

Section IV: Sanitation and Hygiene

Section summary

According to the May 2003 issue of *Lancet Infectious Diseases*

Human excreta is the source of most diarrheal pathogens ...hands should be washed with soap after contact with human excreta and before handling food....A recent review of all the available evidence suggests that handwashing with soap could reduce diarrhea incidence by 47% and save at least one million lives.

This section addresses the range of sanitation and hygiene measures available to reduce disease. Presentation of sanitation and hygiene coverage includes needs and goals of sanitation systems and types of effective sanitation systems. Social, economic, technological and cultural factors that need to be taken into account when designing and implementing successful systems are discussed. Case studies of successful approaches to meeting sanitation needs and educational campaigns to increase awareness of the importance of and application of adequate hygiene are presented.

[Country-Led Service Delivery a Key to Water and Sanitation Access in Africa Says Report](#)

According to a new report released today by the [Water and Sanitation Program](#) (WSP) at the [World Bank](#), African countries that transition to taking a leadership role in safe water and sanitation service delivery to the millions of people without access have an unprecedented opportunity to drastically reduce these numbers by 2015.

[Gates Foundation Launches Effort to Reinvent the Toilet](#)

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on the 19th of July 2011 announced the launch of a strategy to help bring safe, clean sanitation services to millions of poor people in the developing world.

[Loughborough University Experts Seek to "Reinvent the Toilet" in Global Project](#)

A multi-disciplinary team at [Loughborough University](#) led by Professor M.Sohail has won a prestigious grant of approximately £250,000 in an international competition to "re-invent the toilet" organized by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

[UN Redoubles Efforts to Close Sanitation Gap](#)

In a bid to improve the health and well-being of millions of people worldwide, the United Nations on 21 June 2011 launched a major push to accelerate progress towards the goal of halving, by 2015, the proportion of the population without access to basic sanitation.