THE RIGHT TO WATER – SOUTH AFRICA

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CONTEXT

• South Africa one of a number of countries promoting the right to water

• For instance, Senegal, Hungary, Uruguay, Morocco, etc.

• The problem:
  1. Poverty eradication
  2. Addressing past imbalances
  3. Scarce resources

• Possible solutions ‘pro poor policy’ – Free Basic Water
  – World Health Organization standard between 20 - 30 litres per person per day. South Africa opted for average 25 litres per person per day
  – Amounts to +/- 6 000 litres/household/month for a household of 8 people.
HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:
THE DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

• 1996 - South African Constitution
  – entrenched Bill of Rights
  – social, economic and environmental rights
  – allocated responsibilities between local, provincial and national
  – water management a national competence
  – water services competence of local government

• 1997 - Water Services Act
  – Aims to provide for “rights of access to basic water supply and basic sanitation” first amongst other aims

• 1998 - National Water Act
  – registration of existing water uses (precursor to allocation)
  – classification of rivers to enable the determination of the reserve
  – pricing strategy
  – national water resource strategy (catchment management framework)

• 2001 - Policy on Free Basic Water
  – A minimum quantity of potable water of 25 litres per person per day of 6 kilolitres per household per month

• 2003 - Strategic Framework for Water Services
  – Aim is still to eradicate the backlog on basic services, but also to address higher levels of service – captured in the water ladder concept. Aim is to have all people progressively moving up the ladder (from basic to higher levels)

• 2004 - National Water Resources Strategy
FINANCING

• Primary source of financing for local government remains local taxes and other revenues levied and collected by municipalities themselves, including property taxes, levies and user charges.
• Grants from nationally raised revenue, known as the equitable share, are transferred to local governments to supplement their revenues.
  – MIG (Municipal Infrastructure Grant) for basic services for the poor (+US$1.0 billion pa)
  – Equitable Share to address the O&M costs of basic services to the indigents. (US$2.0 billion pa)
  – Capacity Building Grants (US$100 million pa)
• MIG targets the poorest municipalities, who have a limited local tax base, and the highest number of poor households.
# Achievements to Date

**Financial Year 2005/2006**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Annual Sector Target</th>
<th>YTD Sector</th>
<th>YTD DWAF</th>
<th>Quarter 3 (October to December 2005)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>DWAF</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Access to Services</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Household Water</td>
<td>1,000,000 people</td>
<td>1,347,554</td>
<td>323,720</td>
<td>77,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Household Sanitation</td>
<td>300,000 households</td>
<td>207,424</td>
<td>21,800</td>
<td>4,049</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Water</td>
<td>706 schools</td>
<td>691 schools</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Sanitation</td>
<td>2,117 schools</td>
<td>1,795 schools</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinic Sanitation</td>
<td>536 clinics</td>
<td>512 blocks (PTD)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bucket Eradication</td>
<td>60000 households</td>
<td>23,016</td>
<td>11,268</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Hygiene</td>
<td>165,816 people</td>
<td>97,368 people</td>
<td>5,346 people</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FBW provision</strong></td>
<td>75% people</td>
<td>78% (of poor population with access to infrastructure); 165 out of 170 WSA’s providing FBW</td>
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<td>Chinese development aid</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,304 km of uPVC pipes installed; 109,396 water meters installed</td>
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*dp1g Q3 data and verified Dept of Health 2005/06 data not available at the time of preparing the quarterly sector report*
CHALLENGES

• Limited resources
  – Availability of Water (South Africa is one of the 30 driest countries in the World)
  – Availability of funds

• Non-payment vs affordability

• HIV/AIDS vs 6kl/hh/month
  – Water plays a critical role in the productive life of HIV sufferers

• Lack of capacity of Local Government

• Minimum level of Water Quality
OPPORTUNITIES

• Implementation of Integrated Water Resource Management presents opportunities e.g.
  – Optimising the utilisation of existing infrastructure and available water
  – Investment in more infrastructure e.g. Eastern Cape – Umzimvubu; Limpopo Province – De Hoop Dam;
  – Increased Demand Management and Conservation Programmes

• Decentralisation and Capacity Building

• Institutional Reform

• Water Allocation Reform