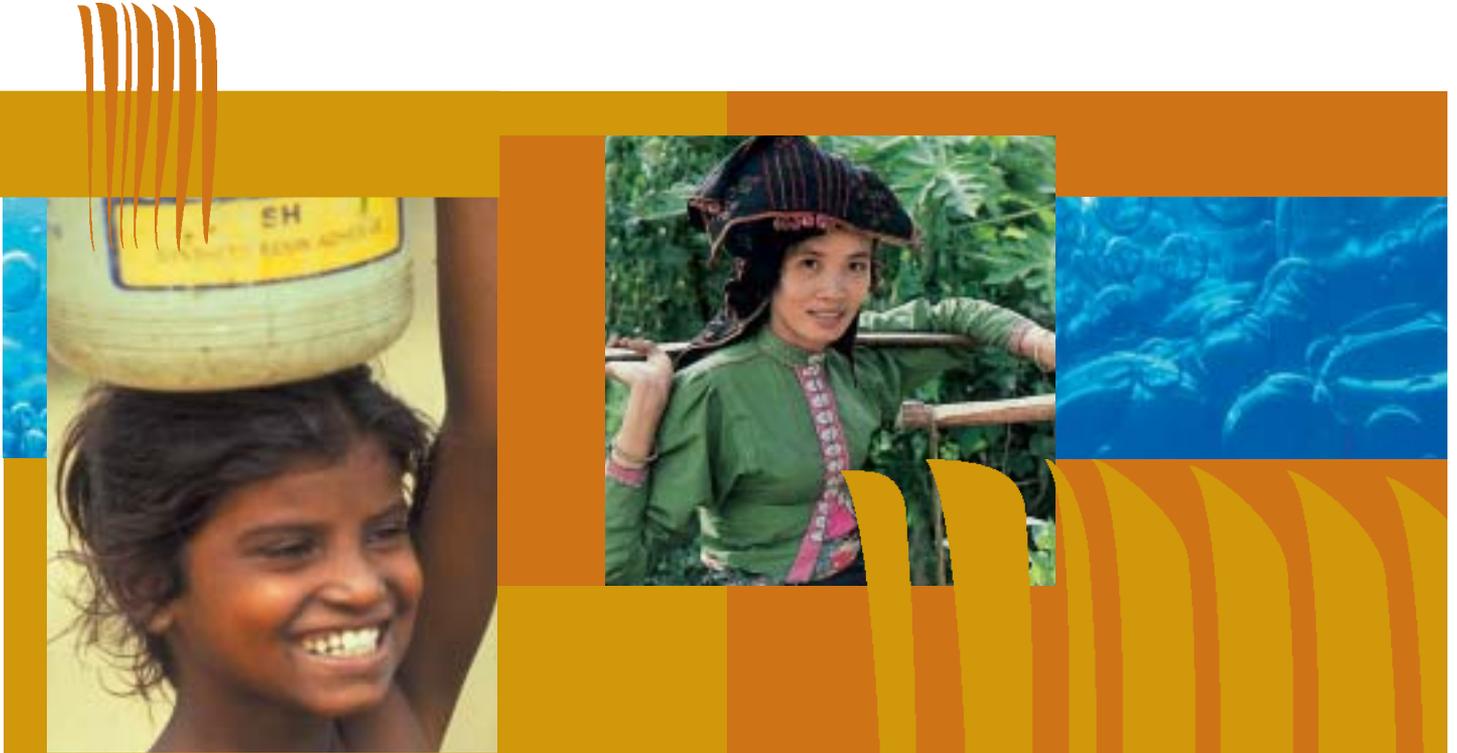


Water for Asian Cities Programme



An Initiative of the **UN-HABITAT**
Water and Sanitation Trust Fund
To promote Pro-poor Investment in Water and
Sanitation to support Millennium
Development Goals



UN-HABITAT



The Asia-Pacific region has been known for its economic vibrancy and heady growth. Yet, the long-term sustainability of this development is now seriously threatened as a growing water crisis takes on an ominous dimension in large parts of Asia. Per capita fresh water availability in the Asian region is among the lowest in the world. Over abstraction of ground water has reached critical proportions in coastal cities like Dhaka, Jakarta and Manila. Health risks continue to rise as many cities recklessly discard untreated human and hazardous wastes into fresh water bodies.



