

Inter-Agency Collaboration in Wastewater Management

The Case of UN-HABITAT and UNEP under the UN-Water Task Force on Wastewater Management

Presented at the UN-Water Seminar on “Safe Use of Wastewater in Agriculture” at IFAT 2012

By

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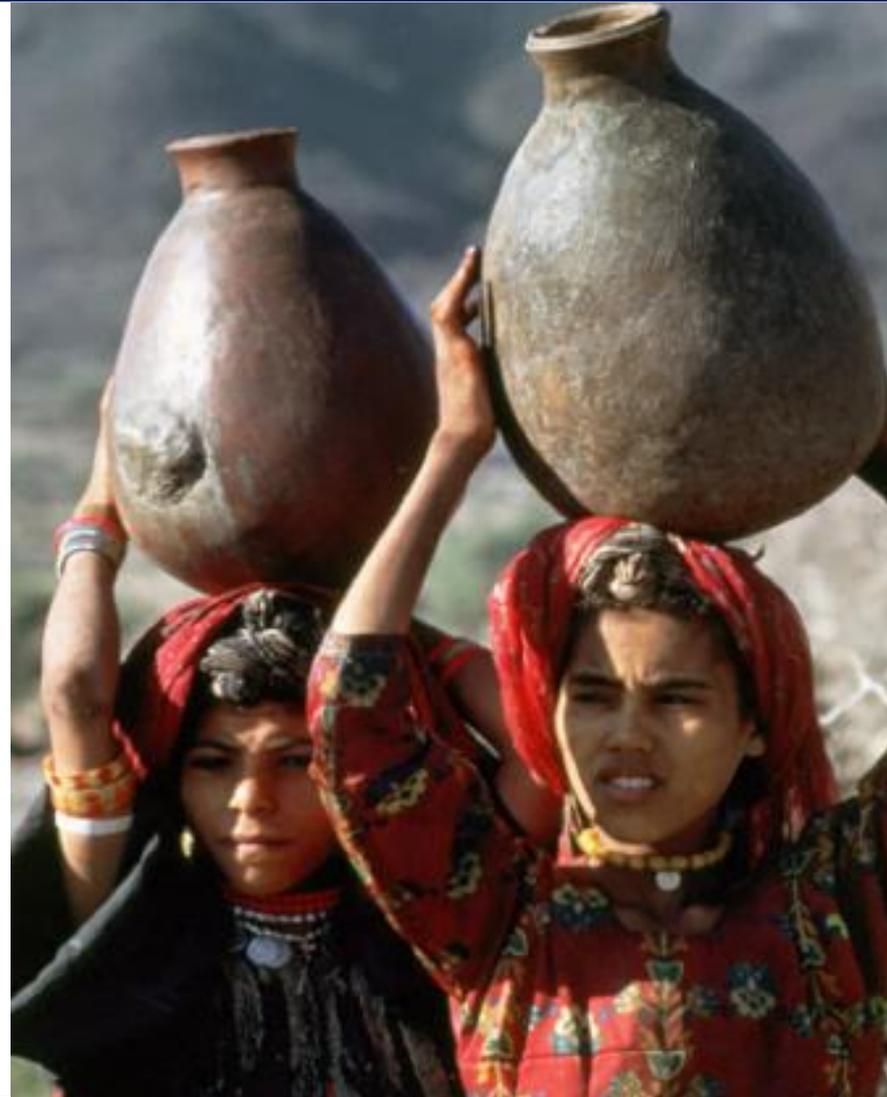
What is

UN WATER

- UN-Water is the United Nations coordination mechanism for all freshwater related issues
 - E.g. water supply, water resources management, sanitation, wastewater, water related climate change adaptation, ecosystems, water related disasters
- UN-Water is not an agency or organization
- Activities are implemented by Members, Partners and Programmes

UN-Water strategic directions

1. Bring further **coherence** amongst its Members and Partners
2. Play a major role in ensuring that water is included in **global policy debates**
3. Support its Members and Partners at all levels, but with a particular **focus on the country level**



