

Introducing GoAL WaSH

Governance, Advocacy and Leadership for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

GoAL WaSH is an innovative new UNDP programme that aims to accelerate achievement of the water and sanitation Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through strategically targeted interventions that strengthen governance of the water and sanitation sectors at appropriate levels.

Achieving the MDGs

Globally, almost 1 billion people lack clean drinking water. 2.4 billion people have no access to hygienic sanitation facilities; 1.2 billion lack any sanitation facilities at all. Each day, an average of 5,000 children die due to preventable water and sanitation related diseases. In 2000, through the MDGs, the international community committed to halving the proportion of people without access to clean water and basic sanitation by 2015. Overall, the world is on track to meet the water supply MDG, but there are major gaps in many regions and countries, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. On current trends, the world will miss the sanitation target by a staggering 700 million people.

Meeting the MDG water and sanitation targets is more than a health and dignity issue. The evidence is compelling that achieving the water and sanitation goals would trigger a major leap forward in human development:

- Water and sanitation are essential to



Photo: Manfred Matz

achieving all of the MDGs

- Investment in water supply yields an average economic return of USD 4.4 to USD 11
- Investment in sanitation yields an average economic return of USD 9.1 to USD 11
- Human Development is more closely linked to access to water and sanitation than any other development driver, including spending on health or education, and access to energy services.

- Identifying gaps, needs, constraints and opportunities in national water and sanitation plans, strategies and capacities
- Governance reform, leadership and policy advocacy
- Incorporation of water and sanitation into national MDG and related poverty reduction strategies
- Close coordination with governments and key development partners active in water and sanitation at country level.

The GoAL WaSH Programme

GoAL WaSH works with countries that have low water and sanitation coverage and are not projected to achieve the water, sanitation or both MDGs. It works through:

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UNDP GoAL WaSH Project Initiatives

