



ACCESS TO WATER

Lack of access to water and basic sanitation is a serious threat to a healthy and dignified life and to human development

In L'Aquila, for the first time, the G8 and African Leaders adopted a Joint Statement to push for stronger initiatives and more resources for water

THE CHALLENGE

- Four out of ten people on our Planet have no access to basic sanitation services. In Africa, less than half of the population has access to safe water supplies.
- Millions of women and children suffer and die due to water-borne diseases and to the use of unhealthy water.
- Without water supply and distribution no strategy can be put in place to achieve the MDGs and other internationally agreed **sustainable development targets**. For example: without water it is impossible to produce enough food for all.
- Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa are the most delayed in their progress towards the agreed targets, especially in water and sanitation.
- Impacts on water supplies due to demographic pressures and climate change are exacerbated by the lack of drinking water and sanitation services.

G8 RESPONSE

After a reciprocal call to strengthen joint work on water made at the G8 and African Union summits in 2008, and following an Italian proposal, the G8 invited African Leaders to a technical and political dialogue, to enhance coordinated action in the sector.

ACTIONS

- Endorsement of a **Joint G8-Africa Statement** promoting a **Strengthened G8-Africa Partnership on Water and Sanitation** for leveraging new investments, for improved aid effectiveness and better international coordination, to be presented at the Africa Water Week (in November in South Africa).¹ This initiative was endorsed at the African Union Summit in Sirte, Libya, just before the L'Aquila Summit.

FIGURES

- Direct **G8 disbursements** amount to **more than \$14.5 billion (2002-2007)**, with an increasing trend over the period. Beside this, the G8 contributed through capacity building and institutional strengthening, support to governance, education and health. In Africa, G8 countries represent by far the most relevant donors in the sector (>80% of ODA). The Partnership will improve efficiency and coordination of such activities.

¹ The Partnership supports initiatives taken forward by African governments, aiming at: promoting National Plans for the diffusion of water access; defining financial strategies to support such plans through public and private funding; building coordination tables among beneficiaries, donors, enterprises and the civil society, to lead the implementation of programmes targeting specific needs expressed by individual countries.