

Danish Water Environment Conference, Nov. 6-7, 2007

Theme 6:

The Global Challenges – Denmark's Role and opportunities

*Heading Towards Cities – Water and Sanitation Needs in
an Increasingly Urbanising World*

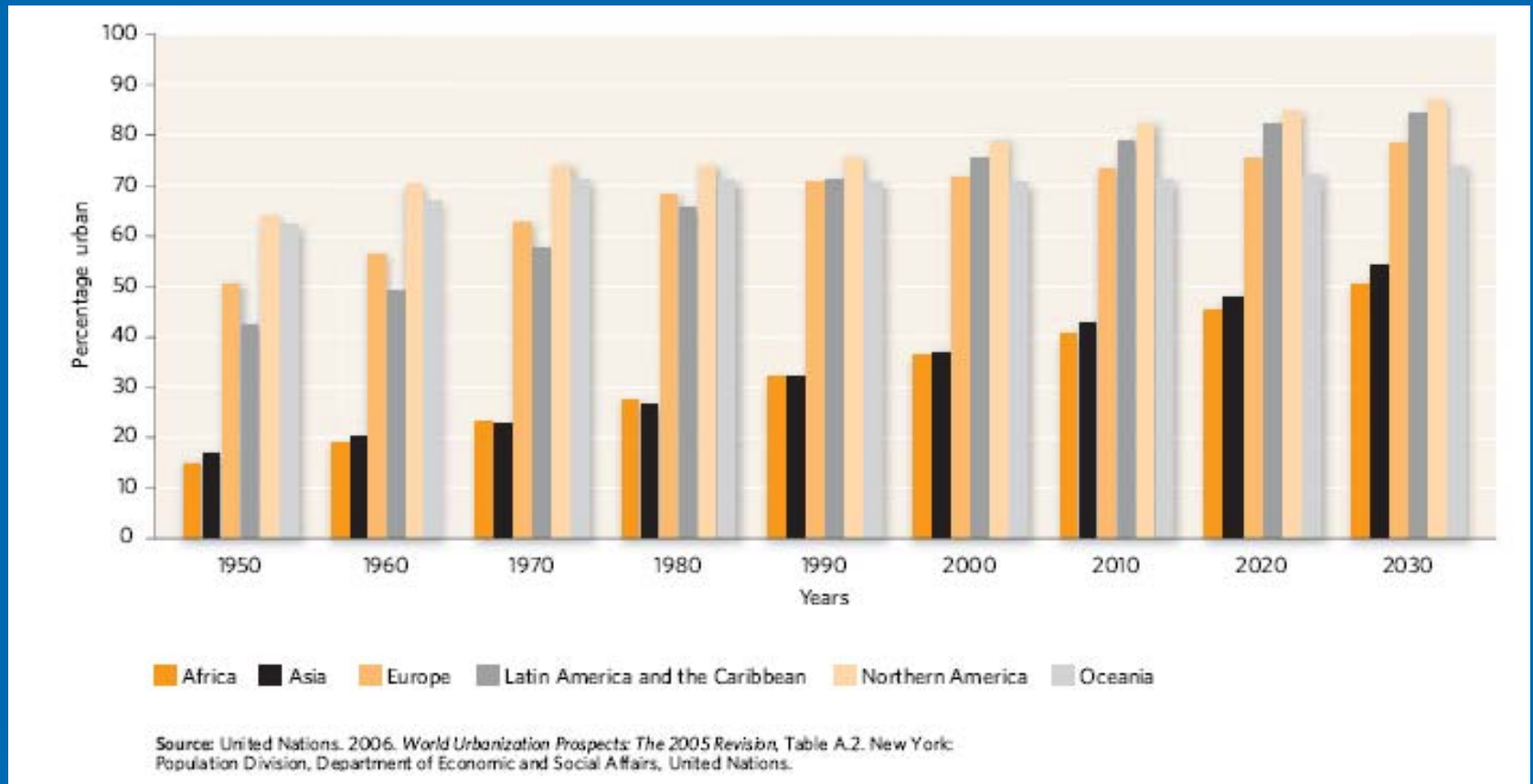
Presented by

Daniel Adom
UN-HABITAT

Introduction

- Urban areas will strongly influence the world of the twenty-first century because of the rapidity and irreversibility of the urbanization process.
 - economic and social factors influencing rapid urbanisation include:
 - natural population growth;
 - voluntary and involuntary migration,
 - real and perceived employment opportunities,
 - cultural expectations,
