

NORWEGIAN ACTION PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENT IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTING MEASURES RELATING TO WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, WATER AND SANITATION

1. Summary

Norway's development cooperation in the water resources, water and sanitation sector will focus mainly on achieving the MDG target of halving by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, and on improving water resources management in accordance with the Johannesburg target of developing integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans, originally by 2005. Norway will particularly seek to increase the focus on sanitation in order to highlight the links between this area and health and gender equality. Furthermore, the sanitation target is furthest from being achieved, and the United Nations has declared 2008 as the International Year of Sanitation.

Norway should develop a clearer profile by supporting a smaller number of organisations, and establishing technical partnerships with these in addition to providing funding. There is no global fund for water and sanitation. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and the UK Department for International Development (DFID) have initiated efforts to develop national action plans on water and sanitation. This will be an important tool for coordinating future efforts. Norway should follow this work closely and consider supporting priority, coordinated projects that arise from it. The main channels for Norwegian water-related development cooperation will be multilateral, primarily UN organisations, and also NGOs and bilateral cooperation with selected countries, mainly through multi-donor cooperation.

The most important operational channels for increasing development assistance in the water resource management, water and sanitation sector will be:

- UNICEF – water and sanitation, schools;
- UNDP – water resources management, capacity-building, water and sanitation, transboundary river systems – support through the Energy and Environment Fund;
- UN-HABITAT – water and sanitation in urban areas (small and medium-sized towns) – support through the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund;
- the Global Environment Facility (GEF) – increase support for GEF, as the most important source of funding for activities related to the management of transboundary river systems, ecosystem services and protection of biodiversity in lakes and rivers. Norway should also consider more active use of the regional allocations for co-financing of priority GEF projects;
- the development banks, for example support for specific regional initiatives through contributions to the Water Financing Partnership Facility under the Asian Development Bank and the African Water Facility under African Development. The Asian facility is particularly relevant;

With regard to normative actors, it will be natural to give priority to:

- UNDP, which is the main normative actor (focus on governance, integrated water resources management, capacity building and transboundary river systems) – support through the Energy and Environment Fund;
- Limited support on a smaller scale to:
 - the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – focus on ecosystem services and the environmental dimension of integrated water resources management;
 - UN-HABITAT – provision of services in urban areas – normative efforts through the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund;
 - Global Water Partnership (GWP) (integrated water resource management);
 - Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns, water and sanitation)
 - Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) (technical projects, policy, water and sanitation) – support through the Norwegian Trust Fund for Private Sector and Infrastructure (NTF-PSI);
 - Continue support to the water-related CGIAR research centres
 - NGOs, in order to strengthen the role they play in locally-based efforts, and a supplement and corrective to multilateral efforts.

Partnerships should be established with priority organisations by drawing Norwegian experts into the dialogue. Norad will have a particular responsibility for contributing to the technical dialogue, and for drawing in relevant expertise as needed. Norway's priorities are to be promoted actively in relevant settings.

If Norway is to be a useful cooperation partner and make an effective contribution to achieving the MDGs, it is essential to establish bilateral cooperation with certain main partner countries, with a particular focus on basic sanitation. Africa should be given special priority here, although problems relating to sanitation are greatest in Asia. It will be natural to establish close cooperation with other donors that are giving priority to water and sanitation, such as Sweden, Denmark and Germany. Norway should indicate its willingness to start a dialogue with other donors on joint water and sanitation efforts in priority countries. There is no specific technical reason why Norwegian development cooperation does not give priority to water and sanitation. In most countries, such efforts should be in the form of multi-donor initiatives, for example basket financing and sector-wide approaches (SWAps).

Norway has experience of and is engaged in a number of international river basin initiatives (including the Nile, the Zambezi, the Middle East). Through close cooperation between expertise in two fields, peace and reconciliation and environment and water, Norway can play a facilitating role in establishing cooperation and resolving conflicts about water resources (for example in the Nile basin, focusing particularly on the eastern part through the Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Program (ENSAP), the Zambezi, the Mekong, and the Ganges and Brahmaputra).

