

202.3 92IN

71 IS(WSSG)8C

SEPTEMBER 1992

**INTERAGENCY STEERING COMMITTEE FOR WATER SUPPLY**

**AND SANITATION**

**SECOND MEETING, UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK, 5-6 OCTOBER 1992**

**PROGRESS REPORT BY AGENCIES**

**COVERING PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1991 - SEPTEMBER 1992**

**PREPARED BY WHO**

202.3-92IN-14901

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This progress report summarizes the activities which WHO has undertaken in cooperation with Steering Committee members and/or other UN agencies during the period September 1991 to September 1992, since the First Meeting of the Interagency Steering Committee for Water Supply and Sanitation held at FAO, Rome, 23 and 24 September 1991.

The activities of WHO have continued to be guided by the outcome of the New Delhi Consultation and the Review of the Decade by the Forty-fifth UN General Assembly in addition to the relevant resolution of WHO's governing bodies.

During the reporting period three important events which will be fundamental to the future direction of the programme took place:

- the conclusion of the work of the WHO Commission on Health and Environment and the publication of its report "Our Planet, our Health";
- the International Conference on Water and the Environment, Dublin, January 1992;
- the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), Rio de Janeiro, June 1992, and its Agenda 21.

These events and their reports emphasized the need for continued efforts to strengthen coordination and cooperation among the agencies of the UN system in the area of the environment, and underscored water supply and sanitation as key environmental considerations.

## 2. COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH EXTERNAL SUPPORT AGENCIES

The First Meeting of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council Global Forum took place in Oslo, Norway, in mid-September 1991, immediately prior to the First Meeting of the Steering Committee. The Secretariat, with Mr Ranjith Wirasinha as Executive Secretary and Mr B. Locke his Deputy, was established in WHO headquarters. WHO and the Swiss Development Cooperation are providing support to the Secretariat operations.

In addition, WHO's CWS staff member, Mr José Hueb, was nominated as coordinator of the Collaborative Council Working Group on Operation and Maintenance.

During the reporting period the CWS unit continued to provide the Secretariat to the Steering Committee and participated in the activities of the ACC Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources.

### LIBRARY IRC

PO Box 93190, 2509 AD THE HAGUE

Tel.: +31 70 30 689 80

Fax: +31 70 35 899 64

BARCODE: 14 901

LO: 202.3 921N

The process leading to UNCED in Rio de Janeiro, June 1992, was substantially supported by WHO through the two-year secondment of a WHO staff member to the UNCED secretariat in Conches. This person was the principal programme officer for fresh-water sector and was instrumental in coordinating the inputs from the ISG-WR to the fresh-water chapter of Agenda 21. The ICWE in Dublin, January 1992 was also supported, particularly in the area of fresh-water quality.

### 3. NATIONAL AND GLOBAL MONITORING

The WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation Monitoring made significant progress during the 1991-1992 period, having only initiated its activities at the time of last reporting. The division of responsibilities of the work between WHO and UNICEF has resulted in a truly collaborative effort which has been well perceived at regional and country levels.

Among the main achievements of the reporting period has been the convening of four Regional Workshops:

- Guatemala, December 1991, for countries of Latin America
- Jamaica, March 1992 for anglophone countries of Latin America and the Caribbean
- Swaziland, May 1992, for countries of East and Southern Africa.
- Benin, September 1992, for francophone countries of West and Central Africa

In addition to these meetings, approximately 70 countries are utilizing the system, mainly at central government level, and several have initiated its use at State/Provincial levels: Togo, Brazil, Nigeria.

A major advance has been the full development of the "open-ended" facility within the WASAMS software. This facility enables countries to develop modules for monitoring any additional elements of the sector required by national needs, over and above the "Core Indicators". Already two countries of West Africa, Nigeria and Upper Volta, are cooperating in the development of a module for monitoring rural water supply and dracunculiasis programmes.

Two missions were undertaken to China during 1992, one by WHO/WPRO (Dr A. Basaran) in June, and one by UNICEF (J. Christmas) in September, and the groundwork has been prepared through the WHO and UNICEF Country Offices for a workshop to be held during the first half of 1993.

A major thrust during 1993 will be the follow-up and support to country activities and a thrust in Asia hopefully initiated by the China Workshop. In addition, the computer software to assist countries in the establishment of national monitoring networks will continue to be refined, including Portuguese, the last of the four initial languages being added to the menu.

The first annual JMP report has been printed and should be available to the Steering Committee.

WHO completed the end of Decade monitoring as at 31 December 1990 and published the results. This publication marks the end of WHO's reinforced monitoring efforts called for within the Mar del Plata Action Plan that "Collaboration with the ongoing activity of the World Health Organization for monitoring and reporting on the status and progress of community water supply and sanitation be intensified".

