

UN-Water Annual Report 2008

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2008 at a glance

FLAGSHIP REPORTS

Global Annual Assessment on Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS)

The GLAAS pilot report was launched in September 2008 at the High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in New York. GLAAS, a UN-Water pilot initiative led by the World Health Organization (WHO), constitutes a new approach to reporting on progress in the sanitation and drinking-water sectors. It aims to strengthen evidence-based policy-making towards and beyond the MDGs.

WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) reports

JMP reports are the official mechanism of the UN System to monitor global progress towards MDG drinking-water and sanitation targets. As 2008 was the International Year of Sanitation (IYS), the JMP made sanitation a major focus of its 2008 update report, entitled 'Progress in Drinking-water and Sanitation: special focus on sanitation'. The 2008 Report introduced a new way of assessing global, regional and country progress using the 'ladder' concept for both sanitation and drinking-water. New data are also presented on household water treatment, the time needed to collect drinking water and who fetches water.

Third World Water Development Report (WWDR-3)

Co-ordinated by the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), the development of the triennial WWDR is a joint effort of the 26 UN agencies and entities that make up UN-Water. The WWDR is the UN System's flagship report on water resource issues. The preparation process for WWDR-3 neared completion during 2008. For WWDR-3, WWAP adopted a new approach that takes a broader view on policy options, includes new side publications and solicits input from a wider range of stakeholders. The final text was submitted to UN agencies for clearance in October. WWDR-3 is on schedule to be launched at the Fifth World Water Forum in March 2009.

PROGRAMMES

World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP)

During 2008, WWAP, which is hosted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), continued the process to prepare WWDR-3. The Programme has been strengthened through additional support from Italy and has moved to new premises in Perugia, Italy.

The WWAP Secretariat established a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), composed of eleven members from academia, research institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and private sector organizations. WWAP also established seven expert groups bringing together external specialists, practitioners and stakeholders whose collective wisdom and expertise on a range of issues has been incorporated into WWAP reports.

WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP)

JMP is the only drinking-water and sanitation monitoring mechanism providing information on service coverage that allows comparison between countries and over time. This joint WHO/UNICEF programme, established in 1990, continues earlier monitoring activities that WHO has been carrying out since the 1960s. Its objectives are to provide regular global reports on water and sanitation coverage to facilitate sector planning and management, support countries in their efforts to improve their monitoring systems and provide information for advocacy. As indicated above, its 2008 report placed the emphasis on sanitation and adopted an innovative 'ladder' approach for assessing progress toward reaching drinking-water and sanitation targets.

UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Building (UNW-DPC)

One of UNW-DPC's key activities in 2008 was the development of a single entry point for accessing information on water-related capacity development activities worldwide. UNW-DPC also worked with a wide variety of UN-Water members and partners to organize international workshops on capacity building. In 2008, the focus has been on water supply, sanitation and transboundary water management. The Programme also concentrated on the use of e-learning

to extend outreach and the development of train-the-trainer workshops to create a multiplier effect in the dissemination of knowledge.

UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC)

Launched in 2007, UNW-DPAC mobilizes information and inputs generated by various UN-Water members and partners to develop advocacy campaigns for accelerating the implementation of effective water resources policies. The Programme also promotes the visibility of the UN-Water work programme and strengthens implementation partnerships both within and outside the UN System. In 2008, much of its activities focused on organizing the UN-Water pavilion and related activities at the 3-month-long Expo Saragossa.

TASK FORCES

The Task Force on Sanitation played a key role in the implementation of IYS. Many of the activities of the Task force on Gender and Water also focused on sanitation.

The Task Force on Transboundary Waters released a policy brief and presented the UN-Water seminar at the World Water Week in Stockholm. The Task Force has since focused its activities on preparations for World Water Day 2009, which has for its theme 'Shared Waters Shared Opportunities'.

The Task Force on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) launched a report on the status of implementation of National IWRM Plans at the 16th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in May. As this completed the work outlined in its terms of reference, the Task Force on IWRM was combined with the Task Force on Monitoring to establish the Task Force on Indicators, Monitoring and Reporting. This task force will address these issues in a more comprehensive manner. The total number of UN-Water task forces rose to six in 2008, with UN-Water's newly established task forces on water and climate change and task force on country-level coordination finalizing their terms of reference and work plans.

MAJOR EVENTS

The International Year of Sanitation (IYS)

The IYS received substantial support throughout the year from the UN-Water Task Forces on Sanitation and Gender and Water. UN-Water in cooperation with UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation

(UNSGAB) organized the launching of the IYS in New York on 21 November 2007. Through its global advocacy and capacity building efforts, the Task Force leveraged increased resources and investments in sanitation, improved political and institutional support and increased capacity and knowledge in the sector.

A highlight of IYS was a series of high-profile and well-attended regional meetings (AfricaSan, CARIBSAN, EASAN, LATINOSAN and SACOSAN) that focused specifically on sanitation and hygiene. These meetings created a platform for political commitments to further raise the profile of sanitation. They also provided a forum for exchanging technical knowledge for the development of large-scale, sustainable sanitation and hygiene programmes.

The 16th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-16) (5-16 May 2008)

CSD-16, held in May 2008, reviewed progress on water and sanitation and focused on agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa. It was considered to be a particularly strategic meeting for UN-Water as the next expected follow-up by the CSD on water and sanitation is not scheduled until CSD-20 in 2012. The CSD invited the Chair of UN-Water to make a presentation at the opening session of the water segment. UN-Water also organized two major side events at the CSD: 'Advancing IWRM at national level' and 'The MDG water and sanitation target: refining the monitoring tools'. UN-Water's work and the need to further strengthen UN-Water were recognized in the final document.

Expo Saragossa (14 June – 14 September)

Of the five and half million visitors who attended Expo Saragossa in the summer of 2008. More than 450 thousand visited the UN-Water Pavilion, including UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The United Nations Office to Support the International Decade for Action "Water for Life" 2005-2015 (UNO-IDfA) was responsible for the executive management of the UN-Water pavilion.

World Water Week in Stockholm (17 – 23 August)

At the 18th World Water Week in Stockholm in August, about 2,500 participants from more than 100 countries attended close to 100 plenary sessions, workshops, seminars and side events. For the third year in a row, UN-Water organized a seminar during World Water Week. The 2008 UN-Water seminar addressed the issue of transboundary waters and served to call attention to the theme chosen for the 2009 World Water Day. During the week, UN-Water was also the co-convenor of other seminars and a side event and hosted an exhibition.

The United Nations General Assembly High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals (25 September)

The September High-level Event, an initiative of the UN Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly, brought together representatives of governments, foundations, civil society and the private sector to review progress, identify gaps and motivate commitment to bridge the gaps in achieving the MDGs.