In connection with peace and reconciliation efforts, Norway should play a more active role in supporting the provision of water and sanitation services in fragile states. Few donors give priority to these countries, and it is here the greatest need lies. Better cooperation between humanitarian and long-term assistance will be an important tool in this area.

Through its political dialogues, Norway should move issues relating to the right to water further up the international agenda, and provide support to NGOs (e.g. the Centre On Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE)) for promoting this right. We should also raise issues relating to the right to water in our policy dialogues with partner countries.

Relevant Norwegian NGOs (mainly Norwegian Church Aid) and international NGOs could also intensify their activities in the water and sanitation sector considerably, but this depends on their internal priorities. A good framework should be provided for closer cooperation between actors that work with community-based management of catchment areas and those that provide water and sanitation services, with a view to making projects more sustainable. One example could be cooperation between Norwegian Church Aid and WWF.

All schools and clinics built with Norwegian support are to be fitted with satisfactory water and sanitation facilities. This is to be an integral component of all projects and programmes.

Improving water resource management will be a key element of adaptation to climate change. This will require projects to build the necessary water infrastructure, including water storage infrastructure, small-scale projects in catchment areas, and projects to build up institutional capacity and expertise.

2. Background

This document describes how the thematic priority "Water resources management, water and sanitation" in the *Norwegian Action Plan for Environment in Development Cooperation* is to be implemented. It describes current international targets and sets out priorities for channels and sub-themes.

The action plan establishes that most of the Norwegian development funds will be targeted at conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and natural resources and at water resources management, water and sanitation. The following activities and areas relating to water and sanitation are given priority in the action plan :

- supporting the development and implementation of plans for integrated water resources management, including for transboundary watercourses. Particular emphasis will be placed on promoting the ecosystem approach and supporting institutions that are mandated to ensure sustainable management and use of water resources
- promoting efficient water use, particularly in agriculture
- focusing attention on the importance of sanitation and hygiene, and of reducing contamination of water resources
- supporting the improvement of water supply and sanitary conditions in other sectors, for example by supporting the installation of satisfactory water supplies and sanitary and hygiene facilities in schools and health institutions
- assisting priority countries in achieving the water and sanitation target, focusing particularly on sanitation
- promoting community-based management of catchment areas, including support for rainwater harvesting and other small-scale water projects
- promoting community-based management of catchment areas, including support for rainwater harvesting and other small-scale water projects
- increasing awareness of and promoting research on how water resources are affected by climate change
- increasing awareness of and promoting research on how water resources are affected by climate change
- working to secure all people the right to water and promoting acceptance of the principle that water resources are a common good

Norway has a long tradition of development cooperation in this sector. In connection with the International Drinking Water and Sanitation Decade (1980–1990), Norway supported major water and sanitation projects in many countries. This has given us considerable expertise, especially in the private sector. This expertise could easily be mobilised in future Norwegian

efforts in this field. Norway has internationally recognised expertise in water resources management, and particularly in carrying out assessments in connection with hydropower developments. This means that we have particular expertise in single-purpose management but are not in such a good position to act as a partner in multi-purpose management. Several NGOs have also built up considerable expertise and experience in implementing water and sanitation projects.

Norway gained an international profile in the water and sanitation sector through its chairmanship of CSD-12. This has not been reflected in the priority given to the sector in Norwegian development cooperation. Norway has considerable political capital in this field that can be used to promote various initiatives.

At present, there are no major global mechanisms for funding high-priority water and sanitation activities. In the UN system, there are 23 organisations that work with water-related issues, which reflects the cross-cutting nature of this area and its importance for development.

3. Objectives

The specific objectives for Norway's efforts relating to water resources management, water and sanitation are based on international goals and targets adopted at the UN Millennium Summit in the autumn of 2000 and at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002:

- to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation;
- by 2007, to develop integrated water resources management (IWRM) and water efficiency plans.

In addition, Norway intends to:

- assist priority countries in achieving the water and sanitation target, focusing particularly on sanitation;
- work to secure all people the right to water and promote acceptance of the principle that water resources are a common good .

