

WATER AND SANITATION THE PATHWAY TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

THE NEGOTIATION OF A NEW SET OF GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN 2015 PROVIDES A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO MAP A PATHWAY TO A BETTER FUTURE FOR THE PLANET AND ALL OF ITS PEOPLE.

GOAL 6 – ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL – IS CENTRAL TO REALISING THIS VISION

SEE BELOW HOW MEETING INDIVIDUAL TARGETS IN GOAL 6 WILL DRIVE PROGRESS ACROSS THE WHOLE SPECTRUM OF SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC SDGS.



6.1 SAFE DRINKING WATER



EVERY 15 SECONDS A CHILD DIES FROM A PREVENTABLE WATER BORNE DISEASE



200 MILLION HOURS = THE TIME WOMEN & GIRLS SPEND FETCHING WATER EVERY DAY



6.6 WATER-RELATED ECOSYSTEMS



GROUNDWATER PROVIDES DRINKING WATER TO AT LEAST 50% OF THE GLOBAL POPULATION



THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE & URBANIZATION WILL IMPACT THE WATER-CYCLE - INCLUDING VITAL GROUNDWATER RESERVES



6.2 SANITATION AND HYGIENE



MORE THAN 1 IN 3 PEOPLE HAVE NO ACCESS TO IMPROVED SANITATION. 1 IN 7 STILL PRACTICE OPEN DEFECTION



SOME COUNTRIES LOSE AS MUCH AS 7% OF GDP BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE SANITATION



6.5 INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT



2/3 OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION COULD FACE WATER STRESS BY 2025



ACCESS TO WATER POSES THE BIGGEST SOCIETAL AND ECONOMIC RISK OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS



6.3 WATER QUALITY



OVER 80% OF WASTEWATER WORLDWIDE IS DUMPED – UNTREATED – INTO WATER SUPPLIES



2 MILLION TONS = AMOUNT OF HUMAN WASTE DISPOSED IN WATER COURSES EVERY DAY



6.4 WATER EFFICIENCY



70% = AMOUNT OF TOTAL WATER CONSUMPTION USED FOR AGRICULTURE



85% = INCREASE IN WATER DEMANDS CAUSED BY RISING ENERGY PRODUCTION BY 2035



KEY: LINKED GOALS



END POVERTY (SDG 1)



END HUNGER (SDG 2)



HEALTHY LIVES (SDG 3)



QUALITY EDUCATION (SDG 4)



GENDER EQUALITY (SDG 5)



SUSTAINABLE WATER & SANITATION (SDG 6)



ACCESS TO ENERGY (SDG 7)



SUSTAINABLE GROWTH (SDG 8)



RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE (SDG 9)



REDUCE INEQUALITY (SDG 10)



SUSTAINABLE CITIES (SDG 11)



SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION (SDG 12)



CLIMATE CHANGE (SDG 13)



SUSTAINABLE OCEANS (SDG 14)



SUSTAINABLE ECOSYSTEMS (SDG 15)



INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES (SDG 16)



GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP (SDG 17)



A 10 YEAR STORY

THE WATER FOR LIFE DECADE 2005-2015 AND BEYOND

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A 10 YEAR STORY – THE WATER FOR LIFE DECADE 2005-2015 AND BEYOND - 2015

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FOR REFLECTION

As the curtain falls on the Decade it is difficult to avoid feeling frustrated. Since 2005, we have been managing complexity on a global scale; interactions have increased exponentially thanks to social media and the Internet, but we can't help but regret the missed opportunities. There were many. But now we have a full stop – a time to reflect.

What has the Decade achieved?

After 10 years, we're finally approaching the end of the UN Decade for Water 2005-2015, and the office is reviewing, sifting, collating and editing 10 years of action on water into a form where we can report on and present it – all of it.

Ten years have passed! For almost as long as we can remember, 2015 has been considered a critical year for the international water and sanitation agenda. Not least because we anticipated – and it has come to pass – the General Assembly has agreed the Sustainable Development Goals in its 70th session, which includes specific targets for water and sanitation.

The proposal includes a more ambitious agenda on universal access to basic services of water and sanitation, on improvements on water resources management – including improved efficiency – on water quality and disaster risk reduction.

There has been much progress in the last decade. Having clear and traceable objectives to spread the benefits of globalization to the world's poorest citizens (guided by the Millennium Development Goals) has contributed substantially to this. There have also been major milestones that have given impetus to the implementation of the global agenda. This includes the 2008 International Year of Sanitation, 2010 Resolution on Water as a Human Right and the 2013 International Year of Water Cooperation.

The Millennium Declaration in 2000 (the largest-ever gathering of world leaders) led to the Millennium Development Goals. Target 10 was to halve the number of people without access to safe drinking water. These time-bound targets have been the anchor of our work. At the Johannesburg World Summit for Sustainable Development, in 2002, this target was expanded to include basic sanitation, and water as a resource was recognized as a critical factor for meeting all the Goals. The sanitation objective became an integral part of target 10. But it meant the task was growing. In December 2003, the UN General Assembly recognized this and proclaimed the period 2005-2015 would be the International Decade for Action 'Water for Life'. The Decade began officially on March 22, 2005, World Water Day.

Our goal during the Water for Life Decade has been to promote efforts to fulfill international commitments in the water sphere by 2015. We've tried to raise the profile of water in the global agenda, and to focus the world's attention on the groundbreaking, lifesaving, empowering work done by those implementing water programs and projects. We've tried to be a bridge, to further cooperation between governments and other stakeholders, between nations and diverse communities, between economic interests and the needs of ecosystems and the poor. And we've promoted efforts to ensure the participation of women in water and sanitation. We've done all this to achieve the water goals of the Millennium Declara-

tion, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit for Sustainable Development and Agenda 21. Ten years.

The question is: what has changed? Has it been useful? In September 2014 in Stockholm during World Water Week 2014 I was able to discuss this with a decade's worth of colleagues, collaborators and friends from all over the world.

Progress? "The big thing has been the growth and development of UN-Water," said Gordon Young, of the International Association of Hydrological Sciences. So the strength of the MDGs and the global political will to empower the UN and associated organizations is also the result of unprecedented progress for water and sanitation.

The 2013 Millennium Development Goal Report (MDG) shows that the MDG drinking water target was met five-years ahead of schedule by halving the proportion of people without access to improved drinking water sources despite significant population growth.

Yet 663 million people still drew water from an unimproved source in 2015, and for these people our statistics mean nothing: We have to keep working. And the world remains off-track in meeting the MDG sanitation target, leaving some 2.4 billion people still lacking access to improved sanitation facilities. This goal means reducing the proportion of people without access from 51% in 1990 to 25% in 2015. From 1990 to 2015, 2.1 billion people gained access to a latrine, flush toilet or other improved sanitation facilities, helping to comprise a total of 68% of the global population. We missed the MDG target by 9 percentage points. We'll keep working.

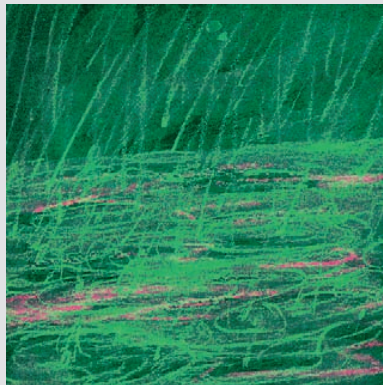
Andre Liebaert, Programme Manager in Water Policy: Water, Energy, Infrastructures, European Commission, told me that "We are now really looking at water, the contribution of water to the wider

picture...more and more we're looking at energy, agriculture in particular because energy and agriculture are key to development policies and we're addressing the water link with these." Ania Grobicki, Global Water Partnership, added that: "Ten years ago with the level of fragmentation in the water community, people weren't talking to each other. There wasn't a lot of cooperation. That I think has definitely changed in the last 10 years, particularly with this push toward getting a global water goal."

Since 1992, 80% of countries have embarked on reforms to enable the environment for better water resource management. This is based on the application of integrated approaches as stated in Agenda 21, and affirmed in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Countries that have adopted these integrated approaches report more advanced infrastructure development, but even more efforts are needed to ensure appropriate levels of coordination. Countries report a gradual but positive trend in financing for water resources development and management with more diverse sources of finance, but little progress on payment for water resources services.

Countries report improvements to the institutional framework together with improved policies, laws, and systems over the past 20 years. This has led to better water resources management practices bringing important socio-economic benefits.

Still, water-related risks and competition for water resources are perceived by a majority of countries to have increased over the past 20 years. Businesses report the challenge of water security to be one of the top risks to their operations. So it is fitting that we are now engaging with the private sector directly. Dan Bena of PEPSICO attended World Water Week. He told me: "It is amazing to me how many different partners are starting to collaborate now. I remember when I first started, the idea that the private sector could engage with the United Nations was taboo, but more and more the private sector





is being invited to different round tables by the UN. It's not that any one actor holds the solution, but together is where the solutions will arise."

Attention for water as a global issue is vital if the world is to achieve the MDGs and the post 2015 goals. It's happening. In 2013, of the 11 topics raised in the campaign *The World We Want*, 'water' attracted by far the most views.

It is always inspiring to hear about what the Decade has meant from persons such as Fritz Holzwarth, Germany's former Water and Marine Director. He told me: "I think the Water Decade made a significant change in the public debate environment. Water was more or less marginalized, locked in technical words and technical discussions, but there was no clear understanding of how water is interlinked with other areas. And what I find very important in this context, if you see when the discussion started in Mar del Plata [1977] continued in the Dublin Principles [1992], followed up in the Bonn Freshwater Conference in 2000, then finally with the Nexus Conference that accompanied this Water Decade, the way that the Water Decade had been able to deliver and create more understanding not only about the human dimension of water, but also about the political dimension of the water. So I think the Water Decade made a significant difference and also, during the Decade, the Conferences, both official and unofficial, all these activities created this difference and made clear that water can no longer be ignored on the political agenda and on the agenda of the local level."

In September 2015, the General Assembly finally agreed on a stand-alone water goal (number 6), "Ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all." This reflects that water and sanitation has become a key priority for member states. UN and stakeholders, experts and the water community at large have contributed, engaging with politicians, policy makers, governments and water managers in water and sanitation programs and projects,

in knowledge generation and management, in advice based on good practices and appropriate technologies.

This has included activities aimed at the general public including educational activities and campaigns such as World Water Day, the Water for Life Logo Campaign, focused campaigns such as World Toilet Day and the Sanitation Drive to 2015, coordinated themes with the MDGs campaign. It has included efforts through information and knowledge management in the UN-Water and sanitation Documentation Center and the Water For Life Decade Web/knowledge hub, the Water for Life Award and other activities to engage experts, stakeholders and government decision makers directly – not just about the water and sanitation problems many face around the world, but also showing them the opportunities sustainable development provides and what all of us can do for a better standard of living and economic development.

Over the Decade, more and more water and sanitation projects and programmes have been implemented. This has been supported by international aid. National governments continue to be major sources of funding for water and sanitation. The Open Defecation campaign is bringing much needed attention to the health issues raised by the problem of inadequate sanitation. The Decade is drawing to a close, but the work goes on.

"One of the differences is that things that were crazy ideas 10 years ago are now being discussed as quite sensible solutions," said Clarissa Brocklehurst, Senior Advisor, Sanitation and Water for All Secretariat. "Now we're not talking about whether excreta reuse is a good idea or not, we're talking about all the different ways to do it, including some quite crazy ways but it's all good. Sanitation is a far bigger issue – it's now accepted as the big issue – and I think also this issue of eliminating inequalities, focusing not just on the poor but certain pockets of vulnerable people has also become very mainstream within the conversation."

Despite this, funding levels for WASH remain insufficient, especially for sanitation. Drinking water continues to absorb the majority of WASH

funding, even in countries with relatively high drinking water supply coverage and relatively low sanitation coverage. The breakdown of expenditure for WASH in rural and urban areas appears only weakly correlated with needs.

But progress is being made. Jack Moss, Senior Water Advisor, Aquafed, told me: "For me what has changed is the significance of water to all forms of sustainable development. It's much better understood than it was 10 years ago. Ten years ago nobody was really talking about it, or very few people were, now the majority of people are really getting it."

It's true that international aid for water and sanitation increased over the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1980-1990), and has nearly increased by that amount again since 2002. The total amount of development aid for sanitation and water increased by 3% from 2008 to 2010, to 7.8 billion (USD), and this continues.

Gender and water was a topic of much importance even before the Decade began, and the Water for Life Decade has made it a priority to call for women's participation and involvement in water-related development efforts. A UN-Water Task Force on Gender and Water was also created, and in 2013 the Gender Forum took place in Tajikistan, at the Decade's Water Cooperation Conference.

In achieving the targets of the MDGs, the fact that, globally, rural women are worse-off than rural men and urban women and men for every MDG indicator available was at the forefront of the Decade's concerns. While data collection along these lines has improved in recent years, there remains a general lack of data disaggregated by sex, but also by rural and urban location. We know that universal access is unlikely to be reached unless gender perspectives are integrated into planning and implementation activities.

Moving forward, the world's great fear is that with a growing population and a continued appetite for water, the future will see an increase in competition over water. Yet as with my old friends at Stockholm's World Water Week, common goals make common ground, despite our

differences. More than 200 water treaties have been negotiated. Some of them have remained in operation despite times of armed conflict, for example, the Indus Basin Treaty between India and Pakistan (ratified 1960). It is clear that Institutions created for water cooperation display the ability to avert conflict even in times of increased political pressure. But the considerable time taken to negotiate the establishment of these institutions shows the sensitivity to the issues surrounding maintenance and distribution of shared water sources. For example, the Indus Treaty took 10 years, the Nile Basin Initiative took 20 years, and the Jordan agreement took 40 years.

And we continue working. We heard from practitioners, learning what's possible and what works for water and sanitation on governance, technologies and capacity development during the UN-Water Zaragoza Conference on the 15-17 of January 2015. We spoke to UN delegates and policy makers at our exhibition in New York on March 30 2015. We have a lot of stories, testimonies of our success and failures. And we keep working.

I wonder if it's trite to talk of progress when all I have before me are printed words and images. I wonder if it's robotic to talk of successes in terms of numbers while so many still lack access to clean water and basic sanitation, when so many refugees and citizens in war zones and disaster prone areas, live dramatic situations, and do not have access to these basic services for a dignified life.

But we keep working. I ask you to add your voices to the global discussion. I implore you to keep thinking, researching, sharing ideas that can make the world a more sustainable place, and thus a better place to live.

The Decade is ending. The post 2015 agenda is on the horizon. It's *working*. And we're not finished yet.

Josefina Maestu



INTRODUCTION

On the 23 December 2003, the United Nations General Assembly, in resolution A/RES/58/217, proclaimed the period 2005-2015 the International Decade for Action ‘Water for Life’. International decades are proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on subjects that require long-term action and sustained attention at the international or regional level and at national level. The General Assembly agreed in 2003 that a Water Decade was needed to sustain attention and promote action-oriented activities and policies that ensure the long-term sustainable management of water resources, in terms of both quantity and quality, and include measures to improve sanitation accelerating implementation of the internationally agreed water goals.

It was decided that the primary goal of the ‘Water for Life’ Decade was to promote efforts to fulfil international commitments made on water and water-related issues by 2015. The commitments included the water-related goals of the Millennium Declaration, and those agreed in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit for Sustainable Development, and Agenda 21 and, as appropriate, those identified during the twelfth and thirteenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The commitments included those of the 2000 Millennium Declaration, Goal 7 (MDG7) Target 10

which establishes the need to halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water. At the Johannesburg World Summit for Sustainable Development, in 2002, the target was expanded to also include basic sanitation.

In order to achieve the internationally agreed water-related goals, the resolution of the Decade specified the need to promote a greater focus on water related issues at all levels, a greater focus on the implementation of water related programmes and projects, and the furtherance of cooperation at all levels, calling for ensuring women’s participation in water-related development efforts.

Since the year 2015 terminates the International Decade for Action “Water for Life”, a comprehensive assessment of the activities carried out during this period, identifying the difficulties and problems in the implementation of the goals of the Decade, as well as planning further activities for the post-2015 period is of crucial importance. To that end, on 19 December 2014 the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/69/215, entitled “International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005-2015, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources”, calling upon member countries, UN system institutions, including “UN-Water” and other organizations, to



comprehensively evaluate progress achieved in the implementation of the Decade.

The impetus of the Decade at the start was immense. The global water community saw the Decade providing the framework for bringing together the many fragmented initiatives both within the UN and by non UN actors. The fact that the Decade was agreed through a Resolution of the General Assembly provided the mandate for the UN agencies to support, and for the member countries to engage in it. This initial impetus lead to the preparation of a complex plan of action of the UN Secretary General, with pledges from UN entities and some non-UN entities, with an initial decision on the priority themes for the Decade. The Secretary General Plan, the A/60/158 2005 Report, outlined who would be involved, how it would be coordinated and listed a number of specific activities pledged to support the Decade

by UN entities, comprising WHO, World Bank and UNICEF.

The first 2003 World Water Development Report (WWDR) was entitled *Water for People, Water for Life* and through this UNESCO provided the knowledge-base at the start of the Water Decade for IWRM but also on WASH by analyzing the impacts on health of waterborne diseases and the indicators to measure progress. In the UN system the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF were also pioneers of the Water Decade and the major driving force at the beginning. One of the first JMP reports was launched the year the Decade commenced, in 2005, providing early on a clear focus on WASH for the Decade. It was entitled: *Water for Life: Making it Happen*. This report was an explicit contribution to the Decade and highlighted that achieving the target of the MDGs for access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation will bring

a payback worth many times the investment involved. It argued that it will also bring health, dignity and transform the lives to many millions of the world's poorest people. Finally the *Human Development Report 2006 "Beyond Scarcity"* also contributed to establishing the baseline on actions for the Water for Life Decade, especially on WASH.

What has been achieved? What types of actions have been more effective over the Decade? How we can move forward on the basis of what we have learned? These questions are addressed in this publication. We would like to see what the value added of the Decade has been; How and where the Water Decade has provided an effective framework for promoting and supporting water cooperation and IWRM efforts, by providing political impulse and helping raise awareness and highlighting action oriented activities (best practices and tools for cooperation). We argue that the



Decade has been helpful in providing a political process for maintaining attention and for taking stock and regularly evaluating results - analyzing the actions that have been effective specifically in promoting water cooperation and IWRM.

We provide an answer to these questions in the following three chapters in relation to three separate themes: a) Basic water, sanitation and hygiene services, women's engagement and local water cooperation; b) Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Cooperation; and global processes and actors. A concluding section looks into the

value added of the Decade and the remaining challenges and what is next in relation to the necessary actions. An Epilogue presents the ongoing discussions on the proposals for a new global water architecture detailing a new Decade on Water and Sustainable Development.

DECADE'S MILESTONES



2003

- *23 December:* Resolution A/RES/58/217 proclaiming 2005-2015 International Decade for Action 'Water for Life' 2005-2015.

2005

- *22 March:* Start of the International Decade for Action "Water for Life" 2005-2015 as established in Resolution A/RES/58/217.
- *11-22 April:* 13th Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. Report on the thirteenth session (E/2005/29), which contains a matrix of actions to form a basis for the Decade. It was called a 'possible framework of policy options for Governments and for the UN system'.
- *25 July:* Report of the UN Secretary-General on Actions taken in organising the activities of the International Decade for Action 'Water for Life' 2005-2015 (A/60/158). This inception report of the Decade contains pledges of activities by the UN agencies, as well as the proposed governance structure.

2006

- *20 December:* Declaration of 2008 'International Year of Sanitation' (A/RES/61/192).

2007

- *August:* Opening of the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC) in Bonn, Germany.
- *October:* Opening of the United Nations Office to support the International Decade for Action "Water for Life" 2005-2015/ UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC) in Zaragoza, Spain.

2008

- *January-December:* International Year of Sanitation.
- *December:* Status of Implementation of CSD-13 Policy Actions on Water and Sanitation. This document builds upon the decisions reached during the 13th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development(CSD) in 2005.

2009

- *21 December:* Resolution calling for a Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action 'Water for life' 2005-2015 (A/RES/64/198). This UNGA decision announced the meeting in Tajikistan and requested information on the progress of the Decade.

2010

- *22 March:* High-Level Interactive Dialogue on the implementation of the International Decade for Action 'Water for Life' 2005-2015. UN Headquarters, New York. Four documents were presented:
 1. Water, peace and security: trans-boundary water cooperation (A/64/692 and A/64/692/Corr.1).
 2. Organization of the midterm comprehensive review of the International Decade for Action 'Water for Life' 2005-2015 (A/64/693).
 3. Water, climate change and disasters (A/64/695).
 4. Water and the internationally agreed development goals (A/64/694).
- *8-9 June:* High-level International Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the International Decade for Action 'Water for Life' 2005-2015. Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
- *22 June:* Dushanbe Declaration on Water (A/65/88). This 'non-negotiated text' lists a number of focal areas for the remainder of the Decade.
- *28 July:* UN Resolution recognising access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right (A/RES/64/292).



- *16 August:* Report of the UN Secretary-General on the Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action ‘Water for Life’ 2005-2015 (A/65/297). This document was prepared by UNDESA, provides an overview of the Decade to date, and gives an account of activities by the UN system and UN-Water partners, such as the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI).

2011

- *11 February:* ‘Sustainable sanitation: the five-year drive to 2015’. Follow-up of the International Year of Sanitation, 2008 (A/RES/65/153). This is an initiative by the UN Secretary-General’ Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB), UNICEF and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC). The resolution makes reference to the Decade.
- *11 February:* Declaration of 2013 ‘International Year of Water Cooperation’ (A/RES/65/154).
- *21 June:* Launch of UN Campaign “Sustainable sanitation: the five-year drive to 2015”.

2012

- *20-22 June:* Rio+20. The Rio+20 Outcome Document highlights the commitment to the 2005-2015 International Decade for Action “Water for Life”.

2013

- *January-December:* International Year of Water Cooperation.
- *24 July:* UN Resolution A/RES/67/291 designates 19 November as World Toilet Day in the context of Sanitation for All.
- *September:* UN Deputy Secretary-General’s Call to Action on Sanitation.
- *19 November:* 1st UN celebration of World Toilet Day.

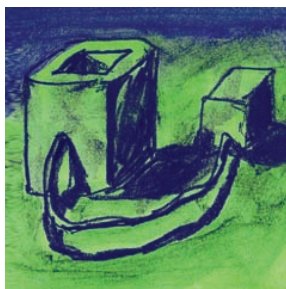
2014

- *18-19 February:* UN General Assembly thematic debate on Water, Sanitation and Sustainable Energy in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. UN-water presents recommendations for a global goal on water in post-2015 agenda.
- *11 March:* Special Event “Taking Stock of the International Year of Water Cooperation and Advancing the Global Water Agenda Post-2015”.
- *19 July:* UN Open Working Group adopts its final proposal for Sustainable Development Goals.
- *17 August:* The 1997 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (United Nations Watercourse Convention) enters into force.
- *6 November:* UN Human Rights Council appoints Léo Heller as 2nd Special Rapporteur on the human right to water and sanitation.
- *4 December:* UN Secretary-General presents advanced version Synthesis Report on Post-2015 Agenda.

- *19 December:* UN General Assembly adopts resolution on International Decade for Action ‘Water for Life’ 2005-2015, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources (A/RES/69/215).

2015

- *30 March:* High-level Interactive Dialogue ‘The International Decade for Action: Progress achieved and lessons learned relevant to the achievement of sustainable development’.
- *9-11 June:* High Level International Conference on the implementation of the International Decade for Action “Water for Life”, 2005-2015 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
- *13-16 July:* 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- *25-27 September:* United Nations Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda.
- *30 November - 11 December:* 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 11th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP21/CMP11)



DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION, WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION AND LOCAL COOPERATION

PROGRESS AND LESSONS LEARNED
OVER THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DECADE
FOR ACTION 'WATER FOR LIFE' 2005-2015

INTRODUCTION



The aim of this section is to discuss what has changed in WASH over the Decade; what are the lessons learned on types of actions that have been and can be effective in bringing progress in WASH.

Over the Decade we have seen major achievements in access to drinking water and to basic sanitation. Lessons on successful actions presented in this chapter range from the need to have clear targets and monitoring systems, the role of high level advocacy, the understanding of the economic impacts of WASH investments, a description of effective actions including those for hygiene and sanitation, what difference the human right to water and sanitation has made, how women's engagement has contributed and a clear concept of the role of local authorities and local level cooperation in scaling up and improving services.

The overall lessons on WASH from the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme[1] include the following:

1. To address inequalities in WASH access, three levels of assessment are key. Progress towards meeting the target; rate of progress as set against the target for each population group; reduction of inequalities.

2. A well-governed sector achieves results.

- Lead and enable through analysis to identify bottlenecks; Planning allocating resources transparently; Setting policies and standards to address inequalities.

- Coordinate and manage through deciding institutional roles and responsibilities; Coordinating partners around a single plan; holding people accountable for results.

- Support and maintain through monitoring progress and taking collective action; financing and supporting frontline staff; investing in capacity for operation and maintenance.

3. Start by focusing on behaviours (eg. From open defecation to handwashing to an understanding of the health benefits of uncontaminated water sources for the community).

4. Monitoring can improve sustainability of services.

5. Climate variability will affect WASH services and should be factored in at the planning stage.



THERE HAS BEEN PROGRESS IN ACCESS TO IMPROVED DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES

The world has made significant progress in providing people with access to improved water and basic sanitation. We hit the Millennium Development Goal for access to improved water in 2010 – five years ahead of schedule.

- Since 1990 2.6 billion people have gained access to an improved source of drinking water.
- From 1990 to 2015, 2.1 billion people gained access to a latrine, flush toilet or other improved sanitation facilities, representing a staggering 68% of the global population.

The sanitation goal has lagged far behind and despite the considerable progress made more than 663 million people still lack access to an improved source of drinking water,

while a staggering 2.4 billion lack access to improved sanitation.

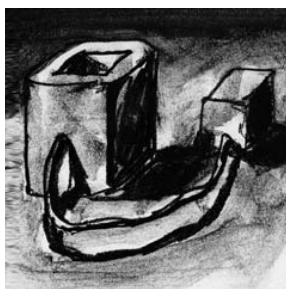
Facts and Figures

- 2.4 billion people in developing countries lack access to improved sanitation facilities.
- 663 million people lack access to an improved source of drinking water.
- 946 million people practice open defecation. At current rates of reduction, open defecation will not be eliminated among the poorest in rural areas by 2030.
- Data from 54 countries, representing 66,101 facilities show that, 38% of healthcare facilities do not have an improved water source,

19% do not have improved sanitation and 35% do not have water and soap for handwashing.

For more information: WHO and UNICEF (2014),[2] WHO and UNICEF (2015).[3]

Examining the current baseline for the WASH sector, it is correct that on a global basis the water MDG target was met already in 2010, but there are some prominent divides when it comes to the use of improved drinking water. Sub-Saharan Africa lacks even 50% coverage, holding the greatest challenges. The situation for the sanitation sector is even worse, with 46 countries worldwide having less than half of their population with access to an improved sanitation facility. Additionally, there are strong



urban-rural disparities and inequalities and discrimination in access to water are very sharp and of very different natures: race, colour, sex, language, religion, political opinion, social origin, disabilities.

Even if the indicator of improved access to water and sanitation has been met, the safety of the water provided does not always meets the

minimum standards. Even when water is drawn from an improved, uncontaminated point source – such as a sealed handpump on a protected borehole – it may be contaminated due to unhygienic transport and home storage practices. It has been estimated that 1.8 billion people globally use a source of drinking water contaminated with feces.[4]

INVESTMENTS IN WASH PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES HAVE INCREASED

The 2014 UN-Water Global Analysis and the World Health Organization's Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-water GLAAS report[5] estimates that external support agencies allocated USD 15 billion to WASH in 2012 and 49 countries allocated USD 28 billion to WASH in the same year.

Despite the severe financial crisis faced by many high-income countries, aid for sanitation and drinking during the Decade has increased. The information available shows that the total amount of aid commitments for sanitation and water increased in

the second part of the Decade from USD 8.3 billion in 2010 to USD 15 billion in 2012.

However financing for WASH is insufficient. The GLAAS reports that 80% of countries responding state that current finance is insufficient to meet targets established for drinking-water and sanitation.

Moreover, as the ambition of the post-2015 development agenda is to leave nobody behind. This means that inequalities in targeting the world's neediest people need to be addressed; and interventions should be designed in such a way that they

equally benefit those most in need and reach the intended beneficiaries. Although several countries have reported efforts to reduce inequalities by making services more affordable to the poor (eg. increasing block tariffs, reduced connection fees, vouchers, free water tanks, free water allocations, microfinance loans) but only half of countries trying such schemes report that their use is widespread. Only 17% of countries consistently apply financial measures to reduce disparities in access to sanitation for the poor compared to 23% for drinking-water.”[6]

“The Decade has seen an explosive increase in water discussions – has this created action? It's beyond discussion! Maybe, probably, certainly. It has pulled the trigger for creating initiatives. If you compare the Decade with the prior ten years when there was no progress. The momentum is there. 500 million children wash hands and have taught their parents, and this clearly is having a cascading effect. In the regions as well with sanitation meetings in many places, with the campaigns, etc. Regional banks have increased investments for water and sanitation 2x, 5x, 10x. We are better positioned than when we started the MDGs as then we did not have a methodology. We know the Joint Monitoring Programme has created a solid basis for monitoring progress. We have more clearly beneficial indicators for our goals and targets.”

Kenzo Hiroki, UNGSGAB

WE ARE NOW FINALLY FOCUSING MORE AND TALKING MORE OPENLY ABOUT SANITATION AND OPEN DEFECCATION

The world has been slow to discuss toilets. Today at the end of the Decade we're focusing more and we are talking a lot more openly about sanitation and open defecation at a global level thanks to the many initiatives during the Water for Life Decade including the 2008 International year of Sanitation, the Five Year Sanitation Drive to 2015, Sanitation for All, the UN Deputy Secretary General Sanitation Initiative, the End Open Defecation Campaign[7] and World Toilet Day, which has been an officially recognized UN event since 2013.

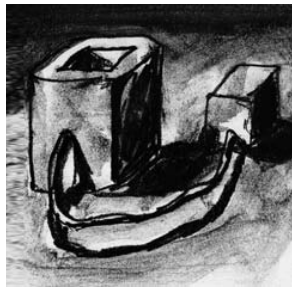
All of them, as well as the advocacy efforts of UNSGAB, SWA and key UN entities (WHO, UNICEF, WB, UN-Habitat among others) and global stakeholders have helped bringing sanitation to the highest attention. Sanitation and drinking water expenditure data suggests sanitation is targeted for 43% of funding to the sector, with provision of safe water taking the remaining 57%[8][9] This is a big shift. The latest estimates from 2012 indicate that more than 70% of WASH funding was still targeted at the provision of drinking water. Systematic

approaches of national governments and success stories at community level are increasing.

Sanitation however, remains a taboo in many parts of the world and specific efforts are needed to translate global attention to mindset change on the ground. It is vital to consider water and sanitation as interconnected processes, as without adequate sanitation, a water supply is likely to be quickly contaminated. For a sustainable supply of water of good quality, sanitation must be considered as an integrated element of any solution.