Message of the Executive Director, UN-HABITAT

The Asia-Pacific region has been known for its economic vibrancy and heady growth. Yet, its long-term future is seriously threatened by a growing water crisis in large parts of Asia. Per capita fresh water in the Asian region is among the lowest in the world. Utilisation of ground water has reached critical proportions in coastal cities such as Dhaka, Jakarta and Manila. Intense competition is emerging between cities for shared water resources. Health risks continue to rise as many cities recklessly discard untreated human and hazardous wastes into fresh water bodies.

Conserving the precious water resources of our cities is undoubtedly an urgent priority, but the most daunting challenge we face today comes from the burgeoning informal settlements in our towns and cities that are today home to nearly half of our urban populations. Hundreds of millions of our fellow citizens living in these settlements are denied the right of access to safe water and basic sanitation. The Millennium Summit provided us with clear goals to set out priorities. Improving the living conditions of 100 million people living in slums by 2020 will remain a distant dream if we are unable to provide them with safe water and adequate sanitation.

In March 2003, UN-HABITAT signed an agreement with the President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), during the 3rd World Water Forum, under which ADB and UN-HABITAT, with assistance from the Government of The Netherlands, will jointly contribute US\$10 million in grant support, to be assisted by a US\$500 million investment credit from ADB to Asian Cities, specifically targeted to the urban poor. This pro-poor investment will be of critical importance in a region which is home to 70 per cent of world's poor. Further, UN-HABITAT has established two financing facilities, the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund, and the Settlement Upgrading Facility both designed to support the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)



I am happy to note that with the support of the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund, ADB and other partner agencies working with UN-HABITAT, several new initiatives in the poorer cities and areas in the Asian Region have been launched to meet the challenge of providing safe water and adequate sanitation. UN-HABITAT looks forward to productive and concrete outcomes with significant support and commitment from our partners in the international community on water and sanitation. The new initiatives in the region underscore UN-HABITAT's commitment to work tirelessly for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.



Mrs. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka
Executive Director
United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UN-HABITAT



Asia-Pacific Scenario

Urban Sustainability in Asia and the Pacific is seriously threatened by the growing water and sanitation crisis. Asia is facing a major challenge in the water and sanitation sector. Eighty per cent of the global population without access to improved sanitation, and almost two-thirds without access to improved water supply, live in Asia. In the year 2000, some 830 million people in developing Asia and the Pacific did not have safe drinking water. More than 2 billion lacked sanitation facilities. These acute shortages cause high rates of water-borne disease and death.

Inadequacies in provision for water and sanitation in cities in Asia

Many Asian cities, where 56 per cent of the population will live by 2025, are ill-equipped to provide their growing populations the safe water and sanitation they need. Up to one in four residents in the region lacks formal sanitation.

In **Kolkata**, about half the population living in the slum or squatter colonies collect water from standposts. The rest of this population do not have access to the municipal water supply and have to make their own arrangements — relying on hand pumps drawing from tube wells.

It is estimated that in **Bangalore**, a city of some 6 million inhabitants, more than half of the city's population depend on public fountains — but these often have broken taps or pipes and damaged platforms. Almost a third of the population has partial or no access to piped water.

In **Dhaka**, the head of Dhaka's water and sewerage authority estimated in 2002 that there were 2.5 million people in Dhaka's 'slums' with most having very inadequate provision for water and sanitation. Seventy per cent of the population had no sewers. Tens of thousands of children die each year in Dhaka due to waterborne diseases and polluted water.

In **Faisalabad**, some two thirds of the city's two million inhabitants live in largely unserviced areas. Over half have no piped water supply and less than a third have sewers.

More than half of **Karachi's** 12 million inhabitants live in katchi abadis (Slums). Only half the katchi abadis have piped water and only 12 per cent have provision for sanitation. Only 40 per cent of the city's population is connected to the official sewer system.

In Metro **Manila** in 1995, 67 per cent of the population had no piped water, although this included several hundred thousand who had access only to public taps, within an average of 357 persons per tap. The other third relied mostly on wells. In 1995, 31 per cent of the population of 2.25 million had house connections, with 10 per cent reliant on public taps (an average of 100 persons per tap) and 58 per cent not connected (mostly relying on tube wells and dug wells). A high proportion of the population lived in places with 50 or more persons per toilet. There are serious problems with flooding, linked to inadequate drainage in many parts of the city.

The Programme Rationale

To meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set to halve the world's population without access to safe water by 2015 and to achieve improvement in the lives of slum dwellers by 2020, an additional 1.5 billion people in Asia will need access to adequate sanitation facilities, while an additional 980 million will need access to safe water. In urban areas, the corresponding figures are 675 million and 619 million respectively.

