



The United Nations World Water Development Report 2019

Leaving no one behind

Improved water resources management and access to safe water and sanitation for all is essential for eradicating poverty, building peaceful and prosperous societies, and ensuring that 'no one is left behind' on the path towards sustainable development.

March 22

by Richard Connor

*Editor in Chief
United Nations World Water Development Report*



The **human rights** to water and sanitation

On 28 July 2010, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted a historical resolution recognizing “*the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights*” (UNGA, 2010, para. 1).

Figure 9.1 Drinking water and sanitation coverage in the Western Asia and North Africa region, 2015

■ Surface water
■ Unimproved
■ Limited
■ Basic
■ Safely managed

■ Open defecation
■ Unimproved
■ Limited
■ Basic
■ Safely managed

*Insufficient data to estimate safely managed services.

Source: WHO/UNICEF (n.d.).

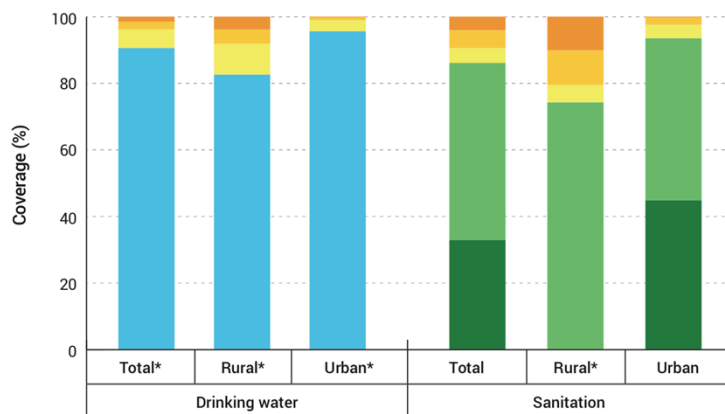
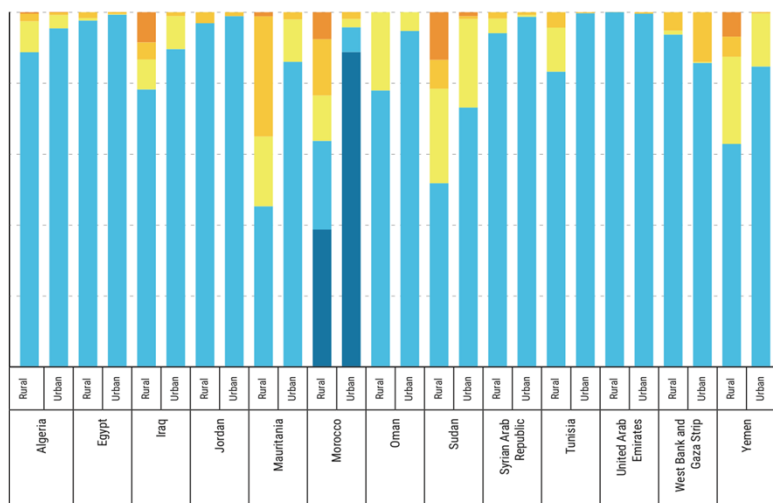


Figure 9.2 Rural and urban drinking water coverage in selected countries of the Arab region, 2015

■ Surface water
■ Unimproved
■ Limited
■ Basic
■ Safely managed

Coverage (%)



Source: WHO/UNICEF (n.d.).

