

## SDG 6: indicators must go further to ensure that marginalised and vulnerable communities are reached

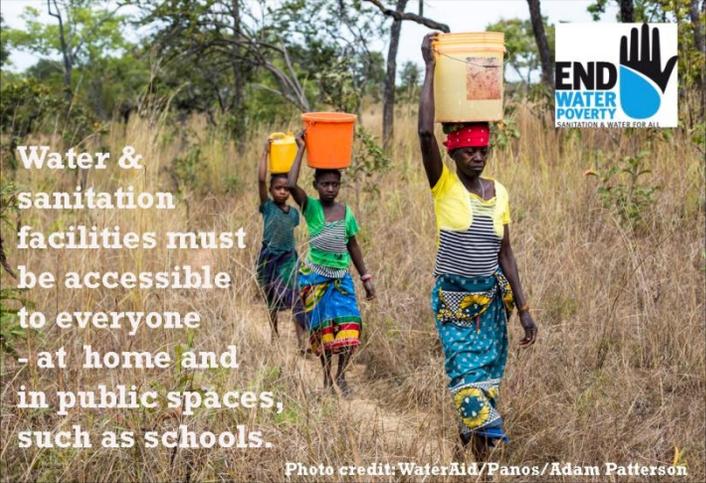
[End Water Poverty](#) is the largest global civil society coalition advocating to end the water and sanitation crisis. Currently, we have 280 members in more than 65 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe and North America.

Together, we support the inclusion of goal 6 - a goal dedicated to water and sanitation because water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) underpin life – they are central to sustainable economic and social development, and environmental sustainability but we are concerned that the current indicators proposed by the UN Statistical Commission<sup>1</sup>:

- 1) **are not sufficient.** Under the current proposals, some targets will go unmeasured for example 6b, and there are insufficient indicators to truly measure whether people have access to safe, affordable and equitable WASH. We call on Member States to develop sufficient indicators to faithfully measure all targets, instead of maintaining the current prescribed number of 120 indicators.
- 2) **will not direct government action towards those who need it the most (the vulnerable and marginalised)** replicating one of the failures of the MDGs. While target 7.3 of the MDGs has increased access to water and sanitation - the greatest increase has been among the upper economic quintiles. Vulnerable and marginalised individuals and communities still lack access to this fundamental human right.<sup>2</sup>

### What we want

As a coalition of organisations who support, and advocate for, the most poor and vulnerable communities, many of whom still do not have access to acceptable, safe and affordable water and sanitation facilities, we call on member states to ensure:



Water & sanitation facilities must be accessible to everyone - at home and in public spaces, such as schools.

Photo credit: WaterAid/Panos/Adam Patterson

<sup>1</sup> 'List of proposed preliminary indicators', Feb 2015

<sup>2</sup> 'Progress on drinking water and sanitation 2014 update' World Health Organisation and UNICEF, 2014

1) **All indicators** reinforce the requirements of the human right to water and sanitation - to ensure the SDGs are not less ambitious than existing commitments.

2) **Targets 6.1 and 6.2**

a) We support the current indicator on safely managed water but we call for the definition to be extended to:

- **“Percentage of population using a basic drinking water source [MDG ‘improved’ indicator] which is located on premises or within close proximity (15 minutes) and available at a cost affordable for all, free of fecal (and priority chemical) contamination and/or regulated by a competent authority.”**

b) We want to see an additional indicator which measures access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services in schools, health centres and refugee camps. We call for the inclusion of the following indicator:

- **% of schools and hospitals offering safely managed water, sanitation AND hygiene services**

3) **Target 6B** - marginalised persons and people living in poverty should be involved in all decisions relating to their lives. A participatory approach is not only in line with human rights principles, but also leads to effective and sustainable initiatives as buy in from communities is secured and services reflect the real needs of individuals.<sup>3</sup> Therefore we call for the inclusion of two indicators which measure participation:

- **Governments and water and sanitation management boards actively seek, and support, through guidance and funding, the participation of all local communities, including the most marginalised, in the planning and delivery of water and sanitation**
- **Number of communities with a higher level of involvement in the operations & maintenance plan of WASH facilities.**

4) **National Indicators:** In addition to the universal set of indicators, Member States should set a transparent and inclusive process at national level to establish indicators which capture the national realities.

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<sup>3</sup> ‘Participatory Monitoring and accountability’, March 2015, The World We Want

5) **No one is left behind**: The post 2015 agenda must contain an explicit commitment that no target shall be considered met unless it is met for all social and economic groups. No one must be left behind by virtue of their gender, age disability, income, geography or ethnicity. Indicators will need to be disaggregated to ensure that disparities and inequities in progress are visible, and that the impact of the SDGs on of the poorest and most marginalized people is monitored.

6) **Guaranteed participation** of CSOs and individuals in the indicator development process. To date, the development of indicators has been led by an exclusive minority - mainly consisting of academics and UN agencies. This is not acceptable, participation of CSOs, social movements and individuals must be guaranteed throughout all aspects of the post 2015 development agenda - planning, implementation and monitoring.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Beyond 2015, Red Flags position paper, 2015