



*Regional Advisers
Meeting on*

*sewerage
water supply*

COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION

RAPID ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT AND PROJECTED SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Regional Advisers Meeting

Geneva, 1-5 August 1977

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Appendices: Resolution WHA 30.33 & Director-General's circular
letter of 8 August 1977 (Ref: C.L.24.1977)

Remark: The assessment should be based on information
available from various sources and therefore might
not be complete in all its aspects. Information
gaps should be identified and action proposed to
fill them.

10 October 1977

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MANDATE

Resolution WHA 30.33 (Excerpts. The full text is given in Annex).

The Thirtieth World Health Assembly

URGES Members States:

"to appraise as a matter of urgency the status of their community water supply, sanitation facilities and their control;"

REQUESTS the (WHO) Director General:

"to collaborate with Member States with immediate efforts to be made for a rapid assessment of ongoing programmes and the extent to which they could usefully be expanded to meet the objectives recommended" "

OBJECTIVES

To evaluate the extent to which ongoing programmes could be usefully expanded, and more specifically:

- a. the country's preparedness to proceed with accelerated sector development;
- b. the constraints which are likely to hamper such development;
- c. the actions required for preparing, during the period 1978 to 1980, national plans (including investment plans) for the 1981-1990 Decade Programme, and which would be reviewed in 1980 through arrangements made by ECOSOC;
- d. the need for international cooperation in preparing development plans for the Decade.

USE OF GUIDES

Numerical information on population coverage and cost of facilities may be recorded and compared with mid-decade review figures, as indicated in Part I. It is emphasized that this part is not intended as a "questionnaire" but only as a guide to the type of data which may be obtained from recent reports and consultation with national officials.

A check-list of other information useful for assessing the sector during review of background documentation and discussions with national officials is provided in Part II.

The Rapid Assessment report should be in the form indicated at the beginning of Part III, which utilizes material obtained using the guides in Parts I and II.

This is not a questionnaire. It is a format, extracted from the World Health Statistics Report, to be used as a guide in up-dating or supplementing data as needed for the completion of the Rapid Assessment report.

I. GUIDE FOR UPDATING SECTOR INFORMATION
(Based on definitions and forms used for the
Mid-decade Review of Community Water Supply and Sanitation)
(Ref: World Health Statistics Report, Water and Sanitation Volume 29 No 10, 1976)

	Urban population served - Population urbaine desservie						Rural population with reasonable access - Population rurale desservie à distance raisonnable			Total		
	by house connections - par raccordement aux branchements		by public standposts - par distributeurs publics		Total urban - Total urbaine		1975		1970		1975	
	1970	1975	1970	1975	1970	1975	1970	1975	1970	1975	1970	1975
1. <u>COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY</u>												
Mid-decade review entry												
Revised estimate for 1975, based on professional judgment												
Estimate for 1977 (thousands)												
Recent trend:	Not keeping up with population growth Barely keeping up with population growth Exceeding population growth											
2. <u>EXCRETA DISPOSAL</u>												
Mid-decade review entry												
Revised estimate for 1975, based on professional judgment												
Estimate for 1977 (thousands)												
Recent trend:	Not keeping up with population growth Barely keeping up with population growth Exceeding population growth											

II. GUIDE FOR ASSESSING SECTOR SITUATION AND IDENTIFYING INFORMATION GAPS

1. General Information

Area in Km²

Total, urban and rural population from last census and as estimated for 1977, 1980 and 1990.

Corresponding population growth rates and trends (%).

Definition of "urban".

Breakdown of number of communities by size, in accordance with local practice or by typical groupings such as:

above 100 000; from 20 000 to 100 000; from 5 000 to 20 000;
from 500 to 5 000; below 500.

Gross National Product (GNP) per person in US dollar equivalent.

Meaningful information on income distribution.

Importance of water related diseases.

Pollution aspects as related to sources of drinking water from domestic, industrial or other causes.

2. Present levels and quality of service

Brief description of the situation in typical community groupings, incorporating such aspects as:

for water: principal sources (surface, groundwater) and their reliability during the dry season; population served by standposts private connections, deep wells, shallow wells, etc. Total population without public service. Typical per capita consumptions; continuity of service; unaccounted for water; water quality and surveillance procedures. Water quality standards.