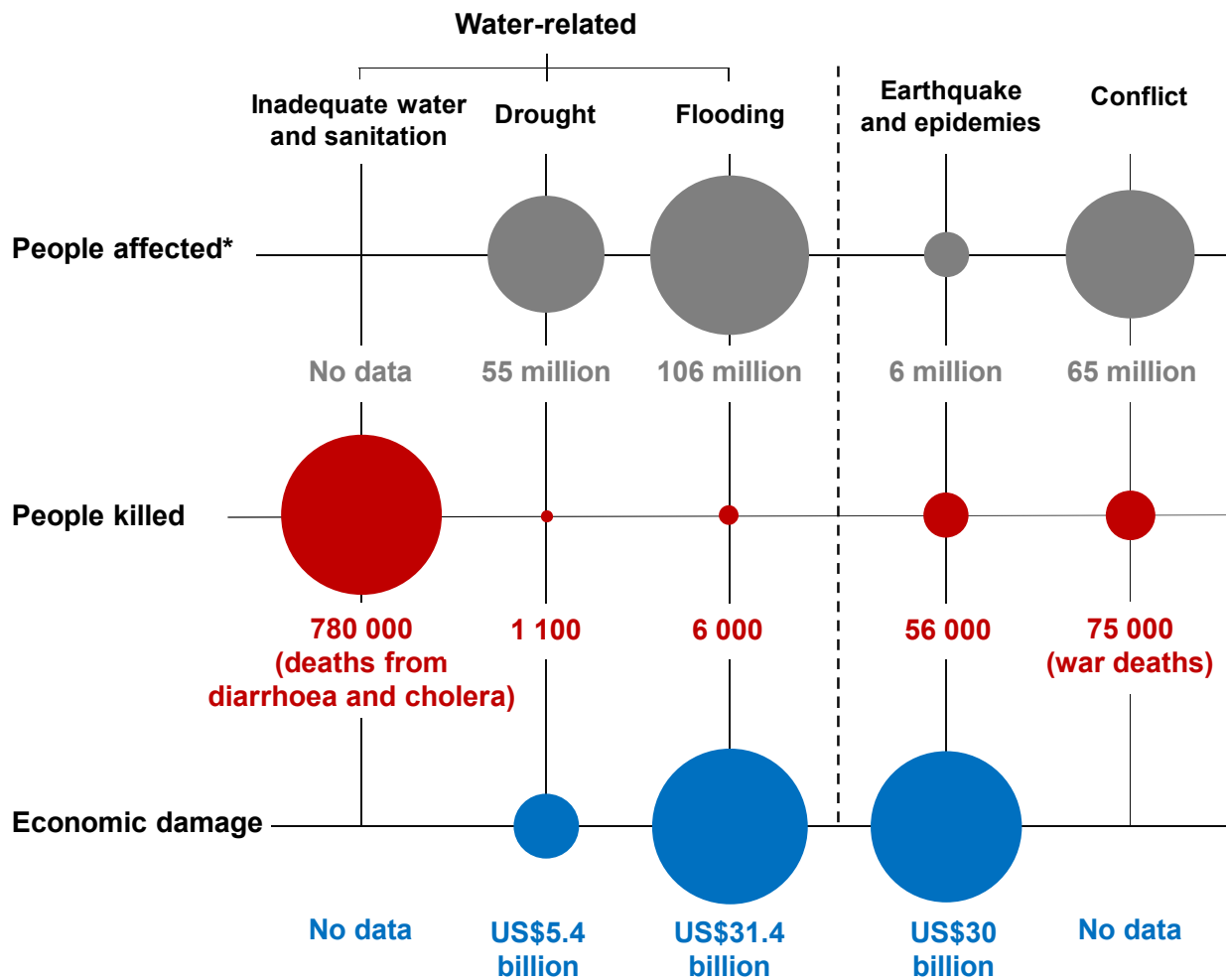
Billions are being left behind in access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Billions are being **left behind** in access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

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Average annual impact from inadequate drinking water and sanitation services, water-related disasters, epidemics and earthquakes, and conflicts



*People affected are defined as those requiring immediate assistance during a period of emergency; this may include displaced or evacuated people.

Billions are being left behind in access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Source: Adapted from PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (2018, p. 14). Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported (CC BY 3.0).

Drivers and consequences of poverty and discrimination

Population growth

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Figure 14 Population of the world: Estimates (1950–2015), and medium-variant projection with 95% prediction intervals (2015–2100)

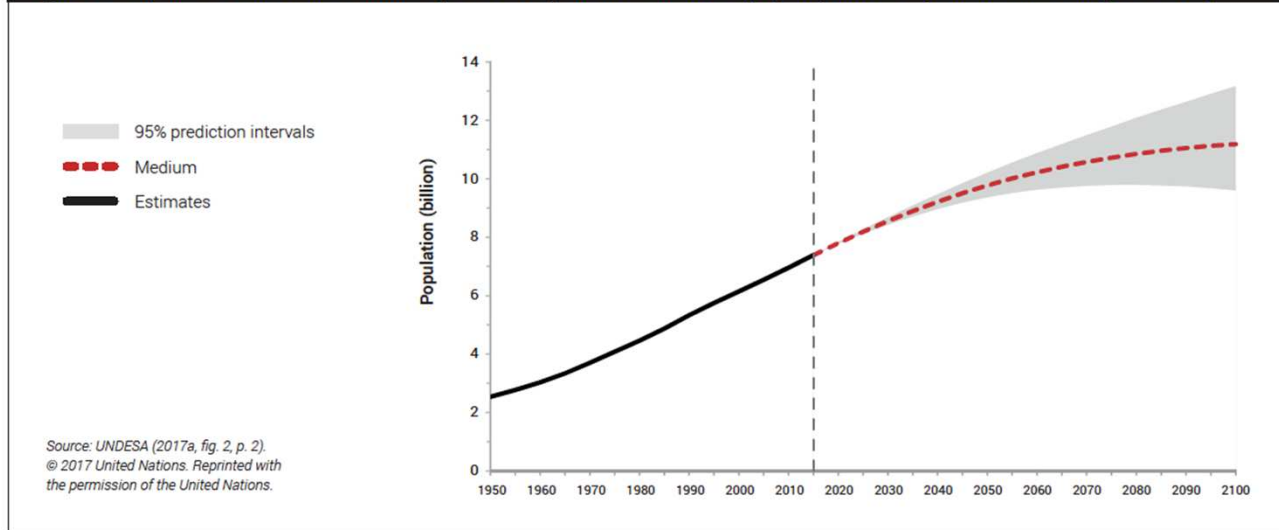


Figure 15 Population by region: Estimates (1950–2015), and medium-variant projection (2015–2100)

