



Human Development Report 2006 calls for Global Action Plan to end 'silent emergency'

Governments and agencies should put water and sanitation at the very top of their domestic agendas and their development policies if the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are to be achieved.

That's the conclusion of the 2006 Human Development Report, published by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The influential report, which tracks progress countries are making in their development, calls for a Global Action Plan on water to stem the 'silent emergency' of poor water and sanitation provision causing 1.8 million child deaths every year.

Beyond scarcity: Power, poverty and the global water crisis, published in November 2006, highlights the threat to human security of unclean water in the developing world and how the water and sanitation crisis holds back economic growth.

It calls for an international effort to mobilise resources and political action to tackle the crisis. Unlike wars and natural disasters, this global crisis does not stir up concerted international action, says the report.

"Like hunger, it is a silent emergency experienced by the poor and tolerated by those with the resources, the technology and the political power to end it," it concludes.

It stresses that the MDGs cannot be achieved within the target decade without concerted action on water. Each one of the MDGs is inextricably tied to the next, so if we fail on the water and sanitation goal, hope of reaching the others rapidly fades, the report says.

The Human Development Report each year frames debates on some of the most pressing challenges facing humanity. It is translated into more than a dozen languages, and is launched in more than 100 countries.



Human Development Report 2006: Key Recommendations

- Governments should acknowledge it is a human right for everyone to have a secure, accessible and affordable supply of water. They should put in place a target of at least 20 litres of clean water a day for every citizen, and at no cost for those too poor to pay.
- All governments to prepare national plans for accelerating progress in water and sanitation, with ambitious targets backed with financing to the tune of at least 1% of GDP, and clear strategies for overcoming inequalities.
- Increase international aid by doubling aid if MDG on water and sanitation is to be achieved.

For further information and to download the report <http://hdr.undp.org/hdr2006>

International campaign to end water and sanitation crisis

WaterAid has been working with its partners, country programmes and international organisations to kickstart a coalition campaign which aims to alert key decision-makers about the nature, extent and impact of the sanitation and water crisis. The **End Water Poverty** campaign is calling for one global action plan for sanitation and water, one global coordinating agency, 70% of aid money for sanitation and water to be targeted at the poorest countries, and for water resources to be protected and shared equitably. Organisations across the world will be urged to sign up and take action, building huge public pressure on governments in developing and developed countries to fulfil their duties.

For further information and to read the campaign manifesto, contact fan@freshwateraction.net



UK Government recognises human right to water

Coinciding with the launch of the HDR 2006, the UK Government has recognised the human right to water. The UK had fought official recognition of the right to water but has now changed its position.

Assessment needed of human rights obligations related to water

The Human Rights Council has asked the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to assess the scope and content of the human rights obligations related to equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation, under international human rights instruments. The study will be submitted to the sixth session of the Council in September 2007.

www.righttowater.org.uk



Funding and governance a priority as consultants begin work

FAN has appointed a consultant to develop a fundraising strategy for FAN and the regional networks, and another to examine FAN's governance structure.

The decision to appoint experts was made at the 2006 FAN Advisory Group meeting to discuss progress and future plans.

In the first stage of the fundraising development work, consultant Emily van Lier has drawn up a comprehensive 'case for support'. This document can be used by FAN and regional networks as a foundation for funding proposals. Emily has also provided a report on FAN's funding situation and possible areas of opportunity, including specific examples and reference to ethical and practical considerations.

Meanwhile governance consultant Rieky Stuart is producing a deliberately provocative discussion paper about the future of FAN, to foster lively debate on the issue. Members of the FAN Advisory Group are currently being interviewed for the paper, which will inform an options statement on the future of the network. This will then be circulated widely to all FAN members for input.

People with ideas that go beyond the options presented will be encouraged to contribute them. That input will then be analysed and consolidated, and the implications of the most popular options will be considered by the Advisory Group.

