

Integrated Water Resources Management

Ushering in a Blue Revolution



www.usaidwater.org

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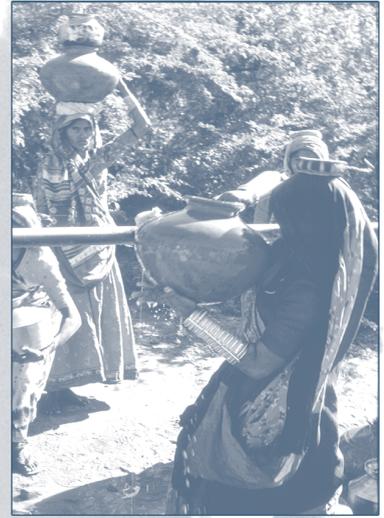


What is IWRM?

IWRM is a participatory planning and implementation process, based on sound science, which brings together stakeholders to determine how to meet society's long-term needs for water and coastal resources while maintaining essential ecological services and economic benefits.

IWRM helps to protect the world's environment, foster economic growth and sustainable agricultural development, promote democratic participation in governance, and improve health. IWRM is also fundamental to the U.S. Strategic Plan for International Affairs, which calls for a sustainable global environment to protect the United States and its citizens from the effects of international environmental degradation.

Millions of women and girls in the developing world spend as much as eight hours a day hauling water. These long collection times leave women with less time for education and productive labor, less control over income, and less time for child care.



Integrated Water Resources Management's Principal Components

- Supply optimization, including assessments of surface and groundwater supplies, water balances, wastewater reuse, and environmental impacts of distribution and use options
- Demand management, including cost recovery policies, water use efficiency technologies, and decentralized water-management authority
- Equitable access to water resources through participatory and transparent management, including support for effective water users
- associations, involvement of marginalized groups, and consideration of gender issues
- Improved policy, regulatory, and institutional frameworks, such as the implementation of the "polluter-pays principle," water quality norms and standards, and market-based regulatory mechanisms
- An intersectoral approach to decision-making, combining authority with responsibility for managing the water resource

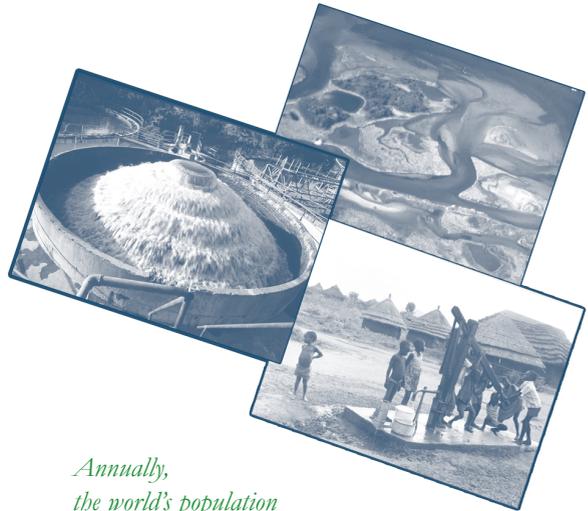
IWRM Activities and the USAID Water Team

USAID's Water Team was formed to promote IWRM and support environmentally sound, cross-sectoral, and participatory approaches to managing, conserving, and sustainably using freshwater and coastal resources. It draws members from offices within Washington and overseas.