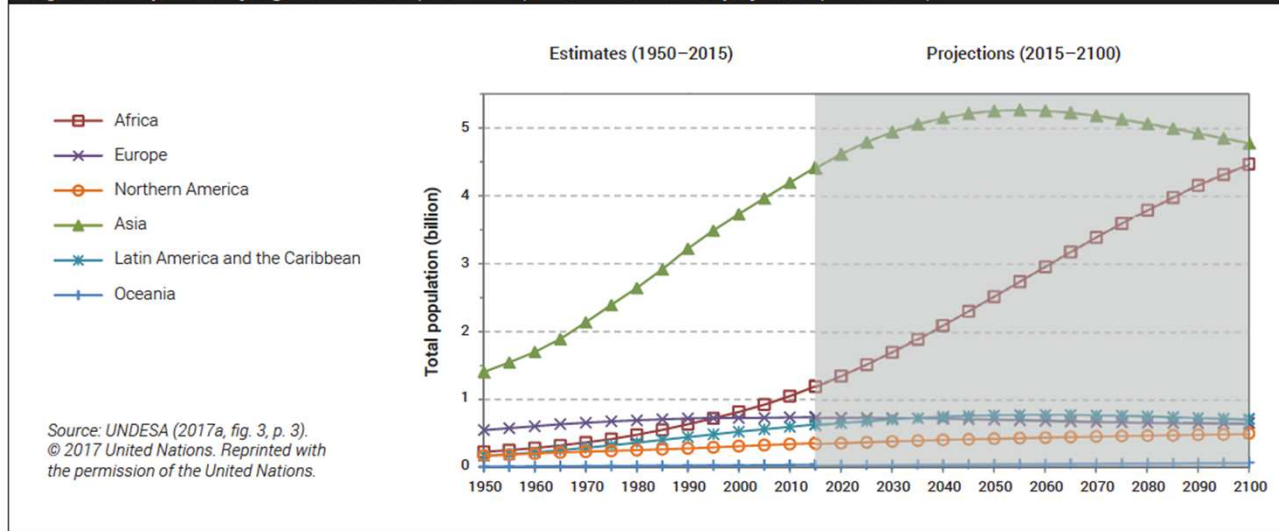
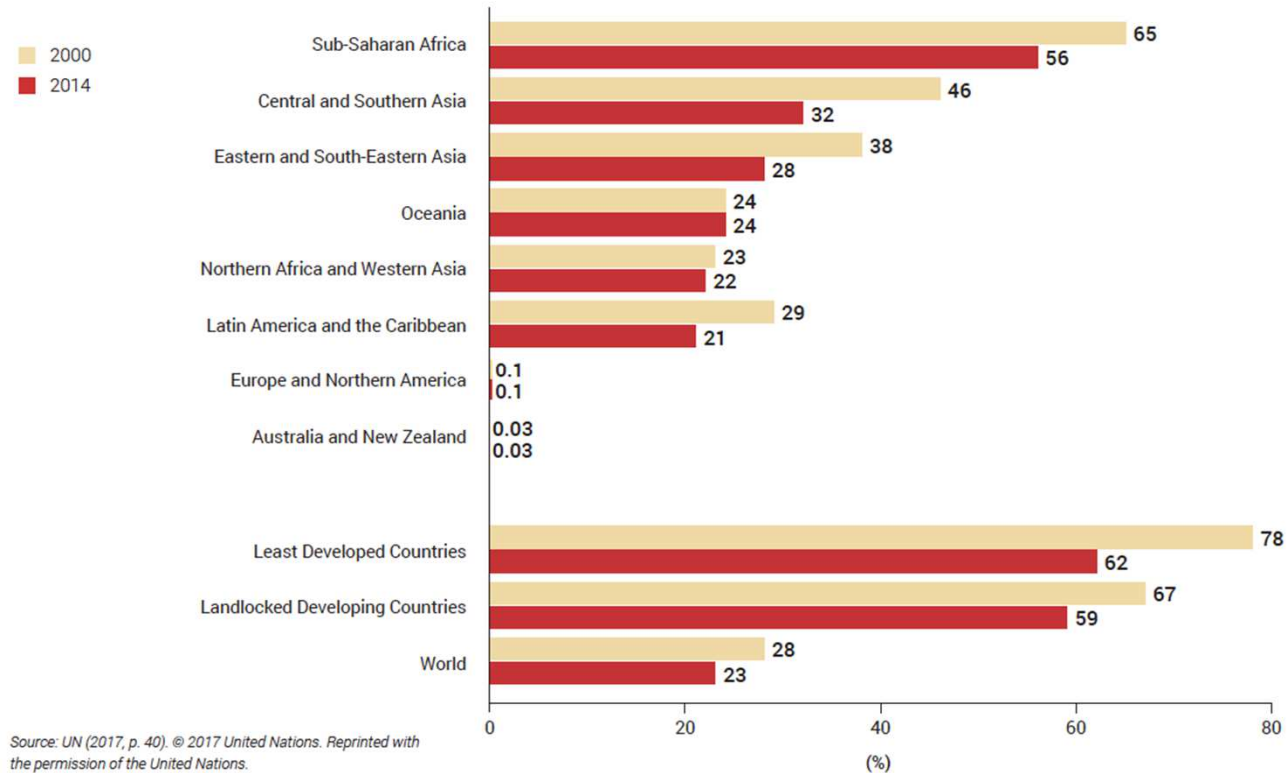


Figure 17 Proportion of urban population living in slums, 2000 and 2014



Source: UN (2017, p. 40). © 2017 United Nations. Reprinted with the permission of the United Nations.

