



Can there be Equality and Equity in Access to Water and Sanitation Services?

By Prabha Khosla

A novel and extensive exercise in gender mainstreaming with a pro-poor approach is taking shape in the water and sanitation sectors in selected African cities. Launched in early 2005, this new initiative is a partnership between UN-HABITAT and the Gender and Water Alliance (GWA). The Gender Mainstreaming Strategy Initiative (GMSI) is an attempt to mainstream gender into the Water for African Cities (WAC) II Programme of UN-HABITAT.

Key to the conceptualisation and launch of the gender mainstreaming strategy is the new partnership between UN-HABITAT and the GWA. The partnership will attempt to combine the extensive technical experience of UN-HABITAT, with the resources, knowledge, and network of GWA members.

The objectives of the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy Initiative are to:

- Develop a gender mainstreaming strategy and operational action plans for the overall UN-HABITAT water and sanitation programme.
- Facilitate the “genderisation” of water and sanitation utilities through the development of gender sensitive norms and standards, as well as support for enhanced participation of women in water and sanitation utilities.
- Identify areas for capacity development and enhancement; and
- Inform and influence national economic development policies and sector reforms to make them more gender sensitive.

Participatory Rapid Gender Assessment

The foundation of the gender mainstreaming strategy is a participatory and rapid gender and pro-poor assessment methodology – the Rapid Gender Assessment (RGA). The RGA is an attempt to develop a new “tool” that will facilitate rapid gender and pro-poor assessments prior to launching a gender



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mainstreaming strategy in the water and sanitation sectors in participating cities. This “tool”, developed by the Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) in collaboration with UN-HABITAT Water for African Cities (WAC) II Programme, is based on high participation, a relatively low budget compared to the cost of conventional research, and a time frame of about fifty working days.

Using the RGA framework, female and male GWA members resident in the participating cities are working with stakeholders in their cities to collect baseline data for a gender and pro-poor analysis of the thematic priorities in WAC II. These thematic priorities are: Promoting Pro-poor Water Governance

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Targeting the Poor to Meet MDGs

By James Ohayo¹

Based on experience and lessons learnt from the first phase of the Water for African Cities Programme, promoting investments that target the poor in urban areas is a key objective of the UN-HABITAT water and sanitation programme. To ensure that new investments and reforms in the sector do not bypass the poor, a majority of who are women, a strategy has been formulated to ensure systematic mainstreaming of gender into the WAC Programme. The lead article for this edition of the Newsletter focuses on the Rapid Gender Assessment methodology for gender mainstreaming in water and sanitation. The silent indignities and deprivations suffered by poor women due to lack of proper and adequate sanitation facilities came to the fore at the CSD 13 in New York when their unheard voices were presented at a session organized by UN-HABITAT.

Putting poor people at the centre of service provision by enabling them to monitor and discipline service providers, by amplifying their voice in policy making, and by strengthening the incentives for providers to serve the poor in order that men, women, adolescents and children, rich or poor can have improved access to water and sanitation services of adequate quantity and quality is the overall framework of the UN-HABITAT Water for Asian Cities Programme in Madhya Pradesh, one of the most rapidly urbanizing states in India.

Similarly, a large number of small but growing towns, particularly in Africa and Asia, have low revenue bases due to endemic poverty and the effects of HIV/AIDS. Improving the ability of these small towns to provide water, sanitation and waste management for their un-served and under-served populations is the main goal of two regional programmes supported by the UN-HABITAT Water and Sanitation Trust Fund: the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Initiative, and the Mekong Water and Sanitation Initiative. In the former, stakeholder representatives have already been engaged in assessing the constraints in the Lake Victoria region, with a view to designing cost-effective options supported by capacity building interventions to secure sustainability.

Clearly, the attainment of MDG target 10 "to reduce by half, by 2015, the proportion of people who were without sustainable access to basic sanitation by 1990" will require the adoption of non-traditional fast-track mass approaches with proven performance-enhancing characteristics". A critical prerequisite to success in reaching the sanitation target will be demonstrable commitment by governments to improve sanitation, argues Prof. Albert Wright in *Opinion and Analysis*.

UN-HABITAT promotes strategic local actions required to meet global water and sanitation targets through its partnerships and normative activities. The agency is participating in the preparatory meetings for the forthcoming 4th World Water Forum as a Co-Beacon and Partner to coordinate topic sessions and events on the theme **Water Supply and Sanitation for All**. UN-HABITAT also plans to launch its second flagship report focusing on water and sanitation for small urban centres, at the Forum.

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and Follow-up Investments; Sanitation for the Urban Poor; Urban Catchment Management; Water Demand Management; Water Education in Schools and Communities; and Advocacy, Awareness-raising and Information Exchange.

The GWA members and local stakeholders were also engaged in a rapid gender institutional assessment of their respective water and sanitation utilities – public and private. A gender situational analysis in slum or informal settlements assessed the level of access to safe and affordable water and sanitation facilities and services, particularly by the poor, the existence of formal and informal providers of these services, and the living and working conditions of women, men, girls, and boys in these low-income communities. Analysis of the data from this assessment will inform the creation of a gender mainstreaming strategy for the WAC II Programme in each city. Gender equity and pro-poor action plans will be integrated into project implementation plans.

The RGA Methodology

The premise of the participatory and rapid gender assessment is an approach grounded in the knowledge and networks of local stakeholders. Critical to the operationalisation of this approach are the RGA Teams.

The Rapid Gender Assessment (RGA) Teams

The RGA teams are conceived as sub-groups of the existing WAC II stakeholder platforms. Ideally, each RGA Team should consist of about ten women and men. The Team should include the following:

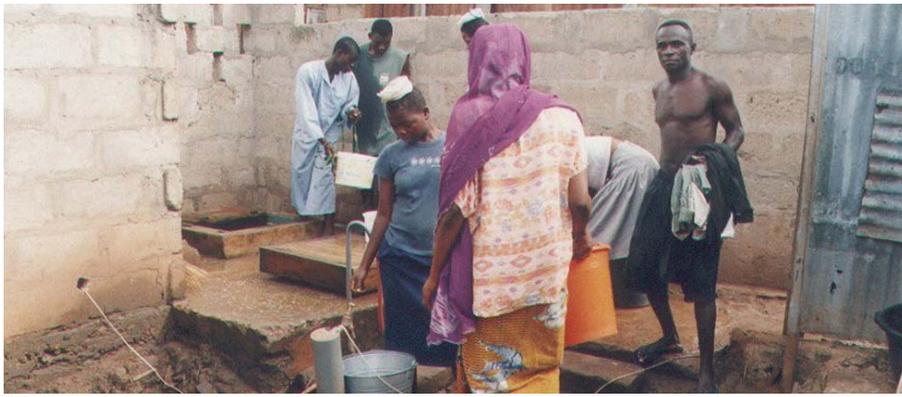
- A senior local government official
- A utility engineer (water and sanitation)
- NGO representative
- Representative of women's groups
- Representative of the Local Government community development agency
- Department of Health representative (Local or National Government)
- Representative of a local ENGO and/or national environment monitoring agency
- Representative of the national women's organisation
- Representative of the University Community working on gender issues
- National focal point for MDG target 10 on water

It is important that aside from the GWA facilitators, the RGA teams include other participants with knowledge of gender and poverty conditions and impacts. The RGA teams must also include members with knowledge of the water and sanitation situation in the city; and hopefully, women and men who can represent the interface between water, sanitation, gender and pro-poor perspectives.

Key Documents for the Assessment

Recognizing that numerous documents already exist on governance, water and sanitation, integrated water resources management, gender, poverty, etc. the objective of the RGA is not to generate another extensive study on any of these topics. Instead, GWA facilitators and RGA team members are encouraged to examine existing and relevant documents, and then to identify the gender and poverty data gaps. The following list includes many different policy documents pertinent to the RGA. Nevertheless, they are not all relevant to all participating cities and the Facilitators, along with the RGA teams, will need to identify what is relevant for their respective cities.