 - changing consumption and production patterns and
 - serious imbalances and disparities among regions.
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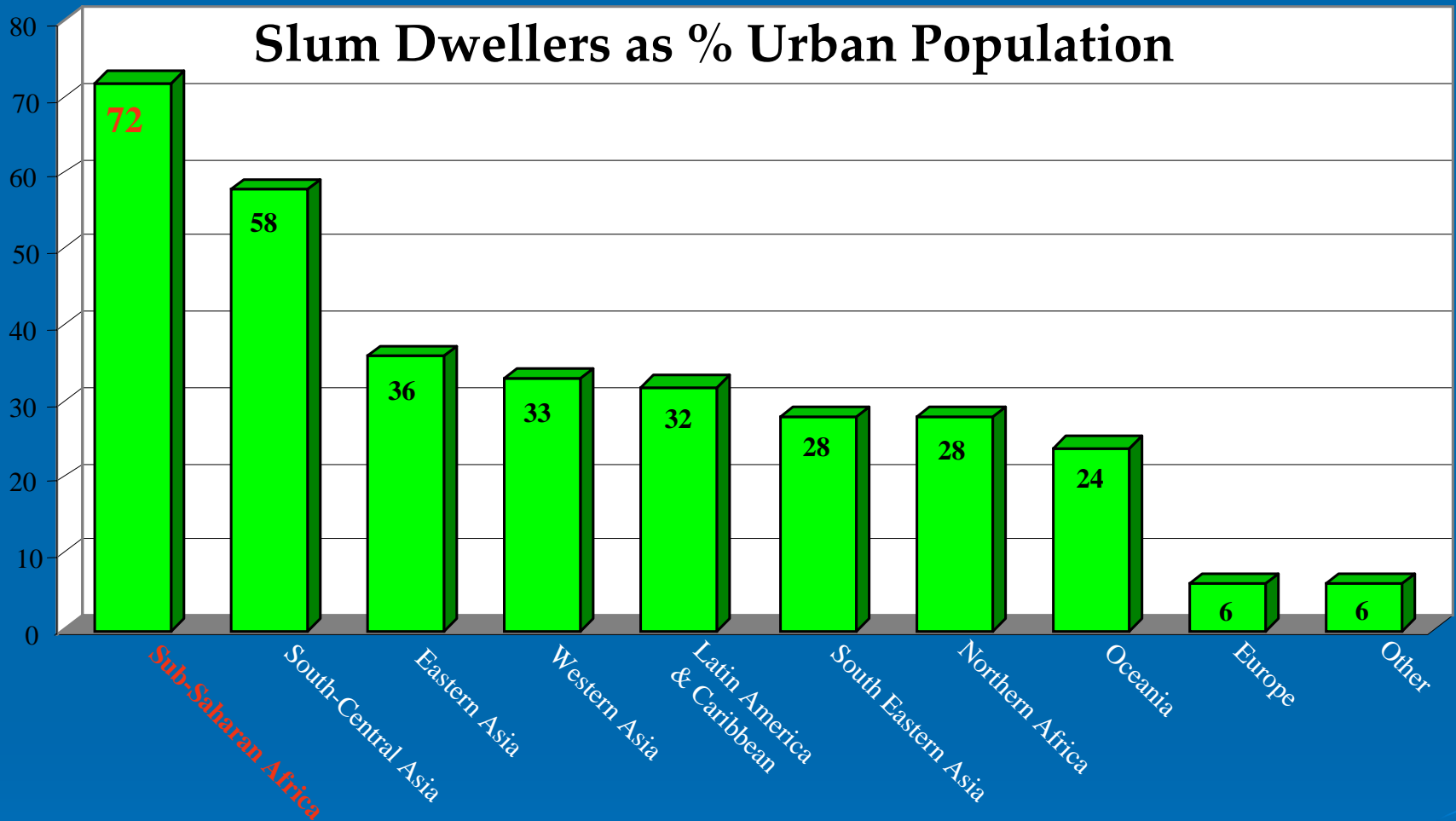
% of Pop. at Mid-year Residing in Urban Areas, by Region, 1950-2030



- 2007 marks a turning point in human history- the majority of human beings are living in cities for the first time and this process is accelerating.
- Urban growth will be particularly notable in Africa and Asia where the urban population will double between 2000 and 2030 (within a single generation): Thus by 2030, the towns and cities of the developing world will make up 80 per cent of urban humanity.

