



UNDP GoAL WaSH Programme:

Governance, Advocacy and Leadership for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



Achieving the MDGs

The Global Water and Sanitation Crisis

Photo: C-ECHO-François Goemans



Globally, almost 1 billion people lack clean drinking water. 2.4 billion people have no access to hygienic sanitation facilities. Each day, an average of 5,000 children die due to preventable water and sanitation related diseases. In 2000, through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the

international community committed to halving the proportion of people without access to clean water and basic sanitation by 2015. Overall, the world is on track to meet the water supply MDG, but there are major gaps in many regions and countries, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. On current trends, the world will miss the sanitation target by a staggering 700 million people.

Meeting the MDG water and sanitation targets is more than a health and dignity issue. The evidence is compelling that achieving the water and sanitation goals would trigger a major leap forward in human development:

- Water and sanitation are essential to achieving all of the MDGs;
- Investment in water supply yields an average economic return of \$4.4 to \$1, for sanitation the return is \$9.1 to \$1;
- Human Development is more closely linked to access to water and sanitation than any other indicator, including health and education.

The crisis in water and sanitation overwhelmingly affects the poor. Availability of water is certainly a concern for some countries. But the global water and sanitation crisis is mainly rooted in poverty, power and inequality, not in physical availability. It is, first and foremost, a crisis of governance and thus governance reform must be a key pillar of any strategic approach to addressing the crisis.

UNDP'S Response

UNDP promotes and facilitates equitable access to Water and Sanitation services as a fundamental contribution to enhancing human development.

UNDP works together with government, civil society, private sector and other development partners to bring about the necessary improvements in water governance to scale-up water and sanitation services for the poor. UNDP supports:

- Coordination of country assistance by UN and other development partners;
- Incorporation of water and sanitation into national development planning;
- Governance and policy reform for enhanced water supply and sanitation access;
- Capacity building of institutions and practitioners;
- Special attention to fragile states, where water and sanitation challenges are greatest.

UNDP GoAL WaSH



The GoAL WaSH Programme

GoAL WaSH is an innovative new UNDP program that aims to accelerate achievement of the water and sanitation MDGs through strategically targeted interventions that strengthen governance of the water and sanitation sectors at appropriate levels. Specifically, GoAL WaSH focuses on:

- Countries with low water and sanitation coverage projected not to achieve the water, sanitation or both MDGs;
- Identifying gaps, needs, constraints and opportunities in national water and sanitation plans, strategies and capacities;
- Governance reform, leadership and policy advocacy
- Incorporation of water and sanitation into national MDG and related poverty reduction strategies;
- Close coordination with governments and key development partners active in water and sanitation at country level.

Project Initiatives:



UNDP's Water Governance Programme – Adaptive Water Governance

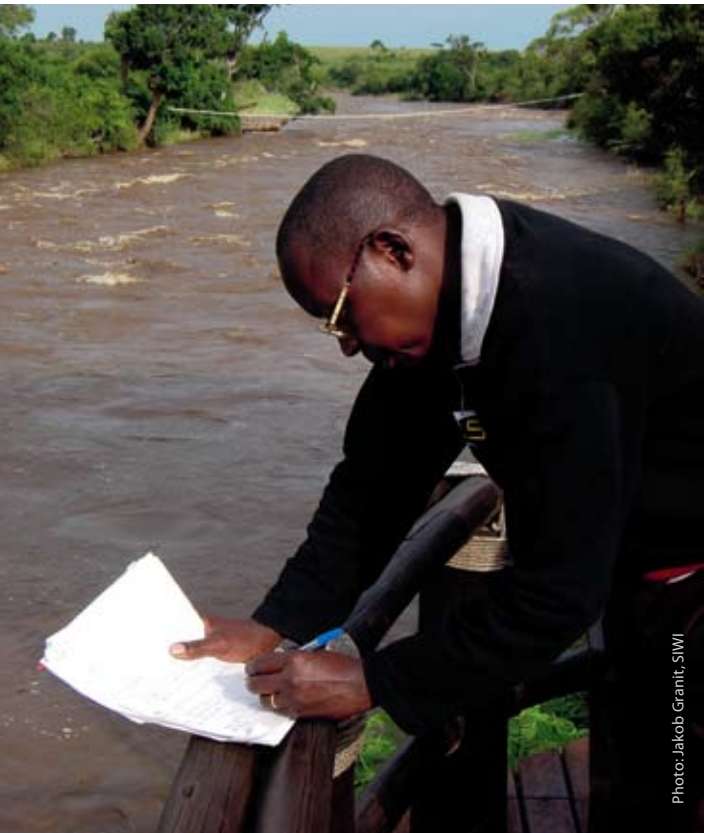
UNDP's Water Governance Programme (UNDP-WGP) works in over 150 countries, providing policy support, capacity building and advisory services in three major strategic areas:

- Water Supply and Sanitation (\$170 m., 34%)
- Integrated Water Resources Management (\$111 m., 22%)
- Regional and Global Cooperation (\$216 m., 44%)

The Water Governance Programme also integrates four 'cross cutting' areas into its broader thematic work:

- Climate Change and Water
- Human Rights Based Approaches (HRBA)
- Mainstreaming Gender into Water
- Knowledge Management

For more information on the UNDP Water Governance Programme see, www.undp.org/water.



**For more information
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