



## INTRODUCTION

I wish to welcome you to the first edition of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) News put together by the Resource Centre Network (RCN), Ghana, which seeks to promote knowledge management services within the sector through the facilitation of core partners.

There is a huge amount of information available in the WASH sector in Ghana today. However, getting access to varied and reliable information is problematic and sometimes impossible. The reasons include the lack of opportunities for sector institutions to meet and share their knowledge and experiences and to coordinate their various efforts into sector knowledge products like newsletters. The development of this newsletter is the result of sector institutional partnership network coordinated by the RCN secretariat. This is timely and a good initiative that could transform this sector into a knowledge-base arena, if sustained and supported by all in the sector.

This edition brings you information on sanitation, current activities of some institutions and projects, interviews on urban sanitation, etc. It is envisaged that the Ghana WASH News together with other knowledge products and services like the WATSAN website developed by the RCN and its partners will help address this problem of access to information and knowledge in the sector. This, in the long run will enable us make informed decisions, avoid duplication and optimise use of resources in the sector.

Enjoy reading and remember to send all comments and articles to, rcnghana@gmail.com

### BEST WISHES



Mr. Minta Aboagye  
Director, Water Directorate, MWRWH

## GHANA COMING SO-LOW-DOWN IN THE GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF SANITATION COVERAGE



Ghana appears to be coming so-low-down in the global assessment of sanitation coverage. A recent UNICEF/WHO Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) report, "A Snapshot of Sanitation in Africa," produced for the AfricaSan+5 International Conference on Sanitation held in Durban, South Africa in February 2008, indicates that only 10% (about 2.2m) of Ghanaians had access to improved latrine facilities as at 2006. This places Ghana, in terms of performance, 48th out of 51 African countries and 14th out of 15 West African countries assessed in the report. However, Ghanaian institutions believe that about 61% of the people have access to improved latrine facilities. The disparity, as noted by the Water and Sanitation Monitoring Platform (WSMP) is just an issue with definition of coverage, that is, access to improved latrine facilities as against the credibility of any report.

### DEFINITION OF COVERAGE

The JMP defines sanitation coverage as access to improved latrine facility.

Improved latrine facility is also defined as one that hygienically separates human excreta from human contact. To allow for international comparability of estimates, the JMP considers only the following as improved latrine facilities; flush or pour flush into septic tanks, into pits, or into piped sewerage systems, Ventilated Improved Pit latrines, composting toilet and pit latrines with slab. Any other type of latrine, including shared latrines, is considered unimproved. It is important to note that JMP considers only users of 'improved' latrine facilities as having 'access' to latrines.

### CREDIBILITY OF FIGURES

Many sanitation sector practitioners have expressed doubts over the credibility of the figures, while others rather feel confused especially as some local institutions rather have higher figures for access to improved latrine facilities in Ghana. But the JMP indicates in the report that the estimates originate from data collected by national statistics offices along with other relevant institutions through national censuses and nationally



representative household surveys. This therefore gives an indication that some or all of the data the JMP used may have originated from the Ghana Statistical Service. But the confusion seems to have deepened after the Ghana Statistical Service recently launched the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2006 report in Accra. The MICS report indicates that access to improved latrine facilities as at 2006 was 60.7%.

#### SHARED FACILITIES CAUSE OF CONFUSION!

A careful study of the report reveals that JMP's adherence to the application of international standards in computing the figures is the cause of the controversy. The JMP clearly separates shared latrine facilities from the improved ones. According to the report, shared facilities alone represent 51% in terms of access to latrines in Ghana. Meanwhile the 2006 MICS report did not separate shared facilities from private facilities.

#### IN DEFENCE OF SHARED TOILET FACILITIES

Some authorities in the sanitation sector, however, contend that it is too harsh to declare every type of shared facility unimproved or unsafe. They claim that several shared facilities are clean enough to be counted as safe. "There are a number of public water closets managed by full time attendants who always ensure that the place is kept clean and to say these facilities are unimproved is not fair," an official from the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Environment said in a chat over the issue. According to the official, in some rural communities too, the lack of space compels a couple of households to build a neighbourhood

latrine and share the squat holes with walls separating them into two or three chambers. This means that each of such chambers is managed by a household and to declare them unimproved rather compounds the efforts at promoting safe latrines in such communities.