© UN Photo/Marco Dormino



HAVING CLEAR TARGETS AND MONITORING THEM HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN DRIVING ACTION

The achievements with the WASH targets are one of the success stories of the MDGs.

Having clear, ambitious but achievable targets has meant that the MDG's target on access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation have helped governments, donors, international organizations and other stakeholders to focus on those specific actions that would improve access to basic services.

It has meant sustained and targeted funding for the most basic services and importantly a global focus on agreed uniform and measurable targets has led to more and better organized monitoring. The solid evidence base collected has in turn better guided the allocation of valuable resources towards targeted interventions.

Over the Decade we have learned the added value of consistent and wide monitoring through agreed, measurable indicators. As main actors who made specific pledges at the beginning of the Decade WHO and UNICEF have been carrying out impressive efforts to track progress in the MDG target related to access to access to drinking water

and sanitation services and on the Financial Flows going to those services. Monitoring of progress against outcomes on drinking water and sanitation has been undertaken since 2004 through the JMP (UNICEF and WHO), which has been consolidating data from Member States for more than 20 years. An early JMP report in 2005 was launched as part of the WHO/UNICEF efforts for the Water for Life Decade. Entitled 'Water for Life, Making it Happen', it stated that *"the Decade provided an incentive for coordinated efforts to prevent the daily disaster of unnecessary deaths"*.

Over the Decade we've seen that monitoring of country progress on WASH has proved to be vital, for tracking and promoting action on the ground, serving to improve policies and targeting by the donor community, and identifying issues, (with financing for example,) and exactly where the finance is going. Next to providing focus and direction for the international community and improving policy coherence and targeted financing, monitoring the MDGs have created peer pressure for governments and incentivized further investments through detailed analysis

on enablers and barriers to progress, indicating where additional support is needed to make progress.

To strengthen the collection of WASH financial information, however, a harmonized method of data monitoring is needed. The majority of countries report that sector information systems for financial planning and reporting are still inadequate. Existing levels of household and private investments are poorly understood. Water safety has also been difficult to monitor.

Technology, science and innovation development in recent decades have significantly widened the number and the scope of opportunities and options available to increase coverage and reporting of WASH access. Particularly in relation to the water and sanitation sector, mobile to web-platforms have emerged as an essential asset to aid in the long-term sustainability of water services. Mobile technologies collect data on water point type, location and functionality, and in real time map the distribution and monitor the status of water infrastructure at country level. All this may need to be considered in monitoring for post-2015.



BENEFITS OF IMPROVING ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION ARE NOW BETTER DOCUMENTED AND ACKNOWLEDGED

Since the first 2003 WWDR ‘Water for People, Water for Life’ analyzed the impacts on health of waterborne diseases and the 2005 JMP report ‘Water for Life: Making it Happen’ identified the benefits of how access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation will bring a payback worth many times the investment involved and how it will also bring health, dignity and transform the lives to many millions of the world’s poorest people, the Decade has been a catalyst for a new global view of water and sanitation. Over the Decade the benefits of WASH have been analyzed and quantified further. Importantly they have also been recognized – from costs avoided, improved well-being, dignity, privacy and safety to, time saved and costs avoided.

We have brought to light the costs for so many communities without safe water sources or latrines where people lead lives dominated by the search for water and blighted by disease, leaving little time for productive work or school to build education and skills that yield greater employment and earning potential. In developing countries, women and children sometimes spend hours every day collecting water. Often the water is dirty and contaminated, meaning families are further burdened by illness and the care of others in their families. Children often miss school because they have to help, thus perpetuating a cycle of poverty.

Available data tells us that the benefits of an intervention may exceed the cost by between three to six

times depending on the type, from achieving universal access to basic sanitation at home to eliminating open defecation. Inadequate sanitation causes a loss of several percentage points of GDP in many countries around the world – in India it is estimated that 6.4 percent of its GDP, or USD 53.8 billion, is lost due to the adverse economic impacts and costs of inadequate sanitation, including death and disease, accessing and treating water, and losses in education, productivity, time and tourism. The WHO places estimates for losses due to inadequate water and sanitation services in developing countries at a total of USD 260 billion a year, 1.5% of global GDP – or up to 10% of GDP for some very poor countries.[10]

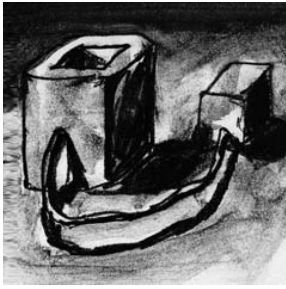
HIGH LEVEL GLOBAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT MORE AWARENESS AT POLITICAL LEVEL OF THE IMPORTANCE OF WASH INVESTMENTS, DRIVING DONOR COORDINATION AND COMMITMENTS FOR WASH

Over the Decade, high level advocacy has played an important role in gaining and maintaining the attention on water issues and advocating action on water with political leaders – one of the main objectives of the Decade. Some of the key actors/initiatives has been the UNSG’s Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation established in March 2004 (see Discussion Document 3), and since 2009 the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) partnership has also been working to advocate greater attention and

resources for WASH from high level decision makers. As a multi-stakeholder partnership of over 95 developing country governments, bilateral donors, civil society organizations and other multilateral partners has been working both at the national and global levels in order to catalyze high level political action, improve mutual accountability and use scarce resources more effectively. SWA has been recognized in UN resolutions and has successfully convened three high level meetings attended by fi-

nance, development, cooperation and sector ministers

However at the end of the Decade we need to do more on high level advocacy and reinforcing the existing mechanisms for making and following up on commitments. There is still a low perception of the importance of water and sanitation by many governments and communities that leads to low water investments and to the vicious cycle of low quality, low willingness to pay and even lower revenue raising and lower funds available.[11]



“Without political commitment we cannot achieve anything. Declarations are key, implementing them on the ground is more difficult. In Africa this includes the Ministerial Declaration on “Water Security for All”; the “eThekweni Declaration” about sanitation. The Sharm-el Sheikh Declaration on Water and Sanitation which put water and sanitation high in the agenda. The advocacy role played by the Decade has increased awareness on water and sanitation in Africa. Before the Decade very few countries in Africa had ministries of sanitation, after the eThekweni Declaration this has changed: Now there are several countries with ministers of sanitation, such as Senegal, Nigeria, Republic of South Africa. You can see sanitation in the ministries now with a budget line, before you could not see that.”

Bai Mass Tal, Executive Director of African Ministers’ Council on Water

WE KNOW ‘ONE SIZE FITS ALL’ DOESN’T WORK FOR WASH - SOLUTIONS NEED TO BE ADAPTED TO LOCAL CONTEXTS

While there has been substantial progress in developing technological solutions to support the implementation of WASH goals, greater efforts are required to ensure that such solutions are adapted to different local conditions, particularly in rural contexts of developing countries. Appropriateness of technologies goes further than mechanical technology transfers and would imply considering gender issues, existing local knowledge and taking into account the conditions of

intellectual property rights in making the right social choice.

The best technology is not necessarily the one that is technically most viable, but the one that is both acceptable for and applicable by the local population. Poor capacities to operate rural water supplies and expensive technologies typically have resulted in low functionality / low operational sustainability of services. Adaptation involves providing adequate training to local practitioners, to guarantee the

achievement of water and sanitation goals in the long run, as well as making technologies more fit to purpose and affordable. There is still a wide gap regarding knowledge and learning exchange between field workers and end users and WASH Project managers and specialists.

At the end of the Decade we now also understand that countries managing water integrally have a lot to gain from choosing the appropriate technologies by considering the need

Conclusions from the Civil Society Session at the UN-Water 2015 Zaragoza Conference

Implementation challenges identified included:

- *Financial challenge*: Current funding systems do not give due consideration to social empowerment and capacity strengthening to address the local needs and to work within the local context.
- *Decentralization*: this is required when working in rural areas and under highly variable local circumstances in different cultures is a challenge. Thus tailor made approaches are needed, as well as a process of coaching and continuous support that allows for a lasting change.
- *The upscaling challenge*: it is a package, a holistic approach including technology, skills, knowledge and information, mind-set change, confidence, cultural sensitivity: a combination of hard and soft tools that are often the domain of different institutions/organizations.

Community Approaches to Total Sanitation (CATS), now supported by UNICEF in 50 countries around the world, including crucial ones in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, have already led to more than 39,000 communities, with a total population of over 24 million people, being declared free of open defecation within the last five years. UNICEF estimates that with support from governments and other partners, an additional 88 million people now live in communities free of open defecation.

Source: http://www.unicef.org/media/media_66390.html

to sustain the services after the initial investments. Countries have also the opportunity to advance rapidly by harnessing new technologies and avoiding following the unsustainable development pathways of the past. We have seen how technological

leapfrogging has allowed countries to make better choices between traditional and new technologies. A pre-test of technologies/solutions could increase the effectiveness of national WASH plans. National WASH plans are frequently implemented without

evaluating the effectiveness of the alternative solutions on-the-ground. Pre-assessment or ex-ante evaluation of tools and strategies will largely benefit the overall success of plans and will contribute to allocating financial resources more effectively.

HYGIENE CAN BE ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE (AND COST-EFFECTIVE) ACTIONS AGAINST DISEASE

At the end of the Decade one of the biggest challenges still pending is hygiene. Hygiene and access to education and information about the transmission of bacteria to water sources is a vital part of the process. Hygiene promotion that focuses on key household practices (washing hands with soap after defecation and

before handling food, and the safe disposal of children's faeces) is an effective way to prevent diarrhoea, especially among young children, who spend most of their time at home. Adequate water and sanitation as part of a healthy school environment significantly improves a child's prospects to develop and thrive. The

promotion of good hygiene behaviour at school can initiate behaviour changes that last a lifetime. The communication campaign around global hand washing day and more recently on menstrual hygiene is helping to promote the necessary behaviour change.

WE KNOW ABOUT THE NEED TO ADDRESS INEQUALITIES AND THE NEED FOR INCENTIVES AND CAPACITY BUILDING TO DO SO

In the water and sanitation sector, as in other sectors, scaling up to achieve universal access to deal with inequalities is essential. Incentives and capacity-building and capacity enhancement are critical for the suc-

cessful implementation and scaling-up of development programmes.

Development experience demonstrates that the concept encapsulates a "diverse array of functional capacities – from planning, oversight, and

monitoring to situational analysis, facilitation of stakeholder dialogue, training, implementation capacities and management support, and provision of policy advice – must be developed and put in place".[12]

Statements at the High Level Interactive Event on the Water for Life Decade at UN HQ March 30

"We need to consider how we multiply the effect to cover more people, not necessarily making it bigger. In some cases as in Chile there have been economic push factors that have facilitated up-scaling: trade in high value agricultural products. Coupled with a realistic view of the problem, and a stable government."

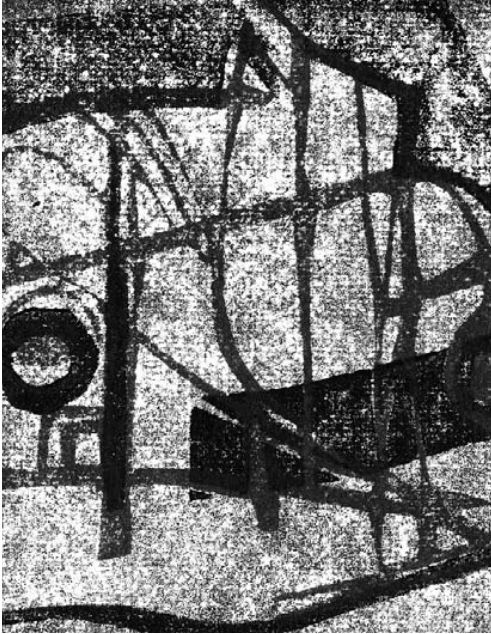
Jack Moss (Aquafed)

"Incentives for scaling up will vary. In USA, and many other countries, the incentives have been the significant financial savings from water conservation."

Daniel Bena (Pepsico)

"Upscaling in itself will be an incentive. The strongest incentive is to be acknowledged and learning at the same time from other partners. Investments are not going in the right direction if people are not involved or asked. Financing has gone to waste because it has not reached the intended beneficiaries. A proper investment to social capital, particularly to women and young to upscale creates the conditions for replication."

Alice Bouman-Dentener (GWP)



WE HAVE LEARNED THAT WE NEED TO FOCUS ON EFFECTIVE ASSET MANAGEMENT – SUSTAINABILITY OF SERVICES

We know that focusing on effective asset management to sustain services is as important as new infrastructure. In fact, gains can easily slip back unless attention is given to operation and maintenance. Figures differ from one country to another but, on average, 30% or more water points are non-functional at any given time and another 10-20% are only partially functional.

Sustainability of operations remains a serious challenge both for the progress already made on meet-

ing the MDGs for water and sanitation and for the necessary advances towards universal access to safe drinking water in the post-2015 era.

According to the GLAAS 2014 Report one third of countries report that urban cities lack revenue to fund operation and maintenance and only 7% of aid is directed at maintaining services. Making water progress last is a real challenge that must be considered from the outset in designing new water projects and programs.

"There are key steps to success for sustainable community initiatives, the most important of which is to build projects on local evidence and knowledge and not on perceptions of needs or context."

Corinne Wallace,
United Nations University

AND THE NEED TO INCREASE AND IMPROVE FINANCING

... there is still a need to increase budget allocations to WASH

The implementation challenges for achieving universal access to water and sanitation are immense. Costs of further advances are mounting, as they imply both improving coverage in massive slums in urban areas and providing access and services to scattered populations in distant rural ones. It also involves improving access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene, beyond households to health centers and schools, and making services operationally sustainable. It will require innovative approaches that take into account the lessons learnt during the Decade and address the specific requirements of decentralized systems.

“Funding is a problem. But, for a new Decade, what is most important is that we cannot find money for outreach and investment – hardware vs. software. We are not yet building on what has gone before.” - Corinne Wallace, United Nations University.

According to the 2014 GLAAS report in 77% of the countries public finance is insufficient to meet the targets for WASH. Generally the national budget allocations to sanitation and drinking water are insufficient to meet government targets to provide services to the unserved as well as to maintain existing services.

From a new World Bank study[13] estimating the global costs and cost-benefits of achieving universal WASH access, it would cost almost USD 200 billion to extend access to the unserved for Water Supply and over USD 400 billion for sanitation. The global total for WatSan is annually USD 40 billion. Globally, 50% of these financial resources need to be spent on the poorest 40% of the population.

Of the total global cost to extend coverage, 32% would be needed for SSA, 13% LAC, 15% East Asia and 20% South Asia. If globally, 50% of these costs – USD 10 billion per year – need to be spent on the bottom two income quintiles (i.e. the poorest 40% of the population) in S Asia this proportion would be up to 60%.

... And to improve targeting of funds

According to the World Bank:

— The world has achieved approximately a 0.5% increase in Water Supply coverage per year from 1990 to 2012 so with the same progress the 11% remaining to meet universal access would be achieved in 2034. However, there are two reasons why this is challenged: stricter definition of basic Water Services and the remaining population being lower income, harder to reach and located in slow progress countries. Slow or negative progress regions are Africa, CCA, Oceania. A thorough analysis of what determines slow progress is needed to shape the future water goal and water related development agenda.

— For Sanitation, the world has achieved approximately a 0.7% increase in coverage per year from 1990 to 2012 so with the same progress the 36% remaining to meet universal access would be achieved in 2065. However, unlike Water Services, in fact the proposed definition is looser as it includes some types of shared facility, and hence we are closer to our target than previously thought. Like Water Services, the remaining population are lower income, harder to reach and located in slow progress countries, in particular SSA and India.

However funds are still disproportionately targeted for extending services in urban areas, even in countries where urban areas are relatively well served and rural areas off-track. A majority of countries indicate that rural water supply programs are not effective due to lack of funding. In addition, investment decisions often do not respond to needs, and issues of equity are often not addressed. The problem is greatest where the coverage is lowest.

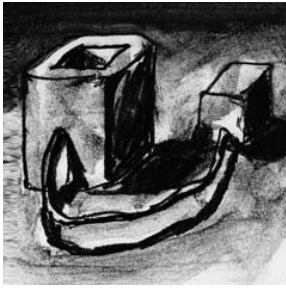
Funding is not always targeted to those in need: just one third of countries consistently applies equity criteria in funding allocations for sanitation and drinking water. Improved priority-setting and targeting of development aid remains a challenge and budget allocation tends to favour urban areas.

International assistance needs to be targeted, too. According to the GLAAS 2014 Report only half of development aid for sanitation and drinking water is targeted to the MDG regions in sub-Saharan Africa, Southern Asia, and South-eastern Asia where 70% of the global underserved live. Demonstratively, opportunities exist for increasing alignment with country priorities and strengthening national WASH systems through increasing sector budget support wherever transparency and accountability mechanisms are in place.

... there is poor absorption capacity, delays and fund diversion

Possibly due to poor absorption capacity – i.e. difficulties in spending funds that are received- it is estimated that 60% of countries do not absorb a high percentage of donor capital commitments for sanitation for instance.





When funds are transferred from national to sub-national government, issues may arise:[14]

1. Substantial delays in disbursement of funds at all levels of government.
2. Problems of “leakage”

(funds being improperly diverted). The World Bank and many other institutions and organizations have used the Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS) methodology to identify leakages.

... results oriented financing frameworks can be effective

Transparent, accountable and results-oriented frameworks for action - Results-Based Financing (RBF) - can foster more efficient and equitable service delivery:

- The success of RBF instruments depends on behaviour change also at the sector level.
- A multi-donor trust fund, such as that established for other health-related MDGs, could be established for expanding the use of RBF for sanitation.
- Performance verification methods are needed to support the use of RBF instruments for improving sanitation.

... Cost recovery combined with pro-poor financing can help sustain services and serve the poor

At the end of the Decade we realize that expanding services and ensuring its operational viability in the long run is not just a simple question of covering costs by charging for the services. Financing strategies need to follow “pro-poor principles” which also involve water users in decision-making,

Data also gives us a clear picture that operations and maintenance for water and sanitation services expenditures are still rarely covered by tariffs, with the shortfall usually being made up by government subsidy. This may be unsustainable, but there are different ways to address the discrepancy and see where it can be improved.[15]

In many cases, cost recovery and increased attention to users’ fees can help improving the financial sustainability of services. Beneficiaries need to pay for water services and subsidies should help those who cannot afford to pay the full cost. Subsidies must be designed to avoid incentives to over-consume water or to over-capitalise capital investments.

Water prices must be adaptable and must progress in line with local incomes and economic development. Nevertheless, the political nature of water tariffs makes them resistant to increases. As a result, existing tariffs often lag behind people’s willingness to pay. Experiences show that people are more willing to pay for a reliable service and the convenience of having a service closer to home. In fact peoples’ willingness and ability to pay for water and sanitation services should not be underestimated - prior experience also shows that water and sanitation targets can be reached even when financial opportunities are small and people’s willingness to pay is hampered by poverty and deprivation.

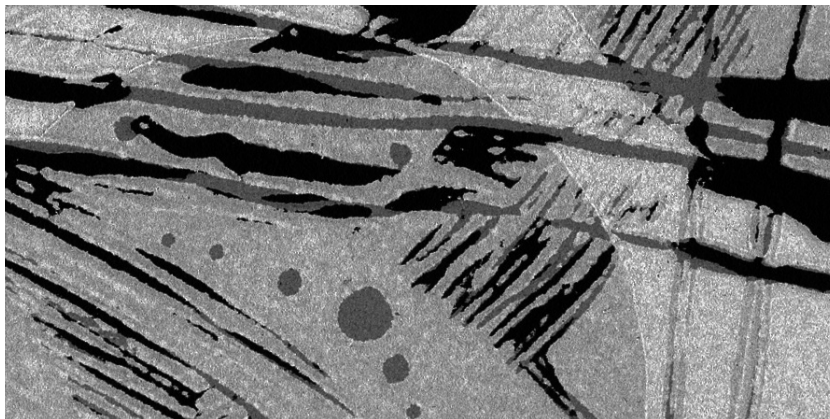
Trust funds, micro-finance, philanthropy and sovereign wealth funds and choosing low-cost grassroots solutions can be powerful financing options for WASH. Existing aid can also be used to provide collateral and warranties designed to attract private capital to locally risky projects – including local community projects and for supporting the establishment of local credit systems that can create revolving financing sources.

Overall the World Bank identifies three main instruments for viable financing for lower income communities.[16]

- Lower water tariffs linked with low-cost technologies. In poor communities where households cannot contribute significantly, the selection of affordable but efficient technologies may contribute to provide essential services.
- Better targeted public support. It is important to shift public finance to those more in need of support, such as the urban and rural poor and those living in distant rural areas. This may include targeted transfers from international donors.
- Improving use of donor and public financing through results-based contracts and output-based aid. Performance-based contracts can increase effectiveness and reduce future financial burdens.

“I hope in the future water will be regarded as a basic service which has to be properly priced and properly funded. And I think a lot of the emotion and the religion should be taken out of water and it be treated in a more pragmatic way, because we need to raise the money to keep water flowing.”

James Winpenny, Wychwood
Economic Consulting



IMPROVING GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Over the Decade we have learned that to meet the Sustainable Development Goal 6, besides gathering new financial resources, which will no doubt be needed, it is equally important to use existing finance more effectively. Efficiency requires better governance and accountability[17] to ensure financial resources are used for the purposes intended and not wasted.

It's clear that opportunities exist for increasing alignment with country priorities and strengthening national WASH systems through increasing sector budget support. Again, we must ensure transparency and accountability mechanisms are in place to minimize money wasted and/or deviated from its planned use.

Financial planning can help and it is necessary for making political investment decisions for water infrastructures that have long-term benefits. This has to be supported with viable and financeable sustainable management models able to attract financing and cover operation, maintenance and capital costs. Defining the objective and designing more sophisticated financing packages that select the most appropriate and suitable instruments for each particular problem, e.g. blending grants, loans and public funds, are essential to attract financing institutions and secure best value for money.

In order to attract more finance – both public and private – basic building blocks[18] need to be put in place so that the finance available are used to achieve the greatest impact and to ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable are protected. These building blocks include:

- Regulatory frameworks that enable the setting of affordable tariffs and that make sure the poorest and the most vulnerable are not excluded.
- Policies that create an enabling environment for investment, so that investors – public or private – are confident that their investments will achieve results.
- Adequate human resource capacity at all levels – both nationally and especially at a local level.
- Robust systems to monitor progress and the impact of policies and resources.

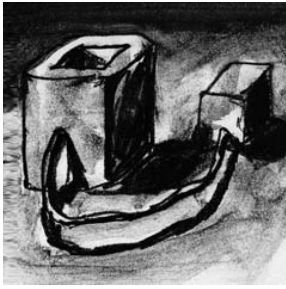
WE HAVE LEARNED WHAT DIFFERENCE THE HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER AND SANITATION HAS MADE

One of the most significant achievements and milestones of the Water Decade from 2005 to 2015 was the

explicit recognition of the *human right to water and sanitation* by the General Assembly in 2010. In its

“The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation establish a legal framework, which clearly defines rights and obligations, in order to promote pro-poor and non-discriminatory provision and to avoid retrogressions in the level of access. They decisively have the potential of contributing to the empowerment of individuals by transforming them from passive recipients to active agents of change.”

Leo Heller, Special Rapporteur for the Human Right to Water and Sanitation



Resolution the General Assembly recognized the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.

The Resolution on the Human Right to Water and Sanitation has provided impetus and has been key to clarifying government responsibilities. It's also helped all stakeholders to treat the target population as actors with rights that must be respected rather than as beneficiaries of projects alone.[19]

However, the recognition of water and sanitation as human rights does not automatically and immediately bring water and sanitation to people in their home. By recognizing the right, we have created a commitment to realizing universal access to water and sanitation for all and we have created a framework for action and a catalyst for change.

Some of the key changes brought about by the Human Right(s) to Water and Sanitation include:[20]

1. *Inequalities:* The focus of MDGs on average progress at the country level has given no incentives for government, providers and donors to reach out those who are hard to reach. Since the recognition of the human right to water and sanitation, increasing attention has been given to those who remain without access to water and sanitation. UNICEF and WHO, the two international organizations responsible for global monitoring of the water and sanitation targets of the MDGs have been reporting enormous disparities between rural and urban and the rich and the poor. Even in the world's richest countries there are marginalized people, ethnical minorities, homeless people who have no access to water and sanitation.

2. The human rights framework forces us to question why certain groups of people are *excluded from development*. They might be minorities, people with disabilities, or people living in informal settlements.
3. A human rights framework also forces us to *prioritize* those who are unserved or underserved. Without aiming for a higher rate of service for disadvantaged groups we will not achieve access for all in the foreseeable future.
4. While we all know that additional resources are needed for the full realization of the human rights to water and sanitation, a lot more could be achieved with the resources that are already available. The diarrheal rate for example can be significantly reduced by promoting good hygiene practices. A *better application of resources* is needed by targeting those who do not have access, by practicing effective mechanisms for affordability, by integrating the principle of equality and non-discrimination in policies and programs and by putting in place the necessary physical and regulatory frameworks to monitor who are benefiting from interventions and who are left behind.

The first Special Rapporteur for the Human Right to Water and Sanitation, Catarina De Albuquerque, was appointed in 2008. The special

rapporteur became a catalyst for action, and her visits and reports have put a spotlight on countries that are fulfilling their obligations, and how. Her visits have supported courses of action that have led to countries incorporating targets into national legislation; establishing clearer responsibilities of the states; and focusing on population, including women, as actors of water and sanitation programs instead of just beneficiaries of aid. By visiting and engaging with policy makers and local communities, the special rapporteur has brought transparency and consistency to a potentially difficult area to monitor. The impact of the special rapporteur has been such that as the Millennium Development Goals conclude, there is increasingly a call to integrate human rights elements into the post-2015 development framework, seeking to make these development goals more rights-sensitive.

Implementing the rights to water and sanitation suggest that it is the means, as well as the end, that define a rights-compliant approach to delivering services, the key principles being participation, access to information, transparency, non-discrimination and accountability. This is vital. Solutions can be delivered much more cheaply and rapidly, and see much greater results, where people are empowered to be part of their own solution rather than simply receiving 'charity'.

"Transparency establishes openness of access to information without the need for direct requests; for example, through the dissemination of information via the radio, internet and official journals. Participation must be an integral part of any policy, programme or strategy concerning water or sanitation, and concerned individuals and groups must be made aware of participatory processes and how they function."

Catarina De Albuquerque in '
Realizing the human right to water and sanitation: A handbook'



WE HAVE LEARNED WHAT WOMEN HAVE GAINED AND HOW ESSENTIAL WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IS

The Water for Life Decade explicitly calls for the participation and involvement of women in water-related development efforts. Over the Decade women's civil society has risen to the challenge with the implementation of a great many different initiatives, engaging women in water projects and programmes across the globe. The Decade has seen the development of global networks such as the Gender & Water Alliance (GWA) emphasizing gender mainstreaming; the Women for Water Partnership (WfWP), uniting women's civil society organizations worldwide on the water-gender-development nexus; or the Global Women's Water Initiative (GWWI) that is geared towards training of local women water experts and entrepreneurship.

Recognizing the opportunity that the Decade provided, Women for

Water Partnership (WfWP) has participated in many of its activities and branded as Decade activities specific women in water related development activities. Engaging in the opportunities provided by the Water Decade they saw it as part of a general movement from technical water management to more participatory and inclusive water governance.

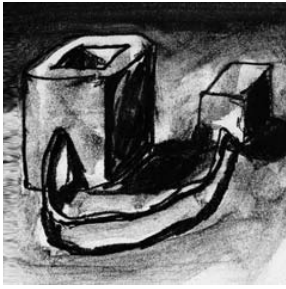
At the beginning of the Decade the 2005 JMP report on "Water for Life, Making it Happen" identified the "Gender Divide". The report looked into how women and girls are most often the primary providers, managers and users of water in their households and family economic activities. They are the guardians of household hygiene, health and education. If a water system fails, women are the ones forced to travel long distances over many hours to

meet their families' water needs. At the end of the Decade this is now globally recognized and we have better information to be able to consider the specific needs of women and girls to insure they benefit when services are improved.

- Survey data for 25 sub-Saharan countries indicate that overall women spend a total of 16 million hours a day[21] collecting water; the more distant the source of water, the less water the household uses.
- In over 70 percent of households where water has to be fetched, women and girls do the fetching. Where rural water sources are distant, women walk up to two hours to fetch water. Where urban water is from shared standpipes they may wait in line for over an hour.
- Fetching and carrying causes cumulative wear-and-tear to the neck, spine, back and knees; in effect, a woman's body becomes part of the water-delivery infrastructure, doing the work of pipes.
- Women's disproportionate responsibility for household water, sanitation and fuel supply means that they are more vulnerable to environmental risks, especially in slum areas often located near polluting industries, rubbish tips or in flood prone areas.
- Water-related time poverty translates to lost income for women

Gender in the context of UN initiatives since 2005

- The International Decade for Action 'Water for Life' (2005-2015) calls for women's participation and involvement in water-related development efforts
- UN-Water Task force on Gender and Water
- Water and Gender Forum in Tajikistan, 2013 International Year of Water Cooperation
- Water and Gender Forum in Tajikistan 2015 lessons of the decade and way forward



and lost schooling for girls. Cumulatively, one estimate suggests 40 billion hours a year are spent collecting water in sub-Saharan Africa – equal to a year’s labour for the entire workforce of France (UNDP, 2006). In eastern Uganda research found women spend an average of 660 hours per year collecting water, which represents two full months of labor.

Mainstreaming services is not merely about equality for its own sake. Sanitation and hygiene improvements are often low on the list of family investments, and women and girls suffer more indignity as a result. Their privacy and security are partly determined by ease of access to, and location of sanitation facilities. In primary schools, toilets are often inadequate to serve the needs of girls, resulting in non-attendance during menses. An appalling 23 percent of the girls in India leave school altogether when they begin to menstruate. In Africa each girl loses 156 learning days during four years of high school – equivalent to almost 24 weeks out of 144 weeks of learning – due to menstruation.

Mainstreaming a gender perspective during the Decade builds

on previous UN work. ECOSOC defines mainstreaming as the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programs, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women’s as well as men’s concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality (ECOSOC, 1997).

Some gains for women observed from well-targeted improved services include the following:

- Well targeted services have improved the health and security of women and their families, and free them to engage in social, economic, and political activities, thus tackling ‘time poverty’ - the situation where women’s time is inflexible, consumed by routine and non-productive tasks, perpetuating their absence from decision making and other profitable pursuits (World Bank, 2006).
- School enrolment and retention of girls increases where there are improved water and sanitation services. Viewing sanitation solu-

tions through a gender lens can ensure that sanitation services are given priority by decision makers and technology is tailored to meet the needs of those who will use the facilities.

