

Statement

Monitoring of Water and Sanitation in Cities and Slums

UN-HABITAT

CSD 13, 13 April 2005

It is widely accepted within the Inter Agency and Expert Group on monitoring the MDGs, that monitoring of water and sanitation coverage, within the framework of Target 10 is closely linked to monitoring of slums, under Target 11.

The interface of the two targets is rooted in the operational definition of slums. The Expert Group on monitoring Target 11, coordinated by UN-HABITAT, in its first meeting in 2002, concluded that slum households suffer from one or multitude of the following conditions:

- Low or no improved drinking water
- Low or no improved latrine
- Overcrowding
- Makeshift/temporary housing
- Insecure housing tenure

In the aftermath of the consensus reached on the operational definition of slums, UN-HABITAT, together with the African Population and Health Research Center, estimated the proportion of slums among the urban population, based on the existing data base of close to 300 household surveys of the Demographic and Health Surveys and the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys of UNICEF, for the reference years of 1990 and 2000. Similar activities will continue when the new generation household surveys are implemented.

Water and sanitation coverage also falls within the remit of the Urban Inequities Surveys (UIS), initiated by UN-HABITAT, embracing a multitude of MDG-related indicators, as well as aspects related to the Habitat Agenda goals, mainly, governance, transportation, energy, income and security of tenure of housing. While the first UIS was completed in 2004 in Addis Ababa, and the second one is ongoing in Lagos.

UN-HABITAT, already a member of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP), adhered to the definitions and methods accepted therein, while, exercising a margin of interpretation, to suit the urban slum context.

Since January 2005, JMP and UN-HABITAT initiated the process of harmonizing definitions and methods on the monitoring of the water and sanitation coverage, in view of the need to disaggregate cities further, as urban and slum neighborhoods. It was agreed that:

- the JMP- TAG would create a Task Force on Urban Slums aimed to focus on methodological issues related to estimating water and sanitation indicators in urban slums.
- A joint study on urban sanitation and its implications on the definition

- Taking the human settlements dimension and the unique situation of slums into consideration, the future household surveys of the DHS and MICS would adopt more detailed response categories for sanitation facilities which will allow a more elaborate assessment of coverage and the possibility of developing adjustment factors

The harmonization efforts already yielded results, as the chapter on Target 10 draws attention to the slums, in the upcoming MDG publication produced by the Interagency and Expert Group on Monitoring the MDGs.

UN-HABITAT also belongs to the UN Water, the United Nations Inter Agency Coordination body, and plays an active role in the Water The UN World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP).

Work is also in progress on collaborating more effectively on the production of flagship reports including the World Water Report, Water and Sanitation in the World Cities Report, and the State of the World Cities Report. In the second edition of the World Water Development Report (WWDR) to be published in 2006, UN-HABITAT is the coordinating agency for the Water and Human Settlements Chapter (in the first volume published in 2003, UNHABITAT was responsible for Chapter 6 on Water and Cities). This Chapter is included in the first section of WWDR II on "Setting the Scene". The focus of this chapter is on Water provision in human settlements ranging from rural villages to megacities arguing that the application of good water governance differs amongst the varying sizes of settlements. A particular attention is placed on slums and the role of slum upgrading as a means for improving water and sanitation provision. A draft of the report is attached herein and the final version will be submitted on 1st May as requested by the WWAPP Secretariat. The Second WWDR report will be launched in 2006.

UN-HABITAT has participated, since 2003 throughout the entire draft process of the second report, attending all the meetings organised by the Secretariat in Geneva and Paris. UN-HABITAT is also developing indicator profiles for the Water and Human Settlements Chapter on i) Water and Slum, ii) Pro-poor Urban Water Governance and iii) monitoring of water consumption and provision within cities. These profiles will be available on the WWDR website.

In view of the harmonizing activities as depicted above, and the strong link between human settlements and the access to improved water and sanitation, we request the CSD 13 to recommend that UN-HABITAT should be considered as an effective partner in matters related to monitoring water and sanitation. Taking note of the reference made to the Inter Agency Group on Monitoring the MDGs, we request the CSD 13 to recommend that the Joint Monitoring Programme embraces a wider set of partners, including UN-HABITAT.