- National Water Policy/Act.
- National Gender Policy/Act.
- Urban Policy.
- Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).
- National MDG Plans/Reports.
- National Environmental Management Plans.
- National Integrated Water Resource Management Plans.



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service providers to determine the existing situation, and the extent of sensitivity of the water and sanitation utilities and providers to a gender and pro-poor analysis. It will also explore how the utilities are or are not accountable to equality and equity both within their operations and with their employees and management, as well as in terms of norms and standards of service delivery.

The Challenge

While optimistic, ambitious, and cost effective, it remains to be seen how effectively this approach can place gender and poverty considerations centre stage in the priorities and impacts of the WAC II Programme. The assessment process has only just been completed and the development of gender equity and pro-poor action plans is underway in the cities. The challenge for UN-HABITAT and the GWA will not only be in their ability to actually integrate a gender and pro-poor analysis into the WAC II Programme, but also in how to promote institutional change that will engage women and men slum dwellers in the decision making process in sustainable water and sanitation services provision. Can UN-HABITAT and the GWA help to bring about the intuitional changes necessary to make the water and sanitation needs of poor women, men, girls and boys priorities in local and national budgets and investments, and for environmentally and culturally appropriate infrastructure provision and maintenance?

Can local and national governments and utilities be mobilized in the challenge for equality and equity in access to water and sanitation services in slums and informal settlements?

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- Watershed Management Plans.
- Documents on Water Sector Reforms.
- Local Government Structure and Mandate (vis-a-vis water and sanitation services, women's rights and gender equity, pro-poor governance, environmental planning, etc).
- Census Data (demographic, socio - economic).
- The Health and morbidity status of residents of under-serviced or un-serviced settlements.
- Relevant reports, work plans, action plans, implementation plans, etc. from WAC I and II Programmes - these will be supplied by the City Manager or UN-HABITAT staff.
- Identification of loan portfolios in the water sector, who is managing them, where the money is going, and for what purpose.

Additionally, where local government policies, statutes, and implementation plans that are relevant to this assessment exist, it is the responsibility of the GWA facilitators and the relevant stakeholder platforms to identify and examine the appropriate documents.

Components of the RGA

City Profile

The City Profile will provide city specific data such as physical size; total population; socio-economic data; profile of poverty in the city; key governmental policies and initiatives; commitments to, and implementation of gender equality and equity policies; overview of the water and sanitation situation in the city, including norms and standards, tariffs and subsidies, cost of these services to poor women and men; overview of policies and legislation relevant to the water, sanitation, and environment sector, as well as the institutions, agencies, and civil society actors implicated in integrated

water resources management. As much as possible, this data should be disaggregated by gender, age, income and other critical and locally specific factors.

Data Collection and Gender Analysis of the WAC II Themes

For each of the six themes of WAC II, the assessment seeks to identify data and analyze it from a gender and pro-poor perspective. The assessment will outline the current context; a gender analysis of the context; trends in the thematic sector; key features or developments to consider in the sector in terms of their implications on gender and poverty; data gaps; areas for capacity development; and key areas for gender mainstreaming. These key areas for gender mainstreaming will inform the gender equity and pro-poor action plans to be developed in the next stage of the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy Initiative.

A Gender Situational Analysis of an un-serviced or inadequately serviced neighbourhood

The RGA approach recommends the use of participatory methods and tools for the gender situational assessment, as well as the engagement of women and men slum dwellers' organizations, NGOs and CBOs active in these informal settlements. Specifically, the gender situational analysis would provide the actual picture "on the ground" of how poor women, girls, men and boys have different relationships to water and sanitation, as well as the differential and unequal impact on the genders based on age, income, etc .

A Gender Institutional Assessment of Water and Sanitation Service Providers

The RGA calls for a rapid gender institutional assessment of the relevant water and sanitation utilities and other

Field Work to Design Participatory Intervention Strategies for Lake Victoria Region Water and Sanitation Initiative Concluded

By Pireh Otieno

Field missions to design physical and capacity building interventions in water, sanitation, solid waste, and drainage infrastructure development and management for the Lake Victoria Region Water and Sanitation Initiative, have been concluded. The missions were undertaken by teams of experts comprising infrastructure engineers, environmental engineers and community development specialists. Design missions were undertaken concurrently by three country teams.

Stakeholder representatives from government, the private sector, beneficiary communities, and civil society were actively engaged in assessing constraints to improved access to water supplies and better sanitation, solid waste management and drainage facilities and services, for under-served or un-served populations of the Lake region.

Available technical design options were identified, and based on their respective cost profiles, and the implications for beneficiary communities of adopting various options, both immediate, and long-term interventions have been recommended. The design missions also assessed local management capacity building needs. These assessments will form the basis for developing localized capacity building interventions to ensure the sustainability of the proposed physical interventions.

Preliminary Environmental Assessment

Environmental impact assessments, a prerequisite to planning for infrastructure investments, are particularly pertinent for the LVWATSAN Initiative, given the fragile ecosystem of the Lake. Teams of environmental experts and local environmental officers evaluated the main environmental challenges, and visited all known local environmental hot spots around the Lake. Full Environmental Impact Assessments will follow, depending on the design options adopted.

Design of Immediate Physical Interventions

The first objective was to design immediate interventions to improve access to water and sanitation services, with a focus on new and innovative

concepts that incorporate optimizing the use of existing facilities, and improving their functions. Secondly, the teams identified longer-term interventions that require large-scale capital investments and involve construction or major refurbishment of water and wastewater treatment plants, and the extension of reticulation systems. The design engineers, who visited all existing physical structures, also undertook design of low-cost solutions that are easy to implement and manage, involve communities wherever possible, and can be implemented without much delay. In addition to designing immediate interventions, the design teams were also responsible for preparing tender documents for the design of large scale interventions.

Design of Community-based Approaches to Support Physical Infrastructure

The full involvement of beneficiary communities at the design and

implementation stages will ensure that community-based solutions and approaches are fully integrated into the process. Capacity-building interventions required for the implementation and management of communal options for water supplies and sanitation, solid waste management, and maintenance of the drainage network were incorporated into the designs by the community development specialists. Community contracting, backed by effective professional supervision, will be a key area of intervention.

Design of Improved Revenue Generation and Financial Management Systems

To ensure commercial viability and sustainability of infrastructure investments, the initial focus in capacity-building will be on developing a strong management and financial base. In Kenya, this was done in consultation with the Lake Victoria South Water Services Board. The new utilities in each town will



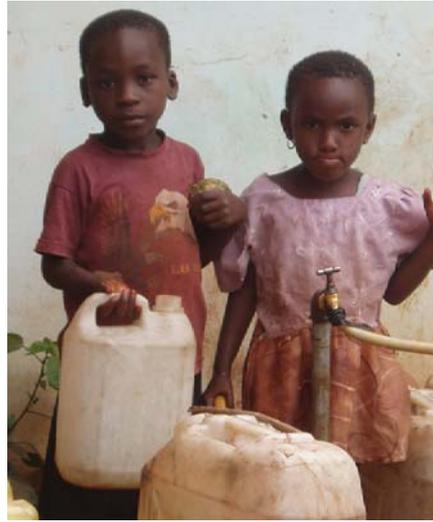
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need assistance in setting up an adequate commercial management structure and establishing fair and equitable tariff structures. The latter should be based on the principle of increasing service coverage amongst the urban poor, while ensuring the adoption of good Water Demand Management practices.