At policy level some improvements we have seen over the Decade include:

- Gender strategies have been developed to incorporate gender concerns in water policies and practices and to further women leadership and full participation in the sector, notably the AMCOW gender mainstreaming policy and strategy, the GWP gender strategy (2014), the 2003-2009 UN-Water Task Force on Gender and water, the WWAP on-going project on gender indicators and sex disaggregation of data.
- Women as a civil society group has strengthened considerably, and their role in realizing access to water and sanitation has gained acknowledgement and is increasingly practiced, both at the national level and, more importantly, at the local level as well.
- Gender equality has increased in the water sector, but is a gain that still needs to be further worked upon. There remains significant gender disparity as women and girls still face the burden of collecting water and the gender gap in water professionals at all levels is still large.
- Women are no longer perceived solely as a vulnerable and disadvantaged group. Women civil society are increasingly seen as actors in their own rights in this development process and as agents of change. They are increasingly included as an equal partner in participation processes, which sometimes does not only mean being invited, but also being given the facilities and means to make participation possible.

“Having access to water is key to all other forms of empowerment for women. In rural areas, it is only when a woman has water at home that she is able to invest some time in an economic activity. If a woman is engaged in the daily routine of searching for water by walking miles and miles away from home, it is practically impossible to engage in anything that brings in money for her! If she has to search for water, she has to let other forms of empowerment go because then they are a bit unrealistic for her to attain! This is evident in Katosi among the women groups.”

Rehema Bavuma, KWDT

But we are not there yet. The gender-responsive implementation of the proposed Sustainable Development Goal on ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all will be vital. Still in many parts of the world, traditional gender roles determine women's options to lead productive lives and restrict their active contributions to society. This also includes women's access to and involvement in decision-making over water. They are seen as useful for carrying water, but not for making decisions about it.

But women's close involvement means there are multiple benefits to including them in the design and planning stages from creating local ownership and correctly addressing community needs, to building sustainable solutions and using indigenous knowledge to prevent expensive mistakes. We've learned that involving women as well as men in projects make them more likely to

reach intended beneficiaries. Engaging women who were previously marginalized from decision making brings clarity and energy to projects. Women's social network structures bridge layers and sectors, while practicing an integrated, people-led approach.

The water-gender-development nexus remains a largely untapped connection with considerable potential to help achieve sustainable access for the hard-to-reach segments in society. This will require adequate support so women are fully equipped to partner with the water community to jointly achieve the Human Right to Water and Sanitation in the coming decade.

Water for production – from hydropower down to watering a small garden – relates to socio-economic development and self-reliance, yet access to the means of production and control over resources often excludes women. A gender sensitive strategy aims to ensure that women benefit by

enabling their participation as decision makers and investors.

Policy is the starting point for gender mainstreaming, as this is when a government demonstrates its intention to redress inequality and adopt a gendered approach. However, the operational level is one of most important interfaces for gender in water and sanitation, because decisions made here shape engagement with communities, the sector's ultimate target group. Institutions engaged in WASH operations, such as NGOs, utilities, donor agencies, and local government bodies, need to adopt institutional policies and strategies that address gender at two levels: internal workplace policies, and service delivery strategies.

Heikeyu Gravity System in Mweteni, Tanzania

Organization: Tegemeo Women Group; Women for Water Partnership; Marie Stella Maris

Mweteni village consist of 4 sub-villages that have all faced an acute shortage of safe and clean water for a long time leading to the increase of water related diseases, poverty, long walking distance and excessive time spent on fetching water. A grassroots women's group in Mweteni, called Tegemeo Women Group, has initiated a water project in order to improve access to water and sanitation in Mweteni. The Mweteni water project is a larger program implementing 5 separate gravity schemes and a rainwater harvesting system. The project that is supported by Marie-Stella-Maris concerns the Heikeyu scheme. The creation of this scheme ensures access to safe and sustainable drinking water for approximately 1900 people. Making it easier for women to fetch water stimulates local economic development as a result. Hygiene education will be provided as well, which improves the overall community health.

The community of Mweteni isn't part of the government water plan. Because the water situation has become increasingly grim, the Tegemeo Women Group (TWG) took the initiative to ensure access to clean drinking water for its people. They gained the support of the whole community and its leaders as well as district authorities and the national government.

The government sees the WfWP and TWG water & sanitation project in Mweteni as a prime example of decentralized and participatory water management. The same district wants the project to expand to cover the entire district. To share their knowledge and experiences, both within and outside their community, the women in Tegemeo Mweteni built a water & sanitation communications centre. Here they provide the community information and advice about sanitation and hygiene.

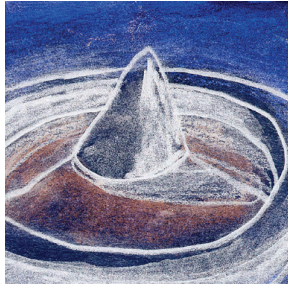
The EU-funded SWITCH (Sustainable Water Management Improves Tomorrows Cities Health) re- search programme set out to achieve more sustainable and integrated urban water management in the 'City of the Future'. It brought stakeholders from a range of institutions together in multi-stakeholder platforms ('learning alliances') at neighbourhood, city and in some cases national and global levels. The stakeholders jointly discussed problems and developed and tested ideas for improved integrated urban water management. SWITCH was carried out in 2006-2011 by a consortium of 33 partners from 15 countries, coordinated by the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education. This model is now being expanded to cities in India. (Butterworth ed. 2011).

nisms in local governance, often initiated from bottom-up. There has been tremendous creativity/social innovation from which also new, more participatory forms of water management can be expected to benefit. There are many outstanding examples today at local level of embarking on comprehensive/holistic/participatory approaches to managing their urban water systems and more can be gained by using smart technologies/ new ICTs etc.



Notes

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INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION:

PROGRESS, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND LESSONS LEARNED OVER THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR ACTION ‘WATER FOR LIFE’ 2005-2015

INTRODUCTION

The Implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Water Efficiency Plans are among the internationally agreed goals to insure sustainable use and management of water resources.

Over the Decade we have seen progress in the implementation of Integrated Resources Management and in the development of transboundary water cooperation, including in the framework of the Watercourses Convention and the UNECE Water Convention. The Decade’s highlight for both water cooperation and the focus on integrated water resources issues in general was 2013. In a resolution specifically recalling the “Water for Life” Decade, the United Nations declared 2013 to be the Inter-

national Year of Water Cooperation (IYWC) - The United Nations General Assembly noted the role water plays as an instrument of peace, recognizing that “cooperation is essential in order to strike a balance between the different needs and priorities and share this precious resource equitably.”

In this chapter we present what progress we have seen in IWRM; how progress has been supported through the Water Decade themes; the greater recognition of the planetary limits and of interdependencies: the nexus approach. We also look at what has changed in water cooperation and specifically in the context of the Water Conventions; why agreements and institutionalization matter; and the lessons and tools for water cooperation.

THERE HAS BEEN PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

The Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approach has now been accepted internationally as the way forward for efficient, equitable and sustainable development and management of the world’s limited water resources and for coping with conflicting demands.

Over the Decade it has been recognized that Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) depend on the input and involvement of a range of stakeholders operating at different levels, including local water users,

The IWRM concept is based on the Dublin Principles and propagates: a) a holistic approach, taking into account the different water uses, including adequate concern for ecosystems and the environment; b) a participatory approach, taking into account the different users and their different roles and responsibilities in ensuring water security and in managing the resource sustainably.

IWRM was defined as “a process which promotes the co-ordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems.”

Global Water Partnership, 2000

government agencies, industry, basin authorities, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).[1] Stakeholder involvement ensures that those reliant on water resources will be involved in water management decisions, and that information will be readily exchanged.

There has been important progress according to the UN-Water Rio+20 report on implementation of WRM:[2]

- Since 1992, 80% of countries embarked on reforms to enable the environment for better water resource management based on the application of integrated ap-

proaches as stated in Agenda 21, and affirmed in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

- There are differences according to development of countries: overall 64% of countries developed integrated water resource management plans, and 34% report an advanced stage of implementation. However, progress appears to have slowed, or even regressed, in low and medium Human Development Index (HDI) countries since the last survey in 2008. Much remains to be done to finance and implement plans in many HDI countries.
- Countries that have adopted integrated approaches report more

advanced infrastructure development, but even more efforts are needed to ensure appropriate levels of coordination.

- Countries report a gradual but positive trend in financing for water resources development and management with more diverse sources of finance, but little progress on payment for water resources services.
- Countries report improvements to the institutional framework together with improved policies, laws, and systems over the past 20 years. This has led to better water resources management practices bringing important socio-economic benefits.

TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION HAS INCREASED OVER TIME

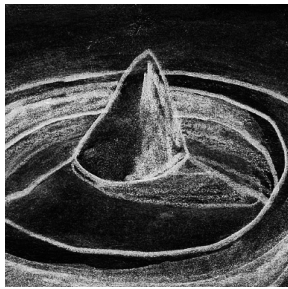
Cooperation on transboundary water resources has evolved. Important negotiations in the 50s and 60s, such as the agreements made on the Mekong, Indus, and Senegal rivers, helped gain experience on how to make cooperation successful. While some of these were bilateral agreements, institutions like the Tennessee Valley Authority, the World Bank, and United Nations were called upon to bring expertise and help settle a deal. Since then, more international frameworks and knowledge sharing have developed, and negotiations have moved more from being bilat-

eral to multilateral, basin-wide. Long term World Bank experience in the Ganges (between Bangladesh, India and Nepal), the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), and work in the Aral Sea

Basin, have shown the critical importance of water cooperation development taking into account each country's ambitious development goals particularly in areas such as growth,

“There was an enormous push (WWF, Green Cross International, University of Dundee and many others) during the Decade to get the Watercourses Convention into force. It was the 1st global Convention but the challenge was the need for ratifications. We need to highlight the level of ratifications during the Decade.”

Karin Krchnak World Wide Fund for Nature



poverty alleviation, sustainable development, and food, energy and water security.

In 1992 the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UNECE Water

Convention) was adopted. Five years later, in 1997 the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses. These Conventions have developed during the Decade, and particularly in the Pan-European region. In 2015 we celebrated that the UNECE Water Convention has been in force 19 years and has provided a framework and an intergovernmental platform for the promotion of cooperation

and sustainable management of water resources. The Convention was amended in 2003, opening it for accession by any Member State of the United Nations and in February 2013, this convention can be implemented beyond Europe. 18 non-UNECE States took part in the sixth Meeting of the Parties in Rome, 28-30 November 2012.

The International Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses was adopted in 1997. The aim was to create an equitable and reasonable treaty that could be universally applied; a framework convention that is flexible to apply to different international watercourses. It established agreed upon principles to use for dispute resolution and seeks to prevent harm to other states sharing the watercourse. It entered into force in August 2014.

The development of water cooperation in the framework of the two conventions has facilitated the adoption by countries of better policies for the management of water resources, resulting in many cases in an overall improvement of their water status. In the pan-European region almost all the countries have taken measures to establish cooperation on shared waters under this common framework, many have entered into bilateral and multilateral agreements and established joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation.

The Decade has seen considerable advances in concretizing water cooperation building on the principles of the two conventions. After 2005, the conventions and developments that began before the Decade have been nurtured and we can see positive developments also on the global level.

THE UNECE WATER CONVENTION HAS DEVELOPED IN THE COURSE OF THE DECADE



Over the Decade the parties have increasingly seen the UNECE Water Convention as a framework to improve implementation on the ground. This has been reflected in a proliferation of projects on the

ground in specific river basins that have developed under the convention as well as increased opportunities to exchange experiences. This focus on supporting implementation has culminated with the adoption of a

mechanism to support implementation, which is the implementation committee. This committee facilitates, promotes and safeguards implementation and compliance with the convention. It's very novel and

"Through the Decade, there's been more and more awareness of the complexity which affects the water sector, and there have been several areas in which the Water Convention has really developed. This has included the focus on implementation and the work at national level. The implementation Committee is very novel and it's one of the most promising tools for the future."

Attila Tanzi, UNECE

"The recognition of the links between national water governance and transboundary cooperation is something that has been there since the beginning of the Convention – if you look at the legal text of the Convention the focus on national measures is very strong and it's been something growing throughout the Decade."

Francesca Bernadini, UNECE

it's one of the most promising tools for the future. There are other areas that also support implementation but through other means, such as technical support and work in specific thematic areas.

A second area of development is the work at the national level. Parties have recognized that transboundary cooperation relies very much on national water management. At the beginning of the Decade UNECE and OECD started work on EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues (NPDs); an activity at the national level to support national water governance. NPDs were initiated in 2006 in two countries and now there are nine ongoing in countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

The UNECE Water Convention has also engaged in issues emerging during the Decade such as climate change and the growing demands on water driven by other sectors, like food production, energy production, also ecosystem preservation in the water/food/energy/ecosystem nexus. So the Convention more and more became involved in analyzing and recognizing these connections driven by global changes such as population growth, production and distribution patterns and climate change. This is important for water management in general, but even more for transboundary cooperation, where issues of inter-state relationships add to the complexity. Work on adaptation to climate change started under the convention in the beginning of the Decade and now tools have been developed to facilitate work in transboundary basins. Similarly, the more recent work on water-food-energy/ecosystems nexus (work began in 2012) was initiated.

Transboundary water cooperation extends beyond the water sector. A good example is the focus on water and human health, which was a dominant topic in the UNECE Convention during the Decade. The

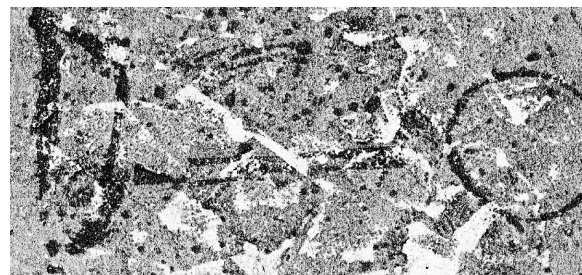
"The main achievement [of the Water Convention] has been the impact on the ground where the Convention provided the legal framework for developing transboundary water cooperation. In many cases, the Convention's institutions facilitated concrete legal, technical and practical assistance to establish transboundary water agreements and joint institutions. The major successes of the Convention include the advancement of the integrated approach to transboundary water management, based on the basin (catchment area) approach. The Convention actively promoted cooperation on both surface and groundwaters. Among the successes, I would also mention the Convention's work on adaptation of water management to climate change. Although climate change is not even mentioned in its text, the Convention provides the framework for Parties to address jointly this challenge from the policy point of view and to share their experiences in this area."

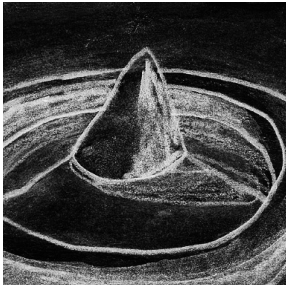
Iulia Trombitaia, Environmental Affairs Officer, UNECE

Protocol on Water and Health under the Convention entered into force at the beginning of the Decade in 2005, and now has 26 parties. This tool has been key in promoting the understanding that access to water and sanitation is beyond building pipes and building systems. It is linked to the whole water cycle. The protocol helps to analyze the links between access to water and sanitation, how to manage resources, and governance issues - from interministerial cooperation to public participation - and the role of the private sector. The Protocol has also been instrumental for translating into practice the human right to water and sanitation in the UNECE pan-European region, because it has a very strong focus on all the dimensions of the right - the quality, availability, accessibility, acceptability and affordability of access to water and sanitation without discrimination. A particular strength has been the participatory approach to the development of the Protocol, involving civil society as important stakeholders. This has led to the Protocol emerging as a concrete tool for the translation of the rights into reality, and effective cooperation in the implementation afterwards.

"The Protocol well reflects what we see now in the discussion on the Sustainable Development Goals: the same path has been followed by negotiators moving from an MDG focused on access to water and sanitation to a much broader SDG water goal. If you look at the proposed water goal it looks at all dimensions of water, in line with the Protocol. So it's certainly a modern way of dealing with water issues. And it's something that will remain very important in the future, including to support the implementation of the SDGs."

Attila Tanzi, UNECE





THERE HAS BEEN A GREATER RECOGNITION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO WATER THROUGH THE DECADE'S THEMES

Over the Decade different themes have been addressed showing the need for an integrated approach to water management. This have ranged from scarcity to water quality and sanitation; from water cooperation between stakeholders and between nations to financing water and ensuring women's participation; from where

water intersects with cities, energy production, culture, food security to disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change and overall sustainable development.

The following themes have been addressed in the course of the Decade linked to World Water Day.

- 2005 Water for Life
- 2006 Water and Culture

- 2007 Water Scarcity
- 2008 Sanitation
- 2009 Transboundary Waters
- 2010 Water Quality
- 2011 Water for Cities
- 2012 Water for Food Security
- 2013 Water Cooperation
- 2014 Water and Energy
- 2015 Water for Sustainable Development

"One of the biggest differences is that we have become increasingly aware that we have to talk with people outside the water sector. And that water is not really managed by water people, rather it is managed by the agriculture sector, by municipality governments. We have realized that we have been spending a lot of time talking to the converts and to each other, our closed circles, and realizing that while we are talking others are using the water."

Flemming Winther Olsen, Senior Advisor, Department for Environment, Energy and Climate. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

Decade's Initiatives:

For each theme the UNW-DPAC programme has prepared a dedicated web page updated with UN publications, has prepared readers and information briefs on the subject, has organised since 2009 the annual UN-Water Zaragoza Conferences for engaging stakeholders and has organised the UN-Water Best Practices Award. This has led to the preparation of a platform of good practices and different toolboxes and advise related to the themes.

We have seen the need to consider water scarcity to ensure sustainable development

Since 2007 when water scarcity was the theme of World Water Day much has changed. There is now a greater recognition by global actors and countries that water is a finite and irreplaceable resource that is fundamental to human well-being. It is only renewable if well managed. The latest World Water Develop-

ment Report 2015 (on Water and Sustainable Development) and the Global Environment Outlook recognized that if the present unsustainable trends of water use and management continue then about 1.8 billion people will be living in regions with absolute water scarcity by 2025 and about 60% of world

population could be subject to water stress. The private sector now regards water risks to be the number one threat to continued prosperity.[3] With its inextricable links to food security, economic development, and energy production, water scarcity is now recognized as one of the defining problems of the 21st century.

Decade's Initiatives: Capacity Development to Support National Drought Management Policies

Launched in 2013, the UN-Water's Decade Programme On Capacity Development launched the initiative on Capacity Development to Support National Drought Management Policies brings together WMO, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), FAO, the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) and UNW-DPC with the aim to improve the abilities of relevant stakeholders to formulate and adopt national drought management policies. Its online project platform in the UNW-AIS can be accessed at [www.ais.unwater.org/drought management](http://www.ais.unwater.org/drought%20management).

Outreach initiatives

Since 2009 the UNW-DPAC programme has a dedicated web page on water scarcity updated with UN publications and other materials regularly. The office has supported UN-DESA project on CD for Drought Management

Water-related risks and competition for water resources are perceived by a majority of countries to have increased over the past 20 years. At the end of the Decade we are more aware than even that water can pose a serious challenge to sustainable development but when managed efficiently and equitably, water can play a key enabling role in strengthening the resilience of social, economic and environmental systems in the light of rapid and unpredictable changes.

- Today, more than 1.7 billion people live in river basins where depletion through use exceeds natural recharge, a trend that will see two-thirds of the world's population living in water-stressed countries by 2025. Around 700 million people in 43 countries suffer today from water scarcity.
- By 2025, 1.8 billion people will be living in countries or regions with absolute water scarcity, and two-thirds of the world's population could be living under water stressed conditions.
- With the existing climate change scenario, almost half the world's population will be living in areas of high water stress by 2030, including between 75 million and 250 million people in Africa. In addition, water scarcity in some arid and semi-arid places will displace between 24 million and 700 million people.

There is more awareness of the importance of water quality and the opportunities derived from its improvement

In addition to issues of water quantity there are also problems with water quality. The 2010 World Water Day theme helped highlight how pollution of water sources is posing major problems for water users as well as for maintaining natural ecosystems.

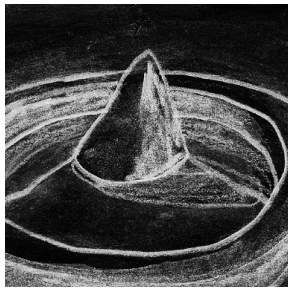
Globally, the most prevalent water quality problem is eutrophication, a result of high loads of nutrients (mainly phosphorus and nitrogen), which substantially impairs beneficial

uses of water. Major nutrient sources include agricultural runoff, domestic sewage (also a source of microbial pollution), industrial effluents and atmospheric inputs from fossil fuel burning and bush fires.

During the Decade we have seen progress on the drinking-water component of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Target 7c has been reached. However, at the end of the Decade we are now more aware

"The water sector has become a lot more professional over the last 10 years. A small concrete example is Water Quality, which is now in most places monitored in a transparent manner with performance indicators, which allow tracking and shows improvements."

Dominique Gatel, Veolia



of the need to assess the safety of drinking-water beyond whether or not it comes from an improved source. It is likely we may be overestimating both the proportion of the population with

access to safe drinking-water at baseline and progress towards Target 7c because many improved sources will not provide safe water, particularly in developing countries. Water quality considerations are now becoming a priority when assessing progress made in access to water worldwide.

Clean water is not only vital for industrial processes; its provision can provide significant opportunities to economies chasing lucrative foreign investment. What is necessary here is that the supply be of quality: consistent and predictable.

“Singapore may be water scarce, but our water programmes have made us attractive to business, because we can guarantee a high quality, very reliable water supply. We can’t afford any interruption to this supply, the jobs of Singaporeans depend on it. So now when you see companies like Rolls Royce in Singapore, our water supply has played a major role in this and all Singaporeans are benefiting”

George Madhavan,
Director (3PN), PUB (Singapore’s National Water Agency) on NEWater

“There must be agreement not just from those in charge of maintaining the city economy but also those charged with water conservation and the environment. For example, businesses which will impact natural resources are obligated to compensate. They must plant trees to safeguard the watershed, or take some equivalent action. Because of our efforts, we use less chemical pesticides in agriculture which will hopefully improve people’s health. And we have been planting broad-leafed trees to encourage biodiversity. In the future, we hope to collect data to support this.”

Seio Utsunomiya, International Affairs Office,
Tourism, Culture & Exchange Bureau, Kumamoto City, Japan

Decade’s Initiative: Safe Use of Wastewater in Agriculture

Launched in 2011, this project brings together FAO, WHO, UNEP, the UNU Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) and UNW-DPC, in collaboration with the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI). Together, these organizations have been building national capacities in developing countries and countries in transition for the promotion of safe practices where wastewater is used in agriculture. The project’s online platform is accessible at www.ais.unwater.org/wastewater.

We have increased our understanding of the connection between water and energy

The 2014 World Water Development Report and the activities of the year on the theme of World Water Day helped to highlight how all sources of energy require water in the production process: the extraction of raw materials, thermal cooling processes, cleaning processes, cultivation of

crops for biofuels and powering turbines. Energy is itself required to make water resources available for human use and consumption (including irrigation) through pumping, transportation, treatment, and desalination. Long overlooked, more people are becoming familiar with

the water-energy nexus as demand for electricity grows and water supplies are more uncertain in certain regions across the world.

The 2014 UN-Water Zaragoza Conference and World Water Week were two key occasions that served to highlight the need to avoid responses

“One of the themes [at Stockholm World Water Week 2014] is energy, and the in the last 10 years the debate about hydropower has changed totally. We’re not talking about whether hydro should happen but where it should happen, what kind of hydro and so on, and I think that’s a big step forward. It’s been accompanied by a massive increase in the amount of funding for hydro, particularly from Chinese loans and that’s a big difference.”

James Winpenny, Wychwood Economic Consulting

that fix one problem at the expense of worsening another. The multiple interdependencies between water and energy mean that coordinated responses can take advantage of the

synergies between water and energy. Moving towards less water intensive energy sources and less energy intensive water sources, saving water and energy in any production and con-

sumption process, are all alternatives that take advantage of these synergies. Solutions can and have been implemented by building partnerships between water and energy actors.

And we recognize how vital water is to food security in all countries

2012 World Water Day served to improve awareness on how water and food security affected all countries, in different ways. It served to highlight how water is key to food security. Livestock needs water, needs feed that needs water to grow. Agriculture requires large quantities of water for irrigation and of good quality for various production

processes. Demographic pressures, climate change and the increased competition for land and water are likely to increase vulnerability to food insecurity. The challenge of providing sufficient food for a global population has never been greater. At the same time, urbanization has led to new consumption patterns for the majority of the world

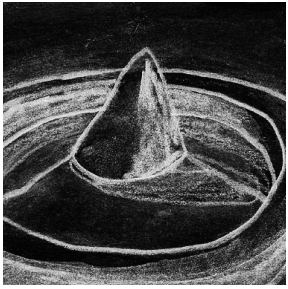
population, making the links between production and consumption more complex, and calling for more sophisticated measures – to deal with diets- and also infrastructure. Global agricultural markets become more integrated; with expansion of futures trade, they also become more speculative and therefore risky.[4]

“There’s been an important recognition that water is important in the food supply chain, and promoting that. 90% of the water that we need as a society as individuals is in this supply chain. The way that we consume water is detached. And we’ve realized farmers can increase productivity with better water management. We’ve got a global system and cheap food is of the highest priority. Society’s been deluded into thinking food just happens.”

Professor JA (Tony) Allan,
Department of Geography, King’s College London

“The nexus with other sectors, eg. energy and food, is increasingly addressed in policy. In the future, I hope for great transparency and that the involvement of affected populations will be key success factors for sustainability, and stronger river basin authorities will provide improved guidance on catchment management and water allocation.”

Jean-Benoit Charrin, Executive Director, Waterlex



“We are now really looking seriously at the contribution of water to the wider picture. In the organization of the European Union we still have an eye on water and sanitation but more and more we’re looking at the links with energy, agriculture in particular because energy and agriculture are key to development policies.”

Andre Liebaert, Programme Manager
– Water policy Water, Energy, Infrastructures, European Commission

“We engage much more now with other sectors, mostly the food and energy sectors and in that process this nexus has been very helpful. It has helped getting these others actors to the table.”

Torkil Jonch Clausen, DHI

THERE HAS BEEN A GREATER RECOGNITION OF THE INTERDEPENDENCIES. THE NEXUS APPROACH HAS GAINED MOMENTUM

In 2011 the German Government organized the Water-Food-Energy Nexus Conference. It was a catalyst for recognition of the need for policy coherence, for coordinated actions and for implementing measures that can build synergies and help achieving triple benefits for water, for energy and food. Since then the nexus ap-

proach has led to a myriad of global, regional, country and local initiatives.

The World Water Development Report 2014 has highlighted that considering the competition over water is central in the difficult policy choices that are posed by the water-food-energy. These three pillars of any functioning society are closely

interlinked, and choices made in one area will inevitably impact the choices and hence resources available in the others. Analyzing the interdependences and the trade-offs involved in managing each sector, either separately or together can help find mutually beneficial solutions. (WWAP, 2014).

THERE IS NOW A GREATER RECOGNITION OF THE PLANETARY LIMITS. THERE IS A CLEARER ROLE FOR AN ECOSYSTEMS APPROACH, AND UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Over the Decade we have improved our understanding of linkages between ecosystems, water, and food production and how important they are to the health of all three. Water is a key driver of several ecosystem functions, including biomass and crop yields, as well as various supporting and regulatory ecosystem services. The health of ecosystems across the globe relies on a consistent supply of safe water.

Ecosystems also play a key role in regulating the availability of water and its quality. We have now improved awareness of how ecosystem management can contribute to sustainable water.

We now know how in many places, changes in the global water cycle, caused largely by human pressures, are seriously affecting ecosystem health and human well-being. The increasing prominence of water

in the global dialogue has meant an increased awareness of how healthy ecosystems can bring concrete benefits to the people. In the discussions on the post 2015 agenda the water community is providing evidence on how crucial is the transition to an economy that not only improves human well-being and lessens inequality but also reduces environmental risks, ecological scarcities and brings ecosystems in as solutions for water security.

"10 years ago water ecosystems were something that were added on at the end. It was really difficult to bring enough water to accommodate the local people's needs. The ability to fish or the ability to be able to simply farm and have enough water. Now, 10 years later after, we're talking about Trans-boundary Water Assessment Programme (5) and 'ecosystems' is becoming one of the recognized uses of water, along with energy, food, people's drinking. There are four uses now that people are talking about balancing. And not just 'I want hydropower, I need water for the city. I need water to grow food'. 'Ecosystems' is part of the discussion now. 10, 15 years ago it really wasn't. It's really good to see this. And that was really the goal of our facility."

Albert Duda, former Global Environmental Facility

During recent years, and especially in the context of the Rio+20 conference in 2012, the important concept of a 'green economy' entered the global discourse. Healthy people need a healthy planet; preserving the delicate balance of nature while providing enough water for an increasingly thirsty human population is of paramount importance. The planet is a living organism that must be sustained so we can survive. This is our greatest challenge.

The 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report 2014, concludes that fresh water resources are vulnerable and will be strongly impacted by climate change with wide-reaching impacts on societies and ecosystems. Due to global warming and associated hydrological changes on account of changing precipitation patterns and receding glaciers, most of the world's water-stressed areas will get less water and water flows will

become less predictable and more subject to extreme weather events and floods.

At the end of the Decade we have increasing evidence on how IWRM, supported by systematic environmental assessment, provides a framework for planning and allocating water at the basin level that helps deal with planetary limits and includes ecosystems as "natural infrastructure" to be managed in order to achieve water goals. The application of an ecosystems approach has been increasingly recognized as essential in the course of the Decade. It necessitates the valuation and use of natural infrastructure, supported by tools that include, for instance, Payment for Ecosystem Services, remediation through sustainable dam and reservoir management, and strategic river basin investment.[5] While formal Environmental Impact Assessments can quantify the effects that production and water use have on the

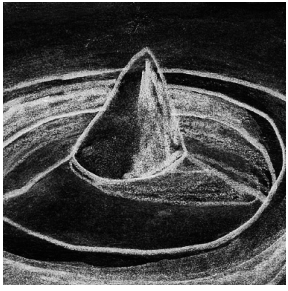
environment, IWRM can make an ecosystem approach operational in the context of green growth and optimize the benefits of integrated natural and built infrastructure.

There are other tools that came out of this Decade to help advance this approach to water management. This includes the water footprint analysis and the Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) as this is the first ever global water stewardship standard. It set the baseline for what is considered good water stewardship and can be used and bring cooperation among governments, business and civil society.[6] The International Resource Panel work, a science-policy platform created by UNEP in 2007, shows the opportunities for governments and businesses to work together to make the case, create and implement policies to encourage sustainable resource management and decoupling economic growth from resource use and environmental impacts.



"The big change in my community is that we're not just doing esoteric research, how rivers flow and how groundwater's changing and so on, what we're trying to make the hydrological research that we do relevant to the needs of society, we're asking what are the needs of society in terms of better prediction of floods and droughts and better prediction of how much water is available in quantity and quality for all the various ways in which water is used. We're looking to try to satisfy the needs to society."

Gordon Young, International Association of Hydrological Sciences



“Water cooperation is challenging but it is helpful for stakeholders to come together around a common understanding of shared water risks. We have found this in the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo where we are working across governments, private sector, and civil society on source water protection, improving agricultural management, and restoration.”

