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**Country Specific Fact Sheet on the Right to Water
and Sanitation**

November 2013

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COUNTRY SPECIFIC FACTSHEETS ON THE RIGHT TO WATER AND SANITATION

1. Vietnam

The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

COUNTRY PROFILE

Head of state	President (Truong Tan Sang/Mr)
Head of government	Prime Minister (Nguyen Tan Dung/Mr)
Population	90 million (2013)
Life expectancy	72.8
Under-5 mortality	25/1000
Adult literacy	93.4
Ratifications	Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) -

BACKGROUND

Vietnam stretches over 1600km along the eastern coast of the Indochinese Peninsula (from 8°34'N to 23°22'N). The country's land area is 326,797 sq km, or 331,114 sq km including water. This makes it slightly larger than Italy and a bit smaller than Japan. Vietnam has 3451km of coastline and 4,510km of land borders: 2,067km shared with Laos, 1,306km with China and 1,137km with Cambodia. The country is S-shaped, broad in the north and south and very narrow in the centre, where at one point it is only 50km wide.

Over the last three decades, Viet Nam has managed to transform itself from being one of the poorest countries in the world into one of the fastest growing in the Asia region. The country's sustained economic growth has created jobs for the unemployed and has helped to reduce its number of poor households. The Government of Vietnam is targeting an annual average GDP growth rate of 7.5-8.0 percent for the period 2006-2010. Under its proposed socio-economic development plan, the GDP share of the agriculture sector will become smaller at about 16 percent, industry and construction's share will increase slightly to 43 percent, while the services sector's share will climb to 41 percent. However, growing urbanization will be a fundamental aftermath of Viet Nam's economic transformation from an agriculture economy to an industrialized economy. The Ministry of Construction (MOC) forecasts that the country will be 45 percent urbanized by 2020 mainly due to

the continued rural-to-urban migration caused by greater farm mechanization in the rural areas and perceived higher incomes in the urban growth centers. Higher population densities triggered by rapid urbanization will put additional pressures on the already inadequate infrastructure services, including water supply and sanitation, in Viet Nam's urban areas. In response, the Government's orientation plans for water supply and sanitation services target that by 2010, 80-90 percent of the urban population will have access to clean water; 40 percent of urban areas and 70 percent of industrial zones will be equipped with centralized wastewater treatment systems; 80-90 percent of solid waste will be collected, and over 60 percent of hazardous waste and 100 percent of medical waste will be treated.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION:

National Law on Environmental Protection (December 27, 1993 and Decree No.175/CP of the GoV dated October 18, 1994 on guidance implementation Law on Environmental Protection Law of Water Resources (May 20, 1998) and Decree 179/1999/ND-CP of July 10, 1999 on implementing the Law on Water Resources

Decision No.64/2003/QD-TTg issued on April 22, 2003 by the Prime Minister approving the plan for managing the establishments causing seriously environmental pollution

Decree No.26/CP of the GoV dated April 26, 1996 on administrative fines for violation of environmental protection

Decree No.67/2003 dated June 13,2003 on Fees for wastewater

Directive No.200/TTg of the Prime Minister dated April 29, 1994 on guarantee clean water and rural environmental sanitation

Decision No.860-TTg of Prime Minister dated December 30, 1995 on functions, responsibilities, powers and organization's machinery of Vietnam Mekong Committee

Decision 63/1998/QD-TTg of Prime Minister dated March 18, 1998 on National Orientation on Water Supply Development in Urban Areas by 2020

Decision 35/1999/QD-TTg of Prime Minister dated March 5, 1999 on National Orientation on Drainage Development in Urban Areas by 2020

Decision 152/1999/QD-TTg of Prime Minister dated July 10, 1999 on National Strategy for Solid Waste Management in Industrial and Urban Areas by 2020

Decision 155/1999/QD-TTg of Prime Minister dated July 16, 1999 on promulgating the regulations on hazardous waste management

Directive No.1999/TTg of Prime Minister dated April 3, 1997 on urgent measures to manage solid waste in urban areas and industrial zones

Directive No.04/2004/CT-TTg issued by the Prime Minister dated 20/01/2004 on Management Enhancement Over Clean Water Supply and Consumption

Circular No.71/2003/TT-BTC dated July 30, 2003 issued by Ministry of Finance guiding the implementation of the provisions on the fees and charges for solid waste collection and treatment

NATIONAL PROGRAMMES TOWARDS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION

The Government of Vietnam is committed to allocating the resources required to improve the socio-economic conditions of its people, as well as to reduce poverty and improve social equality. In May 2002, the Government adopted the Comprehensive Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy (CPRGS, approved by the Prime Minister as Document No. 2685/VPCP-QHQT, 21 May 2002) which translates the Government's 10-year socioeconomic development strategy, 5-year socio-economic

development plan, and other sectoral development plans into concrete measures with well-defined road maps for implementation. The CPRGS is the Government's action program to achieve its economic growth and poverty reduction objectives. It is carried out at the provincial, district, and commune levels so that local priorities and expenditures are consistent with the national development goals. The CPRGS objectives particularly relevant to the Project include:

- Ensure that 80 percent of urban and 60 percent of rural population will have access to clean and safe water by 2005; 85 percent of rural population to have access to safe water by 2010;
- Ensure that 100 percent of all wastewater is treated in towns and cities by 2010;
- Establish in cities and towns public environmental protection projects such as garbage waste treatment, wastewater treatment;
- Advise and provide guidance to mountainous ethnic people about healthy and hygienic practices;
- Focus on infrastructure development, expanding water supply and drainage in urban areas, especially for the poor;
- By 2005, air and water pollution must attain national water and air quality standards, measured at least in part by the percentages of poor households with hygienic latrines, and access to hygienic water supplies;
- Develop infrastructure and create opportunities for the poor to access public services, and implement policies to ensure essential infrastructure, especially water supply and environmental sanitation for poor areas, poor communes and poor quarters in cities and towns;
- Promote the use of local labor for implementing infrastructure projects, and strengthen the participation of local people in planning, implementation and maintenance of local infrastructure projects.