Improved billing and revenue collection systems, as well as openness and transparency, are important facets of the financial management systems. Options for increased revenue collection will be analyzed hand-in-hand with the need to commercialize operations of local service providers. The design missions will also develop appropriate financial information management systems, and operation and maintenance systems to minimize revenue losses through leakages and illegal connections in the reticulation system. GIS systems will be developed to facilitate the mapping of high demand, usage or leakage areas in order to guide the planning of public awareness campaigns and maintenance schedules.

Training Needs Assessment

In addition to local and community-based capacity-building initiatives, there is a need for much wider support in training. An outline training programme for each town will be compiled covering training needs in areas ranging from operator training for O&M, public



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awareness, and conflict resolution. Substantial inputs will also be provided for health & hygiene education in particular involving schools. All these programmes will be linked to training needs at the national level.

Analysis of Conflict Resolution Procedures (Land Access, Compensation etc)

At the local level, a number of conflicts could arise resulting from the impact of on-going water sector reforms, as well as the implementation of both the physical and capacity-building interventions. By identifying potential sources of conflict and making appropriate recommendations on conflict resolution procedures and mechanisms, the LVWATSAN Initiative could contribute to the development of appropriate governance structures and longer term stability.

Communications Strategy

An effective communications strategy must take into account the unique conditions, needs and circumstances of different community and stakeholder categories. It must establish existing perceptions about the level and quality of water, sanitation and waste management service delivery on the ground, assess existing levels of knowledge, attitudes and practices in these areas, and determine the perceptions of

beneficiary communities and other stakeholders about possible solutions, and their respective roles in implementing these solutions. Only then can appropriate messages be designed that adequately address the role of each target group of beneficiaries and stakeholders. The LVWATSAN communications strategy will focus on high-level advocacy and promotion of the programme to influence national policy and gain political buy-in; sensitizing local communities to mobilize participation in, and support for the programme; and facilitating exchange of good practices between participating towns.

Establishing Urban Physical Planning

As no physical plans are available for many of the towns in the Programme, the urban physical planning process will be initiated using geo-referenced satellite image-based maps, with GIS overlays. These will provide information on population distribution, land-use, roads, surface water drainage, and existing water and sewerage networks. The ultimate objective is to establish a fully operational physical planning workstation in each town, where information can be retrieved and new data entered to update the physical planning database.

Wrap-up Briefing of Local Actors

To highlight key issues arising from the field work, the design teams held wrap-up briefing sessions with key local stakeholders in each town at the end of the mission. Further stakeholder consultations to identify key priority issues facing each town and to build consensus on action priorities through transparent negotiations are being planned.



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Some Practical Sanitation Alternatives and Strategies that Could Support the Achievement of the MDGs

By Prof. Albert M. Wright



Sanitation is concerned with the hygienic management of human wastes. Without sustainable access to it, people find themselves living in the midst of their wastes and those of others, exposing themselves to a wide range of social, health, economic and environmental costs. The saddest thing is that they may not be aware of their predicament. So they live unawares in ignorance-induced bliss and pain. But when they become aware, nothing can be more humiliating and demoralizing to them. Regrettably, this is the fate of most of the people in the world who now lack access to basic sanitation.

It is this situation that the sanitation target in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) seeks to reverse. The target is to reduce by half, by 2015, the proportion of people that were without sustainable access to basic sanitation in 1990. However, the target is not meant to be an end in itself, leading only to the provision of access to basic sanitation. It is rather about poverty reduction. It is about using sustainable access to basic sanitation as a means for developing and unleashing inherent household, community and national skills and resources for follow-up social, economic and environmental development.

It is also about the role sanitation plays in the attainment of the other Millennium Development Goals: combating HIV/AIDS by preventing exposure of vulnerable people with reduced immunity to infections of water and sanitation origin; contributing to gender equality and empowering women by providing all with sustainable access to sanitation services located in convenient and safe places free from the risk of molestation by others while at the same time providing schools with sanitation services to support girl child education; reducing child mortality by minimizing exposure to such child killers as cholera and malaria; ensuring environmental sustainability by reducing pollution of the living environment; and eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by improving the vitality and productivity of people and ensuring that the food they eat goes to feed them and not the worms in them that make them sick. (It has been said that in some rural areas, such is the burden of helminthes that "half the work of a sick peasantry goes to feed the worms that make them sick").

This is the vision of sanitation in the Millennium Development Goals for sanitation. It is this broader vision that



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should be held in view when choices are being made for strategies and practical measures for pursuing the sanitation target in the MDGs. It is with this in mind that the Millennium Development Task Force on Water and Sanitation has identified five guiding principles and ten critical actions for achieving this target. This article discusses some of these principles and actions; but it starts with a discussion of the scope of *sanitation*, as used in the target in the MDG.

Meaning and Scope of Sanitation

Sanitation has been defined in various ways in different countries and by various organizations. To some it embraces the management of excreta, domestic wastewater (or sullage), solid wastes, and storm water drainage. To others, it refers only to one service, namely, the management and disposal of excreta.

As used in the MDGs, however, "sanitation" embraces two services, namely, the management of excreta and the management of sullage or domestic wastewater. The sanitation target in the MDGs is also further limited to *basic sanitation* which the Millennium Development Task Force on Water and

Sanitation has defined as: the *lowest-cost option for securing sustainable access to safe, hygienic and convenient facilities and services for excreta and sullage disposal that provide privacy and dignity while at the same time ensuring a clean and healthful living environment.*

It is important to note that the definition refers to sustainable access not only for individuals or households, but also access for the community in which they live. This is because, from a health standpoint, people who have the most modern and highly hygienic sanitation systems are not necessarily protected from communicable diseases if their houses are located in communities that are not clean and healthful. Secondly, as stated above, the target is not just about the individual; it is also about development of the community of which the individual is a part so that through such community development, sanitation would make its fair contribution to national development. This means that the expected benefits from improving access to sanitation are not meant to be limited to the individual or to the household alone; they are expected to extend beyond the household boundaries to their surroundings and all the way up to

national level and, by extension, to the international level. Thus it is in the national interest for national governments (and even international donors) to contribute to the creation of sustainable access to basic sanitation, even at the private level. This is, of course, borne out by recent WHO studies that show that the cross-sectoral benefits from investments in water and sanitation run typically between \$5 and \$11 per \$1 invested.

Where and Who are Those Without Access to Sanitation?

Globally, most of the people without access to basic sanitation live in Asia, mostly in India and China. (about 79 %). However, Sub-Saharan Africa (which accounts for only about 12% of the number of people without access) is the region with the highest number of countries that are most in danger of not meeting the MDG sanitation targets; it has 19 of the 30 countries that are deemed off course in meeting the target. According to a 2002 assessment by WHO and UNICEF, if the 1990-2002 trend in coverage holds, the world would miss the sanitation target by half a billion people.

Within countries, lack of access to basic sanitation is strongly linked to poverty and to type of settlement. In most countries, those with the least access to sanitation tend to be the poorest or rural dwellers. Other areas that tend to be without access are congested urban slum areas, squatter settlements, and run down areas - areas with high degrees of assets deterioration.

The reasons for lack of access vary from place to place. Hence coping strategies should reflect the differences. For example, in squatter settlements, the critical barrier to access to sanitation service is often linked to lack of access to land title. In contrast, in rural communities, poor accessibility, lack of technical know-how, or absence of an agreed set of community level social rules could be the barriers to sanitation.

Is the Global Target Met if India or China Meets It?