The extent to which public systems serve horticultural, agricultural or industrial users.

For excreta disposal: Population connected to sewerage systems, septic tanks, served by pit privies or other facilities. Hygienic conditions and surveillance procedures. Industrial wastes.

An appraisal of the urban "fringe" population problem, as related to the provision of water supply and sanitation services.

3. Institutions involved in the sector

Listing and brief description of jurisdiction, tasks and resources of agencies concerned with planning; inter-agency coordination; design; construction; water uses (industry, agriculture, etc.). Identification of gaps and overlaps.

4. Policy and Planning Aspects

A. Basic data

Sequential number of and period covered by current national socio-economic development plan.

Existence or state of preparation of a long or medium-term plan in the water supply and sanitation sector or in any of its subsectors.

Ratio of investment in the sector to total investment (percent).

Ratio of foreign to total sector investment (percent).

Basic legislation affecting the sector.

Sharing of planning, financial and operational responsibilities between the central, regional and local administrative levels on one side and the benefiting communities on the other.

B. Views of Central Planning Agency, complemented by those of the main sector Agencies, the Health Agency, WHO country staff, etc. on:

Adequacy of the sector's share in the total investment.

Links between sector development and other development in the field of health, industry, housing and town planning, integrated rural schemes.

Level of priority given to the needs of special groups such as urban poor, rural populations, dispersed populations, nomadic groups etc.

Type of service planned for these various groups, in terms of public standposts and private connections, average per capita consumption, water-carried and non-water carried excreta disposal, quality and surveillance procedures.

Percentage of needs, based on the concept of "minimum acceptable level of safe water supply and sanitary disposal of excreta" which are expected to be met by 1980 and 1990 for urban water supply, rural water supply, urban sewerage and excreta disposal, and rural excreta disposal.

5. General Evaluation of on-going and planned Programmes and Projects

The sub-sectors of urban water supply, rural water supply, urban sewerage and rural excreta disposal should be evaluated separately. The three main categories of new construction work, rehabilitation and upgrading work and studies should be treated separately.

The evaluation should consist of a listing and/or tabulation of the planned and actual inputs and outputs of programmes and projects over a recent three-year period (preferably 1974-1976) and on the planned or estimated inputs and outputs over the three year period covering 1978-1980.

Properly identified fiscal years may be substituted to calendar years. Costs should be expressed in 1000 US\$ equivalent, in current prices, and populations in 1000s.

The sample tabulation in the following page may be used as a guide:

	1974-1976		1978-1980
	Planned	Actual	Planned
<u>New Construction Work</u>			
Inputs (in US\$ 000)			
Total cost			
External assistance			
Government loans			
Government grants			
Funds generated within sub-sector, through tariffs and other charges			
Estimated community participation in kind and cash			
<u>Outputs</u>			
Number of projects			
Number of additional people served (000) by size of community			
		
		
		
		
<u>Rehabilitation and upgrading</u>			
Same entries as above			
<u>Studies</u>			
<u>Inputs (in US\$ 000)</u>			
Total cost			
External assistance			
<u>Outputs</u>			
Estimated value of resulting projects (in US\$ 000)			
<u>Others (identify)</u>			
<u>Inputs in US\$ 000</u>			
Total Cost			
External assistance			
<u>Total inputs for sub-sector (in US\$ 000)</u>			
Total cost			
External assistance			

6. Constraints to Sector Development

A brief description of the existing situation in the various sub-sectors and views of the central planning agency and other informed Government or WHO officials on the relative importance of financial and other constraints which hamper sector development.

6.1 Financial Constraints

National investment in the sub-sectors, in terms of loans and/or grants.

Internal fund generation, and the ability of users' charges to cover operation and maintenance costs, debt service and replacement costs, extensions etc.

Tariff policy.

Availability of foreign exchange.

External loans and grants.

Others.

6.2 Other Constraints

Water resources, with respect to present and projected constraints in quantity, quality and spatial distribution.

Planning, legal and institutional framework.

Coordination mechanisms.

Manpower and manpower development programmes.

Project generation and preparation, outlining the mechanism for project identification, incorporation into programmes, preparation, financing criteria etc.

Technology.

