Linking technology choice with operation and maintenance in the context of community water supply and sanitation

A REFERENCE DOCUMENT FOR PLANNERS AND PROJECT STAFF

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Preface

The *Global Water Supply and Sanitation Assessment 2000*, a report prepared jointly by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), indicated that nearly 1.1 billion (1100 million) people have no access to improved water sources and that about 2.4 billion have no access to any form of improved sanitation facilities, with the vast majority of these people living in developing countries. To achieve the international development target of halving the percentage of people without access to improved water supply or sanitation by the year 2015, an additional 1.6 billion people will require access to water supply and about 2.2 billion will require access to sanitation facilities by 2015, given the projected population increases. The task is huge and involves a considerable increase in the level of investments made so far.

A major concern for expanding water-supply and sanitation services is to select technologies and institutional options that users would be willing to pay for, and that would also ensure good public health and sustainable environmental conditions. As suggested by its title, the present document aims to help decision-makers identify the most appropriate technology for their situation, taking into account the conditions in the project area. The document focuses on developing countries, and provides essential information on the types of water-supply and sanitation technologies available, including descriptions of the operation and maintenance requirements of the technologies, the actors involved and the skills they must have or must acquire. It also addresses potential problems, including those that have been identified in prior water-supply and sanitation projects.

It is hoped that this contribution to sector development will be useful to bilateral, multilateral and governmental agencies that are involved in choosing the water-supply and sanitation technologies to be used in specific situations. The current document is a revision of a previous version that was based on the results of several years of field-testing different technologies and was prepared by the Operation and Maintenance Working Group of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (c/o WHO).

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