In many Asian cities water supply is limited to only a few hours a day which not only restricts water availability but also poses serious health risks due to infiltration of pollution into the system. Intermittent, unreliable supplies and large volumes of unaccounted-for water are an indication of poor demand management and inefficient operation and maintenance in Asian Countries.

Demand Supply Gap

The current levels of investment in the sector within the region is quite inadequate to bridge widening demand-supply gap and to extend services to urban low-income settlements. In 1999, Asian Development Bank (ADB) lent US\$1.24 billion, or a quarter of its lending, for water-related operations in the region. Yet the world needs US\$70 billion a year just to bridge the gaps in water supply and sanitation services over the next 10 years. With no immediate prospects for a rapid increase in external investment flows into the sector, most governments are increasingly becoming aware of the need for more intensified domestic mobilisation of funds for the sector. This will require a strong political commitment in the face of competing demands from other sectors. Elevating water and sanitation issues higher on the political agenda is an urgent priority that will require investment in advocacy, information and education.

The New Delhi Consultation

The Water for Asian Cities Programme Consultation organised by UN-HABITAT in co-operation with the Asian Development Bank and held in New Delhi from 10 to 11 April 2002 was attended by more than 100 participants from 16 Asian countries and 12 external support agencies. The participants shared their experience in the water and sanitation sector, analysed the key problems and issues currently faced and identified a clear set of action priorities. A key outcome of the Consultation was the consensus recommendation to UN-HABITAT and its partners to launch a regional programme on water for Asian cities.

The launch of the WAC programme

The Water for Asian Cities (WAC) Programme, which was officially launched at the 3rd World Water Forum on 18 March 2003, is a collaborative initiative between UN-HABITAT and ADB. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between ADB and UN-HABITAT during the World Water Forum in Osaka, Japan. Under the framework of MoU between ADB and UN-HABITAT, the WAC Programme is being implemented in selected cities of Asian Countries in five sub-regions viz. South Asia, South East Asia, Mekong, East and Central Asia and the Pacific.

Development Objective

To support developing countries in Asia and the Pacific to achieve sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation for the poor, particularly in urban areas.

Goal

The goal of UN-HABITAT Water for Asian Cities Programme is to contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed goals related to water and sanitation in human settlements in the Asia-Pacific region with particular focus on the urban poor in order to facilitate an equitable social, economic and environmental development.

Programme Activities

Country Level Operations in Participating Cities

- Support the development and implementation of city-level pro-poor governance and demand responsive strategies that give more influence to the urban poor in collective decision-making on water and basic sanitation;
- Develop strategies and promote measures to facilitate pro-poor investments in urban water supply and sanitation, (including strategic partnerships with Development Banks, multilaterals, and public-private-NGO partnerships);
- Promote innovative water and sanitation options with a focus on support to small scale informal providers, rainwater harvesting techniques, on-site sanitation, low-cost sewerage, wastewater reuse etc. to improve access to the urban poor;
- Develop, implement and promote Water Demand Management measures within water supply utilities in participating cities;
- Develop and implement urban water management strategies (including livelihood programmes) to protect and secure water resources in urban catchments.

Regional Activities

Advocacy, Awareness Raising and Information Exchange

- Commission knowledge, attitude and practice surveys to establish baseline data for development of city-level awareness campaigns;
- Develop city awareness campaign strategies/action plans and build capacity of utilities to implement sustainable public awareness campaigns focused on the thematic priorities of the city programmes;
- Promote regional media network, produce and disseminate supporting information and promotional material to raise awareness on key social, environmental and economic issues in relation to pro-poor, gender sensitive approaches to urban water management.

Training and Capacity Building

- Identify Regional Resource Centers and liaise to develop framework for Water and Sanitation capacity-building initiatives and organisational training of Water and Sanitation personnel at all levels;

- Provide national policy and sector reform advice through training and capacity building programmes, workshops and seminars.

Values Based Water Education in Schools and the Community

- Conduct baseline study and gender analysis of schools and identify pilot schools for value based approach to Water and Sanitation education;
- Prepare materials, undertake training of trainers and introduce value based water, sanitation and hygiene education to create a new ethic among school children and the community;
- Establish water classrooms in identified pilot schools.

Gender Mainstreaming

- Develop Gender strategic planning tools and facilitate gender mainstreaming policy to increase involvement of women, youth and other groups in decision-making at all levels.

Monitoring Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI)

- Develop capacity at the city-level and in the regions and facilitate local networks for monitoring of progress towards Water and Sanitation MDGs and JPOI targets.