Operation and maintenance practices.

Surveillance procedures for quality control.

Construction firms and construction materials.

Logistics.

Community involvement.

Others.

7. Present and Prospective Absorptive Capacity, by sub-sector

This should consist of a broad estimate, to be derived from information available from the preceding sections of the rapid assessment guide.

8. Suggestions for International Collaboration

Resolutions WHA 30.33 identifies the following main areas in which collaborative support by international agencies may be required:

- Elaboration of sector development policies and plans through comprehensive studies of the national water supply sector.
- Development of alternative approaches and materials so as to suit best the particular conditions of the country.
- Identification and preparation of investment projects.
- Improvement of operation and maintenance of facilities, including surveillance of drinking water quality.
- Assessment of water resources and their conservation.
- Prevention of pollution of water resources.
- Prevention of spread of disease resulting from water resources exploitation.
- Improvement of manpower and management capabilities.

Using this or other appropriate framework and taking into consideration the different characteristics of the sub-sectors, a preliminary proposal for international cooperation projects should be prepared. A brief description of the projects, their relative ranking, the suggested timing and the desired external inputs should be given.

Additional elements to be considered

1. While the legal definition of urban and rural should be used in dealing with Part I and Item 1 of Part II, it should be remembered that urban usually includes metropolitan areas, medium and small cities, urban fringe areas and slums while rural usually includes villages, semi-concentrated populations and dispersed populations. Legal definitions often do not coincide with these groupings.
2. Information on community involvement and participation could also be obtained in connexion with Part II, Item 1, Item 4(a) and Item 6.
3. An appraisal of the extent of the sector problem in semi-concentrated rural areas could be included in the items to be considered in Part II, Item 2.
4. The summary sheet for Part II, Item 5 is a sample for the urban water supply subsector. Similar summary sheets should be envisaged for the rural water supply subsector and the urban and the rural excreta disposal sector.
5. Additional items for consideration under constraints Part II, 6.2 could be the use of mass approach techniques, local production of materials and the availability of technicians and/or professionals.
6. The suggestions for international collaboration in Part II, 8. could be expanded to include development of mechanisms for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) in WHO regions or sub-regions; practical applied research; mechanisms for the exchange of technical and other relevant sector information; development of community participation techniques; development of modern management techniques for rural programmes.

III. GUIDE FOR PREPARING RAPID ASSESSMENT REPORT

1. Situation Analysis

1.1 Present and projected coverage

This could be compared to a "Market Survey".
Example of contents: coverage and levels of service by population grouping; evaluation of present and future needs; community involvement.

1.2 Current and projected performance of sector agencies

This could be compared to an "Industry Survey".

Example of contents: Efficiency of water resources utilization; coordination within the sector; manpower and financial resources; technology and design criteria; design and construction capability; quality of service.

1.3 Responsiveness of planning mechanisms to sector needs

This could be compared to a "Planning/Programming Survey".

Example of contents: Sector goals; insertion of sector programmes into national plan; allocation of resources to competing sector projects; inter-sectoral planning; policy options.

1.4 Prospects for accelerated sector development

This could be referred to as "Sector Prospects".

Example of contents; New initiatives; internal and external investment trends; trends towards inter-sectoral collaboration; influence of factors external to the sector; absorptive capacity; technical options.

2. Information Gaps

Areas in which additional information is required.

3. Recommendations

This major output of the Rapid Assessment exercise should be given most careful attention. Recommendations should be ranked in order of importance and suggest general lines of Government action to implement them. The estimated budgets for inputs from external technical and financial cooperation programmes may also be indicated.

SAMPLE RAPID ASSESSMENT REPORT

A fictitious case study is developed below in sections corresponding to the preceding headings. This "sample report" illustrates a method of presenting the findings of the rapid assessment exercise.

1. Situation Analysis

1.1 Present and projected coverage

In 1977 the total population is about 3 000 000, divided into 40% urban and 60% rural. Agglomerations larger than 5 000 people are officially classified as urban. Overall population growth is 2.5% but some urban areas are growing at twice this rate. The average density is very low, even in urban areas. Only three cities are over 100 000, while about 50 towns fall within the range of 5 000 - 20 000.

