Between 1995 and 2004, an estimated 289 million extra households were connected to water supplies. Most (54%) of them were in China. Other territories with high numbers of newly connected households are Turkey, the Philippines, Egypt and Vietnam.

Some territories have few households that were recently connected to water supplies because of a lack of resources. Other territories had high rates of connection in 1995 so there were few households in need of connection. New water connections are one measure of the rate of improvement in basic living conditions. In a few territories the proportion of connected households is reported to be falling.

Territory size shows the proportion of people in households that have been newly connected to water supplies between 1995 and 2004.

“When I heard that we were going to get clean water I remember laughing, it was so funny. I can only compare it to someone who is in prison for a long time. When they are set free it’s the most fantastic experience.” Nakwetikya, 2007