

# Water resources planning: many opportunities to enhance health, many opportunities missed.

## Water resources development

... creates many opportunities for health improvement.  
Uncoordinated planning, development and management  
of water resources greatly increases health risks.

- 300 million people suffer from malaria. Intensified irrigation, dams and other water projects contribute to this;
- schistosomiasis affects 200 million worldwide, and is virtually synonymous with irrigation development in Africa.



## Health impact assessment

... acts upstream in water resource planning  
and management.

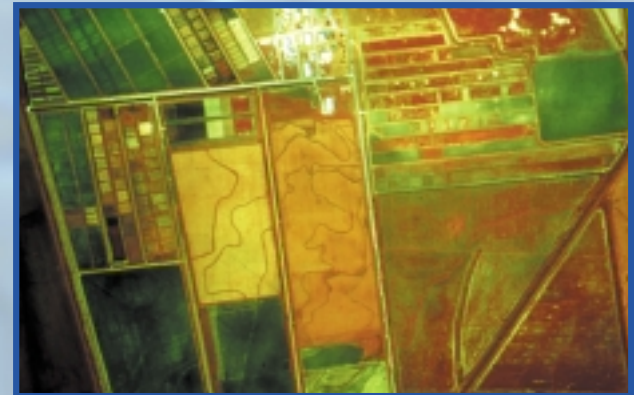
- stops transfer of hidden costs to the health sector;
- promotes intersectoral action and synergy; and
- provides an evidence base for health risk management.



## Integrated river basin management

... incorporates health protection and promotion addressing  
environmental and social risk factors.

- schistosomiasis prevalence jumped from 0 to 90%  
in Richard Toll, Senegal, following dam construction.



## Ecosystem health equals human health

... there are many synergies between safeguards to  
protect human health and safeguards to protect  
ecosystems and biodiversity.

- health impact assessment is an integral part of environmental assessment.