Three Inter-linked Programme Priorities

- Introducing demand responsive and demand management strategies
- Scaling up sanitation provision citywide through innovative public-private-NGO partnerships, financing mechanisms and appropriate technical choices
- New pro-poor investments in urban water supply and sanitation.

Implementation Strategies Focus on:

- Water sector reforms based on transparent policy, independent regulation and involvement of civil society.
- Tariff policy reforms that promote sustainable investments by phasing out subsidies.



Country-level Activities



India

UN-HABITAT is working in four cities of the state of Madhya Pradesh, viz. Bhopal, Gwalior, Indore and Jabalpur for which Asian Development Bank has approved a loan of US\$181 million predominantly for the improvement and expansion of urban water supply, sewerage and sanitation, water drainage and solid waste management. The ADB loan for Urban Water Supply and Environment Improvement Project (UWSEIP) for four cities in M.P. has become effective in June 2005. Implementation of the ADB project will benefit the population of these four cities.

UN-HABITAT Interventions

The Programme Initiatives

- Pro-poor urban water and sanitation governance.
- Development of Water Demand Management (WDM) strategy in four cities.
- Slums Environmental Sanitation Initiative.
- Developing strategies for Gender Mainstreaming.
- Capacity building of the Municipal Corporations and concerned stakeholders.

Development of Pro-poor and Gender Sensitive Governance Frameworks

A full-fledged strategy framework for water and sanitation governance has been developed which will influence and direct the benefits of project investments to the poor in the four cities of Madhya Pradesh where UN-HABITAT is engaged in partnership with other stakeholders.

These include:

- Focus on demand assessment.
- Rights-based approach to services.
- Pro-poor cost recovery mechanisms, ability to pay.
- Innovative pricing mechanisms.
- Demand management, water education & water conservation.
- Integrated Environmental Sanitation & Hygiene Behaviour Change.

- Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E).
- Knowledge Sharing including partnership development with civil society.
- Develop indicators and monitoring systems.
- Raising awareness, advocacy, measurement, benchmarking, exposure visits, workshops, regional sharing, impact evaluation etc.

The strategy framework on Pro-poor water and sanitation governance was endorsed for implementation by all stakeholders including the Mayors of the four cities in a workshop jointly organised by UN-HABITAT and ADB in Bhopal in March 2005.

City	Total Population (2001 Census) (in thousand)	Recognised Slums	Estimated Slum Population (As per MCs) (in thousand)	Slum Population to total Population Percentage	Illegal colonies
Bhopal	1433.88	487	432	30.1	131
Gwalior	826.92	149	478	57.8	265
Indore	1597.44	406	260	16.3	349
Jabalpur	951.47	331	400	42.0	47

Source: ADB PPTA Report on IUD in M.P.

Country-level Activities

Strategy for Gender-mainstreaming

Focusing on gender leads to benefits such as better procurement, operation and maintenance (O&M), cost recovery and hygiene awareness. Other benefits of gender focus include (a) more time for women for income generating activities (b) benefit to children, especially girls, who can go to school and (c) empowerment of women through use of productive resources such as credit for income-generating activities.

A rapid gender assessment shall be the basis for the development of Gender Mainstreaming Strategy for Water and Sanitation and Capacity Building. The project has been undertaken in partnership with Mahila Chetna Manch, a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) based in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh which inter alia includes the following:

- Rapid Gender Assessment of the four project cities.
- Development of Gender Mainstreaming strategy for WAC Programme in M.P.
- Action plans for Gender Mainstreaming for each project city in M.P.
- Capacity Building for implementation of Gender Mainstreaming strategy.

Developing Urban Water Demand Management (WDM)

UN-HABITAT in partnership with Water Resources Planning and Conservation (WRP) of South Africa and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) of India is formulating a detailed Water Demand Management (WDM) strategy and implementation plan for Indore, Bhopal, Gwalior and Jabalpur.

A water balancing study, preparing a detailed database on a Geographical Information System (GIS) platform has been developed in all the four project cities with the aim of making effective recommendations on reducing unaccounted for water so that available water supply is efficiently distributed to meet the needs of the poorer sections of society.

One of the key objectives of this project is to build capacity at all levels for developing and implementation of WDM strategy and mainstreaming WDM through the development of course curriculum of local institutions. Water zone areas will be identified in each of the cities for pilot demonstration of WDM measures building on innovative partnerships which can later be upscaled city-wide.