But the statement below, quoted from the JMP report 2006 "Meeting the MDG Drinking water and sanitation target, the urban and rural challenge of the decade," summarizes the position taken by the JMP towards shared facilities:

"With increasing urbanization, growing concentrations of people with very low incomes, and greater numbers of tenants and informal settlements, it is likely that more and more urban dwellers will rely on public or shared facilities. Although JMP recognizes that well-maintained public or shared facilities represent an improvement over rudimentary forms of sanitation, the likelihood of poor hygiene and unsustainable use of these facilities, especially by children and women, argues against counting them as improved facilities."

#### COUNTING THE COST

Ghana has made enormous investments in public latrines. There are thousands of public latrines in both rural and urban communities. Government and several NGOs and CBOs have provided communities with expensive Kumasi Ventilated Improved Pit (KVIP) latrines believed to be an improved latrine technology to communities mostly without household latrines. To declare all these facilities unimproved by Ghana would imply additional financial resources to either provide or promote private latrines. And even if this is done it would still not be practicable in

hundreds of Ghanaian communities due to lack of space.

On the other hand, if Ghana should still count shared facilities as improved, it would stand out as an island within the global system as the JMP definition would still describe the country as poorly sanitized compared to other countries.

#### THE SECTOR MUST DECIDE NOW!

Though the seclusion of shared latrines from safe or improved facilities may be harsh, according to the report, there are 47 African countries that have done better than Ghana applying the same definition of which 13 are in West Africa. The sanitation sector as a whole, led by the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Environment, should debate this issue as soon as possible. Discussions may focus on this question; "Would Ghana still count shared latrine facilities as improved or rather decide to put up a strong argument to advocate for a change in the global definition to accommodate shared but clean facilities?" This will help the Environmental Health and Sanitation Directorate to do a more effective analysis of the on-going nationwide baseline sanitation data collection before another 'data bomb' explodes.

#### TOWARDS MDGS

To conclude, since JMP standards are used as the yardstick for measuring global performance and progress towards achieving the MDGs, Ghana should have registered about 30% as at 2006, so that we could be at 53% by 2015. Instead we had achieved only 10% as at 2006, which means that if the rate of progress remains as it is now, Ghana will achieve just about 15% by 2015.

Source: WSMP

# DEMEDEME ON THE WAY FORWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SANITATION (EHS)



Mr. Naa Demedeme, the Director of EHS of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Environment (MLGRDE) has described the year 2008 as 'a promising year that is full of hope for the sanitation sector'. According to him the sanitation sector has enjoyed the biggest support ever from Development Partners, achieved real tangible results and built the needed commitment to propel the sector in the years ahead.

The EHSD of the MLGRDE is mandated to "develop and maintain a clean, safe and pleasant physical environment in all human settlements to promote social, economic and physical well being of all sections of the population". Mr. Demedeme, speaking at the just ended 11th GoG/Donor Conference noted that the EHS has not been able to perform to the satisfaction of key sector players mainly because, for a long time the Unit has not had a "visible home". According to him the process towards the strengthening of the Unit has been "a long and tedious one". Institutional and Policy restructuring of the EHS sector started in 2005. He announced that as part of the Local Government (LG) Service, the MLGRDE is being restructured and the EHS unit has been designated as a directorate to position it to meet its mandate under the new LG Service.

Mr. Demedeme enumerated a number of opportunities in the sanitation

sector, which includes, the existence of Institutional, Policy and Legal framework, existence of NESPoCC, vibrant media interested in sanitation issues, good will from Development Partners and NGOs in Water and Sanitation (CONIWAS, INFAWAMI), Basic Training Institutions in Environmental Sanitation and opportunities for Institutions of Higher Learning, high level of political will, existence of decentralized structure and good governance, eminent persons for sanitation and the celebration of International Year of Sanitation.

