

# Poverty Environment Partnership Poverty Reduction & Water Management



# We are Missing the Point



- Water high profile issue in global poverty debate
- WSSD, CSD, MDGs etc – high level of political support for water
- But not translated into higher levels of investment
- Water poorly represented in PRSPs in Africa & Asia
- “Sunk investments - will invest after growth”

# The Reality is Different



- Improvements to water management a major factor in poverty reduction
- Investments in water can and do generate economic returns
- Are often self-selecting for the poor
- Can be the basis for sustainable livelihoods improvements

# Four Dimensions of Poverty Reduction



- Enhanced Livelihoods Security
- Reduced Health Risks
- Reduced Vulnerability
- Pro-Poor Economic Growth

# Enhanced Livelihoods Security

- Improving access to water for livelihoods activities
- Ensuring integrity of ecosystems on which poor depend
- Accounting for all uses and values of water



# Reduced Health Risks

- Improved WSS key to reducing health risks
- Good investment:  
Attaining the MDGs: \$1 gives returns of \$5 to \$11
- Water key for food security & nutrition



# Reduced Vulnerability



- Reduce risks from and increase resilience to withstand long-term trends and sudden shocks
- Disasters hit poor hardest and can throw people into poverty
- Key part of, and sometimes entry point for, IWRM

# Pro-Poor Economic Growth



- Water can play a key part in the growth essential for poverty reduction
- Focus on both local entrepreneurs and major infrastructure
- More than infrastructure: product diversification, market development, etc
- Base investment decisions on the full economic picture

# Key Messages



- Investing in water & sanitation is an **economically sound** idea
- Doing **infrastructure** right – investments needed: with safeguards and not infrastructure alone
- Finding the **finance** – targeting, cost recovery and governance
- Meeting the **sanitation** targets – the failing MDG
- The **Right to Water** – whose rights and who pays?

# Policy Recommendations



- Develop a policy process based on strong information and consensus building
- Integrate water into MDG based poverty reduction strategies
- Reduce fragmentation through IWRM
- Strengthen local governance
- Create an environment to encourage investments
- Advocacy & awareness

# Thank You