Preceding the High-level Event, UN-Water contributed to a high-level side event entitled "Water and Sanitation for All". The side event was organized by the governments of the Netherlands, Japan, Tajikistan and Germany, and political statements were made by the Heads and high representatives of State and Government of the four co-organizers, the President of the African Ministers' Council on Water and the UN Secretary-General. UN-Water was invited to present its current reports and assessments on water supply and sanitation: the JMP report and the new GLAAS pilot report. The presentation was made jointly by WHO and UNICEF and the Director-General of UNESCO provided an opening statement of behalf of UN-Water.

Ministerial Conference on 'Water for Agriculture and Energy in Africa: The Challenges of the Climate Change' (15-17 December)

FAO, in its capacity as the Chair of UN-Water, with the full support of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the African Union, the African Development Bank and the Economic Commission for Africa and other development partners, organized a Ministerial Conference on 'Water for Agriculture and Energy in Africa: The Challenges of the Climate Change'. The Conference, held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, developed a detailed portfolio of about 1000 projects and programmes of investment in water control for agriculture and energy in the 53 African countries, with a total budget of 65 billion US dollars spread over twenty years.

NEW DONORS

Two new donors entered into agreement with UN-Water in 2008. They are providing additional financial support to the Multi-donor Trust Fund (MDTF). Sweden will contribute 9 million Swedish Kronor during the 2008-2010 biennium. Norway will contribute 4.4 million Norwegian Kronor over 2008-2009. The United Kingdom has provided financial support to UN-Water since 2007 and other countries are providing direct support to UN-Water Programmes.

MAKING PROGRESS – IDENTIFYING CHALLENGES

UN-Water has been operational five years and has benefited from financial resources available through the MDTF since March 2007. During this time, a number of lessons have been learnt that can contribute to the further development of UN-Water in particular and UN System coherence and collaboration in general.

Internal and external resources

It is clear that the provision of direct human and financial resources from members within the UN System is essential for interagency mechanisms such as UN-Water to function and develop. These commitments have also helped to attract additional external resources and establish a sense of ownership among members. The establishment of a MDTF and a growing number of donors testify to the increased interest in UN-Water and similar mechanisms. Donor support has boosted interest in UN-Water, both among members and external stakeholders, and has provided an incentive for increased participation in UN-Water activities.

Increased funding has also allowed UN-Water to bring on board a number of full-time staff. This has ensured efficient follow-up of activities and communication within UN-Water and with partners and other external stakeholders (including donors). It also permits the Chair and Secretary to focus more on strategic issues and less on administration. Similarly, financial support to task forces ensures the availability of human resources for carrying out collective actions.

Coherency, coordination and context

UN-Water is mandated to promote coherence in, and coordination of, UN System actions related to freshwater resources and their management. In its first five years of operation, much of the focus has been on improving the coordination at the global level. This is a necessary first step to improved coordination at other levels. UN-Water currently has some presence through a regional initiative in Africa. The establishment of the Task Force on Country-level Coordination marks a further step toward strengthening coordination and collaboration at the national level.

As its terms of reference make clear, UN-Water was created to "identify strategic issues and priorities for system-wide action". Therefore, it is essential that UN-Water focus not only on the benefits for members of improved coordination and collaboration. To effectively fulfill its role within the UN System, UN-Water must also promote and improve overall sector co-ordination. Working on emerging issues

that can unite the strengths of the UN System and contributing to ongoing debates on current issues are examples of the proactive role UN-Water can play. In addition, UN-Water has an important role in identifying the gaps in current activities, proposing collaborative initiatives to address them and helping UN-Water members work more effectively together in areas where the potential for overlap exists. In this way UN-Water can clearly add value to its member's initiatives. Long-term internal and external support is required to meet the closely linked challenges of improving coordination within the UN System and actively engaging with external stakeholders and processes that constitute the context in which UN-Water members operate.

Communication and results-based management

Efficient internal and external communication is critical to success and needs to be integrated in all activities. A task-oriented work programme and relevant information

materials are important tools for fostering consensus and creating the basis for long-term planning and operations. These products clarify how UN-Water intends to deliver on its priorities and achieve results. Investments in communication help to strengthen the collective vision of what the interagency mechanism should be and build a platform to operate in a truly holistic manner. This is crucial for a cross-cutting issue such as water.

UN-Water needs to move towards a results-based management system and to improve the integration of long-term strategic issues and short-term operations. This involves aligning resource needs and work processes and closely monitoring outputs in order to improve decision-making, transparency, and accountability. The focus of activities needs to be more clearly on achieving specific outcomes, learning from experience and reporting more clearly on performance. While moving in this direction, the underlying consideration and benchmark needs to be the added value in the collective action of UN-Water vis-à-vis its individual members.

UN-Water activities in 2008

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION

Communication is becoming increasingly important for UN-Water. In 2008, a major activity was the redesign and restructuring of UN-Water's web site. The new site was launched in December. Considerable time was also invested to prepare the 2009 World Water Day web site, which went on line in December.

In addition, an increasing number of UN-Water documents, reports and fact sheets were prepared either directly by UN-Water or through task forces. A consultant was hired to provide additional professional support, essential in order to ensure that UN-Water communication activities were carried out in a timely manner.

The UN-Water web site

As mentioned above, the UN-Water web site was completely redesigned and restructured. New pages were added describing UN-Water programmes and task forces. These pages include contact details and links to programmes and task force coordinating organizations. The new site provides members and partners with easy access to UN-Water documents. The site's event page lists major events organized by UN-Water, UN-Water's Programmes or Task Forces, or collaboratively by several UN-Water members and partners and includes major UN events that have a significant bearing on water and water management issues. UN-Water members and partners can use the site to promote their own collaborative initiatives and publications.

The web structure and the materials posted were selected to meet the needs of different types of users, principally UN-Water members and partners, policy makers and other water resources managers and anyone interested in concise information on water in a variety of electronic media. The navigability of the site was also improved with all internal pages cross-linked. Information is contextualized, with each page providing links to external sites and documents relevant to the subject.

The UN-Water web master has combed member and partners sites for the most recent and most relevant documents from a wide range of issues. These documents have been categorized and posted on the web site and can be easily retrieved by UN-Water members and partners and the public. To allow users to carry out a thorough search

of water-related documents, a customized Google search offers a quick scan of the UN-Water web site and the web sites of all UN-Water's member and partners.

The results have been very positive. Since the new web site was launched, the traffic has more or less doubled.

UN-Water at major international conferences

UN-Water, either directly or through its task forces and programmes, has been involved in the organization of a number of seminars and workshops in 2008. The major events in 2008 were CSD-16, organized at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in April and World Water Week in Stockholm.

The 16th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-16)

The CSD-16 (New York, May 5-16, 2008) reviewed progress on agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa. CSD-16 also included a specific two-day segment focusing on water and sanitation.

