

# Anna Kučírková ~ Millions Face The Life-Threatening Dangers Of Poor Sanitation



In our ever changing and evolving world, improvements in living conditions are essential. Sanitation is our first line of defense against communicable diseases and epidemics of infectious diseases such

as influenza, typhoid, cholera, and more.

And while developed nations tend to have outstanding methods of sanitation and good hygiene practices, developing nations still lose millions of lives every year because of poor or non-existent sanitation systems, according to the World Bank (2017).

But knowing *generally* about the problem doesn't really help you understand just how bad the situation really is. In order to move toward change, a clear-eyed view of the problem is essential.

Here's what you *really* need to know.

## *The Stark Lack of Basic Sanitation Around The World*

Modern sanitation facilities are vital to public health. And while access to sanitary facilities has increased dramatically in the past twenty years, nearly 2.3 billion people still don't have toilets or access to upgraded latrines.

Thankfully, the General Assembly of UN declared access to safe drinking water and modern sanitation as a human right in 2010. International efforts to help provide safe and accessible drinking water and sanitation are underway.

But, in spite of the progress, the 2015 target to cut the proportion of the population without access to improved sanitation facilities in half missed by nearly 700 million people.

There are still hundreds of thousands of people dying each year from diseases directly related to their lack of access to clean water and proper sanitation.

*The one element that perpetuates a vicious cycle of disease and poverty is open defecation.*

In places where open defecation is widespread, the number of deaths of children

under 5 years old are as high as the levels of malnutrition and poverty.  
Access to clean water is one of the keys to defeating the deaths of millions around the globe.

Read

more: <https://connectforwater.org/the-life-threatening-dangers-of-poor-sanitation/>