

United Nations Human
Settlements Programme
(UN-HABITAT)
WATER AND SANITATION
TRUST FUND

annual report

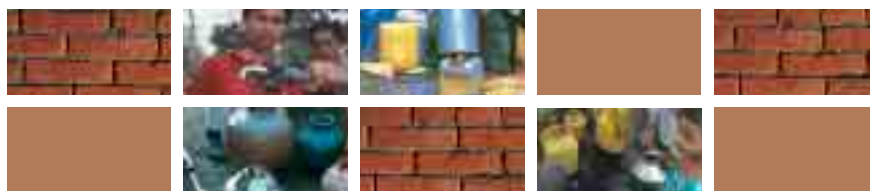
2006



UN-HABITAT

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Foreword

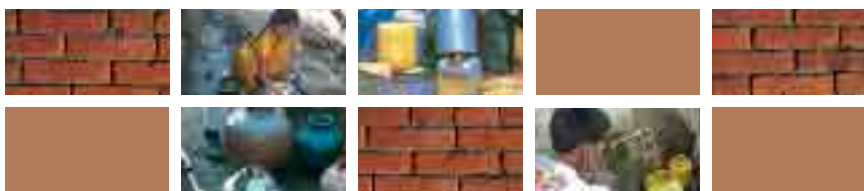


Meeting the challenge of halving the number of people who lack access to safe water and adequate sanitation by 2015 will take a concerted effort and a great deal of determination and commitment. It will require the unprecedented generosity and compassion of the international community, diligent and professional commitment application by all stakeholders in the water and sanitation sector and the consistent and unwavering political goodwill of governments, particularly those in the developing world. The inclusion of the poor by creating in them a sense of ownership will be imperative in devising appropriate and sustainable solutions.

The UN-HABITAT experience in the water and sanitation sector indicates that enhancing capacity in the sector alone will not lead to improvement in access to basic services for the urban poor unless these are closely linked to follow-up investments. With a view to enhancing its effectiveness and outreach in serving its member countries, and as a direct response to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, UN-HABITAT announced the establishment of a Water and Sanitation Trust Fund on World Habitat Day, October 7, 2002. The objective of the Fund is to create an enabling environment for pro-poor investment in water and sanitation in developing country cities, and support implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Millennium Development Goals, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

The Trust Fund supports cities and communities which have demonstrated their commitment, to promote investment in water and sanitation that are specifically targeted to the poorest of the poor. A fast-track mechanism for reaching out to the urban poor, the Fund provides a bridge for them to access benefits from city-wide sector improvements which often by-pass them.

This annual report for 2006 highlights the major outputs and outcomes of various activities supported by WSTF. During this period, the programme delivery capacity of UN-HABITAT has further strengthened with the engagement of additional project management staff in the regions, and through greater involvement of Habitat Programme Managers (HPMs) at country level. The year 2006 has seen the Water for Cities Programme complete more than 66 per cent of our operational activities. A rapid gender assessment methodology developed by Water for African Cities has been adopted by 17 participating cities in 14 countries.



Increased pro-poor investment flows have been realised in four cities in Madhya Pradesh (India) and one town in Nepal. The Water for Asian Cities Programme has facilitated participatory poverty mapping in 20 slums across the four cities in Madhya Pradesh, and in a peri-urban settlement in Kathmandu, Nepal. Revolving funds have been established in India and Lao PDR for water and sanitation.

The existing gap in information on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target groups and their spatial location in urban areas have often led to inadequate provisions for water and sanitation sector needs in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs). This poses a key challenge in designing programmes that will effectively support achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for water and sanitation. The launching of Trust Fund initiatives that support secondary towns in Lake Victoria and the Mekong regions to meet water and sanitation MDG targets underscore this critical challenge.

Improving access to safe water, helping to provide adequate sanitation to millions of low income urban dwellers, and developing indicators for measuring the impact of these interventions, are the highest priorities for the UN-HABITAT Water and Sanitation Programme. A strategic partnership with the Asian Development Bank (AsDB) has facilitated additional pro-poor investment in water and sanitation during 2006 amounting to US\$ 125 million in the region (US\$ 100 million in Nanjing, China and US\$ 25 million in Lao DPR). Similarly, UN-HABITAT is collaborating with African Development Bank (AfDB) and as per the MoU anticipating joint grant contributions of US\$ 217 million and fast track loans of US\$ 362 million over the next five years. UN-HABITAT acknowledges the contributing members' support to the Trust Fund and the Lake Victoria Region Water and Sanitation Initiative (LV-WATSAN) supported by the Government of the Netherlands.

The year 2006 has seen a consolidation of programme activities in the four major areas, namely normative, operational, special initiatives and monitoring activities. The co-location of the Water, Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch and Slum Upgrading Facility under the Human Settlements Financing Division will lead to significant strengthening of the activities of both facilities, and to enhancing the pre-investment capacity building role of UN-HABITAT in supporting Governments and their development partners in attaining the human settlements related Millennium Development Goals.

In 2007 and beyond, the UN-HABITAT Water and Sanitation Trust Fund looks forward to assisting more people attain the health benefits of access to safe drinking water, and the human dignity that comes with adequate sanitation.