Fundraising: The 'case for support'

- Sets FAN's work within the context of global access to water and sanitation issues
- Illustrates FAN's unique role
- Outlines FAN's relationship with its networks
- Highlights achievements to date
- Lists aims for FAN's future work

UK inquiry into water and sanitation

The UK's International Development Select Committee, which scrutinises the activities of the UK Government's Department of International Development (DfID) launched an inquiry last year into how donors, including DfID, can do more to support progress towards the water and sanitation element of MDG7.

The goal calls for the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation to be halved by 2015. The inquiry will also examine DfID's progress towards other MDGs through achieving outcomes in water and sanitation.

The first phase of the inquiry began in July when interested organisations and individuals, including FAN members, submitted written evidence.

During the second phase, witnesses were called to give oral evidence in a number of different sessions. They included sessions on urbanisation, water service delivery, the role of non-state providers, donor interventions, financing and aid instruments, sanitation, water governance, water resource management and climate change.

The committee will also make a country visit to Ethiopia to investigate the WSS problems the country's poor face. A full report on the inquiry is due to be released in April 2007.

Feedback from FAN members survey

Freshwater News is incorporating changes and suggestions made by members in response to a survey on FAN communications enclosed with the last edition.

The survey revealed that the majority of FAN members read the newsletter, with half reading it cover-to-cover, while others focus on pages of specific interest.

The survey showed respondents would like to read more about funding opportunities, new technologies and innovations. You also called for more case studies of good advocacy by CSOs, grassroots information and best practice, personal interviews and more news from members and about international events.

This issue features two case studies from members, as well as an interview with Jamillah Mwanjisi, ANEW coordinator.

FAN's monthly eBulletin includes more information on funding and the most popular section of the eBulletin is Network News. If you do not receive the eBulletin, please email FAN to subscribe.

Over half of survey respondents visit the website more than once a month. There, the survey revealed, readers would like to see more reports on the latest developments in technology, and you would also like to see grant opportunities have their own section.

Readers also wanted to see a section with information about the activities of other members, reports on lessons learnt and best practice, and a searchable list of members in different countries. We are working to improve the site and will try to incorporate your ideas.

Thank you to all who took the time to respond. Members are encouraged to share their views and ideas about FAN communications. Please email any comments to fan@freshwateraction.net

Have Your Say! Please be ready and prepared to add your own thoughts and ideas to the debate.

Participant's view: 2nd South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN)

FAN sponsored Yakub Hossain, deputy executive director of the Village Education Resource Centre (VERC) in Bangladesh, to attend the 2nd SACOSAN, held in Islamabad, Pakistan.

After inauguration by the Prime Minister of Pakistan, participants gathered for the presentation of country papers from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. They focused on achievements in sanitation activities in line with the MDGs.

A session on Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) was facilitated by Dr Kamal Kar, a participatory development consultant from India who worked with VERC as we pioneered CLTS in Bangladesh during 2001.

The key lesson of the approach, which VERC has proved and Dr Kar outlined, is that effective community participation can ensure 100% coverage without support from government in the form of subsidies. VERC believes that attention should be given to building capacity within the community rather than through subsidies.

The session sparked a big debate on the subsidy issue. Many governments have a policy of allocating subsidies for the poor through local government institutions. Government policy therefore rejects the foundation of the CLTS approach: that communities can resolve their own sanitation problems without being dependent on external resources.



VERC facilitate a community mapping exercise in Bangladeshi village

Bangladesh has undergone a paradigm shift since the introduction of CLTS, with the government developing a sanitation strategy document in line with the CLTS approach. Subsidy support for the poor is used only as a safety net.

In India, where similar models are being replicated, subsidy is given to the community in appreciation for good performance in WSS. This could be a good option to resolve the issue of subsidy at the individual level.

Other valuable papers presented at the conference included one from UNICEF and WaterAid Bangladesh on "Addressing special needs of girls - challenges in Bangladeshi schools".

