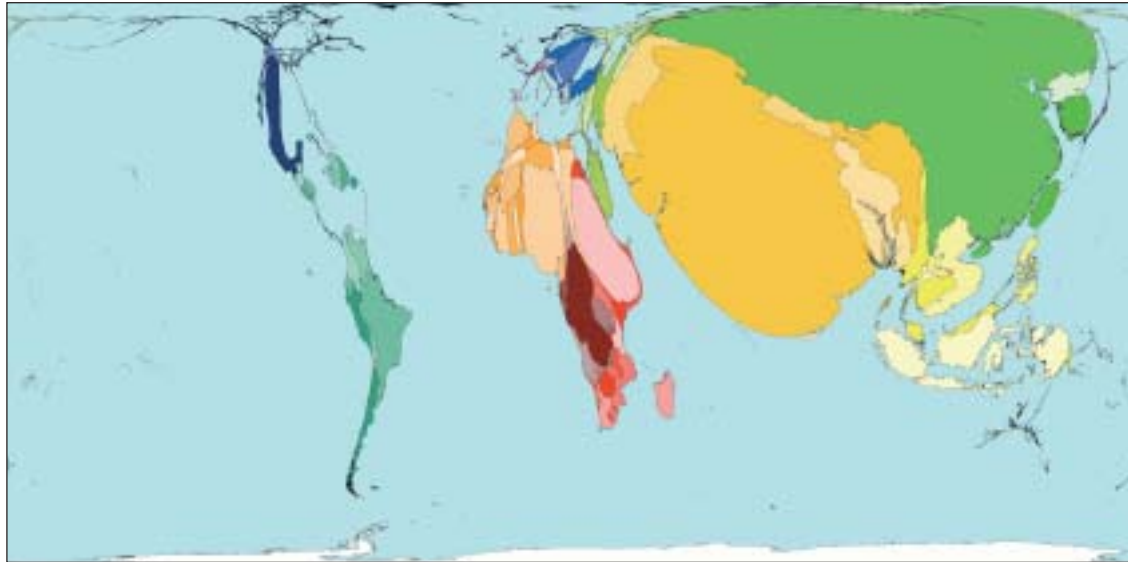
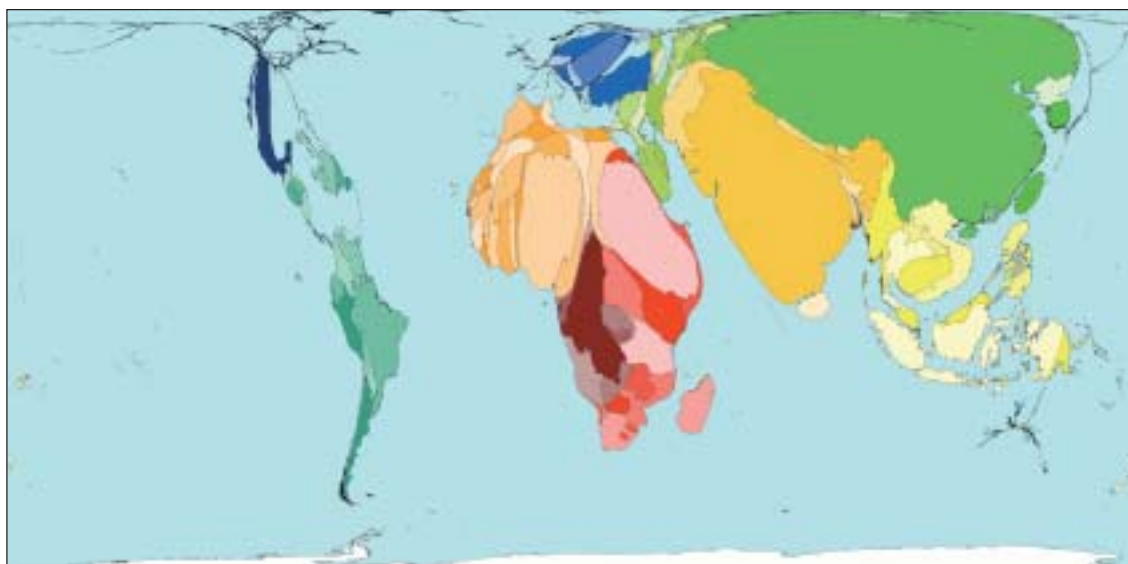


The World: A different view

We continue the series (see *Natl Med J India* 2006;**19**:234–5, 293, 334 and 2007;**20**:).



In Map 1, the size of each territory is shown proportional to the number of people who lack 'improved sanitation' facilities, defined as 'access to adequate excreta disposal facilities such as a connection to a sewer or septic tank system, a pour-flush latrine, a simple pit latrine or a ventilated improved pit latrine. An excreta disposal system is considered adequate if it is private or shared (but not public) and if it can effectively prevent human, animal and insect contact with excreta'.¹ Worldwide, 2.5 billion people (39.8%) lack such access. These include 907 million people in South Asia including 756 million in India (72% of the population). China is the only country with a larger number of such people (777 million or 65% of the population).



In Map 2, the size of each territory is shown proportional to the number of people who receive poor water.² Poor water means being reliant upon water sources such as vendors, bottled water, tanker trucks and unprotected wells and springs. Whether someone's access to water is poor is also measured by the sustainability of access to this source. Nearly 1.1 billion people (18%) of the global population lack access to safe water. China has the largest number of people without access to safe tap water, i.e. 324 million people (25% of the population). In India, 168 million people (16% of the population) lack access to clean water. The countries with the largest proportions of populations without access to safe water are Ethiopia (76%), Chad (73%) and Cambodia (70%).

REFERENCES

- 1 <http://www.sasi.group.shef.ac.uk/worldmapper/display.php?selected=183#> (accessed on 20 April 2007.)
- 2 <http://www.sasi.group.shef.ac.uk/worldmapper/display.php?selected=186#> (accessed on 20 April 2007.)