



## FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE ACTION DECADE

These web pages contain the background to the International Decade for Action *Water for Life* and the international agreements that preceded it.

**United Nations General Assembly resolution 58/217** proclaiming the International Decade for Action (<http://www.un.dk/doc/A.58.0217.PDF>).

**Millennium Development Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability.** Target 10 is the drinking water and sanitation target (<http://www.developmentgoals.org/Environment.htm>).

**Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development.** Chapter 4, paragraphs 24 and 25 deal with the MDG drinking water and sanitation target and with integrated water resources management ([http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/WSSD\\_POI\\_PD/English/POIChapter4.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/WSSD_POI_PD/English/POIChapter4.htm)).

**UN/Water Development Report: water for people, water for life. Executive summary** (March 2003). Challenge 1 deals with the drinking water and sanitation sector (<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/water/WWDR-english-129556e.pdf>).

**UNDESA Briefing document on fresh water.** Provides links to many earlier international agreements (including Chapter 18 of Agenda 21) (<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/water/water.htm>).

**Implementation Plan of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, 2002** ([http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/documents/summit\\_docs/2309\\_planfinal.htm](http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/documents/summit_docs/2309_planfinal.htm)).

**Sanitation Connection: an Environmental Sanitation Network (SANICON)** (<http://www.sanicon.net>).

### MDG TASK FORCE ON WATER AND SANITATION – RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The final report of the **MDG Task Force on Water and Sanitation, Health, dignity and development: what will it take?** ([http://unmp.forumone.com/eng\\_task\\_force/WaterEbook.pdf](http://unmp.forumone.com/eng_task_force/WaterEbook.pdf)) makes the following recommendations for action:

**Action 1:** Governments and other stakeholders must move the sanitation crisis to the top of the agenda.

**Action 2:** Countries must ensure that policies and institutions for water supply and sanitation service delivery, as well as for water resources management and development, respond equally to the different roles, needs, and priorities of women and men.

**Action 3:** Governments and donor agencies must simultaneously pursue investment and reforms.

**Action 4:** Efforts to reach the water and sanitation target must focus on sustainable service delivery, rather than construction of facilities alone.

**Action 5:** Governments and donor agencies must empower local authorities and communities with the authority, resources, and professional capacity required to manage water supply and sanitation service delivery.

**Action 6:** Governments and utilities must ensure that users who can pay do pay in order to fund the operation, maintenance, and expansion of services—but they must also ensure that the needs of poor households are met.

**Action 7:** Within the context of national poverty reduction strategies based on the Millennium Development Goals, countries must elaborate coherent water resources development and management plans that will facilitate the achievement of the goals.

**Action 8:** Governments and their civil society and private sector partners must support a wide range of water and sanitation technologies and service levels that are technically, socially, environmentally, and financially appropriate.

**Action 9:** Institutional, financial, and technological innovation must be promoted in strategic areas.

**Action 10:** The United Nations system organizations and their member states must ensure that the United Nations system and its international partners provide strong and effective support for the achievement of the water supply and sanitation target and for water resources management and development.

## TAPPING THE SOURCES

The following agencies offer comprehensive information on the topics presented in this report.

- ▶ **World Health Organization (WHO)**  
Provides guidelines, best practice materials and statistics on water, sanitation and health, including: drinking water quality; access to drinking water; basic sanitation; hygiene; water-related disease; wastewater use; household water treatment and safe storage ([http://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/en/](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/en/)).
- ▶ **UNICEF**  
Publishes technical, policy and advocacy documents related to drinking water and sanitation and children, including: school sanitation and hygiene education; hygiene promotion; sanitation ([http://www.unicef.org/wes/index\\_documents.html](http://www.unicef.org/wes/index_documents.html)).
- ▶ A consortium of nongovernmental organizations in the United Kingdom, including WaterAid and Oxfam  
Prepared a series of recommendations for the G8 summit in November 2003 on ways of delivering the MDG drinking water and sanitation target ([http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what\\_we\\_do/issues/health/downloads/g8evian\\_water.pdf](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/issues/health/downloads/g8evian_water.pdf)).
- ▶ **Centre Régional pour l'Eau Potable et l'Assainissement à faible coût (CREPA)**  
Publishes documents on hygiene, water supply, and sanitation (in French) with a focus on West Africa (<http://www.reseaucrpa.org/index.htm>).
- ▶ **Environmental Health Project (EHP)**  
Provides comprehensive lessons learned and guidelines on health-related topics, including: preventing childhood diarrhoea through hygiene improvement; improving health for the urban poor; household water treatment (<http://www.ehproject.org/>).
- ▶ **Global Water Partnership (GWP)**  
Provides a toolbox, case studies and reference materials on implementation of integrated water resources management (<http://gwpforum.netmasters05.netmasters.nl/en/index.html>).
- ▶ **Instituto de Investigación y Desarrollo en Agua Potable, Saneamiento Básico y Conservación del Recurso Hídrico (CINARA)**  
Publishes documents on water supply, basic sanitation and water conservation (in Spanish), with a focus on Latin America (<http://www.cinara.org.co/>).
- ▶ **IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre**  
Discusses and publishes documents on themes such as: scaling up community management; water and livelihoods; finance and cost recovery; hygiene promotion; water and gender, operation and maintenance (<http://www.irc.nl/page/102>).
- ▶ **Pan American Center for Sanitary Engineering and Environmental Sciences (CEPIS)**  
Publishes documents on water, sanitation and hygiene (in English and Spanish), with a focus on the Americas (<http://www.cepis.ops-oms.org/indexeng.html>).
- ▶ **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**  
Its MDG home page (<http://www.undp.org/mdg/>) includes a section on making sense of MDG costing, which includes an important point about the complementarity of the eight MDG goals, and hence the fallacy of adding together cost estimates for their achievement.
- ▶ **Water and Sanitation Program (WSP)**  
Provides information on topics including: rural and small towns; services to the urban poor; sanitation, health and hygiene; participation and gender (<http://www.wsp.org/> –follow “In the Sector” links).
- ▶ **Water, Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC)**  
Publishes documents and pamphlets on a wide range of themes, including: public-private partnership and the poor in water sanitation; guidelines for sustainable handpump projects in Africa; access to water and sanitation for disabled people; social marketing for urban sanitation (<http://wedc.lboro.ac.uk/index.php>).
- ▶ **Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council**  
Promotes the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) campaign, providing facts, figures and news reports on global progress (<http://www.wsscc.org>).
- ▶ **WHO Regional Centre for Environmental Health Activities (CEHA)**  
Publishes documents and provides information on water, sanitation and hygiene, with a focus on the Middle East region (in Arabic, English and French) (<http://www.emro.who.int/ceha/>).