A question that has often been raised is whether the global sanitation target is met if one or two of the world's most populous countries like China and India were to make so much progress in coverage that, on aggregate, the fraction of the global population that was without access to

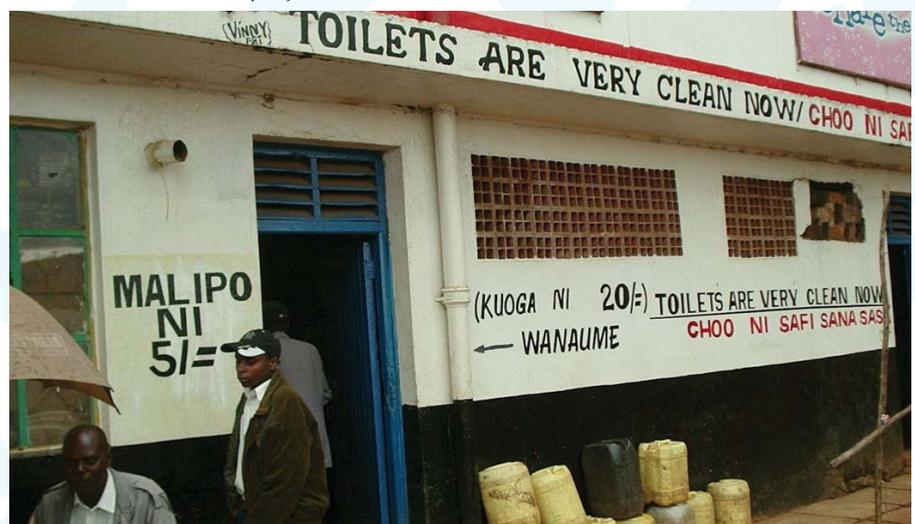
basic sanitation would have been reduced by half. In the view of the Task Force, that would be the wrong interpretation of the target. The global and regional aggregations are just for comparative purposes. The target is meant to be met country by country. So the assessment of success should be made primarily on the basis of the fraction of countries that meet the target. Thus, for the world to meet the target, every country in the world must meet it. This is why there is so much focus on sub-Saharan Africa to help the region's countries to meet the target. Therefore, the primary level for the aggregation of data for measuring progress toward the target should be the country level, and not the global level.

What Are the Constraints to Access?

One of the critical features associated with efforts to reach the sanitation target is its urgency. This is so because one of the key constraints to the target is the scale of the problem. There are two dimensions of this scale problem. One is the huge number of people to be reached; the other is the tightness of the time within which to reach them. As at 2002, there were 2.6 billion people, worldwide, that lacked access to basic sanitation. It has been estimated that to meet the target, nearly 2 billion people should gain access to basic sanitation between 2002 and 2015. We have less than ten years to reach the target. The scale of the problem and short time within which to address it, makes it a daunting problem. It has been estimated that, to meet the target on time, about 370,000 people should gain access to basic sanitation a day up to 2015. Given that for conventional projects, the time

it takes from identification of a project to its completion could be as much as seven years, it follows that if projects are not identified within the next 2-5 years, it might be impossible to reach the target. Clearly, there is a great deal of urgency. Hence conventional measures and business as usual will be woefully inadequate.

The pursuit of the target is likely to be complicated by two other factors. The first is logistical; the other is the poverty of those without access. As stated earlier, rural dwellers are worse off than urban dwellers; but of the different types of settlements, rural communities are currently the most numerous, followed, in that order, by small urban centers, cities, and mega-cities. For the most populous, the order is reversed. However, it is the multiplicity of settlements and difficulty in reaching them that is likely to pose the greatest challenge. Hence the settlement types likely to be the most problematic are those located in a multiplicity of possibly hard-to-reach small rural settlements and small urban centers dispersed over large areas. Reaching people in such settlements within the next nine to ten years remaining to reach the deadline of 2015, is likely to pose a logistical and a capacity building nightmare. Addressing this nightmare would call for the use of a fast track mass approach that would make it possible for many communities to be reached simultaneously. It calls for the provision of on-going and mass capacity building and technical backstopping services for the service providers; and it also calls for the introduction of mechanisms for facilitation of access to financing by such service providers as well as their beneficiary communities.



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A promising model with characteristics both for mass delivery and for rapid sustainable capacity building would be one based on the franchise model. Using this model, NGOs and private entities could rapidly replicate themselves in many settlements by helping to create or train numerous local NGOs or many small-scale local entrepreneurs within a relatively short time, and provide them with sustained technical support to facilitate their delivery of the requisite services. This approach has been used successfully, on a limited scale in about 30 locations in Indonesia by a German NGO known as BORDA (or the Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association). The approach would fit well with the market model approach to sanitation that is being promoted by various entities, including the Water and Sanitation Program of the World Bank.

The efficacy of a modified franchise model would be highly enhanced if it were buttressed by a financial support facility to support the local entrepreneurs and pay for the service of the “franchisers”. Good examples of such a facility could come in the form of soft loans or grants from international and regional financial institutions or in the form of the proposed Local Entrepreneurial Facility (LEF) recently developed by the UNDP and scheduled to be launched in September 2005 during the Millennium Summit of the United Nations. This combination of the franchise-like approach and the LEF holds good promise both for the rural areas and for small urban centers that together contain the vast majority of communities to be reached if the target is to be met.

Another source of complication to attainment of the target is the poverty and powerlessness of the unserved. The recent UNICEF/WHO study shows that the poor and “voiceless” are worse off than the rich. Some field studies have shown that in spite of their poverty, where those without access pay to use public latrines, they tend to pay more for sanitation than the rich. This has been possible only because payment for these services are made a little at a time and, thus, within the means of the poor. This does not mean that the poor can necessarily do without subsidies if

making payment for services would require them to accumulate funds for infrequent payment of tariffs. Where frequency of payment is short, the poor could afford payment. However, the constraint that often faces them is how to raise up-front capital to pre-finance construction. This should inform policies on cost recovery and subsidies.

There are several other constraints that are often discussed. These include lack of political commitment at all levels of government, weak institutions at national and local levels, and lack of awareness of the significance of sanitation to other aspects of economic development. All these need to be addressed.

Addressing the Key Constraints

After reviewing the nature of the problems and the key constraints to their removal, the Water and Sanitation Task Force of the Millennium Development Project has identified Five Guiding Principles and Ten Critical Actions that need to be applied if we are to reach the targets. A selected number of these are presented below. Basically, the Task Force is convinced that the water and sanitation targets will not be reached unless:

- There is a ***deliberate*** commitment by ***donors*** both to refocus their development assistance and to target sufficient aid to the ***least developed countries***.
- There is a ***deliberate*** commitment by governments of ***middle-income countries*** that are not aid-dependent to reallocate their resources such that they target funding to the ***unserved poor***.
- There are ***deliberate*** activities to create buy-in, support, and ownership for water supply and sanitation initiatives among both women and men ***in poor communities***.
- There is a ***deliberate*** recognition that basic sanitation in particular requires ***an approach that centers on community mobilization*** and ***actions that support and encourage that mobilization***

The ten critical actions that have been proposed include the following¹:

- Governments and other stakeholders

must move the sanitation crisis to the top of the agenda

- Efforts to reach the water and sanitation target must focus on sustainable service delivery, rather than construction of facilities alone
- Governments and utilities must ensure that users who can pay do pay in order to fund the operation, maintenance, and expansion of services – but they must ensure that the needs of poor households are met
- Governments and donor agencies must simultaneously pursue investment reforms for improved water supply, sanitation, and water management.

The Neighborhood – Led Approach to Sanitation Service Delivery

In planning projects, it is important to take certain performance-determining instruments into account. These include demand responsiveness, incentives, horizontal unbundling, service differentiation, and demand-led designs; they also include progressive equitable financing. One example of applying these principles is the neighborhood-led approach to sanitation service delivery.

In *neighborhood-led sanitation*, the starting point for investments and physical developments for sanitation services is the upstream end of the service area, namely, the neighborhood level. The neighborhood is treated as the start engine for citywide or settlement-wide sanitation system development. It is from there that investments flow downstream (with the wastes) to the citywide level and beyond, as necessary. In this approach, the neighborhood serves as the level at which household demands for public sanitation services are aggregated and addressed. At the same time, the neighborhood serves as the medium through which the external or public response to this demand is channeled to individual households. Where there is a public utility, the neighborhood, rather than the household, could serve as the client of the utility. This is the case in the latest models of the Orangi Pilot Project and the condominal sewerage system used in cities in Brazil and some Latin American countries.