UN-Water was very active at CSD-16 as the next expected follow-up by the CSD on water and sanitation is not scheduled until CSD-20 in 2012. The CSD invited the Chair of UN-Water to make a presentation at the opening session of the water segment. Besides the presentation of reports by the Secretary-General and the Under-Secretary-General of UNDESA, this was the only UN intervention at the opening. This provided UN-Water an opportunity to report on its key activities and the recent progress that has been made. The report highlighted activities of specific interest to the CSD, including UN-Water's monitoring and reporting activities and some task force activities.

The CSD chairman's summary noted the successful efforts of UN-Water but also called for an increased role for UN-Water in monitoring the progress of water, sanitation and IWRM commitments. In the Chair's summary of the Ministerial Session, the need to strengthen UN-Water was highlighted. Water issues were also extensively referenced throughout the six main sections of the document: 'Agriculture, Rural development, Land, Drought, Desertification, Africa'.

A number of UN-Water documents were prepared for the CSD, including:

- a brochure on UN-Water,
- a fact sheet on UN-Water regular reports,
- a Status Report on IWRM and Water Efficiency Plans and
- the UN-Water and Global Water Partnership (GWP) Road-mapping for Advancing IWRM Processes

All these documents were available at the UN-Water exhibition and were extensively distributed. In addition, a draft of the new JMP report and the first examples of Country Snap-Shots, which form an important part of the GLAAS pilot report, were presented at a side event.

At CSD-16, UN-Water, GWP and UNSGAB organized a side event, 'Advancing IWRM at national level'. The side event was used as a venue to launch two UN-Water reports: 'Status Report on Integrated Water Resources Management' and 'Water Efficiency Plans and Road-mapping for Advancing IWRM Processes'.

UN-Water also organized a second side event at CSD-16, 'The MDG water and sanitation target: refining the monitoring tools'. The side event was used to present the ongoing process to compile the GLAAS pilot report and launch a pre-publication draft of the updated JMP report.

Expo Saragossa

UN-Water participated at EXPO Saragossa, in Spain (14 June–14 September 2008), both as an exhibitor and a participant in various events. The United Nations Office to Support the International Decade for Action "Water for Life" 2005-2015 (UNO-IDfA) in Saragossa was responsible for the executive management of the UN-Water pavilion and organized many activities, including educational workshops, film presentations, roundtables, debates, press conferences and interviews. Press coverage was good, with more than 500 articles and media presentations expressing a positive view of the UN's involvement in water and sanitation. More than 450 thousand visited the UN-Water Pavilion, including UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

World Water Week in Stockholm

The 18th World Water Week in Stockholm was held from August 17-23, 2008. About 2,500 participants from more than 100 countries attended close to 100 plenary sessions, workshops, seminars and side events. For the third consecutive year, a specific UN-Water seminar was organized. As in previous years, the seminar's theme corresponded to the theme selected for the next World Water Day. The 2008 seminar focused on transboundary waters. UN-Water also co-convened several seminars and a side event, which are summarized below.

1. The best of sanitation – synthesis and outcomes of the regional sanitation conferences.

The World Water Week seminar included presentations of the political outcomes and key technical papers from the four regional meetings held in connection with IYS. The session featured a discussion focusing on questions related to follow-up actions to the regional meetings: What lessons have been learnt from the meetings? How can we increase the impact of these regional events? What is planned next in each region? What else can be done to encourage country leaders to take action in sanitation and hygiene development? The Chair of UN-Water provided an introductory statement on behalf of UN-Water. This was followed by a number of presentations by members of the UN-Water Task Force on Sanitation and key participants from the regional processes.

2. The UN-Water Seminar: Transboundary Waters – Sharing Benefits, Sharing Responsibilities.

The UN-Water seminar at the World Water Week focused on transboundary waters, the theme for World Water Day 2009. It was organized by the UN-Water Task Force on Transboundary Waters, which is coordinated by UNESCO and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The seminar drew attention to this increasingly important issue and provided an opportunity to discuss UN-Water member's current activities and recent developments related to transboundary waters.

An important contribution to the seminar was made by Ambassador Chusei Yamada, Special Rapporteur to the UN International Law Commission. Ambassador Yamada made a presentation on the Codification of the Law on Transboundary Aquifers currently being undertaken by the UN International Law Commission. His presentation stressed the legal complexities of transboundary groundwater management.

Three panel discussions were organized at the seminar. These discussions focused on:

- legal and institutional arrangements and management tools for successful transboundary water cooperation;
- data availability, joint monitoring and assessment; and
- emerging challenges for transboundary water cooperation: demographic pressure, climate change, consumption and production patterns.

3. Indicators for Action: Reporting on Water Management

Many countries are struggling to achieve the water-related

MDG targets. The seminar focussed on the ability to report on such key questions as:

- Do we have enough water of sufficient quality to support our needs?
- What are the soundest investments?
- Are we able to measure how far we have come at national or basin level – and how do we know if we are moving in the right direction?
- How do we move forward to provide information on the situation, report on progress and make plans for the future?
- How can we define indicators that are easy to understand for a decision-maker and yet provide sufficiently comprehensive information?
- How do we develop indicators for monitoring the impact of applying an IWRM approach?

Monitoring against set objectives with a set of key indicators may provide guidance as to the appropriateness of the chosen water management approach.

The session approached all aspects of water resources management and built on ongoing work, including:

- international reporting experiences within UN-Water, with a critical review of reporting, indicators and monitoring;
- experiences at the national level by the United Nations Environment Programme - Danish Hydraulic Institute (UNEP-DHI); and
- experiences at basin levels looking at strengths, weaknesses and performance assessments of river basin organisations by Cap-Net and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The seminar marked the first consultation with a wide range of stakeholders on the indicators under development by the new Task Force on Indicators, Monitoring and Reporting. The Chair of UN-Water, Mr. Pasquale Steduto, provided an introductory presentation on UN-Water's work on indicators, monitoring and reporting and the principal goals of the newly established Task Force.

4. UN-Water Exhibition

UN-Water organized an exhibition in 2008, which provided an opportunity for UN-Water and its members to display their publications and other communication materials. Extensive amounts of materials were sent to Stockholm, most of which were distributed by the end of the week. Thanks to an agreement with the Stockholm International Water Institute, UN-Water was able to disseminate 2,500 copies of its recently published document, 'Thematic Paper on Transboundary Waters: Sharing benefits, Sharing Responsibilities', through the World Water Week conference bags.

High-level Event on the MDGs

The High-level Event was organized on the initiative of the UN Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly. The event, held on 25 September, brought together representatives of governments, foundations, civil society and the private sector. The purpose was to review progress, identify gaps and motivate commitment to bridge the gaps in achieving the MDGs.

UN-Water contributed to a side event organized on 24 September to prepare for the High-level Event. Organized by the governments of the Netherlands, Japan, Tajikistan and Germany, the side event gave UN-Water the opportunity to present current reports and assessments on water supply and sanitation (the JMP report and the new GLAAS pilot report). The presentation was made jointly by WHO and UNICEF. The subsequent discussions proposed a number of key recommendations for follow-up actions to be undertaken by the countries with regard to the water supply and sanitation-related MDG targets.