About 25% of the total population has access to water from public systems. This service is provided almost exclusively to the three larger cities, where about 46% of the population is served, nearly all by private connections, at an average per capita allowance of 100 liters per day. In the smaller towns there are few public supplies, mostly by public standposts at an average per capita allowance of 30 liters per day. Less than 15% of the population in these towns is served. Public water supplies are practically non-existent in rural areas, where private wells, traditional sources and rain-water cisterns are used.

Sanitary sewerage is rare, being confined to the denser central areas of the larger cities. Alternative ways of excreta disposal are septic tanks, pit privies and, for most of the rural areas, nature.

The need for improved water and sanitation services is justified on health grounds by the high prevalence of gastro-intestinal and parasitic diseases, especially in the rural areas. The need for improved water service is also justified on social grounds by the high cost of re-sold water in the towns, the distance and difficult access of traditional sources and by the precarious situation prevailing in some areas during the dry season. The demand for sewerage and excreta disposal services is less explicit. Although many sources of water are polluted through the direct discharge of human wastes, there is no analytical information on the extent and level of contamination.

The degree of community involvement is low and as a consequence local needs are not made known to regional and central planning levels. Reliable information is lacking on the ability or willingness of the underserved groups to pay for improved systems or to contribute on a voluntary basis to their construction and operation.

The present unmet needs are large. As population grows, particularly in the urban areas, needs will become much more pressing. The backlog in sewerage services might become unmanageable. Recent increments in services have not been

sufficient to keep up with population growth. If this trend continues, levels of service will deteriorate steadily in urban areas and will remain almost non-existent in rural areas.

1.2 Current and projected performance of sector agencies

Water resources are generally abundant with many large and perennial rivers, which constitute the source of almost all the existing water supply systems. Groundwater resources are not well known as to extent and quality, since their development has been limited to the supply of one large city and to scattered public and private wells. It is therefore difficult to assess whether water resources are utilized efficiently.

The urban water supply agency has the main responsibility in the sector. Other agencies concerned are the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Health, the Agency for Rural Development, municipalities and town councils. There is no established coordination mechanism among the various agencies and this aggravates the negative effects of fragmentation of responsibilities.

There are only two sanitary engineers for the entire sector. Qualified professional and sub-professional personnel is scarce, and there are no facilities or programmes for local training. The staff of some agencies, including the urban water supply agency have good salaries and fringe benefits. The staff of other agencies such as those responsible for rural water supply and sanitation have fewer advantages and little opportunity for promotion.

There is no charge for basic sanitation services or rural water. Funds are internally generated only in the urban water sub-sector, through water tariffs and connection charges. The income from water sales is generally insufficient to offset production costs. Water tariffs favor the large consumers many of whom do not settle their bills, while the small consumer is forced to pay otherwise service is cut off. Central government investment is small because of limited funds, scarcity of foreign currency and priorities in different areas.

In the last three years the urban water supply agency was able to implement only three large-scale projects, despite sizeable assistance from bilateral sources. Rehabilitation and upgrading work is seldom undertaken. The agency's design capacity does not go beyond routine extensions of the distribution systems.

Design criteria are ambitious as to water allowances but deficient as to population coverage. Sophisticated technology is used in treatment and considerable money has been invested in treatment plants without corresponding efforts in the extension of distribution systems. The study of alternative technical and financial solutions is seldom practiced.

There are only two local construction companies, the larger works going to foreign contractors. Construction materials are available locally but piping and machinery must be imported. All of this increases the foreign exchange component of most projects.

Logistics are ill developed, especially for regional stocking of operational supplies and spare parts. Ordering procedures are cumbersome and time-consuming. Interior towns and rural areas suffer most from this state of affairs.

Difficulties of general nature come from the very limited average income; the undeveloped state of transport and communications and the low coverage of the electrification programme. For comparable work unit prices in the interior can be as much as twice those prevalent in the three major cities.

The quality of service is consistently poor, even in the urban systems. There is no control over the efficiency of treatment, operation is hampered by frequent lack of fuel and chemicals, maintenance by the absence of a programme and the unavailability of spares. Many systems provide service only a few hours per day. Quality control and general surveillance by the health agency are at an embryonic stage for both water supply and excreta disposal. The country has adopted the water quality standards recommended by WHO but has no mechanism to make them effective. There is no certainty that water anywhere is safe.

