



Ghana's Water and Sanitation Inequality Gap

We are **four** years into the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As part of these global goals, governments have committed to “ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.”

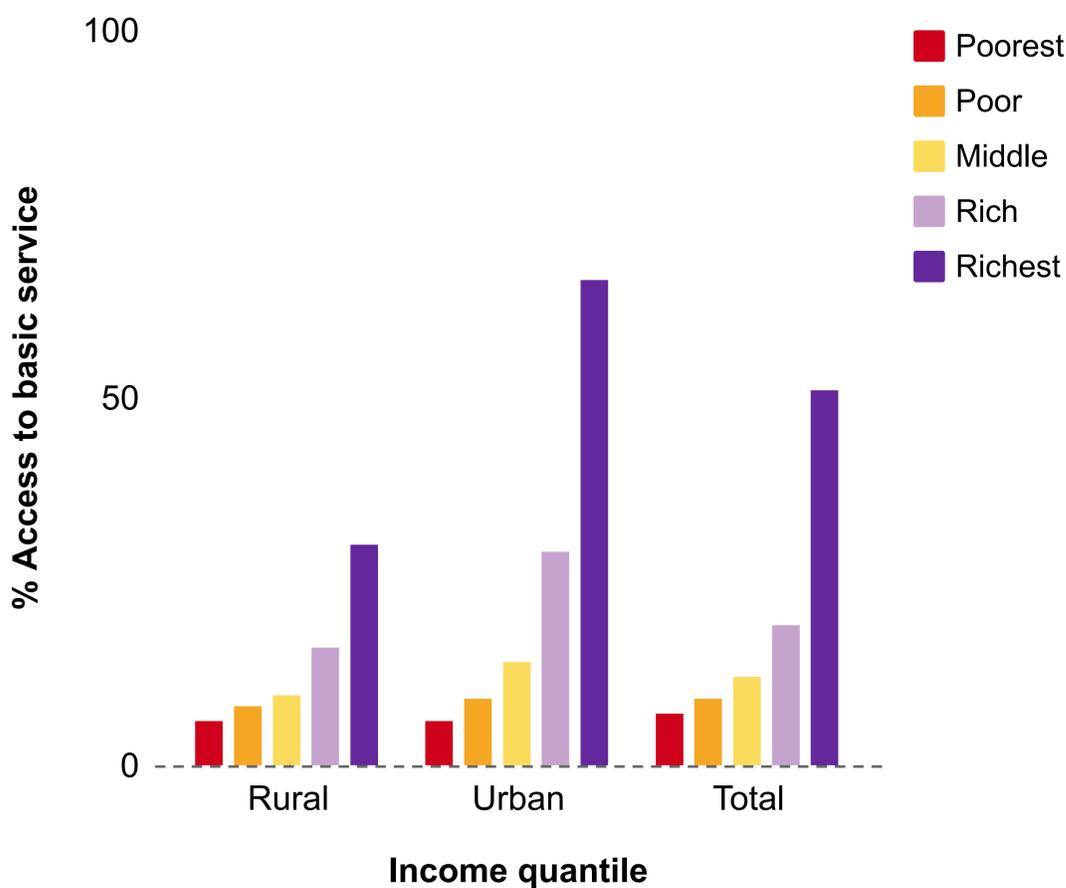
A vital aspect of the SDGs is the use of the human rights framework. The promise to ‘leave no one behind’ has been a central element in the pursuit to achieve these global goals by 2030. The review of SDG10 (reducing inequalities) in 2019 offers the opportunity to identify how inequalities manifest in access levels to basic services at the national level.

To measure SDG6 progress levels, indicators and service ladders were developed to guide governments and their delegated institutions. This country profile explores the inequalities found in Ghana based on these guidelines and indicators.