Drivers and consequences of poverty and discrimination

Urbanization

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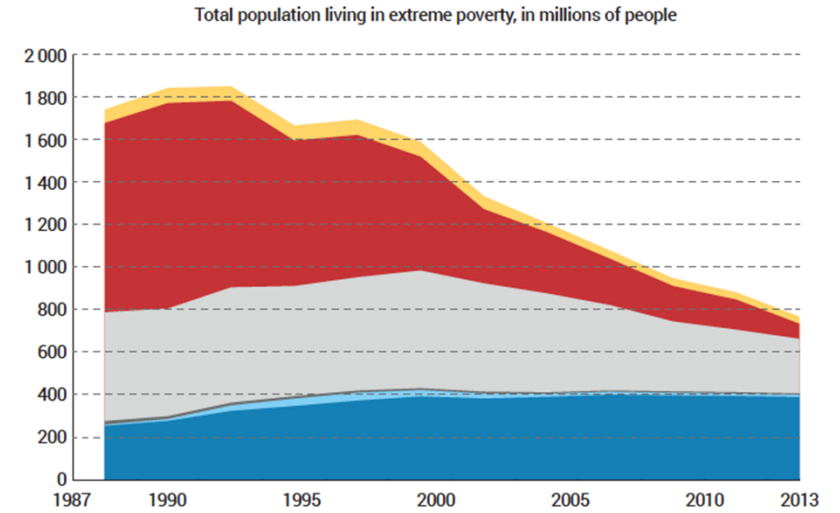
Drivers and consequences of poverty and discrimination

Extreme poverty

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Figure 18 Population living in extreme poverty* by world region, 1987–2013

- Latin America and the Caribbean
- East Asia and the Pacific
- South Asia
- Middle East and North Africa
- Europe and Central Asia
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- World



*Extreme poverty is defined as living with per capita household consumption below US\$1.90 per day (2011 PPP).

Notes: International dollars are adjusted for inflation and for price differences across countries. Consumption per capita is the preferred welfare indicator for the World Bank's analysis of global poverty. However, for about 25% of the countries, estimates correspond to income, rather than consumption.

Source: Adapted from Roser and Ortiz-Ospina (2018, based on data from World Bank PovcalNet). Licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-SA 4.0).

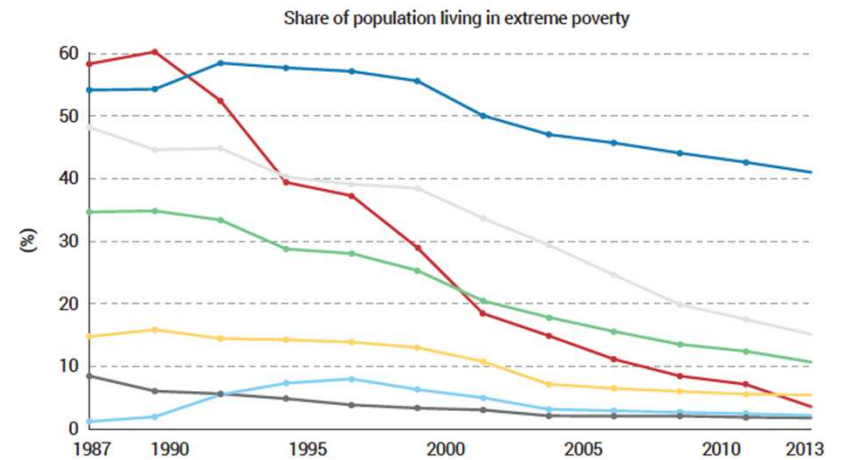
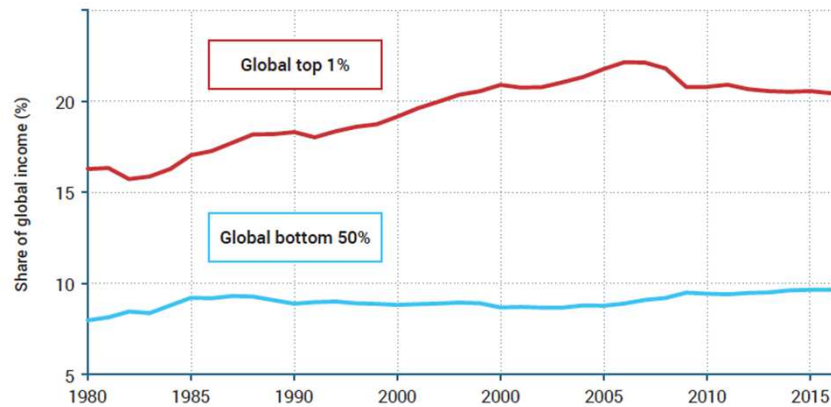
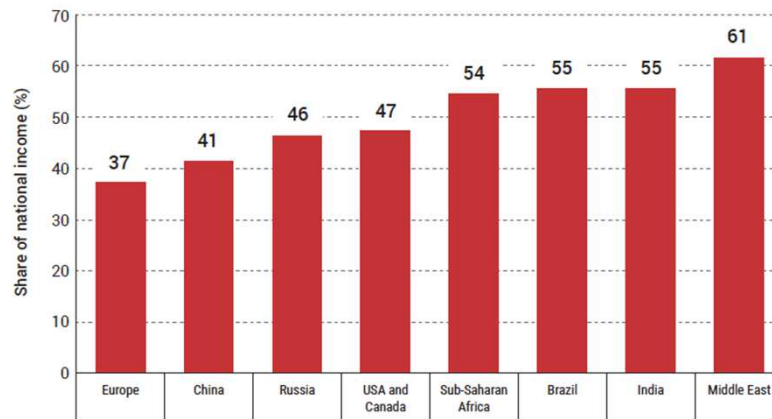