If recent trends continue unchanged, the performance of sector agencies will not improve substantially, being affected by severe constraints in terms of knowledge of water resources, qualified manpower, project preparation capability and logistics.

1.3 Responsiveness of planning mechanisms to sector needs

The current four-year national development plan was prepared at a time when the economy was in rapid expansion. A large drop in export earnings, coupled with high inflationary trends in the import market, has since caused sizeable cuts in all programmes.

The sector's share of total public investment was 3% but was further reduced when the above mentioned cuts were made, showing that the relative position of the sector in the total development effort is rather weak.

There is no long or medium term development plan for the sector or any of the sub-sectors and sector goals have not been formulated. Short-range development targets of the urban sub-sector, as proposed by the agency concerned, have been entered into the national plan in the form of financial allocations to specific projects. This project selection was made on the basis of availability of funds and state of readiness of the relevant projects rather than on social or economic considerations. Rural water supply and sanitation, which were not mentioned in the national plan, find themselves excluded from the planned development process.

The planning agency has no specialized section looking after the interests of the sector and, as already mentioned, coordination among agencies is weak. Sector planning does not adapt itself to unforeseen events, such as a prolonged drop in export earnings, chiefly because priorities have not been clearly identified. Knowledge of field conditions tends to remain localized and consequently unavailable to planners who operate from the central level. This affects the quality of planning and its implementation.

Except for sporadic cases, planning links have not been established with housing and town planning, rural development planning and health planning.

Objective sector policies are lacking, with the result that important decisions are taken by the various agencies in function of expediency. For example, the water supply needs of the large cities and the main administrative centres are considered well before those of the smaller towns and rural populations. Finding standposts unprofitable, the urban water agency is progressively closing them and plans all new service through private connections. The urban poor are thus increasingly being deprived of public service.

In spite of the explicit government goal of social equity, the sector is not doing enough to meet the targets inherent to a more equitable distribution of services between the rich and the poor, the urban and the rural.

1.4 Prospects for accelerated sector development

As a result of recent consultations with international agencies and regional development Banks, the Government plans to establish an inter-agency committee on water supply and sanitation, entrusted with studying the sector in depth and making proposals for immediate and medium-term action. The Committee's Terms of Reference will include the elaboration of specific targets for the decade 1981-1990. If the Committee's work is effective, prospects are that a sector policy will be adopted to enable the progressive adjustment of sector services to the national goal of social equity.

Although it is not expected that national investment levels will increase appreciably, substantial progress is possible through a better utilization and distribution of resources, improved institutional arrangements and increased internal fund generation. Improved sector planning and plan implementation will substantially increase the level of funding from international and bilateral cooperation programmes.

Probably better performance in the rural environment could be achieved if the Ministry of Public Works assumed a stronger technical assistance role and if the Ministry of Agriculture strengthened its Rural Development section to deal with rural water supply and sanitation. Additional resources from outside the sector should become available if links with rural development programmes are established as expected.

As the road construction and rural electrification programmes gain momentum, some of the external constraints to the development of the sector will be removed and more progress will be made in providing water and sanitation services to the interior.

The absorptive capacity of the sector cannot be built up rapidly. The prospects for comprehensive manpower development programmes are not bright and the need for expatriate professional personnel will continue for several years. A proposal under study to concentrate local training on middle-level supervisory personnel should, if implemented, lead to progressive improvements in operation

and maintenance. The health agency is also planning a phased programme to train personnel in sanitary surveillance and quality control.

An international consultant on low-cost technology has recently cooperated with the urban water supply agency in preparing project designs which considerably reduce water treatment costs. If this approach takes hold, coverage of service can be increased at no extra cost, since treatment savings can be used for much needed improvements to distribution systems.

Government is aware of the need to decide soon on whether to make a long-term commitment to the exploration of groundwater resources. The decision will affect future orientation on the use of water resources.

