



World toilet day

November 19, 2012



Press Release

World Toilet Day (WTD)

World Toilet Day is observed and celebrated annually on November 19 since 2001. This international day of action aims to break the taboo around toilets and draw attention to the global sanitation crisis. Since 2001 the World Toilet Day has become a global platform for academics, sanitation experts, toilet designers, and environmentalists etc. to share the latest to improve rural and urban toilets.

Can you imagine not having a toilet? Can you imagine not having privacy when you need to relieve yourself? Although unthinkable for those living in wealthy parts of the world, this is a harsh reality for many – in fact, one in three people on the globe does not have access to a toilet! Have you ever thought about the true meaning of dignity?

World Toilet Day was created to pose exactly these kind of questions and to raise global awareness of the daily struggle for proper sanitation that a staggering 2.6 billion people face. World Toilet Day brings together different groups, such as media, the private sector, development organizations and civil society in a global movement to advocate for safe toilets. Since its inception in 2001, World Toilet Day has become an important platform to demand action from governments and to reach out to wider audiences by showing that toilets can be fun and sexy as well as vital to life.



***Sanitation Situation in some Lesotho Primary Schools
Together we can change this to a better situation allowing our children especially girls to attend
school even during their menstrual period!***

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Interviews available on request.

Sanitation Facts about Lesotho

- “All the Basotho are entitled to have access to a sustainable supply of potable water and to the provision of basic sanitation services at an affordable cost”. (*Lesotho Water and Sanitation Policy 2007*).
- 57,504 people have been treated for diarrhea and gastroenteritis
 responsible for 14% of deaths of children twelve years and below
 accounted for 3% male and 5% female deaths (*Ministry of Health and Social Welfare - Annual Joint Review Report 2009*).

Lesotho National Statistics

... sanitation coverage: 25% in rural areas, 40% in urban areas.
 (WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Report 2010)

...drinking water supply coverage: 62% in rural areas; 80% in urban areas

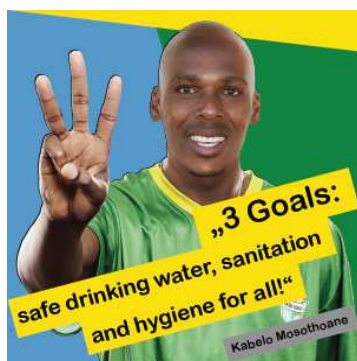
... in 396 cases children couldn't attend classes for some weeks during the first quarter of 2007 due to illnesses caused by intestinal worms.

1 in 3 Women/girl children risk shame, disease, harassment, rape & attack because they have nowhere safe to go to toilet.

You've something powerful & totally unique to help change this

- ✓ Surprise a friend/parent etc. with a toilet as a gift
- ✓ Donate a toilet to those in need!

Contribute to MDG Target 7: C
 (Halve by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation)



Join WASH United Champions Kabelo Mosothoane and Lehlohonolo Seema in advocating for **Water**, **Sanitation** and **Hygiene**



GOAL 7:
ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/envIRON.shtml>)

Target 7.A:
Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources

- The rate of deforestation shows signs of decreasing, but is still alarmingly high
- A decisive response to climate change is urgently needed
- The unparalleled success of the Montreal Protocol shows that action on climate change is within our grasp

Target 7.B:
Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss

- The world has missed the 2010 target for biodiversity conservation, with potentially grave consequences
- Key habitats for threatened species are not being adequately protected
- The number of species facing extinction is growing by the day, especially in developing countries
- Overexploitation of global fisheries has stabilized, but steep challenges remain to ensure their sustainability

Target 7.C:
Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

- The world is on track to meet the drinking water target, though much remains to be done in some regions
- Accelerated and targeted efforts are needed to bring drinking water to all rural households
- Safe water supply remains a challenge in many parts of the world
- With half the population of developing regions without sanitation, the 2015 target appears to be out of reach
- Disparities in urban and rural sanitation coverage remain daunting
- Improvements in sanitation are bypassing the poor

Target 7.D:
By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

- Slum improvements, though considerable, are failing to keep pace with the growing ranks of the urban poor

Slum prevalence remains high in sub-Saharan Africa and increases in countries affected by conflict