

# Community Water Initiative

Promoting Community-Level Action on Water Resources Management  
and Water Supply and Sanitation

**G**overnments, bilateral and multilateral donors have been engaged for decades in projects to expand access to safe water supply and sanitation, and yet over a billion people in developing countries are still forced to rely on inefficient, remote, inadequate or contaminated water sources.

## UNDP Response

The Community Water Initiative (CWI) was designed to fulfill the basic needs of the poor and to contribute to learning and disseminating best practices in community involvement -- especially by women -- in decision making and management of water resources.

- CWI began with a US \$1 M contribution from the Government of Sweden.
- At the country/local level, CWI operates through the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (SGP) implemented by UNDP.
- CWI provides small grants of between US \$20 to 30 thousand directly to CBOs and NGOs in remote rural areas through a bottom-up, demand driven approach.
- In 2003, UNDP's Community Water Initiative (CWI) was established in Guatemala, Kenya, Mauritania, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania. Uganda came on board in 2005.
- There are 22 water supply, sanitation and water resource management projects being implemented in these 6 countries.

## CWI Highlights

- Rehabilitation of potable water system using solar power in Coyolate, Guatemala
- Protection and capping of natural springs in Olkinyei, Kenya
- Bioremediation of nitrate in wells in Sri Lanka
- School sanitation and income generation for women in Boghé, Mauritania
- Rehabilitation of a gravity water supply scheme, including fee collection for sustainability in Lufumbu, Tanzania
- Ecological Sanitation Project on Ssesse Islands of Lake Victoria, in Uganda

## Approach

The design and implementation of project activities will continue to be conducted under four guiding principles:

- Promote country ownership: empowerment, participation and consultation
- Strengthen local capacity: institutional arrangements, coordination and knowledge
- Ensure country commitment: reward interest and build on previous success
- Provide effective monitoring and evaluation: Quantifiable results, indicators, accountability, deliverables and feedback.

## Scaling up from initial phase

- In June and in December 2005, the Governments of Luxembourg and Norway contributed US \$534,000 and US \$220,000 each for expansion of CWI in 2006
- Additional contributions from Luxembourg (\$1.9 million) and Norway (\$590,000) are expected for 2007. These funds will allow expansion of CWI to 3 additional African countries: Mali, Niger and Senegal.

## CWI Project Criteria

CWI grants up to a maximum of US \$30,000 will continue to be made available to communities in Africa for projects that:

- Focus on strong involvement of the community;
- Provide reliable, sustainable, and affordable services;
- Improve livelihoods;
- Utilize appropriate, low-cost, and affordable technologies; and
- Include gender mainstreaming