Figure 20 The rise of the global top 1% versus the stagnation of the global bottom 50%, 1980–2016



Source: Alvaredo et al. (2018, fig. E5, p. 13). Licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY NC SA 4.0).

Figure 21 Top 10% national income share across the world, 2016



Source: Adapted from Alvaredo et al. (2018, fig. E1, p. 9). Licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY NC SA 4.0).

Drivers and consequences of poverty and discrimination

Income inequality

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Drivers and consequences of poverty and discrimination



Education and employment

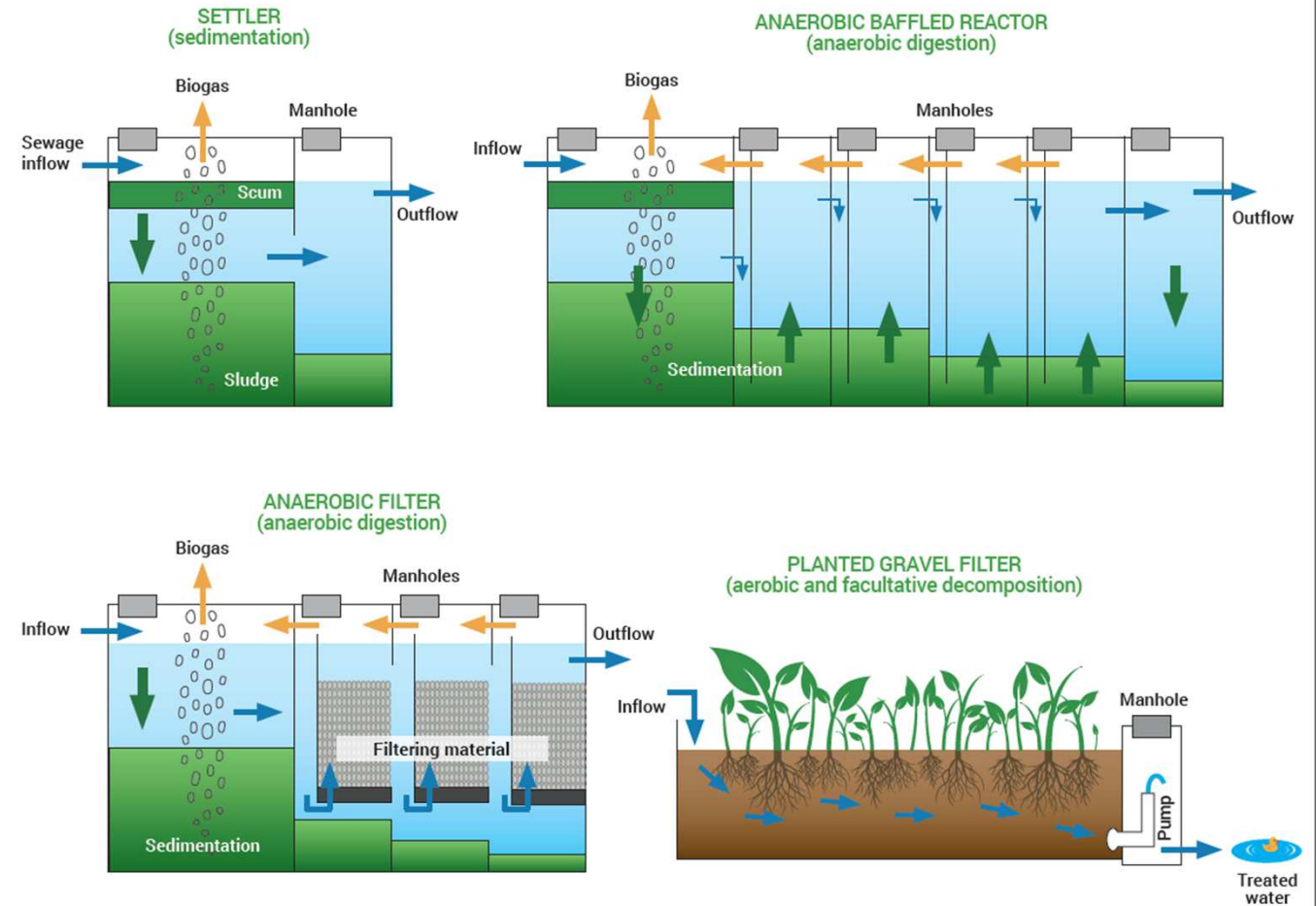


Who is being 'left behind'?