According to the CPRGS, the Government of Vietnam aims to "ensure that the urban poor have equal access to resources, public services and basic social services", and to "improve the access of migrants, especially their children, to these resources and services". Viet Nam's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are a part of the CPRGS.

Government policy and strategies for the development of the WSS sector are described in the orientation plans for urban water supply, urban drainage, and solid waste management in urban areas and industrial zones, which were approved by the Prime Minister in 1998 and 1999.

The Orientation Plan for Urban Water Supply Development to 2020, Decision No. 63/1998/QD-TTg, aims to: (i) rapidly increase water supply coverage in urban areas to 80-90 percent by 2010 and, where feasible, to 100 percent by 2020; (ii) achieve greater commercialization of the water sector; (iii) modernize water technology and equipment; (iv) improve protection of water resources and the environment; (v) develop human resources in the water industry; and (vi) mobilize all sectors of the economy and community to contribute to develop and improve water supply services.

The Orientation Plan for Urban Drainage to 2020, Decision No. 35/1999/QD/TTg, proposes to improve drainage and wastewater systems on an incremental basis. Its key objectives are to: (i)

reduce flooding in urban areas; (ii) rehabilitate existing networks and facilities; (iii) expand drainage coverage to 80-90 percent by 2020; (iv) eliminate pit latrines in urban areas; (v) introduce wastewater treatment as resources permit; (vi) promote market oriented approaches to service provision; (vii) develop through public education a better awareness of the impact of sanitation on public health, environmental sustainability and economic development; and (viii) gradually replace subsidies with user charges for drainage services.

The National Urban and Industrial Zones Solid Waste Management Strategy to Year 2020, Decision No: 152/1999/QĐ-TTg, was designed to: (i) to close uncontrolled dumps and replace them with engineered or sanitary landfills; (ii) increase solid waste collection step-by-step in urban and industrial areas to 80-95 percent coverage by 2020; and (iii) strengthen institutions and the legal framework for solid waste management.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION

See: www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/Documentation.aspx - Documentation by country / Outcome of the Review / Report of the Working group

WHAT DOES UN-HABITAT DO TO PROMOTE THE RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION IN VIETNAM?

UN-Habitat has been implementing the Water for Asian Cities (WAC) Programme and Mekong Region Water and Sanitation (MEK-WATSAN) Initiative in Vietnam since 2007 with a focus on capacity building, environmental sanitation and water supply related activities. WAC supports the ADB Loan project for Central Region Small and Medium Towns to improve water and sanitation services in selected towns, while MEK-WATSAN undertaken projects in the towns along the East West Economic Corridor. WAC has implemented community based water and sanitation projects in 6 towns of central region, while MEK-WATSAN has implemented community based water and sanitation projects in 4 towns of Quang Tri province and their peri-urban areas. Total beneficiaries under WAC is 280,000 and total beneficiaries under MEK-WATSAN is 48,275 in water supply and 120,735 in sanitation.

2. Cambodia

The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

COUNTRY PROFILE

Head of state	King, Norodom Sihamoni (Preah Karuna Preah Bat Samdach Preah Baromneath Norodom Sihamoni)
Head of government	Samdach Akeak Moha Sena Padey Decho Hun Sen , Prime Minister
Population	14.677 mil (Ministry of Planning, CIPS Report 2013)

Life expectancy Male 62.04Years, Female 68.38 Years (Ministry of Planning, NSDP MTR 2011)

Under-5 mortality 54 in 2010 (Ministry of Planning, NSDP MTR 2011)

Adult literacy 77.6 (Ministry of Planning, Census report 2009)

Ratifications

- International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)
- Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

BACKGROUND

The main goal of the Royal Government is to ensure peace, stability, and national unity. In order to create a political stability conducive to the economic and social development, and the alleviation of poverty, Cambodia have to be a state of law. The development of liberal democracy and the respect of human rights must be firmly promoted.

The Royal Government continues to cooperate with international organizations to repatriate and resettle Cambodian refugees into the society. It would stop at any price the return of the genocidal regime and the reoccurrence of the recent past tragedies. The hard-line leaders of the outlawed Khmer Rouges would be put on trial. In the meantime, the Royal Government would reinstate some former servicemen into the Royal Armed Forces. Under the chairmanship of His Majesty the King, the November 13 statement clearly emphasized that the working group in charge of military affairs must immediately and properly implement the agreements set forth in the spirit of the November 12-13 summit. The Kingdom of Cambodia has full sovereignty. It is a unified state, not a seceded state.

The Royal Government adheres to the principle of democratic pluralism and to the respect of human rights for which it strongly believes they are fundamental to the social progress. The democratization and liberalization of all social fabrics must be rapidly addressed, because they are the essential forces of economic and social development. The Royal Government assures and protects the freedom of its citizenry as granted in the Constitution, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and Social, Economic and Cultural Rights, and the Convention on the Rights of Women and Children. It strongly opposes racial hatred. The overall structure of the state run human rights institution would be upgraded.