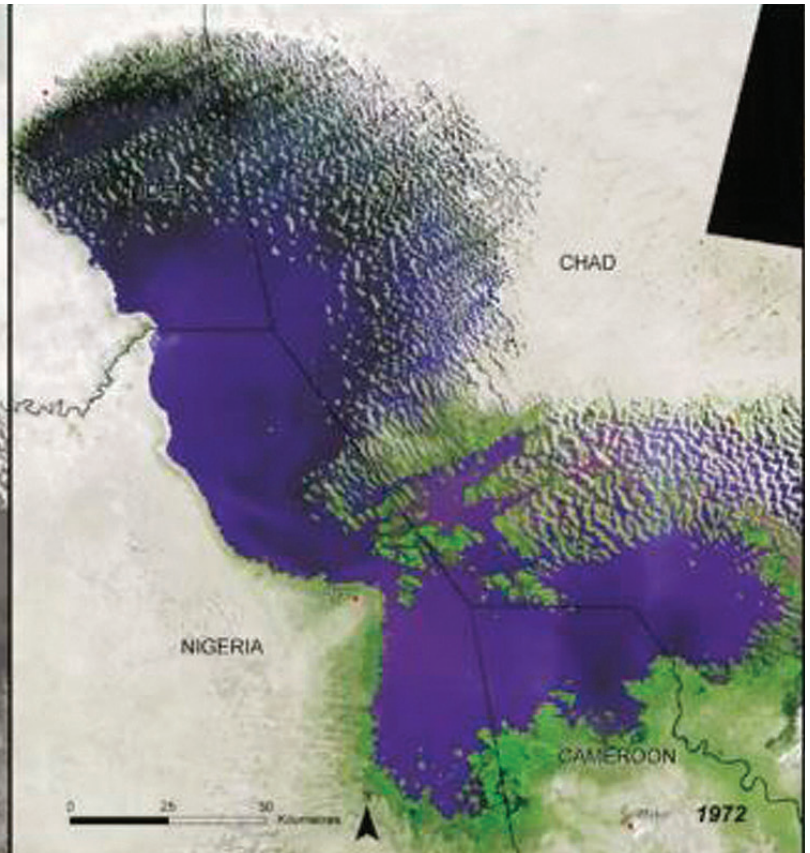
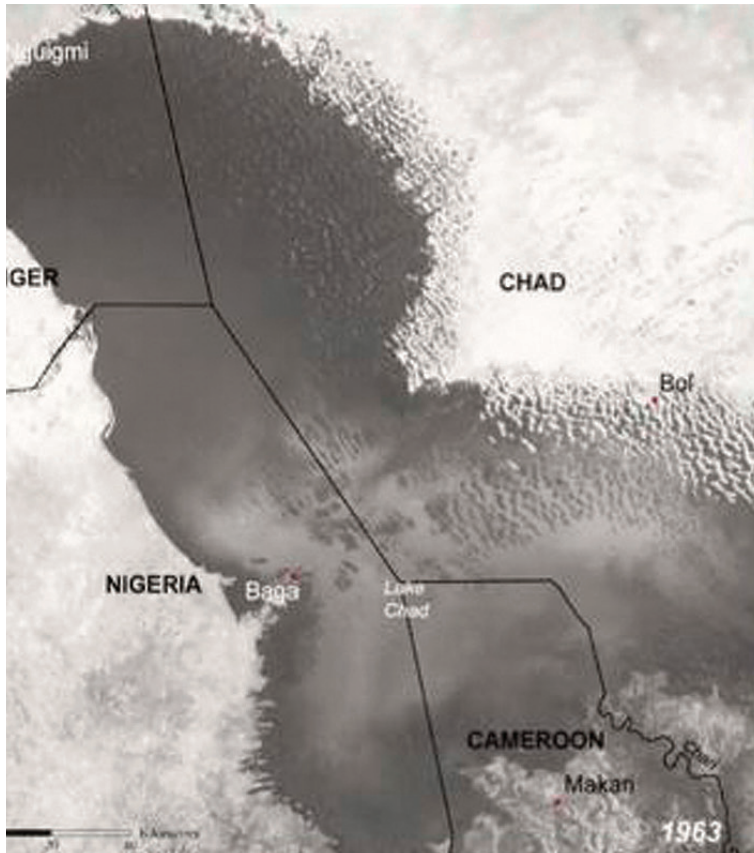
Karin Krchnak World Wide Fund for Nature

WE LEARNED ABOUT WHAT WORKS FOR ENABLING WATER COOPERATION

Water Cooperation as a goal of the International Water Decade ‘Water for Life’ 2005-2015 is instrumental in implementing IWRM in River Basins. According to the World Bank,[7] there are some important lessons on what works in water cooperation. We have seen that making cooperation work is a long process requiring a set

of enabling conditions that need to be established before mutually beneficial and enforceable agreements can be reached. A clear understanding of how this happens is the key to foster similar processes in the future. While the associated economic benefits and costs of cooperation are generally well analyzed, the perceptions of

decision-makers regarding political risks and opportunities have been much less explored. According to the World Bank the critical change that needs to be promoted is the shift in people’s perception so that, first, opportunities must be perceived as more important than the risks involved in cooperation and, second, the



perceptions of the benefits are more significant than the opportunity costs of not coming to an agreement. As the World Bank experience shows, in many countries risk reduction was an important pre-condition before countries would progress to negotiations and consider and even sign an agreement. For that reason the World Bank has identified seven areas that, depending on the context, may help in reducing risk and facilitating a shift from confrontation or deadlock to productive agreements. These areas are: knowledge and skill expansion, institutional development, program design, financing, facilitation, and decision legitimacy.

The different initiatives implemented during the Decade[8] have helped member states to openly discuss transboundary issues, nurturing the opportunities for cooperation in water management among all stakeholders and improving the comprehension of the challenges and

benefits of water cooperation, building mutual respect, understanding and trust among countries and promoting peace, security and sustainable economic growth.

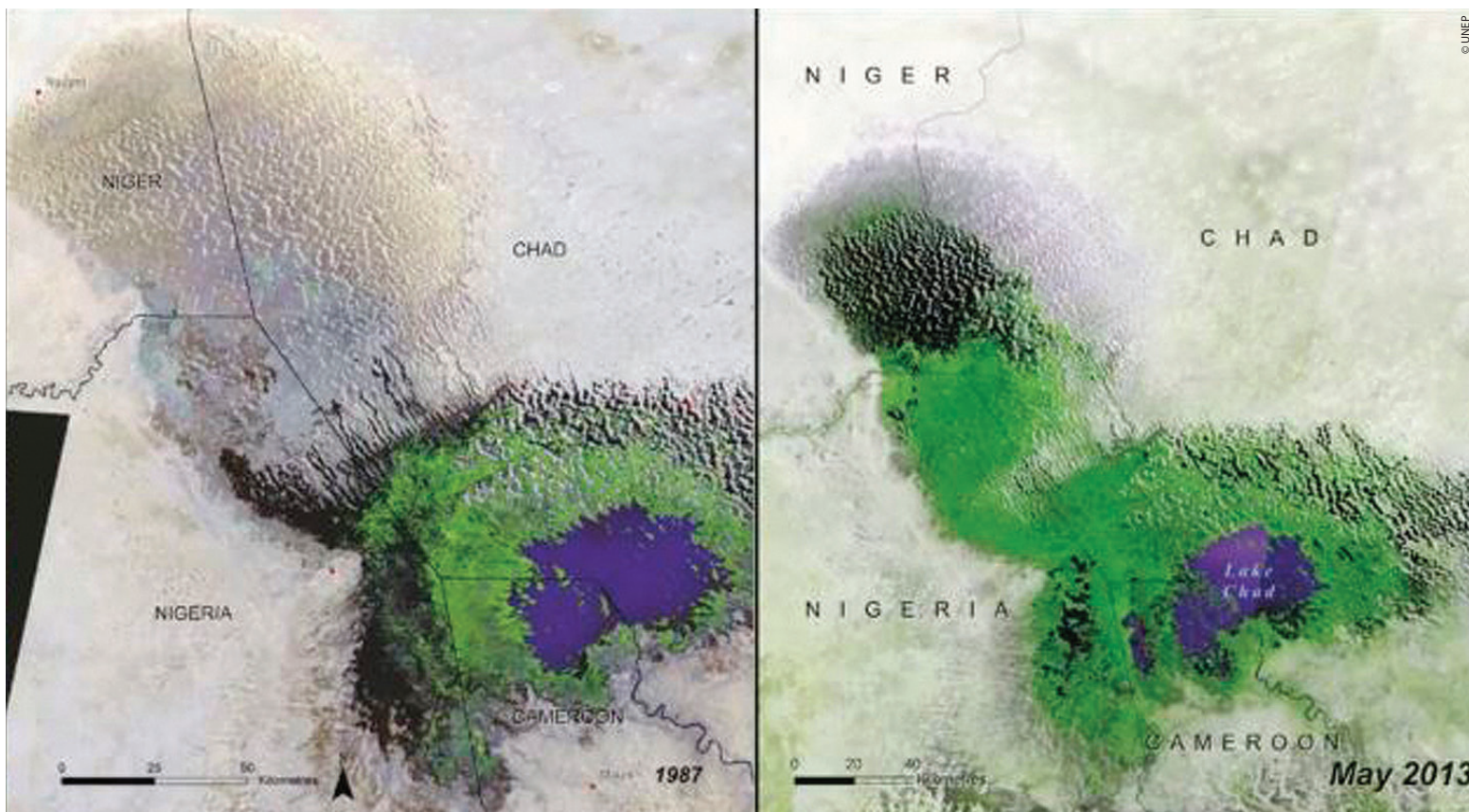
From the various initiatives we have learned that:

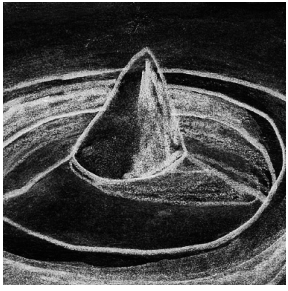
- A multilevel, inclusive approach for water cooperation works best. Water resources management issues must be addressed at the local, national and at appropriate regional and international levels. Involving all stakeholders, including those in government, international organizations, the private sector, civil society and academia, has multiple benefits. It ensures informed decision-making, makes that the needs of all beneficiaries are taken into consideration – including paying adequate attention to the livelihoods of the poor and most vulnerable people; and it makes the population understand and

contribute. Water management must also be consistent with other government policies and vice-versa. All the while, social, political and economic decisions must be made in a way that seeks to balance and fairly distribute the allocation of natural resources while keeping in mind the biophysical limits of the environment.

- Innovative approaches for water cooperation can help. Mobilizing political will and commitment to address water issues worldwide remains crucial. Equally important are forward thinking and a willingness to consider innovative ways to approach local, regional and international cooperation. Open discussion of the issues shaping our water resources today and strong citizen participation in decision-making (which is key to fostering good governance and a climate of ac-

UNEP





countability and transparency) can stimulate cooperative action and political commitment. Promoting a culture of consultation and increasing participative capacities will help to deliver benefits in all areas, including collaborative water management.

- We need to highlight the benefits of cooperation and develop common values, principles and rules of conduct. At the global scale, the effective and mutually beneficial solutions of water resources-related problems are important for peace, security and stability of our nations. Fortunately, our planet actu-

ally has sufficient water resources to provide ‘water security’ for all. Throughout history, nations have learned how to share the benefits of the river. The key issue here has always been and remains to be the development of common values and rules of conduct to develop joint management and handle disputes peacefully.

- Cooperation is essential for environmental sustainability. It needs

WE HAVE LEARNED THAT INSTITUTIONS AND AGREEMENTS MATTER

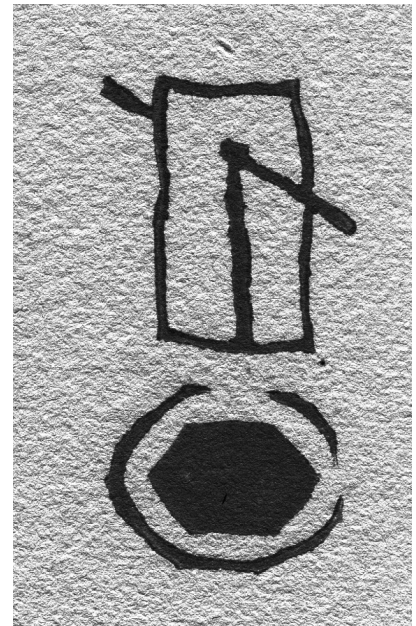
Cooperation and water sharing have been negotiated and maintained even as conflicts have persisted over other issues. Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam, have been able to cooperate since 1957 within the framework of the Mekong River Commission, and they had technical exchanges throughout the Vietnam War. Since 1955, Israel and Jordan have held regular talks on the sharing of the Jordan River, even while in a legal state of war. The Indus River Commission survived two wars between India and Pakistan. A framework for the Nile River Basin, home to 160 million people and shared among 10 countries, was agreed in February

1999 in order to fight poverty and spur economic development in the region by promoting equitable use of, and benefits from, common water resources. The nine Niger River Basin countries agreed on a framework for a similar partnership. Over the Decade the importance of institutions to effectively develop and support a process of engagement has become increasingly obvious.

The importance of reliable freshwater for countries and socio-economic uses is a powerful incentive for cooperation and dialogue, compelling stakeholders to reconcile even the most divergent views. Over the International Year of Water Cooperation it was highlighted that there are more than 3,600 agreements and treaties signed over time and these are an achievement in themselves,

to be managed within a sound, integrated socio-economic and environmental framework. Upstream and downstream, water stakeholders will have to be involved in management decisions. It is impossible to maintain the integrity of a balanced ecosystem without an overall strategy on water resources management. We all have a shared responsibility for protecting the shared environments sur-

rounding rivers and their associated watersheds. but to make them effective workable monitoring schemes, enforcement mechanisms, and specific water allocation provisions that address variations in water flow and changing needs are required.



“The last Decade has seen incredible advancement in specific tools such as the Hydropower Sustainability Protocol. This still is an untapped tool when it comes to cooperation in transboundary basins but offers a lot of potential. WWF partnered with MRC and ADB to develop the Rapid Basin-wide Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Tool. Also, we developed with our partner The Coca Cola Company a website to share lessons learned on cooperation—it might be helpful as the elements have broad applications.”

Karin Krchnak World Wide Fund for Nature

<http://wwfcocacolapartnership.com/lessons-learned/>

Voices of pride Voces de orgullo



“One of the differences is that things that were crazy ideas 10 years ago are now being discussed as quite sensible solutions”

Clarissa Brocklehurst

The 1997 United Nations Convention on Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses as well as the 1992 UNECE Water Convention have provided a framework for countries to specify their own terms of cooperation. The conventions have established two key principles to guide the conduct of nations regard-

ing shared watercourses: “equitable and reasonable use” and “the obligation not to cause significant harm” to neighbours. However, it is up to countries themselves to spell out and agree on what these terms mean in their watersheds. The two conventions have been crucial as guidance to establish, sustain and support the

establishment of institutions, joint bodies and long-term transboundary cooperation, providing a supportive institutional framework worldwide. Facilitation of higher environmental standards and national water sector reforms have been made possible, and have provided an invaluable framework to support the step-by-

step approximation of legislation of the Central and Eastern European countries that acceded to the EU in the 2004 and 2007 intake.

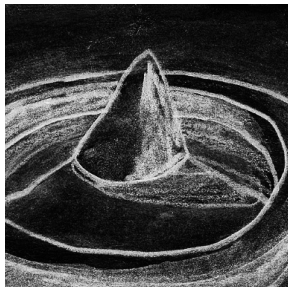
WE LEARNED ABOUT PRACTICAL TOOLS TO ENHANCE WATER COOPERATION

Kicking off the International Year

of Water Cooperation (IYWC), the International Annual UN-Water Zaragoza Conference ‘Water Cooperation: Making it Happen!’ took place in Zaragoza, Spain, in January 2013, and focused on tools to make cooperation happen. As the first IYWC

event of 2013, it built upon progress made in water cooperation with case studies and global experiences with water treaties or conventions.[9]

The Zaragoza conference concluded that while political will, legal frameworks, accountability and



institutional structures provide a solid foundation for water cooperation, “achieving water cooperation is the result of a long-term process which requires time, patience and mutual trust”.

Key elements for success in water cooperation

Active and continuous involvement of a third party mediator

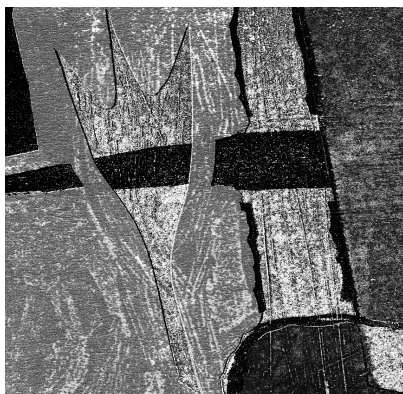
In the Indus Water Treaty, the World Bank played a critical role in negotiating between India and Pakistan. They offered funding, support staff, and proposals to advance cooperation. The Vatican had a mediating role in the development of the Zambezi River agreements between 11 states.

Involvement of social aspects

The White Mission in the Mekong Committee found that maximum benefit of the projects for irrigation and power developed by engineers could only be achieved with extensive training of the local population.

Creative methods of financing

In the Nile Waters Treaty, Egypt agreed to finance water enhancement projects in Sudan in exchange for additional water that made available.



Decentralized cooperation allows North-South partnerships to increase financing for development projects. For example, in France, the Oudin-Santini Law made it possible for local governments to devote 1% of their water and sanitation budget to emergency aid projects or medium-long term development projects. This allowed the City of Lorient’s sanitation network to help train and plan HR for a Senegalese village who had a waste water plant, but not enough skilled staff to manage it. Similar budget laws or taxes have been also place in Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, and the Basque Country in Spain.

Creation of incentives through shared benefit models

The Organization for the Development of the Senegal River was designed to distribute economic benefits based on how much each country puts into the project. Such benefits also led Guinea to join the Senegal River Charter in 2006 after only have been an observer. Payment for environmental services (PES) schemes has helped give farmers/land managers incentives for efficient water management policy. Simple mechanisms like direct contracts between buyers and sellers are mostly used in developing countries, but countries like Kenya have instituted green water credits to try to incentivize best practices. Conservation measures resulting from this program are expected to have a ten-fold return on investment.

Water assessments/Data analysis

The ICPDR Tisza Group used their river basin analysis to create an

integrated management plan that is to be implemented and followed up. The WWF assisted ZAMCOM (Zambezi Watercourse Commission) and dam operators to help show the benefits of maintaining environmental flows downstream. By using studies and making these analyses accessible, they help change operations of dams to replicate flood patterns that restore freshwater and ecosystems.¹⁶ The Mekong River Commission and Asian Development Bank have created the Rapid Basin-wide Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Tool, based on mapping and assessments, to guide decision on which site, design, operations, and engagement is must sustainable for developing hydropower.

Scenario planning

One of the keys to success in Okavango River Basin agreements was developing scenarios to response for changes in flows, biotic health, water quality, hydraulic, geomorphic, ecosystems, and socio-economic impacts. All riparian parties were involved to have better understanding of how systems function within the basin.¹⁴ Conservation International helps develop decision support tools for the Mekong region based on trade-offs of developing hydropower vs. maintaining fisheries.

Step by step approach

The Finnish-Russian cooperation on transboundary waters has lasted through the Cold War and the former Soviet Union collapse because of strong political commitment. This is due to a step by step approach taken over 50 years going from establishing institutions to resolving issues, to developing principles, engaging stake-



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holders, making joint discharge rules, making long term commitments, and examining new challenges.

Private sector involvement/partnerships

The CEO Water Mandate helped bring a strategic framework for water sustainability for companies. They

created a Water Action Hub where partners who share water risk could be identified and organized information is available to help bring collective action. The Rainforest Alliance has partnered with the World Resources Institute to give training in management practices in Africa. The Rainforest Alliance mark can be used as certification for companies who conduct their business sustainably,

giving consumers more transparency.

Having a functioning Secretariat

In the Sava River Basin Commission, among others, the Secretariat helped build and maintain engagement and



Notes

[1]. Global Water Partnership (2000). Integrated Water Resources Management. TAC Background Papers # 4. Available at: [http://www.gwp.org/Global/ToolBox/Publications/Background%20papers/04%20Integrated%20Water%20Resources%20Management%20\(2000\)%20English.pdf](http://www.gwp.org/Global/ToolBox/Publications/Background%20papers/04%20Integrated%20Water%20Resources%20Management%20(2000)%20English.pdf).

[2]. http://www.unwater.org/fileadmin/user_upload/unwater_new/docs/UNW_status_report_Rio2012.pdf.

[3]. http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Global_Risks_2015_Report15.pdf.

[4]. FAO <http://www.fao.org/>.

[5]. <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002257/225741E.pdf#page=153>. World Water Development Report 2014 Transboundary Water Assessment Programme (TWAP) interim report available at <http://twap-rivers.org/>.

[6]. <http://www.allianceforwaterstewardship.org/>.

[7]. Reaching across the waters. Facing the Risks of Cooperation in International Waters. World Bank, March 2012.

[8]. UN-Water 2013 Zaragoza Conference: Water Cooperation, Making it Happen.

[9]. For more examples, refer to the outcomes document from the UN-Water Zaragoza International conference 2013, which focused on water cooperation: http://www.zaragoza.es/contenidos/medioambiente/onu/1027_eng_water_cooperation_in_action.pdf.



THE ROLE OF GLOBAL PROCESSES AND ACTORS

PROGRESS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED OVER THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR ACTION ‘WATER FOR LIFE’ 2005-2015

INTRODUCTION



Over the Decade a myriad of global entities have embarked on different activities and their roles have evolved. They include intergovernmental, inter-agency, civil society, NGOs, private sector, professional, research. Many of these global actors have indeed contributed to the achievements of the goals of the Decade.

The Decade as a global process has served to promote the water agenda both at political level and to support implementation, creating an enabling environment for regional, national and local action. Global processes and actors, from the UN and beyond, have been able to improve monitoring and have provided a platform for evaluating progress and discussing and deciding on the way forward.

The aim of this chapter is to analyze what types of actions have been more effective; who has contributed and how; to help us examine how the Water Decade – as global processes – did indeed provide an effective framework for promoting and supporting implementation of the globally agreed efforts.

In this document we highlight the developments during the Decade including the importance of WASH monitoring and reporting, the development of common knowledge, new paradigms and global fora, high level advocacy, the engagement of the private sector and the evolving role of UN inter-agency coordination, including the role of global communications and outreach actions and partnerships.

WE HAVE SEEN THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF GLOBAL MONITORING, REPORTING AND INFORMATION GATHERING



As main actors who made specific pledges at the beginning of the Decade, WHO and UNICEF have maintained impressive efforts to track progress on the MDG targets related to access to basic water and sanitation services and on the financial flows to water supply and sanitation services. Monitoring of progress against outcomes on drinking water and sanitation is undertaken through

the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP), which has been consolidating data from Member States for more than 20 years. Progress on Financial Flows and other means of implementation have been monitored through the WHO GLAAS process. Both have been essential in monitoring the MDG targets on water and sanitation and together allow reliable, disaggregated data on progress.



Whereas the Millennium Development Goals provided a focus and direction for the international community and to governments on the priorities, effectively and consistently tracking specific targets has served to improve policies and targeting and has pointed out the need for coherence and improved financing. It has created peer pressure for governments and hence it has incentivized further investments through detailed analysis on enablers and barriers to progress, indicating where additional support is needed to make progress.

The analysis of the Joint Monitoring Programme report results and the GLAAS Reports has allowed us to understand *where development assistance is evolving and to which countries it is going versus where it is most needed*. The latest GLAAS Report points out that only 60% of development aid for sanitation and drinking water is targeted to the MDG regions in sub-Saharan Africa, Southern Asia, and South-Eastern Asia where 70% of the global underserved live. Even more pertinently,

the report also highlights the relatively low proportion of aid targeted to basic services; those that are more likely to serve the poor.

Tracking progress has helped point out which groups need increased attention. We now know how low income populations and rural populations are lagging behind and that we need to target rural and low income groups supported by JMP collecting and analyzing information by income group. We know that funds are disproportionately targeted for extending services in urban areas, even in countries where urban areas are relatively well served and rural areas off-track.

Tracking progress has helped point out where funding is needed: Data suggests that funds spent on operation and maintenance are insufficient; a majority of countries indicate that rural water supply programs are not effective due to lack of operational funding, whereas one third of countries report that urban cities lack revenue to fund operation and maintenance. In fact only

7% of aid is directed at maintaining services. We know that focusing on effective asset management to sustain services can be as important as new infrastructure.

Tracking progress has provided ideas on how to move forward on the need to strengthen the collection of WASH financial information with a harmonized method of data collection and monitoring. Existing levels of household and private investments are poorly understood, but available data suggest that they are significant sources of financing that could make major contributions to supporting operation and maintenance of services.

Water resources management, including water-use efficiency, sustainable withdrawals, Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and water quality, has proved, to be more complex to monitor.

The IWRM report for Rio and the World Water Development Reports[1] since 2005 have served to monitor progress made on meeting the other internationally agreed



targets to 'Develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005, with support to developing countries, through actions at all levels' agreed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in 2002, through the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI).

The global information on water uses and resources that has been used for the assessment is based, to an important extent, on a multi-agency project, requiring just the kind of multidisciplinary approach UN-Water was designed to help coordinate. This has been the Federated Water Monitoring System and Key Water Indicator Portal (KWIP) managed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The objective of these tools is to improve the availability and accessibility to water resources-related information in order to facilitate policy- and decision-making while reducing the load on member countries. Information is constantly updated here. <http://www.unwater.org/kwip>.

The World Bank WAVES partnership (Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services) has been another initiative over the Decade. It aims to ensure natu-

ral resources are mainstreamed in development planning and national economic accounts. WAVES helps countries to adopt and implement the central framework of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), adopted by the UN Statistical Division, to develop an ecosystem accounting methodology. Water is often the most advanced area incorporated into such accounts. The multi-lateral environment agreements (notably the Convention on Biological Diversity and Ramsar Convention on Wetlands) already require data and monitoring in many ecosystem relevant areas at national level.

In addition to the above the United Nations Global Environment Monitoring System Project (GEMStat) is dedicated to providing environmental water quality data and information of the highest integrity, accessibility and interoperability. These data are used in water assessments and capacity building initiatives around the world. GEMStat is designed to share surface and ground water quality data sets collected from the GEMS/Water Global Network, including more than 3,000 stations, close to four million records, and over 100 parameters.[2]

Overall tracking progress and improved monitoring of the water related MDGs targets has proved to be a game changer. Tracking

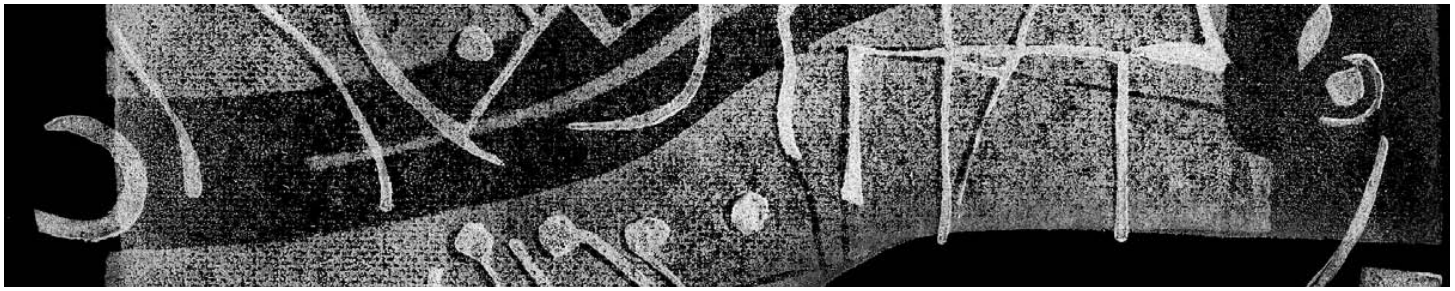
progress has gained momentum, it strengthens the water agenda including where it intersects with other sectors. It has underpinned the importance of a universal water goal in the SDG processes.

We also see now that the water community is taking the SDGs much more seriously from the start and how the education organizations/universities are engaging in supporting the post 2015 agenda (inequalities, rural, sustainability, health centers). Communities of practice have been engaging from the start in these efforts (regulators, small operators, local authorities, business, media and communications).

Given the evidence of how useful and influential WASH monitoring has been in driving action, UN-Water has been working on developing indicators and monitoring systems[3] to support their implementation. The UN-Water inter-agency Global Expanded Monitoring Initiative (GEMI), focusing more broadly on water resource management and water quality, complements and builds on the JMP, which has demonstrated that credible monitoring focuses national and global policies and resource allocations. GEMI also complements and builds on a wide range of the other monitoring initiatives and data centers in the water sector, such as FAO AQUASTAT and UNEP's GEMStat.[4]

"Effective SDGs, targets, and their indicators will serve as a management tool to help countries develop implementation strategies and allocate resources accordingly. They will also serve as a report card to measure progress towards sustainable development and to help ensure the accountability of all stakeholders for achieving the SDGs. Indicators will be the backbone of monitoring progress towards the SDGs at local, national, regional, and global levels. The mechanics of SDG monitoring are still being worked, but an emerging consensus suggests that the focus of SDG monitoring will be at the national level. Complementary monitoring will occur at regional and global levels. Moreover, each major thematic community, such as health, education, agriculture, and so forth, will mobilize technical expertise around its key thematic issues."

Indicators and a Monitoring Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals;
Sustainable Development Solutions Network (2015)



WE HAVE SEEN HOW THE PRIVATE SECTOR ACKNOWLEDGES WATER AS A SHARED PROBLEM AND HAS FOUND A ROLE IN GLOBAL PROCESSES IN WATER

During the past Decade the topic of water has risen from obscurity and neglect to a key issue and priority for growing numbers of business organizations, across industrial sectors and geographies. The rising importance of water has been reinforced in January 2015 with the release of the World Economic Forum's annual ranking of global risks. Water was identified as the world's 3rd largest risk – as it is so vital for so many processes, yet it is not always managed sustainably or priced appropriately, especially for agriculture – and the premier risk in terms of impacts on communities and economies.

The private sector increasingly came on board as a willing partner, with many private companies

recognizing that well managed water is good for business. Starting with the impetus of the Water Decade the international business community also made advances in the area of water cooperation, especially through initiatives such as the UN Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate, launched in 2007 with just five endorsing companies, which now comprises more than 125 large corporations with public commitments to water stewardship.

The CEO Water Mandate has identified several achievements.

- *Strengthening of the concept of 'corporate water stewardship'*, a holistic approach that takes companies beyond just water management in

direct operations, and into areas such as the supply chain, watersheds and river basins, with an emphasis on collaboration.

- *Higher transparency and disclosure.* More and more companies are showing the willingness to commit to action, backed up by accountability and disclosure. The UN Global Compact and CEO Water Mandate initiatives both require annual progress reports by endorsers, expelling companies that fail to communicate progress.
- *Interest, respect and support for the human right to water and sanitation.* These were declared human rights by both the UN General Assembly and UN Human Rights Council in 2010. Companies are

"Water, for the first time, has been identified by business as the world's number one risk in terms of impacts on communities and economies."

Gavin Power, CEO Water Mandate

"The water issue has been recognized as a strategic issue for business and a strategic issue for the globe. So that has significantly changed in the last 10 years."

