

# BNWP Sanitation, Hygiene & Wastewater Support Service (SWAT)

## Background

Access to sanitation lags far behind access to water supply, which has historically been a higher priority of both governments and the poor they serve. This lag is attributable to a number of factors including:

- ⇒ institutional fragmentation and poor coordination between essential actors;
- ⇒ limited demand from both households and politicians;
- ⇒ traditionally low profile as an embarrassing and taboo subject;
- ⇒ technical complexity; and
- ⇒ limited capacity and experience in addressing the problem at scale.

## Sanitation, Hygiene & Wastewater Support Service (SWAT)

The Sanitation, Hygiene and Wastewater Support Service (SWAT) provides *fully managed expert technical assistance* to World Bank operations and country clients. SWAT supports greater access to sanitation and hygiene services at critical junctures in the project cycle to make it easier for clients and World Bank staff to incorporate sanitation and hygiene effectively in their projects.

Since its startup, SWAT has committed about US\$ 1 million for operational support in 28 countries and 33 projects. The service has influenced a total sanitation and wastewater investment value over US\$ 1.1 billion.

Funded by the **Bank-Netherlands Water Partnership (BNWP)** the service works to meet the needs of the poor with least access to sanitation. SWAT does so through support Bank operations in (a) developing new operations to address basic sanitation and hygiene needs, and (b) maximizing the benefits and impact of existing and planned investments.

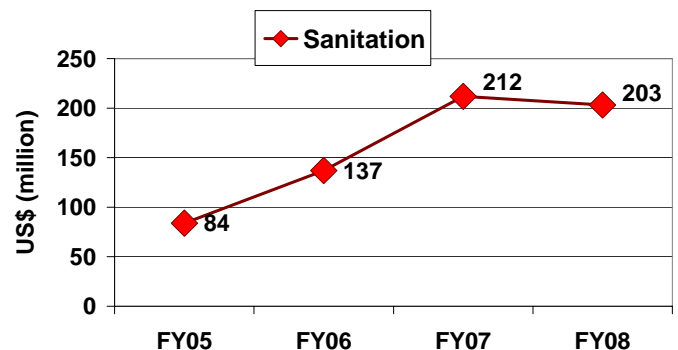


The objectives of SWAT are:

1. to increase the portfolio of World Bank investment and activity in sanitation and hygiene;
2. to improve the quality of the World Bank's investments in sanitation and hygiene; and
3. to build the long-term capacity of the World Bank and its clients in sanitation and hygiene.

The sanitation portfolio of the Bank has been growing in recent years, and the development context in which we work grows increasingly more complex – yet project preparation budgets and sector staffing have not kept pace. SWAT services can thus make a significant contribution to the volume and quality of sanitation activities, in bringing technical and institutional expertise to bear in all stages of project development and implementation.

Annual Commitments Coded for "Sanitation"  
Total FY05-FY08: US\$ 636 million  
including "firm" and "likely" pipeline for FY08



## Examples of Recent SWAT Activities

**Punjab Municipal Services Improvement Program (Pakistan)** SWAT support was commissioned to review the implementation of *local government* sanitation sub-projects, improve municipal capacity to develop appropriate and innovative sanitation solutions, and to build capacity in environmental infrastructure planning, operations and maintenance.

**Sanitation Marketing Efforts in Blantyre and Lilongwe (Malawi)** SWAT support was requested on behalf of the Blantyre and Lilongwe Water Boards to assist in sanitation for the peri-urban poor, in line with the national sanitation strategy that has been developed with support from WSP. A SWAT consultant provided technical advice on the planning of a *sanitation marketing* initiative.

**Integrated Sewerage and Sanitation Infrastructure Project (Egypt)** SWAT has provided services in two distinct areas to address the hygiene and sanitation needs of rural communities in the Nile Delta. The SWAT-developed design of the hygiene component will now be carried forward by a bilateral donor in close coordination with the Bank project, and a SWAT consultant's review of wastewater technology is now built into project design. The project was negotiated in February 2008.

**Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project (Ethiopia)** SWAT consultants are providing periodic review and continued support to hygiene and sanitation components of the *Ethiopia Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene project*. The consultants have offered an independent review of operations in eight locations, and identified a number of ways to strengthen the quality and effectiveness of hygiene and sanitation promotion in what is seen by many in Ethiopia as a "water supply project".

**Public Toilets in Monrovia (Liberia)** During the recent years of conflict, Liberia's infrastructure was nearly completely destroyed. Among many other elements of urban rehabilitation, *The Emergency Infrastructure Project* also includes the

renovation of *public toilets* in Monrovia. These toilets are the principal means of sanitation for a large portion of the Monrovia population. A SWAT consultant shared experiences from India and China with the client and Bank staff to help define sustainable management options for these facilities by local private sector operators, with suitable community and local government supervision to ensure hygienic operation.

**Western Province Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion Project (China)** This assignment focused on Shaanxi Province and involved capacity building, the development of formative research, the scoping and contracting of creative agencies, and the development of ToRs for mass media production. Two consultants have worked closely with the provincial agencies in the development of an overall work plan for hygiene promotion activities and the establishment of specialist backup support for the provinces in modern hygiene promotion.

---

SWAT has also contributed to sector understanding:

- through a web-based sanitation resource guide, available at <http://sanitationresource>;
- an updated Sanitation, Hygiene, and Wastewater Portfolio Review, and
- four sanitation and hygiene learning modules.

---

## Contact

Sanitation, Hygiene & Wastewater Support Service

Energy, Transport and Water Department

The World Bank, 1818 H Street NW

Washington DC 20433, USA

<http://www.worldbank.org/watsan>

E-mail: [whelpdesk@worldbank.org](mailto:whelpdesk@worldbank.org)