To date, Cambodia is party to six of the human rights treaties:

- International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)
- Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Cambodia has also signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRDP) and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW). Signing a treaty signifies a commitment by the Government to ratify the treaty in the near future.

Cambodia has also ratified a number of optional protocols to these treaties which impose additional obligations on the Government: the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT); the Optional Protocol to CEDAW; and the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child dealing with child soldiers and with child exploitation (CRC-OPAC and CRC-OPSC).

NATIONAL LEGISLATION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION

NA

NATIONAL PROGRAMMES TOWARDS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION

N/A

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION

There was no specific recommendation from the Universal Periodic Review on the human rights to water and sanitation. However, the Govt of Cambodia has addressed the water and sanitation issues in its Retangular Strategy, National Strategic Development Plan, and sectoral plan of Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Industry, Mime and Energy in order to provide the accessible of water and sanitation to all people.

WHAT DOES UN-HABITAT DO TO PROMOTE THE RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION IN CAMBODIA?

UN-Habitat has implemented the Water for Asian Cities (WAC) Programme and Mekong Region Water and Sanitation (MEK-WATSAN) Initiative in Cambodia. Both WAC and MEK-WATSAN combine policy dialogue and normative work with on-the-ground pilot and demonstration water and sanitation projects focusing on pro-poor water and sanitation service delivery. Innovations that these programmes introduce include Water Demand Management, Decentralised Waste Water Management, Human Values Based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education, Rainwater harvesting and participatory poverty and environmental planning.

3. Pacific Regional

The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

COUNTRY PROFILE

A summary of the 14 countries covered by the two UN Multi Country Offices (Fiji and Samoa) covering the Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Among the Pacific island countries (an estimated 10 million in 2011), only half of the population has access to improved sanitation and drinking water. Only one out of eight people have piped water in their homes. Sixteen percent of the entire population still practice open defecation. A general lack of information and awareness on diseases associated with contaminated water aggravates the sanitation and hygiene problem in the region. Furthermore, a 2010 WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) report indicates that the region as a whole is unlikely to meet the water and sanitation MDG target of halving its population without access to improved water supply and sanitation by 2015.

SUMMARY OF SELECTED COUNTRY PROFILES

	Fiji	Kiribati	PNG	Samoa	Solomon Islands	Tuvalu	Vanuatu
Head of State		President			Governor General	GG	President
Head of Government	PM		PM	PM	PM Lilo		PM Cacosil
Population	917,675	92,533	5,190,786	180,741	566,842	11,992	211,971
Life Expectancy	65.4	61	54.2	72.8	61.1	63.6	71.1
Infant mortality rate	17	52	56.7	20.4	24.3	17.2	21
Adult literacy	93.7%	NA	57.3%	99.7%	Est. 84%	NA	74%

Country profiles are available on: www.pacificwater.org/pages.cfm/country-information/

As member states of the United Nations, Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are obligated to respect the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a constitutional document of the United Nations and customary international law. The human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is essential to ensure the right to life and derives from the right to an adequate standard of living, both of which are guaranteed under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

PICs have ratified a number of international treaties. At the international level, the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation derives from the right to an adequate standard of living as provided for in, inter alia, article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. This right has also been explicitly

recognized by the General Assembly (resolution 64/292), and reaffirmed by the Human Rights Council (resolutions 15/9 and 16/2) in 2010 and 2011. The human right to safe drinking water and sanitation means that everyone is entitled to water and sanitation which is safe, available, accessible, affordable and acceptable. This right must be guaranteed in a non-discriminatory manner, and the State is obliged to take concrete and targeted steps towards ensuring universal access to water and sanitation to the maximum of available resources.

SUMMARY OF RATIFIED TREATIES

	Fiji	Kiribati	PNG	Samoa	Solomon Islands	Tuvalu	Vanuatu
Convention on the Rights of the Child	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,	Signed protocol	Yes	Yes	?	Signed convention	?	Yes
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes

Human right to water and sanitation specifically under article 14 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, treaties . The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, are core human rights treaties.

BACKGROUND

Pacific Island countries have uniquely fragile water resources due to their small size, lack of natural storage, competing land use and vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change

In the Pacific, the SPC-SOPAC Division Water and Sanitation Programme is the mandated technical lead in the region for water resources and the provision of water supply and sanitation services.

<http://www.pacificwater.org/> The Pacific Regional Consultations on Water and Sanitation (July 2013)

noted that efforts to improve water and sanitation in the region are not keeping up with the significant and growing impacts of population growth, urbanisation, natural disasters and climate change.

Further support to the water and sanitation sector include the Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility (PRIF), the Pacific WASH Coalition, Pacific Humanitarian Team and the WatSan Cluster both regionally and nationally (led by UNICEF) address post-disaster response.

The Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation conducted an official visit to Kiribati and Tuvalu in July 2012 in order to examine the situation of the human rights to water and sanitation in the two countries.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION

Each country in the Pacific has varying degrees of national legislation on the human rights to water and sanitation. By and large however, it would be fair to say that in a number of PICs such as Tuvalu, there is no comprehensive water and sanitation legislation, although there are several laws that cover specific elements of water and sanitation such as Water Supply Acts, Public Health Acts and legislation pertaining to local government arrangements and environmental planning. Building Codes where they do exist, suffer from enforcement and monitoring weaknesses and require strengthening regulations on water catchments, rain storage and sanitation systems attached to houses and buildings.