Focusing on the Poor

- Cities (and urban agglomerations) concentrate poverty and the urbanisation of poverty has arguably become one of the single biggest development challenge in urban areas.
- Poor people, living predominantly in slums, will make up a large part of future urban growth.
- Currently there are about 1 billion slum dwellers worldwide (projected to reach 2 billion in 2030 if current trends prevail) that live in life-threatening conditions
- Ignoring this basic reality will make it impossible either to plan for the inevitable and massive city growth or to use urban dynamics to help relieve poverty.
- this has a direct bearing on the strategies we must adopt to attain the Millennium Development Goals



- In 2001, it was estimated that about 61 percent of the global urban population was living in slums. In Sub-Saharan Africa, this ratio was about 72 percent. There were about 40 percent more slum dwellers in African cities than an average city worldwide.

Slum incidence vrs indicators of human development

Slum Incidence	Slum Dwellers (% of urban pop)	Life Expectancy at Birth	Adult Literacy Rate	Combined Gross Enrolment Ratio (%)	GDP per Capita (US\$ PPP)
Very High	More than 60	52.8	58.5	46.7	2332
High	30-60	66.6	81.3	67.0	5096
Medium	8-30	70.4	84.7	70.7	7526
Low	Less than 8	73.7	93.5	79.7	15892

Note: Combined gross ratio includes primary, secondary and tertiary enrolment

Source: The State of the World's Cities, UN-HABITAT, 2004

- *the higher the ratio of population living in slums the lower the level of human development.*

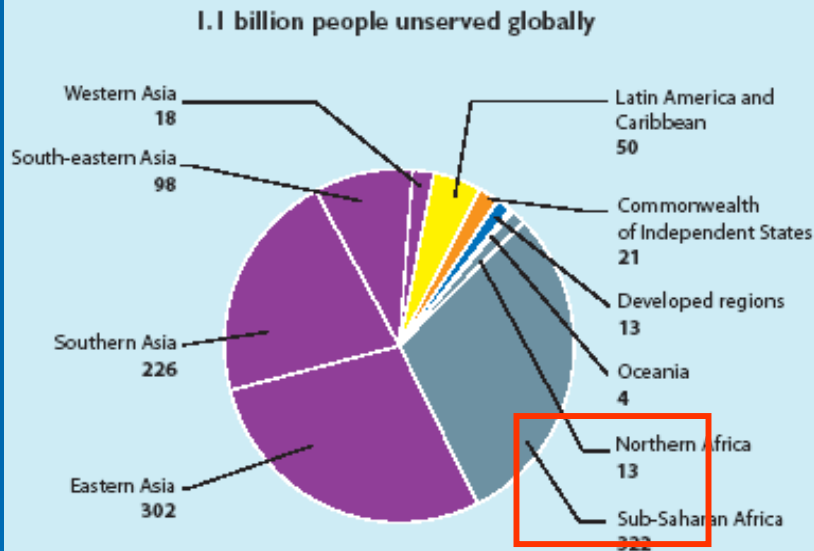
Freshwater Resources and WATSAN needs in urban areas

- Rapid urbanisation, has put enormous pressure on the world's natural resources, freshwater in particular, and led to increasing competition for these resources
- Depletion, wastage and pollution of water resources threaten the sustainability of economic and social development in these centres.
- There are inextricable links between resource availability, safe water supplies and sanitation services. The lack of these services are the most important feature of slums
- The provision of adequate supplies of water and sanitation to the growing numbers of urban residents, especially the urban poor is a big challenge facing governments and local authorities.
- However, the exponential growth of cities and slums is taking place without the corresponding ability of many cities to expand public provision of basic services.

