



### POLITICAL DIALOGUE ON POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

The EU Water Initiative (EUWI) sets the framework for activities in the water and sanitation sector in developing countries. Working in four regions – Africa, Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, Mediterranean and Latin America – EUWI is focused on achieving the water-related Millennium Development Goals. EUWI capitalises on the combined strength and voice of EU Member States and the Commission to broaden the participation of other donors, including partner country governments, civil society groups, local governments and water operators. The objectives are to:

- Raise public and political awareness.
- Promote the development of national water and sanitation sector policies and strategies.
- Attract new funds for water and sanitation.

**In Ethiopia, EUWI is bringing together government officials, civil society groups, private entrepreneurs and donors to develop water and sanitation strategies, including financing, in an open and transparent national process. The initiative is supporting the government's Universal Access Program, which aims to provide universal access to water and sanitation by 2012.**



### FINANCING FACILITIES TO CATALYSE ACTION

Following on the EU Water Initiative, a €500 million Water Facility was created to promote investment in water and sanitation services in sub-Saharan Africa as well as the Caribbean and Pacific Regions. Between 2004 and 2007, 177 projects were supported. By 2010 they are expected to deliver better access to water to 20 million people and better access to sanitation to 9 million, and provide health and hygiene education to 7 million. An investment facility has also been established to finance water and sanitation projects in the EU neighbourhood countries.

**In Tanzania, civil society is working in 12 communities with local governments and other partners to provide wells and pumps to 34,000 people. The €3 million project is delivering better sanitation by providing 2,000 private and 320 public latrines to 9,000. Health and hygiene education is being delivered to 14,000.**

### POLITICAL DIALOGUE AND FINANCING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

The EU-Africa Partnership in Infrastructure provides a framework for political dialogue on the development and financing of hydraulic infrastructure and water institutions responsible for transboundary water management. The Partnership focuses on transboundary basin management, flood preparedness programmes, knowledge and monitoring of water resources for better water management, as well as sustainable regional water infrastructure.

An infrastructure Trust Fund is leveraging additional finance for infrastructure development by complementing EU grants with loans from the European Investment Bank together with other European and Africa development financing institutions.

# WATER FOR ALL

Meeting the Millennium Development Goals

The European Union's development cooperation

in the water and sanitation sector

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# FACING

## the global water crisis

The world is facing a water crisis. The lack of water and adequate sanitation is a major cause of poverty, malnutrition and death. Water shortages also threaten to exacerbate tensions and conflicts between users and riparian states.

About 1.1 billion people – nearly one-fifth of the world's population – do not have access to safe drinking water. They are forced to use water from dirty ponds or polluted rivers and spend up to six hours daily carrying water instead of going to work or to school. Dirty water also causes diseases such as diarrhoea, tuberculosis and cholera.

### A GREAT HUMAN TRAGEDY

Equally important is access to basic sanitation, yet 2.6 billion people – nearly half the world's population – do not have decent toilets. As a result, more than 4,500 children under the age of five die each day from preventable diseases. Water shortages parch irrigated crops and fields, kill cattle and livestock, paralyse small- and medium-sized businesses by power cuts caused by lack of hydropower, and destroy fragile aquatic ecosystems.

### OUR DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

There can be no development without water. Solving this crisis is one of the greatest human development challenges of our century. Climate change is aggravating the crisis. Many developing countries already suffering from scarce water resources are facing more frequent floods, drought and water shortages. Population growth, rapid urbanisation and economic development are increasing demand for limited water resources.

**The European Union is committed to supporting developing countries to invest in the sustainable management and integrated development of increasingly scarce water resources.**



# ACHIEVING

## the Millennium Development Goals

Poverty, disease and death are linked to the supply of clean water, which poses a huge human development challenge. In 2000, heads of state and government from 189 countries agreed on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to reduce poverty in the developing world. There are two targets for water and sanitation – to reduce by half the number of people with no access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015. None of the MDGs can be achieved without improving access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

### EUROPE CARES ABOUT WATER AND SANITATION

The EU – 27 Member States and the European Commission – is the biggest provider of development aid for water and sanitation programmes, providing almost €1.5 billion annually. The EU's development policy is based on three priorities:

- Provide access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation to all people to reduce poverty, improve public health and increase livelihood opportunities.
- Establish and strengthen organisations and infrastructure for the sustainable and equitable management of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwater.
- Coordinate the equitable, sustainable and appropriate distribution of water between various users.

# WATER

## for all

The European Commission is committed to help developing countries achieve the water and sanitation targets of the MDGs.

### Goal 1 ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

The absence of clean water and adequate sanitation is a major cause of poverty and malnutrition. Improved management of water resources and access to water supply and sanitation boosts countries' economic growth and contributes to poverty reduction.

### Goal 2 ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

Some 113 million children of school age – 60% girls – do not attend school. Many children, especially girls in rural areas, must help collecting and carrying water for their families instead of going to school.

### Goal 3 PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

An absence of clean water, poor hygiene and a lack of sanitation affects women and girls who bear the burden of collecting water and of caring for family members suffering from diseases caused by dirty water

### Goal 4 REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

Each year, some 10.1 million children die before their fifth birthday, mainly from preventable diseases. Dirty water, poor hygiene and a lack of sanitation account for the most child deaths – about 4,900 each day.

### Goal 5 IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

In developing countries, there is one chance in 48 for mothers to die during childbirth. Dirty water and low hygiene standards cause major risks during and following delivery.

### Goal 6 COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

Clean drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene are central to prevent the spreading of or cure of diseases.

### Goal 7 ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

This goal directly addresses the need for sustainable water resources management, the provision of clean water and adequate sanitation and the reduction of the number of slum dwellers.

### Goal 8 DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

A global partnership provides opportunities for stakeholders to work together to achieve the MDGs. The EU has agreed a timetable for Member States' development assistance to reach the UN target of 0.7% of GNI by 2015. At least half this increase will be allocated to Africa.



# EUROPE

## responds with an integrated framework

The European Commission uses a combination of political processes and financial instruments to strengthen the capacity of developing countries to meet the global water and sanitation crisis. Within an integrated framework for action, the European Commission and EU Member States are working together to increase the effectiveness of their development aid and are cooperating with other donors and stakeholders, ensuring complementarity between the different instruments.

### NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES

The European Commission supports governments of developing countries to tackle their water and sanitation needs in most regions of the world, including Asia and Latin America, Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. It also supports projects in countries around the Mediterranean and along Europe's eastern border.

The European Commission provides support to regional water resource management and development programmes in transboundary river basins in Africa.

**Along the Nile the allocation and use of water have long been a source of political tension and conflict. Together with other donors, the European Commission supports the 10 riparian states in the Nile basin to manage the shared water resources equally, peacefully and sustainably through the Shared Vision Programme.**