Legislative references can be found to water resources management is a provision in the Constitution for Government and councils to acquire freshwater resources during drought emergency periods such as is the case of Tuvalu. A number of countries have developed draft Water Resources Act and draft Water Resources and Sanitation Management Act.

Most recently in the Pacific, **Fiji's** Constitution (6 September 2013) states:

Right to housing and sanitation - 35.—(1) The State must take reasonable measures within its available resources to achieve the progressive realisation of the right of every person to accessible and adequate housing and sanitation. (2) In applying any right under this section, if the State claims that it does not have the resources to implement the right, it is the responsibility of the State to show that the resources are not available.

Right to adequate food and water: 36.—(1) The State must take reasonable measures within its available resources to achieve the progressive realisation of the right of every person to be free from hunger, to have adequate food of acceptable quality and to clean and safe water in adequate quantities.

(2) In applying any right under this section, if the State claims that it does not have the resources to implement the right, it is the responsibility of the State to show that the resources are not available.

Policies and Strategies: Some countries (Niue, Tuvalu, Palau, Kiribati, Nauru, Vanuatu) have National Water/Sanitation/IWRM policies and water efficiency strategies endorsed by both government and civil society stakeholders. Policy implementation and action are overseen by National Water Committees that play an advisory and technical role.

NATIONAL PROGRAMMES TOWARDS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION

There are a range of national programmes being implemented in PICs. IWRM plans have been promoted in recent decades to provide strategic direction to the design and implementation of investments needed to address, amongst other things, priority water resource infrastructure, water services and water resource management and governance needs (GEF – Implementing Sustainable Water Resources and Wastewater Management in Pacific Island Countries). This programme is further supported by the EU IWRM National Planning Programme, linked to the GEF demo projects to assist with strengthening the enabling environment for IWRM.

Other programme/donor partners include AusAID, New Zealand Aid Programme, the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, UNICEF, Look and Learn Environmental Education with a range of sector focus from infrastructure, legislative reform, capacity building and community outreach. The Pacific Water Action matrix provides a comprehensive list of water programmes (see links below).

<http://www.sopac.org/index.php/sopac-programmes/water-and-sanitation-programme>

<http://www.pacificwater.org/pages.cfm/water-services/water-sanitation-hygiene-programme/sanitation-hygiene/pacific-wash-coalition-wsscc-activities/>

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION

See: www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/Documentation.aspx - Documentation by country / Outcome of the Review / Report of the Working group

Drawing on the recommendations from the Special Rapporteur's 2012 visit to 2 Pacific countries and noting that OHCHR Pacific Office's mention of the significant impacts of Round One in the Pacific¹, the following are points of interest and whilst are specific to the nation of Tuvalu, can also be considered appropriate for its Island State neighbours. The reports can be accessed at

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/WaterAndSanitation/SRWWater/Pages/AnnualReports.aspx>

The Special Rapporteur calls on the Government, individuals and all relevant stakeholders to fully embrace, with determination and perseverance, the realization of these fundamental human rights in this complex environment. To be able to do so, it is critical that a comprehensive and integrated approach be adopted, including capacity-building of human resources, institutional development, technology and infrastructure, public awareness and education.

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- ¹ Signing and ratification of human rights treaties: e.g. Palau (signatures); Vanuatu (CAT); Nauru (CEDAW, CAT, OPCAT).
 - Stepping up work around UN human rights treaty reporting: e.g. Solomon Islands, Nauru, Kiribati.
 - Open invitations issued to UN Special Procedures, by Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, PNG and Vanuatu.
 - Steps towards the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution: Samoa, Solomon Islands, Palau, Vanuatu
 - Leading to legislative reviews, drafting and amendments.

Furthermore, it is important to recall that investment in more expensive technologies does not necessarily lead to significant improvements in service, while investing in low-cost, high-efficiency technologies can dramatically reduce the amount of funding required to achieve the rights. Moreover, investments that take the life-cycle cost of water or sanitation improvement into account, or that are specifically directed towards the maintenance and operation of new and existing services, are essential so as to avoid any sort of retrogression or slippage in ensuring the human rights to water and sanitation.

At the same time, those countries most responsible for the current climate change situation should not turn their backs on Tuvalu, but rather they should comply with their legal obligations to prevent or remedy the impacts of climate change on the human rights of individuals and communities. Furthermore, in the same way that Tuvalu is obliged to take steps to ensure that international aid allocations for its water and sanitation sectors are sustainable and support progressive realization, international donors have a corresponding obligation to facilitate this process.

The Special Rapporteur recommends that:

- 1) The Government of Tuvalu, which bears the main responsibility for the realization of the human rights to water and sanitation, takes concrete and targeted steps within the maximum of available resources, including by seeking international cooperation aid and assistance, to make these rights a reality for all;
- 2) The Government take the lead in determining the priorities for the water, sanitation and hygiene sectors and integrate donors' initiatives and funds into the Government's activities in order to ensure greater sustainability of interventions and impact on the lives of Tuvaluans;
- 3) Access to water and sanitation be affordable to all, in particular to those individuals who have a lower income. The cost of water, sanitation and hygiene must not compromise access to other human rights, such as food, housing or education. The Government should bear this in mind when discussing and adopting new water tariffs or when advancing the use of composting toilets. Innovative mechanisms, such as the creation of a revolving fund, saving on financial resources by harvesting more water from the government buildings, as well as the provision of targeted subsidies could help to support families who lack the necessary resources to provide for these solutions;
- 4) The establishment of a trust fund for water and sanitation supply be considered. The Special Rapporteur supports the initiative by the International Conference on Water and Wastewater Management to set up a trust fund by increasing the airport tax by US\$1;
- 5) The Government of Tuvalu, the international community, civil society and communities continue to promote the introduction of composting toilets, which will not only enable water savings, but will also avoid many problems, including health risks and pollution of water resources caused by inadequate wastewater management;
- 6) "Hardware" provided by donors in the form of project funding be accompanied by equally relevant "software" measures, namely information and awareness-raising regarding the maintenance of water tanks, pipes and gutters, and the importance of hygiene practices, which should be ensured even after the completion of the project;

