Meeting the Millennium Development Goals for water supply and sanitation: What will it take?

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I. What are the Millennium Development Goals?
II. How ambitious (realistic) are the goals?
III. What is the UN’s plan for achieving the MDGs?
IV. Can the goals be met? What are the obstacles and how can we tackle them?
V. Questions and discussion
I. What are the Millennium Development Goals?

- Set of semi-quantified, time-bound development targets
- Presented at the UN Millennium Summit (2000)
- Revised at Johannesburg WSSD (2002)
- Endorsed by all 191 UN members
- Commanding substantial attention among donors, developing countries, and development professionals
The Millennium Development Goals
www.un.org/millenniumgoals

- Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty & hunger
- Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education
- Goal 3: Promote gender equality & empower women
- Goal 4: Reduce child mortality
- Goal 5: Improve maternal health
- Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability
- Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, & other diseases
- Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development
Goal #7: Ensure environmental sustainability

*Target 10 (with WSSD revision)*: “Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation.”

- Baseline is 1990
- Although expressed as a global goal, Target 10 has been operationalized as a national goal applicable to both urban and rural areas.
Progress toward W&S targets will foster progress in other areas

- Girls’ school attendance is an average of 15% higher in communities with W&S services at school in Bangladesh.

- Presence of sewers in urban Nicaragua associated with a 55% reduction in the under-5 mortality rate.
II. How ambitious are these goals?

Global W&S access: percentage unserved

Breaking through the 1 billion mark

Global W&S access: number unserved (billions)

Incremental W&S coverage/year (millions of persons) needed to reach MDGs
### III. What is the UN’s strategy for achieving the Millennium Development Goals?

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*Task Force 7:*

1. Understand the characteristics of communities with low W&S coverage
2. Identify bottlenecks to expanding access
3. Suggest concrete strategies to deal with constraints
IV. What are the obstacles to expanding coverage, and how can we address them?

- Quantity of spending
- Quality of spending
- Lack of accountability between service providers and customers
- Weak/absent institutions to facilitate collective action among the unserved
- Low priority for sanitation in planning, policy development, and funding
Current investment in developing-country W&S sector is ~US$13b/yr.

More than 85% of this amount is invested in water supply.

Estimated annual incremental investment for meeting MDGs ~US$5-10 b./year*
TF7 Key principle #1:

There must be a *deliberate commitment* by *donors* both to refocus their development assistance and to target sufficient aid to the *least developed countries*.

There must be a *deliberate commitment* by governments of *middle-income countries* that are not aid-dependent to reallocate their resources such that they target funding to the *unserved poor*. 
World Bank W&S funding allocation

ODA/country levels by GDP/cap and % coverage

- low aid (<25 M over 5 years)
- medium aid (25<aid<50 M in 5 years)
- medium high aid (50<aid<75 M over 5 years)
- high aid (>75 M over 5 years)
Case example: Republic of South Africa

- During the period 1996-2002, RSA dramatically increased budget allocations to the W&S sector, averaging more than US$120m per year.
- Coverage expanded from 62% in 1994 to 86% by 2000.
Quality of spending

- Systems are often over-designed relative to demand or to capacity for operation
- Sustainability is jeopardized

- From sub-national to international levels, incentives favor new construction over O&M (not only a developing country phenomenon)
TF7 key principle #2:
Efforts to reach Target 10 must focus on sustainable service delivery, rather than construction of facilities alone.
Case example: Azad & Jammu Kashmir, Pakistan

- Overseers in rural water supply project given ‘portfolios’ of projects that they follow from design to O&M
- Incentive for the design and quality construction of systems that communities can maintain
Lack of accountability between service providers and households

- In many public agencies, staff face no consequence either for outstanding or for poor performance.

- Political interference in service delivery, along with rent-seeking, erode both staff morale and public confidence.
Few institutions to facilitate collective action are located where the unserved actually live

- Access to W&S services is positively associated with income, political influence, & access to institutions

- Many urban poor and rural residents have few avenues to express demands for service
**TF7 key principle #3:**
Governments and donor agencies must empower local authorities and communities with the authority, resources, and professional capacity required to manage water and sanitation service delivery.
Case example: Hyderabad, India

In Hyderabad, a new toll-free hotline allows customers to report problems 24 hours a day.

Data from the hotline are used to generate ‘efficiency ratings’ for Board managers, which are publicly displayed on office terminals.
Case example: Ahmedabad, India

- Slum Networking Project offers suite of infrastructure, development services at subsidized prices

- Local NGOs involved as equal partners with public agency, helping establish credibility and trust between municipality and urban poor
Sanitation remains a ‘poor cousin’ to water supply in policy, planning, and budgeting

- Links between sanitation and health are under-appreciated

- Demand for improved sanitation service is often low, from the household to the national level
TF7 key principle #4:
Governments and other stakeholders must move the sanitation crisis to the top of the agenda.

TF7 key principle #5:
Governments and their civil society and private sector partners must support a wide range of water and sanitation technologies and service levels that are technically, socially, environmentally, and financially appropriate.
Case example: Urban sewerage in Brazil

- ‘Condominial’ sewer developed as a lower-cost option by progressive Brazilian engineers
- Initially used to extend coverage to slums; evolved into new national standard
- Between 1980-1990, ~75,000 connections, serving 370,000 people, installed; Brazil’s sanitation coverage rose from 22% to 37%
Summing up

The MDGs are ambitious, and serious challenges exist to meeting them, particularly (1) in Africa and Asia and (2) with regard to sanitation.

TF7 has issued 15 key principles for meeting these targets; we will dig more deeply into each of them during the class sessions ahead.