This work was undertaken with support from UNDP, whose Resident Representative together with the WHO Representative assisted governments in collecting the data. Also, the outputs of the programme have been available and used by the whole UN system.

As far as the programme area on protection of water resources, water quality and aquatic ecosystems is concerned, WHO took a lead role jointly with UNEP to provide the necessary inputs to ICWE as well as to UNCED. The programme GEMS/WATER and its recent work on water quality assessment provided the basis for this. All four GEMS/WATER agencies participated actively in the process. Preliminary discussions were held between these agencies to intensify collaboration in this programme area in the aftermath of the Rio de Janeiro Conference. Closer coordination with other international efforts on environmental monitoring, information processing and assessment programmes, such as UNEP's GRID and the UN Economic Commissions, is envisaged.

The monitoring and assessment of surface and ground water quality is a continuous and long-term activity undertaken through the GEMS/WATER programme. Four UN agencies closely collaborate in this endeavour under the auspices of EARTHWATCH and GEMS. UNEP, WHO, WMO and UNESCO share the burden, with UNEP providing most financial support and coordination while WHO executes the project, WMO provides the hydrometric components and UNESCO gives scientific and documentation support. Several national agencies, particularly the Canadian National Water Research Institute, assumed responsibility for project activities.

#### 4. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION/HEALTH EDUCATION

WHO activities in the area of community participation and health education progressively expanded during the reporting period, and this effort has been significantly supported by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).

Activities were also undertaken in collaboration with several members of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council and included:

- In collaboration with the UNDP/World Bank RWSG, Nairobi Navasha, Workshop on Environmental Sanitation of Nairobi's Informal Settlements (peri-urban areas) Kenya, September 1991.
- A consultant mission in July 1992, jointly with SDC, to assist the Mozambique government in developing a national hygiene education programme;
- An agreement concluded by Indonesia August 1992, to provide support to the UNDP/World Bank RWSG, Jakarta on Hygiene Education and the promotion of health aspects of WS&S.

#### 5. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

During the reporting period three main collaborative activities were undertaken within the framework of institutional development by the CWS unit at WHO/HQ, as follows:

- 1) with regard to the financial side, the WHO Working Group on Cost Recovery continued to disseminate its recommendations contained in document WHO/CWS/90.10 "Water Supply and Sanitation/Handbook of Financial Principles and Methods" prepared with technical and financial assistance from IRC, several bilateral agencies, UNDP and the World Bank. Intercountry and country seminars, workshops and courses based on the Handbook were held with CEFIGRE, CAFRE/ANDESAPA (GTZ) and other institutions in Benin, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Gabon, Honduras, Kenya, Poland and Portugal, involving in all more than one hundred participants.
- 2) Concerning health impact the WHO Working Group on Water Sanitation and Health at its last consultation formulated a series of projects requiring interagency collaboration, which has started being implemented in Benin and Burkina Faso, with support from a bilateral donor (SIDA).
- 3) As far as legal considerations are concerned, the FAO/WHO Working Group on Legal Aspects of Water Resources, Water Supply and Wastewater Management was invited to hold its third consultation in FAO, Rome in September 1992 to submit previously formulated technical assistance projects to financing agencies and to pursue the preparation of guidance material. Besides FAO, several other UN agencies have expressed interest in or are supporting the activities of the Working Group.

## 6. DRINKING WATER QUALITY

The WHO programme in the area of water quality focusses on two major aspects, the quality of drinking water and the quality of water resources used for a variety of purposes.

During the last three years a major cooperative initiative has been undertaken to rewrite the WHO Guidelines for Drinking-Water Quality. To this end interaction with a number of national scientific institutions and government agencies was established, mainly through the International Programme on Chemical Safety. This mechanism is a joint undertaking of WHO, UNEP and ILO and collaborates on the risk assessment of chemicals in drinking-water.

The application of the WHO Guidelines in pilot projects concentrated on rural areas and their community water supplies. The programme covered Peru, Zambia, Indonesia, Tanzania and Vanuatu and was supported by UNEP's water programme EMINWA. Financial support was received from several bilateral donors for capacity building in the pilot areas and for a series of training courses. The experience gained has now been used to revise volume 3 of the WHO Guidelines on Surveillance of Community Water Supplies.

## 7. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME

Significant efforts are being made by WHO for the promotion of O & M as a strategy to achieve a sustainable institutional development process. Support is being provided to programmes dealing with the optimization of water supply and sanitation systems in developing countries. Four major lines of action have been devised: mobilization of international resources for operation and maintenance; development of guidelines for operation, maintenance and optimization of water supply and sanitation facilities; support to the formulation, implementation and monitoring of operation and maintenance programmes; and the development of training activities.