Ministerial Conference on 'Water for Agriculture and Energy in Africa: The Challenges of the Climate Change'

The Ministerial Conference on 'Water for Agriculture and Energy in Africa: The Challenges of the Climate Change' was organized by FAO, in its capacity as the Chair of UN-Water, with the full support of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the African Union, the African Development Bank and the Economic Commission for Africa and other development partners. Over 400 officials, including 37 Ministers and representatives of various United Nations organizations and civil society and non-governmental organizations attended the Conference, which was held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya from 15-17 December 2008.

The Conference addressed the issue of water resources in Africa in the face of increased demand in both the agriculture and energy sectors and a context of climate change. In addition to providing an opportunity to analyse the current situation and future needs, the Conference dealt with financial aspects, both in terms of costs and sources of funding requirements. The Conference developed a detailed portfolio of about 1000 projects and programmes of investment in water control for agriculture and energy in the 53 African countries, with a total budget of 65 billion US dollars spread over twenty years. It concluded with the unanimous adoption of a declaration reaffirming African governments' commitment to agricultural development and calling for urgent and increased investment in water to meet the continent's growing food and energy demands.

Preparing for the 5th World Water Forum

In preparing for the Fifth World Water Forum, which will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in March 2009, UN-Water has assumed the role of Thematic Coordinator for Theme 2: 'Advancing Human Development and the MDGs'. In this capacity, UN-Water is playing a proactive role in planning and coordinating the development of the topics and sessions related to this theme. UN-Water members will participate in sessions related to this and other themes covered at the Forum. In addition, the WWDR-3 will be launched and World Water Day 2009 will be celebrated

The 2008 World Water Day

In 1992, the UN General Assembly declared 22 March as World Day for Water (now commonly called World Water Day). Celebrated around the world since 1993, the day is an opportunity to increase public awareness about the problems related to water resources and management and the solutions available to cope with them. World Water Day celebrations advocate for concrete actions to provide clean drinking-water and sanitation and improve water management.

World Water Day 2008 focused on sanitation. Consequently, it was a major outreach event of IYS. The day was coordinated jointly by UNICEF, WHO and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) on behalf of UN-Water. It succeeded in attracting the highest possible political attention. The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's message on World Water Day called the lack of political will "the biggest culprit in failure to achieve basic sanitation goal". In a major event in Geneva, a number of prominent speakers, including His Royal Highness the Prince of Orange and the Director-General of WHO, Dr Margaret Chan, presented their perspectives on the challenges related to sanitation. This was followed by a public toilet queue demonstration to illustrate the miserable conditions more than 2 billion people face every day.

The 2008 Water Day Web site is still on-line at: <http://www.unwater.org/wwd08/flashindex.html>

MONITORING, ASSESSMENTS & REPORTS

UN-Water is responsible for supporting coordination among UN agencies and their efforts to monitor the state and utilization of the world's water resources. Assessment reports focus on the status and trends in water management and evaluate the progress being made toward reaching international development targets related to water. They also look at responses in this area and their impact, as well as challenges and emerging issues.

There are three reporting mechanisms linked to UN-Water:

- the WWDR, which is coordinated by WWAP,
- the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP), which presents a biennial global coverage report and
- GLAAS, which published its first pilot report in 2008 and is coordinated by WHO.

Together, these three reporting mechanisms represent comprehensive and complementary sets of information on water, sanitation and development. They are part of UN-Water's efforts to rationalize, harmonize and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of monitoring and reporting.

In addition, UN-Water produces reports and assessments on issues of specific interest as needs arise.

Global Annual Assessment on Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS)

In September 2008, the GLAAS 2008 pilot report was published. A UN-Water initiative led by WHO, GLAAS constitutes a new approach to reporting on progress in the sanitation and drinking-water sectors. It strengthens evidence-based policy-making towards and beyond the MDGs. By concentrating on the factors affecting the capacity of countries and external support agencies to make progress towards the MDG targets for sanitation and drinking-water, it complements other UN-Water reports, such as the JMP reports and the WWDR.

GLAAS provides a global analysis of relevant data and information on the sanitation and drinking-water sectors that is available from sources such as the JMP and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). It also fills in critical information gaps and identifies trends. There are four main dimensions in this analysis:

- coverage and service levels,
- policy and institutional setting,
- human resource capacity and
- financial system capacity.

External support agencies and low- and middle-income countries are both part of the analysis.

A number of lessons were learnt from the pilot process in 2008. Of particular importance is the need for providing external support for information gathering at the national level and establishing contact points. Although the pilot edition of the GLAAS report is relatively limited, the assessment is expected to improve sector efficiency by identifying:

- current sector trends and shortcomings;
- drivers for and barriers to progress;
- the status of national and local institutional arrangements, structures and policies to implement improve-

ments to service;

- financial and human resource needs;
- development aid flows and priorities and;
- potential benchmarks for countries to target areas of improvement.

The GLAAS 2008 pilot report received good feedback in general. WHO has started working towards the production of the second GLAAS report, expected to be published late 2009.

The WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) Reports

The objectives of the JMP reports are to provide regular global reports on water and sanitation coverage in urban and rural areas, facilitate sector planning and management, support countries in their efforts to improve their monitoring systems and provide information for advocacy.

The 2008 Report introduced a new way of assessing global, regional and national progress by using the 'ladder' concept for both sanitation and drinking-water. It showed trends in using improved, shared, and unimproved sanitation facilities as well as trends in open defecation. Trends in drinking-water coverage are presented in a similar format. They are disaggregated in a 'drinking water ladder', which shows the percentage of the world population that uses:

- piped connections into a dwelling, plot or yard;
- other improved water sources and;
- unimproved sources.

Finally, new data are also presented on household water treatment, the time taken to collect drinking water and who fetches water. The Report also details global progress towards the MDG target for drinking-water and sanitation and analyses what these trends suggest for the remainder of the UN Decade "Water for Life" (2005 - 2015). The 2008 assessment entitled 'Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation – Special Focus on Sanitation' was released on 17 July.

The Third World Water Development Report (WWDR)

The WWDR, a comprehensive review of the state of the world's freshwater resources, is the UN System's flagship report on water resources. The mandate to produce the WWDR dates back to a 1998 decision of the CSD, which called on the UN System to compile periodic assessments and analyses of water resources availability, with a focus both on quantity and quality, and present a global picture of the state of freshwater resources and major challenges.

The WWDR provides a mechanism for monitoring changes in water resource and their management and tracking progress towards achieving internationally agreed upon targets, particularly those of the MDGs and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). The Report also offer best practices in water resources management and in-depth theoretical analyses to stimulate ideas and actions for better stewardship in the water sector.