Norway will not set specific targets for the number of people who are to be given access to water and sanitation through Norwegian development assistance, as some countries, such as the Netherlands (15 million by 2015), have done. One of Norway's main goals for water-related assistance is to improve water resource management at all levels using an ecosystem-based approach. Projects dealing with adaptation to climate change will be another priority. The most important channels for Norway's development assistance in the water and sanitation sector will be multilateral organisations and NGOs. State-to-state cooperation will also be considered.

4. Sub-themes, channels and actors

4.1 Sub-themes

Water resources management, water and sanitation involves both purely environmental issues such as water pollution, impacts of climate change and water resources planning, and issues relating to the provision of water supply and sanitation services. In the context of environment in development cooperation, water means fresh water only, excluding coastal and marine areas, and also includes the delivery of water supply and sanitation services. It

was considered appropriate to include the provision of water and sanitation services in the Action Plan, since target 10 under MDG 7 concerns both water and sanitation.

With the MDGs as a starting point, it is natural for Norway to focus on projects to improve the provision of water and sanitation services for priority groups in selected countries through all available channels. It is also important to ensure that the water and sanitation targets are met in a sustainable way, and that the issues relating to sustainable water resources management based on an ecosystem approach are addressed. With the present level of effort, the world is not on target for achieving the sanitation target. Moreover, few donors are focusing clearly on sanitation. Norway could therefore gain a strong strategic position through its focus on sanitation. Furthermore, the direct links between sanitation and health should be highlighted, and there should be a special focus on the needs of women. In its cooperation programmes, Norway will focus particularly on meeting the special needs of women and children for water and sanitation services. Another priority area will be strengthening the role of the public sector as the most important provider of such services.

Unless water resources management is also in focus, there is a risk that investments in the water and sanitation sector will not be sustainable, and that adaptation to climate change will be difficult. Water resources management can be carried out at many different levels, from the management of transboundary watercourses to community-based management of small catchment areas (with close links to the natural resource management). The Johannesburg target of developing integrated water resources management (IWRM) plans by 2005 was not met. Norway indicated that it was willing to support the development of IWRM plans at the "Water for the Poorest" conference in Stavanger in 2003, but there was little response.

There are about 260 transboundary watercourses, and initiatives have been launched to establish cooperation on water resources management for many of these. Most of these initiatives are funded through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and projects are primarily being implemented by the World Bank, UNDP and UNEP. Establishing cooperation on transboundary watercourses has proved valuable in connection with regional integration and peace and reconciliation between countries. Cooperation on water and environmental issues has often proved to be a good starting point for more extensive cooperation. Norway has been involved in cooperation in this field and has considerable expertise in peacebuilding and conflict resolution. Moreover, Norway is seen as a neutral partner and is therefore in a good position to act as facilitator. Closer cooperation should therefore be established between the various sections in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that deal with Norway's engagement in conflicts between countries and between regions within countries, and the sections that deal with water and environmental issues, to examine how cooperation on joint management of water, environmental and natural resources can be used as an entry point for peace and reconciliation efforts, and how Norway best can contribute. It will also be important to contribute to conservation measures, taking into consideration both water resources and the conservation of biodiversity and natural resource management, for important natural "water towers", for example in the Nile basin, the Fouta Djallon highlands in West Africa and the Himalayan region.

Several NGOs are working actively on local water resources management using an ecosystem-based approach. Such projects entail real involvement of the local community and have a direct bearing on the fight against poverty. In this connection, it is important to consider possible synergies with projects focusing mainly on biodiversity and natural resource management. These efforts must support national processes and help to strengthen national authorities. Partners should be chosen on the basis of their ability to contribute to local capacity building and the ecosystem approach.

We therefore recommend that work in the field of water resources management should focus on community-based management projects using an ecosystem-based approach, primarily

implemented and facilitated by NGOs; transboundary watercourse projects in close cooperation with other donors; and also on ways of developing a stronger focus on water-related issues in Norwegian peace and reconciliation efforts. Support for national efforts should complement the support provided to international efforts.

The integration of water supply and sanitation efforts into other sectors, for example health and education, is still incomplete. Many schools and clinics are still being built without satisfactory water and sanitation facilities. Norway should initiate efforts together with other donors to ensure that all school building programmes include water and sanitation, with separate facilities for boys and girls. This is in accordance with the targets of UNICEF's WASH Strategy. Programmes in the health and education sectors can be used more actively as a means of achieving the water and sanitation target.

