

FAST FACTS

United Nations
Development Programme



Action on Water

World leaders have pledged to achieve by 2015 the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including the over-arching goal of cutting extreme poverty in half. UNDP, using its worldwide network, is coordinating global and national efforts to reach these Goals. As the 2006 Human Development Report (HDR 2006), *Beyond scarcity: Power, poverty and the global water crisis*, emphasizes, achieving the eight MDGs very much depends on strengthening water governance at local, national, regional and global levels. The main imperatives of the Report are:

- Make water a human right—and mean it
- Draw up national strategies for water and sanitation
- Support national plans with international aid
- Develop a global action plan

UNDP is helping catalyze efforts toward achievement of the MDGs through its Water Governance Programme (www.undp.org/water/), and stands ready to work with UN-Water and other partners in advancing the Report's recommendations.

UNDP's strategy in strengthening water governance—and thereby boosting progress toward the MDGs—includes:

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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**

MATTERS OF FACT

- UNDP's Water Governance Programme is active in over 150 countries, in four thematic areas of support: Water Supply, Sanitation, Transboundary Waters Management, and Water Resources Management. In the graph on page 2 water supply and sanitation are represented as one section.
- The Water Governance portfolio totals \$1.5 billion including cash and in-kind co-financing.
- The International Waters focal area of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) represents the principal source of funding for the Transboundary Waters Management area.
- UNDP participates in UN-Water, Global Water Partnership, Water and Sanitation Programme, World Water Assessment Programme, World Water Forum.
- Partners include governments, bilateral and multilateral donors, UN agencies, NGOs and private foundations
- UNDP has set up 11 national and 9 regional water management capacity-building networks, including 300 member institutions
- UNDP draws on expertise from its Environment & Energy network of 1,413 members

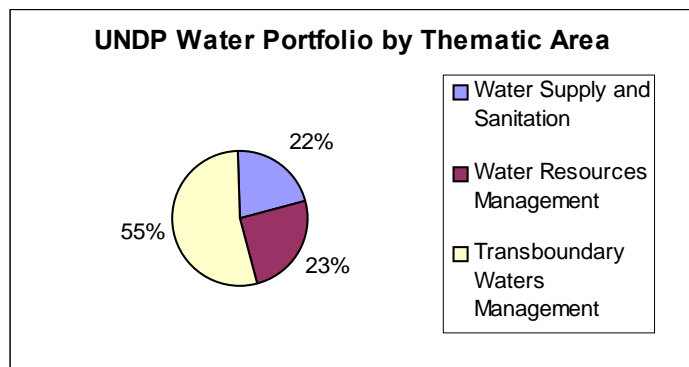
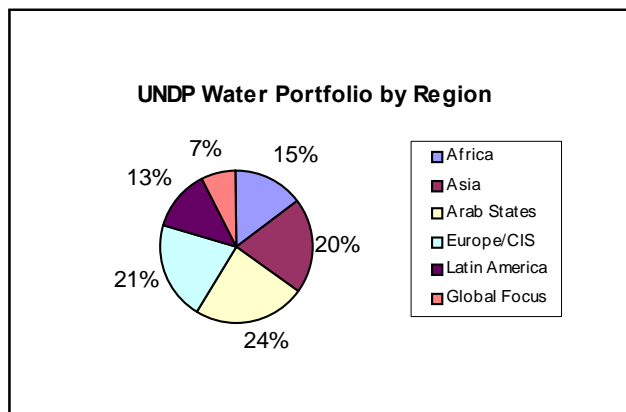
- Incorporating water management, water supply and sanitation into national development and poverty-reduction strategies
- Catalyzing financing for improved water governance
- Supporting and participating in global, regional, national and local dialogue on water governance.
- Helping countries consider water resources in their plans for adapting to climate change
- Building capacity to manage water resources effectively
- Promoting women's empowerment and human rights as essential components of effective water governance

UNDP's Water Governance Programme is structured around six inter-related areas of support:

1. National strategies for equitable management and governance of water

(Links to HDR2006 Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4)

This area aims to help partner countries fight poverty and achieve sustainable development through global



advocacy, policy development and coordination of action, and by bringing water-resources management, water supply and sanitation into national development plans.

