MDG monitoring for urban water and sanitation:

Catching up with reality

• A critical analysis
• Proposal for improvements
• Fast tracking options
Germany is one of the most important development partners in the water sector, with wide experience in the field. In recent years, most German funds in the water sector (350 million Euros for bilateral measures per year) have been allocated to Africa (40%), and Asia (29%), with 19% to the Southeastern European nations and 12% to Latin America and Mexico. Funding concentrates particularly on sub-Saharan Africa and countries in the Near and Middle East.

The "Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit" (GTZ), German Technical Cooperation, particularly promotes institutional reform in partner countries with capacity development on all levels for sustainable development. A central task is to promote an enabling framework and to develop efficient and competent sector organisations, from ministry level to water utilities at the operational level.

This paper is an initiative of GTZ longterm water sector experts working in sub-Saharan Africa. It does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

In this document, the expression "settlements of the urban poor" includes all areas with a certain density of population (having or attaining urban character) where the majority lives below or close to the poverty line. This includes slums, unplanned/illegal settlements, legal and formerly planned areas transforming into a pattern of unplanned settlements etc. that have the potential to be covered by formal service provision through utilities.