Efforts to reduce the pollution of water and river systems have not been a high priority in Norwegian development cooperation. The MDG target focuses on the provision of basic sanitation rather than waste water treatment. Meeting this target will probably involve an increase in water pollution as it will be too expensive to include waste water treatment in these efforts in the short and medium term. Some of these problems can be reduced by using ecological sanitation and waste water treatment techniques.

Climate change is beginning to cause changes in ecosystems. It will result in greater variability in the levels, distribution and intensity of precipitation. Many of our partner countries know too little about climate change and its impacts. In addition, the range of natural variability is very great, and flooding and drought can have severe economic impacts. Adaptation to climate change will be of key importance and water resource projects can be part of an effective adaptation strategy. These may include building dams for multipurpose water storage, building embankments, measures to reduce runoff and enhance recharge to groundwater, measures to reduce waterborne diseases and steps to improve water efficiency in agriculture. It will be important to integrate climate change considerations into the planning of new projects in this field, and to consider ways of using water resource projects actively in connection with adaptation to climate change.

The principle of the right to water is recognised in several human rights instruments, including in international humanitarian and civil law, but the principle has not been adequately implemented by the parties to agreements that set out this principle. Many countries have included explicit references to the right to water in their constitutions and sectoral legislation. However, there has been little progress in implementation of the principle in practice at national level. Many countries, (especially in Latin America) and NGOs have raised the question of whether a specific convention is needed on the right to water. However, there is considerable resistance among key countries to this idea.

Rather than giving priority to the development of a specific convention, Norway will pay close attention to the efforts of the UN Human Rights Council, which has initiated a study on the scope and content of the right to water in human rights instruments. In addition, in its bilateral dialogues Norway will intensify efforts to encourage countries to include the principle of the right to water in their national legislation and development plans. Support will be provided for the implementation of relevant national provisions. In its dialogues with relevant countries, Norway will also emphasise the importance of providing people with clean water at a price they can afford, and of integrating the right to water and sanitation into development plans, national budgets and poverty reduction strategies. Support will be provided for projects to provide training and raise awareness in local communities about the right to water and water issues generally, and for research and development relating to traditional water management systems and the participation of local communities.

Norway will seek to enhance a rights-based approach in water projects supported by multilateral development organisations. Norway will not continue to support organisations that are working towards forced liberalisation of the water sector, and has already discontinued support to the Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility (PPIAF). The same principle will apply to multilateral funds.

4.2 Relevant channels

Present channels

Norway has a relatively small volume of water and sanitation funding, spread across a number of different actors and channels. Norway is involved in very little bilateral cooperation in this sector. Most funding is channelled through multilateral organisations and NGOs (particularly Norwegian Church Aid as regards the provision of services). In recent years, the international focus has been mainly on normative work and less on implementation. It seems unlikely that the water and sanitation target will be achieved by 2015 unless efforts are scaled up, especially as regards sanitation, where Asia faces special challenges. At the current rate, Africa will not achieve the target either for water or for sanitation.

There are many multilateral organisations that work with water in one connection or another. Norway is supporting a wide range of activities through these organisations, both indirectly through general contributions and directly through earmarked contributions. Efforts so far have primarily been channelled through UNICEF, UNDP and UN-HABITAT, and also through the African Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank. In 2006, UNICEF adopted a new strategy for its water and sanitation efforts and now plans a significant increase in activities. UNICEF's advantages are its knowledge of the countries concerned, its technical resources and its clear mandate (measures targeting children). The strengths of the development banks are their long experience and the good results they have achieved in the water sector, and their close contact with the finance authorities at country level. UN-HABITAT has also put issues relating to water supply and sanitation in urban areas on the agenda. It has established extensive cooperation with regional banks, and has launched targeted activities in Africa and Asia. In terms of volume, the World Bank is by far the largest actor. Norway's cooperation with the Bank on water resources management and water and sanitation has mainly focused on the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and the Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) through the Norwegian Trust Fund for Private Sector and Infrastructure (NTF-PSI).