Mr. Demedeme however, noted that there are still a lot of challenges. These, he identified as, inadequate political commitment, weak institutional capacity at decentralised levels, inadequate professional manpower base, inadequate funding for sanitation programmes, inadequate technology options, scaling up Community Led Total Sanitation beyond piloting, poor database/management which hinders effective planning of sanitation programmes and provision of sanitation facilities. The other challenges are weak and outmoded laws which are not in tune with present day conditions and lack of enforcement, lack of research opportunities for innovative and appropriate sanitation solutions, inherent poor behavior and attitude of the populace and weak coordination, harmony and collaboration amongst key sector players in sanitation.

As to the way forward for EHS, Mr. Demedeme called for the establishment of one national plan for accelerating progress to meet national and global sanitation goals, increase the profile of sanitation and hygiene in poverty reduction strategies and other related processes, and finally, ensure that one principal, accountable institution takes clear leadership of the national sanitation portfolio.

Get the full presentation on [www.ghana.watsan.net](http://www.ghana.watsan.net)

## RCN RECONSTITUTION ANNOUNCED @ MOLE XIX

The reconstitution of the Resource Centre Network (RCN), an initiative to promote and strengthen information and knowledge management services within the water and sanitation sector in Ghana, was announced at this year's Mole XIX conference.

Eugene Larbi of TREND/TPP announced this when he presented a paper (power point presentation) to sector key stakeholders who met at the Capital View Hotel in Koforidua in the Eastern Region of Ghana, to deliberate on the theme for this year's conference: "Reaching the MDGs for Sanitation: Options to Expand and Accelerate Coverage".

Mr. Larbi touched on the concept of knowledge management (KM), acknowledged the growing importance of KM globally and called for close collaboration within the sector in order to share information and experiences so as to build synergies and avoid duplications. He gave an overview of the Resource Centre Network initiative and the knowledge management (KM) activities in the WASH sector in Ghana. He mentioned challenges which will require more effort and resources to achieve, including strengthening coordination of KM activities, improving resourcing of KM activities, intensifying efforts to change attitudes towards KM, the development of KM at decentralised levels, etc.

The RCN secretariat, which will eventually be anchored in the Ministry of Water Resource Works and Housing (MWRWH), was announced and the specific role of the RCN secretariat outlined. These will include, planning and coordinating of Steering Committee and RCN activities, facilitating communication between the Steering Committee and the RCN partners, facilitating knowledge product development in cooperation with the resource centres, etc.

Mr. Larbi expressed the hope that the emergence of new projects like the WSMP, TPP, WASHCost, SWITCH, etc., with a focus on knowledge generation and dissemination will provide great impetus for RCN to expand in membership and function effectively. According to him, the RCN is at a point of restarting the process of bringing together key organizations to produce and disseminate knowledge. He bemoaned past experiences of lack of interest and funding that led to a near collapse of the process. 'The difference this time is that there is much more commitment towards KM than before, that there are knowledge generating projects and that a funded secretariat has been established' He added.

For the full presentation please visit the WATSAN pages: [www.ghana.watsan.net](http://www.ghana.watsan.net)

## CONIWAS INTERACTS WITH THE PRESS ON MOLE '19'



Options to Expand and Accelerate Coverage”.

Briefing the press, Lorretta Roberts on behalf of CONIWAS stated that participants at this year's conference acknowledged the fact that Ghana is facing a sanitation crisis that needs to be resolved as a matter of urgency through resolute and consistent actions. They also noted that 2008, the UN declared International Year of Sanitation (IYS), is soon coming to an end with Ghana showing little evidence of making appreciable headway in sanitation situation. The International Year of Sanitation was intended, as a unique opportunity, for countries with low sanitation coverage to accelerate their efforts and to enhance their success at improving sanitation and the overall

The Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation (CONIWAS) met the press at the International Press Centre in Accra on Wednesday, 6th August, 2008 to share with them the opinion of the wider stakeholder group at this year's Mole XIX conference. Mole Conference is an annual event organized by CONIWAS for

stakeholders in the Water and Sanitation Sector to deliberate on issues of concern, share knowledge and look at the way forward. This year's event took place in Koforidua from the 8th - 12th of July 2008. The theme for the conference was: "Reaching the MDGs for Sanitation:

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## 'AFRAM SKUUL OF INNOVATION' COMMENCES - APDO HOSTS MAIDEN EDITION

The Afram Plains Development Organisation (APDO) hosted the first CONIWAS annual learning seminar dubbed, 'Afram Skuul of Innovations', which recently took place at Afram Plains in the Eastern Region of Ghana. The three-day learning seminar focuses on the innovations in water and sanitation delivery of a particular member of CONIWAS. This aims at presenting the processes of these innovations for discussion and sharing among the members of CONIWAS, donors and policy makers.

The first day of this year's program began with session of presentations of APDO's innovations. The presentations focused on introduction of APDO; the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) process (100% Latrine Coverage); the Credit for Latrine process; the Community Led Hygiene Promotion process (Sectional Planning); and the Citizen Action strategy. The second day of the program allowed participants to make substantial observations of these

innovations on the field, through visits to communities where they are being implemented. Finally, the last day was used for reporting and discussing the observations of participants on the field trips, and to envisage more innovations to investigate in the future. For the full report visit the WATSAN Website: [www.ghana.watsan.net](http://www.ghana.watsan.net) .

The Afram Skuul of Innovation was funded by WaterAid  
Source: CONIWAS



# MWRWH LAUNCHES WASHCOST PROJECT GHANA



the day's deliberations seriously and to fully participate in the next day's WASH Governance training in order to learn and to share experiences so as not to duplicate but ensure synergy. Mr. Aboagye then declared the WASHCost Project Ghana formally launched.

Subsequently, presentations on aspects of WASHCost were made by Catarina Fonseca, the Global Director of WASHCost; Dr. Kwabena Nyarko, the Country Director of WASHCost; K. S. Manu of MIME Consult and Alex Obuobisa-Darko, the Country Coordinator of WASHCost Project Ghana.

The ceremony was chaired by Professor (Mrs.) Esi Awuah, Dean, Faculty of Civil & Geomatic Engineering, KNUST, Kumasi. In attendance was a host of key sector stakeholders including Naa Demedeme of the MLGRDE, representatives from PURC, AVRL, NGOs and foreign dignitaries. As part of activities making the launch, a series of workshops kick-started with a one-day session on WASH Governance which was facilitated by Dr. Patrick Moriarty of IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre and Dr. Kwabena Nyarko of WASHCost Ghana Project. Full report will soon be available on the Sector

Website: [www.ghana.watsan.net](http://www.ghana.watsan.net)

Mr. Minta Aboagye, Director of Water, Ministry of Water Resources Works and Housing (MWRWH), officially launched the WASHCost Project Ghana on Tuesday, September 9th 2008 at the Erata Hotel, East Legon - Accra, Ghana.

The WASHCost Project Ghana is a five-year collaborative research project between KNUST Department of Civil Engineering (Kumasi, Ghana) and IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre (Delft, The Netherlands). The project aims at determining the real disaggregated unit-costs in the life-cycle of WASH service delivery. The objective is to contribute to the effective and efficient

WASH service delivery through the use of unit-cost information. Mr. Aboagye whilst applauding the objectives of WASHCost, called for more attention to be paid to the poor who end up paying more for water.

"I also understand that the WASHCost Project is a global research programme that is being carried out in four countries including; India, Burkina Faso, Mozambique and Ghana" Mr. Aboagye added. He expressed his appreciation and thanks to IRC for the support and called for the effective use of project resources. He urged participants to take



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quality of life for their people. This, according to the briefing, is the opportunity for improvement Ghana is missing this year.

