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## **27. Adaptive Water Governance**

### **UNDP**

World leaders have pledged to achieve by 2015 the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including the over-arching goal of cutting extreme poverty in half. The governance of water has profound impacts on people's livelihoods and their ability to break out of poverty.

Beyond the MDG water and sanitation targets themselves, achieving the eight MDGs very much depends on strengthening water governance at local, national, regional and global levels.

UNDP promotes equitable access to water resources and water and sanitation services as a fundamental requisite for human development. The global crisis in water and sanitation stems mostly not from physical shortages but from social and political insufficiencies and inequality. It overwhelmingly affects the poor. Governance reform, therefore, must be central to any strategic approach to addressing the crisis.

#### **WATER GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE**

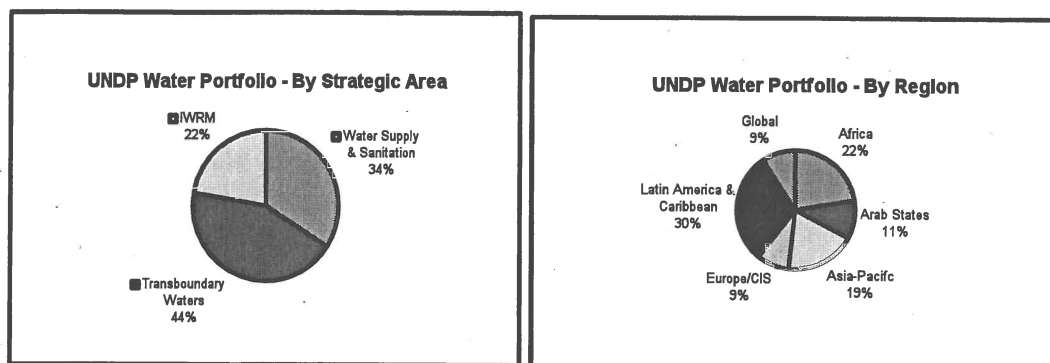
- **UNDP Water Governance Programme** is active in over 150 countries with a current portfolio of over \$500 million plus substantial co-financing.
- **UNDP Water Governance Programme** works in three strategic areas...
  - ✓ Water Supply and Sanitation
  - ✓ Integrated Water Resources Management
  - ✓ Regional and Global Cooperation
- ... and four cross-cutting themes:
  - ✓ Adaptation to Climate Change
  - ✓ Human Rights Based Approach
  - ✓ Gender and Empowering Women
  - ✓ Capacity Building and Knowledge Management
- **UNDP Water Governance Facility** at Stockholm International Water Institute provides policy support and advice on water governance reforms.
- **UNDP GoAL WaSH Programme** supports Governance, Advocacy and Leadership for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene to scale up safe and affordable services.
- **UNDP Community Water Initiative** with the GEF Small Grants Programme supports community action on water resources, water supply & sanitation.
- **UNDP's CapNet** builds capacity of institutions and individuals through 22 national and regional networks including 300 member institutions.
- **UNDP Transboundary River Basin Initiative (TRIB)** facilitates cooperation on shared waters for regional security and economic development.
- **UNDP's GEF International Waters** portfolio supports transboundary water and marine resources management programmes in 15 lakes/river basins/aquifers, and 10 Large Marine Ecosystems.
- **WaterWiki.net** offers innovative knowledge management for water professionals on water and development; supporting partners include UNICEF, WHO, UNECE, WWAP.
- **UNDP participates in** UN-Water, UN-Oceans, Global Water Partnership, WSP, World Water Assessment Programme, IW:LEARN, Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts & Islands, and GESAMP.

**Beyond scarcity: Power, poverty and the global water crisis**

- UNDP Human Development Report 2006

*"I fully support the call for a Global Action Plan to tackle the growing water and sanitation crisis. As the 2006 Human Development Report highlights, each one of the eight Millennium Development Goals is inextricably tied to the next, so if we fail on the water and sanitation goal, hope of reaching the other seven rapidly fades. Either we take concerted action now to bring clean water and sanitation to the world's poor, or we consign millions of people to lives of avoidable poverty, poor health and diminished opportunities, and perpetuate deep inequalities within and between countries. We have a collective responsibility to succeed."*

— Kemal Derviş, UNDP Administrator



**UNDP Water Governance Programme (WGP)** works in partnership with governments, UN agencies, international financial institutions, NGOs, bilateral and multilateral donors and the private sector in each of its strategic and cross-cutting areas. WGP uses a human rights based approach and promotes mainstreaming of gender issues and the empowerment of women. Incorporation of climate change impacts on water and marine resources is systematically integrated to put in place effective adaptation responses. WGP's networks such as CapNet provide access to experience, expertise and tools so that good practices can be readily shared.

### **Water Supply and Sanitation**

UNDP works to bring about the necessary improvements in water governance to scale up water and sanitation services for the poor. Through its MDG GoAL WaSH initiative, WGP focuses on coordinated country assistance by UN and other development partners and inclusion of water and sanitation in national development planning. Special attention is given to fragile states where water and sanitation challenges are greatest. At local level, WGP supports decentralized policy implementation and community action through the Community Water Initiative.

### **Integrated Water Resources Management**

WGP assists countries develop capacities and implement integrated approaches to water resources management and development. Support to sector reforms focuses on policy, regulatory and institutional measures to manage competing demands and improve equity and efficiency in water use and management. WGP is working with over 50 countries, including all Small Island Developing States, supporting development and implementation of IWRM plans in the context of national development strategies.

## **Regional and Global Cooperation**

Cooperation on transboundary waters management focuses on strengthening the joint management of rivers, lakes, aquifers and oceans by setting priorities, building consensus on governance reforms and investments, nurturing and strengthening institutions, and supporting the implementation of action programmes. UNDP has assisted over 100 countries in these efforts ranging from completion of transboundary diagnostic analyses to the preparation and adoption of regional water body legal frameworks.

## **UN Water**

UN Water is the interagency mechanism that promotes coherence and coordination of UN system actions aimed at the implementation of the agenda defined by the Millennium Declaration and the World Summit on Sustainable Development. It comprises the 24 UN agencies active in water and sanitation, among them UNDP. UNDP takes an active part in the work of UN Water and has been a key contributor to its World Water Development Reports.

**For more information please visit: [www.undp.org/water](http://www.undp.org/water)**

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