2. Information gaps

As shown by the preceding analysis, adequate knowledge is lacking in the following areas:

- 2.1 Policy.
- 2.2 Present and projected manpower needs.
- 2.3 Applicability and acceptance of low-cost technologies.
- 2.4 Groundwater resources.
- 2.5 Condition of existing systems, to justify rehabilitation and upgrading work.
- 2.6 Quality of water delivered to the consumers.
- 2.7 Nature and extent of surface water pollution, in relation to sources of public water supplies.
- 2.8 Community involvement in terms of felt needs, willingness and ability to participate in the construction and operation of rural schemes.
- 2.9 Mechanisms to refer local needs and priorities to the awareness of central planners.

International cooperation is required in conjunction with subjects 2.1 through 2.4 and is described in the following section on recommendations. It may be required to a limited extent in subjects 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7. The remaining action can be planned and implemented using local resources.

3. Recommendations

The main recommendations, in order of priority, are:

3.1 Government to provide full support to the National Inter-Agency Committee on Water Supply and Sanitation entrusted with the formulation of appropriate sector policies and of a sector plan for the years 1981-1990. Under technical international cooperation, a consultant, based in the Ministry of Planning, will provide technical documentation and advice to the Committee members.

3.2 Government to conduct a manpower development study to determine present and future needs in the sector. A complementary output of the study would be a guide for international cooperation inputs in the main areas of a fellowship programme abroad, and local training programmes for middle-supervisory level personnel and for surveillance and quality control personnel. Under technical international cooperation a consultant will provide planning and curriculum advice to the urban water supply Agency, the Ministry of Public Works and the Ministry of Health.

3.3 The urban water supply Agency to undertake project preparation for the small towns so far neglected. Under technical international cooperation a team of consultants will help develop typical schemes for various sizes of communities including low-cost technology among the alternative solutions to be considered.

3.4 Government to undertake a groundwater exploration programme. Because of the need of costly equipment and skills unavailable in the country, this project would rely heavily on international cooperation. In the preparatory phase a consultant would assist the Ministry of Public Works in the determination of Terms of Reference for the large-scale project. Project operations will be carried out by a specialized firm and will consist not only of test borings but also of equipping and exploiting selected successful borings.

It is estimated that international cooperation inputs for the above programme will consist of approximately 70 man-months of expert services, cost about US\$ 1 000 000, including US\$ 500 000 for equipment and extend over a five-year period starting in early 1978.

The above recommendations have been accepted in principle by Government. Follow-up action, including that required for project preparation, has been discussed in detail and agreed upon during the consultation phase with Government.

IV. STRATEGY AND SUGGESTED PROCEDURE

1. Strategy

Acceleration of National Effort in Water Supply and Sanitation

A. <u>General timetable</u> 1977-1978		1978-1980	1981-1990
Rapid Assessment (stage setting)		Planning (Follow-up action)	Implementation (International Decade)
B. <u>General content</u> Rapid Assessment		Planning	
Data review by WHO	Consultation between Govt and WHO	Concerted action Govt (with inter- national community)	
Known Unknown Skeleton report	Fill in missing information Decide on follow-up Complete Rapid Assessment report	Elaborate National Plan	

Rapid Assessment consists of:

- a) a review of available information and its presentation in a form which identifies missing information
- b) consultation with Government to verify data presented, obtain missing information, identify information gaps, agree on actions required to establish a national sector plan including the identification of the nature and extent of cooperation required from outside, and complete the rapid assessment report.

Planning consists of the preparation of national plans for the international decade and will generally include contacts and mobilization of external support.

Implementation consists not only of the actual execution of studies and pre-investment and construction projects, but also of continuing planning, periodic assessments of the progress of the programme and maintaining close relationships with external technical and financial cooperation agencies.

