990	862,162	26	49	19	4	28	7	1	2	90	18	6	2	74	211,049	
	2000	1,042,590	28	52	20	6	22	14	3	4	79	25	8	4	63		
	2008	1,181,412	29	54	21	7	18	21	4	6	69	31	9	6	54		
Maldives	1990	216	26	100	-	0	0	58	-	12	30	69	-	9	22	150	
	2000	272	28	100	-	0	0	74	-	7	19	81	-	5	14		
	2008	305	38	100	-	0	0	96	-	0	4	98	-	0	2		
Nepal	1990	19,105	9	41	24	5	30	8	2	5	85	11	4	5	80	6,829	
	2000	24,432	13	47	27	4	22	19	5	5	71	23	8	5	64		
	2008	28,810	17	51	30	4	15	27	7	6	60	31	11	6	52		
Pakistan	1990	115,776	31	73	6	14	7	8	1	20	71	28	3	18	51	47,211	
	2000	148,132	33	72	6	16	6	20	3	23	54	37	4	21	38		
	2008	176,952	36	72	6	17	5	29	5	26	40	45	5	23	27		
Sri Lanka	1990	17,290	17	85	7	4	4	67	2	15	16	70	3	13	14	6,152	
	2000	18,767	16	87	7	3	3	81	3	8	8	82	4	7	7		
	2008	20,061	15	88	7	3	2	92	3	4	1	91	4	4	1		
South Asia	1990	1,143,309	25	53	18	6	23	11	3	5	81	22	6	5	67	317,872	
	2000	1,396,057	27	55	19	8	18	19	5	7	69	29	9	7	55		
	2008	1,595,454	29	57	19	10	14	26	6	10	58	35	10	10	45		

\*1995-2008 estimates are given for Afghanistan, 2000-2008 estimates are given for Bhutan  
 • Data not available to the WHO/UNICEF JMP are marked with a " - "

**Disclaimer:**

- The definitions of improved and unimproved sanitation facilities used throughout this document are those used for monitoring progress towards the MDG sanitation target. These are standard definitions used by the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) and may differ from definitions of access to sanitation used nationally.
- The sanitation trend analysis by wealth quintiles presented in this document has been done only for those countries in South Asia for which at least three nationally representative household sample surveys are available which allow for a classification of households by wealth quintile based on an asset index.
- For the sanitation trend analysis by wealth quintiles improved sanitation includes all the households which use an improved **type** of sanitation facility. This includes the use of facilities that are shared between two or more households. As such this presents a slight over estimation of access to improved sanitation, from which shared sanitation facilities of an improved type are usually excluded.

For further information and details on definitions please visit the WHO/UNICEF JMP website at: [www.wssinfo.org](http://www.wssinfo.org)