Accelerating progress on sanitation and water

UNGA Interactive Session on the MDGs

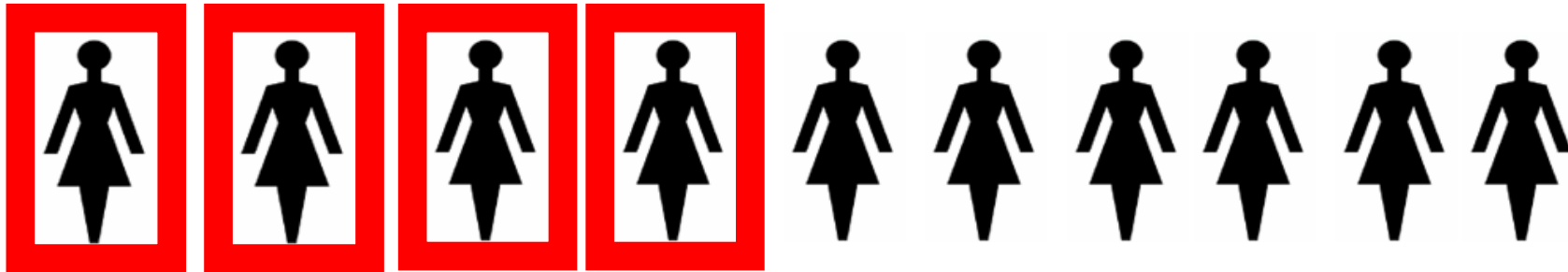### 13 April 2010

Lydia Zigomo, Head of East Africa region for WaterAid

WaterAid

Outline

- Why sanitation?
- What is not working
- What is working
- How to accelerate progress

WaterAid

Why sanitation?

40% do not have access to safe sanitation

In Sub-Saharan Africa, only the maternal mortality MDG is more off-track than sanitation

Inadequate sanitation may be biggest killer of children under-five

WaterAid

Linkages	
Health and Nutrition	• Sanitation and water could **prevent** 1.4 million diarrhoea deaths every year • 50% of under-5 malnutrition is attributable to diarrhoea • Hand-washing with soap can halve incidence of Acute Respiratory Infections
Education	• Half of all girls dropping out of school in Africa do so because of poor sanitation
Poverty	• 5.5 billion productive days per year lost due to diarrhoea and burden of fetching water household water required for small-scale productive activities
Gender	• Women & girls bear the brunt of fetching water & benefit most when distances are reduced

WaterAid

Investment in sanitation = investment in health, education and economy

- Improved sanitation and water yields US$8 for every US$1 spent
- Reducing water collection to one hour a day could enable a woman to earn an additional US$100 per year
- Unproductive hours lost to poor sanitation has an economic value of over US$100 billion
- In Ghana health costs from poor sanitation and water cost 5.2% of annual GDP
- **Poor water and sanitation undermines progress against all other MDGs**

WaterAid

What is not working

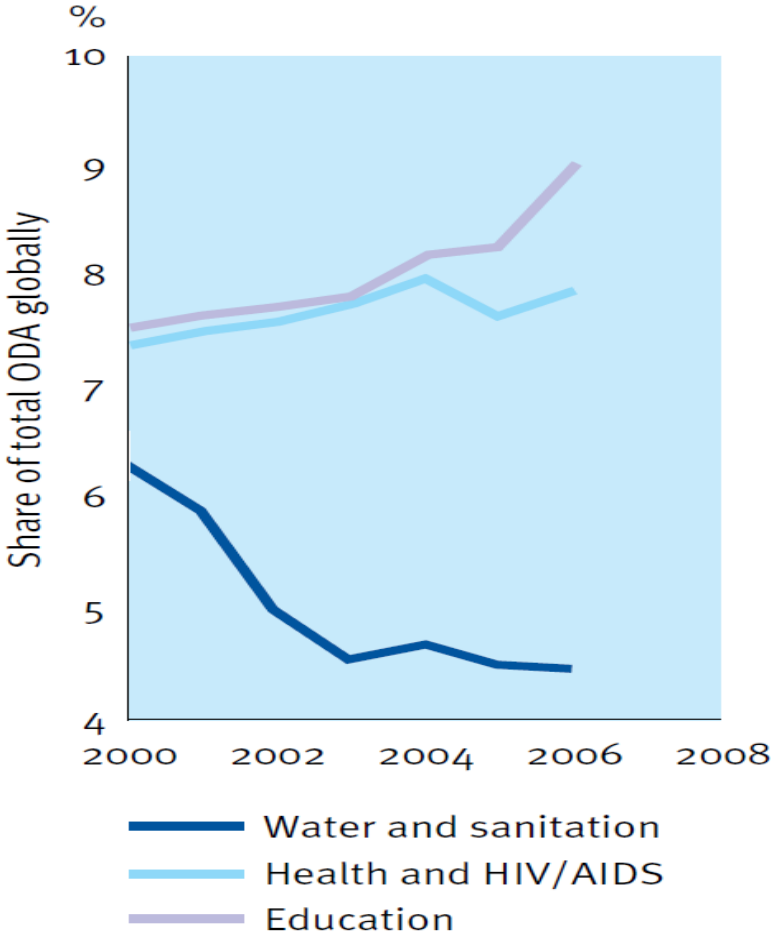Insufficient political prioritisation

Lack of accountability

Poor aid targeting

Weak sector capacity

Inadequate national investments

WaterAid

Five-year moving average aid spending on water and sanitation, health and education

