

# Presentation

Presentation from the 2009 World Water Week in Stockholm  
©The Author(s), all rights reserved

**WORLD**  
in Stockholm,  
August 16–22, 2009 **WATER**  
**WEEK**

# Responding to socioeconomic and demographic changes

## Team Members

**Graham Alabaster – Public Health Engineer**

**Helena Claesson – Chemical Engineer**

**Björn Guterstam – Marine Biologist**

**Lovisa Lagerblad – Water Engineer**

**Johanna Sjödin - Social Scientist**

**Ida Sylwan – Water Engineer**

# Responding to socioeconomic and demographic changes

## Major Insights from 2009

The freshwater crisis is a management crisis, there is enough water but we don't know how to manage it.

The Earth will need to feed 2.5 billion more people within the next 30-40 years, and there will be less water available for agriculture. The issue of competing demands can complicate management and increase conflict

Water policies and governance should precede planning and development. Phased approaches to the implementation of water & sanitation projects, inline with population growth and urbanisation, improves impact

Increases in population density and urbanisation will take place in large cities but more so in smaller urban areas

# Responding to socioeconomic and demographic changes

## Major Insights from 2009

Recognition and understanding of the importance of affordability is an important insight for improving the access to services by the poor and for the implementation of the human right to water. From a Human Rights perspective water and sanitation are tradable as is food

Major shift in the role of private sector in Asia has made it a big player. India will achieve MDG targets on sanitation by using new, affordable, user-friendly recycling technologies

Fixing sanitation contributes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Roles for sanitation should be clear. Sanitation needs champions

“Water is a catalyst to develop peace and security”

(Jan Eliasson)

# Responding to socioeconomic and demographic changes

## Opportunities for Progress

Today there is a value on water, which we didn't have 15 years ago. A nuanced debate on subsidies is constructive when facing the challenge of financing water for the poor.

New opportunities are available such as the World Sanitation Financing Facility (WSFF) to solve the sanitation gap. Water Operators Partnerships (WOPs) can create an effective and sustained capacity building through Twinning rather than consulting

Improved monitoring methodologies to cover inequity in service provision, strengthened frameworks for national and global monitoring

Connecting cities and the countryside by promoting acceptance of treated wastewater for agriculture and the implementation of WHO wastewater guidelines nations make Water Safety Plans which are adapted to the local conditions and build on health based targets.

Payment for ecosystem services – a more dirty expression than sanitation – still payment is the language that decision makers understand, preferably served to them as an “innovative financing mechanism”

Central Asian heads of state have signed an agreement in April 2009 to improve environmental and socio-economic conditions in the Aral Sea basin

# Responding to socioeconomic and demographic changes

## Challenges and obstacles to progress

Scarcity of water is driving reuse of wastewater, but is constrained by the economics (cheaper to use conventional sources) Pressure on water will intensify as populations and average lifespan increase (USA). Population growth is a stress factor for water scarcity (Jordan)

A functioning market is needed to solve sanitation MDGs.

There is ongoing work on water footprint labeling, while at the same time private companies are reluctant adopt the idea

How can ODA leverage private funds, microfinance, franchising etc. for water and sanitation? Interest from International Finance Corporation and micro credit institutions to back up entrepreneurs is still small, but could possibly grow.

# Responding to socioeconomic and demographic changes

## Conclusions and Recommendations

A price that reflects scarcity should be put on water. Land tenure reforms are needed to make farming more productive and profitable

Create a water efficiency index where countries/companies/food producers can be ranked?

Learn from other sectors how they tackle subjects as demographic and socioeconomic changes

Sanitation planning must consider the whole system: start small and get bigger

Gender issues are overlooked-need much better attention!