28 UN-Water Members



CBD
Secretariat of the
Convention on
Biological Diversity



UN ECE
United Nations
Economic
Commission for
Europe



UNICEF
United Nations
Children's Fund



UNIDO
United Nations
Industrial Development
Organization



UN-Habitat
United Nations Human
Settlements Programme



FAO
Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



UNEP
United Nations
Environment
Programme



IFAD
International
Fund For
Agricultural
Development



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



IAEA
International Atomic
Energy Agency



The World Bank



UNFCCC
Secretariat of United
Nations Framework
Convention on Climate
Change



UNDP
United Nations
Development
Programme



UNCCD
Secretariat of the
United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



UN DESA
United Nations
Department of Economic
and Social Affairs



**World Health
Organization**



**UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY**



UN ECA
United Nations
Economic
Commission for Africa



UNWTO
World Tourism
Organization



UN ESCWA
United Nations Economic
and Social Commission
for Western Asia



UN ESCAP
United Nations
Economic and Social
Commission for Asia
and the Pacific



UNHCR
United Nations
High Commissioner
for Refugees



UN ECLAC
United Nations
Economic Commission
for Latin America and the
Caribbean



ILO
International
Labour
Organization



UNITAR
United Nations Institute
for Training and Research



WMO
World Meteorological
Organization



UNCTAD
United Nations
Conference on Trade and
Development



UNISDR
United Nations
International Strategy
for Disaster Reduction

25 UN-Water Partners

AquaFed
THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
PRIVATE WATER OPERATORS



IWRA
International Water
Resources Association

**Global Water
Partnership**



World Business Council for
Sustainable Development



IUCN
The World Conservation
Union



IAH
International
Association of
Hydrogeologists



IAHS
International
Association of
Hydrological Sciences



ICID
International
Commission on
Irrigation & Drainage



World Water Council



WWF
World Wide Fund for
Nature



IHA
International
Hydropower
Association



IWA
International
Water Association



PSI
Public Services
International



**Stakeholder
Forum**



**WOMEN
FOR WATER
PARTNERSHIP**



**CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL**



Ramsar
Convention on
Wetlands



SIWI
Stockholm International
Water Institute



AIDA
International
Association for Water
Law

Partners with Special Status



UNOOSA
United Nations
Office for Outer
Space Affairs



WSSCC
Water Supply &
Sanitation Collaborative
Council



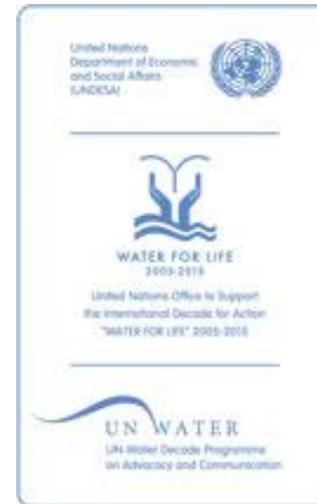
UNSGAB
United Nations
Secretary General's
Advisory Board on
Water & Sanitation



**The Global
Compact**

3+1 UN-Water Programmes

- World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP)
 - UNESCO, Perugia
- UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communications (UNW-DPAC)
 - UNDESA, Zaragoza
- UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC)
 - UNU, Bonn
- WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP)*
 - WHO and UNICEF, Geneva and New York



UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC)

* Affiliated to UN-Water



Thematic Priority Areas and Task Forces

- **Thematic Priority Areas**
 - Water and Climate Change (WMO)
 - Transboundary Waters (UNECE, UNESCO)
 - Water Quality (UNEP)
 - Drinking Water and Sanitation (UNICEF)
- **Task Forces**
 - Wastewater Management (UNEP, UN HABITAT)
 - Regional Level Coordination (UN ESCAP, UN ESCWA)
 - Country Level Coordination (UNDP, UNW-DPC)
 - Water Resources Management (UNEP)

The global sanitation challenge

2.6 billion people, including almost one billion children, in the developing world, don't have access to sanitation facilities



1 out of 4 city residents worldwide, 794 million in total, lives without access to improved sanitation facilities

Raising the profile of sanitation

The international community is determined to make a difference

The continuing high level advocacy by the United Nations and development partners has contributed significantly to raising the profile of sanitation issues on the international development agenda

However, little effort has been put in wastewater management – also called “the other side of sanitation”



The statistics are stark!