According to Lorretta, the latest official statistics published by the Joint Monitoring Platform (JMP), Ghana's sanitation coverage stood at 10% as at the end of 2006. This implies that only 10% of Ghanaians have access to an improved latrine for defecation, among others. At the 10% coverage rate, Ghana ranks number 48 in Africa, out of 52 countries reported and number 14 out of 15 countries, beating only Niger to the last position. This clearly reflects a national crisis as Poor sanitation impacts negatively on human dignity, causes misery, impedes productivity, strains our health-care system and consigns millions of people into abject poverty. The sustainable development of Ghana or any country for that matter hinges on improved sanitation. Emmanuel Addai briefed the media on the Water and Sanitation Sector Monitoring Platform (WSMP) compiled statistics on access to latrines in Ghana.

Present at the press briefing included, among others Mr. Demedeme, the Director of Environmental Health and Sanitation Division of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Environment (MLGRDE); Lorretta Roberts of Plan Ghana; Yaw Sarkodie (WSMP); Dr. Doris Dartey of OrgComInsight and other sector players. There was some level of media interaction and the media was called on to take up the crusade.

The press briefing did not only highlight concerns about the sanitation situation in the country but also made suggestions for the way forward for government, the media and for individuals.

For the full briefing text, visit [www.ghana.watsan.net](http://www.ghana.watsan.net)

## DBWSSC SUPPORTS INNOVATIVE APPROACHES FOR RURAL/SMALL TOWNS SANITATION SERVICES DELIVERY:

The Danida sponsored District Based Water Supply and Sanitation Component (DBWSSC) which operates in Eastern, Volta, Greater Accra and Central Regions has initiated various activities aimed at piloting innovative approaches for sanitation delivery. These activities broadly involve the development of knowledge and the creation of an enabling environment for scaling up new innovative approaches to the delivery of sanitation services within the National Community Water and Sanitation Project (NCWSP). The scope has included the following:

- **Sanitation audits** within small towns: This involves a concept that promotes a comprehensive approach to the tackling of sanitation in small towns. The scope involved the assessment of liquid wastes, solid wastes, wastewater disposal, other environmental issues and hygiene.
- **Sanitation Financing:** This involved a detailed assessment of the situation with operation of credit schemes in the Greater Accra Region (GAR) and an analysis of the options for financing sanitation that discourages subsidies and emphasise credit and loan schemes delivered as revolving funds through community based credit institutions.

- **Promotion of the CLTS approach to Sanitation Delivery:** The DBWSSC is promoting the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach to sanitation promotion and marketing in all the four regions. The focus of the CLTS approach is on the complete elimination of open defecation throughout the community rather than just the construction of latrines.
- **Development of Appropriate technologies based on the Sanitation Ladder Approach** The CLTS approach goes hand-in-hand with the sanitation ladder approach which promotes that all households in a community should "get on the sanitation ladder" through the acquisition of a latrine, no matter how rudimentary, as a first step to the elimination of open defecation.
- **Development of Sanitation Markets in Project Areas** The DBWSSC seeks to promote the CLTS and the sanitation ladder approaches by developing sanitation markets at vantage points throughout the project areas. Sanimarts will showcase the various technologies, and provide information regarding latrine technologies, costing, resource requirements and options for acquiring and upgrading latrines.
- **Design and Conduct of Training for Selected Artisans from the Project Areas.** The sanitation ladder approach requires a new calibre of latrine artisan who is more innovative, cost conscious and more adept in the use of locally available materials. The DBWSSC as part of its efforts provided training for about 69 artisans drawn from the three CLTS beneficiary DA in the Central, Eastern and Greater Accra Regions (50 from Central, 7 from ER, and 12 from GAR).

The outputs of all the above assignments complement one another within the framework of the overall goal to create a holistic enabling environment for the development of rural sanitation in the DBWSSC Regions.

The full story is available on the WATSAN Website: [www.ghana.watsan.net](http://www.ghana.watsan.net)

# FLAGBEARERS ON ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION (FOES)

Flag bearer on Environmental Sanitation (FOES) was a special seminar series organised by the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) for presidential candidates of the political parties contesting the December 7 general election. It took place at the Great Hall, KNUST, Kumasi from September 23rd 26th, 2008. The special seminar under the theme, "My Ghana Clean and Green" had the main objective of contributing towards the definition of a strategic framework for achieving and sustaining a cleaner and healthier environment.