Integrated Urban Environmental Sanitation and Behaviour change

A community-based project on Urban Environmental Sanitation in twenty slums in four cities of Madhya Pradesh has been planned in partnership with WaterAid India (WAI), AARAMBH, SAMBHAV and four Municipal Corporations of Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior and Jabalpur at a total cost of US\$1.3 million including the counterpart contributions by WAI and the Municipal Corporations.

The activities under this include mapping the poor, awareness campaigns, community mobilisation, training and capacity building of the community, values-based water and sanitation education and many innovative initiatives that include rooftop rainwater harvesting in schools, provision of individual and community toilets as well as school toilet blocks.

Innovative Water and Sanitation Initiatives

Small Scale Informal Providers (SSIP) for instance through a system of piped water network can provide immediate relief to many people. In order to explore the feasibility of piped water supply systems through SSIPs, UN-HABITAT together with ADB had a joint mission in the four project cities of Madhya Pradesh, India in May 2005. The objective of this initiative is to explore possibilities of setting up pilot projects in these cities which may be scaled up later for other areas and cities of Madhya Pradesh and elsewhere. This will show that with the appropriate support to small scale informal water providers and home owners association, it is possible to serve many people by setting up independent distribution systems for piped water supply in the meantime that the formal water utility is unable to provide the service.

Monitoring & Evaluation and Knowledge Sharing

Baseline surveys for mapping the poor for all the four cities in Madhya Pradesh based on inequities in access have been planned and are expected to be completed by end 2005. Secondary data based on below poverty line surveys and GIS and satellite maps have been collected and are being analysed for planning further interventions.



Country-level Activities



Nepal

Nepal being among the least developed countries in South Asia has received special attention under WAC Programme. The Ministry of Physical Planning and Works (MPPW), Government of Nepal, has recently established a partnership with UN-HABITAT's WAC Programme to demonstrate innovative approaches and improve water and sanitation situation in some peri-urban centres and small towns within and outside the Kathmandu Valley. MPPW has proposed four peri-urban settlements viz. **Khokana, Bungmati, Siddhipur** and **Lubhu** and three municipalities viz. **Thimi, Banepa** and **Dhulikhel** for this programme to be implemented.

Community-based Water Supply and Sanitation Initiatives

This is an innovative partnership between the local authority, NGOs including ENPHO, CIUD, Lumanti and WaterAid and civil society including the community-based water user committee and local artisans. This initiative will provide valuable lessons for implementing similar projects in other areas as well. The objectives are:

- Demonstration of how a community can work with a water supply entity to acquire safe water and adequate sanitation;
- Demonstration of pro-poor connection charges and tariffs;

- Improved community awareness of environmental sanitation;
- Creation of job opportunities;
- Enhanced capacity of local authority, WATSAN User's Committee, and local masons.

Integrated Urban Environmental Sanitation and Behaviour Change

ADB is implementing this pilot and demonstration programme to promote simple and effective community-based water and wastewater treatment systems in peri-urban communities in the Kathmandu Valley and demonstrate their application at the community level. Major components of the programme are:

- Construction of a community scale reed bed wastewater treatment system;
- Demonstration of ecological sanitation system;
- Setting up of a water optimisation demonstration building;
- Promotion of SODIS as a simple and cost effective household-scale drinking water treatment option;
- Conducting a national seminar to demonstrate the projects;
- Development of IEC materials for mass educational replication.

Tool Development for Pro-poor Water and Sanitation Governance

Within a collaborative framework between Thimi Municipality, and the Centre for

Integrated Urban Development (CIUD) and WaterAid Nepal, a series of tools for pro-poor water and sanitation governance are being developed. They include methodologies for mapping the poor using GIS and remote sensing, rapid gender assessment and Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) for low-income settlements. The developed approaches will be replicated within the framework of Water for Asian Cities Programme.

Capacity Building

An orientation programme on sanitation has given impetus to the Government in incorporating some of the concepts like rainwater harvesting, wastewater management in the draft national urban development policy document. A programme has also been designed to train technicians from 28 municipalities of Nepal Water Supply Corporation (NWSC) on theoretical and practical knowledge on water quality and its testing.

Urban Water Demand Management (WDM) Initiatives

In order to develop and promote water demand management measures within the water supply utility, Nepal Water Supply Corporation Professionals have been trained on WDM in India who are now in the process of developing WDM strategy for some of the small towns and peri-urban settlements of Kathmandu Valley.



Country-level Activities



Lao PDR

The Lao PDR government has adopted a National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy (NGPES) for the implementation of all its development programmes. Reflecting the significance of the sector, this strategy has identified water supply and sanitation as one of four key priority sectors to be developed in order to meet the government's economic growth and poverty eradication objectives.

