

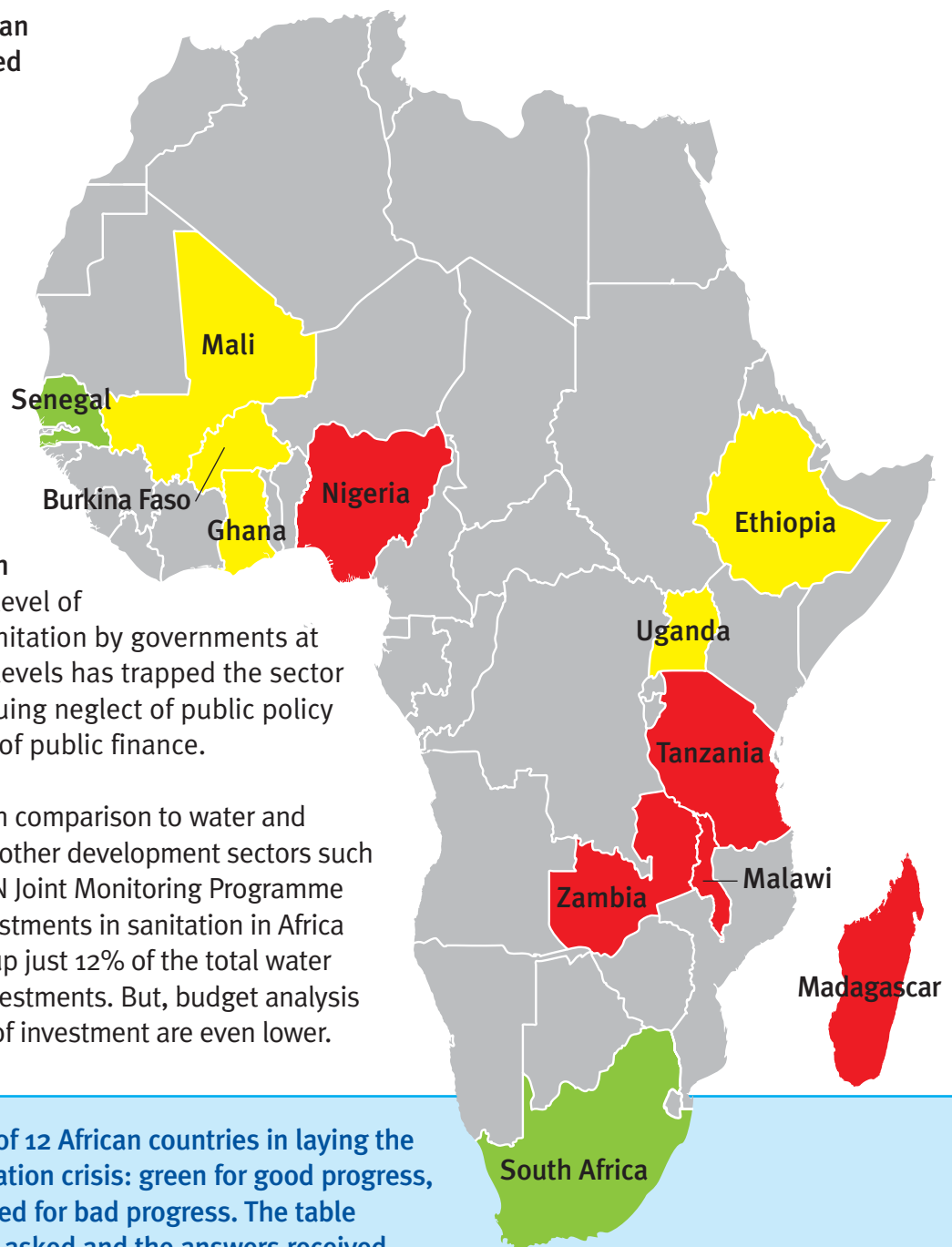
Giving sanitation the green light

Lack of sanitation is one of the biggest killers of children in the developing world. Yet it is given low priority by donor and recipient governments alike. In sub-Saharan Africa, at current rates of progress, the 2015 MDG target for sanitation will not be met until 2076. It is clear that without an extraordinary effort it will be missed.

Leadership on the part of African governments is urgently needed to turn the sector around. Our research in 12 countries shows that there are great national variations in prioritisation and action across the continent. WaterAid believes that progress on tackling this crisis needs robust policy frameworks, strong, coherent institutions, and coordinated action.

Political neglect is the root cause of the lack of progress in the sanitation sector. The low level of political priority afforded to sanitation by governments at the international and national levels has trapped the sector in a vicious cycle where continuing neglect of public policy leads to insufficient allocation of public finance.

Financing for sanitation is low in comparison to water and extremely low in comparison to other development sectors such as health and education. The UN Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) estimates that global investments in sanitation in Africa between 1990 and 2000 made up just 12% of the total water supply and sanitation sector investments. But, budget analysis reveals that government levels of investment are even lower.



This map signals the progress of 12 African countries in laying the foundations to tackle the sanitation crisis: green for good progress, yellow for some progress and red for bad progress. The table overleaf sets out the questions asked and the answers received.

The building blocks of progress

- Green** = yes (2 points)
Yellow = some progress (1 point)
Red = no (0 points)

	Malawi	Nigeria	Tanzania	Zambia	Madagascar	Mali	Ghana	Ethiopia	Burkina Faso	Uganda	South Africa	Senegal
Sanitation coverage % (UN JMP 2004)	61	44	47	55	32	46	18	13	13	43	65	57
1. Are they on track to meet the sanitation MDG?	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green
2. Is there a national sanitation policy?	Green	Green	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
3. Are national targets in line with the MDG target?	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
4. What weighting is given to sanitation in the PRSP?	Red	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green
5. Is there a sector investment plan?	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
6. Is there a single body to coordinate action?	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green
7. Are donors coordinating their support to sanitation?	Red	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green
8. Is there sufficient budget allocation to meet targets?	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
9. Is there a single budget line for sanitation?	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Red	Green
10. Is there a performance monitoring mechanism?	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green
Total out of 20	6	6	7	8	9	11	12	12	13	14	15	19
Overall verdict	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green

WaterAid, as part of End Water Poverty, is calling for:

- One national plan, one coordinating mechanism, and one transparent monitoring and evaluation framework for sanitation
- Increased levels of investment delivered through a specific and transparent budget line open to public scrutiny
- Broad participation by a range of stakeholders in the planning and monitoring of service delivery at the national and sub-national levels
- A commitment from donors that no credible national plan that is consistent with achieving the sanitation MDG target should fail for lack of finance

For more information on our research contact Oliver Cumming at olivercumming@wateraid.org



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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