Programme results include:

- Assisted Kazakhstan in developing its national Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) plan; similar plans are under development in more than 50 other countries, including all Small Island Developing States, in support of global targets for sustainable development.
- Supported Chad, China, Kenya, Sudan, Ukraine and others in conceiving national plans, tariff structures, legislation and regulatory systems for water and sanitation.
- Served as lead author of water-governance chapter in World Water Development Report produced by UN Water.
- With the Poverty and Environment Partnership, UNDP has helped development partners craft policy that recognizes the links between poverty and water issues, maximizes the value of investments and gives top priority to the most pressing concerns.

2. Local action on water and sanitation

(Links to HDR 2006 Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 5)

This area focuses on promoting decentralized water management that is responsive to local conditions and the needs of poor and marginalized groups. UNDP helps communities take an active role in IWRM, and promotes safe and ecosystem-based water supply and sanitation systems and technologies. Results include:

- Support to community-level projects on water-resources management, water supply and sanitation in over 30 countries. In Rajasthan, India, for example, that support aided construction of 7,500 community water-harvesting structures in the form of dams and ponds to rid the area of water shortages.
- In India and Sri Lanka, the success of pilot projects in ecologically friendly sanitation has elicited demand from municipal and state governments to scale up sanitation services. Ecological sanitation investments are backing the ongoing restoration of Havana Bay, Cuba and Lake Manzala, Egypt.

- A broad-based programme to implement ‘eco-friendly’ municipal sanitation in Mexico has helped local organizations design and manufacture ‘ecosan’ toilets, and demonstrated successful household and public ‘ecosan’ systems.

3. Cooperation on Transboundary Waters Management

(Links to HDR 2006 Chapter 6)

This area focuses on strengthening the joint management of transboundary waterbodies—rivers, lakes and aquifers that cross national borders—by setting priorities, building consensus on governance reforms and investments, nurturing and strengthening institutions, and supporting the implementation of action programmes. **UNDP’s results here include:**

- The Programme supports transboundary waters-management programmes in 15 lake and river basins with over 100 countries participating.
- UNDP and its partners completed Transboundary Diagnostic Analyses, in 12 shared waterbodies which set priorities in managing transboundary waters and assessed both causes and impacts of agreed priority transboundary issues.
- Governments completed and adopted 12 UNDP-supported Strategic Action Programmes to address agreed threats to their shared waterbodies. Implementation of these is underway in six waterbodies.
- Catalytic investments and policy reforms significantly cut pollution loads in the Danube, and the Black Sea ecosystem is recovering.
- Adoption of five regional legal waterbody mechanisms.
- Eight regional transboundary waters-management institutions were created or strengthened.

4. Adaptation to climate change

(Links to HDR 2006 Chapter 4)

This area helps countries assess their vulnerability to climate change and incorporate those risks into national development planning. It includes strengthening of water institutions and prioritizing of adaptation projects. A principal concern is to address the disproportionate

vulnerability of poor people to climate change. **Results include:**

- More than 200 individual National Communications, on climate change and adaptation, 29 National Adaptation Programmes of Actions; 22 pilot projects on adaptation in 43 countries.
- In Zimbabwe and Mozambique, UNDP and partners linked global climate models to river-basin hydrology to develop climate-change adaptation strategies.
- Support to community-based drought management in over 400 villages in the Marwar region of India.

5. Gender equity in water governance

(Cross-cutting theme in HDR 2006)

UNDP supports policies, programmes and projects that make women's empowerment a central consideration in water-resources management, and thus foster human development for both women and men. Results include:

- Development of Mainstreaming Gender in Water Management: A Resource Guide, an interactive web- and CD-ROM-based guide providing tools and resources in four languages.
- *Why gender matters* is a tutorial for water managers, available in English and Spanish, that was disseminated to all UNDP country offices and used by 300 training institutions.

6. Capacity development

(Cross-cutting theme in HDR 2006)

The principal aim is to strengthen local institutions as builders of capacity and centres of knowledge, and to improve access to experience, expertise and tools for improved water-resources management, water supply and sanitation. UNDP supports networks of knowledge that can maximize programmes' impact and adapt experience and good practices for use elsewhere. Results include:

- Established a capacity-building network for water-resources management, Cap-Net. Conducted 141 courses for 1,000 trainees to date.

UNDP and partners have produced training and resource materials on a broad range of topics including legislation, institutional arrangements, network-management tools, local water management, water supply and sanitation, ecological sanitation, conflict resolution and national IWRM planning

UN Water

UN Water is the focal point for coordinating UN system activities in the area of water resources. It comprises the 24 UN agencies active in water and sanitation, among them UNDP. UN Water is the interagency mechanism that promotes coherence in, 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. www.unwater.org/

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