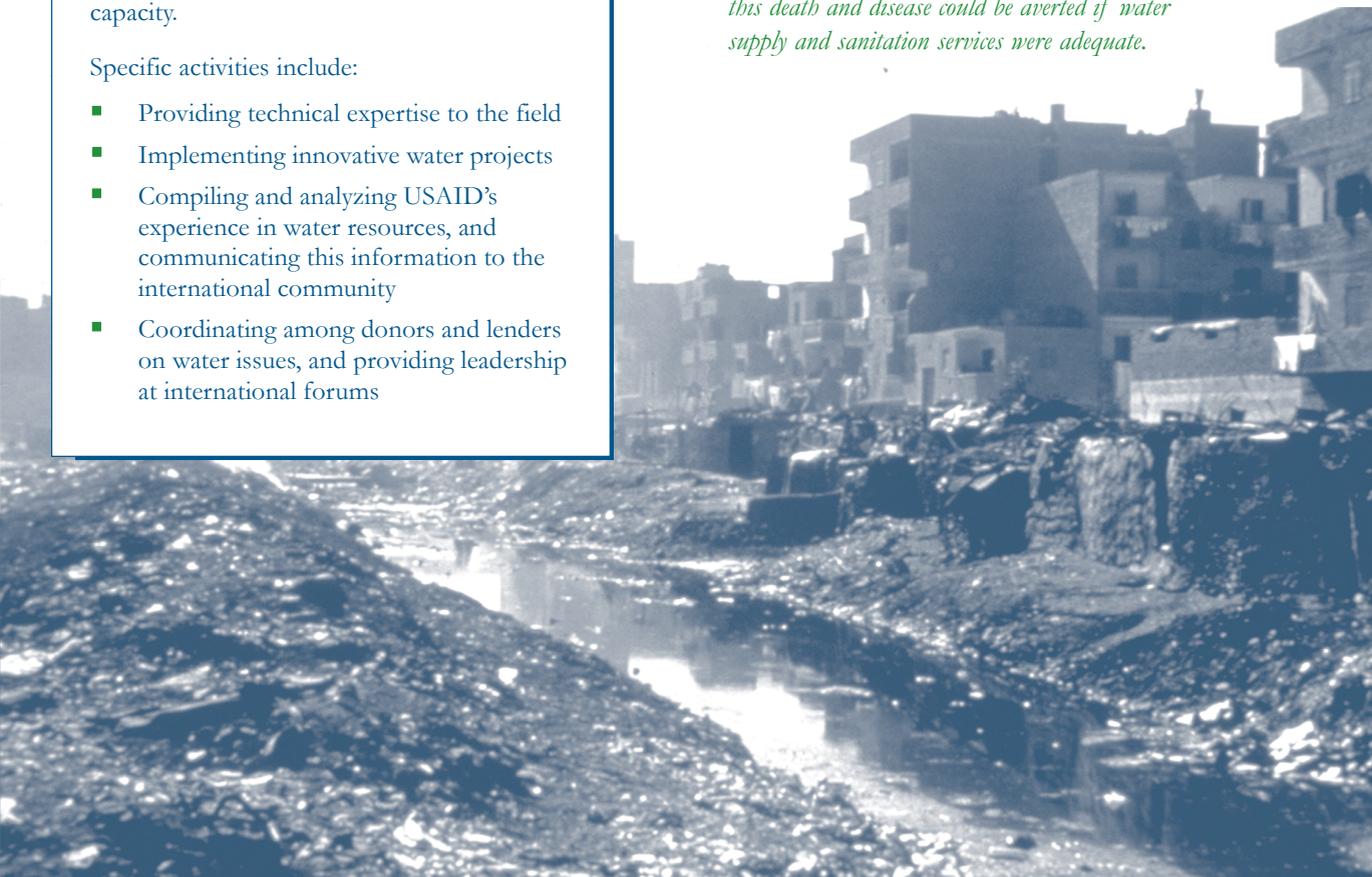
The Team seeks to develop long-term partnerships with host governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to increase the effectiveness and cross-sectoral integration of their water programs, using sound IWRM practices. These involve participatory processes that include women, the poor, and marginalized groups; prioritizing and planning for water demand; and strengthening IWRM institutional capacity.

Specific activities include:

- Providing technical expertise to the field
- Implementing innovative water projects
- Compiling and analyzing USAID's experience in water resources, and communicating this information to the international community
- Coordinating among donors and leaders on water issues, and providing leadership at international forums



Annually, the world's population suffers about 4 billion episodes of water-related diarrhea, causing widespread debilitation and reduced productivity throughout the developing world. An estimated 2.5 million people die from such diseases each year, primarily children under five. Much of this death and disease could be averted if water supply and sanitation services were adequate.



2000



**Water scarcity worldwide with
6 billion world population**

450 million people in
31 countries ■ currently face
serious shortages of fresh
water

2025



**Water scarcity worldwide with
projected 8.8 billion world population**

2.8 billion people in
48 countries ■ (one-third
of the world's population) are
expected to face severe and chronic
water shortages.

Source: Population Action International

Water

A Resource Vital to Every Ecosystem, Society, and Individual on Earth

EVERY ecosystem, society, and individual on Earth depends on water, making this indispensable resource vital to nearly every sector in which the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) works. Water impacts food security, health and hygiene, ecosystems and biological diversity, transportation, regional and global climate, energy supplies and industry. Poor water management and water shortages can lead to disease, malnutrition, reduced economic growth, social instability, and conflict.

International tensions are building over transboundary water management issues as the demand for water outstrips the supply in a growing number of countries, and the quality of that supply declines rapidly. Worldwide, the health of more than 1.2 billion people is at risk because they lack access to clean water. By 2005, half of the world's population will live in urban areas, increasing the demand for potable water; and by 2025,

that figure will rise to 60 percent. Already more than half of the world's population lives within 100 kilometers of a coastline. These demographic changes create massive challenges for water allocation, treatment, and management. By 2050, it is estimated that one-third of the world's population—2.8 billion people—will experience severe water-scarcity.

But water quality and scarcity is only half the picture. Floods, droughts, fires, and catastrophic storms are becoming more frequent as a result of the combined forces of global climate change and poor natural resources management. Amplifying the problems are deforestation, soil erosion, the destruction of wetlands, and development in disaster-prone and otherwise inappropriate areas.

In recognition of water's critical and crosscutting role in sustainable development, USAID has adopted an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approach.