VERC participated in the stall organised by WaterAid, which highlighted VERC's WSS activities and a model of low cost sanitation options. Pakistan's Minister for the Environment visited the stall and showed a keen interest in the low cost models of sanitation.

Overall, the event was too short to allow sufficient sharing and learning. Much of the two-day event was lost in detailed presentation of country papers. A more precise presentation would make it a more meaningful conference. There is also scope for improvement in the overall management of the event.

Find out more about SACOSAN
www.environment.gov.pk/sacosan-2005

Find out more about CLTS
http://www.livelihoods.org/hot_topics/CLTS.html

Find out more about VERC – go to page 8

Consultation to assess the need for FAN-South Asia

FAN members in South Asia have produced a detailed proposal to undertake a broad based consultation process to assess the need for a consolidated South Asian network. Over the next few months, we hope that FAN members will work together to identify organisations and networks to take part in the consultation process to ensure that meetings take place adequately and that representation is broad based.

To find out how to get involved and to receive a copy of the full proposal, email fan@freshwateraction.net

Online database links Indian CSOs

Members can now search an online database of Indian CSOs working on water and sanitation issues, as well as of resource centres supporting WSS-related advocacy for the poor.

Compiled by CapNet South Asia, with support from FAN, this creates a tremendous opportunity for CapNet and FAN partners to connect to each other to promote sustainable, integrated and pro-poor water actions in the region. The online database will ensure information about organisations is continuously updated. We would be grateful if you could test this database and send us your feedback.

View database at
www.freshwateraction.net/web/w/www_95_en.aspx

Join the FAN-Asia List Serve

The list serve is an email-based network, which provides a platform for members in South Asia to share information. It is easy to use and you don't need internet access.

Subscribe at <http://lists.freshwateraction.net/mailman/listinfo/fanasia>

Post a message fanasia@lists.freshwateraction.net

FANCA launches awareness workshops on local water issues in Costa Rica

FANCA members in Costa Rica have held a series of workshops for local communities to inform them about water-related projects being discussed by the country's Legislative Assembly. The sessions will help local community organisations to plan advocacy activities in support of these projects.

FANCA members, the Urban Development Foundation (FUDEU) and the Centre for Environmental Law and Natural Resources (CEDEARENA) ran the workshops, which were attended by over 300 participants from community groups, rural water systems, women and youth groups, and indigenous communities.

The workshops featured speakers from FUDEU and CEDARENA, as well as environmental law experts who outlined the new draft legislation that will recognise water as a public good, as well as other draft bills being advocated by FANCA. FANCA is promoting the legislation as part of a Minimum Water Agenda towards integrated water resource management.

National Workshops on Community Water Management

A series of national workshops on Water User Committees, conducted by FANCA in partnership with ACICAFOC, were attended by more than 150 local and national organisations from each Central American country.

The workshops were conducted in El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama and Costa Rica, and led to a regional meeting in Costa Rica from 16 to 17 November 2006.

They were supported by Both Ends, the Lutheran Federation, FAN International and the Spanish Agency for International

FAN Mexico

FAN Mexico is still being internally re-structured, to reflect the new administration and new president in the country, though projects promoted by FAN Mexico members are ongoing.

As part of the follow-up to the 4th World Water Forum, Nathalie Seguin, coordinator of FAN Mexico, was invited to the 4WWF's Synthesis Panel as part of an event hosted by the Mexican Hydraulic Association. She is still holding meetings with the WWF's Secretariat.

FAN-Mexico welcomes new member, Fundación en Cauce A.C. to the network. This NGO aims to use the water that still exists in the rivers of the Mexico Valley, respect their original river beds and restore their natural environment and surrounding forests. The rivers are the groundwater infiltration areas of the Mexico Valley's river basin.

Another member, the International Renewable Resources Institute (IRRI) Mexico, which works for a sustainable, equitable prosperity in a world free of pollution, has launched its "Adopt a Biodigester" project.