PROGRESS ON MEETING THE MDGs

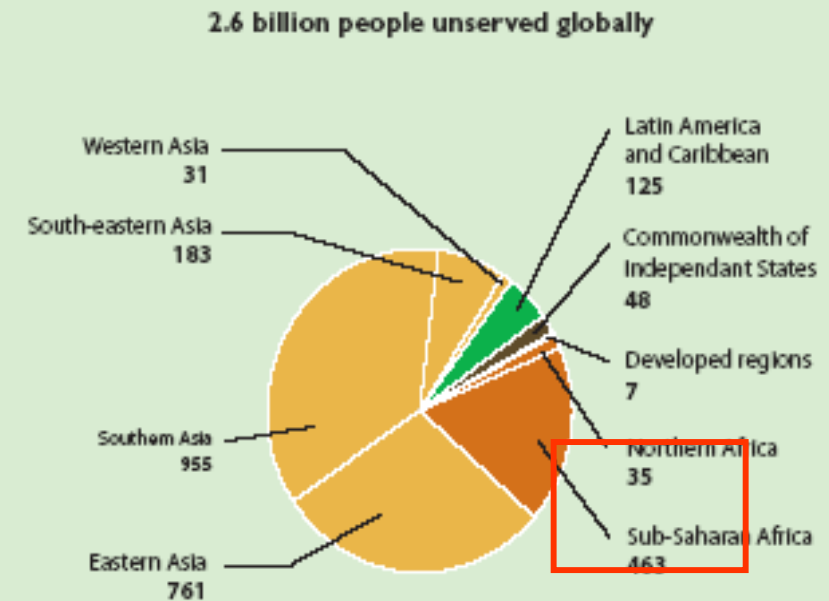
Global Access to W&S Services

Population (millions) without improved drinking water sources by region in 2004



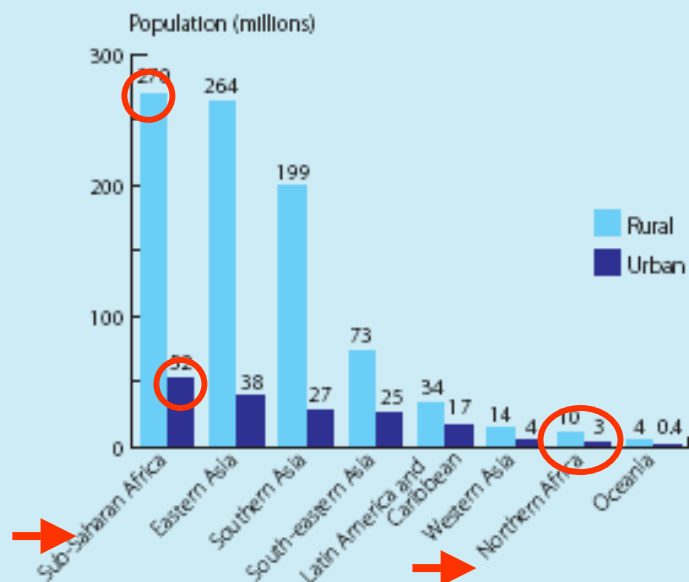
> Nearly 50% of the people worldwide without access to improved drinking water are in Eastern Asia and Southern Asia. Another 30% live in sub-Saharan Africa.

Population (millions) without improved sanitation by region in 2004



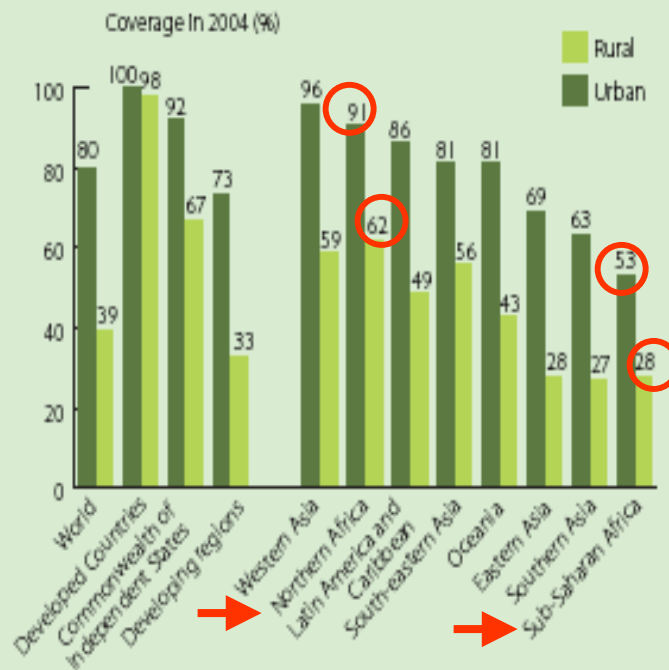
Urban and Rural Disparities

Rural and urban population (millions) without access to an improved drinking water source in 2004 in developing regions