Sector actors like the KNUST seem to have realised that despite the annual celebrations of the National Sanitation Week, many more systemic challenges remain and constrain the achievement of sustainable improvements, and that it was about time they paid particular attention to the observation made by Prince Wilhelm-Alexander of Netherlands, the Chairman of the UN Secretary General's Working Group on Water and Sanitation during the Global launch of the UN International Year of Sanitation (IYS 2008) in New York on November 21, 2007 that, "...I don't

think money is the biggest issue. If we take a collective decision to provide water and sanitation, the money will flow. The problem is largely one of priority and political will". As such they decided to create this kind of platform to know the views and positions of aspiring political leaders on environmental sanitation.

The seminar was chaired by the Vice-Chancellor of KNUST, Prof. K. K. Adarkwah with the chairperson of the organising committee being Prof. Mrs. Esi Awuah, the Dean of Faculty of Civil and Geomatic Engineering. The parties that took their turns to deliver their plans included the New Patriotic Party (NPP), the People's National Convention (PNC), the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the Convention People's Party (CPP). Each presidential candidate was given a day to appear and present their plans within an hour which was followed by questions from the floor for the candidate to address.

Questions were received from stakeholders (Water Resource Commission, CONIWAS, Zoomlion, New Juaben Municipal Assembly and School of Hygiene), students and the

public. The issues that were raised by the audience included the importance of Environmental Sanitation as a factor for voting in the up-coming elections, the planning of our cities and towns, sites for treatments and disposal of wastes, and also education and research in sanitation, among others.

The occasion provided a platform for each of the Presidential Flag bearers to share their plans and ideas for improving sanitation services. Not only did it create an opportunity for the candidates to demonstrate their commitment to environmental sanitation but also it served as a forum that enabled sector actors to gain insight into plans of Flagbearers to establish good policy frameworks for sanitation sector development. Finally the profile of environmental sanitation in Ghana was raised through this forum.

There was also an associated campaign that called on all to Support KNUST's call for "Ghana - Clean and Green" and sponsor a call to a radio station to alert politicians to give more commitment to environmental sanitation issues. The campaign urged everybody in the sector to do more, as the International Year of Sanitation, 2008 comes to close. The detailed report will soon be available on the WATSAN webpage; [www.ghana.watsan.net](http://www.ghana.watsan.net)

This seminar was sponsored by The Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development (MLGRD), Royal Netherlands Embassy, Danida- PMMS, UNICEF and SWITCH.



# ON-AIR ENCOUNTER WITH FLAG BEARERS

**-An initiative of WaterAid, and others**

WaterAid, the Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation (CONIWAS) and other members of the End Water Poverty Campaign Coalition, as part of their campaign activities marking the International Year of Sanitation (2008) created a media platform (on Joy FM) for all presidential aspirants (with party-representation in parliament) for the 2008 general elections to outline their sanitation plan for Ghana.

The platform presented an opportunity for aspirants to highlight sanitation (and water) in their presidential campaign manifestos. The aim was to influence the next president to commit to sanitation, and enable the people of Ghana hold the next government accountable to the promises made on solving the country's sanitation problems (provision of toilet facilities), among others.

The platform took the form of a series of interviews on a popular local FM radio station, Joy FM, on a prime time program, the Super Morning Show. Aspirants were taken through series of questions to assess their level of understanding of the current state of SANITATION and their commitment to dealing with the problems of SANITATION; their personal appreciation of the sanitation issue in Ghana; how they would prioritize sanitation amidst other equally important sectors such as health, education, energy, agriculture, etc.; and what they would do differently to ensure that Ghana achieves the sanitation MDG.

The audio version of the interviews will soon be available on the WATSAN site, [www.ghana.watsan.net](http://www.ghana.watsan.net)

Source: WaterAid

ALL TO NOTE:

## 9 STEPS TO REACH THE MDGS TARGETS FOR WASH

**1.** Raise the profile of sanitation and hygiene in all political and developmental venues. Sanitation is in a state of crisis that needs to be addressed with due urgency.

