

It's not just health: how domestic water makes money for poor people

The **Millennium Declaration** set the goal:

.....to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water

◆ **Safe and secure water is essential to poor people's health and survival**



but...

◆ **Meeting basic needs is not just about health and hygiene:** providing water security can play a key role in poverty reduction and improving livelihoods. Improved domestic water availability has multiple benefits. It saves time, improves health, generates income, enhances food security, strengthens local organisations and builds cooperation between people.



◆ **Water in the household is used to produce food and earn money:** poor people grow vegetables, keep livestock, make beer, bricks and other things or provide services such as hair dressing. Their home is also their place of work. The poorer people are, the more they depend on these home-based productive activities.



◆ **For many poor people 40 litres a day for each person is not enough:** The traditional definition of basic needs (for drinking, cooking, and washing) means that water is not provided for vital home-based activities, limiting the livelihood choices of poor people.



This commitment is vital

◆ **Supporting productive use of domestic water targets the poor:** women and the poorest households depend on these activities the most. Ensuring their water security is one of the most effective ways of improving equity and reducing poverty through water management.



◆ **The goal is reducing poverty not just supplying water:** This means that access to technology, credit, knowledge and markets are all important to realise the potential of water in poverty reduction. Water management must be part of a wider process of sustainable development.