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# Five Global Priority Messages for WASH Response to COVID-19

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# WASH and COVID-19

- Hygiene behaviors, handwashing with soap and water, and other basic WASH services are essential for slowing down the spread of COVID-19;
- As the SARS-CoV-2 virus pandemic escalates, WASH services, supplies and behaviours risk being disrupted even further.
- Most vulnerable populations – living in informal settlements, displacement camps, or other areas without access to critical WASH services – are at greatest risk.

# WASH data (= the big picture)



- 2.2 billion people do not have access to safe water
- app. 50% of people in LDC have no safe water.
  
- 3 billion people (40%) have no access to handwashing facility at home (water and soap)
- app. 75% of people in LDC have no HHWS facility.
- 18 million urban South Africans have no basic handwashing facilities at home with the richest urban dwellers nearly 12 times more likely to have access to handwashing facility.
  
- 896 million people globally have no water service at their health care facility.
- 1/6 (16%) of healthcare facilities have no hygiene service (app. 50% in LDC)
  - lack hand hygiene facilities where patients receive care,
  - as well as soap and water at toilets.
  
- 900 million school children have no handwashing facility with water and soap at school.
- app. 47 % of schools.

# Five priority messages for response to COVID-19

- Hand hygiene is a top priority;
- Water and sanitation utilities and service providers must be kept operational;
- Public health COVID-19 response critically depends on WASH- ***must be stepped up***;
- Water supply, sanitation and hygiene are central to global health security;
- This is not the first pandemic, and will not be the last: ***build back better WASH***;

Source: Kelly Ann Naylor, WASH Chief, UNICEF HQ





# Sanitation and Water for All (SWA)

- Until there is a vaccine or treatment for COVID-19, there is no better cure than prevention.
- Water, sanitation and hand hygiene are central to preventing the spread of COVID-19, and a first line of defence against this serious threat to lives and health systems.
- Handwashing with water and soap kills the virus but requires access to running water in sufficient quantities.
- Our response plans – at national, regional and global levels – must therefore prioritize water, sanitation and hygiene services





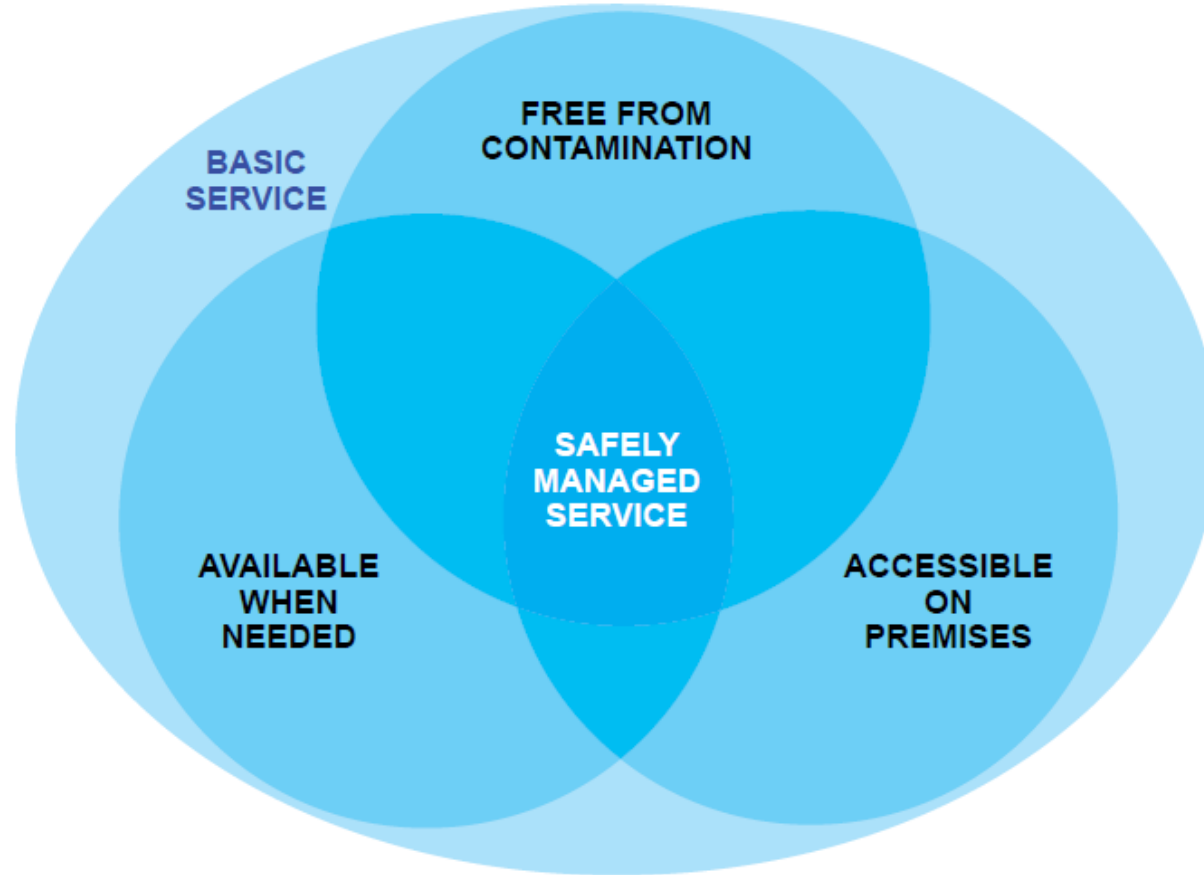
# SWA: World leaders' call to action on COVID-19