**2.** Increase national government funding of water and sanitation improvements, and adopt 'fasttrack' countries for rapid scale-up of official development assistance and other forms of financial assistance to the sector, using such selection criteria as good governance and absorptive capacity.

**3.** Support and introduce a series of 'quick impact initiatives' that include programmes encouraging hand washing, household water treatment, and community-based 'franchising' of water and sanitation service delivery in order to demonstrate how a difference can be made in a short time while stressing the importance of longerterm interventions for providing and upgrading these basic services.

**4.** Accelerate access to water and sanitation, with particular attention to the unreached, both urban and rural, by improving the management and allocation of resources and ensuring that national sector programmes focus on access to water and sanitation services to enhance the health and sustainable livelihoods of the poor.

**5.** Focus on essential and sustainable low-cost services, especially at the household level, with adequate attention to community-based maintenance and operation systems and to

ensuring that plans are in place for the upgrading of services based on people's ability to pay.

**6.** Encourage household water security through the year-round availability of enough water of adequate quality to ensure family survival, health and productivity, without compromising the integrity of the environmental resource base.

**7.** Strengthen policies and institutional frameworks needed to improve sanitation, safe water supply and hygiene, and build government capacities for leadership and responsibility.

**8.** Recognize the importance of achieving the water and sanitation MDGs in national and regional developmental frameworks.

**9.** Strengthen partnerships to help mobilize concern and commitment for action to achieve the MDGs. Such partnerships include the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Initiative, led by the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, and the new Global Water Challenge, supported through the United Nations Foundation, a network of local and international non-governmental organizations, private-sector companies, government officials and community representatives which supports national programmes and has already begun to reap the fruits of effective collaboration.

