Glossary

Abstraction: taking water from the source so that it can be used.

Agricultural waste: waste that comes from farming.

Aquaculture: farming in water, rather than on land.

Attitudes: individual preferences or opinions about what a person likes or dislikes.

Bacteria: unicellular organisms (made of one cell) that are very small.

Basic sanitation: improved sanitation facilities which are not shared with other households.

Behaviour change communication (BCC): strategy and methods for communicating messages to communities and individuals about desirable changes to their behaviour e.g. to improve hygiene practices.

Beliefs: firmly held states of mind about what is true or false.

Blackwater: wastewater that contains or consists of urine and faeces.

Commercial waste: waste from businesses such as food and drink establishments, shops, etc.

Communicable diseases: infections that are passed from person to person.

Concentration: the measure of the quantity of a substance dissolved in a known volume of water.

Construction and demolition waste: waste from various types of building and demolition activities in urban areas.

Critical situations: circumstances where activities or incidents indicate the possibility that disease-causing micro-organisms are present on hands, fingers and nail surfaces.

E-waste: wastes generated from used electronic devices and household appliances.

Excreta: a combination of urine and faeces.

Facilities: the structures that are used to provide sanitation.

Gender issue: matter that affects males and females differently.

Greywater: wastewater from human washing and bathing, kitchen sinks, clothes washing, etc. It does not contain excreta.

Groundwater: all water that is found underground within the rocks.

Healthcare waste: any solid waste produced in hospitals, clinics, health posts and other health facilities.

Helminths: worms that are parasites on humans and other animals.

Household waste: garbage, rubbish, trash and refuse from residential areas.

Hydropower: energy that can be harnessed from a continuous flow of water, such as a river.

Hygiene: conditions or practices that help maintain health and prevent disease.

Infectious agents: organisms that invade the body and cause disease.

Improved sources: water from springs and wells which are constructed and used in such a way that they adequately protect the water from contamination, especially by faecal matter.

Industrial waste: waste from various types of industrial processes.

Institutional hygiene: practices carried out to keep clean and healthy in various local institutions, such as schools and clinics.

Institutional waste: waste from public and government institutions.

Knowledge: all the information we have learned and produced during our growth and development.

Landfill: an area of land set aside for the final disposal of solid waste.

L**imited facilities:** facilities which are shared with other households.

Liquid wastes: any wastes in a liquid form such as wastewater and sewage.

Micro-organisms: tiny living organisms that you can see only with a microscope.

Municipal waste: waste produced in an urban area.

Open defecation: depositing faeces in open spaces such as fields, bushes, bodies of water and beaches.

Organic matter: carbon-based substances derived from living organisms.

Palatable water: water that is pleasant to drink, meaning it is completely clear and free from tastes, smells and colours.

Pathogen: a disease-causing agent.

Personal hygiene: involves maintaining the cleanliness of our body and clothes.

Pollution: introduction into the environment of substances liable to cause harm.

Potable water: water that does not contain harmful or potentially harmful substances and does not present any risk to human health.

Practices: routine actions, doing something in the same way every time.

Protozoa: single-celled micro-organisms that are much larger than bacteria.

Public institutions: any institution that provides social, educational and religious public services to the general population such as schools and health clinics.

Raw water: water before it is treated.

Recycling: processing of wastes into new raw materials.

Residential waste: waste from households and residential areas.

River basin: the area of land that is drained by a river and its tributaries.

Safe drinking water: water that does not contain harmful or potentially harmful substances and does not present any risk to human health.

Safely managed facilities: where human contact with faeces is avoided.

Sanitation: preventing people from coming into contact with human excreta and other liquid wastes produced in homes, workplaces and public buildings.

Sanitation ladder: a measure of progress towards the provision of adequate sanitation facilities for every household.

Services: the schemes for providing sanitation.

Sewage: a combination of wastewater that flows in underground sewers or open ditches.

Social environment: aspects of our environment derived from human and social structures and institutions e.g. services provided by schools, monasteries, mosques, shops, and from the community's attitudes and behaviour.

Solid wastes: anything in solid form that is discarded as unwanted.

Spring: a point where groundwater emerges at the surface of the ground.

Stormwater: wastewater that flows on the surface of the land to join streams.

Surface water: water in rivers, lakes, pools and ponds.

Traditions: behaviour that is learned from previous generations and passed on to the next generation.

Turbidity: cloudiness that is due to a large number of very tiny particles.

Unimproved facilities: latrines that do not ensure the separation of faeces from humans.

Urbanisation: people moving from the rural areas to the towns and cities.

Viruses: microscopic infectious particles that can only reproduce when inside the living cells of organisms.

Waste disposal: getting rid of wastes that cannot be dealt with in any other way, usually to an area of land set aside for the final disposal of solid waste.

Waste hierarchy: ranks the different ways of dealing with waste in order of priority.

Waste management: the collection, treatment and disposal of solid wastes.

Waste reduction: not generating waste in the first place or minimising the amount of waste produced.

Waste reuse: reusing waste such as refilling a drinks bottle.

Water-based diseases: infections caused by parasites that spend part of their life cycle in water.

Waterborne diseases: infections caused by people ingesting water contaminated by human or animal faeces containing pathogens.

Water-related diseases: infections transmitted by insects that breed or feed in or near bodies of water.

Water-washed diseases: infections that occur as a result of inadequate quantities of water being available for good personal hygiene.