Biodigestors help degrade organic waste by turning it into a methane gas mixture that can be used for cooking, heating and the creation of electric power. At the same time they secure a stable water source that can be used for crop irrigation. The NGO is promoting biodigestors as a way to reduce one of the main sources of water pollution in the country's rural areas.

In late 2006, the first Latin American Theatrical and Practical Training on Ecological Sanitation was held in Tepoztlan, Morelos, Mexico. It was hosted by Sarar Transformacion, and supported by the Stockholm Environment Institute and the EcoSanRes programme Sweden. The aim was to equip each participant with the skills to promote, develop and implement ecological sanitation projects. The course was attended by participants from Cuba, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Honduras and the Mexican Republic.



A biodigester, used by IRRI to reduce water pollution

- For information on FAN-Mex, contact nathalie.seguin@gmail.com
- For information on the IRRI Mexico project go to http://www.irrimexico.org/Proyectos_biOdigestores.html
- For information on future ecological sanitation courses, contact sarar@laneta.apc.org

Cooperation AECI. In El Salvador, they were supported by the UICN-run BASIN project.

FANCA and ACICAFOC technical team members visited each country and worked together with the FANCA national focal points on the organisation and facilitation of each training session.

Attendants to the regional event included the Costa Rican vice-Minister of the

Environment, the Spanish Ambassador to Costa Rica, representatives of the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD), GWP Central America, as well as other organisations for Central American integration. They were also attended by delegates from the academic world, our national focal points, local organisations, local governments, water user committees, and indigenous and peasant communities from throughout Central America.

Promoting communal management of water in policy formulation

FANCA have just started a ten month project, supported by IUCN, that seeks to expand the process of research, training and advocacy developed by network members around this issue. The project will focus on Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica.



Demonstration in Plaza de Mayo, Argentina

South American Water Network

Social organisations from across Argentina marched towards the Plaza de Mayo on 12 December under the motto: "Stop pollution and the plundering of natural resources".

The march was headed by the Assemblies of Gualeguaychu and Colon, from the province of Entre Rios. Representatives of the network were present at this event.

In Bolivia, a Kick-Off Workshop was held in La Paz on 24 November as the first in a series of Inter-Learning trainings on water management. The workshops were promoted by the Rural Secretariat of the Peasant Research and Training Institute (IICCA). Jose Guevara Cubas, from the Specialized Sustainable Development Association (AEDES) in Peru,

attended on behalf of the South American Water Network.

In Chile, the Federation of Rural Drinking Water Organisations (FENAPRU) conducted a September work day on the process of developing a regulatory framework. The meeting was attended by senior and deputy representatives of the Executive and Parliament, as well as the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (APR).

A meeting was also held between the President of Chile, Michelle Bachelet, and the Chairwoman of the National APR Federation of Chile, Teresa Sarmiento. It resulted in President Bachelet's formal commitment towards completion of the regulatory framework by March 2007.

New National Focal Point in El Salvador

The NGO Asociacion Agua Viva (*Living Water Association*) in El Salvador has become the new National Focal Point for FANCA in El Salvador.

Project manager Rene Martinez Rivas was appointed contact person by Agua Viva, a not-for-profit organisation which provide rural communities with adequate access to safe and abundant drinking water sources.

For further information on FANCA, or to join the network

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What's going on in...

Honduras:

Forum on the Human Development Report 2006. This event, held on 14 December 2006, focused on water as its main issue. There, water was defined as a key element in the fight against poverty.

The President of Honduras committed his support to a General Water Law. This, in addition to a commitment by the Chairman of Congress and of the Coordinator of the Water Resources Parliamentary Committee, gives hope that the 1927 Water Law will soon be updated.

Costa Rica:

In October, the Lower House of the Legislative Assembly (Parliament) voted 51 to one on a second round for the approval of a Japanese Loan of

\$127 million to re-construct the sanitation network in San Jose. FANCA has been carrying out an advocacy campaign to promote a Minimum Water Agenda that included, amongst other draft bills, the Japanese Loan.