- 7) **Countries that have not already done so, ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as the Optional Protocols thereto, and other core international human rights treaties;**
- 8) **Pacific Island Governments should establish a solid legal and institutional framework to implement the human rights to water and sanitation taking into consideration changing climate patterns and their impacts on water and sanitation. Legislation should contain clear standards specifying that when new buildings are constructed either by the Government or by donors, water harvesting systems are installed;**
- 9) **Governments to continue to identify the actual needs of its people, including women and children, by holding participatory discussions and seek targeted international assistance for the identified needs in the context of the complex environment;**
- 10) **The Special Rapporteur believes that placing the rights to water and sanitation at the centre of climate change discussions and planning will promote an adaptation process that place people in the centre.**

The Second Round of UPR in the Pacific:

- 2013: Tonga and Tuvalu
- 2014: Vanuatu, New Zealand and Fiji
- 2015: Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Australia, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru
- 2016: Palau, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands

WHAT DOES UN-HABITAT DO TO PROMOTE THE RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION IN THE PACIFIC?

- Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu) – in the Solomon Islands, 2014 – testing guidelines on access to basic services for all
- Regional Institutional Strengthening and Knowledge Management Support to Pacific Island Countries to Strengthen Implementation of the Pacific Urban Agenda under the Pacific Plan
- Papua New Guinea Settlement Upgrading Programme
- Samoa City Development Strategy Programme
- Cities and Climate Change Initiative - Ecosystems-based Adaptation in Pacific SIDS coastal cities
- Attempted to secure EU funding for the Solomon Islands in 2012 through ACP-EU Water Facility's Restricted Call for Proposals 2011 for the Promotion of the Millennium Development goals: Sanitation in poor peri-urban and urban areas in ACP countries. The project was entitled "Solomon Islands Urban Sanitation and Hygiene Programme, improving sanitation and hygiene in un-served urban settlements". Whilst it was unsuccessful in securing funds, there remains real interest by donors and national partners alike to secure alternate sources of financing the concept.
- The Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance were developing a relationship with the Pacific Water and Wastes Association but am uncertain of what the status of this is

4. Indonesia

The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

COUNTRY PROFILE

Head of state	Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono
Head of government	Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono
Population	247,000,000 (WHO, 2009)
Life expectancy	68/71 (WHO, 2009)
Under-5 mortality	31 (WHO, 2009)
Adult literacy	90 (UNDP, 2005)
Ratifications	no specific ratification of international treaties regarding water and sanitation management, but a complete set of 296 records of ratified treaties made by Government of Indonesia is listed on web address below http://www.bphn.go.id/jdih/index.php?action=reg&cat=regKonvensi

BACKGROUND

In July 28th 2010, UN has officially endorsed resolution no. 64/292 which regards access of water and sanitation as part of Human Rights. The implementation of the rights doesn't necessarily mean that every person shall freely exploits water resources, hence it is limited by other person's right to gain access and harness its value. Therefore a community based water and sanitation management is a promising practice to be delivered. Another common practice is trusting the task to provide and managing water resources to official institution. The decision to pick between this two options should be made to ensure water and sanitation services may be benefited to most of the population. Other than that, institutionalized or community based practice should be competitively offers consistent services and a more sustainable way to provide water and sanitation.

On the other hand, advocacy to the rights of water and sanitation speaks highly on population's necessity as a consumer which demanding safe and good quality of water delivered to their houses on a daily basis. In this context of advocacy, the legislation implementation on rights of water and sanitation should govern basic and mandatory requirement to provide and manage public access of water and sanitation. It is never be an easy task, since the optimum benefit is arguably hard to be achieved, without public willingness to put their trust in specific parties who will be managing the water resources for them and keep their end of bargain by supporting the consequences of the redeployment of authority.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION

In Indonesia regulations on human rights regarding water and sanitation arranged in several levels, namely the Indonesia Act, Government Regulations, President Regulations, Ministry Regulation and also Local Government Regulation. The National Act consist of : Indonesia Act No. 7 year 2004 on

Water Resources. Indonesia Act No 32 year 2009 on the Protection and Management of the Environment, Indonesia Act Number 36 Year 2009 on Health, Indonesia Act No. 1 year 2011 on Housing and Settlement Region.

While for the Government Regulation consists of Government Regulation No. 22 Year 1982 on Water Regulation. Government Regulation Number 20 year 1990 on Water Pollution Control. Government Regulation Number 74 year 2001 on the Management of Hazardous and Toxic Waste. Government Regulation Number 16 year 2004 on the Development of Water Supply System.

NATIONAL PROGRAMMES TOWARDS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION

The water and sanitation programs are being implemented on a massive scale in Indonesia, consist of: Community Water Supply (PAMSIMAS), Community Sanitation (SANIMAS), Acceleration Settlement Sanitation Development (PPSP), Indonesia Urban Water and Sanitation Hygiene (IUWASH) funded by USAID, Indonesia Infrastructure Initiative (INDII) funded by AUSAID, Urban Sanitation Development Program (USDP) funded by World Bank, Water Sanitation and Hygiene in School Empowerment by Unicef, etc .