¹ The rest of the critical actions together with an operational plan are available in the Task Force Reports entitled: “Health, Dignity, and Development: What will it take?” The Final and Abridged Reports can be downloaded from www.unmillenniumproject.org or www.siwi.org.

A characteristic of this approach is the high priority that is given to responding to the immediate demands for sanitation services at the neighborhood level. This ensures that initial investments lead to immediate benefits to those who incur the opportunity costs associated with the investments. However, as a prerequisite for addressing this first priority, a *strategic plan for sanitation* needs to be prepared for the settlement as a whole. It is within the framework of this plan that sub-projects that are independently developed at the neighborhood level are integrated. The strategic plan provides general guidelines or a frame of reference for developing technical solutions to sanitation problems upstream of the city level.

Thus, the range of technically feasible options from which neighborhood level solutions are chosen is constrained by solutions that are deemed to be technically feasible at the downstream end. At the same time, the choice of downstream technical solutions at citywide level is driven, *inter alia*, by the nature of the technical solutions chosen at the neighborhood and at other upstream levels. Hence it is required, under the approach, that the response to neighborhood demands should be reconciled with imperatives at the downstream or citywide levels, and *vice versa*. This calls for the use of an iterative process in *neighborhood-led sanitation*.

A feature of this approach is that neighborhood sanitation problems may be addressed entirely within the boundaries of the neighborhood itself if it is technically and financially feasible to do so. This may be the case where there is sufficient space within the neighborhood for the technologies selected for the treatment and disposal of the wastes generated in the neighborhood.

Where the problems cannot be adequately addressed within the boundaries of the neighborhood, part of the waste problem or all of it is allowed to spill over the neighborhood boundary downstream, to the next level of aggregation. This could be the community, zonal or the citywide level. This type of situation may arise where the space available at the neighborhood level is insufficient for treatment and disposal of waste within the neighborhood.

In sum, the *neighborhood-led sanitation* approach calls for the use of a



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two-pronged process in which an appropriate balance is maintained between two iterative processes. One starts at the downstream end or at the citywide level, and it leads to development of a *strategic plan for sanitation* for the service area as a whole.

It may be deemed to be a top-down process, but it should be participatory in nature and involve consultations that embrace the grassroots. The other is a bottom-up, community-based, participatory process for developing and implementing a sanitation service, and it is designed to start at the neighborhood level and conform to the citywide *strategic plan*. In effect, in this approach,

- investments in neighborhood level sanitation systems are driven by household demands;
- technical solutions to neighborhood demands for sanitation investments form the basis for the designs of downstream zonal sanitation systems; and
- zonal sanitation system technologies drive the choice of technical solutions to citywide sanitation problems.

Conclusions

In sum, reaching the sanitation target is marked by a high degree of urgency. The number of communities to be reached where the need is greatest is enormous and overpowering. Yet the time available to reach them is very short. Moreover, the multiplicity of the communities to be reached, coupled with the difficulty of reaching them, poses a logistical nightmare. Therefore, there is a pressing need for non-traditional fast-track mass

approaches that have proven performance-enhancing characteristics as found in a franchise-like model.

In addition, it is important that the sanitation targets are not pursued in isolation, independent of the other MDGs. Hence, in line with the rest of the MDGs, a needs assessment should first be undertaken at national, sub-national and community levels. Based on this, strategies should be formulated for urban and rural areas. Thus, community level projects should be undertaken within the framework of MDG-based overall national, regional, and local government level strategic frameworks. Moreover, given the differences in the structure, economy, and social organizations in the different types of settlements, different strategies need to be formulated for cities, small urban centers, and for rural areas. As a rule, there should be total coverage of each community with sanitation services in order to safeguard public health and to ensure a clean and healthful community environment.

A critical prerequisite to success in reaching the target is that governments demonstrate their commitment to improved sanitation. They should do so through public declaration, policy change, and budget allocation; this should be supplemented by an explicit definition of government responsibilities in sanitation service delivery backed by public education on personal hygiene and campaigns on the importance of sanitation.

Above all, it is of utmost importance that national frameworks are allowed to guide the contributions of external support agencies, NGOs, and the private sector.

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Pro-poor Approach Adopted for Water and Sanitation Governance in Madhya Pradesh

By Archana Patkar

Madhya Pradesh is one of India's most rapidly urbanizing states today, with a third of its total population living in towns and cities. Of this urban population, 16 million people are concentrated in six cities, and a very large percentage, 38 percent, comprise the urban poor. The Water for Asian Cities Programme, which was operationalised following signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Asian Development Bank and UN-HABITAT, has selected four of these six urban agglomerations to work in, within an overall framework of pro-poor urban water and sanitation governance.

This framework, elaborated following consultations with key stakeholders at State and city level, was presented, discussed and amended in a workshop organized by UN-HABITAT in March, 2005. The essence of the framework is captured in UN-HABITAT's working definition of pro-poor governance: *Putting poor people at the centre of service provision by enabling them to monitor and discipline service providers, by amplifying their voice in policymaking, and by strengthening the incentives for providers to serve the poor in order that men, women, adolescents and children, rich or poor can have improved access to water and sanitation services of adequate quantity and quality.*

The framework rests on the basic principles of good governance, namely, equity, civic engagement, transparency and accountability, with a view to delivering better water and environmental sanitation services to the urban poor. The UN-HABITAT approach emphasizes:

- Civil society's ability to influence priorities and investments.
- Attention to women, adolescents, children and marginalised groups.
- Mechanisms for holding providers accountable.

- A regulatory framework to protect providers and consumers.
- Services that are responsive, affordable and sustainable

The water for Asian cities programme in Madhya Pradesh will respond to the demand for better environmental sanitation and improved access to water supply and services by forging city-wide understanding and buy-in of the importance of good governance in the management and delivery of these services.

The framework, as elaborated below by UN-HABITAT, summarises potential areas of synergy and partnership with the ADB and other development partners in Madhya Pradesh, in order to accelerate progress towards the achievement of targets 10 and 11 of the Millennium Development Goals.

The key challenges and areas of focus for intervention identified in the framework and discussed by participants at the workshop included:

- i) The difficulties in identifying the "real" poor – by location, income, legal status and access to services. Challenges included the need to work in peri-urban areas with migratory urban populations such as

construction workers, slums on short lease, etc.

- ii) The recognition that over half the urban poor lives in unacceptable conditions by UN-HABITAT standards. While access to drainage, solid waste disposal, water supply and sanitation facilities are abysmal in all four project cities, *sanitation was identified as the number one priority by poor women with less than 5 percent of the slums in Madhya Pradesh having access to toilets of any kind.* ADB preparatory work reports that of the poor women surveyed, one half defecates in the open, a quarter use public toilets and the rest use pay toilets.
- iii) Institutional fragmentation in service delivery, coupled with an unwillingness to recognize and charge for services, and poor consumer feedback – with the result that the *poor actually pay more* for unreliable and poor quality services.
- iv) The need for quick action, recognizing and building on work already underway as well as on past initiatives in the four cities.

In response to the challenges outlined above, The Government of India has approved the collaborative framework developed by UN-HABITAT for its interventions in four cities. A critical entry point for this work in Madhya Pradesh will be *environmental sanitation*, with a focus on human excreta management, and solid and liquid waste management.