- Globally, 2 million tons of sewage, industrial and agricultural waste is discharged into the world's water ways everyday
- Up to 90 % of all wastewater in developing countries is discharged untreated directly into rivers, lakes or the oceans



- An estimated 245,000 km² of marine ecosystems are affected with impacts on fisheries, livelihoods and the food chain
- At least 1.8 million children under five years-old die every year from water-related disease (1 in every 20 seconds)

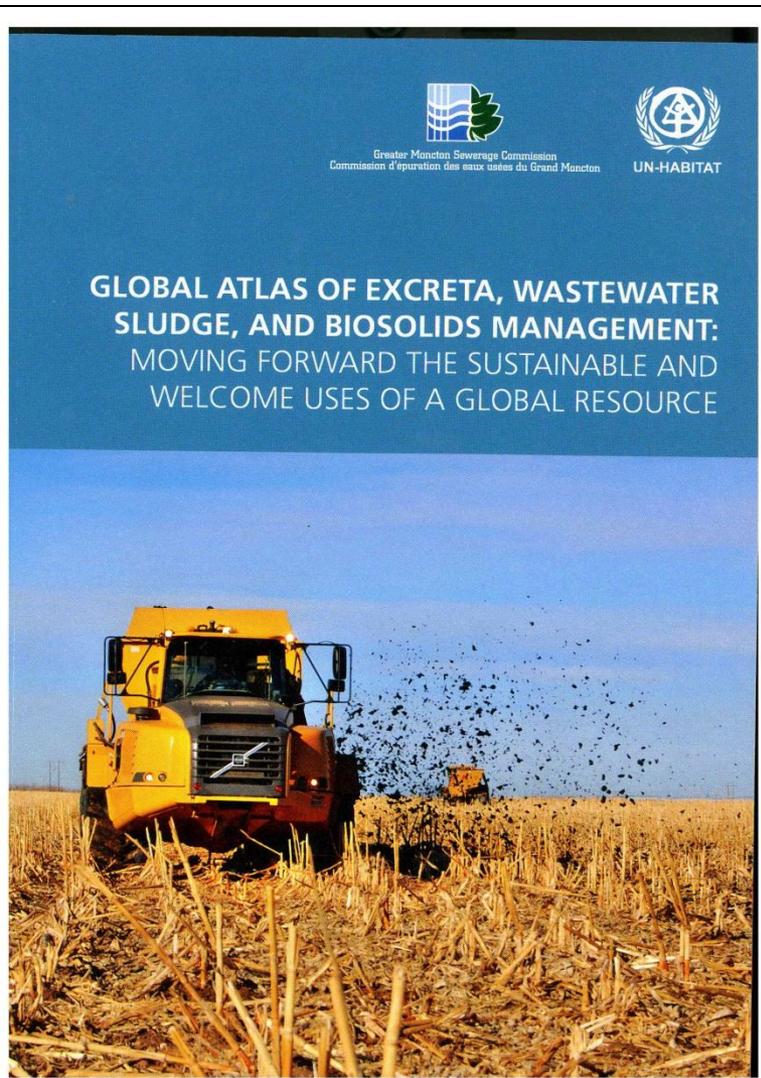
Strategy - Moving from waste to resource

Moving beyond the question of how to remove waste from homes and workplaces to issues revolving around what to do with it –

wastewater treatment and conversion of waste into useful products such as fertilizers, briquettes or building materials



Global picture of the current status



The Global Atlas (2008) was UN-HABITAT's first effort to catalogue this problem on a worldwide scale

The Atlas provides a global picture of the current status of information and opportunities for wastewater biosolids/sludge disposal and reuse, including trends and regional comparisons

Wastewater management challenges

- low prestige and recognition
- weak policies and institutional frameworks
- lack of adequate funding and political will
- low public awareness
- inadequate or lack of wastewater treatment facilities



Direct discharge of wastewater into surface and groundwater systems with little or no treatment is one of the most serious threats to water resources

What is needed?