Urban Settings

Figure 6.2 Typical DEWATS system

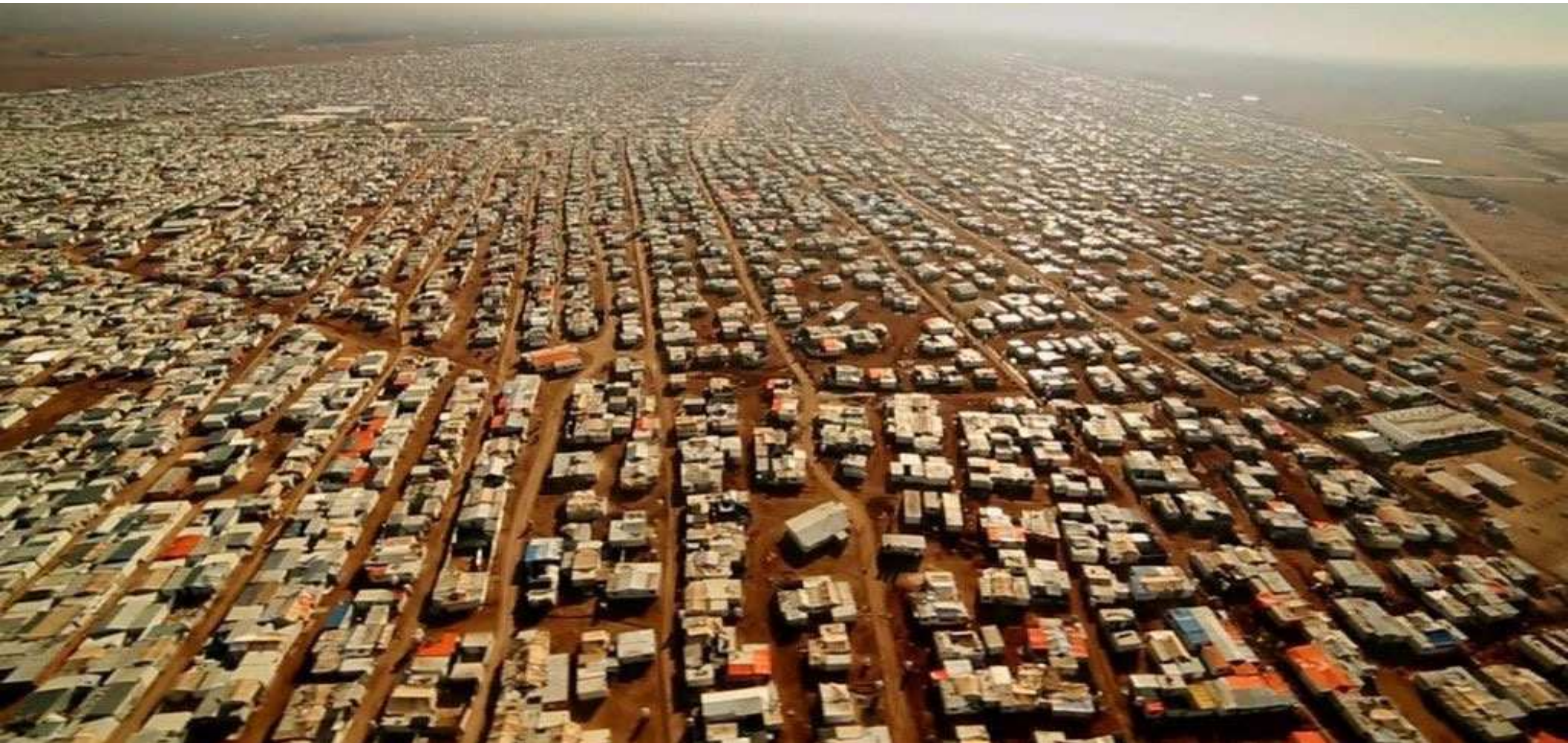


Source: Based on Ulrich et al. (2009, fig. 3.1, p. 35).

