



WATER FOR AFRICAN CITIES
PROGRAMME PHASE II

UN  HABITAT

Abbreviations

AfDB	African Development Bank
AMCOW	African Ministers' Council on Water
AWSB	Athi Water Services Board
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CEGERD	Centre for Gender and Rural Development
CFA	Communité Financière Africain
CRA	Water Supply Regulatory Council
DNA	National Directorate for Water Affairs
DNACPN	National Sanitation and Pollution Nuisances' Control Department
EIB	European Investment Bank
FCPB	Fédération des Caisses Populaires du Burkina Faso
FM	Frequency Modulation
GTZ	German Overseas Development Agency
KENSUP	Kenya Slum Upgrading Programme
LVSWSB	Lake Victoria South Water Services Board
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NWSC	National Water and Sewerage Corporation
ONEA	National Water and Sanitation Authority
PDSEC	Community Plans for Social Economic and Cultural Development
PROSEA	Support to the MGD WATSAN Sector Programme
PRTV	Plateau radio and television Corporation
RWSSI	Rural Water Supply and sanitation Initiatives
SBP	Strategic Business Plan
SEC	Settlement Executive Committee
SIITRAT	Sulabh International Institute of Technical Research and Training
TOT	Training of Trainers
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WATSAN	Water and Sanitation
WC	Water closet
WDM	Water Demand Management
WHO	World Health Organisation
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WSHE	Water Sanitation and Hygiene Education
WSTF	Water and Sanitation Trust Fund

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Foreword

According to the 2009 World Water Development Report¹, the link between poverty and water resources is obvious: the number of people living on less than US\$1.25 a day corresponds approximately with the number of those without access to safe drinking water. Furthermore, almost 80% of diseases in developing countries are associated with water, causing some three million early deaths. For example, 5,000 children die every day from diarrhoea, or one every 17 seconds. The “business as usual” scenario means an estimated 5 billion people (67% of the world population) may still be without improved sanitation in 2030.

The latest report of the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme² concludes that it is only in 9 out of 53 African countries where more than 50% of the population use improved sanitation facilities, while only 26 countries are on track to meet the drinking water target and 341 million people rely on unimproved drinking water sources. It is imperative therefore that Africa and its development partners live up to their commitments if the MDG on Water Supply and Sanitation targets are to be met.

Urban areas will strongly influence the world of the twenty-first century. Africa has the world’s most rapid urbanisation growth with

an estimated annual average of 3.31% between 2005 and 2010, and it is projected that the African urban population will grow to 759.4 million by 2030 from 373.4 million in 2007³.

Currently, availability and levels of urban infrastructure services in Africa are poor compared to all other continents. This and other factors have resulted in the growth of slums – situations where between 60 and 70 per cent of the people have to live in squalid conditions that are devoid of basic infrastructure services. The lack of improved water supply and basic sanitation services is the most important feature of slums in the African urban context.

This has significant adverse effects on economic growth and development, including the loss of time needed to collect water and the loss of productivity and lives plus rising health costs due to water related diseases and illness. But the time, energy and health costs saved by improved water and sanitation can instead be invested in productive economic activities for accelerating local to national development.

The Water for African Cities Programme is part of the wider efforts of UN-HABITAT to contribute towards meeting the Millennium Development Goal targets of halving the number of people without

1. UNESCO, *World Water Development Report 2009*

2. WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme, *Water Supply and Sanitation Snapshot Report for Africa, 2008*

3. UN-HABITAT, *State of African Cities Report, 2008*

access to safe water and sanitation by 2015, and promoting environmental sustainability. It also seeks to help create an enabling environment for pro-poor investment for water supply and sanitation services. The programme is focused on facilitating measures to ensure access to environmentally sound water and sanitation services to the unserved and underserved populations, through demonstration projects and capacity building support interventions for water supply and sanitation utilities, local governments, NGOs and communities to help improve service provision for the poor in these city slums.