Anna K. Tibaijuka
Under-Secretary General and Executive Director, UN-HABITAT

**UN-HABITAT
WATER AND SANITATION
TRUST FUND**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2006 in retrospect

Strategic partnerships continue to lead the way

The spirit of co-operation prevailed in the year 2006. The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between African Development Bank (AfDB) and UN-HABITAT in March 2006 has helped to reinforce the strategic partnership between the two organisations. The MoU sets out the framework under which UN-HABITAT and AfDB will collaborate to facilitate safe water supplies and sanitation in African cities and small urban centers. At the World Water Week in Stockholm during August 2006, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced an increase in its loan component by US\$ 1 billion and its grant component by US\$ 10 million for the Water for Asian Cities Programme.

The strengthening of strategic partnerships has contributed immensely to the success of many programmes.

Increasing visibility at international forums

UN-HABITAT contributed effectively to four major international events that took place during the reporting period and this provided a new impetus to the international water and sanitation agenda. These events were:

1. The Fourth World Water Forum held in Mexico City on March 16-22, 2006;
2. The Third World Urban Forum (WUF III) held in Vancouver, Canada on June 19-23, 2006;
3. The World Water Week 2006 in Stockholm, which took place from August 20-26, 2006; and
4. The Asia Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Human Settlements, held in New Delhi, India from December 13-16, 2006.

A focus on local actions was the highlight of all these meetings – an essential requirement for speedily attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). At the Asia Pacific Ministers Conference, water and sanitation was given special emphasis.

Programme Context

- Strategic partnership with African Development Bank – MoU signed in March 2006.
- Enhanced MoU with Asian Development Bank increasing the loan component to US\$ 1 billion and TA grant to US\$ 10 million.
- Cash deficit leads to roll over the programme activities to 2007-2008.
- Enhanced framework for implementation of water & sanitation unanimously endorsed at Asia-Pacific Ministers Conference.
- Promotion of Water Operators Partnerships by UN-HABITAT for structured programme of co-operation.
- Strengthening of WSIB and Development of new organogram.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A major new initiative

During the reporting period, the UN Secretary Generals Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation presented a report titled Hashimoto Action Plan: Compendium of Actions at the Fourth World Water Forum in Mexico. Among the actions recommended by the Advisory Board is the promotion of a mechanism – Water Operators Partnerships (WOPs) – for a structured programme of co-operation among water operators. This initiative aims at strengthening the capacities of the public water operators that currently provide over 90% of the world's water and sanitation services. In this context, UN-HABITAT partnered UNDESA to hold two regional capacity building workshops in Bangkok and Nairobi for the WOPs. It is noteworthy that the Secretary General recommended UN-HABITAT to be the appropriate agency to promote and co-ordinate activities related to the WOPs.

The Water Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch (WSIB) was given a new makeover to enhance the delivery capacity of the programme. This included the development of a more structured organogram for the Branch and the recruitment of further staff for the programme. Partnership with other UN-HABITAT branches and outsourcing of implementation to partners was also enhanced during the reporting period. To give more muscle to the programme, the terms of reference for a Mid-term Review of the Trust Fund activities was approved by a Steering Committee.



Will donor contributions meet the shortfall?

Despite earnest efforts to widen the donor base during the period, the challenge of finding a more stable cash base for the Funds activities still remains

Cash contributions received from donors to the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund (WSTF) over the reporting period amounted to US\$ 9.6 million. Together with the cash overflows from 2005, this provided a cash base of US\$ 18.39 million for 2006. However, projected expenditures approved by the Advisory Board for the general WSTF for 2006 amounted to US\$ 17.1 million. Thus there was a cash overflow of US\$ 5.2 million that was carried over into 2007.

The Swedish government increased its contribution by an additional SEK13m (US\$ 1.8 million) and the Norwegian government committed a further (US\$ 2.1 million) for 2006 and (US\$ 2.1 million) for 2007. As at the end of the year, available cash receipts to the general Trust Fund for 2007 (as per signed agreements with the contributing donors) stands at US\$ 8.9 million, while projected expenditures as approved in 2005 stand at US\$ 19 million. If no further cash receipts are available to cover the expected shortfall of about US\$ 5.8 million during 2007, it will seriously inhibit the achievement of the planned objectives.

Despite earnest efforts to widen the donor base during the period, the challenge of finding a more stable cash base for the Funds activities still remains. While there is no let-up in fund-raising efforts, it may be necessary for the current donors to consider increasing their contributions in order to recover the lost ground.

On the bright side, cash receipts from the Netherlands for LV-WATSAN programme have been stable, thereby allowing the milestones for LV-WATSAN to be reached on schedule. To date, US\$ 10.8 million has been received for the implementation of activities between January 2006 and July 2007.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

What have we achieved in 2006?

All four areas of the Trust Fund programme have benefitted enormously from consolidation during 2006 i.e.

- **normative activities,**
- **regional operational activities,**
- **replicable model setting initiatives, and**
- **monitoring of progress.**

In terms of short-term deliverables (outputs) in 2006, eight out of 16 outputs were fully delivered in respect of normative activities, while others were in progress. The regional programmes delivered 12 out of 24 outputs for Africa and 28 out of 42 outputs for Asia, while the rest were in various stages of completion. In the realm of strategic initiatives in Lake Victoria and Mekong regions, five out of 11 outputs were delivered while others were in progress. Finally, monitoring of progress with MDGs saw two out of three outputs being delivered while the remaining one is in the progress.

Turning to medium-term deliverables (outcomes), there is a heartening influx of pro-poor investment flows. The synergies accruing from partnerships at the local level between participating countries, and the strategic level between the regional development banks are unfolding in promising ways. With passage of time, more people are experiencing the direct benefits of demonstration activities, as well as the intangible but no less valuable effects of capacity building, gender mainstreaming and human values in water, sanitation and hygiene education.

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