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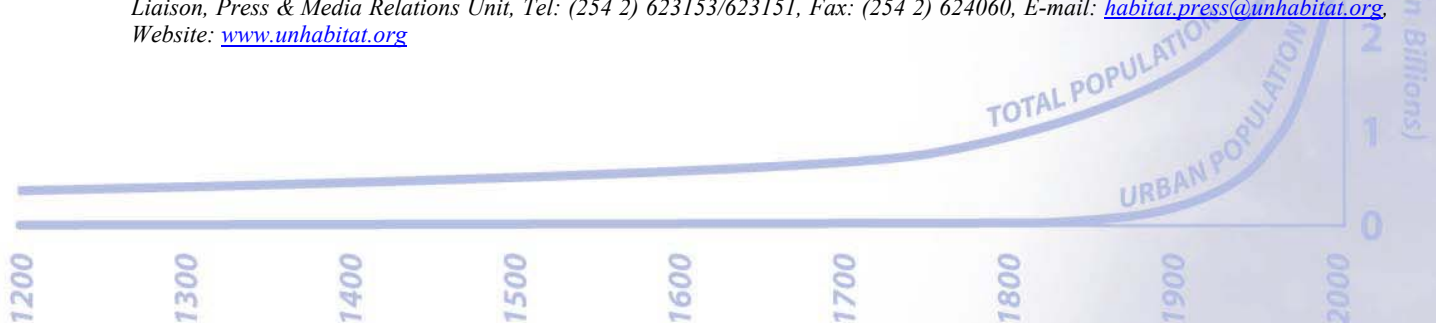
Good Urban Governance Essential for Provision of Water & Sanitation

- Corruption and poor governance were the major reasons cited by most aid agencies and development banks for withdrawing from large-scale capital projects in urban areas in the developing world in the 1980s. Many local authorities still underestimate the importance of good governance practices in the delivery of services at the local government level.
- All cities grow besides on or on top of a convenient water resource. However, the larger a city and its industrial base, the more complex water management becomes. It involves not only ensuring a regular supply of good quality water for all households and businesses and the convenient removal of wastewater, but also giving attention to pollution control, the sustainable use of water resources and wastewater management.
- But better governance for water and sanitation means that all citizens' water needs must be considered and that the institutions responsible for water and wastewater management are accountable to them whether they are public private or community institutions.
- The shift from good government to good governance is not easy. It means that government institutions must allow community based organisations, especially those representing the urban poor, a greater role in determining policies and projects. The argument of the book is that good governance at the local level is the only way to sustainably manage the use of water.

The Orangi Project is a pioneering project in the provision of water and sanitation to the urban poor. Orangi is a low income settlement extending over 10,000 acres with some 1.2 million inhabitants. The informal settlement began in 1965 and now most of the 113 settlements within Orangi have been accepted by the government and land titles have been granted. Initially, there was no public provision of sanitation, but in 1980, a campaign was launched to involve local residents in the building of a cheaper more appropriate sanitation system. Today, over 6,000 communities living in lanes have developed their own sewer systems linked to flush latrines which serve over 90,000 households. Much of this investment came from the community who also manage the maintenance of the system.

In Luanda, a city whose population grew from about half a million in 1970 to over almost three and a half million, only 10 percent had indoor water connections. In many areas, such as Sambizanga, there were only ten working pipes for the whole community. Through partnership between the private and public sector, an NGO quickly developed a community based strategy that led to the building of over 200 public standposts, each serving 100 families. Through workshops, a water collection system was established. Half the funds from this went to pay for the wages of the community workers; 30 % went to the water company and 20 % to the local authority. This approach showed that each partner could pool their comparative advantages to ensure that the poor could receive clean water at a reasonable cost.

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UN-HABITAT

WATER & SANITATION IN THE WORLD'S CITIES



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Water for African Cities:

Managing Water for African Cities

is a collaborative initiative of UNHABITAT and UNEP within the framework of the UN System-wide Special Initiative on Africa. The programme is collaborating with a variety of international agencies and donors, including the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council and the International Atomic Energy Authority. The programme is a direct follow-up to the Cape Town Declaration (1997), adopted by African ministers wishing to address

the urgent need for managing water in African cities. The programme started in October 1999 and is the first regional initiative of its kind to support African cities to manage the growing water demand and protect their fresh water resources from the increasing pollution loads from cities.

The programme's objectives are:

- to support African countries' efforts to address the growing urban water crisis and protect the continent's threatened water resources from urban pollution; and
- to improve urban water resources management through awareness, the promotion of effective policies, programmes and investments, and building capacity at the city level in key national and regional institutions. The programme addresses the following inter-linked priorities:
 - Operationalizing an effective water demand management strategy in demonstration cities to encourage efficient water use by domestic users, industry and public institutions. Work is underway in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), Accra (Ghana), Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Dakar (Senegal), Johannesburg (South

Africa), Lusaka (Zambia) and Nairobi (Kenya). Other cities have also applied to join the programme. In five cities, the programme has contributed to water sector reform; in three, environmental action plans have been utilized as a basis for the protection of water resources; and in six, awareness campaigns have been developed to engage high-level political support for water resources protection. Operational water demand management units have been established in six of the cities and have already demonstrated reduced water consumption by 35 % in pilot areas.

- Building capacity at city level to monitor and assess pollution loads entering fresh water bodies from different sources, and putting in place early warning mechanisms for the timely detection of emerging hot-spots of urban pollution.
- Enhancing regional capacity in the area of urban water resources management through information exchange, awareness raising, training and education. Over 10,000 copies of the newsletter are circulated in French and English. The programme is implemented on two parallel tracks: 1 city demonstrations in the participating cities, and 2 region-wide activities focusing on information sharing and awareness raising on water conservation. The focus of the city demonstrations is to support policy reforms, promote institutional changes, and build capacity at the city level to implement water demand management (addressing quantity) and pollution control (addressing quality) programmes. The regional component includes the sharing of good practices and anchoring the capacity within selected

regional resource centres. A high-level (ministerial) advisory group comprising responsible ministers from the seven participating countries provides oversight and guidance.

Development of the training and capacity-building component The Netherlands' government is supporting a training and capacity building component, and the programme is developing separate training programmes in terms of

content, training methodology, duration and implementation for three target groups of professionals: 1 Policy- and decision-makers (managing directors and administrative/political heads) in utilities, ministries, regulatory bodies etc; training will be through seminars/exposures/workshops, focusing on the sensitization of this target group, and will address policy, strategy and programme development issues.

2 Senior managers (heads of technical and financial departments). The training will address project planning, monitoring and coordination, evaluation and resource allocation issues. 3 Middle-level managers. Workshops will address project preparation, implementation and management issues in the areas of water demand management and water quality management. The government of Sweden is also supporting a schools water education programme.

