

# WATER AND SANITATION

## THE COMMITMENT

At the 2003 Evian Summit, the G8 committed to a Water Action Plan that was to 'give high priority in Official Development Assistance (ODA) allocation to sound water and sanitation proposals'. This plan was referenced again at the 2005 Gleneagles Summit and last year at the 2008 Hokkaido Summit, where the G8 committed to 'reinvigorate' their 'efforts to implement the Evian commitment' and to 'review it on the basis of a progress report' prepared by the time of the next Summit in Italy.

As no quantitative targets have been set by the G8, ONE interprets the Evian commitment to 'give high priority' and the Gleneagles commitment to 'increase aid' to the water and sanitation sector to mean that, at a minimum, ODA for water and sanitation should remain the same proportion of development assistance as overall ODA increases. Additionally,

as sub-Saharan Africa has the world's lowest rates of access to improved water and sanitation sources, the region should receive at least the same proportion of ODA that is given to water and sanitation globally. Water and sanitation comprised an average of 5.5% of global ODA from 1990–2005. Thus, ONE interprets this commitment by holding each donor nation to a minimum of 5.5% of its ODA to sub-Saharan Africa to water and sanitation.

Because this commitment is pegged to increases in ODA, it is only ambitious if achieved in conjunction with the attainment of the overall ODA commitments to double foreign assistance to sub-Saharan Africa. If overall commitments are delivered, the commitment on water and sanitation would be a very ambitious one that would help to halve the proportion of people without access to improved water and sanitation sources by 2015. While ONE's interpretation exclusively tracks contributions to sub-Saharan Africa, the region with the lowest rates of access, it recognises that global progress in the water and sanitation sector is both necessary and desirable.

FIGURE 10

**WATER AND SANITATION ODA TO SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA** (\$ MILLIONS, 2008 PRICES)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2004–2007 INCREASE
<b>CANADA</b>	97.23	20.16	20.64	60.64	-36.60
<b>FRANCE</b>	231.76	160.31	348.07	335.52	103.76
<b>GERMANY</b>	318.31	285.32	321.86	370.04	51.72
<b>ITALY</b>	94.70	85.27	99.47	138.65	43.96
<b>JAPAN</b>	251.58	149.22	205.32	259.94	8.37
<b>UK</b>	169.85	134.88	245.00	288.99	119.14
<b>US</b>	144.22	85.91	103.44	180.61	36.40
<b>G7</b>	<b>1,307.64</b>	<b>921.08</b>	<b>1,343.79</b>	<b>1,634.39</b>	<b>326.75</b>
<b>NON-G7 DAC</b>	<b>705.49</b>	<b>568.67</b>	<b>836.89</b>	<b>971.68</b>	<b>266.19</b>
<b>DAC</b>	<b>2,013.14</b>	<b>1,489.75</b>	<b>2,180.68</b>	<b>2,606.07</b>	<b>592.94</b>

## BROAD SOCIETAL IMPACT

# 4,100 children

Estimated number of children worldwide who die daily from diarrhoeal diseases, which are spread through lack of clean water, and poor sanitation and hygiene.

Of the five countries receiving the most G7 development assistance for water and sanitation from 2004 to 2007, none were in sub-Saharan Africa.

More than one-third of people worldwide without access to clean water live in sub-Saharan Africa.