Norway has supported the establishment of the African Water Facility under the African Development Bank and the Water Financing Partnership Facility under the Asian Development Bank. The Asian Development Bank has made considerably more progress in implementing its water policy than the African Development Bank. The regional development banks provide active support for regional initiatives. The African Development Bank plays an active part in the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW) and has taken several initiatives that directly support AMCOW's activities.

Norway's bilateral efforts are limited. A water programme is being established in the Faryab province in Afghanistan, and measures are financed through private sector schemes in several countries in Asia.

Norway's normative efforts have mainly been channelled through UNDP, UN-HABITAT and UNEP, and through NGOs such as the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC). These efforts have helped to put

issues relating to water resources management, hygiene, water and sanitation, and ecosystem services on the agenda.

Of the Norwegian NGOs, it is only Norwegian Church Aid that has defined water and sanitation as a priority area. In 2005, Norwegian Church Aid allocated NOK 124 million to the water sector, NOK 83 million of which was in the form of emergency relief. The target group for these efforts totalled 1.3 million people, 430 000 of whom received assistance through long-term efforts. Norwegian Church Aid focuses mainly on East Africa and Asia. Its efforts in the water and sanitation sector have produced good results. WWF is also working on issues relating to community-based management of river basins, conservation of biodiversity and conservation of important "water towers" through its Freshwater for Life programme.

With regard to water resources management, Norwegian support has mainly been focused on the Nile Basin Initiative and the Zambezi river, and support has also been channelled through UNDP and the GWP for training efforts and for the development of integrated water resources management plans. In addition, Norway has supported efforts to draw up integrated water resources management plans in countries such as Bhutan and Vietnam.

Relevant new channels

There are no global funds that support water and sanitation. UNDP's *Human Development Report 2006* recommends that a global plan of action on water and sanitation should be drawn up, as was proposed by the G8 in 2004. DFID, together with UNDP and the World Bank, has proposed greater efforts to develop national action plans with a stronger focus on sanitation. Proposals have also been made for an annual status report and an annual high-level meeting on water and sanitation. This would be a practical contribution to coordinating efforts in this field.

Several multilateral mechanisms have been established or proposed in recent years, and Norway could consider support for these. The most important is the Water Financing Partnership Facility under the Asian Development Bank. The Bank intends to establish several trust funds to provide support for investment programmes, including grant facilities, guarantee funds and funds for project preparation. The Facility is intended to double the Bank's investments in water and sanitation, bringing the total up to USD 2 billion per year. Norway intends to contribute a total of NOK 30 million to the fund in the period 2007–09.

According to the action plan, NGOs will be an important channel for development cooperation in the water sector. In addition to providing support for Norwegian NGOs (funding through Norwegian Church Aid could be increased significantly, but this depends on internal priorities within the organisation), Norway should also consider providing support through WaterAid. WaterAid was established in 1981 and is the largest water and sanitation NGO in the UK. It runs projects in 17 countries in Africa and Asia. In 2004–2005, with a budget of GBP 21 million, WaterAid helped some 600 000 people with access to clean water, and around 500 000 with access to satisfactory sanitation. WaterAid's target is to help 1 million people a year, which will require an annual budget of around GBP 35 million. WaterAid is primarily financed by voluntary contributions, for example as a surcharge on water supply charges.

If Norway is to be a useful partner in cooperation in this field, it is also important to establish bilateral cooperation with certain main partner countries, focusing particularly on sanitation. It will be natural to cooperate closely with other donors that have defined water and sanitation as priority areas, such as Sweden, Denmark and Germany. Silent partnerships with other donors should be considered more closely in priority countries. Bilateral cooperation must be based on national action plans in order to ensure a greater degree of

national ownership. Institutional and capacity development will be a key element of these efforts.

Significant water and sanitation activities are funded through emergency relief. Two-thirds of Norwegian Church Aid's water and sanitation activities are linked to emergency relief. It is important to work more actively to ensure that emergency relief in this sector also contributes to the long-term provision of services.