Co-ordinated by WWAP, the development of the WWDR is a joint effort of the 26 UN agencies and entities that make up UN-Water. The WWDR is prepared in partnership with UN-Water partners, governments, international organizations, NGOs and other stakeholders. The first two reports were launched at the World Water Forums in Japan (2003) and Mexico (2006).

The evaluation of WWDR-2 indicated that WWAP in general and the WWDR in particular could benefit from an increased scientific basis and broader consultative process. As part of this new approach, the draft table of contents was open for public comment during the first two weeks of March 2008. The table of contents, endorsed during a UN-Water meeting in Stockholm in August 2007, underwent further development through discussions and contributions of members of UN-Water, professional organizations, NGOs, WWDR-3 writers and contributors at an inception meeting in November 2007. At a second preparatory meeting in April, the members of the WWAP's TAC, the co-chairs of expert groups, various members of UN-Water, contributors, writers and other participants discussed the second draft of the chapters and their integration into a coherent document. More than 80 participants from 26 countries attended the meeting. Eleven of these participants were representatives of UN-Water member agencies.

On October 23 2008, the final text of WWDR-3 was submitted to UN Agencies for clearance. This final consultation on WWDR-3 brought to a close the Report's technical writing and participatory stages. WWDR-3 is on schedule to be launched at the Fifth World Water Forum in March 2009.

The key steps to the new WWDR preparatory process carried out in 2008 are detailed below.

Preparatory Meetings:

- Integration Meeting – April 2008, Perugia, Italy

Technical Meetings:

- Meeting on Indicators – June 2008, Perugia, Italy
- Meeting on Policy Relevance – July 2008, Perugia, Italy

Online consultations:

- Online Consultation on the Table of contents, March 2008
- Consultation of the 2nd draft of WWDR-3's chapters, April 2008
- UN-Water Consultation, August 2008

Targeted Surveys:

- Real-Time Delphi Survey on Storage, February 2008
- Real-Time Delphi Survey on Policy Relevance, March 2008
- Electronic Survey of Water Leaders and Water Experts, July 2008

Official Clearance of the final technical text:

- October – November 2008

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) reports

The Status Report on IWRM/Water Efficiency Plans was prepared to illustrate progress made on meeting the target agreed at the 2002 WSSD in Johannesburg: "Develop Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Efficiency Plans by 2005, with support to developing countries, through actions at all levels". The report is based on a survey covering 104 countries, of which 77 are developing countries or countries in transition and 27 developed countries. The survey brings together results of questionnaires by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and UNEP (through the UNEP Collaborating Centre in DHI, Denmark). Several other members and partners of UN-Water supported and contributed to the report, including UNDP, UN Statistics, WHO, WWAP and GWP.

The UN-Water and GWP Road-mapping for Advancing IWRM Processes is based on the Copenhagen Initiative on Water and Development, the outcome of the 2007 International Conference on 'Managing Water Resources Towards 2015'. The 2007 conference was hosted by the Danish Government, in cooperation with UN-Water and the GWP. The road-mapping document proposes a follow-up process with a number of indicators, focusing on 2009, 2012 and 2015.

As mentioned earlier, the final IWRM reports were presented at the CSD -16. The data collected for the IWRM reports also made an important contribution to WWDR-3

UN-WATER TASK FORCES

Much of UN-Water activities are carried out through time-bound task forces established to focus on priority areas or emerging issues. Over the course of 2008, there were seven operational task forces focusing on:

- indicators, monitoring and reporting,
- sanitation,
- transboundary waters,
- IWRM,
- climate change and water,
- country-level coordination and
- water and gender.

By mid 2008, two of the above task forces (IWRM and Monitoring and Reporting) were combined into the Task Force on Indicators, Monitoring and Reporting. The IWRM Task Force completed its work after having presented its report on the status of implementation of IWRM plans at the CSD 16.

Sanitation in Focus 2008

The UN General Assembly's declaration that 2008 would be designated as the International Year of Sanitation (IYS) gave the UN-Water Task Force on Sanitation a broad political mandate. The Task Force assumed a leadership role in global advocacy and capacity building during the IYS. The IYS campaign focused on five key messages:

- sanitation is vital,
- sanitation is social development,
- sanitation is a good economic investment,
- sanitation is good for the environment and
- sanitation is achievable.

The Task Force developed a strategic advocacy campaign targeted at both the global and regional level. It also supported dialogues aimed at raising the profile of the sector at country level. Task Force members were active and prominent in four regional sanitation conferences and in global and national launches of the Year. Through its global advocacy and capacity building efforts, the Task Force and its members leveraged increased resources for investments in sanitation, mobilized political and institutional support and strengthened capacity and the knowledge base in the sector.

Through the IYS, the Sanitation Task Force increased its efforts to reach the MDG sanitation target. The activities of the Year, spearheaded by the Task Force, supported and furthered UN-Water's work in increasing access to and use of improved sanitation facilities. The Task Force, as a coordination mechanism, met the specific objectives of UN-Water in bringing together the expertise of various UN agencies

and other partners. Together they were active in increasing access to sanitation, strengthening information-sharing among agencies and improving coherence within the UN System and the knowledge base within the sector.

A number of Task Force publications made the case for sanitation by promoting the five IYS key messages and a call to action. The IYS Information Kit was launched early in 2008 and several hundred copies of this 30-page publication have been disseminated around the world. Later, the IYS information kits for politicians, media and for sector advocates were developed and distributed through Task Force members' networks, at major sanitation conferences and through various media channels. Information kits were published in English, French and Spanish and electronic copies were made available on the IYS web site. The site remains online at: <http://esa.un.org/iys/>.

Exhibits were held in New York in conjunction with the IYS launch in late 2007 and World Water Day on 22 March 2008. An exhibition was also organized in Hamilton, Canada as part of a United Nations University (UNU) event. The 'Longest Queue for the Toilet' was organized at World Water Day in Geneva and in New York. These events generated considerable media attention and television coverage and increased visibility for the IYS.

Gender and water

During IYS, the UN-Water Task Force on Gender and Water worked with a variety of UN-Water partners on the issue of sanitation. In December 2008, the Task Force helped organize an 'Expert Group Meeting on Gender-disaggregated Data on Water and Sanitation'. The meeting took stock of the state of gender-disaggregated data at global and regional levels and identified obstacles to data collection and capacity development. Participants proposed a set of recommendations on policies, practices and priorities to improve the state of gender-disaggregated data. They also developed gendered indicators on water, with a special focus on sanitation. These indicators could potentially be incorporated by global-level data collection entities, such as the JMP. With support of other task force members, UNDESA and UNW-DPC were the lead agency and programme for these activities. The Task Force members will work together to publish and disseminate the recommendations and other outcomes of this expert group meeting.