> In developing regions, 84% of the unserved live in rural areas.

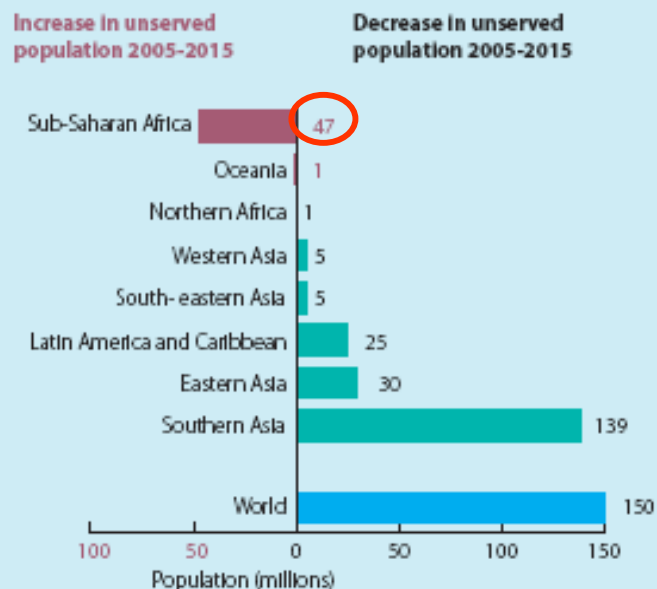
Urban and rural disparities in sanitation by region in 2004



> Globally, rural sanitation coverage is still less than half the urban coverage.

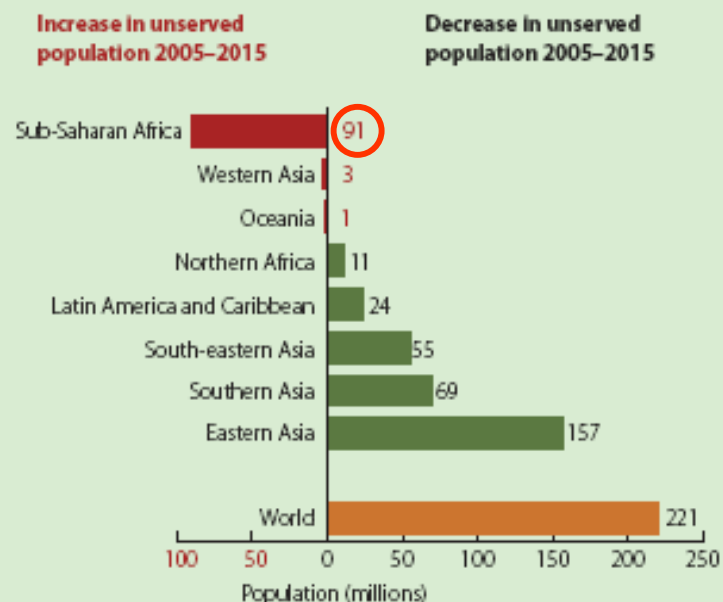
Projecting Current Trends to 2015

Projected change in the absolute numbers of people without access to an improved drinking water source 2005–2015, by developing region, if the 1990–2004 coverage trends continue to 2015



> If current trends continue to 2015, the absolute number of people without an improved drinking water source will decline by 150 million; sub-Saharan Africa will end up with 47 million more unserved than in 2004.

