



UN-HABITAT

WATER & SANITATION IN THE WORLD'S CITIES



UN-HABITAT launches Report on Water and Sanitation in the World's Cities: Local Action for Global Goals

Without clean water, decent sanitation and basic services, urban areas are amongst the most life threatening environments to human beings.

The world has agreed to halve the number of people who lack access to safe water by 2015. To meet this target, formally declared in the Millennium Development Goals, will require a concerted effort by the international community and all interested partners. But in a rapidly urbanising world, in which half of humanity now lives in urban areas, the challenge is to understand the extent of the problem of providing water to the poor living in slums and squatter settlements.

UN-HABITAT's publication **Water and Sanitation in the World's Cities: Local Action for Global Goals** is a comprehensive and authoritative assessment of these problems and how they can be addressed.

This influential publication by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme sets out in detail the scale of inadequate provision of water and sanitation. It describes the impacts on health and economic performance, showing the potential gains of remedial action; it analyses the proximate and underlying causes of poor provision and identifies information gaps affecting resource allocation. It outlines the consequences of further deterioration; and it explains how resources and institutional capacities – public, private and community – can be used to deliver proper services through integrated water resource management.

This book will be essential reading for urban planners, municipal authorities, water and sanitation engineers, development professionals, economists, environmental scientists and students.

"This is surely the most impressive and important publication to come out of the UN system for many years. It brings together twenty years of evidence from attempts to build the foundations of public health in the developing world - hygiene, sanitation, and water supply - and shapes that evidence into the lessons and insights that show the way forward." Peter Adamson, Founder, New Internationalist, & Author and Researcher of UNICEF'S The State of The World's Children From 1980 TO 1995.

"This important book addresses all of the main policy questions facing the water supply and sanitation sector, and debunks most of the myths and misconceptions which have beset it in recent years. It should be prescribed reading for anyone interested in water and sanitation policy." Sandy Cairncross, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Water and Sanitation in the World's Cities: Local Action for Global Goals is Published by Earthscan and available from bookshops or direct from the website <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/>. Hardback ISBN: 1-84407-003-4; Paperback ISBN: 1-84407-004-2

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