

# Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
JMP	WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NGO	nongovernment organization
PEP	Poverty Environment Partnership
PPWSA	Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority
PRSPs	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
SEWA	Self-Employed Women's Association
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organization
WSS	water supply and sanitation
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

# Foreword

Five years ago, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) unveiled a special horizon—one that the entire developing world has been tasked to arrive at by 2015. At this horizon is a world half as afflicted with poverty as the one we experience now. To arrive at this moment of achievement, though, we must first cross the water barrier. We must strive to meet MDG Target 10: To halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation. The strong correlation between water and poverty proves that when water is inaccessible and unfit, it is a barrier. But when it is available and clean, water is a bridge to even greater security and prosperity for the poor.

For Asia and the Pacific, home to the majority of the world's poor, MDG Target 10 is an especially ambitious but critical goal. The number of people without improved water supplies in the People's Republic of China alone is nearly as large as the number of underserved in the entire African continent.

Into the countdown to 2015, what progress does the Asia and Pacific region register in meeting MDG Target 10? What more is required? How will meeting MDG Target 10 advance countries toward achieving all eight MDGs?

This report offers answers to these questions. Prepared by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the United Nations

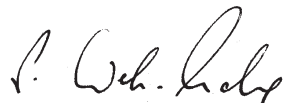
Development Programme (UNDP), and World Health Organization (WHO), it uses the latest data available to measure each country's progress toward MDG Target 10 and analyzes whether it will be achieved. The results show a mixed picture. Some countries have already met the target; others are on track; others are likely to miss it in 2015. Some countries even show a decrease in coverage.

The analysis in this report figures the economics of change—how much it will cost to ensure each country in the region meets MDG Target 10. Considering the economic returns of improved access to water on productivity and growth at both macro and micro levels, the paper argues that “it is the height of economic irrationality to not invest in these vital services.” The correlation between water and each of the eight MDGs is explicitly drawn in the report, showing water as a bridge to meeting all other MDGs. The report also defines the challenges threatening the region's chance of meeting MDG Target 10 and assigns roles and responsibilities to be taken up by key stakeholders.

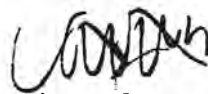
The regional picture this report presents should serve as a resource and representation of the progress and needs of the region's 3.9 billion people. In this context, this report reminds us that 2015 appears as a horizon today, but is actually, once arrived at, only a halfway marker toward a poverty-free world.



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