UN-HABITAT, ADB and government of Lao PDR agree on the benefits and synergy a partnership could bring to the sector in Lao PDR. Consequently, there is agreement-in-principle to develop a medium- to long-term, tri-partite strategy for collaboration. A fact-finding mission will soon set out the details of this strategy.

The dialogue between the government and ADB has resulted an agreement on a joint initiative on the recently approved ADB-funded Northern and Central Regions Water Supply Development Project. UN-HABITAT is providing US\$0.5 million capacity building assistance to this US\$25 million project for water supply and sanitation improvements in secondary towns.

Capacity Building Initiative will cover:

- Operation and maintenance
- Customer relations
- Household sanitation
- Community participation in operation and maintenance
- Accounting and management
- Development of community action teams
- Land management.

In line with the emerging strategic framework for collaboration between ADB and UN-HABITAT, and building on the success of the joint initiative for the Northern and Central Regions Water Supply Development Project, there is agreement for UN-HABITAT to join ADB's forth coming fact-finding missions for the ensuing project.



People's Republic of China

The Ministry of Construction of the PRC nominated Nanjing as the Chinese city to participate in the WAC Programme. This selection was later endorsed by both ADB and UN-HABITAT. In October 2003, Nanjing Government submitted a proposal to UN-HABITAT.

Components agreed upon:

- Institutional Strengthening to improve efficiency of services.
- A specific infrastructure investment project.
- Water education and awareness creation.

In March 2004, during a Mission to Nanjing, the broad content and phasing of the Nanjing WAC Programme was endorsed. It was agreed that a short diagnostic study of the water sector activities in Nanjing Municipality may be undertaken with the following objectives:

- To identify the major sector constraints that impede provision; of water supply and sanitation services;
- To recommend policies that address these constraints;
- To identify areas for technical assistance and follow-up investment.

The study has since been completed and the report submitted in November 2004. Based on the recommendations made in the diagnostic study, ADB Board has already approved PPTA for investments in 2006 / 2007. UN-HABITAT interventions shall focus on low-income satellite areas of Nanjing City, where service coverage is poor.

Regional Activities

Advocacy, Awareness Raising and Information Exchange

In order to develop City Awareness campaign strategies/action plans and build capacity of utilities for implementing sustainable public awareness campaigns and promoting regional media network, several regional activities have been planned and are being undertaken so as to raise awareness on key social environmental and economic issues in relation to pro-poor, gender sensitive approaches to urban water management.

- **Water for Asian Cities Programme Website (www.unwac.org)** is an online interactive network established for multi-stakeholders dialogue for exchange of problem solving experience and good practices in water and sanitation.

The website also offers a set of interactive tools that enable the Community to:

- Send newsletters
 - Create and update news and events
 - Create and update best practices
 - Update articles on the website.
- An exhibition on **Women and Sanitation** has been developed in partnership with several NGOs including Aga Khan Foundation and launched in New Delhi and other cities. The exhibition was also put up in Nairobi during the Governing Council Meeting of UN-HABITAT.
 - A side-event on **Unheard Voices of Women** was organised by UN-HABITAT at CSD-13 in April 2005 in New York which brought to the forum unheard voices from all continents including Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. The event, chaired by Mrs. Nane Annan was widely attended.

Training and Capacity Building

In order to promote national policy and sector reform through training and capacity building programmes, international, regional, national and local institutions have been identified for co-operation in training and capacity building at all levels. Several activities in this field have so far been undertaken.

- **An international workshop on Sanitation Technologies** was organised for African Countries by UN-HABITAT in collaboration with Sulabh International Institute in New Delhi.
- **The technical support** provided to the International Training Course on Ecological Alternatives in Sanitation held in Sweden in August 2005.
- With a view to **building capacity at a regional level on developing water quality test kits and household water treatment system**, a programme is under development for Mekong Region.
- A **Capacity Building** programme on urban sanitation is being planned for Mekong Region, Nepal and India.

Values Based Water Education (VBWE) in the Schools and the Community

The activities under the VBWE in schools and the community include preparation of guidebooks and materials, organising training of trainers programmes and establishing water classrooms in selected schools to serve for large clusters.

- A roundtable on VBWSE was organised by UN-HABITAT in partnership with UNICEF in New Delhi in March 2005 which was attended by several national and international organisations.
- Developing guide and strategy on ethics/human values at the workplace for the water and sanitation sector and the education sector as part of the Value-based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education by a partner organisation, Global Dharma Centre based in India which is conducting a set of pilot workshops in Madhya Pradesh.