Human excreta disposal and linked changes in hygiene behaviour within households and public institutions such as schools, hospitals and markets (stopping open defecation, promotion of hand washing with soap at critical times, and introduction of appropriate



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UN-HABITAT Interventions

ADB Project Category	Pro-Poor Water Governance	Integrated Environmental Sanitation & Hygiene Behaviour Change	M&E, Knowledge Sharing
<p>Part I: Urban Water Supply & Environmental Improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Water Supply ● Sewerage & Sanitation ● Drainage ● Solid waste management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Demand Assessment ● Rights based approach to service provision ● Pro- poor cost recovery mechanisms ● Ability to pay ● Innovative pricing ● Water Demand Management, water education & water conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Formulation of Urban Environmental Health Strategy ● Focus on practices and behaviour change - approach, training, resource mobilisation, dissemination of best practices ● Technology Options – formulation, testing, replication, scaling-up and advocacy ● Sanitation & Hygiene education in schools, markets, faith organisations, government institutions, hospitals, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop partnerships with civil society in Madhya Pradesh to inform and strengthen planning and implementation. ● Share information on appropriate technical solutions for urban issues and highlight these in MDG regional discourse ● Play role of knowledge broker and knowledge sharing on benchmarking utilities and performance monitoring systems ● Develop indicators and monitoring system to focus on outcomes for the poor, with an emphasis on inequities in access, use, maintenance and sustainability using UN-HABITAT's technical expertise and resources in M&E (CEMIS, UGI, GUO) ● Bring international and regional expertise and best practice for sharing and advocacy.
<p>Part II: Urban Governance & Institutional Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Urban Governance ● MAPP, ADF, CIF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collaborate in strengthening the MAPP process and identification of non-slum, peri-urban beneficiaries under ADF and CIF. ● Performance monitoring for municipal managers and service providers while highlighting equity and use concerns. ● Explore a livelihoods approach to poverty reduction in the project cities that includes shelter, improved environmental, living, and working conditions, basic services and income generation opportunities. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop indicators and monitoring system to focus on outcomes for the poor, with an emphasis on inequities in access, use, maintenance and sustainability using UN-HABITAT's technical expertise and resources in M&E (CEMIS, UGI, GUO) ● Bring international and regional expertise and best practice for sharing and advocacy.
<p>Part III: Implementation Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consultancies ● Public Relations & Awareness Programme ● Monitoring & Evaluation of benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Raising awareness, advocacy ● Measurement, benchmarking, exposure visits, workshops, regional information sharing, dissemination of lessons learnt ● Impact evaluation – accountability, redressing grievance, voice & participation, replicability, sustainability and scalability. ● Local observatory on tracking progress towards achieving the MDGs in order to enrich policy and practice on reducing the urbanization of poverty. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bring international and regional expertise and best practice for sharing and advocacy.

technology, etc.) as separate from investments in sanitation infrastructure, have emerged as key linked areas where there is currently a gap - even at the level of intent. Government and other stakeholders consulted in Bhopal, Indore and Delhi endorsed the urgent need to tackle this “forgotten area”.

Without committed action and investments in behaviour change, people in the four cities will fail to benefit from primary infrastructure investments. The challenge of ensuring voice and articulation of demands that may be high on women’s priorities, but reflect much lower down in community managed and male-dominated processes, will need to be factored into community mapping and planning processes that are a precursor to investments.

The software aspects of sanitation are often sacrificed in participatory assessments, losing out to visible and tangible infrastructure investments in

The approach will focus on moving from 5 percent access to latrines to 100 percent sanitation provision (i.e. no open defecation and sanitary disposal of child and adult faeces), as opposed to a focus on building toilets. This will require a focus on changing hygiene behaviour which is required to translate the benefits of investments in toilets and sewers into environmental health benefits and improved livelihoods. An integrated approach would also ensure that health, educational institutions, markets and households, are integrated into a citywide environmental health strategy to achieve an improved urban environment.

roads, water, street lighting, toilet blocks, etc. Additionally, the experience nationally, in the use and maintenance of community sanitation blocks, is varied. This highlights the importance of exploring alternative technology options that are demand responsive and that respect individual preferences, factor in maintenance burdens and costs, and do not exclude the poorest.

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Improving Access to Water and Sanitation in Smaller Urban Centres

– Forthcoming UN-HABITAT Global WatSan Report

By David Satterthwaite.

A significant proportion of the population, and of economic activities in all nations are in ‘small urban centres and large villages.’ A large part of the population lacking adequate provision for water and sanitation also lives and works in these settlements. UN-HABITAT is preparing a major report on this topic, as a follow up to the 2003 publication on *Water and Sanitation in the World's Cities: Local Action for Global Goals*.¹

There are at least three reasons why the water and sanitation needs of those living in these settlements have been given little attention: the failure to recognize the proportion of national populations living in them; the tendency for ‘urban’ provision to concentrate in larger urban centres; and the failure of agencies responsible for water and sanitation provision in ‘rural areas’ to respond to needs and possibilities in ‘large villages’, and exploit the economies of scale and proximity these present for better provision.

Urban Definitions

The discussions about meeting the water and sanitation targets for the Millennium Development Goals divide the population with inadequate provision into ‘rural’ and ‘urban.’ In 2005, the number of rural dwellers with inadequate provision is higher than that of the urban population – but when allowance is made for the population shifts from rural to urban areas, the number of people who have to be reached between now and 2015 is about the same in rural and urban areas.

The division of those needing better provision into their rural and urban components might be considered useful because there are obvious differences in the technologies and institutions best suited to meeting rural and urban water and sanitation needs. But a very large part of the unserved population live in what can be termed ‘large villages and small urban centres’ which have common characteristics, even though those in ‘large villages’ are considered rural and those in ‘small urban centres’ are considered urban.

Virtually all governments accept that settlements with more than 20,000 inhabitants are ‘urban’, but they disagree about where to draw the line between urban and rural for settlements with less than 20,000 inhabitants. Some classify all settlements with only a few hundred inhabitants as ‘urban’ while others consider most or all settlements with up to 20,000 inhabitants as ‘rural’. This has importance for two reasons: the very significant proportion of most nations’ population that live in settlements with between 500 and 20,000 inhabitants; and the extent to which their designation as ‘urban’ will generally mean government structures and capacities that have more scope for supporting improved provision for water and sanitation.

But the issue of which settlements with between 500 and 20,000 inhabitants are defined as urban centres is politically charged in that both governments and international agencies make decisions about resource allocations between rural and urban areas depending on the proportion of the population that live in them. The contestation between ‘rural’

and ‘urban’ proponents as to what should receive priority in development investments and poverty reduction programmes has been one of the dominant development discourses of the last 30 years. If India, Pakistan or Egypt are reclassified as predominantly urban nations – as their ‘large villages’ are redefined as ‘small urban centres’ (and it is possible to substantiate this from a demographic and an economic perspective), it would change the perceptions (and programmes) of most international agencies working there.

There are two other categories of urban centres where provision for water and sanitation is usually very inadequate. The first is the thousands of urban centres that have more than 20,000 inhabitants but that do not have the size and the political visibility to get much attention from national policy makers. Initiatives to improve ‘urban’ provision for water and sanitation also tend to forget these. For more urbanized nations, 20-40 percent of their total population is in urban centres with less than 200,000 inhabitants; for less urbanized nations, urban centres with less than 200,000



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¹ UN-HABITAT (2003), *Water and Sanitation in the World's Cities: Local Action for Global Goals*, Earthscan, London.

inhabitants often have more of the national population than urban centres with 200,000 plus inhabitants. The second category is the poorer, peripheral municipalities within large metropolitan areas. The new UN-HABITAT report will also be addressing water and sanitation needs in these two categories.

Addressing Water and Sanitation Needs in Smaller Urban Centres

What all smaller urban centres and large villages share is a concentration of population and economic activities with needs for freshwater and for waste-water management. This is completely independent of whether the settlement is classified as a (rural) village or an urban centre.