With regard to mobilization of resources, a working group on O & M has been established with the objective of organizing a process of joint cooperation from which broadly applicable policies and programmes would develop together with methodologies for the identification of realistic resource allocations, financial, human and material, for the proper operation and maintenance of systems. The group was proposed by WHO and has been recently recognized as one of the official working groups of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council. The members of the working group include representatives from the water supply and sanitation sector in developing countries and representatives from External Support Agencies dealing with O & M projects. Several priority projects on O & M have been devised and are under implementation by the Group.

## 8. RURAL & URBAN DEVELOPMENT (RUD)

Health issues related to water supply and sanitation continued to receive prominence in the work of the RUD programme. The report on the Technical Discussions at the World Health Assembly in 1991 "Strategy for Health for All in the Face of Rapid Urbanization" which emphasized the importance of water and sanitation in urban development continues to provide major guidance to the work.

The areas given emphasis include technologies and approaches appropriate for large urban and semi-urban areas.

The Healthy City Project implemented in collaboration with the WHO Regional Offices continues to receive strong support. Within the project water and sanitation are priority issues, essential for the development of a healthy city environment and sustainable development in the face of rapid urbanization.

## 9. PANEL OF EXPERTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FOR VECTOR CONTROL (PEEM)

PEEM is a joint initiative of WHO, FAO, UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat) and its activities are therefore in principle all of an interagency nature. They come under three headings: (1) promotion, policy modification and technical cooperation, (2) research and development and, (3) training of various target groups.

In the first category, the following activities were implemented over the past 12 months:

- (a) The 11th Panel meeting (Kuala Lumpur, 21-25 October 1991) with a technical discussion on "Design and operation of rural and urban water management systems for the control of disease vectors".
- (b) A meeting of PEEM Collaborating Centres (Harare, 1-4 September 1992). Representatives of the network of 12 PEEM collaborating centres developed three project proposals and two project ideas for implementation under the PEEM Medium-term programme 1991-1995.
- (c) The reports of the 9th and 10th Panel meetings and the Spanish versions of two PEEM guidelines were published in the period under review.
- (d) Collaboration between WHO and FAO prepared for health impact assessments of small-scale irrigation development in Benin and Guinea.

Under Research and Development, the following activities took place:

- (a) Studies on water management strategies in irrigated rice fields in South India for the control of vectors of Japanese encephalitis, and on the effect of Azolla on rice field vector breeding in China were successfully completed.
- (b) Proposals were formulated for research projects on rice field ecosystem management for disease vector control, to be incorporated into the programmes of the International Rice Research Institute and the West Africa Rice Development Association.

Training of various target groups:

- (a) In the series of inter-regional workshops on the promotion of environmental management for human disease vector control through agricultural extension programmes, a first workshop was held in Alexandria (23-27 September 1991); at each workshop, eight countries were represented by two-person teams, one health, one agricultural extension.
- (c) A course on "Health opportunities in Water resources development" was organized for thirty planners/decision makers from the health, agriculture and water resources sectors and the central planning body of Zimbabwe (Darwendale, 7-18 September 1992).

#### 10. Technology Development

The programme undertaken by WHO in 1992, in the area of technology development and transfer, including activities at global and regional levels as well as in cooperation with other UN agencies, is as follows:

- Support to regional offices in the dissemination of the WHO Guidelines for the use of wastewater in irrigation: Regional meeting held in Jordan congregating 12 countries of EMRO (March 1992); National meeting in Teheran, Iran (January 1992); National meeting in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman (April-May 1992).
- Support to the UNDP/FAO/WHO Wastewater Reuse project of Quarzazate, Morocco; 5th mission in February 1992.
- Finalization of the document "Effects of Human Viruses on Public Health Associated with the Use of Wastewater in Agriculture and Aquaculture". Resources are being sought to call for a Scientific Group meeting to verify the possibility of establishing WHO Guidelines for virus concentration in wastewater used for crop irrigation.



- In phase of finalization (expected November 1992), the background document on "Chemical Guidelines for the Safe Use of Domestic/Industrial Wastewater for Crop Irrigation".
- Publication of document "On Site Sanitation" (September 1992).
- Collaboration in the administration of the World Bank/UNICEF/WHO Technology Promotion Facility, which is aimed at provision of funding for the development of equipment and methodology for direct application in the water and sanitation sector.
- Provision of continuous support to several WHO Regional offices with respect to technical problems as well as recommendations of materials, equipment and systems related to projects and programmes of water supply and sanitation.