

World's poor suffering a lack of basic sanitation needs

With the annual death toll from water-borne diseases estimated at more than five million, one of the key topics at this month's fourth World Water Forum in Mexico will focus on the need to improve access to clean water and basic sanitation for some of the world's poorest people

● **2.6 billion** – 42% of world's people – lack adequate sanitation facilities

● **1.8 million** people die each year from diarrhoeal diseases (including cholera), **90%** of them children under five

● **88%** of diarrhoea is attributed to unsafe water, poor sanitation and hygiene

● Improved sanitation reduces deaths from diarrhoeal diseases by **32%**

● Better hygiene can reduce cases of diarrhoea by up to **45%**

Percentage of population using improved sanitation, 2002

Improved sanitation facilities include flush toilets and pit latrines that provide privacy and are not shared between households

Under 50% 50-75% Over 75% Insufficient data



Sanitation coverage in Sub-Saharan Africa is just 36%

Over half of those without improved sanitation – nearly 1.5 billion people – live in China and India

Only 31% of rural dwellers in developing countries have improved sanitation, as opposed to 73% in urban areas

Population without improved sanitation, 2002

South Asia: 938m

Latin America and Caribbean 137m

N. Africa and Middle East 78m

Rest of world: 73m

East Asia 749m

Sub-Saharan Africa 437m

Southeast Asia 208m

