



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



# WATER SECURITY, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

## KEY FACTS

**Three in four people have access to safe drinking water in their homes.**



**One in two people has access to safely managed sanitation services.**



**Two in three people have basic hygiene services (including soap and water at home).**



**Each year diarrhoea kills around 525,000 children under five.**

## Global Progress and Possibility

Reliable access to safe water and sanitation saves lives, improves livelihoods, and makes communities more resilient. Investments in water security, sanitation and hygiene are critical for progress in nearly all aspects of global development. Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, more people have access to safe drinking water, safely managed sanitation services, and basic hygiene services than ever before. USAID works every day with governments, other local stakeholders, and partners to make it possible to get universal access by 2030.

## USAID's Vision for Water Security

The U.S. Government's Water for the World initiative envisions a water-secure world, where people and nations have the water they need to be healthy, prosperous, and resilient. Through its [Water and Development Plan in support of the 2017-2022 Global Water Strategy](#), USAID helps partner countries plan, finance, and deliver safe water and sanitation services for the neediest, while sustainably managing water resources. USAID works closest with countries that have the political will to expand access, engaged private sectors, and favorable conditions for improving the lives of vulnerable populations, especially women and children.

For more information on USAID's water programming and progress, visit [GlobalWaters.org](http://GlobalWaters.org).

Statistics based on JMP/WHO 2020 WASH data, WHO 2017, and World Bank's 2020 world population data.

## Delivering Results

USAID's assistance has resulted in millions of people gaining access to hygiene facilities and sustainable drinking water and sanitation services during a time the world is being altered by the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and increasing conflicts. Learn more in the [FY20 Water and Development Report](#) and explore the [2020 results map](#).



**59.5** million people have gained access to a **sustainable drinking water service** since 2008

**FY 2020: 3.9 million people**

**68%** gained first time access<sup>1</sup> to water services

**51%** were women and girls<sup>2</sup>



**44.6** million people have gained access to a **sustainable sanitation service** since 2008

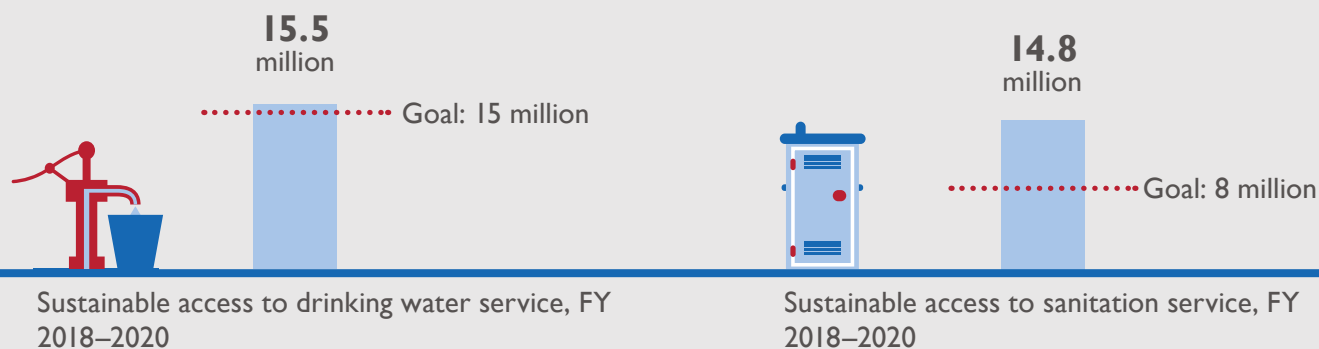
**FY 2020: 4.1 million people**

**90%** gained first time access<sup>1</sup> to sanitation services

**51%** were women and girls<sup>2</sup>



**USAID exceeds U.S. Global Water Strategy targets<sup>3</sup> ahead of schedule.**



<sup>1</sup> First time access is defined as when a person receives access to a higher level of water or sanitation service (i.e., first time to access that service level), as defined by the Joint Monitoring Program (WHO/UNICEF). This includes people who receive access at both the basic and safely managed service levels.

<sup>2</sup> Calculated as a percentage of women/females with access compared to the total numbers reported for each service level indicator for each operating unit that included women/female access.

<sup>3</sup> These targets were set in the [2017-2022 U.S. Global Water Strategy](#).