The scope of assistance is diverse among each program. But the common consensus between stakeholders brings the divisions of subsectors such as water supply management, domestic waste water management, solid waste management, settlement drainage management, and behavioural change campaign.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION

See: www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/Documentation.aspx - Documentation by country / Outcome of the Review / Report of the Working group

No specific recommendation related to human rights to water and sanitation. Other than that in article 77.7 we may find this recommendation regarding Capacity-building/cooperation/sharing of best practices which is quite relevant to water and sanitation issues:

(a) Indonesia is encouraged to consider engaging in further dialogue at the regional and international level, and share best practices, as requested by States during the interactive dialogue;

(b) Indonesia is encouraged to identify its capacity building needs related to the Universal Periodic Review follow-up and seek regional and international cooperation in this regard, including through integration of the Universal Periodic Review recommendations, as appropriate, into its national development strategy and into its dialogue with relevant stakeholders through existing mechanisms. Such capacity-building needs could pertain, inter alia, to issues such as harmonization of local laws with national and international standards or to strengthening national human rights institutions;

(c) It was recommended that additional capacity-building measures be taken in support of programmes and projects on women and children.

WHAT DOES UN-HABITAT DO TO PROMOTE THE RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION IN INDONESIA?

From 2008 to 2010 UN-Habitat promoted and improved sanitation in Aceh through Aceh Sanitation Assessment and Assistance Program (ASSAP) this project purpose are rehabilitated and improved sanitation system including community behavior changes. In 2010 to 2012 UN-Habitat did the Capacity building to Local Governance in promoted Integrated Sustainable Municipal Solid Waste Management through Project Training for Improved Municipal Solid Waste Management (TIM-SWM). In 2012 to 2013 UN-Habitat facilitating Kupang District and Belu District in conducting the study and the preparation of the medium-term program of sanitation, this program is an Indonesian government program known as Accelerated Development of sanitation settlements (PPSP) which includes: management of domestic waste water, solid waste management, settlement drainage and water supply for sanitation supplies.

5. Sri Lanka

The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

COUNTRY PROFILE: SRI LANKA

Head of state His Excellency Mahinda Rajapakse

Head of government His Excellency Mahinda Rajapakse

Population 21 million

Life expectancy 74 yrs

Under-5 mortality 12.20

Adult literacy 91

Ratifications

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- International Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- Convention Against All Forms of Torture and other Cruel Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- International Convention on Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

BACKGROUND

Sri Lanka is a Lower Middle Income country recovering from the impacts of nearly 30 years of conflict in the Northern and Eastern provinces. Despite the conflict Sri Lanka has maintained a high human development index score and achieved MDGs related to water and sanitation. Sri Lanka has been able to meet its 2015 MDG target of 85% coverage for water and sanitation, as 98.3% of the total population has access to sanitation while 91% have access to drinking water. However only 86.4% of the total households have access to a toilet not shared by other households, while only 30.5% has pipe borne water supply facilities. Sri Lanka plans to achieve 100% coverage for water and sanitation by 2020, while improving access to pipe borne water to rural communities. The National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB) is the key authority in charge of water supply in Sri Lanka under the focal Ministry of Water Supply and Drainage.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION

- The Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Policy, 2001
- The National Policy on Drinking Water, 2007
- The National Policy on Sanitation, 2007
- The National Rainwater Policy and Strategies, 2005
-

NATIONAL PROGRAMMES TOWARDS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION

- Large scale water supply projects in urban areas with large foreign finance component (35 projects)
- Small and medium scale projects with government funding (47 projects)
- Water supply projects for emerging small townships
- Piped sewerage for municipality areas
- Rainwater harvesting programme
- Lunawa Environment and Community Development Project
- Community water supply and sanitation project

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION

See: www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/Documentation.aspx

- Documentation by country / Outcome of the Review / Report of the Working group

WHAT DOES UN-HABITAT DO TO PROMOTE THE RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION IN FROM 2011 TO 2015?

Improve access to sanitation for 30,000 (120,000 persons)households in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka, through the construction of 30,000 toilets
Improve access to water for 90,000 persons though the construction of common wells and Rain Water Harvesting Tanks in the Northern and Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka.

6. Afghanistan

The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

COUNTRY PROFILE

Head of state President Hamid Karzai
Head of government President Hamid Karzai
Population 30,419,928 accurate as of Feb 2013
Life expectancy 49 years old (at birth) adopted from UNDP website
Under-5 mortality Male (per 1000 lives birth) is 101.10 as of 2011 for female it is (per 1000 lives birth) 98.7 as of 2011
Adult literacy Adult literacy rate (15 and above-age group) is 34% with 18% for women and 50% for men Ref: UNESCO-2012
Ratifications

Afghanistan is a party to the following principle international Human Rights Treaties

- 1- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR) was ratified on 24th April 1983.
- 2- The International covenant on Economics, social and cultural Rights (CESCR) was ratified on 24th April 1983.
- 3- The International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) was ratified on 5th August 1983.
- 4- The convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) was ratified on 5th March 2003.
- 5- The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) was ratified on 26th June 1987.
- 6- The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was ratified on 27th April 1994.
- 7- The Optional Protocol of the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC-OP-SC) on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography was ratified on 19th October 2002.
- 8- The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC-OP-AC) on the involvement of children in armed conflict was ratified on 24th Sept. 2003.