Rural Poverty



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Refugees and forcibly displaced people



Walking the Walk



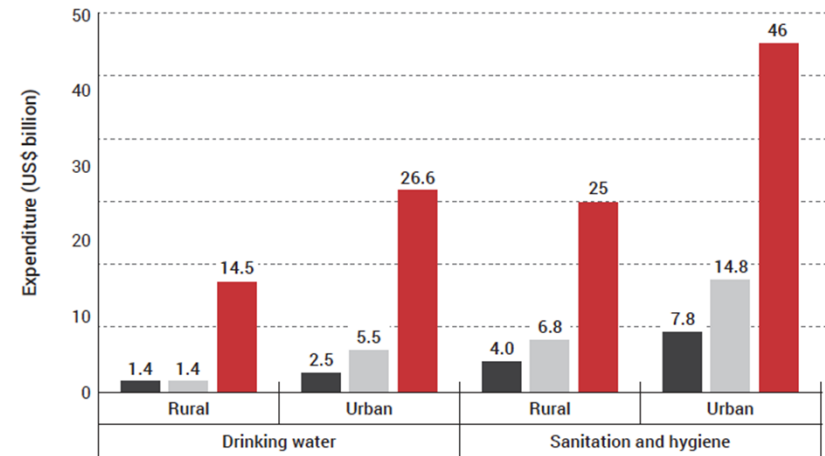
Socio-economic dimensions: Funding and financing

Funding gap in WASH

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Figure 3.3 Additional resources needed to meet targets for basic and safely managed WASH services

- Annual spending, 2000–2015
- Annual requirements to meet basic WASH by 2030
- Annual requirements to meet safely managed WASH by 2030



Source: World Bank/UNICEF (2017, fig. 2.5, p. 7). © World Bank. openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/26458. Licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY 3.0 IGO).

Table 5.1 The relative possibility of gaining selected benefits from WASH interventions, by vulnerable population group

Population group	Health	Living environment	Convenience and time savings	Dignity (social)	Educational outcomes*
People below national poverty line	↑↑↑	↑↑	↑	↑↑	↑
Slum dwellers	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑
Remote and isolated populations	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Ethnic [minority] groups	↑	↑	↑		↑
Women and female-heads of households	↑↑	↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑
Children	↑↑↑	↑	↑	↑↑	↑↑↑
Elderly, sick, and physically disabled people**	↑↑↑	↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑***
Emergency contexts	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑	↑	↑
Refugees	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑	↑
Prison population	↑↑	↑↑	↑	↑↑	

*Due to reduced stunting, reduced illness-related absence, and higher enrolment and completion rates (especially among girls).

**Buildings and other facilities, including toilets, are often not accessible to persons with mobility limitations due to the lack of an accessible design, such as an entrance ramp, retrofitted bathrooms, or improved signage (ILO, 2017d).

***Educational gains for disabled children.

Note: The number of arrows is meant to illustrate the magnitude of the outcome expected for each population group.

Source: Hutton and Andrés (2018).

Socio-economic dimensions: Funding and financing

Multiple benefits for vulnerable groups

Socio-economic dimensions:
Funding and financing

WASH makes good socio-economic sense

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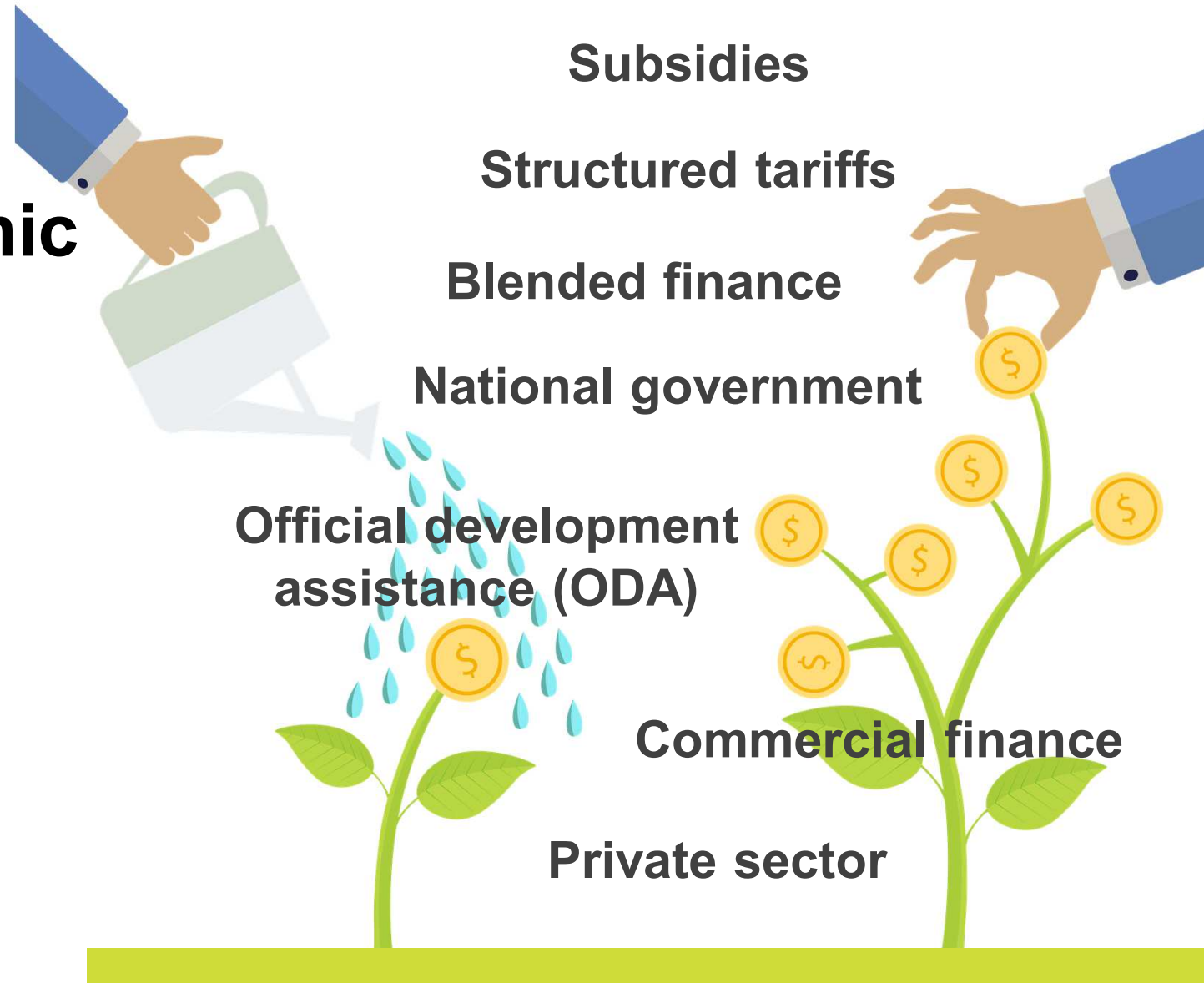
Socio-economic dimensions: Funding and financing