Absolute change in population without access to improved sanitation 2005–2015, by developing region, when the 1990–2004 coverage trend is projected to 2015

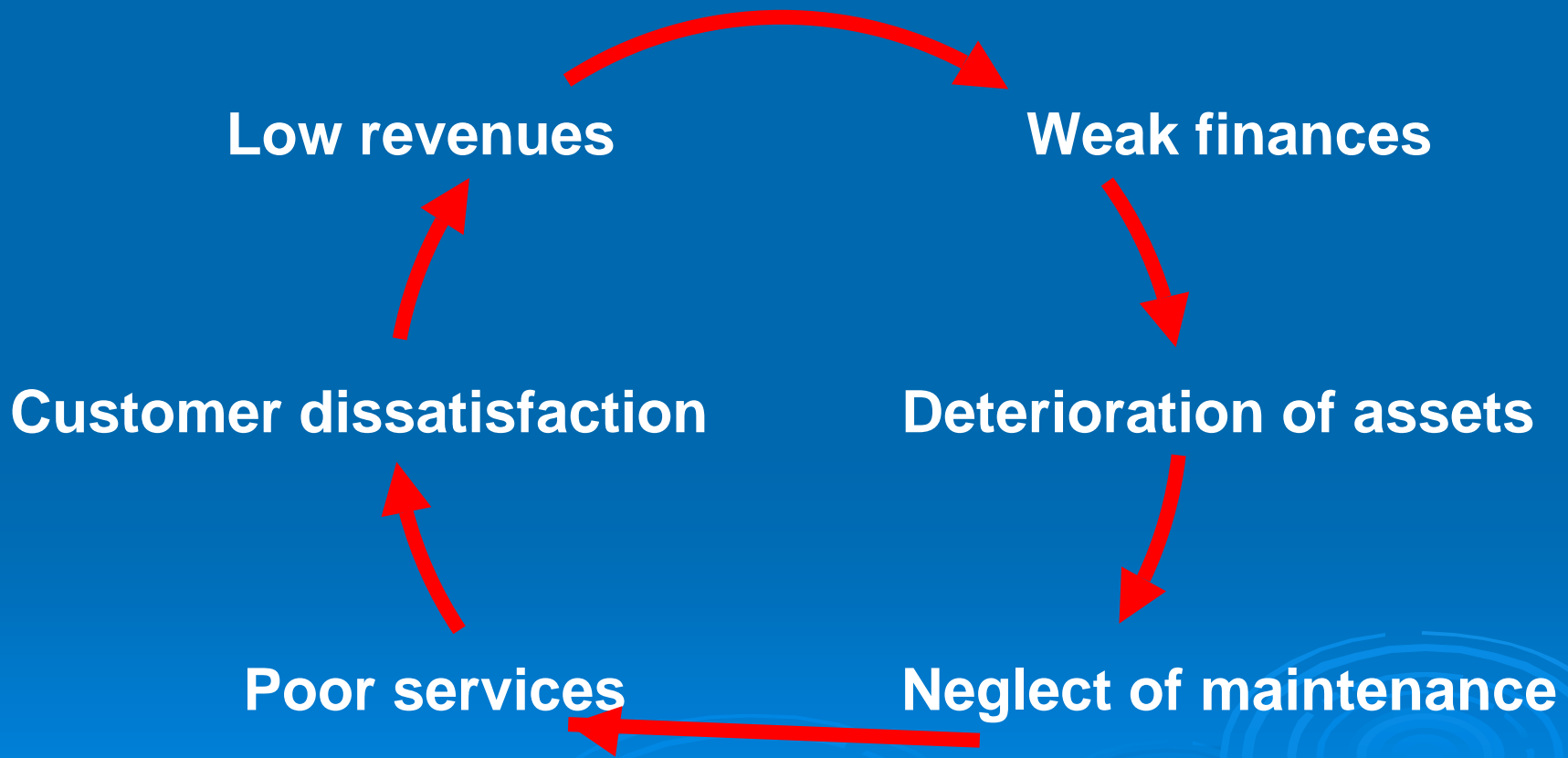


> If current trends continue up to 2015 the absolute number of people without improved sanitation will decline by 221 million.
> However, sub-Saharan Africa will end up with 91 million more unserved than in 2004.

What are some of the constraints?