During 2008, the Task Force began preparations for a high-level panel on 'Lessons learned from the International Year of Sanitation from a gender perspective' at the World Water Forum in Istanbul 2009, in which the outcomes of the expert group meeting will be integrated. Other activities foreseen for 2009 include the preparation and publication

of a brochure 'Why gender counts in water and sanitation'. The brochure will address the need for gender mainstreaming in water and sanitation and will also describe the activities on gender mainstreaming carried out by the different Task Force members.

Other ongoing activities carried out in 2008 include:

- incorporating gender perspective into the water and sanitation thematic clusters in the programme of work of the CSD and organizing side events and updated 'briefing notes' on gender and water for the CSD and the Commission on the Status of Women;
- providing programme support for the gender component of the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Life', 2005-2015; and
- utilizing existing literature and working with relevant organizations and civil society to develop demonstrations of good practice in securing sustainable and equitable access to water supply and sanitation, with a special emphasis on the needs of the poor and vulnerable groups.

Indicators, monitoring and reporting

In 2008, the UN-Water Task Force on Indicators, Monitoring and Reporting was established to define a common framework for monitoring and reporting through the identification of 'key indicators to report on major water domains'. The work of the Task Force, which is coordinated by WWAP, is attracting the interest of a large group of UN-Water members and partners. In order to be operational, a core group of six task force members (WWAP, UNDESA, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, WHO/JMP, World Bank and GWP) have been requested to assume a leading role.

During 2008, a number of online and telephone meetings among Task Force members focused on establishing a common understanding of the challenges related to indicators, monitoring and reporting, as well as defining a strategy and work programme. In February 2008, draft terms of reference were prepared through an online consultative process with UN-Water members. The terms of reference were further discussed and elaborated in conjunction with the UN-Water Senior Programme Managers meeting in August. At this meeting, the first formal Task Force meeting was held, which brought together eleven of the Task Force members. The final terms of reference and work programme, including a budget, were approved in October.

In November, the Task Force began implementing its one-year work plan. The first tasks, establishing a baseline survey of ongoing initiatives relevant to global indicators, monitoring and reporting initiatives and clarifying the common priorities for the indicators selection, was completed

in December 2008. This work is based on the monitoring activities presented in the 2006 UN-Water report, *Water Monitoring: Mapping Existing Global Systems and Initiatives* and the 2008 UN-Water/GWP report, *'Road-mapping for Advancing IWRM Processes'*, as well as on discussions with UN-Water Task Force members and other users and experts on indicators.

Initial findings indicate a strong interest in the issue. However, there are diverse views on where priorities should be placed and what terminology should be used for describing water 'sectors' and indicators. The findings also reveal that the diverse interests in monitoring and indicators are often related to specific mandates or projects. Nevertheless, some common priorities and interests are emerging that can be used to define a common UN-Water framework on which to base indicator selection.

The UN-Water Task Force on Country-level Coordination as well as projects at the regional and national level provide opportunities for obtaining feedback from country counterparts on the UN-Water set of indicators. The WWAP expert group on indicators, monitoring and databases expressed its willingness to support the Task Force's work in 2009 by managing the consultation process with users and data providers. JMP and GLAAS indicated an interest to get actively involved in the Task Force. Indicators experts from the environmental and agricultural divisions of the OECD as well as from UNEP's Blue Plan and Mediterranean Action Plan are also interested in contributing to the Task Force's work.

Transboundary waters

The UN-Water Task Force on Transboundary Waters provides a platform to promote coherence and coordination of activities by UN-Water members and partners in the area of transboundary waters. It does this by facilitating exchanges of information, experiences and lessons learned and by promoting joint initiatives. Improved networking serves to identify gaps in programmes, maximize their effectiveness and avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts. In this regard, the Task Force aims to act as a clearing-house for good practices for transboundary water cooperation and provide a single entry point to UN-Water members' initiatives.

Another key objective of the Task Force is to ensure that the issue of transboundary waters is high on the political agenda. The Task Force works to raise awareness about the importance of protecting and sustainably managing transboundary waters for reaching the MDGs and safeguarding human security and development. Also, by demonstrating the benefits of cooperation in the area of transboundary waters, the Task Force seeks to encourage further collaborative actions among different stakeholders.

In early 2008, the Task Force prepared a UN-Water policy brief on transboundary waters entitled *'Transboundary waters: sharing benefits, sharing responsibilities'*. The policy brief was designed and printed by UNW-DPAC in Saragossa and distributed to all participants at the World Water Week in August 2008. This policy brief contains facts on transboundary waters, policy guidance related to the management of transboundary waters and an overview of the mandate, role and activities of UN-Water agencies active in transboundary water management.

The Task Force also prepared and presented the UN-Water Seminar at the World Water Week 2008, which focused, as it does every year, on the theme chosen for the next World Water Day. With UNESCO serving as lead agency, the Task Force has assumed responsibility for preparing World Water Day 2009, which focuses on transboundary water management. In December 2008, the World Water Day 2009 web site was launched (<http://www.unwater.org/worldwaterday/>). The web site communicates key messages on transboundary waters. The site also includes a section on Frequently Asked Questions, an interactive map of World Water Day events around the world and World Water Day campaign materials in English, French and Spanish.

The Task Force has initiated the planning process to organize a high-level session on the topic of transboundary water management at the World Water Forum in Istanbul in 2009.

Country-level coordination

The main purpose of the Task Force is to improve and scale up delivery of co-ordinated UN actions so that they have a greater impact on fulfilling WSSD and MDG goals. Task Force activities include a comprehensive assessment of national coordination mechanisms, with a special focus on the eight One-UN pilot countries. This assessment looks at how the UN System interacts with non-UN players in the water sector. Based on the assessment, the Task Force will develop a strategy to deliver coordinated response to meet national water and sanitation goals. Key elements of the strategy include:

- how to further strengthen existing coordination mechanisms in relation to water sector activities;
- how to coordinate with non-UN partners (including national institutions); and
- what and how UN-Water can contribute in securing improved coordination in the water sector.

The Task Force plans to promote the implementation of a proposed strategy through internal UN mechanisms, such as the United Nations Development Group (UNDG).

In 2008, the Task Force finalized a time-bound and output-oriented work plan based on the agreed terms of

reference. A core group and a supporting group of partners were mobilized and the work of the Task Force distributed among them. Two short-term consultants were contracted to support the Task Force.

In line with the work plan, an overview assessment and mapping of coordination mechanisms related to water resources management and water supply and sanitation was initiated for the eight One-UN pilot countries. This assessment is expected to lead to identification of constraints, opportunities, gaps, good examples and weaknesses in coordination. In 2008, initial country visits were made to Tanzania and Albania to learn from UN country team experience on how coordinated action in the water sector is being undertaken and how it could be strengthened.

The Task Force has also made an initial global mapping of UN-Water agencies presence in each country. It has also initiated a review of the application process for water-related projects submitted and approved by the Spanish MDG achievement fund.