Nicaragua:

The National Assembly of Nicaragua was unable to agree on a full National Water Law during the legislative period ending in December 2006, due to the lack of agreement by two parliamentary groups, the Constitutionalist Liberal Party (PLC) and the Nicaraguan Liberal Alliance (ALN). The sticking point was Article 43 on the uses of national waters by individuals and private and/or public bodies through an Authorisation granted by municipal governments or Regional Councils of the Atlantic Coast. These sectors have historically used water from any source to

produce goods and market them at a high profit. They are refusing to share their profit and reward the environment for an integrated watershed management.

El Salvador:

The first 45 articles out of a total of 141 contained in the National Water Law, were approved by the National Assembly (Parliament), although the legal opinion thereon had been passed in broad terms in February 2005.

Panama:

The people of Panama have massively supported the widening of the Panama Canal, with over three in four votes cast in favour during an October referendum. However, the project has been subject to controversy, particularly from environmentalists, who argue that it promotes development at the expense of the environment.

ANEW update

Funding won from the EU Water Facility

ANEW's second application for European funding has been successful. The EU will provide 75% of the funding for a project promoting and improving the advocacy and participation capacities of African civil society organisations. The funding will enhance their ability to participate in consultations about WSS and water resource management across the continent.

Regional meetings

ANEW is holding regional meetings between January and March 2007, with the aim of identifying regional WSS priorities as well as developing regional action plans.

UN Africa Dialogue

African leaders are to be urged to focus on their country's water challenges, following a conference backed by the UN Secretary General and attended by ANEW.

ANEW participated in the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation Africa Dialogue, which took place in Tunis in December 2006. It offered the opportunity for the board to exchange views with African stakeholders, review the Hashimoto Action Plan and formulate a framework of engagement.

A list of actions was agreed, including the hosting of a conference for African Union representatives during 2008, the International Year of Sanitation.

The conference also recommended increasing funding and capacity for water management, water supply and sanitation in Africa.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) committed itself to playing a leading role in the coordination and facilitation of engagement of UNSGAB, AMCOW and other partners. AfDB also plan to convene a meeting of finance ministers to push water as a resource priority.

AMCOW collaborations

ANEW has continued to strengthen its partnership with AMCOW, and is now recognised as the CSO representative. A formal partnership will be reached after the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in advance of the 6th AMCOW Ordinary Session to be held in Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo in March.

Strengthening ANEW in Northern Africa

ANEW Task Force Members, Essam Nada (Northern Africa) and Prof. Edward Kairu (Eastern Africa) have represented ANEW at the CSO meeting of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment. The council discussed poverty eradication and implementation of the Arab Initiative for sustainable development at the meeting in Algiers, Algeria.

Sanitation, our collective responsibility

The Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation in Ghana (CONIWAS) has organised a workshop aimed at defining stakeholders' roles in ensuring good sanitary conditions in the Kumasi. The workshop, sponsored by DANIDA, was attended by 120 participants from the district assembly, media, NGOs, CBOs, trade unions, the traditional council, religious organisations and members of the general public. The following recommendations were agreed:

- Good sanitation should be seen not only as a government responsibility, but a responsibility for all
- Effective public health education should be organised regularly
- Workers in environmental health should be seen as friends and not enemies
- Responsible agencies should ensure that there is planning before development
- Enforcers of the by-laws should be fair and firm
- The media should be encouraged to focus on important issues such as sanitation

World Commission on Dams (WCD) Dialogues

Governments and CSOs are charting a course for successful management of water resources in the use of dams, the 5th Dam and Development Forum meeting has concluded.

The meeting, held in Nairobi in November 2006, discussed and promoted the World Commission on Dams report of November 2000, which promotes reform of water and energy policies relating to dams.

Since its launch, many African countries have begun to implement its recommendations. The conference heard that national dialogues are now in place to jointly tackle avoidable problems associated with the construction and operation of dams.

