



Drive to 2015 Statement: World Toilet Day 2012

Today is World Toilet Day, a time to reflect poignantly on the sheer number of people who still do not have access to adequate sanitation around the world. From a moral and humanitarian perspective, this is unacceptable – hundreds of children under five die each day from entirely preventable water-related diseases; women and young girls are attacked and raped as they try to find a safe place to defecate; teenage girls are denied total access to higher education through lack of toilet facilities. This is why the UN has recognised access to adequate sanitation as a human right.

Increasingly, though, it is being recognised that there are very real benefits and reasons beyond moral obligation and human survival. It is clear that sanitation not only saves lives, but also makes lives better. There are financial gains to be realised through ending open defecation and ensuring adequate sanitation, at the individual, community and national level.

At the individual level, toilets improve health, dignity and security, providing greater opportunities for engaging in other activities, such as school and work.

At the community level, the management of human waste improves water quality, health, education, economic activity and agricultural productivity (through ecological sanitation).

At the national level, these local benefits translate into reduced burden on health care systems, healthier populations, greater education, improved environmental integrity, increased economic activity, improved tourism and very real increases in annual GDP.

We call upon political leaders, the private sector, international organizations and civil society to incorporate improved access to sanitation into international and economic development, whether it be through policy, advocacy, financial support, education and awareness, or infrastructure.

Sanitation should be made a priority at the individual, community and national level and needs to be brought to the forefront of the development agenda in order to meet the Millennium Development Goal.

Sanitation for all: making the right a reality

Sanitation is vital for good health

Sanitation brings dignity, equality and safety

Sanitation is a good economic investment

Sanitation sustains clean environments

Support World Toilet Day 2011 - Support the Drive to 2015!

<http://www.sanitationdrive2015.org/>