Joppe Cramwinckel, World Business Council Sustainable Development

"I'm so proud to say that PEPSICO actually is explicitly now involved in water and sanitation and we made a public commitment back in 2009 to get 3m people access to safe water, we met that commitment three years early and we've now doubled it, so admittedly 6m people is small compared with the nearly 800 million on the planet [without access to safe water] but if other companies can follow our lead that's when you start to see the needle move."

Dan Bena, PEPSICO

"10 years ago there were lots of disputes about the privatization of water, that's gone. The human right to water is recognized and within the water discussion there's much more about water resource management and water resource capacity. 10 years ago it was still very much focused on water supply and sanitation issues. The issues have broadened quite substantially. And the realization of the water resource challenges has of course increased."

Anders Berntell, 2030 Water Resources Group

"Over the last few years we have really tried to define a stronger role or a different role for the private sector because the private sector of course has always played a big role in water in many ways but very often as sub contractors only. And we are realizing that many of the private sector players are increasingly seeing the need to engage in sustainable water resource management. It's a business case for them now. So I think that that involvement of private sector as a partner is something that we are working on quite seriously right now."

Flemming Winther Olsen, Senior Advisor, Department for Environment, Energy and Climate. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

"Recognition of how the private sector can be part of this is new. Seven years ago, there was very little – just a few people from the companies showing up, mainly to provide philanthropic support. Now water stewardship, how companies can really do something about water issues, has really become mainstream."

Lifeng Li, Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF)

beginning to see an opportunity space in going beyond respect to actually contributing positively to supporting human rights, on a voluntary basis. This is an especially exciting space in relation to partnership projects. An example is the CEO Water Mandate's Water Action Hub, the world's first on-line platform to match-make companies and other stakeholders on projects on specific watersheds and river basins around the world.

- Under the *Protect, Respect, Remedy framework* put forth by Special Advisor John Ruggie and adopted

by the United Nations, there is increased interest in exploring the policy and operational aspects of respecting the human right to water and sanitation. This largely entails a focus on do-no-harm and proper due diligence. CEO Water Mandate is officially launching its Guide to Respecting the Human Right to Water and Sanitation in this line.

Businesses leaders recognize the business imperative to improving access to water and sanitation as central to their own long term growth. Not taking action, on the

other hand, is untenable, leading to potential greater conflict over water resources, decreased social license to operate, and increased reputational risks. The business case for action on WASH is based upon the recognition that adequate water for employees, communities, and society is essential to the long term well-being of businesses. Improving access to water, sanitation, and hygiene ensures that businesses have a thriving work force and consumer base, ensures high levels of productivity, and overall economic wellbeing. The business sector is taking a number of approaches to

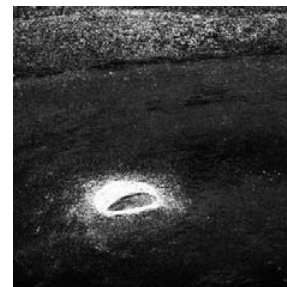
increasing access to water and sanitation by first ensuring that they are meeting their responsibility to respect the human rights to water and sanitation, and in some cases are going even further to support the rights. In many cases, company action is heavily reliant upon not only sole company action, but greater cooperation across sectors, with governments, civil society, and academia.

Major water-using companies have undertaken a number of different tactics towards contributing to financing for greater water and sanitation access. These have included major pledges and working with established NGOs who specialize in the implementation and delivery of WASH services. Companies are also engaging in co-financing projects that provide or upgrade local water infrastructure projects that serve not only their own needs but those of local communities. Finally, innovatively, in India, a new Corporate Social

Responsibility Law (CSR) mandates companies to contribute 2% of their profits to development initiatives, some of which can be earmarked directly to water and sanitation projects. In the water services sector, companies are looking at implementing new models of financing to enable communities to have greater access to water, such as social funds, special tariffs, and special pricing particular for those who cannot afford it.

In order to properly meet their responsibilities around the human rights to water and sanitation, companies realize that they need to make sure their own operations are in order. This fundamentally starts by ensuring that they provide WASH services for their employees. Many companies have codes of conduct for ensuring adequate facilities in operations. The main challenges arise in further expanding access beyond operations to their supply chain, and into local communities.

Companies who are both water users and water service providers are developing new mechanisms to ensure greater access to WASH services. These focus on a variety of avenues from improved water delivery systems to the development of new products that focus on behavior change by consumers and local communities. Companies are looking not only at new innovations and technology, but also at ways of ensuring that these technologies are adapted to the needs of local communities. There is an increasing awareness of the need to change people's understanding of the value of water for both the present and the future. Scaling-up solutions and ensuring the long term sustainability of projects lies at the heart of these solutions. Companies recognize the need to work in an integrated manner to ensure that



“The involvement of the water using private sector is dramatically different now compared with 10 years ago. Early on private sector involvement was primarily the big water utilities, now we see all the big companies in food and beverage, energy, and manufacturing, they are all involved now.”

Anders Bertell, 2030 Water Resources Group

Changing partnerships

There has been a shift in the type of partnerships, from community investment grants to a more sophisticated analysis of the risks business faces. In 2006, The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Coca-Cola Company (TCCC) joined forces to help make the promise of improved access to clean water reality. The overarching goal of the partnership is to accelerate the achievement of the water and sanitation related MDG targets. Every Drop Matters is a model of how business sector partnerships can work for development. UNDP and TCCC work as partners, from project design through to implementation. The Every Drop Matters initiative has implemented more than 50 projects in some 20 countries of East Europe and CIS, Asia Pacific and Middle East, partnered with more than 30 NGOs/CBOs. In total the project enabled 320,000 people to gain access to water and sanitation, it improved around 204,000 people's resilience to climate change and it educated more than 166,000 individuals on the responsible use of water sources.

Source: http://www.zaragoza.es/contenidos/medioambiente/onu/1027_eng_water_cooperation_in_action.pdf



water, sanitation, and hygiene issues are tackled together rather than setting individual targets for each sub-issue. They are also looking at how to upscale the use of the technologies through partnerships and cooperation with a wide range of actors to get technology from development to adoption to scale.

The governance gaps in ensuring access to water and sanitation have created space for innovative ways for

the public, private, and civil society sectors to explore how they can work better together to ensure the required resources and capacities for increased access to water and sanitation. The key will be to understand how to ensure that mechanisms and frameworks that involve the private sector are efficient, transparent, and accountable to the public. A number of guides and documents have emerged focused specifically on trying to understand and provide frameworks for addressing these risks. These include the CEO Water Mandate's Guide to

Responsible Business Engagement in Water Policy, a guidance document on Guidelines for Managing Integrity in Water Stewardship Initiatives,[5] and the OECD's work around water governance, focused particularly on stakeholder engagement.

In the final stage of the Decade, business is showing interest and involvement in relation to the Post-2015 agenda and the development of Sustainable Development Goals. The companies have actively promoted the idea of dedicated targets for water and sanitation.

Case: The WASH Pledge

Billions of people without safe drinking water and adequate sanitation is an unacceptable situation for human, social and economic development, which violates basic requirements of human dignity and safety and has enormous impact on people's health, education, and capacity to lead fully productive lives. This is incompatible with World Business Council for Sustainable Development's (WBCSD) vision 2050 of 9 billion people living well within the limits of the planet, nor with the human right to water and sanitation. A first step in accelerating action from business is to *obtain company commitment to ensure appropriate access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene for all employees in all premises under company control*. Longer term vision is to go beyond the fence to advocate for access for all employees along the value chain and ultimately employee homes and communities where employees live. By signing this pledge companies commit to: implementing access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene at the workplace at an appropriate level of standard for all employees in all premises under their control within three years after signature. The WASH Pledge has associated guidance for self-evaluating operations as well as guiding principles for the implementation of the pledge. The WASH Pledge and the CEO Water Mandate Guidance document provide companies a framework for understanding how they might meet their responsibility to respect the rights to water and sanitation. The WASH Pledge and related support tools provide companies with guidance for what companies can do in terms of 4 engaging their employees, while the Mandate Guidance document gives companies a framework for how to manage for HRWS issues both within their companies and in the communities where they operate. These documents and cases highlight the importance of company buy-in and developing the case for action by companies. There is a need to develop a solid baseline understanding as well as the context (family, societal) where companies operate in order to ensure appropriate facilities and other means particularly with those organizations with whom a company has a business relationship (such as contractors).

Case Studies:

Agbar, Aqualogy, Unilever, Lifebuoy, Pureit, and Domestos programs that focus on increasing access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services for people. Agbar and Unilever are undertaking different routes in technology to address the access to water and sanitation problem. The companies' focus is not only on innovation and products but also on how to get these innovations into the hands of consumers that enable either greater access to water (through innovative community-shared connection) or better hygiene (through the use of products).

Case Studies:

The establishment of a new Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Law in India provides an interesting case example of how new government frameworks encourage increased participation from the private sector towards meeting development goals. The new CSR Law in India focuses specifically on trying to promote greater private sector financial contribution to meeting sustainable development. Companies in India will now be required to contribute 2% of their profits each year into social development projects, including those around water. This new financing measure fills an important governance gap. Yet its implementation also provides an interesting study into how to best utilize the expertise of the private and the public sectors towards serving the greater public interest.



WE HAVE SEEN A CHANGE IN PARADIGMS AND HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DEVELOP AND SHARE OUR KNOWLEDGE ON GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND POLICY RESPONSES

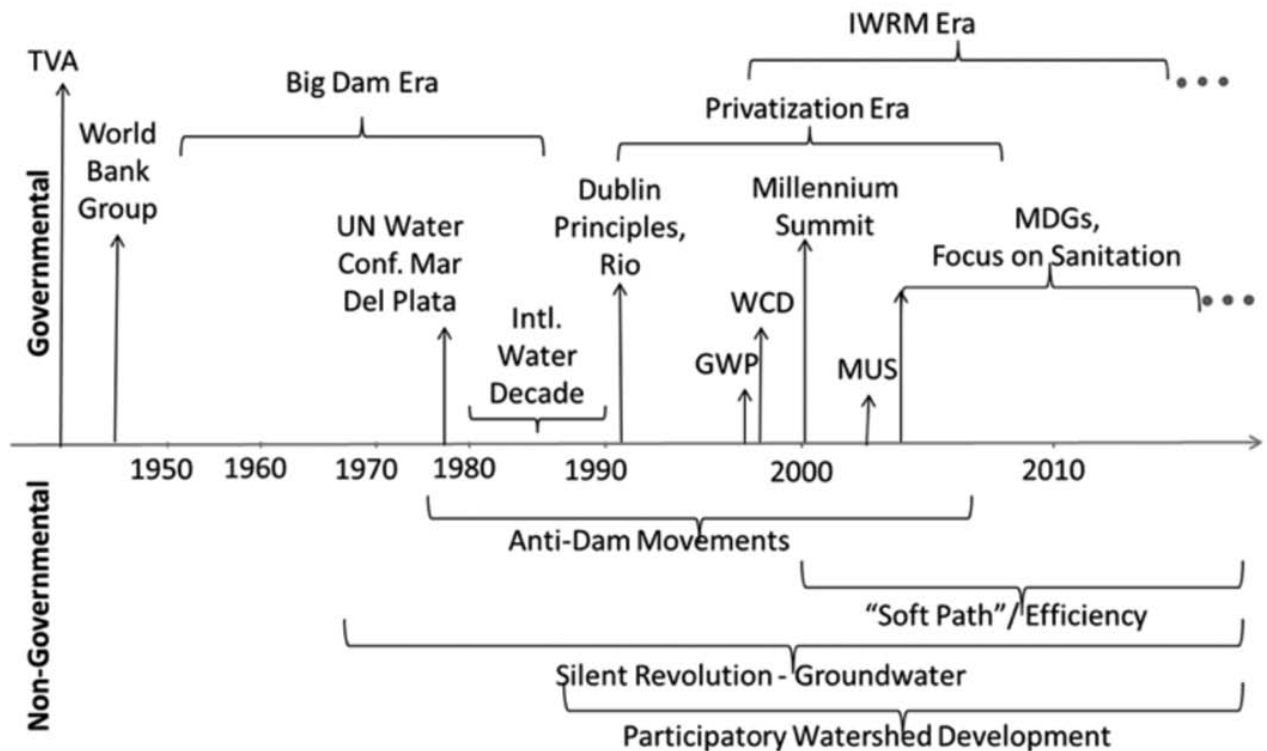
Our knowledge about the global water situation and our conceptual paradigms has evolved drastically during the Decade. This Decade has witnessed the emergence of new and modified paradigms. The Green Economy/Growth and the Water-Energy-Food nexus have become subjects of international debate, reinforcing cooperation across sectors as part of an integrated approach.

The United Nations World Water Development Reports (WWDR) played a key role in highlighting and leading global knowledge developments, inter alia by systematically assessing the global water challenges, identifying key trends and gather-

ing the contributions of leading experts on what are the variety of policy responses available. Presenting remarkably comprehensive overviews of water and policy issues - including independent views on issues considered controversial in some regions - these reports have led thinking in global processes in water, become a key reference for scholars and policy makers, and helped to set the conceptual frameworks for global action.

The United Nations World Water Development Reports (WWDR) have been leading in their analysis of the changes in the status and uses of water resources and the likely future scenarios as well as in highlighting

the changing conceptual paradigms including Integrated Water Resources Management, Risk Management, Green Economy, Green Infrastructure, the need to move beyond the water box, the water-energy-agriculture nexus. The WWDR has provided evidence on the growing global water crisis threatening the security, stability and environmental sustainability of many developing nations. They have signaled how a growing population pressure on finite water resources, coupled with industrialization and urbanization, globalization and trade policies are resulting in increasing demand for water, and in upstream and downstream conflicts. Further



Morrison et al., Pacific Institute 2013, Evolution of Key Conceptual Frameworks for Water Resource Development and Management .[6]

they have highlighted that physical availability of water does not guarantee a safe and affordable water supply for all and how the resulting decline in water quantity and quality will be exacerbated by climate change.

As a collective UN system-wide effort it has brought together the knowledge of UN agencies, global stakeholders and leading professionals. It has encompassed a broad range of components, including the analysis of the merits of different types of policies, legislation, social programmes, economic approaches and management strategies through which we need to seek water sustainability.

The first 2003 WWDR entitled *Water for People, Water for Life* – provided the knowledge base for the Water Decade, approved the same year. As the response of the UN to

the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development - that in 1998 called on UN agencies to combine their efforts to produce them - it concentrates essentially on evaluating what progress has been made, or not made, since the Rio Summit and on developing effective assessment methodologies.

The evolution of thinking is reflected in the Decade's key themes that were identified earlier in the Decade and have been revised yearly by UN-Water. These have ranged from access to sanitation, to water quality and scarcity; from water cooperation between stakeholders and between nations; from financing water to ensuring women's participation; from integrated water resource management to where water intersects with cities, energy production, food security and sustainable development and disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change.

Specialized forums and conferences such as the triennial World Water Forums and the yearly World Water Week have provided a plat-

form for participants to expose their work, exchange information, and analyze possible contributions to deal with challenges at different scales. Researchers, administrators, policy makers and politicians participation has provided the necessary impetus and has maintained the momentum for water. The Global Water System Project (GWSP) has supported innovation and reflection on changing paradigms gathering major thinkers with a multidisciplinary perspective. The World Water Forums with over 20,000 participants as the largest international water event in the world has been a key event in this regard. The widely engaging Thematic, Political, Regional, and Science & Technology Processes with participation of heads of state, parliamentarians, local governments, and other stakeholders from most countries have represented a unique opportunity to progress and maintain water in the political agenda.

World Water Week in Stockholm has grown during the Decade to be a leading annual meeting point for the

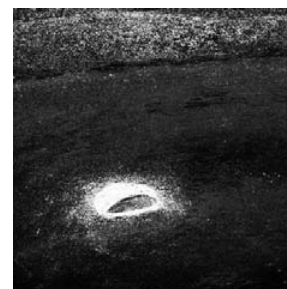
globe's water issues with over 3,000 individuals, more than 250 convening organizations from more than 140 countries. It has consistently been gathering experts, practitioners, decision-makers, business innovators and young professionals from a range of sectors. It has provided a platform for presenting their work and their findings, to network and exchange ideas fostering partnerships and alliances. It has helped highlight new thinking and research. Its influence in articulating the science-policy interface has been outstanding with regional and country-level water weeks developing all over the world, making the organizer SIWI a key actor in global policy development and advice.

Some countries have clearly led globally on specific themes and they have followed up with projects and programmes. The German Government created a new movement in relation to the food-water-energy nexus starting with the seminal 2011 World Conference on the issue. Many others have advanced knowledge and understanding on WASH, IWRM, climate change and water related disasters through different initiatives.

Building and linking on the collective UN system-wide knowledge generated through the World Water Development Reports and other agency initiatives, UN-Water has been organizing different Capacity Development activities and the An-

nual Zaragoza Conferences (see later), as part of its Decade efforts.

They have slowly but surely become highly influential in policy and have helped developing more detailed knowledge related to implementation on the Decade's themes, helping collect experiences from key practitioners to be able to move from the analysis of challenges and policies to action. They have helped documenting and socializing best practices and have facilitated technology and knowledge transfer and outreach programs to varied audiences.



"I think the Water Decade made a significant change in the public debate environment...if you see when the discussion started in Mar del Plata [1977] continued in the Dublin Principles [1992], followed up in the Bonn Freshwater Conference in 2000, then finally with the Nexus Conference that accompanied this Water Decade. The Water Decade has been able to deliver and create more understanding not only about the human dimension of water, also about the political dimension of the water."

Fritz Holzwarth, Germany's former Water and Marine Director

HIGH LEVEL ADVOCACY DURING THE DECADE HAS PROVED TO BE SUCCESSFUL AT CREATING POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT AND AT MAINTAINING THE MOMENTUM FOR POLITICAL ACTION AT GLOBAL LEVEL - MOVING TO COMMITMENTS AND THEIR FOLLOW UP ON WASH

Over the Decade high level political advocacy has played an important role in maintaining the attention on water issues and advocating action on water with political leaders – one of the main objectives of the Decade. A key actor in this regard has been the UNSG's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB) which was established in March 2004 by

United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan as an independent body, in order to give him advice as well as to galvanize action on water and sanitation issues. The advisory board is composed by a wide range of dignitaries, technical experts, and individuals with proven experience at providing inspiration, moving the machinery of governments, and ad-

vocating with the media, the private sector and civil society.

Since 2004 and over the Decade UNSGAB members have consistently and tirelessly provided input in global dialogue processes; supported raising global awareness through mass-media; influenced global, regional, national institutions at highest level; and taken actions to-



wards MDGs and Water related Disasters. UNSGAB has been instrumental in de-tabooing the issue of sanitation and in particular of open defecation, through constant advocacy and through initiatives such as the International

Year of Sanitation and the Sanitation Drive to 2015, to the point that the issue of open defecation ended up being named in a UN GA Resolution. At regional level, UNSGAB has catalyzed the organization of the African Union Summit on Water in Sharm El-Sheik, 2008. UNSGAB also strongly supported the emerging movement for regional sanitation conferences. The Board played an important role in conceptualizing AfricaSan as stipulated in the 2008 e-Thekwini Declaration. It has partnered closely with AMCOW in all its AfricaSan conferences to date. UNSGAB initiated, together with the then president of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum, the First Pan Asian Meeting in Beppu 2007, where sanitation problems were specifically articulated, and followed up in subsequent regional meetings. The same processes occurred in south Asia with Sacosan events and in Latin America with LatinoSan conferences. UNSGAB has also promoted the Water Operators Partnerships (WOPs) hosted by UN Habitat.

UNSGAB's early calls for a dedicated water goal in the post-2015 development agenda with three objectives on universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation, improved wastewater management and pollution control, and better integrated water resources management, have proved to be highly influential on the documents being negotiated. As an independent broker, UNSGAB has been able to get parties talk and address together major issues, and agree on the most pressing priorities for the water sector. UNSGAB's journey, from its inception in 2004, has been in service of the global cause of sanitation. Bringing it into the mainstream, garnering attention from the public and putting pressure on leaders – both by exposing the human tragedy of the problem and by demonstrating the clear benefits water and sanitation provision can bring to societies. Technologies UNSGAB has championed include Integrated Water Resources Management and the nexus approach. The group has also used its influence to bring global scrutiny to the issue of pollution.

Since 2009 the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) partnership has also been working to advocate greater attention and resources for WASH from high level decision makers. As a multi-stakeholder partnership of over 95 developing country governments, bilateral donors, civil society

organizations and other multilateral partners has been working both at the national and global levels in order to catalyze high level political action, improve mutual accountability and use scarce resources more effectively. SWA has been recognized in UN resolutions and has successfully convened three high level meetings attended by finance, development cooperation and sector ministers. Partners work towards a common vision of universal access to safe water and adequate sanitation. At the global level, SWA has encouraged a dialogue amongst decision-makers, especially governments, to prioritize water and sanitation using the main global meetings to promote their views, such as those of the General Assembly, the G8, G20, and World Economic Forum. A key instrument has been the High-Level Commitments Dialogue (HLCD) where developing countries and donors develop context-specific commitments focused on achieving results on the ground and the biennial SWA High-Level Meeting (HLM) which is hosted at the World Bank in Washington DC with ministers responsible for finance, water and sanitation from developing countries, ministers of development cooperation from donor countries, and high-level representatives from development banks and leading sanitation and water agencies, including from civil society. Over 300 commitments to improv-

“Without political commitment we cannot achieve anything. Declarations are key, implementing them on the ground is more difficult. In Africa this includes the Ministerial Declaration on “Water Security for All”; the “eThekwini Declaration” about sanitation. The Sharm-el Sheikh Declaration on Water and Sanitation which put water and sanitation high in the agenda. The advocacy role played by the Decade has increased awareness on water and sanitation in Africa. Before the Decade very few countries in Africa had ministries of sanitation, after the eThekwini Declaration this has changed: Now there are several countries with ministers of sanitation, such as Senegal, Nigeria, Republic of South Africa. You can see sanitation in the ministries now with a budget line, before you could not see that.”

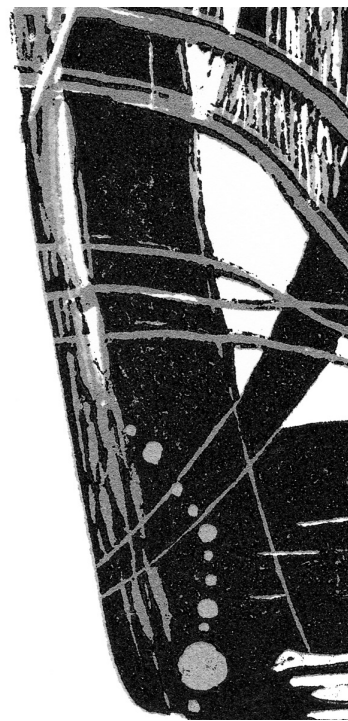
Bai Mass Tal, Executive Director of African Ministers' Council on Water

ing WASH services, ranging from: enhancing political commitment; improving evidence based decision making; and strengthening national planning processes, were made by the 43 developing countries participating in the 2014 HLM. These commitments will be monitored by the SWA Secretariat hosted by UNICEF. At the national level, SWA has been promoting country-led, coordinated multi-stakeholder efforts to strengthen national WASH sector planning, budgeting, investments and accountability frameworks.

Advocacy for a dedicated goal on water has been supported by all global actors. Finally, in July 2014,

the members of the UNGA's Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals agreed to propose a stand-alone water goal (number 6), "Ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all." This reflects that water and sanitation is a key priority for member states. UN and stakeholders, experts and the water community at large have contributed, engaging with politicians, policy makers, governments.

Other high level advocacy on specific issues such as climate change (the Climate Change coalition) has been led by non-UN organizations such as the Stakeholder Forum and SIWI.



WE HAVE SEEN THE CREATION OF A DEDICATED POLITICAL PROCESS FOR WATER AND IMPROVED INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION ON WATER ISSUES

Intergovernmental coordination on water issues, in the context of the General Assembly, can be seen as a main result of the Decade. The General Assembly Group of Friends of Water (FoW) was established by the initiative of the UN Permanent Mission of Tajikistan in 2010,

initially as a platform for the implementation of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/198 "Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Life', 2005–2015". Later the Group became an informal voluntary as-

sociation of likeminded countries in promotion of the UN water agenda.

High level inter-governmental coordination on water in the GA and especially in the context of the Decade process has continued to rely heavily on the leadership of the Republic of Tajikistan. Through the

Recognition of the central role of water:

"At the end of the Decade the global community has now recognized that ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation is key in our efforts to achieve sustainable development. The impact of water on human health as well as economic wellbeing is better understood than a decade ago, including water's critical importance for households, industries, agriculture, cities, energy production and transportation.

We also learnt how the water cycle underpins the earth's ecosystems and stability for the effects of climate change. The Water for Life Voices exhibit affirms water for life, water as a human right, water for development and for security.

The SDG on Water underpins progress in many areas and can drive advances on sustainable water management. Water must be one of the highest priorities for development, life, dignity and maintaining peace and security. Sanitation is a matter of death or life to many people."

Jan Eliasson, DSG of the UN at the March 30 HLE on the International Water Decade in UNHQ in NY



Decade High Level meetings convened by the Government of Tajikistan with the support of the Friends of Water Group of the General Assembly and many G77 countries have become a main dedicated water platform for

strengthening inter-governmental coordination, supporting stock taking and maintaining the momentum as well as providing impulse to the water agenda on the Decade themes, lead by and considering the priorities of the LDCs and SIDS.

The specific political process of the Decade has had as a result the following resolutions:

- *23 December 2003*: Proclamation of 2005-2015 the International Decade for Action “Water for Life” (UN General Assembly Resolution of December 23, 2003, 58/217, 58th session).
- *21 December 2009*: Resolution calling for a Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action ‘Water for life’ 2005-2015 (A/RES/64/198). This UNGA decision announced the meeting in Tajikistan and requested information on the progress of the Decade.
- *20 December 2010*: the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 65/154 by which it proclaimed 2013 the International Year of Water Cooperation in the context of the International ‘Water for Life’ 2005-2015 Decade.
- *11 February 2011*: ‘Sustainable sanitation: the five-year drive to 2015’. The resolution makes reference to the Decade.
- *19 December 2014*: UN General Assembly adopts resolution on International Decade for Action ‘Water for Life’ 2005-2015, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources (A/RES/69/215).

The specific political process on water in relation to the ‘Water for Life’ 2005-2015 Decade include the following High Level Events:

- *22 March 2010*: High-Level Interactive Dialogue on the implementation of the International Decade for Action ‘Water for Life’ 2005-2015. UN Headquarters, New York. Four documents were presented:
 - Water, peace and security: transboundary water cooperation (A/64/692 and A/64/692/Corr.1).
 - Organization of the midterm comprehensive review of the International Decade for Action ‘Water for Life’ 2005-2015 (A/64/693).
 - Water, climate change and disasters (A/64/695).
 - Water and the internationally agreed development goals (A/64/694).
- *8-9 June 2010*: High-level International Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the International Decade for Action ‘Water for Life’ 2005-2015. Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The Dushanbe Declaration on Water (A/65/88) is an ‘non-negotiated text’ listing a number of focal areas for the remainder of the Decade.
- *19-20th October 2011*: Preparatory Conference “Towards the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (RIO +20): Water Cooperation Issues” Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
- *20-21 August 2013*: High Level International Conference on Water

Cooperation (including a Gender Forum) in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The Dushanbe Declaration resulting from the event is a ‘non-negotiated text’ listing a number of initiatives.

- *11 March 2014*: Special Event at UN HQ “Taking Stock of the International Year of Water Cooperation and Advancing the Global Water Agenda Post-2015”.
- *30 March 2015*: High-level Interactive Dialogue ‘The International Decade for Action: Progress achieved and lessons learned relevant to the achievement of sustainable development’.
- *9-11 June 2015*: High Level International Conference on the implementation of the International Decade for Action “Water for Life”, 2005-2015 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

In 2012 the Friends of Water Group organized five thematic discussions in the Rio+20 Conference with the goal of bringing added value to the sustainable development discussions through pragmatic and result-oriented approaches. Since then the Group has been influential in the post 2015 processes and has organized different events in the context of the General Assembly. 39 UN Member States are the members of the Group of Friends of Water: Australia, Argentina, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Korea, Laos, Mongolia, Netherlands, Philippines, Portugal, Russian Federation, Singapore, Spain, South Africa, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand,



“One of the biggest differences that we have been we have been increasingly aware that we have to talk with those other than water people, and that water is not really managed by water people but is managed by the agriculture sector by municipality governments, we have realized that we have been spending a lot of time talking to the converts and to each other, our closed circles and realizing that while we are talking others are using the water.”

Flemming Winther Olsen, Senior Advisor, Department for Environment, Energy and Climate. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

Turkmenistan, Turkey, Ukraine, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Yemen.

Some key countries have provided leadership in this context. In 2012 the Steering Committee of the Group of Friends of Water (FoW) was established with the participation of Finland, Tajikistan, Thailand and Hungary. The countries in the FoW group and especially those in the Steering Committee have actively taken different initiatives to support the water agenda. The support for a Global Water Goal emerging from Rio+20 has been reflected on the proposals of the Open Working Group being negotiated and on recent work on indicators.

The need to improve coordination and continue strengthening global action is reflected in the proposals of the President of the Tajikistan for a new post 2015 Water Decade and the proposals and the recommendation of the 2013 Budapest Water

Summit for a UN intergovernmental panel on water and sanitation. A proposal also made by the President of Mexico and considered favorably by the Ministerial Declaration of the 7th World Water Forum, held in Korea in 2015. Mexico has also taken a leadership role in the context of the dedicated water intergovernmental processes of the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme dedicated to Science and Education in Water Management. The IHP has the longer standing intergovernmental process specifically on water in the context of the UN. During the International Decade for Action “Water for Life” 2005-2015, after long discussions among UNESCO-IHP member states, it was identified that the major challenge to face was to address water security and that short and long term plans should be implemented for it.

Governments have also been actively engaging in the context of the

preparatory processes of the triennial World Water Forums, organized by the World Water Council with the host countries (Turkey, Mexico, France and Korea). The political importance of the Forums can be evidenced by the engagement of governments, Parliamentarians and Local Authorities in its political process. In the 7th World Water Forum of Korea in 2015 9 heads of State, 80 government ministers and 100 official national governments delegations participated. They formalized a roadmap and a formal commitment has been signed to ensure all stakeholders take appropriate action. The Forums are progressing in linking their outcomes with the formal inter-governmental processes in the context of the General Assembly. In Korea it was agreed that the pledges made during the 7th Forum will be carried to New York as a major contribution to the adoption of a Sustainable Development Goal on water.

WE HAVE SEEN A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEED FOR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORTING PARTNERSHIPS FOR A BETTER FUTURE

A key aspect of the Decade has been increased awareness of the interconnectedness of water issues. There has been a growing recognition that if we wish to manage water resources effectively then we must approach this together in an integrated man-

ner. Organizations such as the Global Water Partnership have been providing tirelessly support for a worldwide movement towards Integrated Water Resources Management, improved water governance and to meaningful stakeholder participation.

Increasingly, the private sector, energy sector, food production and others have also been brought into the discussion to further cooperation between water and non water stakeholders. This has seen some unexpected results with striking examples



such as that of the Russia and Finland transboundary cooperation where energy companies and the private sector from the two countries were able to come to agreements.