- **A revolution in wastewater management** – in light of urbanization, climate change, food-energy nexus
- **Better understanding of wastewater** – a framework for classification and review of sources and treatment of wastewater
- **Promoting multi-sectoral approaches**– include other sectors in wastewater management
- **Increasing political support** and understanding of the value of wastewater management
- **Supportive policies** – legal and regulatory structures that promote wastewater management – both technical and institutional
- **Continued research and demonstrations** – discover new management solutions
- **Appropriate technology** for cost-efficient excreta, wastewater sludge, and biosolids management.
- **Innovative and sustained financing** – main focus should be mobilizing national /local resources to compliment external support.
- **Planning against future scenarios** – the scale of what we are up against in terms of future urban growth is not factored into planning.



The UN Water Task Force on Wastewater management

- Creates synergies from independent work on wastewater by the respective agencies
- Link with other contemporary issues, such as climate change, food security and the reduction of poverty
- Proactive and constructive role in the formulation and implementation of wastewater management policies



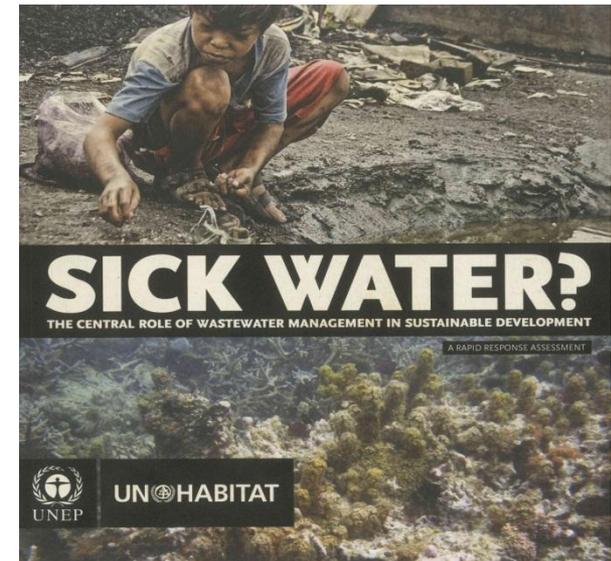
Task Force objectives

- Highlight issues surrounding wastewater management
- Increase awareness by governments
- Strengthen UN-System collaboration on activities related to wastewater management



Achievements to date

- Launch of the Rapid Assessment Report on Wastewater Management (**Sick Water**) during the 2010 World Water Day celebrations in Nairobi, Kenya
- Launch of the Rapid Assessment Report on **Green Hills, Blue Cities** during the 2011 World Water Day Celebrations in Cape Town, South Africa
- Co-convening of the **2010 and 2011 World Water Days**



Way Forward – A Collaborative Agenda on Sustainable Wastewater Management

- A deliberate and targeted effort by UN-Water and its partners to **revolutionize wastewater management** over the decade 2010 – 2020
- It embodies both **immediate and longer-term initiatives** that directly address the policy recommendations outlined in the 2010 “*Sick Water?*” report.
- It aims to position sustainable wastewater management on the **political and development agenda at a global level**.
- It elaborates how the UN System, in partnership with governments, industry, NGOs and International Financial Institutions, can:
 - **Communicate** the important and central role of sustainable wastewater management in public health, environmental protection and economic development;
 - **Expand the knowledge base** on sustainable wastewater management;
 - Accelerate the formulation and implementation of **sustainable wastewater management policies**; and
 - Improve the construction, maintenance and efficiency of **site-appropriate wastewater infrastructure**.

Thank you

www.unwater.org