The dialogues aim to help resolve conflicts and draw up blue prints for the sustainable development of affected communities, as well as address injustices, compensation, resettlement and livelihoods issues. The dialogues are also centralising human and cultural rights of communities, and setting an agenda for effective disaster and risk management.

In virtually all national dialogues, African Rivers Network (ARN) members (many of whom are also ANEW members) provide the vision and catalyst for the processes.

Those present at the forum were disappointed that intergovernmental representatives had designed the process for on-going Africa-wide dialogues. The CSOs have requested to be equal partners in the process, and are lobbying national governments, intergovernmental agencies, utilities and other partners to give financial support to the dialogues.

Countries that have embraced the WCD dialogue processes include South Africa, Uganda, Nigeria, Ghana and Togo.

- For more information, visit www.dams.org

Jamillah Mwanjisi joined ANEW as coordinator in September 2006. Four months on, *Freshwater News* asked her about her first impressions and her future vision for ANEW.

Q You moved from Tanzania to Kenya to take this position. How have you settled in to life in Nairobi?

A *Living alone without my extended family and friends makes things a bit difficult but I'm getting there.*

Q What attracted you to the role?

A *The fact that I will be working with an Africa-wide program and would be able to plan and implement advocacy activities.*

Q How did you become involved in development work?

A *I grew up surrounded by poverty, disease outbreaks and injustices and I wanted to be part of people's efforts in creating better lives for themselves.*

Q What inspires you to do the work that you do?

A *Seeing people's hard work and efforts bringing change and better lives*

Q What have your major activities been over the past six months?

A *Learning, marketing, networking and fundraising*

Q What do you think has been the main achievement of ANEW to date?

A *Increasing recognition all over Africa, especially with AMCOW*

Q Have you had the opportunity to meet with regional stakeholders?

A *I attended a River and Lake Basin conference in Kampala in November. It was a great opportunity to meet with AMCOW, AU, SADC and other stakeholders with a common agenda of water and sanitation in Africa.*

Q Have you had the opportunity to meet many ANEW members?

A *I met many of the 'brains' behind ANEW at the October planning meeting and later at the Dams and Development Forum. I was really impressed by their level of commitment*

towards achieving access to safe water and adequate sanitation.

Q Which member organisation is the most inspirational that you have come in to contact with?

A *I would say Maji na Ufanisi, mainly because I'm familiar with their work in the slums of Nairobi. However I know that all ANEW members are doing great work in creating a better world.*

Q What would you like to hear more about from ANEW members?

A *I would like to learn more about what they are doing, any specific activities they organise; most importantly the impact they have on people.*

Q What is the most innovative solution to a common problem you have witnessed?

A *The sanitation blocks created by Maji na Ufanisi which serve as a community empowerment project as well as providing adequate sanitation to poor people.*

Q What are your plans for the next year as ANEW coordinator?

A *I would like to work on a strategic plan and regional action plans for ANEW, establish a newsletter and most importantly revisit our membership policy. I see ANEW coordinating and linking with national and regional activities rather than individual organisations.*

Q What contribution can ANEW members make to help ANEW achieve its aims?

A *They need to share information, research and policy analysis. This will not only raise our profile but also give us a proper basis for advocacy.*

Q What do you think are the main issues of concern that CSOs working on water management, water supply and sanitation face?

A *The lack of a platform for engagement and dialogue. ANEW provides this platform but we need to use it more efficiently.*



Jamillah Mwanjisi (left) at the Dams and Development Forum with ANEW members Betty Obbo from National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) and Hope Ogbeide of SWAPHEP

Q What do you think are the biggest challenges facing the African continent in the field of sustainable water management, water supply and sanitation?

A *So far, water has been an engineering, technical issue. We haven't managed to give water a human face. Once we do that, we will stop paying lip service and look for sustainable solutions.*

Q What do you see as the biggest challenges for ANEW in the next three years?

A *To meet the policy makers', donor's and members' high expectations.*

Q What is your vision for ANEW in three years time / ten years time?