In the area of civil society engagement for instance, the Women for Water Partnership has emerged as an effective platform and support mechanism for women's empowerment and participation in water issues that concern them, and the World Youth Parliament on Water increasingly raises the voice of young people. Much more remains to be done however, in particular involving the engagement of women, youth and indigenous peoples including at national levels. We need the contributions of all the stakeholders. There is no doubt that no single set of actors holds the key to effectively addressing the challenge of effective management of water resources. Governments, both national and local have a key role. But the private sector and the palette of civil society actors have their own role to play. Working together is not

optional: it is essential if we are to achieve our vision of a water secure world. This vision requires fundamental changes in values, beliefs, perceptions and political positions among all stakeholders.

GWP has been an active promoter of sustainable and integrated Water Resource Management at global level while at the same time, providing a platform for multi-stakeholder partnerships at regional and national levels. Founded as a multistakeholder network in 1996 to foster integrated water resources management (IWRM), it developed into an intergovernmental organization (GWPO) in 2002 that supports the work of the GWP regional and country water partnerships and facilitates water cooperation. 2004 marked the redefinition of the GWP strategy towards facilitating IWRM. By 2006 the Number of Country Water Partnerships surpassed 50 and the number of formal Partner organizations exceeded 1,000. At the close of the Water for Life Decade, there are more than 3,000 partner organizations in 172 countries. The network includes 85 Country Water Partnerships and 13

Regional Water Partnerships. GWP has the convening power to bring together diverse stakeholders who can contribute to the social and political change processes that help bring the vision of a water secure world closer to reality. GWP supports countries to realize its vision by helping them to advance their governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development. Instead of taking the traditional development approach in which projects are often not connected, GWP works with key stakeholders to design strategic approaches for improving water management. This builds local capacity in the long term. GWP does not operate in isolation; indeed its networking approach provides a mechanism for coordinated action and adds value to the work of many other key development partners. A neutral platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue at global, national and local levels that connects water resources planning and operations at different scales – transboundary, regional, basin, national and local – for coherent and sustainable action.

"In the last 10 years it is amazing to me how many different partners are starting to collaborate now. When I first started this years ago, the idea that the private sector could engage with the United Nations was taboo, but more and more the private sector is being invited to different round tables by the UN. It's not that any one actor holds the solution but together is where the solutions will arise."

Dan Bena, PEPSICO

"We have realized that water is not just for water people to deal with. We cannot do this alone. So I think in the last 10 years, we have been a lot better at actually going out of the box, as we said we would. We engage much more now with other sectors, mostly the food and energy sectors and in that process this nexus has been very helpful. It has helped getting these others actors to the table. This is a very important positive development, I think, within the last 10 years. Another development that I think is really notable is that a lot of the countries in the south were depending on development assistance, and we now see a totally different world, a lot more self reliant and a much stronger role of the private sector. Infrastructure in Asia and Africa is built by the private sector, not by the governments anymore."

Torkil Jonch Clausen, DHI

WE HAVE SEEN HOW THE DECADE HAS HELPED THE IMPROVEMENT OF INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION WITHIN THE UN AND WITH GLOBAL PARTNERS: WHY IS THIS SIGNIFICANT?

UN-Water was set up by the internal United Nations High Level Committee on Programmes in 2003, the same year as Members States approved the General Assembly Resolution on the 2005-2015 Water Decade. UN-Water was tasked by the United Nations General Assembly to coordinate the Decade.

In fact one of the main achievements and results of the Decade has been the development of UN-Water itself. Recognizing the cross-cutting nature of water, UN-Water, as the platform for internal coordination of the UN entities, has grown, developed and strengthened inter-agency coordination in order to maximize system-wide coordinated action and coherence on all aspects

of freshwater. Two Decade programmes were created which started operations in 2007 and UN-Water stirred their actions especially to support and strengthen UN-Water as a mechanism, on issues of capacity development (UNW-DPC) and Advocacy and Communications (UNW-DPAC).

Both Decade programmes have been tirelessly supporting UN-Water in the development and implementation of UN-Water's work programme for promoting 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 as it relates to its scope of work. Through

the Decade programmes support to UN-Water's designated agencies on different themes, the system has been able to support the United Nations 31 entities with water programmes to act as 'One UN'.

Through the work of the Task Forces and Thematic Priority Areas UN-Water has mainstreamed the Decade in its activities. Beyond policy coordination the two UN-Water Decade Programmes have facilitated overall UN-Water's development and implementation of clear, practical and specific system wide activities, many of them envisaged in the Decade's Secretary General 2005 Plan of Action, on capacity development, knowledge management, outreach and communication and has sup-

The UN Resolution assigned responsibilities for the decade implementation to both, UN-Water and the Member States. As per the SG Decade Plan: UN-Water is in charge of coordinating activities of the United Nations for implementing the Decade, including with non-United Nations partners.

(United Nations, 2005).

"The big thing has been the growth and development of UN water. And if you go back another 10 years, back to the Dublin conference and the first Rio summit, the precursor of UN water was really not very strong and because there was a sort of void if you like, a weakness in the UN system in the 1990s, that led to the creation of the World Water Council and the Global Water Partnership, so this is getting a much longer perspective. It has meant that everybody in the UN system and a whole lot of significant partners are working much more effectively together and that is really noticeable. It's led to the advocacy for water issues being much stronger and UN water is playing a very very significant role now in the water debates."

Gordon Young, International Association of Hydrological Sciences

"I think it's also very good that the UN agencies are working together more closely than they were. Partly because of things like UN Water but also because of initiatives taken by these agencies. That's what I think is most exciting."

Dr Graham Alabaster, Senior Technical Officer, Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health (WSH), WHO Department of Public Health and Environment



ported the process of preparation of the WWDRs and other strategic processes. In addition the programmes have prepared and organize different UN-Water platforms including: the Decade Web page (providing an update on development on news and events and on updates on the Decade themes); the UN-Water and Sanitation Documentation Center; the UNWAIS system (including the results of mapping the existing projects and programmes on the Decade's themes: 182 projects to do with transboundary water issues, 161 involving water quality issues and 100 dealing with climate change); the Best Practices Platform, among others.

Over the Decade – and especially since 2012 when a head of agency became the UN-Water Chair – UN-Water has in fact seen an evolution from a mainly internal coordination mechanisms to becoming much more influential in supporting Member States on global policy processes and debates by a) *providing the global evidence base* for decision-making – included in its assessment and monitoring reports on WASH and WRM; b) *providing strategic advice* and transmitting the voice and needs of a wide range of stakeholders, as it has grown to have 34 partners with a global reach; and c) jointly preparing

a system of indicators for a *monitoring mechanisms for the new post 2015 water* related targets – the GEMI project.

Strategic advice has been produced both through UN-Water's contribution to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development and Rio +20 and to the processes to define the post 2015 development agenda. Three key products in this regard have been the UN-Water 2013 *Thematic Consultation on Water*, the 2014 UN-Water advice "*A Post-2015 Global Goal for Water – Synthesis of key findings and recommendations from UN-Water*" that fed into the work of the *Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*, and the 2015 "*Draft compilation of means of implementation aspects of water and sanitation*" for the 2015 GA 21-24 April meeting on means of implementation and global partnership for sustainable development.

UN-Water's evolution over the Decade has included articulating the contributions of multiple global stakeholders to the formal intergovernmental processes and improving global stakeholder engagement in UN-Water activities to move to action – the mark of the Decade. UN-Water has now 37 global partners ranging from Global NGOs to professional and civil society groups, research and advisory organizations with global range and outlook. They are participating at different degrees

in the different activities and especially in Task Forces and Thematic Priority Areas and importantly in the working groups preparing advice to strategic processes above and other key outreach activities such as the UN-Water Zaragoza Conferences and Capacity Development activities.

Moving beyond policies requires analysis of implementation challenges and responses. Since 2011 and as part of the Decade efforts of supporting moving to action, the UN-Water Annual Zaragoza Conferences, organized by UNW-DPAC, have gathered UN agencies, reaching out to global stakeholders to discuss and learn with and from practitioners, to debate, share and analyze action oriented experiences. The Focus on effective stakeholder participation, the tools for water cooperation, for water in the Green Economy, on partnerships on water and energy and on tools for the implementation of the SDGs has led to a variety of products supporting action on specific Decade themes at country and regional level including, tool boxes, guidance, information briefs and a platform of good practices.

In addition to this, over the Decade, UN-Water has also played a central role in *raising public awareness* each year through its central role in different Campaigns including the communication actions in the context of the International Water Decade. Of particular importance

"In the course of the Water for Life Decade the major themes of integrated water resources management have been addressed in a dedicated UN-Water Day speeding over the Year. The Zaragoza Annual International Water Conference, themed with the year's World Water Day, is an important opportunity for key actors to meet and jointly address the challenges the water theme presents. Through the Zaragoza Water Conference and other activities, UNW-DPAC has over the years effectively joined all the major stakeholders to address water related issues in a holistic way, forging partnerships at different levels, in which civil society, including the Women's Major Group, has been included as an equal partner."

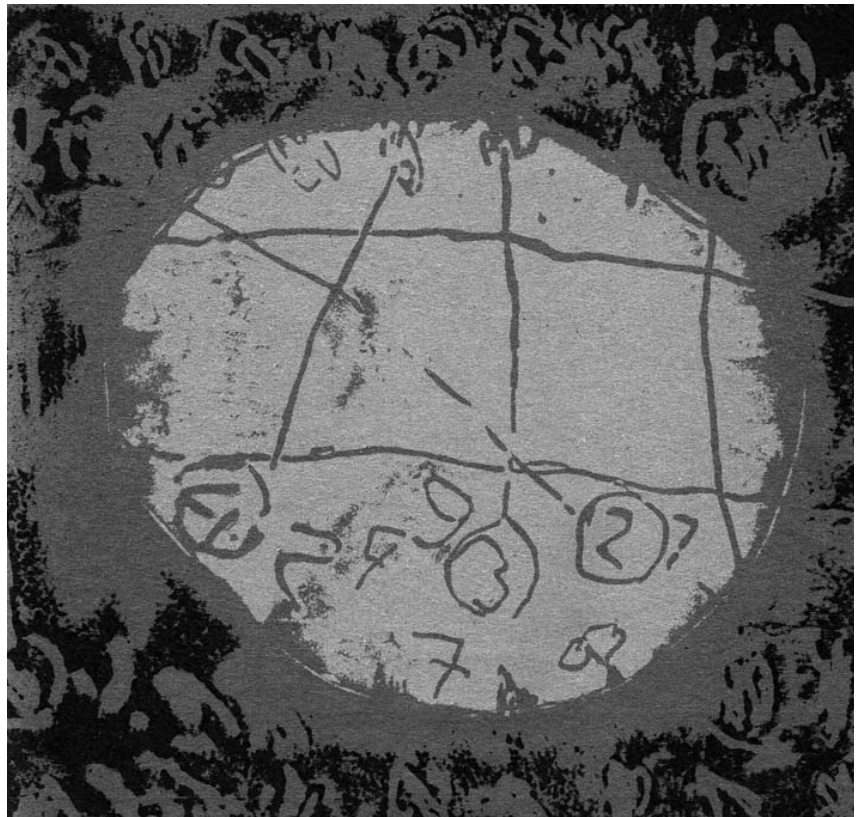
Alice Bouman-Dentener, founder, Women for Water Partnership

“UN-Water has pushed the water challenge higher up in the global agenda. It has mobilized all partners to break the silence on open defecation, World Toilet Day November 19, an initiative of the government of Singapore, has drawn up attention on this urgent issue.”

Jan Eliasson

Decade HLE Interactive Dialogue,
March 30, 2015

has been the following: World Water Day, the Decade’s logo and Water for Life Voices, the sanitation drive to 2015, and since 2013, this has been further supported by World Toilet Day. UN-Water’s Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communications has helped UN-Water to successfully implement these actions by supporting lead agencies or by leading the implementation of these campaigns.

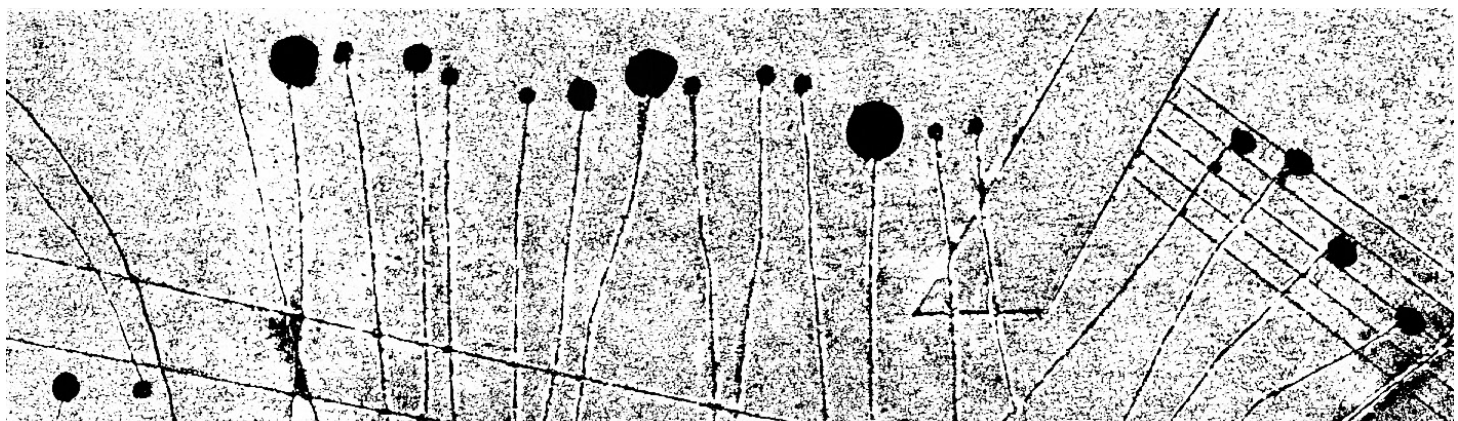


WE HAVE SEEN THE IMPORTANCE OF GLOBAL AWARENESS RAISING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Global awareness raising and communications have been recognized as key over the Water Decade. World Water Day has proved an excellent

tool for mobilizing public awareness on specific issues, as well as bringing experts together to search for consensus and solutions to the problems

the Day poses. The Decade has seen a proliferation of global and local campaigns with different objectives and a development of communica-





tion tools as we have never seen before.

A precursor has been the Global WASH Campaign which was launched in 2001 as a response to the failure of world leaders to recognize sanitation as a target at the UN Millennium

Summit in 2000, where the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were

adopted. The campaign's primary aim was to mobilize support for bringing sanitation and hygiene to the global agenda. At the World Summit for Sustainable Development in 2002, sanitation was then added to the Millennium Development Goals, a significant step towards this goal. <http://www.wsscc.org/wash-advocacy/campaigns-events/global-wash-campaign> .

A lot has changed in the way we communicate, the cellphone is the

most quickly adopted technology in the history of the world. It has saved enormous amounts of time in rapid communications during times of disaster, or when information needs to be disseminated quickly. It's made communications more flexible as people can be contacted anywhere – again, vital during disasters. The rise of social media has also had an impact on communications and on other specific areas such as disaster

Global Campaigns of the decade

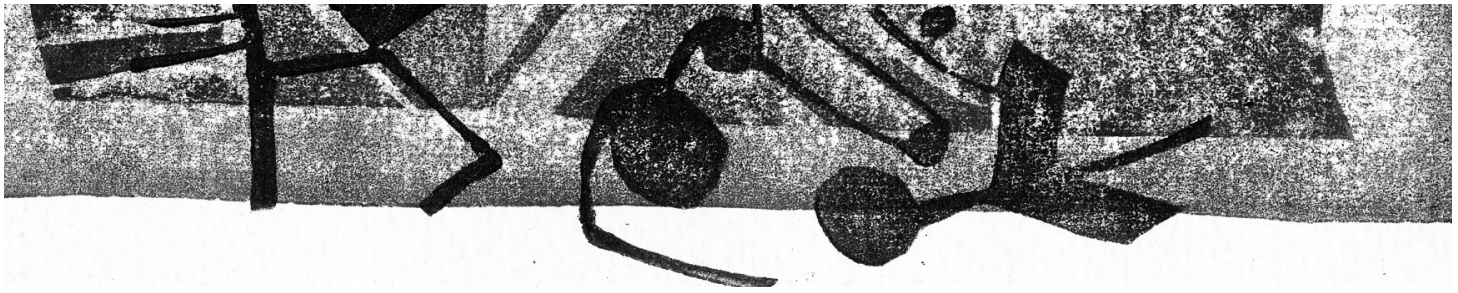
The Water for Life (logo) Campaign. The UN Department of Public Information engaged in coordinating the creation and use of the Decade's logo, the preparation of an advocacy guide – that has been updated according to the World Water Day Themes and other communication initiatives. More than 26 international organizations and 100 national initiatives have joined the Water for Life Decade logo Campaign. It has been embedded within or has coordinated other campaigns below. It ended with a Water for Life Voices Campaign and Exhibit in NY.

World Water Day: World Water Days has served as the annual awareness raising focal point during the decade. Since 1994, each World Water Day has featured a thematic focus. Observed on 22 March since 1993 it has increased its impact and attention over the decade. States were invited to devote the Day, as appropriate in the national context, to concrete activities such as the promotion of public awareness through the publication and diffusion of documentaries and the organization of conferences, round tables, seminars and expositions related to the conservation and development of water resources and the implementation of the recommendations of Agenda 21. This has served as an annual reminder to draw the world's attention and focus the energies of supporting parties to raise awareness of a key issue in water. Viewed together over a longer period, these themes also highlight the myriad ways in which predictable and safe provision of water impacts the planet.

World Toilet Day: WTD was launched in 2001 to raise awareness of the global sanitation crisis. It takes place each year on 19 November.

Five-year Sanitation Drive: The Drive to 2015 grew out of an initiative within the United Nations as part of the water decade. The Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation proposed the idea and called on others working in a range of sectors to join the effort. UN-Water, the association of all UN bodies working on water and sanitation issues, is coordinating the work. A number of civil society groups around the globe have pledged their support to achieve the objective of sanitation for all people. The USG Jan Eliason *Call to action on Sanitation* has urged the achievement of the sanitation targets.

Open Defecation Campaign: aims at raising awareness on the reality of open defecation. In parts of the world where open defecation is not an issue, the fact that the issue is so poorly understood or even known is seen as a reason why the issue is not getting the attention and the response it deserves. Open defecation is known about and a daily reality for millions of people, but may be a taboo or unpopular topic of conversation. Nonetheless, there are many groups, including a number of national governments, who are taking action. The campaign wants to spur the conversation, break the silence, and celebrate the efforts undertaken.



relief, an example being during the Fukushima earthquake in Japan 2011. Facebook & Twitter allowed families to make contact with one another when phone lines were down. As the world moves to smartphones, it remains to be seen whether increasingly complicated mobile phones will continue to be such a useful tool in rapid communications. Yet the dramatic impact of the adoption of mobile technology is the greatest change in mass communications in the last 10 years.

In targeting the developed world for awareness raising, easy to share global social campaigns, such as those produced by WATER is LIFE (#1stWorldProblems) or Water.org (Toilet boycott) have increased the visibility of water issues among the general public. Maintaining interest in such campaigns will be reliant on the creativity of those involved with designing them as the market becomes increasingly saturated.

The World Water Days have been useful in highlighting underserved areas that people have traditionally

either preferred not to talk and think about (e.g. Sanitation). Conferences and events and thematic days have been useful during the Decade for targeting different audiences. While public engagement is necessary to put pressure on governments to address water challenges, directly engaging decision makers in government and water users in the private sector helps to speed the process of addressing key issues. Using UN ambassadors has also given a greater voice to issues, especially since the rise of social networks and video sharing sites where these messages can be more rapidly shared, viewed and assimilated.

Water is life – and the areas in which water plays a role are almost overwhelming. By agreeing thematic areas for annual days and in certain cases creating additional themed days, years or Decades, a tight focus has been brought to issues, with all associated agencies acting collectively for the greatest impact. The effort through communications of streamlining and clarifying messages and information has been extremely

useful. The global community has been able to communicate better on specific issues on sustainable development, food and energy.

Communications have helped behaviour change – we have realized it's not enough to provide interventions; we need to raise awareness of why, for example, hygiene is important and also provide training and information to introduce people to better practices. Education targeting schools has worked well, with children disseminating messages to family and friends.

While journalist outreach is imperfect (for the reasons discussed above) it has proved invaluable for expanding networks of people with local knowledge and expertise bearing independent witness to projects and programmes at ground level. The journalist feedback and ability to disseminate trusted information is invaluable and will only become more so in the future, where it is increasingly easy to share information but where expert knowledge and trust are more than ever at a premium.

Notes

[1]. "The WWDR is an annual and thematic report that focuses on different strategic water issues each year and aims to provide decision-makers with the tools to implement sustainable use of our water resources. It also includes regional aspects, hotspots, examples and stories, making the report relevant to a broad range of readers, at different levels and in different geographical areas." – UN-Water.

[2]. <http://www.gemstat.org>.

[3]. www.unwater.org/gemi/en/.

[4]. Ibid.

[5]. <http://ceowatermandate.org/disclosure/>.

[6]. "Ecosystems/environment" have evolved as concepts relevant to water. Eg. Rio Conventions (1992/1993) UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD, - eg. CBD 1992 – adoption of Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 (2010) which now includes explicit reference to the role

of ecosystems as solutions for water problems – eg. Aichi Biodiversity Target 14; this concept was picked up in the water outcomes of Rio + 20 – and will hopefully be subsequently incorporated into post-2015 SDGs. GWP refers to the Global Water partnership. MUS refers to the Multiple Use Water Services Group.



THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE WATER FOR LIFE 2005-2015 DECADE

LOOKING TO THE END OF THE DECADE AND BEYOND

INTRODUCTION



The Water Decade has been successful for water and for sanitation and there are many lessons that can be taken for the future. The question is whether much of these would have happened without the United Nations International Decade for Action.

In this chapter we discuss what has been the value added by the Decade. How and where the Water Decade has indeed provided an effective framework for promoting and supporting increasing the number of projects and programme and attention to WASH, water cooperation, women engagement and IWRM efforts, by providing political impulse and helping in raising awareness and highlighting action oriented activities (best practices and tools for cooperation and action).

In this chapter we discuss how helpful the Decade has been in providing a political process for maintaining the attention and for taking stock and regularly evaluating results – analyzing the actions that have been effective in promoting water cooperation and IWRM. We analyze the specific impact of the Decade’s 2013 International Year of Water Cooperation, and of the UN Office to Support the Decade for Action: Water for Life, taking into account the actions of UNW-DPAC and UNW-DPC.

In the last part of this chapter we look into what is next, what are the challenges ahead and the types of actions necessary for the implementation of the water related sustainable development goals and what need to be tackled to be able to move forward on the basis of what we have learned.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE DECADE



As we have explored, the impetus of the Decade at the start was immense. Expectations were high as the global water community saw the Decade providing the embedding mechanism for bringing together the many fragmented initiatives that were taking place and helping create a more coherent and better coordinated – less fragmented - global water governance both within the UN and with non UN actors. The Decade was agreed through a Resolution of the General Assembly which provided the mandate for the UN agencies to support and for the member countries to engage in it. With a legislative framework in place, the Decade had a plan



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of action from the UN Secretary General, with pledges from UN and non-UN entities, and an initial decision on the priority themes for the Decade. The preparation of a Global Campaign by the Department of Public Information (DPI) including the necessary branding activities (logo and rules of use by non-UN actors) and an advocate guide served as guidance for communications and advocacy actions.

WASH |||||||

The UN and non-UN WASH community saw the potential of the Decade and started to engage with it at an early stage. The Decade began with an ambitious diagnosis and a plan of action 2005-2015 for WASH in the 2005 Joint Moni-

toring Programme report, *Water for Life: Making it Happen*. It also started with UNICEF/WHO pledges for actions through the 2005 SG plan for the Decade from WB, GWP and UNDP, among others. This was reflected later in the 2006 Human Development Report on ‘Water: Beyond Scarcity’ advocating for a greater focus on basic services, linking the MDGs to the water community.

Since then, the WASH community has progressed in implementing many of the envisioned activities, including monitoring and reporting with the JMP reports, and in creating a high level advocacy and multifunctional platform for WASH through “Sanitation and Water for All”. These activities have only been partially branded as Decade activities. Some of the explicit Decade activities have

related to supporting advocacy and raising awareness on WASH issues through high-level advocacy exemplified by the work of UN-SGAB, and the Decade’s Five Year Sanitation Drive, as well as communication actions with traditional and new media. The Decade Offices have explicitly supported awareness raising and capacity development activities in the developing world – emphasizing sanitation, for example, the importance of hygiene and implementation of the Human Right to Water and Sanitation in collaboration with the Special Rapporteur. The Office to support the International Decade for Action has been instrumental in this respect, supporting such diverse organs as the media, the actions of the WHO network of regulators and small water operators, and preparing WASH in health centres.



"I think the Water Decade made a significant change in the public debate environment. Water was more or less marginalized, locked in technical words and technical discussions, but there was no clear understanding of how water is interlinked with other areas. ...So I think the Water Decade made a significant difference and also, during the Decade, the Conferences, both official and unofficial, all these activities created this difference and made clear that water can no longer be ignored on the political agenda and on the agenda of the local level."

Fritz Holzwarth, Germany's former Water and Marine Director

"The Decade helped insuring water was high in the international agenda as a cross cutting issue. It has raised awareness especially in developing countries. The Zaragoza Office supported this as well as the improvement of inter-agency coordination helping translate policies into action to insure a better focus and more efficient actions."

Spanish delegation at the High Level Interactive dialogue on the Water Decade March 2015

IWRM and Water cooperation

The baseline for the Decade on IWRM was the 2003 World Water Development Report (Water for Life, Water for People) and the CSD 13th session water matrix. By driving the focus on IWRM through the Decade's themes (water scarcity, food security, water and energy, water quality, water and sustainable development), the Decade helped bring consistency and coherence; connecting the large variety of themes in which water plays a key role. The Decade stimulated "out-of-the-water-box" thinking and action and was able to highlight examples where IWRM has been successful. The Resolution of the Decade emphasized the need for a Decade 'for action' answering to member states concerns about the need for pragmatic and result-oriented approaches. The two Decade offices focused on capacity development actions on some of the Decade themes and on implementing outreach actions to support engagement of major stakeholders, exchange of good practices, the development of toolboxes and information briefs and readers and other materials.

Meetings and gatherings and knowledge activities have been taking place before and during the Decade. What is then the special added value of the Decade? The Decade helped bring consistency and coherence.

The international UN-Water Decade and its International Year of Water Cooperation 2013 have supported the increase of awareness, the dissemination of knowledge and the creation of partnerships and water cooperation initiatives. 2013 was an important year for water. The cooperation objectives of the Decade have now been reflected in the proposals of the United Nations Open Working Group – co-chaired by Hungary – Under target 6.5 it

says that by 2030 it shall implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate. The global focus on water cooperation in the Decade and in the International Year 2013 has made a notable difference, creating a platform for water cooperation and keeping water cooperation central on the global agenda after the conclusion of the Year itself. The Year of Water Cooperation served to catalyse ratifications and actions of the 1992 and 1997 UN Water Conventions, enabled the sharing of knowledge on tools and what works, and of the importance of water cooperation at all levels.

Political process and inter-governmental coordination

The Decade through the leadership of Tajikistan, created a unique political process on water, and a dedicated platform for intergovernmental coordination in the context of the General Assembly. Through High Level meetings convened by

the Government of Tajikistan with the support of the Friends of Water Group of the General Assembly and many G77 countries it has contributed to maintaining the momentum and providing impulse to the water agenda, lead by and considering the

The lessons learnt during the International Decade include:

“If ambitious targets are set, the means allocated for the implementation should be also ample. Goals can only be achieved if efficient mechanisms are in place and specific plans for the implementation, assessment and review are available. New actions should be informed by adequate means of implementation, in particular financial resources, capacity development and technology.

- New conditions and realities and opportunities demand a renewal and optimization of global partnerships in the interest of sustainable development.
- We should take into consideration a number of actors that define the future framework and opportunities for water cooperation. Example of transboundary cooperation in Central Asia: In a context with new realities, cooperation can bring benefits to all the countries involved. It is important to reinforce cooperation for equitable allocation joint assessment of monitoring, financing etc.”

Sirodjidin Aslov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan
at the HL Interactive Dialogue, 30 March UN HQ

priorities of the LDCs and SIDS. It is an example of the convening power of the G77 countries that have always been behind it.

Reporting and monitoring on the global agenda of water has been linked mainly to the MDGs process. So what is the added value of the Decade as a process in relation to monitoring and reporting?

Inter-agency coordination

The Decade allowed the creation of two ad-hoc offices supporting the Decade that have strengthened inter-agency coordination in the course of the Decade and of the UN system with external global actors. Although not always branded as Decade activities, UN-Water has mainstreamed the Decade's themes in its activities. UN-Water has indeed been working to an important extent implementing the initial plan with joint activities on the Decade themes. Moreover through the Decade's programmes inter-agency coordination has improved. UN-Water guided the programmes so as to support the UN-Water Task Forces, Thematic Groups and other activities. This

The Decade process has created an additional platform for regularly monitoring and taking stock of the Decade themes and cross cutting goals (water cooperation, women engagement, rising attention, increasing programmes and projects). The Tajikistan meetings for the interim evaluation of the Decade, for preparing for Rio+20, during the interna-

tional year of water cooperation and for the end of the Decade have served to analyze and reflect on progress and what needs to be done. Through this the Decade has contributed by generating momentum for the water-related SDGs, and by incorporating water cooperation as a theme in the General Assembly's Development Agenda to 2030.

has allowed the implementation of a multitude of joint actions bringing together an important number of UN entities, including some that do not participate in the formal meetings. It has also strengthened UN-Water communications actions. Not only the Water for Life Logo and Voices campaigns but also others such as World Water day, the 5 year

Sanitation Drive and the International Year of Water Cooperation have been explicit Decade activities.

The entities of the UN system have indeed engaged in the implementation of many of the activities initially pledged by them by them in the 2005 SG's plan for the Decade, although these have not always been branded as Decade activities.





Stakeholder engagement

The global water community is now less fragmented. Has this been the result of the Decade? The Resolution of the Decade emphasized the need for coordinated

action of UN and non UN-actors over the Decade. The Decade has allowed multiple UN entities and other groups to come together to highlight yearly themes over the Decade, thus avoiding a mish mash of messages, and enhancing clarity. The diversity of themes tackled has also broadened the water discussion, while it has given experts and practitioners a spotlight within their respective fields. The organization of various fora and conferences have encouraged engagement by a diversity of stakeholders and high level people (eg. decision makers), thus supporting awareness at political, or CEO private sector levels along with more traditional engagement of experts, women, youth, farmers, energy producers, academia and civil society with practitioners. Facilitating this more 'direct' communication with

a diverse target audience capable of taking direct action has ensured a far clearer timeline to effective change and progress with regard to water issues. Greater inclusiveness – bringing all water stakeholders to the table – has contributed to increased collaboration and cooperation between these actors on issues of relevance to the international water agenda.