- Making water, sanitation and hygiene available to everyone, eliminating inequalities and leaving no one behind...
- Working collaboratively with all stakeholders in a coordinated manner...
- Ensuring that water and sanitation systems are resilient and sustainable...
- Prioritizing the mobilization of finance to support countries in their response to this crisis...
- Delivering accurate information in a transparent manner...

Source: <https://www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/about/our-work/world-leaders-call-action-covid-19>

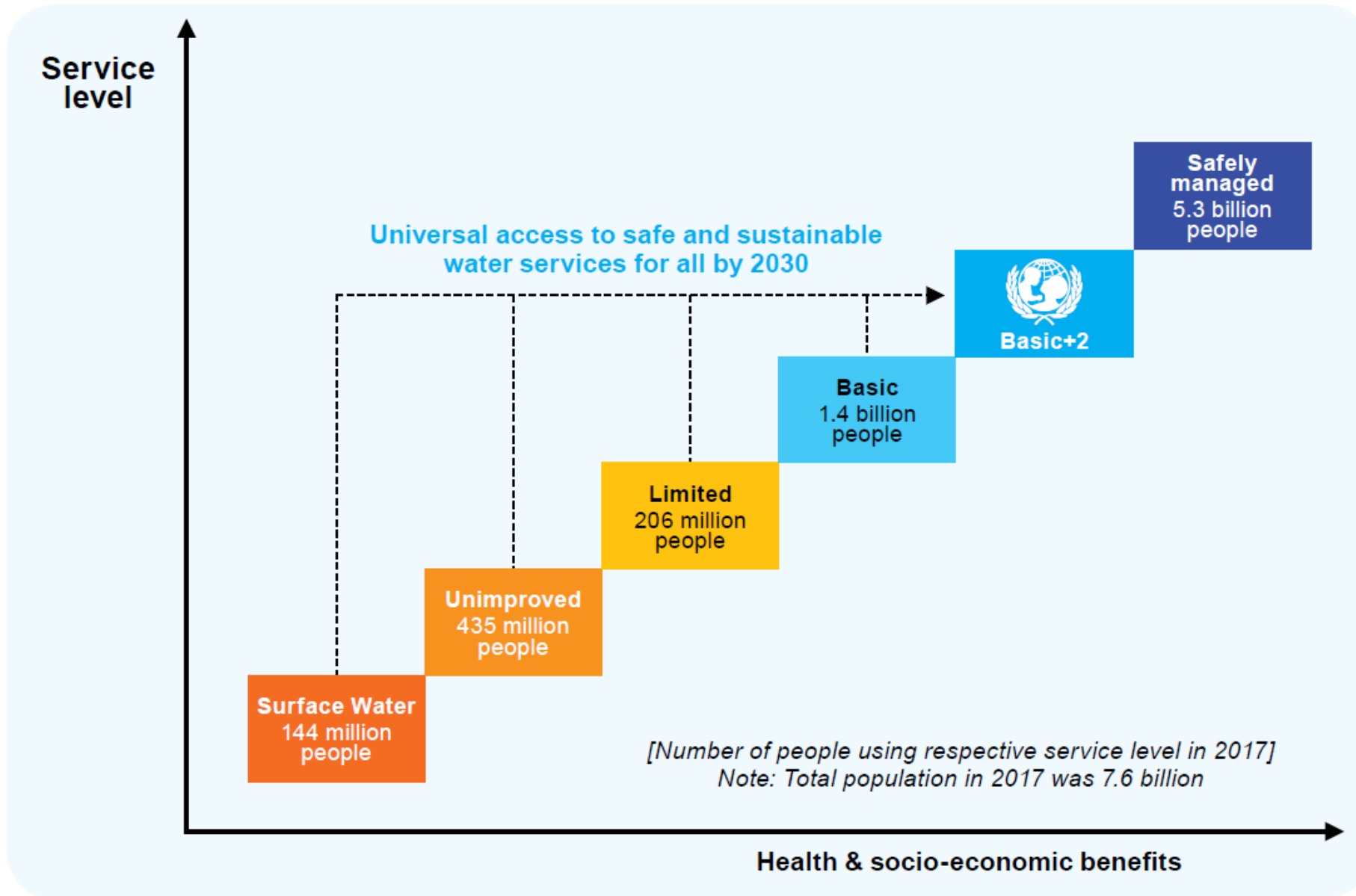


Figure 3: A safely managed water service



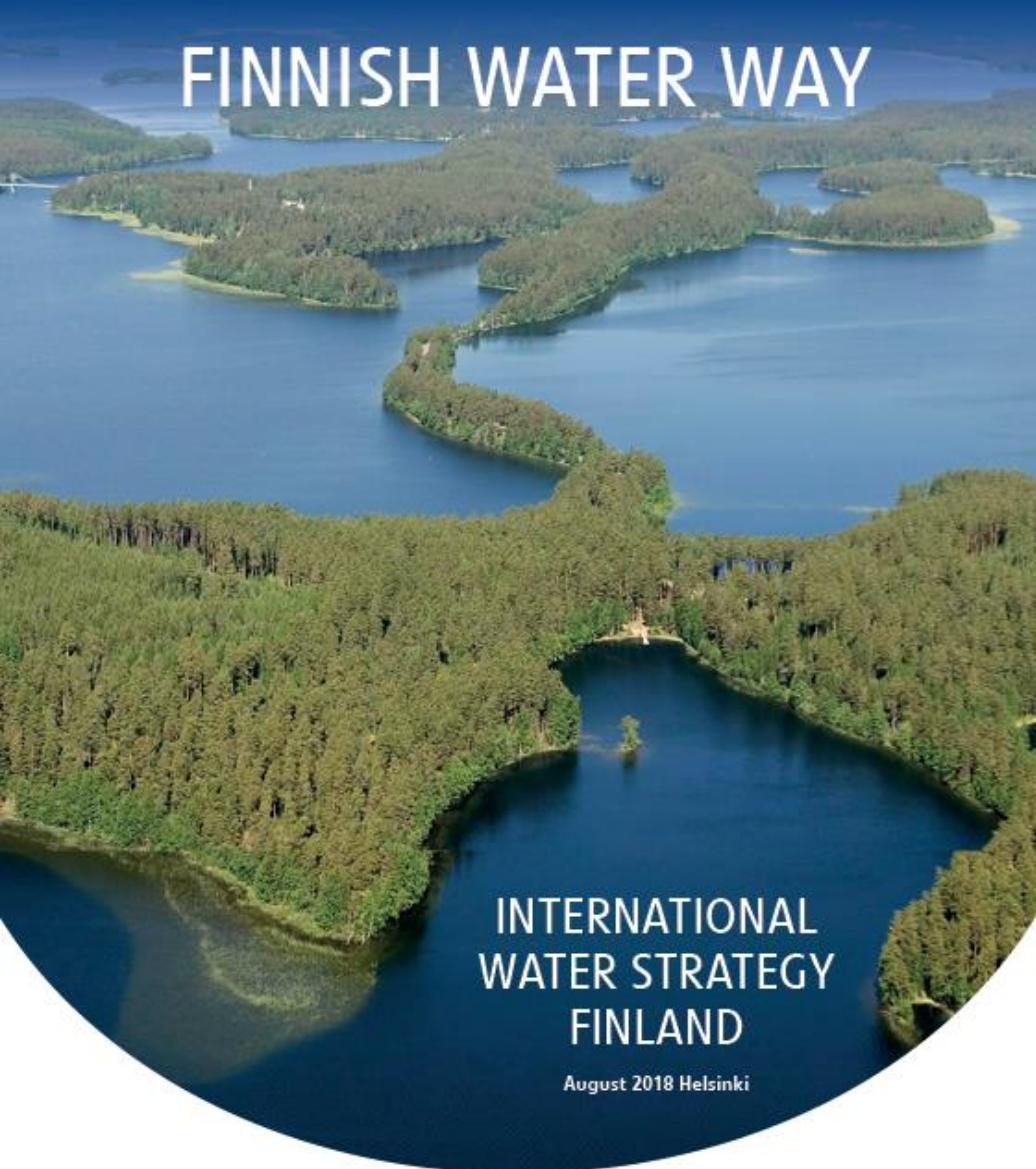
<sup>9</sup> Hutton G, et al. (2016). The Costs of Meeting the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal Targets on Drinking Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene. World Bank Group. Available [here](#).

Figure 5: **Where Basic +2 service level fits in on the path to safely managed services<sup>12</sup>**





# FINNISH WATER WAY



INTERNATIONAL  
WATER STRATEGY  
FINLAND

August 2018 Helsinki



## International Water Strategy Finland (2018)

Mission: *Together towards responsible and equitable water security*

Vision: *Water-Secure World by 2030*

Objective I	Water for Sustainable Development
Objective II	Water for People
Objective III	Water for Peace

Five Ministries, Five Pages and Five Key Messages