Source: OEDC DAC database

Insufficient political prioritisation

What is working

- **'Innovations' – that are locally led and low cost, not technologically innovative**
- Example - Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS)
- Started in Bangladesh, scaled up across the world
- A process to inspire communities to stop open-defecation and to build and use latrines
- Requires:
  - Active community participation and natural leaders
  - Local innovations, local materials (no prescribed models)
  - Community systems of reward, penalty, scaling-up
  - Co-ordinated with local government and CSOs

WaterAid

What is working 2

- **More local innovations that need to be brought to scale…**
- School-led total sanitation
  - School sanitation; accessible, separate toilets and wash stands in every school
  - Increases' girls enrolment and retention
  - Total sanitation; children as agents of change in community
- Local accountability – localising the MDGs
  - Local government and community knowledge of targets
  - More effective decentralisation and co-ordination
- Focus on gender and inequality
  - Rights based approach to sanitation and water
  - Focus on most marginalised people, districts and regions
  - Accessible services not expensive if planned from outset

WaterAid

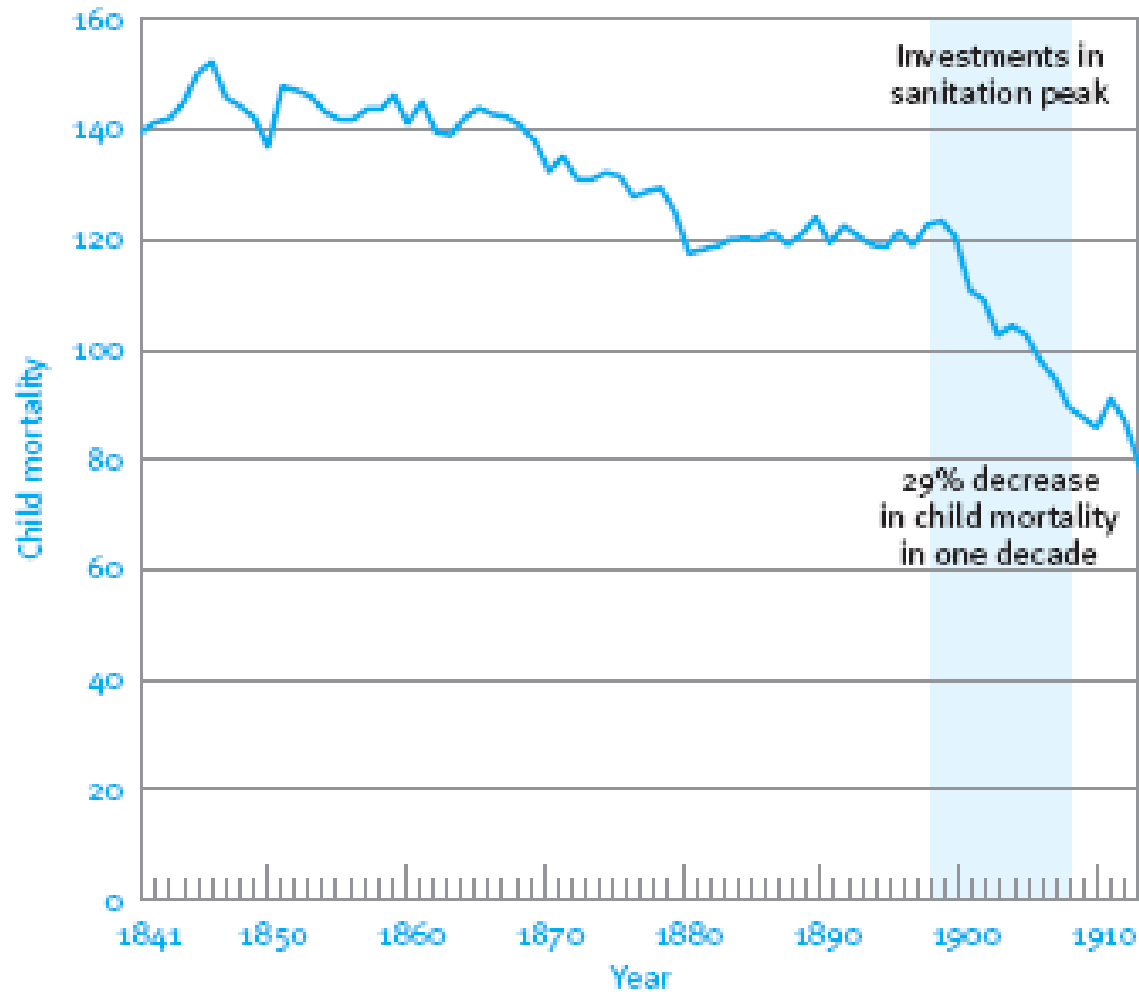# Accelerating progress – common characteristics of success

- Clear policies and nationally-defined goals

- Sector-wide approaches and co-ordination

- Long-term, predictable and adequate finance

- Clear institutional roles and responsibilities

- Performance monitoring

- **More political priority at all levels to sanitation, including at the MDG summit in September.**

WaterAid

Sanitation and Water for All

- A structured partnership mechanism between governments
- To accelerate progress towards sanitation and water MDGs
- Based on existing commitments
    - E-Thekwini (2008)
    - Paris and Accra Aid Effectiveness agendas
- Support country-led processes for better co-ordination and management
- Should attract more predictable and stable finance
- Partnership for mutual accountability

- To be discussed at the first High Level Meeting of water and sanitation ministers
- 23 April 2010, hosted by UNICEF

WaterAid

Sanitation – the golden $

Thank you

Lydia Zigomo

lydiazigomo@wateraid.org

WaterAid