The domain where the Decade has perhaps had the most impact is indeed stakeholder engagement. The Office to support the International Water for Life Decade helped make the connection of the UN with the non UN UN-Water partners, between governmental and non-governmental actors, not only acknowledging their role and inviting them to the table, but also furthering diversity and inclusion and creating a space for major groups such as women, youth, business, academia. The Resolution of the Decade specifically called for the meaningful participation of women and the Decade has given impetus and global recognition to their work leading to a myriad of concerted actions in all

fields. The various fora and Decade conferences have encouraged engagement of a diversity of stakeholders and high level people (eg. decision makers), thus supporting awareness at political, or CEO private sector levels along with more traditional engagement of experts, women, youth, farmers, energy producers, academia and civil society with practitioners. Greater inclusiveness – bringing all water stakeholders to the table – has contributed to increased collaboration and cooperation between these actors on issues of relevance to the international water agenda.

National and local

The Decade has also brought about changes at national and local level. An example is the formation of National Resources Committee in Myanmar and its work to develop IWRM in the country, which was aided in its creation by the Decade's commitment to stakeholder engagement, and has given momentum to

"I perceived the Water for Life Decade as an opportunity for civil society to engage as equal partners by branding their activities as Decade activities, not conducting their actions in isolation, but including them in the general framework of concerted action towards water security for all."

Alice Bouman-Dentener, Vice Chair Steering Committee, GWP

Cambio de las asociaciones

"The Decade has helped to establish the National Water Resources Committee, advocated ecosystem based system and IWRM. There has been progress with respect to IWRM. There has been increased attention on water cooperation as well. NGOs and governments have been supported to push political reform since 2011."

Htun Lwin Oo, Secretary of the National Water Resources Committee and Director General of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems Republic of the Union of Myanmar



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national level actions. Likewise in Canada and at local level in supporting women’s engagement in specific cases through the Women for Water Partnership’s network.

Women for Water Partnership (WfWP) joined the international Decade and contributed to many of its activities and in doing so it has been able to use the Water for Life platform to highlight the benefits of more participatory and inclusive water governance. The Decade has contributed then to establish WfWP as a main actor in the international arena and has helped the creation of partnerships of women’s organizations with other major stakeholders.

The Canadian Partnership Initiative in support of the United Nations International Decade of Action “Water for Life” 2005 – 2015 has been part of a tremendous change in attitudes in Canada. In the last three years in particular there’s been move-

ment. In terms of understanding how valuable water is as people and as an economic driver, and also they have contributed to understand that the idea of limitless abundance is a myth. Over the Decade the partnership had hundreds of partners who have been involved one way or another with their initiatives. They have been able to publish 12 books on water and water policy, they have generated media attention and change attitudes and understandings, influencing policies.

To date more than 26 international organizations and 100 national initiatives have joined the Water for Life Decade’s Logo Campaign and have been doing activities to promote the international water agenda.

The end of the Decade Water for Life Voices Campaign and Exhibit has brought the Voices of the People who have benefited from improved water and sanitation projects and programmes, highlighting the role of communities and different actors.

RECOGNITION AND CHALLENGES



The Water Decade has been successful for water and there are many lessons that can be taken for the future. We are now better equipped in our knowledge on the Water Decade themes and on the value of

the crosscutting objectives of the Decade. Water has now been recognized in Rio+20 and in the proposals for SDGs as at the core for sustainable development. Different actors have developed during the Decade

**Statements made during the High Level
International Dialogue on the International
Water Decade March 30 UNHQ**

“We have made significant progress but still challenges remain.”

Sirodjidin Aslov,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan

“The international Decade has increased attention to water issues: we have now a dedicated water goal, water and sanitation is a Human Right, we know more about the benefits of water cooperation, the advances on the UNECE Water convention have been important.”

Kai Sauer, PR of Finland to the UN

“The Decade has resulted in multiple improvements for women. Important steps on universal access to WASH have resulted in multiple benefits to women.”

Sarina Prabasi,
CEO, Water Aid America

“Three major achievements of the International Decade: Improve access to water and sanitation, improved cooperation and water recognised as a cross cutting issue.”

Thani Thongphakdi,
PR of Thailand to the UN

“Identification of problems and challenges on the implementation of goals from the Decade has been important. WASH is now a priority in the political agenda and African governments are making commitments.”

Wilfried Inotira Emvula,
PR of Namibia to the UN

“The agreement of a framework for disaster reduction 2015-2030 is one of the achievements of the Decade, which emphasizes investment on risks reduction.”

Motohide Yoshikawa, PR of Japan to the UN

and they have found different ways to coordinate actions. Countries have acknowledged the important legacy of the Decade. This was made clear at the High Level Interactive Dialogue on “The International Decade for Action ‘Water for Life’” on March 30 2015 at the United Nations Headquarters and at the High Level Conference on the Implementation of the Water for Life Decade 2005-2015 in Tajikistan 9-11 of June 2015.

Some key challenges of the Decade have been:

- 10 years is a long time. There is a need for milestones to maintain the process. Different types of milestones are useful: political, outreach, communications. The High Level International Conferences, the UN-Water Zaragoza Conferences, the World Water Days and the International Years have been essential.
- Decades may more explicitly create a political process for regularly taking stock and reporting on key implementation commitments and actions.
- There needs to be a process to insure accountability of the different actors in relation to their roles and planned actions.
- Leadership and support structures are essential for the Decade process to be effective. Leadership needs to be more clearly assigned to member states.
- Decades may help create a forum to support better donor coordination at global level
- The work at country level during the Decade needs to be analyzed. Member states have not been engaged through the national committees, the logo users have otherwise provided impetus at national level.
- Branding of actions as Decade actions has been inconsistent by the UN and non-UN global stakeholders and member states. A clearer strategy in this regard will be necessary.

THE SPECIFIC IMPACT OF THE DECADE'S INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF WATER COOPERATION

In February 2011, the push for water cooperation advocacy gained momentum. In the context of the International Decade for Action “Water for Life” 2005-2015, the UN General Assembly decided to proclaim 2013 as the International Year of Water Cooperation (IYWC) to promote action at all levels and achieve water related development goals through cooperation.

Tajikistan, a key initiator of this resolution, held a Preparatory Conference in 2011 that developed recommendations for the Rio +20 conference, where later a Thematic Session specifically for Water Cooperation was held. Tajikistan also hosted the High Level International Conference on Water Cooperation during the IYWC in August 2013. This series of events was a tipping point. Dialogue on Cooperation in the context of the formal post 2015 processes began and has continued ever since, keeping water cooperation at the forefront as one aspect in the post 2015 agenda. This has been reflected in the proposal for the Sustainable Development Goals of the General Assembly Open Working Group, Goal Six on Water, which recognizes the need for water cooperation. This had not been incorporated only two years earlier in 2012 in the outcome document of Rio+20.

2013 served to highlight, create and, importantly, disseminate a wealth of knowledge on water cooperation. It meant more actors sharing experiences and best practices, which in turn led to better cooperation. The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, in his Report on the Year of Water Cooperation said:

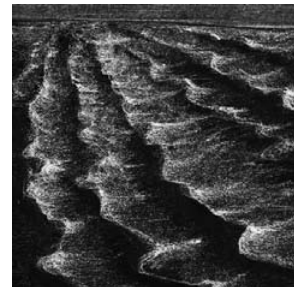
“The International Year of Water Cooperation made it clear that water cooperation is the tool of choice: to

improve water governance and water management at all levels; to provide water and sanitation for all; and to improve the management of trans-boundary water systems, both surface and groundwater. Cooperation is also an adequate means to foster education and capacity development; it must be based on sound scientific understanding of water issues; and it must be inclusive of all the actors involved in using and managing water and who can contribute to the processes required, extending to hitherto underrepresented actors, like indigenous groups and the poor. Furthermore, the International Year of Water Cooperation reminded us to finally achieve gender equality in the domain of water, both, by the means of and in cooperation.”[1] Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

During the International Year of Water Cooperation 2013 new dynamics developed within existing processes. For example, the concerted

efforts of many actors led to a steep increase in ratifications of the 1997 Water Convention. In 2013, the accessions of four Member States were registered, the highest number since 1997, on par with the four accessions in 2012 (when a ratification was also registered). And finally it entered into force in August 2014, because in May 2014, Vietnam the 35th country ratified the convention. In 2013 the UNECE Water Convention (on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes) achieved a major landmark as it opened up to countries all over the world (see below).

The International Year of Water Cooperation and the World Water Day also supported the creation of new water-related dynamics in the international development agenda. The many events worldwide and the large numbers of people involved,



“In 2013, the amendments opening the Water Convention to participation of countries from all over the world entered into force. The amendments enable countries from outside the UNECE region to become Parties to the Convention. The global opening represented a great opportunity for the Convention to increase its contribution to international water law and the promotion of trans-boundary water cooperation at the global scale. The global opening also meant a number of challenges – the Convention would need to prove its relevance to the various conditions worldwide and its responsiveness to address emerging issues. As a global instrument, the Convention is also expected to support the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals. Better implementation can be achieved through targeted assistance in those basins which are facing difficulties in developing cooperation. In this regard, it is important that the Convention as a framework is used not only by countries and the secretariat but also by intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and other actors in their efforts to promote cooperation in specific basins.”

Lulia Trombitcaia, UNECE



as well as their diverse backgrounds, demonstrated the great relevance of water cooperation. The IYWC helped to increase awareness about its importance and knowledge about where and how cooperation is taking place and

the key ingredients for success. The UN entities specifically produced key seminal publications.[2] Some of the innovative actions during the year included the systematic involvement of youth representatives, women and men, and the international business community taking initiatives. The

CEO Water Mandate’s Water Action Hub attracted ever-growing interest, ending the year with almost 300 collaborative projects posted in watersheds around the world. All these helped reinforce political will and existing legal frameworks, accountability and institutional structures providing a solid foundation for water cooperation.[3]

In 2014, the process continued with several events that have kept water cooperation at the forefront. As a way to build capacity on the subject, UNESCO reached an agreement with Sweden to open an International Center for Water Cooperation. The center will under-

take independent research regarding transboundary water issues and provide advisory services.

Overall, the International UN-Water Decade ‘Water for Life’ 2005-2015 - through its International Year of Water Cooperation 2013 – served to increase awareness, disseminate knowledge and support creation of partnerships, reinforcing existing water cooperation initiatives in the framework of the Water Conventions. In an increasingly water scarce world, joint coordinated efforts at UN-level have helped, and have supported development of cooperation between parties with different interests

WHERE DO THE OFFICES TO SUPPORT THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR ACTION FIT IN?

The United Nations Office to Support the International Decade for Action “Water for Life” 2005-2015 and the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development have played a key role in supporting the implementation of the Decade, supporting the High Level Confer-

ences linked to the Decade and other major strategic and political processes lead by UN-Water and by Tajikistan. It has strengthened UN-Water as the inter-agency coordination mechanism – specially its work as knowledge hub and in reaching out to non-UN actors.

Knowledge hub

By coordinating key information, connecting members, partners and external practitioners and professionals in the water sector and other sectors, and promoting these activities, the Office has sought to promote the water agenda and present issues to both the general public, specialized audiences and to decision makers. The Office’s Decade website has grown to be a significant learning tool on the Decade’s Themes, with

detailed information on case studies and thematic areas, interviews with key figures in the water sector and an extensive library of water papers and documents.[4] The Decade’s Weekly has been unique in providing weekly information on policy relevant news and events of the UN system and the Publications Bimonthly and Readers have become a single entry point to the wealth of publications produced by the UN system.

Since 2008 the Office has been implementing action-oriented activities supporting UN-Water and facilitating close collaboration between UN-Water members and partners, task forces and thematic priority areas. The Office has established a UN Knowledge hub for a variety of audiences on the Decade themes, a Best Practices Programme with a Water For Life Award and Media and Communication programme. It



has supported UN-Water in strategic processes during the Decade and has served to reinforce collaboration between UN-Water members reach to out to UN-Water partners establishing new institutional relationships with key partners.

A specific development during the Decade has been the UN-Water

Activity Information System (UNW-AIS) which is an online platform to present and share information on water-related projects and learning initiatives from UN-Water Members and Partners. In addition to a learning centre which houses information on a variety of materials related to the themes UN-Water chose for the

Decade, UNW-AIS hosts the online platforms for UN-Water projects such as the “Safe Use of Wastewater in Agriculture” and “Capacity Development to Support National Drought Management Policies.”

Outreach in support to strategic processes

The Decade’s offices have supported the different strategic conferences organized or lead by the Government of Tajikistan in collaboration with the Friends of water Group. The Zaragoza Annual International Water Conference, starting in 2011, has been themed to coincide with the year’s World Water Day, allowing a soft topic introduction, many key actors to meet, and the theme to stretch beyond the day itself. The Zaragoza conference prefigures the public awareness of World Water Day by putting the topic at the forefront of expert minds a full two months early.

The contributions of the office to the annual Zaragoza Conferences

and to other strategic events on the calendar have allowed multiple agencies and groups to come together to jointly address a single issue, thus avoiding a confused collection of messages, enhancing clarity and creating integration. The diversity of themes tackled has also broadened the water discussion, while it gives experts a spotlight within their respective fields. The organization of various fora and conferences have also encouraged engagement by a diversity of stakeholders and high level people (eg. decision makers), thus driving awareness at political, or CEO private sector levels along with more traditional engagement of experts, women, youth, farmers,

energy producers, academia and civil society with practitioners. Facilitating this more ‘direct’ communication with a diverse target audience capable of taking direct action has a far clearer timeline to effective change and progress with regard to water issues. Greater inclusiveness – bringing all water stakeholders to the table – has increased collaboration and cooperation between these actors. This is vital, as talks and decisions are meaningless when all water stakeholders, including those out of the box, are not involved. This work has led to some practical outcomes that have been incorporated in UN-Water advice papers and in toolboxes and platforms.



Promoting best practices

Promoting and acknowledging good practices helps in the implementation of the international water agenda as they provide examples on the way to go for member states and stakeholders alike. Highlighting the difficulties that need to be overcome and the strate-

gies to do so is often more useful for practitioners. This has been promoted through the cases selected by the UN agencies for the UN-Water Zaragoza Conferences. The 'Water for Life' UN-Water Best Practices Award has been also main activity of the Decade to promote efforts to fulfill international commitments made on water and related issues by

2015 through recognition of those outstanding best practices that can ensure the long-term sustainable management of water resources and contribute to the achievement of internationally agreed goals and targets. These cases have been incorporated into a platform of Best Platform of Good Practices.

The communication actions

To date more than 26 international organizations and 100 national initiatives have joined the Water for Life Decade's Logo Campaign and have been doing activities to promote the international water agenda. The end of the Decade Water for Life Voices Campaign and Exhibit has brought the Voices of the People who have benefited from improved water and sanitation projects and programmes, highlighting the role of communities and different actors.

The Office also has provided strategic communications support to UN-Water to launch and develop campaigns to raise public awareness, to hear the voices of different stakeholders on vital issues such as climate change. This has included support to World Water Day, World Toilet Day, and the 5 year Sanitation Drive as well as on the preparation of messages on Climate Change for dif-

ference audiences and a guidance on communication practices for water operators have helped different actors to raise attention on these issues. At the end of the Decade the Office has launched the Water for Life Voices

Campaign to collect voices from experts, business, academia, civil society and practitioners. It included the Water for Life Voices Exhibit in UN HQ in NY which travelled through 2015.

Supporting media

The media networks set up during the Decade, through capacity development workshops, and supported by the Office in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), Asia and Africa, have been actively contributing to communicating and informing on the Decade themes. Work with journalists, particularly in the developing world, helping to facilitate them with expert contacts and providing support to their networks has helped put

development issues in the media, and in increasingly prominent places.

Facilitating the work of journalists means exposing projects and programmes to independent scrutiny by the public. Projects are by their nature a collaborative exercise. This social accountability is intended to publicize and promote good work but also to shine a spotlight to deter corruption, and highlight good practices and where practices can improve.

By facilitating self-managed journalists groups, the Water Decade aims to help journalists learn about new projects within the UN system, help journalists make contact with key UN figures for interviews and share information about key thematic areas in a timely fashion.

Key groups:

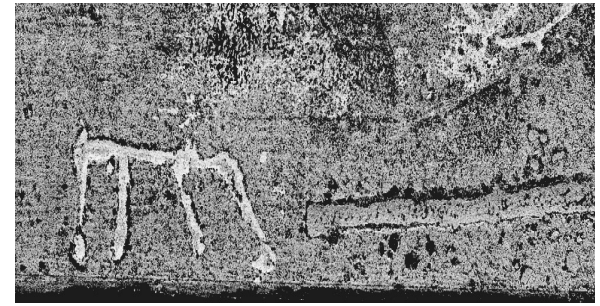
Water Journalists Asia <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WaterJournalistsAsia/>

Water Journalists Africa <http://waterjournalistsafrica.com/>

Interactive news sites can increasingly bring communities into the process and journalists are excellent at reaching out to these audiences in a language they will understand.

Good journalists develop relationships and trust with communities, relationships that may help introduce the community to unfamiliar UN

agencies or development workers. This is vital for the facilitation of empowerment, which the Decade has shown is key to successful water and sanitation interventions to be sustainable. They are also capable of disseminating information through channels which might be ignored by non-specialists.



Capacity Development on the Decade's themes

A major activity throughout the Decade has been an international workshop series, coordinated by UNW-DPC and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) with its Global Water Operators' Partnership Alliance (GWOPA), on "Drinking Water Loss Reduction: Developing Capacities for Applying Solutions". Safe drinking water is a necessity for life, yet in many places around the

world, up to 50 percent of drinking water is lost in distribution systems, particularly in ageing urban area infrastructures. In an effort to address this widespread issue, a series of activities between 2009 and 2014, including international and regional workshops throughout Latin America, South East Europe, Arab countries, Africa and Central Asia, encouraged local follow-up projects and the establishment of communi-

cation between policymakers, water operators, researchers and technical service providers. Other major activities have included the coordination of the "Safe Use of Wastewater in Agriculture" and "Capacity Development to Support National Drought Management Policies" projects for UN-Water, and the coordination of UN-Water's participation in a pavilion and session at the biennial IFAT trade fair in Munich.

WHAT'S NEXT? LOOKING TO THE END OF THE DECADE AND BEYOND

When things are working well, it's easy to suggest "business as usual" and a continuation of previous good practices. That is no longer possible for water. The goal for water will require long term thinking and close collaboration and cooperation between disparate entities. Populations are growing, not shrinking. Development means industry and ever more water will be required. Our successes today will not last in perpetuity without continued adaptation to a changing world and a changing climate.

Change is necessary. The global context has changed. Change will require new ways of understanding. There needs to be a concerted effort of all stakeholders to ensure that we implement the new post 2015 water agenda. Learning through social processes would be a key transformative force to bring the change about.

We understand that while the design and implementation of sustainable development policies will be at the national level, achieving sustainable development will require international support and cooperation.

The challenge for policymakers is to channel and incentivize more of these diverse sources of financing into desired investments in sustainable development.

Transparency and accountability must underpin all financing to enhance legitimacy and effectiveness.[5]

2015 is the cornerstone for water and sustainable development. 2015 has seen the decision on the new water related Sustainable Development Goals for 2015-2030. In preparation of the proposed set of targets of the water related SDGs, UN-Water has been working on developing indica-

tors and monitoring systems. Synergistic efforts can be contemplated with parallel initiatives in this field (eg. OECD's ongoing development of water governance indicators).

The work of UN-Water on the third piece of the puzzle: ie.: implementation commenced at the 2015 Zaragoza Conference. It has been a collective endeavor with the participation of representatives of 18 UN entities and 8 UN-Water Partners and more than 50 collaborating organizations. It served UN-Water to identify implementation challenges and collect information on existing tools under different categories (technology, science and innovation, financial and economic instruments, capacity development and social instruments and governance and monitoring), and analyze the performance of the tools in specific cases.



This has been included in a UN-Water toolbox, which includes a section on lessons learnt and a discussion forum and which will be updated to serve member states and stakeholders in the implementation of the water related SDGs. The Zaragoza Conference has represented an opportunity

for UN-Water members and partners to listen to different stakeholders. The conference facilitated a space for dialogue, to discuss the different stakeholders' views on their contributions to the implementation of the post 2015 agenda; which needs to be provided continuity.

CHALLENGES FOR TOMORROW

UN Processes

From the Rio+20 conference emerged a new and wider water agenda including universal access to basic water and sanitation services, water quality and protection of ecosystems, water resources management and dealing with water related risks and disasters. Now there is a Goal 6 for water and water is a key component in 4 other targets for other Goals. In all these, water is considered as crucial to the attainment of most, if not all, development objectives.

Implementation

The implementation challenges for achieving universal access to water and the other targets are immense. Forty-six countries still have more than 50% of their population without improved sanitation and there are at least 800 million people experience drinking water contaminated with feces. Disparities in the provision of water and sanitation services are at the base of inequalities in many countries in Africa and in poor countries. Costs of further advances are mounting, as they imply both improving coverage in massive slums in urban areas and providing for scattered populations in rural ones.

But it is also clear that achieving the Sustainable Development Goal for Water are in the range of the

resources, the human and social capacities and the technologies available. They can be achieved by better water governance, the development of individual and social capacities, the diffusion and adaptation of existing and new technologies and by properly designed and implemented economic and financial instruments. Achieving the water SDG does not, however, merely depend on the water community or water policies alone.

Finance

Reaching the water related Sustainable Development Goals will be beneficial for those directly affected and for building a more equitable and prosperous society. For instance, an investment of USD 1 in basic services can provide a return of USD 5.5 in benefits (avoided costs in health services and improved education, productivity, etc.) But gathering the financial resources to make this happen is still a challenge.

Achieving the new water related SDGs would require investing 1% of GDP (Human Development Report UNDP), an average of USD 20 billion per year. But paying for water services is out of the reach of the poor and according to the 2014 GLAAS report, 77% of countries have insufficient financing for basic services provision alone.

Besides gathering new financial resources, it is also important to use those already in place better – more efficiently – Efficiency must go beyond building new facilities to guarantee their effective use and replacement. Between 20-40% of the resources may have not been applied to its intended purpose due to corruption. The above mentioned GLAAS report also points to the fact that funding may not be going to those in greatest need and there are issues of countries/communities having low absorptive capacity, according to the criteria of financing institutions.

Some new and expanding opportunities to bring more financial resources to the water agenda come from nexus of water and energy, food and climate change adaptation. An important opportunity may be, for example, the new Green Climate Fund to support country actions delivering adaptation and mitigation.

Improving use of resources through results-based contracts and output-based aid have been extensively used by UN system organizations such as the World Bank. This includes using existing aid to provide collateral and warranties designed to attract private capital to risky projects – including local community projects and supporting the establishment of local credit systems.

Many of these smart financing mechanisms are only possible when

accompanied by better governance, enhanced capacities and properly adapted technologies.

Technology, science and innovation

Good water management is a proven driver for innovation. Advances in water and sanitation have come about with important advances in new technologies adapted to the scale, and the capacities and the local conditions when the services are required. Technology through monitoring is also how we monitor indicators, assess risk, and track progress. Nowadays there are an increasing number of varied, innovative and low cost technologies for sanitation (such as UN-Habitat Vacutug) and water harvesting (Blue drop) as well as technologies to increase efficiency in water provision and water use (by businesses, agriculture, etc), as well as technologies for adaptation to climate change (Itaipu Paraguay-Brazil) and for the reduction of the risks derived from floods (Mekong River Planning).

This picture brings to the front-line the importance of transforming water prices and public involvement from barriers to drivers for innovation. Low water prices and low public investments and insufficient efforts in making information on performance of innovative technologies available, may be among the multiple barriers to boost technology innovation in the water sector. In addition, it is equally important to identify and remove governance barriers to innovation, ensure a synergetic science-policy interface, and promote the uptake of innovative practices across responsible authorities, levels of government and stakeholders.

Technology choices are an integral part of any water policy decision making process. From a monitoring perspective, technology may still

lag behind in a number of areas that can inform and focus our sustainable management practice, particularly around ecosystems and climate change. More innovation is necessary in these areas in order to better understand and address risk. In the hands of a willing and able society technology works better, hence the importance of developing local capacities. Inclusive technology choices are also important to compare and decide, for instance, between conventional technologies such as dams and other new alternatives, and to deal with potential conflicts arising from the different environmental and social impacts of the alternative technologies.

Capacity Development

The concept of capacity-building entails much more than building schools and training people. It comprises the establishment of a solid knowledge base and awareness at all levels, including those of individuals, organizations, partnerships, communities and the enabling environment as well as the untapped ability of volunteerism to engage and benefit all segments of society.

The obligation to implement national Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) plans, has been accepted and embedded in international development agendas since Agenda 21 in 1992 and is included in the SDG 6 under target 6.5. By its very nature, IWRM requires a special focus on capacity-building at each stage in order to be successful.

Yet information on IWRM is limited and it is even less accessible to partners in the developing world. Obtaining new skills requires improved access to information, sharing capacity (eg. when trainees become trainers) and its application. Information materials, training materials, knowledgeable capacity builders and

experts are part of the inputs to a capacity-building programme, and online platforms of open content education and training materials can help facilitate these processes. This is particularly the case with IWRM, which requires a cycle of responsiveness to capacity development needs coming from different target groups around the world, along with and adaptive knowledge management systems.

Capacity-building can be the engine and driver to achieving the SDGs, yet increasing investments in capacity-building is a major challenge facing not only the water and sanitation sector. It is important to note that capacity development costs can represent a significant portion of the overall costs of projects, especially in the initial stages, and must be fully taken into account in planning programme budgets. Yet there is strong evidence from other sectors that investing in capacity-building not only makes sound economic sense in terms of return on investment, but it can also help leverage additional sources of funding. In a recent UNDP project, initially funding from public sources played a dominant role in the beginning (well over 90 percent), much of which was dedicated to capacity development. Yet the share of public financing gradually declined to about 50 percent at a later stage, suggesting that the pivotal role of public investments in developing national and local capacities subsequently attracted private financing. Following the publicly financed capacity/building, communities and households made significant contributions to implement them.[6]

In the water and sanitation sectors, capacity-building is closely linked to investments which support the use, adaptation and transfer of new technologies. The water development goal (Target 6.a), for example, highlights the need to expand international cooperation and capacity-



building support to developing countries in water and sanitation-related activities and programs, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies.

Yet to be successful, capacity-building in the water sector should also include the design and implementation of new financing instruments as well as capacities to water resources management, and especially to make the most of water cooperation and stakeholder engagement.

Policy and technology choices must take existing capacities into account and their implementation must consider processes that enable people to implement policies and make use of innovative technologies in due time. This also requires identifying local knowledge and mobilizing it from the start. Decision-making and capacity-building should therefore be considered simultaneous and mutually reinforcing. Otherwise, innovative solutions cannot be adopted and the required capacities never built – and the cycle continues.

Capacity-building is an accumulative *learning by doing* exercise. It is not just a process of absorbing information and skills brought by experts, whether local or external, but one of assuming responsibilities and being able to adapt existing knowledge and to assume new knowledge in order to respond better to local circumstances. Capacities are also needed to implement, monitor and report on development plans and strategies.

Capacity-building works better and delivers better outcomes in

terms of human development when social-cultural aspects are taken into account and when locals and their institutions understand the value of building capacities. This may require undertaking intensive communication to bridge the gap between decision makers, experts and local communities. Advocacy, scaling up, social mobilization/building networks are also necessary means and should be focused on implementation.

The SDGs call for people-centered approaches to development, yet human resources are perhaps the most underused resources that must be unleashed in order for communities to achieve the water goal. In particular, in the water and sanitation sectors it is important to recognize the central role of women and to give value to inter-generational responsibility for transformation. Successful examples exist whereby women have become effective and reliable water managers and where young people were trained a community-level to build and maintain low-cost toilets, or hand pumps in rural areas.

Governance

Policy and institutional coherence are covered by Targets 17.13 to 17.15. Integrated responses are called for in many sectors, based upon sustainable development strategies at the national and sub-national level and a global partnership for sustainable development at the international level. Yet the nature of the water cycle calls for a particular need for integrated responses, in addition to a sector-specific focus on the enhancement of global macroeconomic stability, policy coordination and policy coherence across the different ministries and agencies involved with water. Given that water affects and is affected by many constituencies, particular effort is needed to promote multi-stakeholder partnerships (public-public, public-private and

civil society partnerships). These can help mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources to support the achievement of the SDGs in all countries. For water and sanitation management in particular, supporting and strengthening the participation of local communities is fundamental for the implementation of SDG 6*.

In the water sector, integrated planning is a key instrument for building policy coherence and coordination so as to connect water policy, land use planning and to take advantage of the multiple synergies between water and food security, energy development, industrial progress, etc. It helps in dealing with various pollutants from agriculture, energy and manufacturing which remains a critical issue, in particular within developing countries. Coordinated policy approaches are needed to overcome the institutional silos in which water, land planning, agriculture and industrial policies are defined and implemented. The integrated responses required must be based upon sustainable development strategies at the national and sub-national level and a global partnership for sustainable development at the international level.[7]

Integrated water management plans must therefore be an integral part of national development strategies, but they are of little use unless they are implemented. External support agencies, UN, Donors, pressure groups need to help countries to implement their plans and not promote a constant cycle of plan formulation that never leads to implementation.

When reshaping legal frameworks and institutions, policy-makers need to consider the ability to cope with risks. Governments must develop institutional systems for coordinated and coherent responses on disaster risk managements and risk reduction across different sectors and between central and local governments.

Improving regulation and enforcement can help to curb environmental degradation and reduce health risks particularly in developing economies. While the WHO produces international norms on water quality in the forms of guidelines which can serve as a basis worldwide,[8] many countries will need to develop or adapt their own national guidelines for “acceptable” water quality for household consumption, standards for industry effluents or for the minimum water quality requirements for irrigation water for food, forage or industrial crops.

A well-designed institutional framework of water use rights, regulations and water allocation has to be established and combined with more conventional engineering works. Strengthening safety regulation dealing with water-related risks would contribute to better planning, development and monitoring mitigation measures and ensure resilience of societies and the environment. This will encourage sound enforcement and compliance mechanisms, accurate and consistent data and better disclosure of information to the public. Effectiveness of regulation is improved by harmonization across borders, notably in the case of shared waters, where appropriate.

Guaranteeing the stability of the regulatory framework is fundamental to protect long-term water management objectives and principles from the threats of short-term political calendars. Once decisions on targets and the distribution of responsibilities are made in the political arena, decisions regarding their implementation, including benchmarking, needs to be based on technical criteria. Independent regulatory bodies must have the possibility of self-financing. This independence is critical in order to make the right decisions for the disadvantaged and underrepresented groups.

The disclosure of timely, comprehensive, and forward-looking information in accessible formats as

well as the gradual development of the capacity to stream information into the decision making process is a means to allow people and institutions to access new insights and innovations as well as to build a better connected and empowered society which enables transparency and trust in the pursuit of collective goals. A necessary prerequisite for this is adequate, reliable monitoring of relevant parameters on the status of water resources and on pressures exerted on them. This access is important in terms of different levels and stakeholders across and between sectors and agencies, such as the scientific community, for example to allow for the development of information products that can eventually become operational, and to civil society, to ensure transparency.