Adopted from: Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) website

In order to get further information about treaties/conventions that Afghanistan is formally party of it, please refer to the below website:

http://www.geneva-academy.ch/RULAC/state.php?id_state=1

BACKGROUND

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NATIONAL LEGISLATION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION

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NATIONAL PROGRAMMES TOWARDS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION

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RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION

See: www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/Documentation.aspx - Documentation by country / Outcome of the Review / Report of the Working group

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WHAT DOES UN-HABITAT DO TO PROMOTE THE RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION IN AFGHANISTAN?

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7. Mongolia

The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

COUNTRY PROFILE

Head of state	President
Head of government	Prime Minister
Population	2,9 Million
Life expectancy	68.7
Under-5 mortality	18.9
Adult literacy	98.3
Ratifications	Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1980) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2008) International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR))

BACKGROUND

The lack of adequate water supply and sanitation services is a major issue related to sustainable development in many parts of the developing world. This is also reflected in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), an integrated set of time-bound targets set at the United Nations Summit in September 2000 with the aim of ending extreme poverty worldwide by 2015. Mongolia is one of the countries committed to reaching this target. However, current data suggest that the MDGs for both water supply and sanitation may not be met, particularly in peri-urban and rural areas (UNICEF & UNDP 2008).

Peri-urban areas in Mongolia normally are referred to as “ger areas”. Here, people live in gers – the traditional Mongolian portable felt tent, also known as the yurt – and/or in simple, detached houses. Basic infrastructure services such as piped water, sanitation, proper roads, public transportation, etc. are poor or non-existent. The unplanned growth of ger areas along with the unprecedented pace of urbanisation brings with it many challenges, such as unemployment, traffic congestion, air pollution and adverse environmental impacts (World Bank 2010). In Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia, today, more than 60 percent of the population lives in peri-urban ger areas. However, the percentage of ger residents is also very high (about 50%) in secondary cities such as Darkhan, Erdenet and Khovd.

In 2000, the Mongolian government committed itself to achieving the MDGs. Mongolia adopted the MDGs as the government’s mid-term strategic goal of increasing the coverage of improved drinking water source to 80%, and improved sanitation facility to 70% by 2015, measured against the 1990 baseline average.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION

In the *Law of Mongolia on Water* (Parliament of Mongolia 2004: article 2.1) it is stated that “the legislation on water shall consist of the Constitution of Mongolia, the Law on Environmental Protection, the Law on water supply of cities and urban settlements and utilization of sterilization facility, this law and other legislative acts issued in conformity with them”. In addition there are many laws being relevant for the water supply and sanitation sector. A selection of key water related

Law	Year adopted
Law On Water*	1995, 2004
Law On Sanitation*	1998
Law On Environmental Protection*	1995
Law On Fees for the Use of Water and Mineral Water*	1995
Law On Subsoil*	1988
Law on Water Supply and Sewage in Cities and Settlements/Law on Urban and Settlement Areas’ Water Supply and Sanitation/Law on Water Supply of Cities and Urban Settlement and Utilization of Sterilization Facility	?
Law on wastewater discharge and its fee	?

laws of Mongolia is compiled in below table.

NATIONAL PROGRAMMES TOWARDS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION

In Mongolia, there are several approved policies and programmes related to improved water and sanitation provision (UNDP 2010: 34). In 2008, a comprehensive *National Development Strategy* based on the *Millennium Development Goals* (MDGs) was adopted by the Government of Mongolia. The subsequent *Mongolian Action Programme for the 21st Century* of the Government of Mongolia (2008-2012) reflects and concretises Mongolia’s National Development Strategy. Also the *National Water Programme* (2010-2021) has been developed in close connection with the National Development Strategy.⁶

The following table gives an overview of programmes being relevant for the water supply and sanitation sector.

Name	Year enacted
Millennium Development Goals*	2000
Mongolian Action Programme for the 21 st Century (MAP-21) (2008-2012)*	2008
National Water Programme*	1999, 2010
Programme for supplying the population with water which meets hygienic and sanitary requirements	2008
Programme for reducing wastes	1999
Programme on Sanitation (2006-2015)	2005
Programme on Urban Development and Public Utilities	?
Programme on provision of safe drinking water to population of Mongolia (2008-2015)	?

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION

United Nations Country Team in Mongolia Universal Periodic Review – 19 April 2010

- Develop safe, appropriate and affordable systems for water and sanitation and safe disposal of household waste, as well as an infrastructure for recycling municipal waste and the recovery and disposal of hazardous waste.
- Promote knowledge of environment and proper behaviour and awareness of the impact of pollution.

WHAT DOES UN-HABITAT DO TO PROMOTE THE RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION IN MONGOLIA?

There is no any activity has been done by UN-Habitat so far on WatSan in Mongolia.