*Reaching
the furthest
behind first*

Socio-economic dimensions: Funding and financing

Funding sources

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Good Governance: The 'invisible' part of the water cycle



Human Rights Based Approach



Takeaway **messages**

- Access to safe, affordable and reliable drinking water and sanitation services are **basic human rights**.
- **Billions are being left behind** in terms of access to water and sanitation.
- The wealthy generally receive high levels of service and often at very low price, while the **poor often pay a much higher price** for a service of similar or lesser quality.
- Ensuring that water is affordable to all requires policy recommendations **tailored to specific target groups**.
- Equitable access to water for agricultural production, particularly for **supplemental irrigation**, can make a difference for farmers' livelihoods.
- **Mass displacement** can strain water-related services for both existing populations and new arrivals, creating inequalities and potential conflicts.
- Investing in water supply and sanitation in general, and for the vulnerable and disadvantaged in particular, makes **good economic sense**.
- **Good governance** overcomes vested interests and exclusionary practices.

**Good news:
momentum is
already growing!**

World's biggest refugee settlement gets biggest ever waste facility

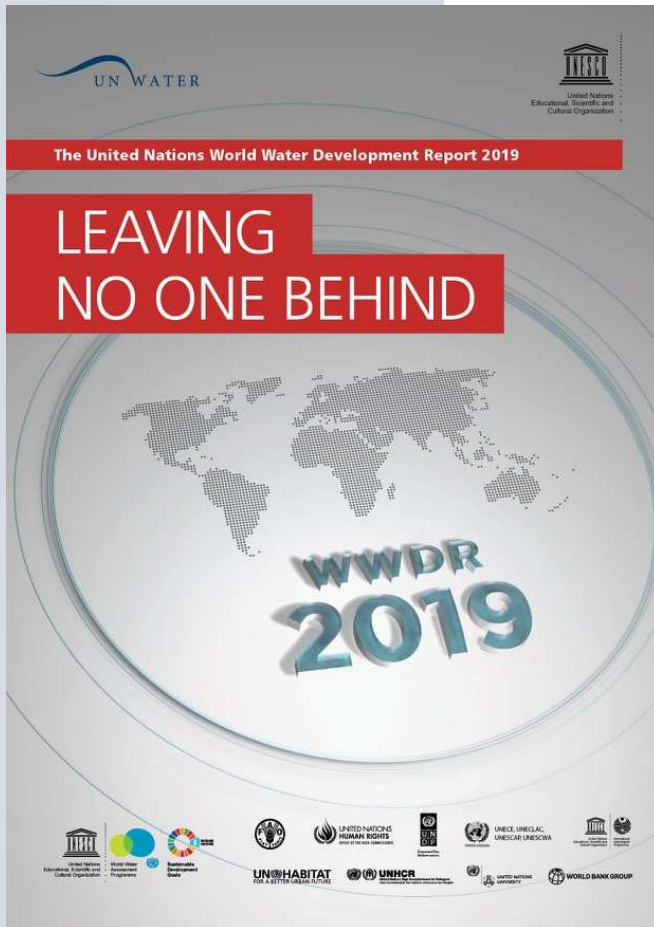
This is a summary of what was said by UNHCR spokesperson Andrej Mahecic – to whom quoted text may be attributed – at today's press briefing at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

01 February 2019 | [Español](#) | [Français](#)



The human waste treatment facility under construction at the refugee settlement near Kutupalong, Bangladesh.
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Thank you

More info about the **WWDR** at:

en.unesco.org/water-security/wwap/wwdr

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More info about **World Water Day** at:

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