Gender Mainstreaming

In order to increase involvement of women, youth and other groups in policy planning and decision-making at all levels gender strategic planning tools are being developed.

- A plan to develop regional strategy on Gender Mainstreaming in the water and sanitation sector in Asia has commenced in collaboration with ADB.
- In Madhya Pradesh, India a Rapid Gender Assessment (RGA) for all the four project cities has been completed. The country project being undertaken as a pilot in partnership with Mahila Chetna Manch, an NGO based in Bhopal M.P. inter-alia includes: (i) Rapid Gender Assessment in four project cities (ii) Development of Gender Mainstreaming strategy for WAC Programme in M.P. (iii) Action plans for Gender Mainstreaming for each Project city in M.P. (iv) Capacity Building for implementation of Gender Mainstreaming strategy. Out of these first three shall be completed before end-2005 and the fourth shall begin by December 2005.

Monitoring Progress towards the MDG and JPOI

In all the participating cities of Water for Asian Cities Programme, the capacity building process at the city level and in all the sub-regions is in progress for monitoring of progress towards target 10 and 11 of MDG 7 and JPOI.

Realising that there is a lack of baseline information on MDG coverage, planning is underway in consultation with the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) and the Monitoring Branch of UN-HABITAT to Develop a participatory monitoring framework, and networks of regional institutions, as well as develop capacity for monitoring of progress with achievement of MDG at the city-level.

Programme Partnerships

Two kinds of partnerships have been identified:

- **Primary partners** are the local governments including Municipal Corporations of Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior and Jabalpur in India. City Government of Nanjing and Municipalities of Thimi, Banepa and Dhulikhel in Nepal and several local governments in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam and Yunnan Province of PRC.
- **Secondary partners** supporting the programme with UN-HABITAT are the Asian Development Bank, Governments of the Netherlands and Norway.

In developing these partnerships the focus on action and policy has gone together in the implementation of the programme. The programme has also developed partnerships with several other international agencies at country level. For example, in India the programme works very closely with DFID, USAID, Cities Alliance, UNICEF, WHO and others.

Partnerships for Regional Operations

Roundtable of Partners

UN-HABITAT organised a Roundtable meeting in March 2005 in New Delhi which was participated by several partners including ADB, DFID, Cities Alliance and USAID. The core group discussed strategies for developing a Common Activities Programme to ensure greater synergy and compatibility in the implementation of Urban Water Supply and Environmental Improvement Project (UWSEIP) of ADB and Water for Asian Cities Programme in Madhya Pradesh, India. Based on the outcome of the Workshop which was fully endorsed by the Mayors and State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, UN-HABITAT outlined a time-table and action plan for the next six months in four main areas which include:

- Pro-poor urban water and sanitation governance.
- Environmental situation and hygiene assessment.
- Water Demand Management.
- Capacity Building and Monitoring & Evaluation and drawing up strategies to correct them.

Partnerships with INGOs

Through a Co-operation Agreement with WaterAid India and four local bodies a joint project on Slum Environmental Sanitation for 20 slums of Madhya Pradesh has been developed for four project cities of Madhya Pradesh, India. A Similar partnership with WaterAid Nepal has also been developed for innovative water supply and sanitation project in Nepal.

Partnerships for Developing WDM Strategy

Four major partnerships have been developed within the framework of Co-operation Agreements. UN-HABITAT's strategic partnership with WRP of South Africa aims at developing a comprehensive WDM strategy for the city of Indore and Capacity Building in all four project cities. Another partnership among UN-HABITAT, WRP and TERI of India shall help building WDM strategies for remaining three project cities and building the capacity at various levels of water utilities and other stakeholders during 2006. The third partnership is collaboration between UN-HABITAT and two local institutions for institution alising training and Capacity Building in urban water demand management.

Partnerships for VBWSHE

In order to create a New Water Use Ethic Among Children and Community through Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education in Southeast Asian Schools a partnership has been developed with SEAMEO for building capacity in the SEAMEO member countries on values-based water and sanitation education. A strategic partnership has also been built with the Centre for Environment Education (CEE), Ahmedabad for Value-based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education (VBWSHE) through the medium of other local NGOs, schools and educational institutions by setting up water and sanitation classrooms for cluster of schools in each of the four project cities in Madhya Pradesh as also in select towns in Gujarat, training the teachers and resource persons and production of learning material.