8. Nepal

The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

COUNTRY PROFILE

Head of state	Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, President
Head of government	Khim Raj Regmi, Chairman, Council of Ministers
Population	26.66 million (2011)
Life expectancy	69 years
Under-5 mortality	54/1000
Adult literacy	65.9%
Ratifications	List of ratified international treaties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convention on the Rights of the Child, • Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, • Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, • International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) • International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights • Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights • Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty • International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination • Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour • Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention • Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour • Equal Remuneration Convention • Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention

- Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field
- Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea
- Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War
- Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War
- International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism

BACKGROUND

Nepal is located in South Asia between India and China, with the magnificent Himalayan range to the north and the flat Gangetic plains to the south. Although it is a relatively small country with an area of 147,181 square kilometers, the country has diverse topography and landscape as the elevation rises from 64 m to 8448 meters above mean sea level, with a short distance of about 200 km. Because of this topography, the country is rich in cultural and biological diversity. The country is going through a phase of political transition as it has recently emerged from a decade long armed conflict, but it is making steady progress in the areas of water and sanitation. The country has met its Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target on water supply and is making rapid progress on sanitation to meet the MDG target and the national target of 100% water and sanitation coverage by 2017.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION

Nepal's Interim Constitution, 2007 has mentioned water and sanitation as basic rights of the population. Article 16 of Nepal's Interim Constitution, 2007 establishes every person's right to live in a clean environment as a fundamental right. It also states every citizen's right to basic health services. The Interim Constitution also provides that ratification of, accession to, acceptance of or approval of treaties or agreements on subject of natural resources, and the distribution of their uses be done by a majority of two-thirds of the members present at a joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament. Provided that out of the treaties and agreements as referred, if any treaty or agreement is of an ordinary nature, which does not affect the nation extensively, seriously or in the long term, the ratification of, accession to, acceptance of or approval of such treaty or agreement may be done at a meeting of the House of Representatives by a simple majority of the members present.

The Water Resources Act, 2049 (1992) states that all water resources of the country are owned by the State and the Act allows their uses under two conditions: one, by the license issued by the prescribed authority, and the second, without license, for individual use such as for drinking, household purposes, running household water mill and boating. The Act also prescribes a hierarchy of uses of water in which drinking and household use is given first priority.

The Local Self-Governance Act, 2055 (1999) aims to institutionalize the decentralization process by promoting the participation of socially and economically backward classes including all local people in the process of bringing balance and equal distribution of the mobilization of resources and fruits of

development. This Act has intended to grant the power of formulation necessary plans and execution that of in the local level. Having such broad objectives local governments have been granted enough power in controlling and managing water resources of the local area and the Act has also made the local bodies responsible for providing water and sanitation services to the people.

NATIONAL PROGRAMMES TOWARDS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION

Government of Nepal (GoN) formulated the Nepal National Sanitation Policy and Guidelines for Planning and Implementation of the Sanitation Programme in 1994. The policy envisages the holistic attributes of sanitation and states that sanitation should not be understood just as latrine construction alone, but as a package of activities and services related to personal, households and environmental hygiene. The National Solid Waste Management Policy 1996 aims to make the local bodies competent in the field of management of solid wastes to provide more skilled and effective sanitation services. The National Water Supply Sector Policy (Policies and Strategies) 1998 has highlighted that hygiene and sanitation are integral parts of water supply programmes. Formulated in 2004, the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation National Policy and Strategy and Action Plan have made the provision to allocate 20 percent of the Hygiene Improvement Framework budget to health promotion, hygiene behavior change and safe excreta disposal. These policies, strategies and action plan have recognized the roles of the users' committee, schools and local bodies.

The GoN formulated the Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan in 2011 to maintain uniformity and standards in program approaches. The Master Plan aims to unifying stakeholders' through formation and mobilization of WASH Coordination Committees in the Central, Regional, District, Municipality and VDC levels, fulfill resource gaps in the sector through cost sharing, resource pulling/pooling arrangements and co-funding arrangements at local levels and ultimately achieve universal coverage by 2017.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION

See: www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/Documentation.aspx - Documentation by country / Outcome of the Review / Report of the Working group

Although there were no specific recommendations by the UPR on human rights to water and sanitation, the following recommendations are related to water and sanitation:

- 106.41 Intensify efforts in providing basic services to vulnerable or marginalized groups or communities particularly providing quality health and education services and creating more employment opportunities
- 106.43 Reinforce its efforts in the area of the fight against poverty with a view to attaining the Millennium Development Goals and to request the necessary financial and technical assistance in this regard

In addition, the Compilation prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as part of the UPR includes the following points which are related to right to water and sanitation:

- UNCT and the High Commissioner stated that the effective enjoyment of the right to food remained a serious problem throughout the country.106 WFP noted that three and a half million people were facing food insecurity. Basic services and markets were beyond the reach of many people in some regions.107 UNCT indicated that, although food insecurity persisted throughout the country, groups such as Dalits, indigenous peoples, former bonded labourers, persons with disabilities and people living with HIV/AIDS were particularly affected. CESCR was also concerned at information that persons belonging to the lower castes were denied access to public wells.
- UNCT noted that an outbreak of diarrhoea in the western regions in 2009 had reportedly claimed 367 lives, with Dalits constituting nearly 40 per cent of the deceased.

WHAT DOES UN-HABITAT DO TO PROMOTE THE RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION IN NEPAL?

UN-Habitat has been implementing the Water for Asian Cities Programme in Nepal since 2005 with a focus on capacity building, environmental sanitation and water supply related activities in support of ADB assisted projects including Kathmandu Valley Water Services Sector Development Programme, Urban and Environment Improvement Project, Small Towns Water Supply and Sanitation and Integrated Urban Development Programme. The programme has implemented 55 project in 35 municipalities, 18 small towns and 8 peri-urban areas. These projects are designed to help local people improve their access to water supply and sanitation.

UN-Habitat is also the executing the Global Sanitation Programme in Nepal which is promoting sanitation in six districts and six municipalities and is in the process of expanding the programme to nine additional districts. The programme, which is supported by the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC), is helping the Government of Nepal in meeting its target of providing access to improved sanitation facilities to all by 2017.