Information on the extent, condition and functioning of water services infrastructure is also important, but monitoring that is variably a public sector-private sector joint effort. Remotely sensed information can valuably support water resources planning and decision-making, contributing, for example, in areas of flood control and monitoring of pressure sources on waters.

This can serve to support holistic decision making approaches able to cope with water management, water and sanitation services and water related risks. Water management and water risks are often interlinked and spill over to different sectors (drought in agriculture, flooding in land planning, modified freshwater systems for hydropower, etc.). Comprehensive policy support needs to include the tools for assessing risks and options for achieving win-win outcomes across various sectors.

Opportunities are increasingly opening to apply analytical tools to inform decision-making to policy domains “outside the water box”, revealing opportunities to improve, for example, water use efficiency in energy planning and agriculture.





The future for water and cities

Reducing the gap between cities and rural areas. More than half of the global population now lives in cities, and urban areas are still better supplied with improved water and sanitation than rural ones. But the gap is decreasing. In 1990, more than 76% of people living in urban areas had access to improved sanitation, as opposed to

only 28% in rural ones. By 2012, 80% of urban dwellers and 47% of rural ones had access to better sanitation. In 1990, 95% people in urban areas could drink improved water, compared with 62% of people in rural regions. By 2012, 96% of people living in towns and 82% of those in rural areas had access to improved water.

The importance of youth

Bringing youth into the debating sphere was an important innovation of the International Year of Water Cooperation. The biggest change has been putting young people in a position where they can engage the entire audience – delegates, policy makers – and see their views reflected in outcome documents and recommendations.

“[In the past] I had to explain why I was [attending water fora] and what young people can contribute to the debate and it was a big surprise for all actors at the forum. And nowadays when we’re here, people know each other, people know young people. They’re not surprised any more when there are young people participating

in the dialogue on water, because they are aware that young people are some of the most important stakeholders for the future and also at present society young people can contribute as agents of change for changing behavior.” Bart Devos (De Vos), President of the World Youth Parliament for Water (WYPW).

The future for women’s engagement

As the UN Women position paper on the post-2015 development agenda notes, a significant body of research, much of it championed and occasionally authored by the Water Decade, indicates that women’s empowerment and gender equality have a catalytic effect on the achievement of human development, good governance, sustained peace, and harmonious dynamics between the environment and human populations.

This includes the broad domain of water, as water is the key to life and a powerful catalyst for development in itself. Meeting current and future water needs for food, energy, health, sanitation, economic activity and ecosystem maintenance is one of the main challenges of our times,

and central to achieving sustainable development. Notwithstanding the long-term acknowledgement of the importance of women in this sector, the potential contributions of women to water development remain largely untapped to date.

To enable women to contribute meaningfully, the underlying causes of gender inequality need to be addressed. Women’s empowerment and strengthening women’s civil society groups are therefore intrinsic elements of a transformative development agenda.

Regions for today and tomorrow

Africa

Africa has 63 river basins, of which 20 have international agreements in effect and 16 with institutionalized forums.⁷ Progress is building over time, with areas in South Africa having more equitable rights since the abolition of apartheid policies. Many continental, resource, and national

organizations have been, and are being developed to focus on cooperation, like the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Niger Basin Authority (NBA), Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), or African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW). SADC created a Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems

in 1995 that later was revised and adopted to be in line with the 1997 UN Watercourses Convention.

In Africa alone by 2020, 75-250 million people may be exposed to increased water stress due to climate change.

International finance and donors are playing a key role in founding most of these organizations; some international actors include the G8 Africa Action Plan, Africa's Development Action Plan (NEPAD), EU Water Initiative, World Bank, and United Nations. Large differences in development levels of riparian countries make cooperation even more necessary, an example being Nile-dependent Egypt and less developed, upstream countries involved in the Nile Basin Initiative. However, Africa is still faced with huge water challenges that cross borders. Many

criticize agreements that do come in place because they are meant to look environmental, as well as vehicles to promote hydropower development or irrigation expansions. While rivers may have coordinated cooperation in many places of the continent, groundwater resources still lack institutions. Conflicts in places like Darfur and Sudan are leading to large displacements of people, some into refugee camps, which have aggravated an already stressed water supply with increasing and concentrated demand for resources. Political instability, mass migration, and limited resources are making cooperation difficult.

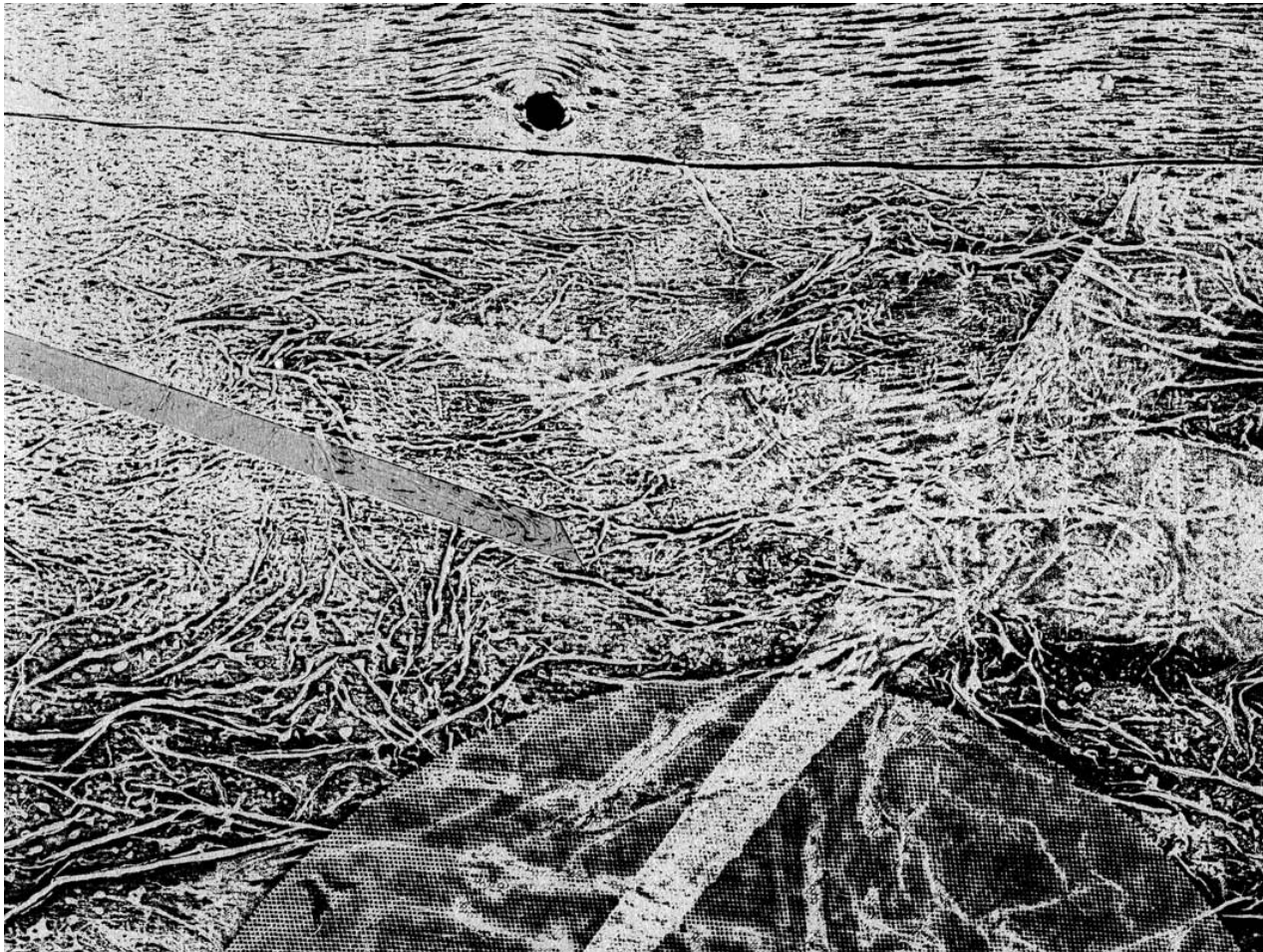
Asia

South Asian water resources connect many countries that have seen even

military conflicts in the past between over them. With many of these countries located entirely within an international water basin, water will always be a central topic. Basins are shared by different countries such as the Indus basin shared by India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. India and Pakistan signed the Indus Water Treaty in 1960, but are increasingly coming under stress.

Developing giants China and India are still working on reaching agreements trying to understand how these may be beneficial. Both countries have expanded hydropower, with China's Three Gorges Dam being the most visible example, and one which is having an especially large impact downstream.

There are in Asia less signatories of the UNECE water convention. South Asia lacks the coordination





that EU countries have with economic and legal policies. Global frameworks like the UN Watercourses Convention require prior notification and data sharing when planning to develop rivers, which can be seen against national sovereignty. Cooperation will be even more important to the area as climate change varies the flows from glacial melt. The South Asia region is aware of this situation and looks at the European region for examples and knowledge on cooperation formulas that can help them start and replicate cooperation initiatives. Yet there is progress being made towards cooperation. While still missing some key actors, the Mekong River Commission has been helping countries in the lower Mekong basin move from humanitarian cooperation to economic cooperation. Several examples of participative social governance at local level are providing effective and win-win results, highlighting the potential of building and strengthening local capacities and creating awareness on their own problems to achieve successful horizontal governance formulas. Nevertheless, bringing water access to remote rural areas remains an important challenge.

In Central Asia, more coordination is being seen, especially in response to the Aral Sea challenges. Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan formed the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination of Central Asia and pledged 1% of their budgets to help recover the sea.

América Latina y el Caribe

The most recent data from the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) indicate that the overwhelming majority of the coun-

tries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) has already achieved or is likely to achieve the Millennium Development Goal for drinking water, despite a great variety among countries. Access to sanitation on the contrary has only been achieved by 46% of the countries. Despite the remarkable advances in the expansion of access to improved services between 1990 and 2011 (going from 85% to 94% for drinking water and 68% to 82% for sanitation), Latin America remains the most urbanized and unequal region in the world, with still almost 36 million people without access to improved sources of drinking water and over 110 million people without access to improved sanitation facilities. In the majority of cases, it is not a problem of water scarcity – as the region has abundant water resources in general terms - but of insufficient investment.

Inequalities are still one of the main challenges in the region. Gaps in service mainly affect low-income groups, which means that between 70% and 85% of the people lacking access to water services are in the two lowest income quintiles. In rural areas, coverage is consistently lower: 15% in the case of drinking water and 24% in the case of sanitation services. Future challenges in the region include the reduction of such inequalities between rural and urban areas and service improvement, particularly in regards to uninterrupted services. It is also important to take into account that water sources are threatened by climate change.

According to a study performed by CAF, the Latin American Bank for Development, to calculate the costs of reaching the water related SDG targets, the investment required would amount USD 12,500MM annually, the equivalent to 0,31% of the Region's GDP in 2010.

To overcome this situation, the region will need to improve and consolidate its water governance with a paradigm shift towards the sustain-

able integration of water resources management. An special effort from governments will be required to consolidate operational water management institutions to develop water management strategies valuing the local knowledge and practices; to develop and implement water management and economic instruments (water use rights and discharge permits, efficient costs, markets and social evaluation, etc.); to create decentralized and independent water authorities; and to design water allocation (and especially reallocation) systems that promote investment in the water sector.

Climate change impacts, disaster risks and deficiencies in water and sanitation have been identified as the main challenges for the West Asian region, as well as drivers of an emerging focus towards water security and Water-Energy-Food nexus approaches. Predictions show that climate change will strongly exacerbate the levels of water stress in the region, driving strong river flow variations, rainfall variability and increased occurrence of flood and drought events, with implications in the infrastructure, agricultural and health and social systems. Meanwhile, exposure of the population to natural hazards is getting higher as a result of more frequent and severe extreme events such as typhoons, which have increased the rate of economic losses up to 16 times since 1970. The rate of access to water supply in the region has successfully reached some 88%, while access to sanitation remains lower, 53%, with the weakest progress made in South West Asia. The focus to address these challenges is being put on the improvement of water management to guarantee water security, as well as on the adoption of a Water-Energy-Food nexus approach, uniting the forces of the three sectors to cope with the future population growth driven increasing demands for food, energy and water and their interconnections.

WHAT ROLE CAN ETHICS PLAY?

A values and principles based approach to water management: The overriding ethos of the industrial powers was wedded to a western model of nationalism that has been instrumental in fostering notions of national distinctions based on race, geography, or ideology. Industry has also nurtured a faith in technological fixes and an ethos of profit. The current tendency to solve the challenges facing humanity from the current industrial ethos by recourse to technological fixes, pricing policies, and market economies are both misguided and insufficient. The current situation has been precipitated in the first place by such policies over the last 200 years.[9]

An ethics focused approach sees people through a rights-centred lens. From a water perspective, this has meant monitoring to avoid corruption.

It has meant interventions that are planned to empower, rather than aid. For example, training and capacity building in water scarce regions allows the people there the ability to guide and determine their own future, rather than becoming reliant on handouts from richer nations.

Ethics is important in the UN context. The Ethics Panel of the United Nations (formerly known as the United Nations Ethics Committee) was established in December 2007

with the adoption of the Secretary General's Bulletin entitled "United Nations system-wide application of ethics: separately administered organs and programmes" to help ensure coherent application of ethical standards within the United Nations.

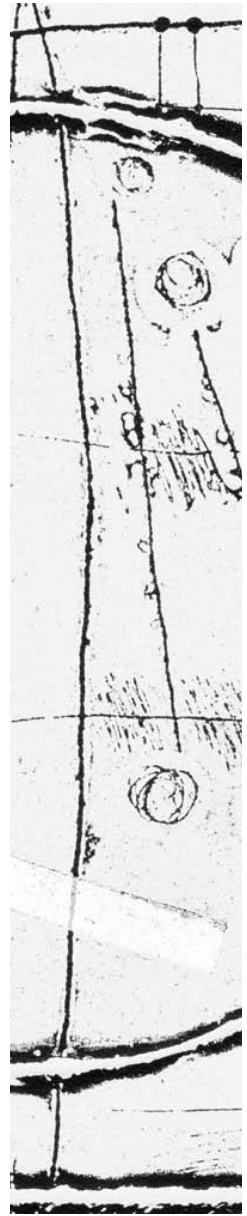
The Ethics Panel of the United Nations is charged with developing a unified set of ethics standards and policies for the UN Secretariat and the separately administered funds and programmes, and to consult on important and complex cases and issues having United Nations-wide implications.

For Ban Ki-Moon, this means dignity – eg. Providing gender mainstreamed sanitation services for all so that no one need suffer the indignity of open defecation.

"My hope for the future is that awareness will accelerate and the commitment to working with ethics, to look at ethics and values as leverage for water policy. Not just as something out there but as something that we're already using. We're using values and ethics unconsciously, and we need to make it conscious. And UNESCO already did that through their ethics programme from 1997 until 2004 and then it sort of slacked and now we're trying to bring it back. What's different now is that there's water integrity, there's water coopera-

tion. There are these others initiatives. There's water stewardship that's a huge one for the environment. Water integrity I consider the whole governance spectrum, looking at the ethics of governments, and stewardship is looking at the ethics of environment, ecosystem protection in a way. And then there's the human right to water and 'social' is not really covered." - David Groenfeldt, Author: *Water Ethics: A Values Approach to Solving the Water Crisis.*

"What has changed for the better is the start of more long term thinking. The discussion around the post 2015 agenda has been of higher quality than I would have expected. That gives some hope for partnerships and a more honest approach with regards to what needs to be done. There is a far more open attitude towards discussion about sensitive issues such as integrity and good water governance at least in international platforms. For example, OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) has put corruption on its agenda, as have others." - Teun Bastemeijer, *Water Integrity.*



Notes

- [1]. http://www.unwater.org/fileadmin/user_upload/unwater_new/docs/Report_SG_IYWC.pdf.
- [2]. <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/resources/periodical/a-world-of-science/vol-11-n-1/in-focus-water-cooperation/>.
- [3]. Ban Ki moon, UN Secretary-General, 2014.

- [4]. Access the Decade's website here: <http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/>.
- [5]. <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1558>.
- [6]. Ibid.
- [7]. High-level Forum on Sustainable Development Issues Brief (2014). Available at <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/>

- [8]. See WHO drinking water quality guidelines, available at http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/dwq/guidelines/en/.
- [9]. <http://waterethics.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/2-A-Historical-Perspective.pdf>.



EPILOGUE: A NEW DECADE FOR ACTION ON WATER AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Decade has been a time of great change in the water sector, and beyond, with important advances in achieving the internationally agreed goals for water supply services and for sanitation as well significant progress in Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Cooperation. We have also observed better coordination on water policy at global level both within the United Nations and between member states, and most importantly there has been a rise in global awareness and involvement of the civil society in the process. During the Decade there was prepared a long term strategy and plan of actions at global level and, most importantly, a political process was established. The Decade also contributed to improved coordination and a less fragmented international water community. During the Decade member states, UN entities, global organizations, business and other Civil Society organizations have actively engaged in pursuing the objectives of the Decade. It also helped making the connection between governmental and non-governmental actors, as well as created a space for some global groups such as women, youth, business and academia. In addition, relevant structures and mechanisms have been created that strengthened inter-agency coordination in the course of the Decade. We have seen at a global level the transformative power of global monitoring, reporting and information gathering; we have seen a change in paradigms and have been able to

develop and better share knowledge on global challenges and policy responses.

A High Level Special Event on “Catalysing Implementation of the Water-related SDGs” took place during the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 25-27 of September 2015, co-organised by the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of Tajikistan, Thailand, Finland, Hungary and Switzerland and the United Nations Development Programme. It addressed how to improve coordination and global processes in water to support the implementation of the water related sustainable development goals with some key recommendations below.

It was discussed the SDGs demand cooperation and coordination from all global stakeholders and processes. Stock taking, follow up, cooperation and exchange on achievements and actions taken needs to engage all stakeholders will be needed. Some existing platforms such as the World Water Week may be useful for this. Catalysing cooperation, facilitating commitments on actions and funding and their follow up may build on some successful models such as that of the Sanitation and Water for All initiative. Stakeholder coordination can be supported by the Global Water Partnerships (GWP) platforms at regional and national level, and other organisations such as the World Water Council.

A mechanism such as a new Water Decade, if supported by member states, can facilitate cooperation and



implementation of the water related SDGs, building on the existing initiatives and organisations working at different levels. The new Decade can serve to promote mutual support and coordination of existing initiatives of the UN and global stakeholders; support intergovernmental coordination mechanisms at global level, including in the context of the High Level Political Forum activities and review functions; supporting high level advocacy and awareness raising actions at all levels. Beyond that it can serve to facilitate actions at country level by bringing together member states donors and multilateral organisations and serving as a platform for making commitments and their follow up. It can serve countries and stakeholders to exchange experiences and provide policy advice on the water component of the sustainable development strategies and the technology facilitation platform.

It was considered that the Intergovernmental mechanisms for

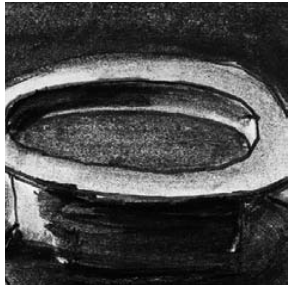
overview, review and monitoring of progress and achievements at global level must be strengthened at the UN General Assembly, including at ECOSOC. Likewise the intergovernmental processes of the United Nations Conventions must be strengthened. An intergovernmental mechanisms for monitoring implementation may also be needed. The road maps that emerged at the Korea World Water Forum 2015 can also serve as a base for monitoring implementation.

In November 2015 UNSGAB Final Recommendations “the UNSGAB Journey” for implementing the water agenda to 2030 were delivered in an Special Event at the UN Headquarters in New York and include the need to promote a global approach to water for Water issues cross boundaries, to WASH, disaster prevention, scarcity and pollution as this is vital for long term sustainable action; make better use of existing international legal

instruments within the water sector; tackle the growing urban water and sanitation crisis; involve the private sector more strongly in dealing with growing water-related risks; governments must take proactive and preventative action on growing water-related risks; the UN must adapt in order to better support Member States in addressing water-related risks; form high-level alliances to tackle priority water-related challenges that are ripe for action.

The United Nations Secretary General Report on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB) “the UNSGAB Journey” presented in November 2015 supported some of these recommendations for a more effective global water architecture:

1. Establish a UN intergovernmental committee on water and sanitation
2. Form a UN scientific and practice panel on water and sanitation
3. Strengthen UN-Water



4. Set up a comprehensive and independently reviewed global monitoring framework

5. Make sure there is an independent voice – because governments and the UN benefit from independent advice on water-related challenges.

Expectations for a new Decade are high. The Tajikistan Government is confident that the new Decade will strengthen and enhance the progress achieved during the “Water for Life” Decade and will create a good platform for consolidation of efforts aimed at further management of water issues for the post 2015 period. Our knowledge and experience gained during the “Water for Life” Decade will enable us to take joint effort for lifting the barriers in our way to achievement of all water related goals. This knowledge and experience provide valuable guidance for dealing with the remaining challenges in the new post 2015 sustainable development agenda.

- Greater coordination and inclusiveness is important. Flexibility, adaptation to local circumstances, and pro-actively working with all relevant stakeholders are crucial if we want our interventions to be sustainable and effectively reach the intended beneficiaries.
- The support of knowledge generation and dissemination, ensuring

access to this knowledge, as well as generating new information relevant to the water related SDGs needs to be supported.

- The support of existing and new initiatives for facilitating country level commitments and their follow up, as well as donor coordination by strengthening existing coordination initiatives at global and regional level, are of utmost importance.

For the new Decade to be effective, it may need to start with a 10 year Plan to 2025 and have clear delivery mechanisms. These could include establishing benchmarks and opportunities to take stock – a political process - including measures for follow up after the Decade to 2030. It needs to include country-level implementation mechanisms to support action and multistakeholder platforms at different levels (private, NGOs, governments and society).

The Water for Life Decade 2005 – 2015 has taught us that different dimensions of inequality (for example, being inclusive of gender, including the poor) in the provision of basic water, sanitation and hygiene services require different way of acting and programming. The specific focus on women’s participation can further reveal and unleash the potential of women as agents of change.

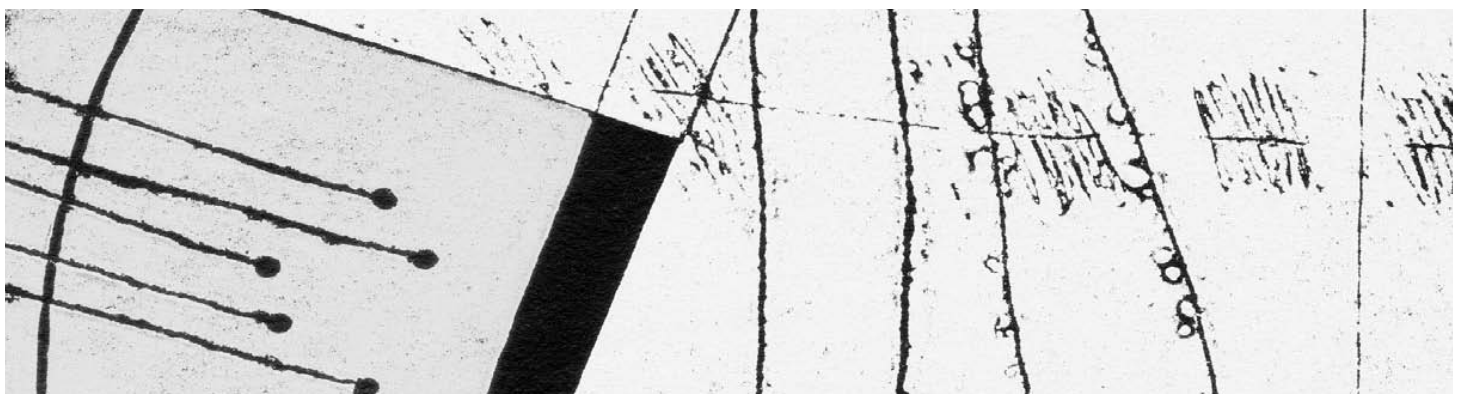
By helping women to overcome structural barriers, such as demands on their time, lack of financial resources, cultural prohibitions, they

can become powerful advocates and actors within communities through their ability to work collectively. This becomes part of the empowerment process that helps the community itself lead to appropriate diagnosis. After a Decade working with grassroots women, we know how vital their contributions will be to achieving the SDGs.

A new Decade must build on the social capital generated by the last including at international level. This is not only about governments but also about adequate stakeholders participation; which requires considering the importance of factoring in the costs of mobilizing the social capital that is so important for ‘hard-to-reach’ populations.

Ten years from now, a decade that is not so far away, close to 2 billion people will be living in water-stressed areas. Already 40 per cent of the population get their daily amount of water from trans-boundary water catchment areas, and we’ve already see how the scuffle has started for water. With 60% of the population and only 36% of the water resources of the world. Asia will face critical water issues very soon, if not already now in certain parts, such as here in Central-Asia. Here, more than anywhere the very simple truth of “Water connects, it does not divide” could have a very useful meaning for constructive and mutually fruitful dialogues.

Mutual dependencies will only increase over time as regions and sectors exposed to water shortage rely



“Empowered populations can become agents of change, build social networks, through their relationships, and these can tackle social issues that inhibit development – for example the taboo in some parts of India that states that girls cannot attend school during menses. There are key steps to success for sustainable community initiatives, the most important of which is to build projects on local evidence and knowledge and not on perceptions of needs or context.”

Corinne Wallace, United Nations University

more and more on waters controlled by others. Water must therefore be treated as a high political priority that is integrated into other policy areas. Cooperation will continue to be essential – not only between sectors, but also across geographical and political boundaries.

Integrated approaches and concerted actions at all levels – which are needed to ensure water security and sustainable governance of the resource – are long-term and complex process which can only happen with leadership and agreement on the overall objectives. We should continue this approach, which has developed through the Water for Life Decade into the post-2015

agenda supporting the universal water goal by continuation of the Decade’s successes.

We cannot afford to delay implementation. It took several years, to agree on how to implement the MDGs and monitor progress. For the SDGs, the process for indicator definition has been agreed upon, with the proposal by the Statistical Commission expected in March 2016 and adoption by the General Assembly in September 2016. For drinking water and sanitation, a monitoring system is already in place through the Joint Monitoring Programme that can be adapted to the respective SDG targets. On other water subjects, UN agencies

under the umbrella of UN-Water are in the process of elaborating a monitoring concept under the GEMI project. These efforts focus on the monitoring of water resources which is weaker and considers rivers, lakes but also may need to pay more attention to the aquifers (the largest part of the fresh water reserves worldwide – approx 60% of fresh water reserves-) and to water quality. It’s absolutely necessary for an efficient water management to improve data collection and monitoring. But this is only the start to drive implementation.

The 31 UN Agencies involved with water issues have certainly to further increase their coordination in a future Decade and specifically in the context of UN-Water, which need to play an essential coordination role within the UN system and create mechanisms to be accountable to member states.

A DECADE FOR WATER, A DECADE FOR LIFE

Contributing to the primary goal of the Water for Life Decade, Spain has agreed to provide resources to the United Nations to establish an Office to support the International Decade for Action (UNO-IDfA). Located in Zaragoza, Spain, and led by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the Office implements the UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (The Office) aimed at sustaining global attention

and political momentum in favour of the water and sanitation agenda at all levels during the Decade.

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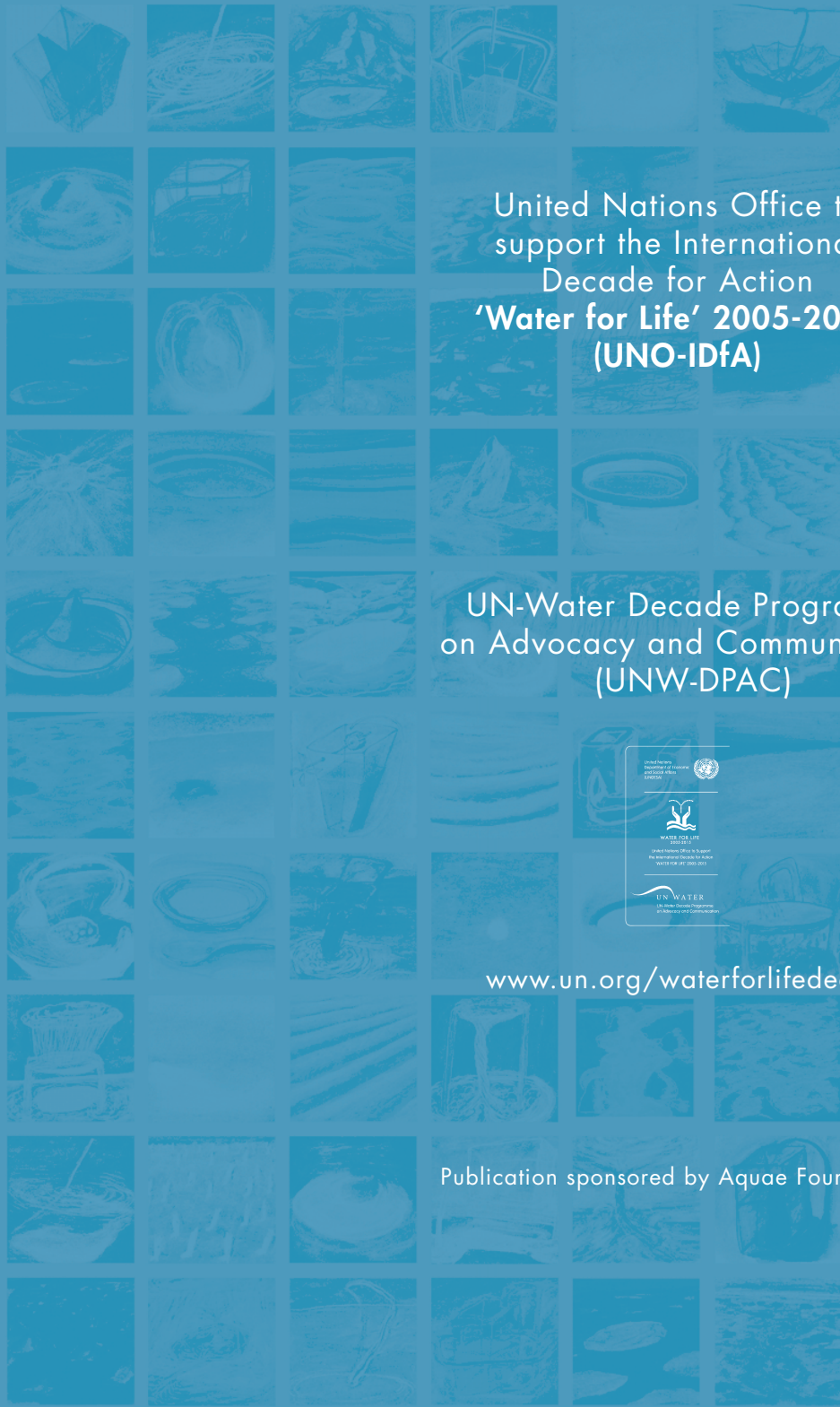
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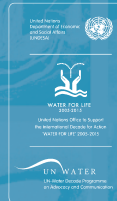


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