The fact that concentrations of people and enterprises lower the unit cost of providing and distributing treated piped water supplies and most forms of sanitation and drainage has long been known and acted upon. These operate through economies of proximity (relating mostly to population density which means less pipe and drain and ditch digging per household reached) and economies of scale (relating mostly to population size thresholds – for instance lower unit costs per household served for water-treatment plants and maintenance and billing departments). What is often not recognized by governments and international agencies is the potential economies of scale and proximity for ‘large villages’ and small urban centres. For economies of scale for water and sanitation, what little work has been done on these suggests that most come into play at a relatively low population threshold, i.e. they work for most small urban centres and some also work for ‘large villages’. Many small urban centres and large villages also have higher average cash incomes per person than more dispersed rural populations which means a higher capacity to pay for, for instance, water piped to the home and good sanitation.

In many smaller urban centres and larger villages, an important part of the ‘demand’ for water comes from enterprises, and there may be important synergies between this demand and the possibilities for investing in improved



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provision that also benefits households. This link between economic activities and domestic needs may also span rural–urban definitions, as demand for water for livestock and crops can help fund improved provision for water that also serves domestic needs. In many such settlements, there may also be sufficient demand for electricity, and also economies of scale and proximity, which make its provision economically feasible – and this brings obvious advantages with regard to power for water pumping.

Improving provision for water and sanitation in smaller urban centres and large villages is particularly challenging because they have the weakest local government systems. The institutions charged with water governance in these settlements often face specific challenges. For example, small urban centres may be large enough to justify a water and/or sewerage network, but too small to support a locally managed utility. The kinds of challenges evident in these kinds of settlements is highlighted in a study of small urban centres in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania that are clustered around Lake Victoria. Rehabilitating existing infrastructure in these urban centres and building capacity to ensure efficient operation of the utilities and providing the revenue base to operate and maintain the systems does not require very large investments – but this

does require long-term support for building this capacity and some immediate investments to address the most serious problems. This would also help address the need to reduce the severe impact that rapid urbanization is having on water quality in Lake Victoria.²

The Challenge for International Agencies

It is very difficult to know how to get good provision for water and sanitation to tens of thousands of smaller urban centres. In one sense, the solution is obvious: more competent, effective local water and sanitation providing organizations in which the unserved and ill-served have influence. And these organizations vary from households to private sector providers (of all sizes), to community organizations or cooperatives, to local government, depending on local circumstances. More prosperous economies that increase ‘effective demand’ for water and sanitation from producers and consumers are usually needed and always helpful. Combine this with economies of scale and proximity and the conditions for much improved provision becomes evident.

But how can international development agencies provide these underpinnings? How can very centralized agencies provide very decentralized support? How can they know which factors are most important in each particular locality, and know how to support them. How can they help ensure the development of more competent, effective local water and sanitation providing organizations in which the unserved and ill-served have influence? Especially where most smaller urban centres have governments that lack resources, the right to raise resources, and very weak technical capacity. And where local social and political structures so often marginalize or exclude most of the unserved and ill-served. It is easy to say that ‘good local governance’ is the solution – and this is certainly true – but saying this does not mean we know how to achieve it.

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² UN-HABITAT (2004), *Lake Victoria Region Water and Sanitation Initiative; Supporting Secondary Urban Centres in the Lake Victoria Region to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals*, Water for African Cities Programme, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT, Nairobi.

UN-HABITAT Poised to play Leading Role in 4th World Water Forum

Following an invitation from the Secretariat of the Fourth World Water Forum, UN-HABITAT has joined the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and other members of the United Nations Millennium Development Task Force on Water Supply and Sanitation, as a Co-Beacon and Partner to coordinate topic sessions and events for the theme *Water Supply and Sanitation for All* during the 4th World Water Forum scheduled to take place in Mexico City from 16-22 March, 2006.

This follows the successful role played by UN-HABITAT in coordinating events under the theme *Water and Sanitation for Cities* during the 3rd World Water Forum held in Japan in 2003. At that Forum, UN-HABITAT worked with the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, corporate and public sector leaders in the water and sanitation sector, and leading NGOs, to facilitate some 27 events in Osaka. High level participants at the two-day session included Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto, former Prime Minister of Japan, Mrs. Nane Annan, Dr. Mahmoud Abu-Zeid, Minister for Water Resources and Irrigation in Egypt, Mr. Tadao Chino, President of the Asian Development Bank, and United Nations Under Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Mrs. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka. The role of tariffs in the provision of sustainable access to water in cities, policy reforms, the role of small-scale water providers, private sector financing, and community participation were among the issues discussed.

A session on Financing of *Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor*, co-chaired by Mr. Jamal Sanghir of the World Bank and Mr. Kalyan Ray of UN-HABITAT made recommendations on practical options and workable strategies for urban water and sanitation that formed a basis

for the Ministerial Statement adopted in Kyoto at the conclusion of the Forum. A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed between the Asian Development Bank and UN-HABITAT for the implementation of the Water for Asian Cities Programme, which aims at mobilizing and managing resources for pro-poor investments in water supply and sanitation to meet the MDG targets. *Water and Sanitation in the World's Cities: Local Action for Global Goals*, a publication by UN-HABITAT was launched at the session.

UN-HABITAT plans to launch a sequel to this book, focusing on small urban centers, during the 4th World Water Forum. The aim of the new publication is to help governments and international organizations meet MDG targets for water supply and sanitation. As with the 2003 publication, the sub-title of the new publication will be *Local Action for Global Goals*, a theme that is similar to the main theme for the Mexico Forum which is: *Local Actions for a Global Challenge*.

With the wealth of experience and information gained from its Water for African Cities Programme, Water for Asian Cities Programme, and the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Initiative, UN-HABITAT is well placed to identify "local actions" from each of these regional programmes for discussion



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during the Mexico Forum. As a Co-Beacon, UN-HABITAT will work with its partners to organize the *Water Supply and Sanitation Theme Day* and prepare a theme paper on *Water Supply and Sanitation for All*. To this end, UN-HABITAT will participate fully in the preparatory processes at regional and local levels, and take part, as appropriate, in a virtual forum on the theme subject. In addition, it has offered to participate in the Ministerial Committee engaged in the preparatory process towards the Ministerial Conference.

Through its regional programmes,



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UN-HABITAT is well placed to invite water ministers from Africa, Asia and Latin America to take part in the *Thematic Roundtable* during the opening day of the Forum and also during the *Water Supply and Sanitation Theme Day*.

At an African regional meeting coordinated by the African Development Bank and the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW), to be held in Tunis from 28-29 September 2005, UN-HABITAT hopes to participate in planning a Water Dome to be erected at the Forum, based on its experience with the successful Water Dome at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. It will also help in identifying African Champions in the area of water supply and sanitation for different sessions in Mexico.

As part of the preparatory process towards the 4th World Water Forum, a

Regional Consultation on Water and Sanitation for Latin American and Caribbean Cities will be held in Mexico City from 8-10 November, 2005. The objectives of the Consultation include identification of local actions that have proved successful in addressing the water and sanitation challenges facing the region, as well as identification of strategies for mobilizing regional and international knowledge and capacities for addressing the priority issues. The consultation, being organized jointly by UN-HABITAT, the Secretariat of the Fourth World Water Forum, the Ministry for Social Development of the Government of Mexico, and the National Water Commission, will include the following Mexican partners:

- Asociaci n Nacional de Empresas de Agua y Saneamiento de M xico A.C. (ANEAS)

- National Conference of Municipalities (CONAM)
- Mexican College of Civil Engineers (CICM), and
- Professional Association of Hydrologists (AMH) International participants will include:
- The Latin American Association of Water and Sanitation Companies (ADERASA)
- The Habitat International Coalition (HIC)
- The Latin American Federation of Municipalities (FLACMA/UCLG)

One outcome expected from this meeting is an agreement on launching the Water for Latin American Cities Programme.