Water and climate change

Many UN agencies are preparing their responses to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) scenarios. Changes in water resources affect many sectors, such as agriculture, health, energy and infrastructure. This is why the Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, established as part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), highlights the need for comprehensive and cross-sectoral adaptation and planning.

In 2008, UN-Water established the Task Force on Water and Climate Change to strengthen the coordination of the UN System's activities related to water and climate change. The Task Force will work to facilitate assessments at the national level of the impacts of climate change on water and the adoption of national strategies for meeting the challenges of climate change both for adaptation and mitigation.

The Task Force provides a forum for discussing climate change and water linkages in their widest sense. It helps to ensure that the UN System in general and UN-Water in particular are prepared to meet the upcoming challenges and play a constructive role. The Task Force could also assist in defining how the UN System might play a larger and more proactive role in the formulation and implementation of adaptation and mitigation strategies by increasing interactions and coherence among UN initiatives and strengthening interagency mechanisms such as UN-Water.

The Task Force has identified a number of stepping

stones (international meetings and processes, publications) where coordinated inputs on water and climate issues would be important. The Task Force's first undertaking will be to initiate a discussion on how to articulate a strategic UN System approach to climate change and water resources issues. In line with the ambitions expressed in the report on UN System-Wide Co-ordination on Climate Change, the Task Force will examine how UN-Water could be strengthened and used as an effective mechanism in the area of climate change. Specific proposals will be further elaborated in 2009 when the Task Force becomes operational.

UN-WATER PROGRAMMES

UN-Water Programme on Capacity Development

During 2008, UNW-DPC implemented the activities outlined in its 2007-2009 Work Plan, approved at the 8th UN-Water meeting in January 2008. The work plan outlines the strategic directions and thematic priorities of UNW-DPC and the following four fields of activity:

- improving strategic and operational coherence of capacity development worldwide;
- strengthening technical and policy guidance within the capacity-development sphere, and contributing to the 'professionalization' of water governance and management;
- collaborating with other common UN-Water programmes and UN-Water members on issues related to capacity development; and
- promoting capacity development, including resource mobilization as part of water plans.

One of the key activities carried out in 2008 was the development of a single web-based entry point for accessing information on water-related capacity development activities worldwide: the UNW-DPC repository. The work carried out in 2008 included the technical development of this online tool to ensure efficient knowledge management and information retrieval, as well as the design and entry of content into the UNW-DPC repository.

UNW-DPC also supported the improvement of capacity development by collecting, analysing and documenting expert knowledge about effective tools, instruments and methods for water resources management. In 2008, the focus has been on water supply, sanitation and transboundary water management.

From 3 - 5 September, UNW-DPC and UN-HABITAT organized an international workshop, on 'Drinking Water

Loss Reduction: Developing Capacity for Applying Solutions'. At the workshop, official representatives and water managers from major cities critically analysed and discussed approaches for improving water leakage control and reducing water losses in supply systems. In November 2008, UNW-DPC, UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO-IHP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) organized an international workshop on 'Institutional Capacity Development in Transboundary Basins: Lessons Learned from Practical Experiences'. This Workshop brought together experts to discuss institutional arrangements for transboundary water management. As mentioned earlier, in December 2008, a third workshop organized with UNDESA on 'Gender-disaggregated data in water and sanitation', was held in New York.

UNW-DPC also supported UN-Water members and partners in their work to improve the delivery of capacity development training and education. UNW-DPC placed emphasis on the use of e-learning to extend outreach and the development of train-the-trainer workshops to create a multiplier effect in the dissemination of knowledge. In May 2008, UNW-DPC co-organized, with the UNU International Network on Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) and the Asian Institute for Technology (AIT), a learning centre course at CSD 16 in New York. In addition, as part of the UNU International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP) International Human Dimensions Workshop '08, UNW-DPC, together with Global Water System Project (GWSP) and the European Union's Integrated Project, NeWater, prepared a train-the-trainer course on 'Capacity Development in Adaptive Water Management' in New Delhi, India.

In 2008, UNW-DPC began publishing a newsletter on UN-DPC and UN-Water capacity development activities. The newsletter is also a source of general information on capacity development in the water sector. UNW-DPC also established a web site, which provides information on news and events and hosts the first version of the UNW-DPC Repository.

UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC)

Launched in October 2007, UNW-DPAC is located in Saragossa, Spain and hosted by UNDESA. It mobilizes information and inputs generated by various UN-Water members and partners to develop advocacy campaigns for accelerating the implementation of effective water resources policies. It also promotes the visibility of UN-Water and strengthens the implementation of partnerships both within and outside the UN system. In 2008, much of its activities focused on organizing the UN-Water pavilion at the 3-month-long Expo Saragossa.

In May 2008, an expert in media and communication and another expert in information and awareness-raising began working with the Programme. In August and September, the Programme contracted a consultant specifically for Expo Saragossa. Two administrative assistants were also hired. Interns contributed to UNW-DPAC's activities, through an Internship programme started in 2008.

WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP)

JMP produces coverage reports biennially and also reports on specific aspects of drinking-water and sanitation. The reports utilize data principally from nationally-representative household surveys and censuses and provide an overview of population using different forms of drinking-water and sanitation.

JMP assessments were made in 1991, 1993, 1996 and 2000. JMP reported in 2004 and 2006 on progress against the MDG Indicators on water and sanitation: 'the proportion of people using an improved water source' and 'the proportion of people using an improved sanitation facility'. For both indicators, it provides data for rural and urban areas. As indicated earlier, as 2008 was the International Year of Sanitation, the JMP placed the emphasis on sanitation in its 2008 update report, entitled 'Progress in Drinking-water and Sanitation: special focus on sanitation'.

World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP)

WWAP monitors freshwater issues in order to provide recommendations, develop case studies, enhance assessment capacity at the national level and inform decision-making processes. Its primary product, the WWDR, is a triennial, comprehensive review that provides an authoritative picture of the state of the world's freshwater resources.

While the Programme's first two phases (WWAP-1 from 2000 to 2003 and WWAP-2 from 2003 to 2006) were funded principally with project-based funds from the Government of Japan, the third phase has been secured, by a 7.5 million Euro grant from the Government of Italy for the 2007-2010 triennium. This support has allowed for the institutionalization of the Programme Secretariat and the production of the WWDR-3. In addition, the Government of Region of Umbria, Italy has provided premises for the use of the WWAP Secretariat. During 2008, WWAP moved into its new home in Perugia, Italy.

The Programme completed the recruitment of a deputy coordinator and administrative officer. WWAP's organization was also restructured, with the introduction of new positions and roles, such as a WWDR-3 content coordinator and a process manager, as well as chapter and topic facilita-

tors and professional writers.