4.3 Cooperation partners and channels for each of the sub-themes

Norway supports water-related activities through a number of different channels. In the future it will be important to give priority to:

- a smaller number of actors,
- actors with an operational role that have demonstrated their ability to carry out projects
- cooperation with normative actors that play a role in setting the agenda,
- capacity building
- service delivery at the local level
- participation of civil society in water resources planning processes.

It will be important to develop strategic partnerships between some of these actors and Norway. The following presents relevant channels and actors for each of the sub-themes that Norway will consider supporting:

Integrated water resources management plans - support the development and implementation of plans for integrated water resources management, including for transboundary watercourses. Particular emphasis will be placed on promoting the ecosystem approach and supporting institutions that are mandated to ensure sustainable management and use of water resources

- Support via international organisations:
 - UNDP – support is provided through the Energy and Environment Fund and specific water cooperation projects. UNDP should be the main channel for support because of its focus on good governance and its close contacts with national authorities, and because of its key role in this field.
 - UNEP – support is provided for implementation of the UNEP water strategy as part of our regular allocations to UNEP. UNEP should have the main responsibility for the environmental dimension of integrated water resources management (IWRM).
 - GWP – receives core funding from Norad (support for international NGOs). This is an important channel for developing methods and principles for IWRM, and has been made responsible by UNWater for status reports on progress towards the goal of developing IWRM plans.
- Contributions to international river basin processes:
 - Co-finance priority projects carried out by the World Bank, UNDP, UNEP and other GEF partners, for example through the GEF. There are considerable opportunities. Generally, the GEF provides one-third of the funding, the countries in question provide one-third, and donors are needed to co-finance the remaining third.
 - Continue current support for international river basin processes:
 - Nile Basin Initiative
 - Zambezi
 - Middle East
 - Central Asia
 - Consider support for the following:
 - Mekong (Track II dialogue with Sweden)

- Fouta Djallon in West Africa, where a major GEF project is being planned
- Himalaya – Ganges/Brahmaputra (IUCN-Asia has been requested to facilitate a process between the countries)
- Other river basins in Southern Asia
- Central Asia
- Other initiatives where Norwegian peace and reconciliation expertise is in demand. There are close links between environment and water and peace and reconciliation. Supporting water and sanitation measures can be an important contribution to bottom-up state-building and mobilisation of local communities.
- Support the preparation of national integrated water resources management plans in line with the Johannesburg goal.
 - Depends on specific requests for assistance from key countries. Norway is already contributing to this through UNDP, UNEP and GWP.
- The ecosystem approach:
 - UNEP – normative role to ensure that the environmental dimension is taken into account in integrated water resources management
 - Support for the IUCN's Water and Nature Initiative (WANI) phase 2. The Netherlands has been the main donor to this initiative so far. Norway could become a new strategic partner. The IUCN is an important global environmental NGO.
 - Continue to provide support through NGOs, including WWF's Freshwater for Life programme –Mara river system in Kenya and Tanzania.

Efficient use of water, particularly in agriculture

- Support the programme “Producing more good grain with less water: Promoting farm-based methods to improve water productivity”: WWF, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).
- Seek to ensure that water issues are included in efforts in the agricultural sector (see action plan).
- Support specific activities carried out by CGIAR research centres.

Assist priority countries in achieving water and sanitation targets, focusing particularly on sanitation

- Continue present support for normative actors:
 - UNEP – ecosystem-based management and pollution control
 - Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council through Norad's allocation to international NGOs. Important actor in advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns and in highlighting the specific needs women and the role they can play in these efforts.
 - the WSP, through the NTF-PSI in the World Bank. Plays a key role in sharing best practices across regions and capacity building.
- Support for actors with an operational role:
 - African Development Bank (the African Water Facility (AWF) and the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI)). The fund has been established and projects are under way. The progress achieved will determine how much support Norway gives in future.
 - Asian Development Bank – support the establishment of a new water fund as a channel for a rapid increase in development cooperation funding for the

water and sanitation sector in countries in Asia, focusing particularly on sanitation.