Source: WSMP 2006



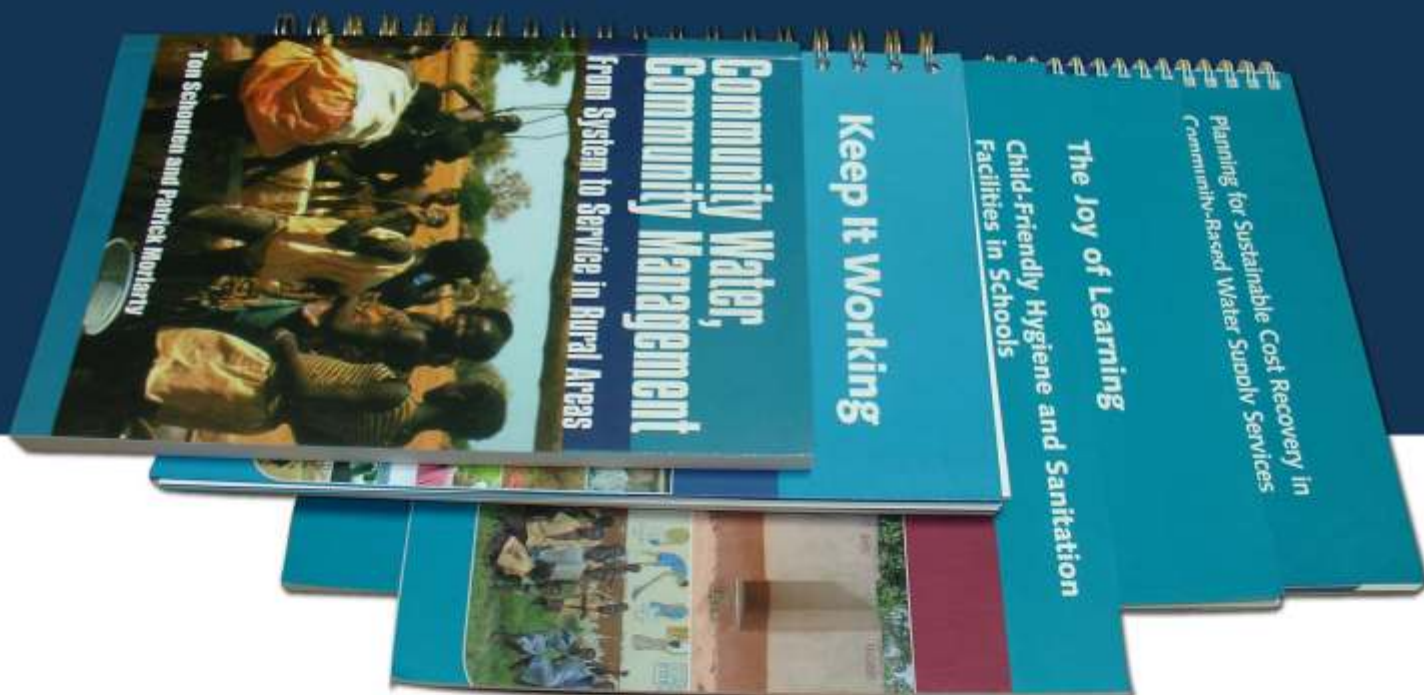
# KNOW THE MDGS

## FOR WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)?

Millennium Development Goal	Links to water, sanitation and hygiene
<b>1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Household water security is critical to eradicating poverty, especially amongst subsistence farmers and in the increasing number of water-scarce countries.</li> <li>Safe water, good sanitation and safe hygiene behavior is central to combating chronic diarrhoeal and parasite debilitating illnesses which reduces productivity.</li> <li>Water provision close to homes saves time and energy spent in fetching water from long distances and contributes to improved nutrition and productivity.</li> <li>Adequate and convenient water supply is critical to small-scale backyard gardening, livestock keeping, micro-enterprise etc. rely on and are an important for household food-security and income generation, especially for impoverished families and women</li> </ul>
<b>2. Achieve universal primary education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe, private sanitation and washing facilities in schools increases girls' enrolment and attendance, and reduces dropout rates, especially for girls of menstruation age.</li> <li>Safe water, good sanitation facilities attract girls and female teachers in school, increases enrolment levels, and contribute to educational achievement and the quality of education learning environment.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Promote gender equality and empower women</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women and girls health, privacy and security benefits greatly when private sanitation facilities are provided in both communities and schools.</li> <li>Women and girls benefit when water services are provided close to homes thus reducing their burden in fetching water from distances sources.</li> <li>Household food security is increased when sufficient and convenient water supplies are made available to women for small-scale food production.</li> <li>Involving women in water and sanitation decision-making and building their capacity to manage and sustain them, equips and empowers women with new skills to address other development needs, especially their own strategic and practical needs.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Reduce child mortality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved hygiene, good sanitation and safe water prevents the primary cause of diarrhea which kills between 1.6 million and 2.5 million children under five years of age, every year – more than any other illness.</li> <li>Improving hygiene, sanitation and water is the only way to reduce the burden of chronic diarrhea morbidity in young children.</li> <li>Water for household food security provides access to micronutrients and protein from home grown vegetables and household livestock leading to improved nutritional status of children.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Improve maternal health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available water and good hygiene and sanitation are critical to good birth hygiene and safe delivery environments.</li> <li>Hygiene education, knowledge and safe practices are critical to birth hygiene, especially hand-washing.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adequate and easy access to safe water, good sanitation facilities and hygienic behaviors are critical to combating chronic diarrhea and opportunistic infections among those with HIV/AIDS, and reduces the risk of spreading diarrheal diseases in the environment.</li> <li>Clean water and safe hygiene practices for preparing infant formula are critically important where HIV-positive mothers choose to stop exclusive breastfeeding.</li> </ul>
<b>7. Ensure environmental sustainability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe management and disposal of feces and other household waste is key to environmental sustainability.</li> <li>The equitable management of water resources is critical to environmental sustainability.</li> </ul>
<b>8. Develop a global partnership for development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A broad partnership (such as among civil society, international institutions and the public and private sectors) greatly contributes to improving service delivery, knowledge and safe behaviors, local management and sustainability of water and sanitation services while ensuring equity.</li> <li>A holistic approach through partnerships enables greater potential for synergy and sustainability in sector development.</li> </ul>

Source: UNDP 2006

## **BRINGING YOU THE BEST WATER AND SANITATION (WATSAN) BOOKS**



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