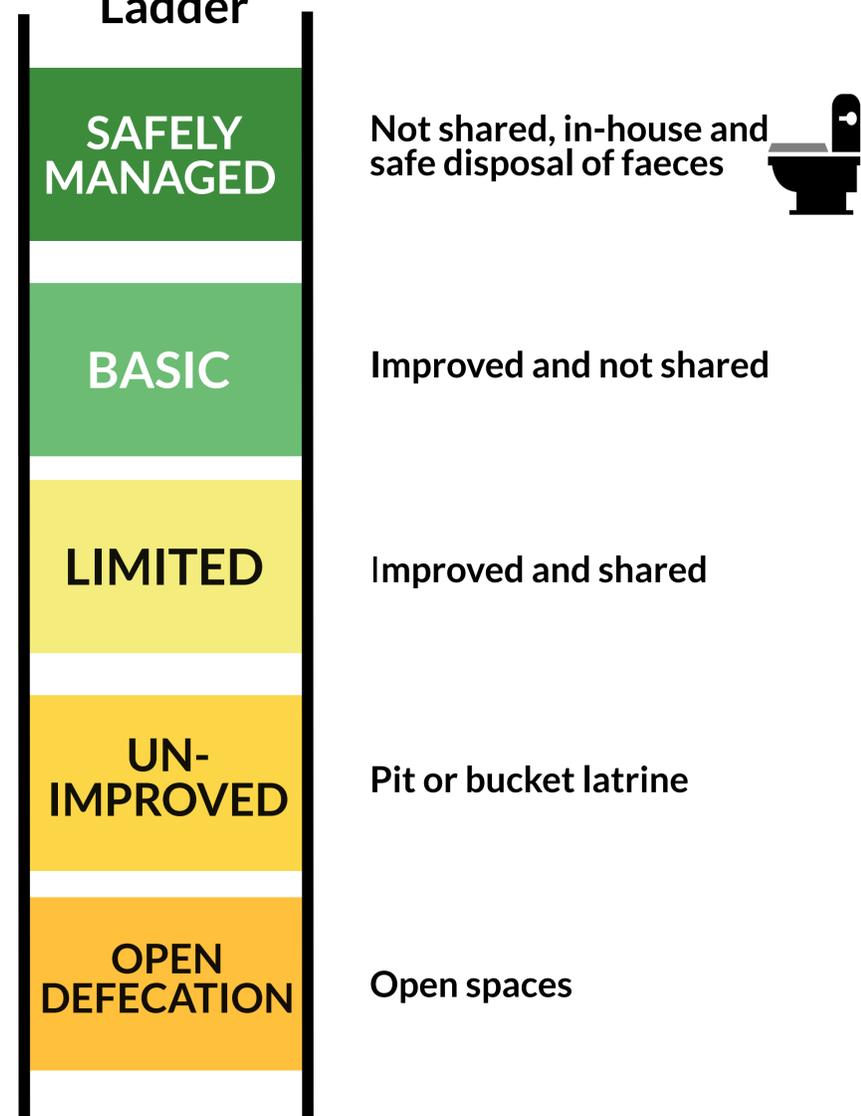
The Basic Sanitation Inequality Gap

While Ghana generally has low access levels to basic sanitation, there is a massive gap of **60%** between urban richest and the poorest.