- UNICEF – increase support for the implementation of UNICEF's WASH strategy. UNICEF is the UN organisation with the most activity in the water and sanitation sector. It is also a lead agency for water and sanitation efforts in connection with emergency relief.
- UNDP – considerable activity at country level. An important task is channelling support to national programmes and ensuring links between UNDP's normative activities, which Norway supports, and its operational activities at country level.
- UN-HABITAT – through the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund. UN-HABITAT is a key actor for addressing water and sanitation issues in small and medium-sized towns in Africa and Asia. UN-HABITAT is also a key normative actor.
 - UN-HABITAT has also been made responsible for establishing the Global Water Operators Partnership Alliance as part of the follow up to the Hashimoto Action Plan (drawn up by the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation, UNSGAB).
- Support for the efforts of Norwegian (particularly Norwegian Church Aid) and international NGOs that provide services for local communities. Use of microcredit as a source of financing, particularly for sanitation measures.
- Bilateral support in close cooperation with other donors, for example Sweden:
 - Afghanistan – new programme in Faryab province.
 - The Balkans – continue present activities.
 - Others – Norway should indicate its willingness to start a dialogue with other donors on cooperation in the water and sanitation sector.
- Integration of water and sanitation efforts into other sectors:
 - Education: continue support for UNICEF's water and sanitation projects for schools. Integration with Norwegian technical advisory services.
 - Health: expand cooperation with WHO.
 - Humanitarian assistance: strengthen the links between humanitarian assistance and long-term development assistance.

Community-based water management, rainwater harvesting:

- Community-based water resource management:
 - UNEP – important normative actor in the promotion of community-based management
 - Support primarily through NGOs:
 - The WWF Freshwater for Life programme, focusing on Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania
 - Sustainable water supply – conservation of water sources, steps to encourage strategic cooperation between NGOs, for example Norwegian Church Aid and WWF.
 - IUCN – key international NGO in this field.
- Rainwater harvesting:
 - Support via Norwegian Church Aid for efforts in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya and Afghanistan. Important approach for ensuring water supplies to local communities and institutions, such as schools and clinics.

Water and climate change:

- Support for improvements in water resource management at regional, national and local level will make a key contribution to adaptation to climate change (see section above on community-based water resource management).

- Support for work to increase understanding of the impacts of climate change on water resources and the need for adaptation to climate change. This is essential if all projects are to be assessed in the context of climate change.
 - Global Environmental Change and Human Security (GECHS) is one example. (Norad is supporting this project through?***** the University of Oslo).
 - Support for work being carried out by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) on water issues in the Himalaya region.
 - Support for water- and climate-related work by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). There are also current IUCN programmes with a considerable level of activity in these fields.
 - Support for the establishment of water monitoring systems as one element of support for improvements in water resource management.
- Support for projects designed to reduce the impact of flooding and drought: water storage (dams and small-scale projects) in river systems, improvements in irrigation efficiency, construction of embankments.
 - This will be provided through multilateral channels (primarily the development banks) for large-scale projects and through NGOs for small-scale projects.
- Support for specific projects must be considered in the context of the Clean Energy for Development initiative. Support for the construction of hydropower plants must be considered both as an element of water resource management and as an important means of mitigating climate change.
- Support for developing adaptation strategies and integrating climate considerations into the planning of water-related measures.
 - UNDP and UNEP will be key cooperation partners in this field.

The right to water:

- Support for the Oslo Governance Centre's efforts in this area through programmatic cooperation with UNDP HQ.
- Support through international NGOs: Centre On Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE).
- Support NGOs' efforts in this field in several countries as an integral part of their activities, and consider support for specific projects in individual cases.

Analytical efforts of relevance for implementation

- *Fiction – facts – strategy for engagement in water and sanitation.* Study initiated by Norad. Its purpose is to examine the experience gained from Norway's efforts during the International Drinking Water and Sanitation Decade and use this as a basis for recommendations for how new programmes should be designed. A draft report is available.

Norway will also consider support for mechanisms to improve coordination of UN efforts, for example through the process of UN reform. This may include support for UN-Water, which is responsible for coordination of the efforts of 23 UN organisations, and for UNSGAB, which is the Secretary-General's most important advisory body.

NGOs that are working on water-related issues in Norway's partner countries will also be given priority through a new programme to strengthen environmental organisations in developing countries. This will be important in increasing the focus on the right to water, local communities, women and the participation of civil society in water resource management.