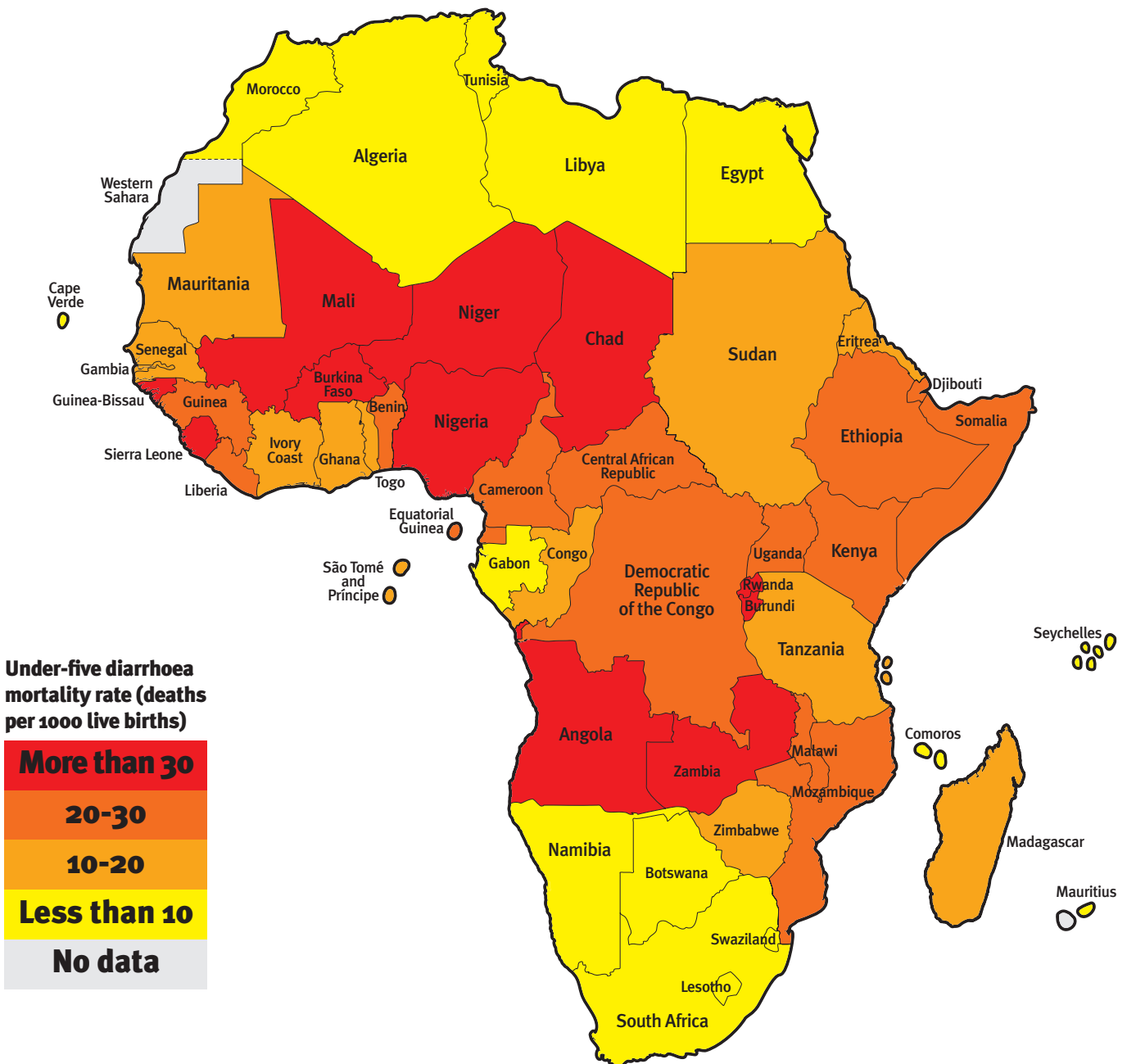


780,000 children have died of diarrhoea since the last African Union summit

Last year's summit marked a breakthrough as African leaders raised water and sanitation to the top of the political agenda. One year on, at the 13th African Union Summit in Sirte, it is time to turn words into action.



This map represents under-five mortality rates across the continent due to diarrhoea caused by poor sanitation and unsafe water. Improved water and sanitation brings better health outcomes for children and adults, allowing people to engage in productive activities and help themselves out of poverty. The data overlay focuses on the countries where WaterAid works.

Why is progress in the water and sanitation sector so slow and uneven?

Only part of the answer lies in political will. Insufficient investment by African governments, as shown by the table below, and blockages to the effective utilisation of donor funds are major obstacles. Lack of clarity around institutional roles and responsibilities, weak performance monitoring and poor accountability are also hindering progress.

The table below gives data from the African countries where WaterAid works including indicators of coverage levels. For the majority of these countries less than 35% of the population has access to basic sanitation. And yet, investment levels across the board are not high enough to address this challenge.

The numbers of children dying from diarrhoea show the human cost of insufficient investment. The financial data here is based on available budgetary information for 2008/09. In most cases, it has not been possible to separately estimate finance for sanitation.

| | Access to water in 2006 (WHO/UNICEF 2008) | Access to sanitation in 2006 (WHO/UNICEF 2008) | Annual child diarrhoeal deaths (UNICEF 2009) | Under-five diarrhoea mortality rate (UNICEF 2009) | 2008 allocation to water and sanitation as % of total government budget |
|--------------|---|--|--|---|---|
| Burkina Faso | 72 | 13 | 24,000 | 36 | 2.19% |
| Ethiopia* | 42 | 11 | 66,000 | 21 | 0.82% |
| Ghana | 80 | 10 | 9,900 | 14 | 1.62% |
| Madagascar | 47 | 12 | 14,000 | 19 | 2.48% |
| Malawi | 76 | 60 | 12,000 | 20 | 1.54% |
| Mali | 60 | 45 | 21,000 | 36 | 4.29% |
| Mozambique | 42 | 31 | 24,000 | 28 | 2.67% |
| Nigeria* | 47 | 30 | 177,000 | 30 | 0.80% |
| Tanzania | 55 | 33 | 31,000 | 19 | 3.19% |
| Uganda | 64 | 33 | 32,000 | 22 | 1.99% |
| Zambia | 58 | 52 | 14,000 | 30 | 2.90% |

*Percentages for Nigeria and Ethiopia represent the Federal allocation due to difficulty obtaining data for individual states/regions.

We call on African leaders to:

- **Fully implement and independently monitor the Sharm El-Sheik and eThekweni commitments on water and sanitation.**
- **Work closely with international counterparts, including the G8, to strengthen a Global Framework for Action on Water and Sanitation, in order to mobilise international efforts to support African commitments.**



WaterAid's mission is to overcome poverty by enabling the world's poorest people to gain access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene education.

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