- sustained political will commensurate with the dimensions and complexity of addressing the needs of the poor and other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups to promote access to affordable basic infrastructure and services;
- Non functional governance structures dominated by inadequate legal/regulatory frameworks and weak institutional arrangements without clear allocation of responsibility, thus leading to duplication, gaps, conflict and competition;
- Inadequacy of fundamental knowledge and information tools and human resources capacity to help provide feedback into the intervention design process;
- Ineffectiveness of mechanisms to engage the poor themselves, consider gender needs, particularly of women and children and provide an appropriate enabling framework to harness the potential contribution of these marginalised groups;
- Limitations of conventional finance mechanisms and inadequate financial resources to meet the costs of extending basic infrastructure services to reach the poor and low income population, and to meet the costs of essential operation and maintenance of facilities.

The WATSAN Utility Stagnation Cycle



Urbanisation and Climate Change

- It is no coincidence that the climate change debate is virtually in synch with the urbanisation process
- With half of the world's population living in cities, cities are already responsible for 75% of global energy consumption and 80% of green house gas emissions.
- Roughly half these emissions are caused by the burning of fossil fuels for urban transport; the other half comes from heating, cooling and running our buildings and homes.
- How we plan, manage and live in our rapidly urbanising cities and towns will determine to a large extent, the pace of global warming.
- adaptation and mitigation measures are urgently required to reduce vulnerability particularly for the world's urban poor

An opportunity

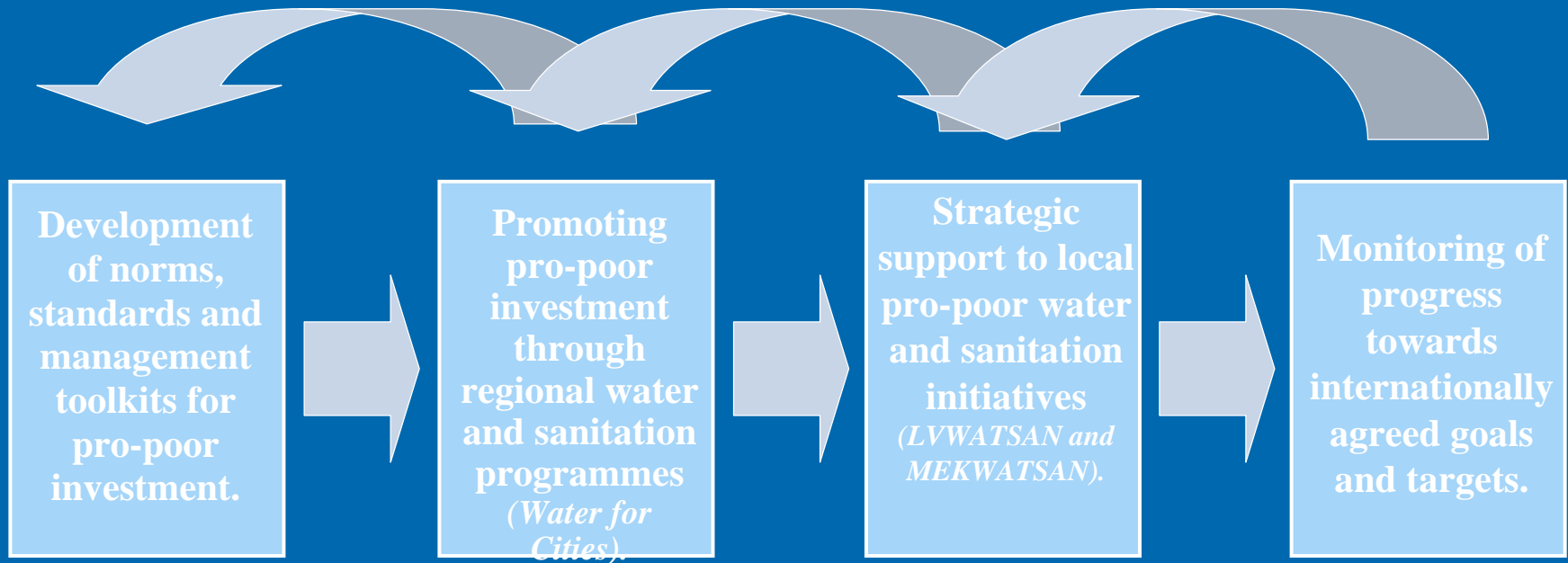
- urbanization, urban poverty, water and sanitation (including climate change and its impact on freshwater resources) are all linked, and cities and towns represent the nexus of the equation.
- growing realization by the international community that urbanisation, despite all of its inevitability and chaotic manifestations, represents a unique opportunity - a positive force - that can and must be harnessed to support economic growth and social advancement in a globalizing world economy. This is a great challenge