2. Suggested Procedure

- 2.1 Regional Advisers' meeting, with participation from some Government Officers with sector responsibility, to discuss and agree on content and procedure of Rapid Assessment. (Geneva, 1-5 August 1977).
- 2.2 Director-General's circular letter to Member Countries informing them of initial action taken by WHO and announcing that Regional Directors will follow up with a more specific communication on this subject. (August 1977).
- 2.3 Regional Directors' letter to Member Countries indicating action WHO can take to assist and asking specifically whether WHO cooperation is required for the Rapid Assessment. (August - September 1977).
- 2.4 Regional Advisers identify those countries most likely to respond positively to WHO's offer of cooperation, estimate initial manpower requirements (until end 1977 for example) to carry out the data review phase and inform Chief, PIP what Cooperative Programme resources are needed, (by specialty and/or name), where, when and for how long, and what documentation is available in the Regional Offices. (August 1977).
- 2.5 Data review phase. Compilation of available information and shaping it as far as possible into the form of a report following the general guide given in this document. This exercise should start with countries where no sector studies have been made and use only WHO staff from Headquarters and Regions. WHO country staff can also participate, provided that there is no dialogue with Government counterparts, unless Government agreement to WHO cooperation is already in hand. Work for most countries will take place in the respective Regional Offices, although in a few cases it might be documented in Geneva. (September - December 1977).
- 2.6 Consultation phase.
- a. For countries willing to undertake the assessment and requesting WHO cooperation. Acknowledgement on the part of the Regional Office proposing time and staff for country discussions. Country visit. Discussions at various Government levels. Field work as required. Preparation of Rapid Assessment country report and agreement in principle on follow up action. Positive response will receive immediate attention and modify the priority criterion given in 2.5 above. Regional Offices will make a detailed estimate of manpower requirements and scheduling, including inputs from the Cooperative Programme and inform Chief, Pip at the earliest.
- b. For countries proposing alternative ways of proceeding, the situation will be analysed on its merits.
- c. For countries responding negatively or not responding. Work will be stopped on the data review phase but means for stimulation of interest will be considered case by case.
- 2.7 Review of progress of exercise and proposals on how further to stimulate the interest of countries. July 1978 in conjunction with scheduled Regional Advisers' meeting.

THIRTIETH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

WHA30.33

18 May 1977

COORDINATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM - GENERAL MATTERS

United Nations Water Conference

The Thirtieth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Director-General on the United Nations Water Conference;¹

Noting the recommendations made by that Conference, particularly with respect to community water supply and the priority given to the provision of safe water supply and sanitation for all by the year 1990; the priority areas for action within the framework of the Plan of Action formulated by the United Nations Water Conference; the actions to be undertaken at national level as well as through international cooperation; and the proposal that 1980-1990 be designated as the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade;

Recalling resolutions WHA29.45, WHA29.46 and WHA29.47 concerning directly and indirectly the interests of WHO with respect to the provision of adequate and potable water and sanitary disposal of wastes;

Considering that previous mandates of the Organization, as stated most recently by the Twenty-ninth World Health Assembly in the resolutions referred to above, and the ongoing and planned programmes of WHO in the field of community water supply and sanitation enable the Organization, making maximum possible use of its national collaborating institutions, to play a leading role in implementing the relevant recommendations of the United Nations Water Conference, including the request to WHO to monitor the progress of Member States towards the attainment of safe water supply and sanitation for all by the year 1990, through technical cooperation with individual Member States and in cooperation with other concerned organizations, institutions and programmes of the United Nations system,

1. URGES Member States:

(a) to appraise as a matter of urgency the status of their community water supply, sanitation facilities and services and their control;

(b) to formulate within the context of national development policies and plans by 1980 programmes with the objectives of improving and extending those facilities and services to all people by 1990 with particular attention to specific elements such as:

(i) the elaboration of sector development policies and plans through comprehensive studies of the national water supply sector;

(ii) the development of alternative approaches and materials so as to suit best the particular conditions of the country;

R/877 (iii) the identification and preparation of investment projects;

¹ Document A30/28 Add.2 and Corr.1.