STAFF NEWS

With implementation of the Water for Asian Cities Programme in four cities in the State of Madhya Pradesh in India, and the launch of the Mekong Water and Sanitation Initiative (MEKWATSAN), human resource capacity in the Water, Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch has been strengthened. Two Chief Technical Advisers have joined the branch to enhance its management and delivery capacity, bringing with them a wealth of technical and managerial experience in the water and sanitation sector.

Mr. Aniruddhe Mukerjee, a graduate in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, also holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Management from Xavier's Labour Relations Institute, Jamshedpur. After working in the private sector for Proctor & Gamble and Citibank, he joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1993 and has served in various capacities in government both in policy formulation and field execution.



His experience also includes project formulation and developing proposals for funding support from aid agencies including USAID, JBIC, World Bank and DFID, and a number of international NGOs, in a variety of projects on urban environment management and lake management.

Currently a member of the Global Water Partnership Steering Committee, Mr. Mukerjee was appointed Chief Technical Advisor, Water for Asian Cities Programme, Madhya Pradesh, in April, 2005 and is based in Bhopal, India.

Dr. Roshan Raj Shrestha, who holds a Post Graduate degree in Limnology from Institute of Limnology, Austria, and a Doctorate in Applied Natural Science from Department of Sanitary Engineering and Water Pollution Control, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences in Austria, has 17 years' experience in the water and sanitation sector. He has contributed to the introduction of household drinking water treatment technologies, ECOSAN, Constructed Wetland Systems for wastewater treatment, and the ECO HOME concept in Nepal.



Dr. Shrestha's contributions have earned several national and international awards, among them the Third World Academy of Sciences Award in 2000 and the Kathmandu Metropolitan City Environment Award in 2004.

Dr. Shrestha, who has been associated with UN-HABITAT since November, 2004 was appointed Chief Technical Advisor, Water for Asian Cities Programme in Nepal, in May 2005.

“Unheard Voices of Women” Heard at CSD-13

By Sushmita Shekhar

During the 13th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development - CSD-13 in New York, UN-HABITAT organised a side event to call attention to the *Unheard Voices of Women* in discussions on the provision and improvement of access to clean water and sanitation facilities and services. In her opening address, Mrs. Nane Annan, wife of the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, who chaired the session, shared her deep concern for girls dropping out of school due to lack of sanitation facilities in developing countries, and noted that water and sanitation was the key to development for all countries.

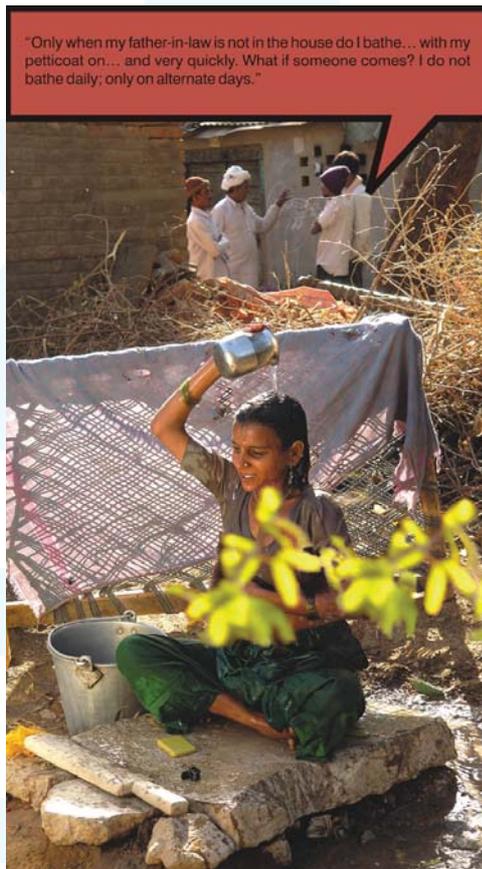
Welcoming participants to the session, UN-HABITAT Executive Director, Mrs. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, reiterated UN-HABITAT's commitment to promoting and facilitating access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation for all. The session brought together panelists and experts from different regions of the world, among them the Minister of State for Water in Uganda, and Chair of the African Ministerial Council for Water (AMCOW), Hon. Maria Mutagamba, the Minister for International Development, Norway, Hon. Hilde Frafjord Johnson, Hon. Penelope Beckles, Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment, Trinidad and Tobago, and Vice-Minister, Ministry of Environment, Housing and Territorial Development in Colombia, Hon. Carmen Arevalo. Ms. Maria Arce Moreira, Executive Secretary, represented the Gender and Water Alliance, while Sulabh International, a leading social service organisation in Asia was represented by its Vice-President, Ms. Susmita Shekhar.

The event opened with the screening of a documentary film produced by Sulabh International Academy of Environmental Sanitation, in partnership with UN-HABITAT, depicting the suffering and the hardships experienced by young girls and women living without access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities. In the ensuing discussions, the commitment of policy makers to providing better sanitation facilities in schools, and to the economically weak segments of society, particularly poor slum dwellers, came out clearly and strongly.

Hon. Hilde Frafjord Johnson said her country recognizes the daunting task faced by developing countries in raising awareness about these issues, and in making available adequate water and sanitation facilities.

Hon. Maria Mutagamba emphasized the need to improve delivery mechanisms, and the importance of political will and commitment at national level in addressing the problem. Region and country specific case studies and solutions were discussed by Hon. Carmen Arevalo, and Hon. Penelope Beckles in their speeches.

The *Unheard Voices of Women* in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean were brought to the forum by Ms. Doris Marealle



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from the Tanzania Women Land Access Trust (TAWLAT), Ms. Anita Miya of the Aga Khan Planning and Building Service in India, and Mrs. Mariela Garcia Vargas from the Instituto Cinara in Columbia. These were true stories of young girls and women speaking of their intense suffering. Four major issues emerged in the presentations, namely, lack of security, lack of privacy, lack of human dignity, and poor health. Sexual assaults resulting from insecurity, and discontinuation of girls' education featured prominently in the panel discussions.

Ms. Maria Arce Moreira and Ms. Susmita Shekhar noted that water, sanitation and hygiene education must be broad based. This requires improvements in the flow of information, education and awareness levels in the remotest villages, and amongst the poor and the rich, young and old alike. The deliberations highlighted the need for a pro-poor approach in the effective delivery of water and sanitation facilities and services by all developing countries if the related Millennium Development Goals are to be attained. The need to raise awareness among all stakeholders, including governments, the social sector, civil society and beneficiaries was underlined.

Ms. Sushmita Shekhar is Vice President, Sulabh International Social Service Organization (India).

Some Unheard Voices of Underprivileged Women

“To bathe, we all go to the ‘tabela’ (cattle shed) where there is water. But the landlord always shouts at us, saying “the water is for the cattle not for you all.”

Disability

One, I am a woman, and then I am handicapped. Because of bad my leg, I cannot get up and sit down again easily whenever a man passes by. The men complain to my husband about this. During my periods, it is even more unbearable. I am only 18 and have already given up hope of a better life.”

Resignation

The nightmare begins during the monsoons, when the wada becomes mired in human excreta and mud. There is so much filth that it stays in your mind. Sometimes I feel like vomiting when I come back, and do not feel like eating any food.”

Equity and Empowerment

“Even though the scheme made it compulsory and allocated funds for toilets, my husband constructed a boundary wall for the house instead. His priorities are clearly elsewhere”.

Aspirations

“I have just one dream. When we get a house, we have in it a separate toilet and bathroom facility.”

As Presented at CSD-13 in New York by Ms. Anita Miya, Programme Manager, Aga Khan Planning and Building Service, India

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