The primary focus of WWAP's activities in 2008 has been the production of the WWDR-3. As mentioned earlier, the evaluation of WWDR-2, commissioned by the Japanese Government, indicated that WWAP in general and the WWDR in particular could benefit from an increased scientific basis. In response, the WWAP Secretariat established formal mechanisms to ensure that its reports would have a solid scientific underpinning. A first step in the process was the establishment of a TAC. The TAC is composed of eleven members from academia, research institutions, NGOs as well as public and professional organizations. The Chair of UN Water and WWAP Coordinator are ex-officio members. The first two face-to-face TAC meetings took place parallel to the WWDR-3 Inception Meeting (November 2007) and the Integration Meeting (19-20 April 2008).

WWAP also established seven expert groups. These groups bring together external specialists, practitioners and stakeholders whose collective wisdom and expertise on a range of issues are incorporated into the reporting process. The expert groups act as a mechanism for validating the authority and scientific integrity of WWAP's reports.

The expert groups deal with:

- indicators, monitoring and databases;
- climate and water;
- scenarios;
- business, trade, finance and private sector involvement;
- policy relevance;
- storage; and
- legal issues

To support and manage the increased complexity of the production of WWDR-3 and other side publications, WWAP created a public on-line workspace. This was done using an application called 'Alfresco', which serves as an on-line server for exchanging information, texts and other electronic material.

During 2008, WWAP contributed its first side publication to the UNECE assessment 'Our Waters: Joining Hands Across Borders, the First Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters', published in the Summer 2008.

GOVERNANCE & FINANCIAL ISSUES

A number of important governance related documents were completed in 2008. The first comprehensive UN-Water Work Programme covering 2008-2009 was finalized and agreed upon in April. This document, available on the UN-Water web site, provides the framework for ongoing and planned UN-Water activities for 2008-2009. Although it covers a two-year period, it will be updated annually. The first UN-Water Annual Report, which covered activities carried out in 2007, was also published in 2008. The new UN-Water Operational Guidelines facilitate internal UN-Water operations. The new UN-Water Partnership Criteria serve to guide UN-Water collaboration with partners and will make partner obligations and benefits more clear. The new UN-Water web page provides new tools for improved internal communication among member agencies' Senior Programme Managers.

Annual meetings

The 8th UN-Water Meeting was held in January 2008 in Rome. The meeting, open to both members and partners, devoted considerable time to discussing the work programmes of the two new UN-Water Programmes, UNW-DPC and UNW-DPAC and the activities of UN-Water task forces.

The 9th UN-Water Senior Programme Management meeting, organized in conjunction with the World Water Week in August, was well-attended and had an extensive agenda focusing both on administrative and governance issues as well as substantial and strategic issues related to the activities of UN-Water task forces and programmes. The last half-day was devoted to discussions with UN-Water partners on issues of common interest and long-term prospects.

The UN-Water Multi-donor Trust Fund (MDTF)

The MDTF, which complements the human and financial resources contributed by UN-Water members and partners, has been instrumental for UN-Water's development. Thanks to the financial resources made available through the Fund, UN-Water can more actively engage in activities that foster collaboration among UN agencies and non-UN partners, improve collaboration and contacts with external stakeholders and promote advocacy and communication. Specific examples of activities supported by the MDTF include the:

- initiation of the GLAAS report, which will be a UN-Water flagship assessment regularly assessing conditions related to sanitation and drinking-water;
- increased support to the work of UN-Water task

forces;

- coordinating role UN-Water assumes at global conferences and processes; and
- increased focus on communication and accessibility through the new web site, fact sheets, reports and other materials.

Two new donors entered into agreement with UN-Water in 2008, providing additional financial support to the Multi-donor Trust Fund (MDTF). Sweden will contribute 9 million Swedish Kronor during the 2008-2010 biennium and Norway will contribute 4.4 million Norwegian Kronor over 2008-2009. The United Kingdom has provided financial support to UN-Water since 2007 and other countries are providing direct support to UN-Water Programmes.

Reporting back to the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP)

UN-Water was invited to provide a brief update on its activities and some key lessons learnt at the HLCP meeting, organized in Rome from 30 September to 1 October 2008. Considering the extensive development of UN-Water since its previous report in 2007, The HLCP requested a follow-up presentation. The Chair was invited to prepare a short background note focusing on lessons learnt from five years of UN-Water interagency collaboration and present it at the meeting. HLCP members reacted very positively to the presentation and considered UN-Water as a very successful example of interagency mechanism for strengthening collaboration and coherence in the UN System.

Strengthening collaboration with UNSGAB

UNSGAB, a high-level advocacy body promoting the actions outlined in the Hashimoto Action Plan, is a UN-Water partner with special status. As UNSGAB's Board does not have direct implementation capacity, UN-Water is in a position through its members to implement and translate UNSGAB advocacy. Examples in 2008 include IYS, which was originally advocated by UNSGAB. After the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the proposal, UN-Water established a Sanitation Task Force (of which UNSGAB is an active member) to promote and monitor IYS activities.

CONTACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on UN-Water and its activities, visit www.unwater.org. You may also contact the UN-Water Secretariat at unwater@un.org or the office of the Chair at chair-UNWater@fao.org.

Some important web and contact information:

UN-Water <http://www.unwater.org>

The 2008 International Year of Sanitation
<http://esa.un.org/iys/>

The Water for Life Decade, 2005-2015
<http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/>

World Water Assessment Programme in Perugia, Italy,
<http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/>.

UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC) in Bonn, Germany.
<http://www.unwater.unu.edu/>

Joint Monitoring Programme in Geneva, Switzerland
<http://www.wssinfo.org>

Annex 1. UN-Water members (as of 31 December 2008)

UN Secretariat

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)

Programmes and funds

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)

Regional commissions

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC)
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

Specialized agencies

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
The World Bank Group (WB)
World Health Organization (WHO)
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Other Entities

United Nations University

United Nations related organizations

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Conventions

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)
Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
Secretariat of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Annex 2. UN-Water partners (as of 31 December 2008)

AquaFed

Global Water Partnership (GWP)

International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH)

International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS)

International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID)

International Water Association (IWA)

International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

Public Services International (PSI)

Ramsar – Convention on Wetlands

Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)

The World Conservation Union (IUCN)

United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB)

WaterAid

Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC)

World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

World Water Council (WWC)

Annex 4. Acronyms

Acronyms of UN Water members and partners are found in annex 1 and 2.

AIT	Asian Institute for Technology
CEB	Chief Executive Board
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
DESD	Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GLAAS	Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water
GWSP	Global Water System Project
HLCPC	High Level Committee on Programmes
IHDP	International Human Dimensions Programme
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
IYS	International Year of Sanitation (2008)
JMP	Joint Monitoring Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation
JPOI	Johannesburg Programme of Implementation
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MDTF	Multi Donor Trust Fund
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
UN	United Nations
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNEMG	United Nations Environment Management Group
UNESCO-IHP	UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme
UNU-INWEH	United Nations University International Network in Water, Environment and Health
UNW-DPAC	UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication
UNW-DPC	UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WWAP	World Water Assessment Programme
WWDR	World Water Development Report