The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) launched in 2000 sought to halve by 2015 the proportion of the world’s population without sustainable access to improved water sources and sanitation facilities. By 2015, about 2.6 billion additional people had gained access to improved water sources since 1990, the baseline year for the MDGs, thus meeting the MDG target. However, 663 million people still do not have access to improved water sources. While 2.1 billion people had gained access to improved sanitation facilities since 1990, 2.4 billion still do not have access, below the MDG target.

Note:
An improved water source is one that, by nature of its construction or through active intervention, is protected from outside contamination, in particular from contamination with fecal matter.

An improved sanitation facility is one that hygienically separates human excreta from human contact.

Sources: UNICEF, WHO