Ghana Basic Sanitation Inequalities Chart



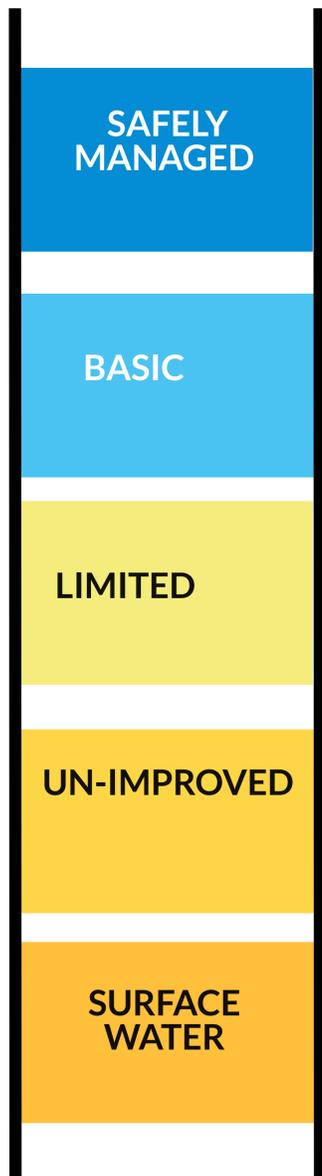
Sanitation Service Ladder





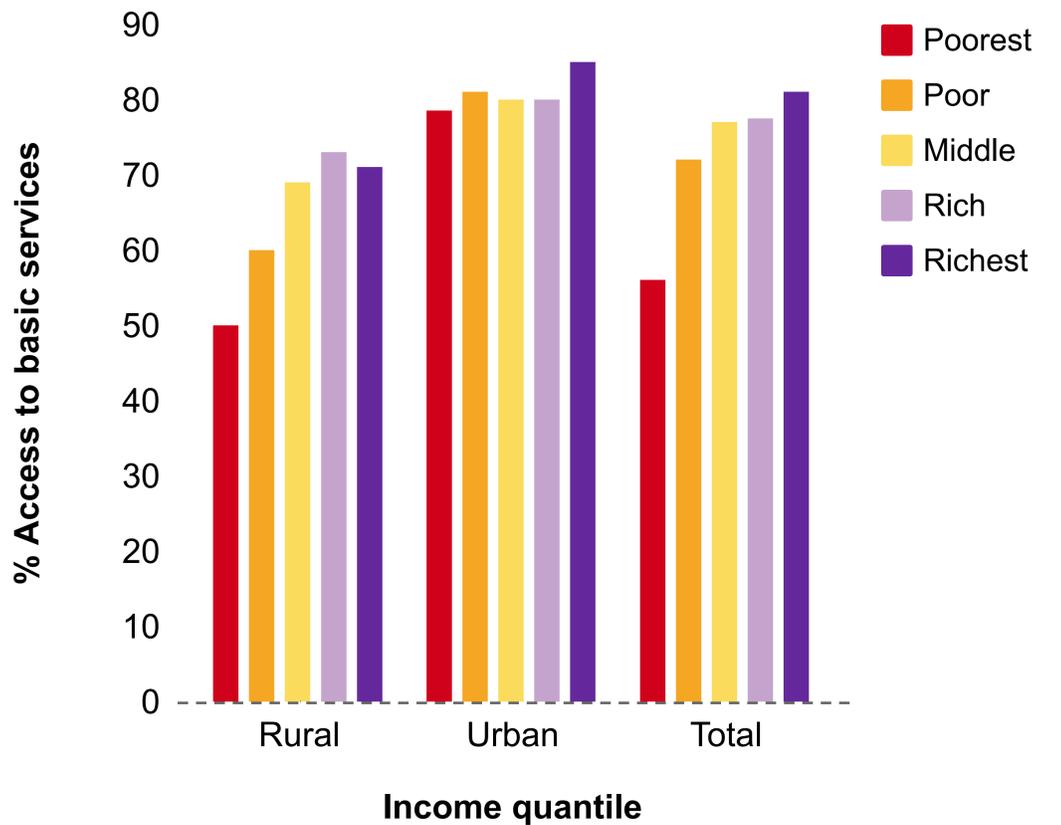
Available 24/7, no contamination and located on premises

Water Service Ladder



The gap between urban rich and rural poor for access to basic water is **35%**. This reflects the starkly unequal redistribution of resources in the country. There are further inequalities within the rural areas of the country.

Ghana Basic Water Inequalities Chart



Disclaimer: Data for this profile was sourced from www.washdata.org, they are not responsible for the interpretation of the data in this document. We rounded off decimals where they were less than 0.5 or over than 0.5.

Recommendations

Ghana's 2007 National Water Policy committed to deliver services in a manner that "the principle of fundamental right of all people without discrimination to safe and adequate water to meet basic human needs". Yet, there are gross inequalities between who has access to these basic services. Our recommendations are:

1. A greater focus on who benefits from investments and resource allocation in the water and sanitation sectors, in both rural and urban areas.
2. Inclusion and involvement of marginalised groups in the planning, implementation and review stages of pro-poor investments in water and sanitation services. In Ghana, it is clear that the rural poorest have been left behind. Improving access levels to water and sanitation services for these groups will be central to the achievement of the aspiration of the national constitution.
3. The creation and allocation of a global public fund consisting 2% of GDP contributions and global profits of corporations to fund public goods and social services such as water and sanitation. Once created, this fund would be critical in providing a reliable and low risk funding instrument to meet the investment requirement to deliver services for the poorest and most marginalised. There is the need to step up investment for the sector.

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