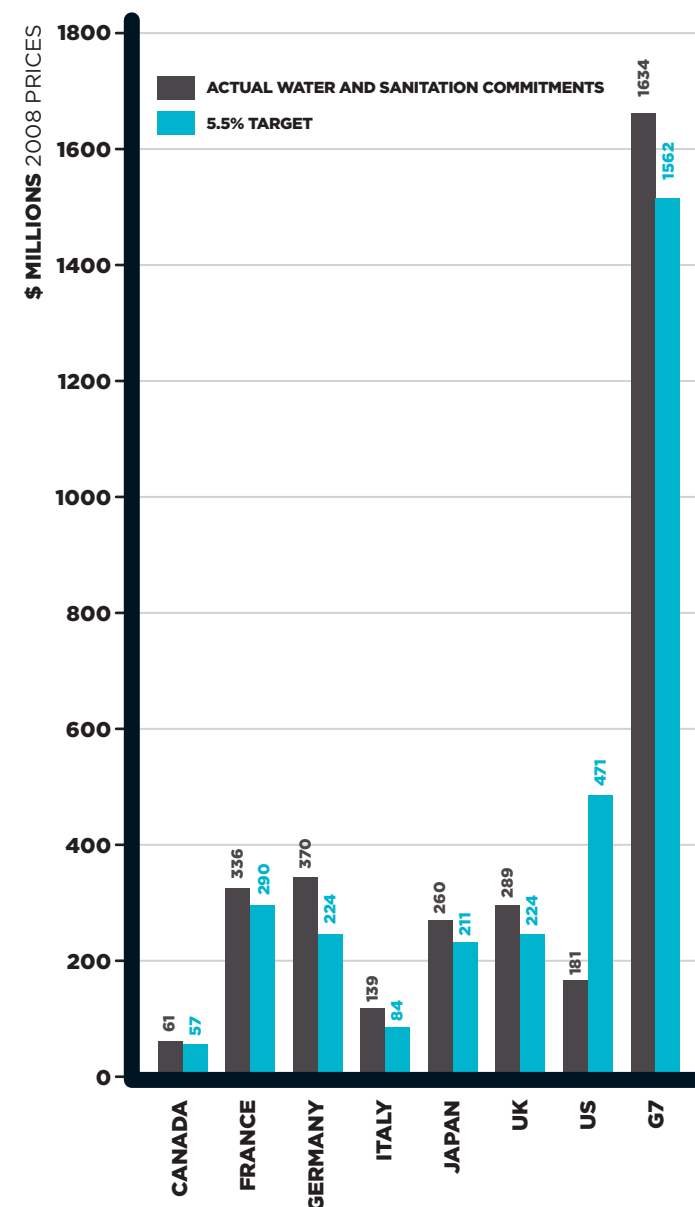
## PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING THE G8'S COMMITMENT TO INCREASE ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION

Despite being a baseline for development, progress towards increasing access to clean water and sanitation has been slow, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. The proportion of people in the region with access to an improved water source increased by just 9% over 16 years, from 49% in 1990 to 58% in 2006.<sup>50</sup> The world committed to reduce the number of people without access to improved sanitation by half by 2015; at the current rate of improvement, the world will be more than 700 million people short of achieving this target.<sup>51</sup> The results of this slow growth are deadly: an estimated 4,100 children worldwide still die daily from diarrhoeal diseases, which are spread through lack of clean water and poor sanitation and hygiene.<sup>52</sup>

There has been both slow progress towards increasing access to clean water and sanitation and slow increases in investment in the water and sanitation sector. G7 assistance for water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa has increased by \$327 million since 2004, from roughly \$1.31 billion to \$1.63 billion in 2007. Because the G8 commitment to water and sanitation is tied to increases in overall ODA levels, the slow progress to increase overall ODA makes this commitment easier to meet and less impactful (see Figure 11). Despite meeting their weak commitment, as interpreted by ONE, the G7 are still not providing nearly enough ODA for water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa and are failing to target the poorest countries with the lowest levels of access to water and sanitation services. Of the five countries receiving the most ODA for water and sanitation from the G7 from 2004–07, none were in sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>53</sup>

