Basic Sanitation

Basic sanitation means access to pit latrines or toilets linked to a cesspit, but not to a sewerage system. These might be private or shared. Almost half (48%) of the world population use this type of sanitation.

Those who do not have access to basic sanitation either have poor sanitation facilities, or are linked to a mains sewerage system. Of the populations of Rwanda and the United Kingdom, 7% have access to basic sanitation. In Rwanda 92% have no access to good toilets; in the United Kingdom 92% of people have access to toilets that are attached to mains sewerage systems.

*Data are from the United Nations Development Programme’s 2004 Human Development Report.

 Territory size shows the proportion of people living with access to basic sanitation that live there. Basic sanitation includes pit latrines and toilets with cesspits, but not those linked to mains sewerage systems.

“Are we to decide the importance of issues by asking how fashionable or glamorous they are? Or by asking how seriously they affect how many?”

Nelson Mandela, 2002

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