- (iv) the improvement of the operation and maintenance of facilities, including the surveillance of drinking water quality;
 - (v) the assessment of water resources, and their conservation;
 - (vi) the prevention of pollution of water resources and spread of disease resulting from water resources exploitation;
 - (vii) the improvement of manpower and management capabilities;
- (c) to implement the programmes formulated in the preparatory period 1977-1980 during the decade 1980-1990 recommended by the United Nations Water Conference to be designated as the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade;
- (d) to ensure that people consume water of good quality by periodic inspections of water sources and treatment and distribution facilities, by improving public education programmes in the hygiene of water and wastes, and by strengthening the role of health agencies in this respect;
2. REQUESTS the Director-General:
- (a) to collaborate with Member States in the above-mentioned activities, including the provision of specialized staff upon the request of Member States, with immediate efforts to be made for a rapid assessment of ongoing programmes and the extent to which they could usefully be expanded to meet the objectives recommended by the United Nations Water Conference;
 - (b) to revise as appropriate the review being undertaken in accordance with resolution WHA29.47 operative paragraph 5 (4), with a view to meeting the terms of the recommendation of the United Nations Water Conference concerning country plans for water supply and sanitation, and as a major contribution to the preparations for the proposed International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade;
 - (c) to ensure WHO's fullest participation in implementing the Plan of Action formulated by the United Nations Water Conference and in the actions to be undertaken during the proposed International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, in close collaboration with the concerned organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental bodies, and nongovernmental organizations;
 - (d) to reinforce if necessary WHO's longstanding ability, making maximum possible use of its national collaborating institutions, to play a leading role in the field of community water supply and sanitation in cooperation with the other concerned organizations of the United Nations system;
 - (e) to strengthen collaboration with multilateral and bilateral agencies and other donors regarding the provision of resources to Member States in the development of their water supply and sanitation programmes;
 - (f) to study the future organizational, staffing, and budgetary implications for the Organization, and the role it should assume in the light of the recommendations of the United Nations Water Conference; and
 - (g) to report on developments occurring in the light of the present resolution to a future Health Assembly under a separate agenda item.

ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ

ORGANIZACION MUNDIAL DE LA SALUD

Telera UNISANTE, Geneve

1211 GENÈVE 27 - SUISSE

Télex 27821

Tél. 34 60 61

Ref. C.L.24.1977

Geneva, 8 August 1977

Sir,

... I have the honour to bring to your attention the attached resolution WHA30.33 adopted by the Thirtieth World Health Assembly concerning preparations for the International Drinking Water and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990) proposed by the United Nations Water Conference held in Mar del Plata, Argentina in March 1977.

The provision of safe water and sanitary excreta disposal for all, which is a sine qua non for successful community health services and healthy family and community living, is dependent on political will and community participation; it should be included as a major goal in national plans for economic and social development.

The provision of safe water and sanitation can be achieved to a large extent through understanding by people of sanitary principles and by their care to have available to them, and to protect, fresh water supplies, and avoid pollution and disease spread through careless disposal of wastes and water mismanagement. Such individual and community efforts need the strong support and assistance of services from government agencies concerned at all levels.

The provision of safe water and sanitation will of course also need massive effort for the improvement and extension of public water supply and wastes disposal systems, especially to cover populations living in rural areas and in precarious and "high risk" environments, and health agencies are in a key position to lead the way in persuading other agencies to take necessary action.

C.L.24.1977

8 August 1977

The Plan of Action adopted by the Conference and reflected in the resolution provides the basic framework and guidelines for action to be taken by governments and international organizations interested in attaining the goal of providing safe water supply and sanitation facilities for all by the year 1990. Specifically the Plan urges Member governments to examine their particular situations and to prepare national plans and programmes to initiate or expand these basic community services. The time period 1977-1980 has been specified for the completion of these preparatory activities, and the information assembled by the governments is to be presented to the United Nations General Assembly at its thirty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council.

The resolution WHA30.33 also requests the Director-General to collaborate with Member governments in the preparatory and implementation stages of the Decade. One of the actions suggested is a rapid assessment of ongoing programmes and of the extent to which these might be usefully expanded to meet the objectives recommended by the United Nations Water Conference. It is with this in mind that I wish to assure you of the World Health Organization's full cooperation with your Government in whatever way you deem appropriate in developing the country's national plan and in undertaking the rapid assessment.

The purposes of the rapid assessment, which I consider a national activity, are:

- to ascertain the country's preparedness to accelerate the development of its drinking water and sanitation programmes in the light of the Mar del Plata Plan of Action;
- to identify constraints which may hamper such development;
- to identify developmental activities which the country might undertake during the period 1978-1980 in order to prepare for the proposed International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, 1981-1990; and
- to identify international cooperative activities which may be required during the period 1978-1980 to support national efforts.

I am happy to be able to inform you that the World Bank is associated with WHO in this effort, and that staff and other organizational resources can be made available if your Government wishes WHO to assist you in making this rapid assessment. The Regional Director will be writing to you soon more specifically in this connexion.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

H. Mahler, M.D.
Director-General