FIGURE 11

### 2007 ACTUAL COMMITMENTS TO WATER AND SANITATION COMPARED WITH TARGET (BASED ON 5.5% OF COMMITMENTS)



## WHAT DO THE G8 NEED TO DO?



### CONTINUE TO SCALE UP FUNDING FOR WATER AND SANITATION ACCESS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

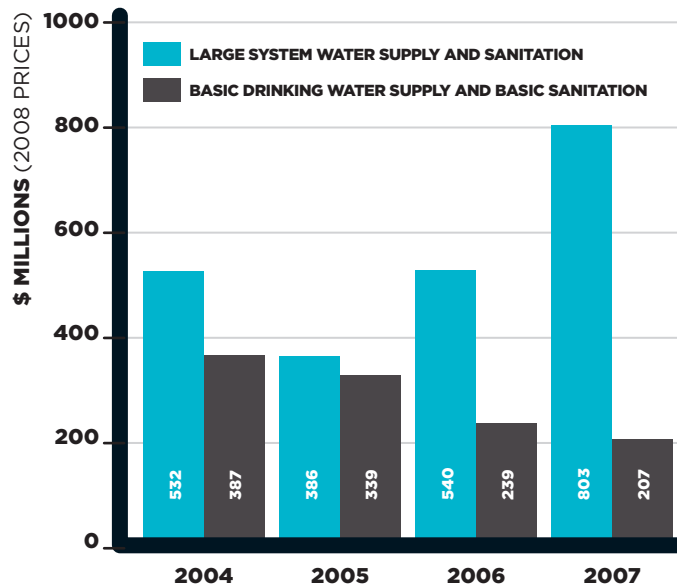
The G8 must make a better commitment on water and sanitation. They must reinvigorate efforts to implement the Evian Water Action Plan by offering quantitative ODA and other targets and must continue to increase and prioritise development assistance to water and sanitation. As committed to at Hokkaido, the G8 should review their progress toward implementing the Evian Water Plan through a progress report prepared, and made public, by the G8 Summit in Italy in July 2009.

### FOCUS ON IMPROVING ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION IN BOTH RURAL AND URBAN AREAS

In the 2003 Evian Water Action Plan, the G8 promised to address 'the different needs of rural and urban populations'. They can deliver on this promise by increasing funding for rural water and sanitation. Sub-Saharan Africa has a large disparity in access between urban and rural dwellers: improved sanitation coverage in urban areas is 42%, compared with just 24% for rural areas,<sup>54</sup> and water supply coverage for urban areas is 81%, compared with just 46% in rural areas.<sup>55</sup> G7 development assistance for basic water and sanitation projects, which predominantly benefit rural populations, has fallen sharply. Amidst this decline in basic systems, funding is on the rise for large-system water supply and sanitation projects for urban populations, which include water desalination plants, conveyance and distribution systems, sewer systems, and domestic and industrial waste treatment plants.<sup>56</sup> In 2007, funding for large water and sanitation systems received almost \$600 million more ODA than basic water and sanitation (see Figure 12). While funding for large systems is a necessary investment, financial support for basic water and sanitation must also be increased in order to close the water and sanitation gap between urban and rural areas.

FIGURE 12

### G7 COMMITMENTS TO BASIC WATER AND SANITATION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, COMPARED WITH LARGE SYSTEMS

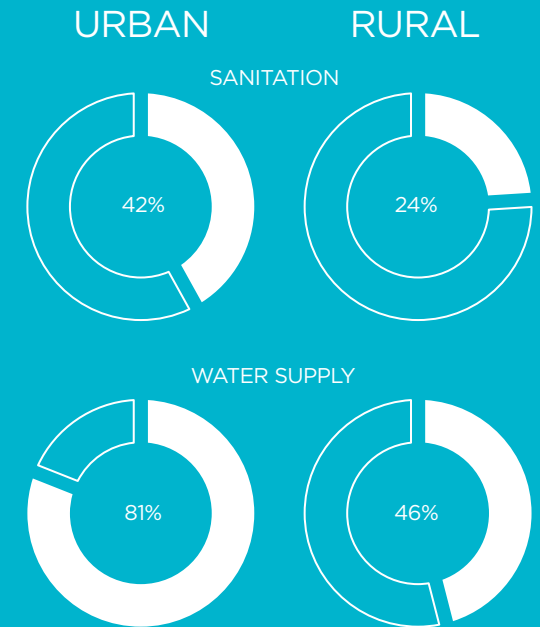


## CONCLUSION

Progress in the water and sanitation sector is essential to the achievement of the MDGs. In draft communiqués for the upcoming G8 Summit in Italy and in other G8 forums,<sup>57</sup> the G8 has discussed a G8–Africa Water Alliance to address the issue of the availability of clean water. It is essential that this takes the form of a development compact between donors and African governments, clearly setting out reciprocal obligations, regular monitoring and follow-up mechanisms to champion and ensure sector reforms. Last year, African leaders committed to reprioritise investments in the water and sanitation sector.<sup>58</sup> Investment by the G7 should also be prioritised as the group accelerates progress towards their overall ODA goals.

## THE NEED FOR RURAL INVESTMENTS

Sub-Saharan Africa has a large access disparity between urban and rural dwellers.



# \$600m

In 2007, large system water and sanitation received almost \$600 million more than basic water and sanitation.