Over the past 5 years, the programme has been working in major African cities to develop capacity to improve management of urban water supply and sanitation to benefit the poor. Working through collaborative teams of implementation partners, strategic partners, and the African Development Bank, the programme employs a flexible framework for collaboration with partners. Over the years, the Water for African Cities Programme activities have given rise to a number of successful outcomes, such as: tool kits to improve water and sanitation governance that target the poor; institutional capacity building interventions to enhance performance of utilities; mainstreaming gender into water and sanitation policies and strategies; promoting better awareness and stronger support for the sector at the political level; and fostering effective community participatory approaches in water and sanitation sector activities.

This brochure has been prepared in order to highlight some of the successes that the programme has achieved and to share the lessons and challenges encountered thus far in implementing the programme. UN-HABITAT will continue with its efforts to improve the living environment in urban areas through employing such measures so as to improve basic urban services in an environmentally friendly manner, and to contribute to the global efforts towards mitigating the effects of climate change.

Anna Tibaijuka

Under-Secretary General and
Executive Director, UN-HABITAT



1. INTRODUCTION

A recent Global Monitoring Report¹ by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund concluded that in nearly eight years since the 2000 Millennium Summit, the world has not made the necessary progress to achieve key Millennium Development Goals (MDG) targets by 2015 and based on current trends Africa could miss all the targets.

Of special concern is the growing gap between service delivery rates and the 2015 targets for water and sanitation in cities and small urban centres which will soon house the majority of the African population. The eThikweni declaration adopted at the AfricaSan conference on sanitation and hygiene held in South Africa in February 2008 as part of African observance of the International Year of Sanitation provides a sobering assessment of the sanitation situation in Africa:

- a) 589 million people, more than 60% of Africa's population, currently do not have access to safe sanitation
- b) An estimated 1 million Africans die every year from sanitation, hygiene and drinking water related diseases
- c) The associated human, social, health, environmental and infrastructural costs of inadequate sanitation are a major burden on Africa's economy and that an investment in sanitation positively impacts related development targets

1. GMR, 2008.

The lack of clean water and basic sanitation for so many already poor people has significant adverse effects on economic growth and development, including the loss of time needed to collect water and the loss of productivity and lives plus rising health costs due to water related diseases and illness. But the time, energy and health costs saved by improved water and sanitation can instead be invested in productive economic activities for accelerating local to national development.

The growing numbers of urban residents, especially the urban poor, pay increasingly higher prices due to inadequacy of safe drinking water and basic sanitation. They are also faced with increasing health burden emanating from water, sanitation and hygiene related diseases.

In Sub Saharan Africa alone, it is estimated that urbanisation shall have increased from 215 million to 400 million by 2015 indicating that more effort will be required to meet the growing demand within urban areas.² Furthermore, within peri-urban and rural neighbourhoods, more than 18% of the population still engage in open defecation and poor hygiene practices.

2. According to the UN WORLD WATER development Report 2

It is the mandate of UN-HABITAT in pursuit of the MDG targets around which Water for African Cities (WAC) Programme has been focussing its interventions. The Programme was initiated in December 1999, as a direct follow-up of the Cape Town declaration of 1997 adopted by African ministers to address the urgent need to employ better practices in the management of water resources in African cities. One of the most notable successes of the first phase of the programme was the wide acceptance of water demand management as the cheapest form of augmenting supply at both utility and national policy-making levels. The implementation of a catchment management strategy also provided a unique platform to bring together diverse stakeholders from the urban water and environment sectors and community groups into action-planning, monitoring and implementation of local environment management of water resources.

The Water and Sanitation Trust Fund is structured around three programme outcomes as articulated in the WSTF Strategic Plan for 2008-2012. These are:

- a) Increased institutional capacity in partner countries for advocating, promoting and implementing poor-pro water and sanitation initiatives and policies;
- b) Increased flow of investment into water and sanitation sector catalysed by WSTF interventions;
- c) Improved Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) monitoring mechanisms in place in partner countries, with improved benchmarking of water and sanitation service providers.

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