UN-HABITAT's Response

- Achievement of the twin goals of the Habitat Agenda, sustainable human settlements and adequate shelter including basic services for all, is fundamental in this process
- UN-HABITAT's Medium Term Strategic and Institutional Plan (MTSIP) 2008-2013, represents an organisational response to global trends in urbanization and poverty reduction, and also reflects wider UN reforms and the "One UN" process that has recently been adopted.
- The specific provisions related to water and sanitation under the MTSIP fall under the focus area of "environmentally sound basic urban infrastructure and services"
- It reflects the vision of water and sanitation as part of a wider process of sustainable human settlement development for improvements to the living environment (in particular for the urban poor).
- focus is on all types of urban areas (large cities, peri-urban areas and small towns),

UNHABITAT Water and Sanitation Trust Fund



- These initiatives have been implemented since the Trust Fund was established in 2003 to better channel ODA resources for these purposes

Review of the Trust Fund and strategy development

- A review of the Trust Fund activities was undertaken in the first half of 2007 with positive outcomes. Based on the recommendations a strategy is in the process of being finalised for the period 2008-2012 in line with the Overall UN-HABITAT MTSIP
- The strategy reflects UN-Habitat's core competences, which include:
 - a focus on the full scope of urbanisation processes;
 - global experience and credibility with regard to sustainable urbanisation;
 - capabilities for political mobilisation and public awareness-raising based on advocacy, information exchange and values-based education;
 - partnership building at the local, municipal and national levels;
 - the ability to directly operate at the sub-sovereign level;
 - the capability for capacity development across a range of themes and areas of expertise;
 - an orientation towards innovation and knowledge development;
 - demand-management approaches; and the capacity to design, implement and assess substantial pilot and demonstration activities.

Focus of the Strategy

Delivering Sustainable services for the poor

- Promoting efficiency and consistency through pro-poor governance-
- Facilitating community led service provision with increasing emphasis on sustainable sanitation,
- Linking service provision to income generation (e.g. waste water use in urban agriculture)
- Ensuring that Gender mainstreaming is strengthened across the programme activities.
- Human Values-based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education (HVWSHE) - promoting a new ethic and behaviour change amongst service providers and users focusing on the education and service delivery sector.

Ensuring synergy between the built and natural environment

- Climate change and basic services- working with partners to develop approaches and integrate climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster management into the strategic planning and implementation of the different program elements, and to increase the awareness of urban managers, politicians and communities of the implications of climate change.
- Energy Consumption and Efficiency- attention to the issue of energy consumption patterns and efficiencies from both the supply and demand sides of water utilities and water consumers, and exploring alternative energy sources (such as biogas, solar, wind etc).
- Reducing environmental impacts and ecological footprints of uncontrolled urbanization needs more research and knowledge generation, and to integrate environmental considerations into the poverty mapping element component for more effectiveness.

Monitoring the MDGs and beyond

- Although, tools have been developed and applied to support improved sector monitoring, there is still more work to be done.
- Monitoring is an expensive exercise and good opportunities exist for participatory monitoring approaches to fully engage National statistical services and civil society groups in sector monitoring. Many of the existing indicators used to monitor coverage are still lacking or needs finetuning.
- There is still a need to develop methodologies for monitoring “soft” impacts, e.g. how do we assess the results of capacity-building in terms of say the willingness/uptake of participatory approaches.

Integrating Infrastructure and Housing

- There is a growing realization that provision of integrated infrastructure provision can be seen as an entry point for slum-upgrading and comprehensive urban planning and development.
- Provision of infrastructure constitutes as much as 40% of the cost of either upgrading a slum or establishment of a new settlement, and thus using infrastructure as an entry point could thus yield huge potentials in reducing unit costs.
- Approach will be to take advantage the great similarity between the types of novel financial mechanisms needed for both housing and infrastructure provision . The strategy of