A *I would like to see ANEW grow to be a force that not only influences decisions but also have power of policies and practices which ultimately create a better world.*

Q Outside of work, what keeps you fit in mind, body and soul?

A *I enjoy reading and watching a really good movie. Whenever I'm down, chatting with my sisters keeps me going.*

Join ANEW

Contact ANEW secretariat, on anew@majinaufanisi.org to be added to the ANEW listserve or join ANEW online via the FAN website:

www.freshwateraction.net/join/register.asp



FAN members in focus

FAN members represent environmental and developmental CSOs working in the water and sanitation sector. Here we offer readers an insight into the work of two very different network members.



A group of young biologists and engineers building a compost heap for organic waste

The Institute of Advanced Research on Economics and Environment – Instituto IPANEMA is a non-profit civil association established in 1996 and based in Rio de Janeiro. It acts at local, regional, national and international levels to promote social, political, cultural and economic sustainable development of Brazil, Latin America and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

IPANEMA's activities include participation in public policy making, promotion of integrated water resources management, advocacy and capacity building for social equity and gender mainstreaming, environmental education, and promotion of cooperation between Portuguese-speaking countries to optimise their efforts towards sustainable development.

Currently IPANEMA is developing projects for reforestation and sustainable land use in the Atlantic Rainforest. Its emphasis is on food security and poverty reduction through the implementation of agro-forest systems, and other alternative income generation activities for local communities.

The projects include a capacity building component that disseminates the principles of integrated water resources management, considering the river basin as a whole and its interdependence with land use and forest conservation. Men, women, youth and children are all involved. The organisation is also carrying out several environmental education activities in urban and peri-urban areas, aiming to raise awareness of local people, especially youth, of their river basin.

IPANEMA is a member of the National Water Resources Council, the Paraíba do Sul and the Guandu River Basin Committees. It is the Secretariat of the Brazilian Capacity Building Network for Water Resources (Cap-Net Brasil), a founding member of FAN, the South American Water Network, and the Gender and Water Alliance (GWA). It is an active member of several other national and international networks, such as the Brazilian Forum of NGOs and Social Movements for Sustainable Development, the Global Water Partnership, the Brazilian Country Water Partnership, and the Lusophone Water Partnership. <http://www.institutoipanema.net/>



Bangladeshi villagers hold up a sign which reads "No open defecation in this village"

Village Education Resource Centre (VERC), Bangladesh, has been working with the rural poor to establish and promote a dynamic and participatory approach towards human development since 1977.

Over 1,200 employees and 1,000 volunteers work with poor and underprivileged people to meet their basic human needs, across selected rural and peri-urban areas of the country. Using a participatory approach, they aim to create sustainable development models where people of the community and local government institutions work together to achieve their goals.

VERC has been working on WSS issues since its inception. VERC acts as a facilitator, empowering communities to undertake activities on their own. Total sanitation also includes the use of safe water for all purposes, and introducing proper hygienic behaviour in the community.

As a facilitating organisation, VERC also offers technical help in terms of latrine and water point installation and hygiene education for behavioural change. VERC has been helping communities to achieve 100% sanitation in 68 unions and 7 municipalities of Bangladesh by early 2009. VERC pioneered the People Initiated 100% Sanitation Approach, known as Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS). It is now being replicated by NGOs, government and international agencies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of 100% sanitation by 2010.

"VERC considers FAN to be an effective platform to share its ideas with other member organisations and to scale up its own interventions," says Shaikh Halim, Executive Director of VERC.

"Priority research areas for VERC are how to improve the standards of our work and to learn from other members. VERC is also very interested in being part of a FAN-South Asia as we see the opportunity to open up new avenues for sharing experiences and advocacy work in the regional context." <http://www.verc-ngo.org.bd>

For a full list of FAN members, visit
www.freshwateraction.net/tools/memberslist.asp

You can join FAN at
www.freshwateraction.net/join/register.asp

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