Partnerships for Community-based Initiatives

Under a cost sharing partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), WaterAid, Environment & Public Health Organization (ENPHO) and Thimi Municipality a Community-based Water and Wastewater Management Demonstration project is being implemented. The pilot demonstration will benefit some 3000 people. The documented results of the demonstration will be used for up-scaling and follow-up investment by the Government, ADB and WaterAid.

A Co-operation Agreement with a consortium of four NGOs (ENPHO), WaterAid Nepal (INGO), Lumanti and Center for Integrated Urban Development (CIUD) and Siddhipur local authority was signed for the implementation of an innovative community-based water supply and sanitation project which will reach some 7000 people within 12 months.

Partnerships with Local Governments for Institutional Strengthening

On the recommendations of the Ministry of Construction of the PRC, UN-HABITAT is forging a partnership with the local government of the city of Nanjing for the purpose of institutional strengthening to improve efficiency of services; water education and awareness creation and for developing a pro-poor infrastructure investment project for which a diagnostic study supported by UN-HABITAT was completed last year.



Results Achieved

The programme is following a results-based management approach. The programme implementation has been influenced by the strategic partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The partnership with ADB has stimulated additional pro-poor investment in the Asia-Pacific and the prospects are promising. While countries like India and China with capacity to absorb large loans are receiving a large part of the ADB's financial assistance, ADB's endeavour is also to support least developed countries in the region.

In Asia the operational activities have focused on speeding up delivery in India and commencing innovative implementation mechanisms in Nepal, China and Lao PDR. A significant number of the country-level programme formulation processes (including putting a lot of emphasis on cross-cutting themes such as gender mainstreaming and training/capacity building, advocacy, awareness creation and water education in schools) have been completed, and others are nearing completion. Strong country commitments to

implementation of the activities of the thematic priorities in the formulated implementation plans for the programme have been made and activities have started in some of these cities.

In order to assist improve the capacities of municipalities and utilities in the participating cities to better develop and manage services, the training and capacity building, gender mainstreaming, and water education in schools components of the regional programme have been the main focus of activities.

The innovative work on human values based water, sanitation and hygiene education has continued unabated and has been received very well by several countries in East and Southeast Asia and Africa. The next steps will have to focus how to institutionalise this innovative work at local levels to result in the creation of a new water wise and sanitation friendly ethic in society.

Monitoring Millennium Target 10 - MDG 7 in Asia : How far so far

Per-capita freshwater resources in Asia are among the lowest in the world and fast declining as the region harbors more than half of the world's population. Per capita water availability has dropped by some 70 per cent since 1950. Water consumption levels in Asia vary from under 20 liters per capita per day to over 300 liters.

One in three Asians today does not have access to a safe drinking water source within 200 meters of home. One in two Asians does not have adequate sanitation facilities. Of those without access to water or sanitation, almost 90 per cent live in rural areas. Two-thirds of the world's poor live in Asia, and water scarcity, pollution, drought and flooding increase their vulnerability further.

Inadequate water supply and sanitation services are the most critical problems of unchecked city growth. The Millennium Development Goals call for halving by 2015, the number of people without access to safe and adequate water supply and sanitation. Cities present concentrated areas where populations, targeted through the Millennium Development Goals can be more quickly reached. Where are we now and how much more do we need to do in the next 10 years?

Overall, we have made good progress towards achieving the water supply target. Between 1990 and 2002, roughly 1 billion people have gained access to improved water supplies. But "improved access"

and "safe and adequate water" do not necessarily mean the same thing. For instance, there are still many places where water quality is a concern, or where 24-hour water supply is still a dream. There are also glaring differences in the level of coverage across cities in the Asian region--- Singapore and Kuala Lumpur have 100 per cent coverage; Ho Chi Minh and Phnom Penh have over 80 per cent, Vientiane has over 60 per cent and Jakarta and Manila have just over 50 per cent coverage. Especially among the poor there is a high dependency on water vendors with low availability, high cost and dubious water quality.

Asia has made a good start towards achieving the MDGs but the movement to realisation of targets set for 2015 has been slow and a cause for serious concern. The bottom line is that 700 million people in Asia still have no access to water supply, improved or otherwise. A recent ADB study has shown that, just to meet the MDGs of halving the proportion of people without access to clean water and sanitation services by 2015 would require a sustained investment of about \$8 billion per year in Asia. On average, this is not much more than US\$2 per year per person living in the Asian Region. To provide water supply and sanitation service for all, the investment required would be US\$16 billion yearly, or just under US\$5 per person in the region. Despite their magnitude, these investment needs with strong government support to the sector are achievable.



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