



# ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON SUSTAINABLE ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER IN SARAWAK

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**Water for life:** delivering clean water, removing wastewater and providing sanitation

**Water for livelihoods:** as a productive resources, to manage water equitably and efficiently

**→ Access to a regular supply of safe water is a basic human right.**

“The human right to water entitles everyone to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use” U.N. General Comment No. 15 on the right to water, 2002

# Situational analysis



Of the world's population of 6 billion people, at least 1.1 billion do not have available sources of clean drinking-water, such as protected springs and wells.

Lack of access to safe water has a major effect on people's health. Poor health constrains development and poverty alleviation.

- Some > 30 countries have a constitutional or legal provision ensuring individuals' access to water
- Almost every country is grappling with the issue. Generally, the rights to clean water is certain
- But the question now is over the practical application of this right

# Political Priority



The roots of the water crisis can be traced to poverty and inequality. With one billion denied their basic right to safe drinking water, the world's poorest are paying the highest price in this crisis.

Lack of water creates cycles of poverty which lead to more inequalities between men and women and boys and girls, more child ill-health, and more disease and death.

**Sustainable access to water must  
the top political priority.**

# 8 global UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG) by 2015



1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;
2. Achieve universal primary education;
3. Promote gender equality and empower women;
4. Reduce child mortality;
5. Improve maternal health;
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases;
7. Ensure environmental sustainability;
8. Develop a global partnership for development

# MDG7 Targets



**Target 7a: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources**

**Target 7b: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss**

- 7.1 Proportion of land area covered by forest
- 7.2 CO2 emissions, total, per capita and per \$1 GDP (PPP)
- 7.3 Consumption of ozone-depleting substances
- 7.4 Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits
- 7.5 Proportion of total water resources used
- 7.6 Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected
- 7.7 Proportion of species threatened with extinction

**Target 7c: Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation**

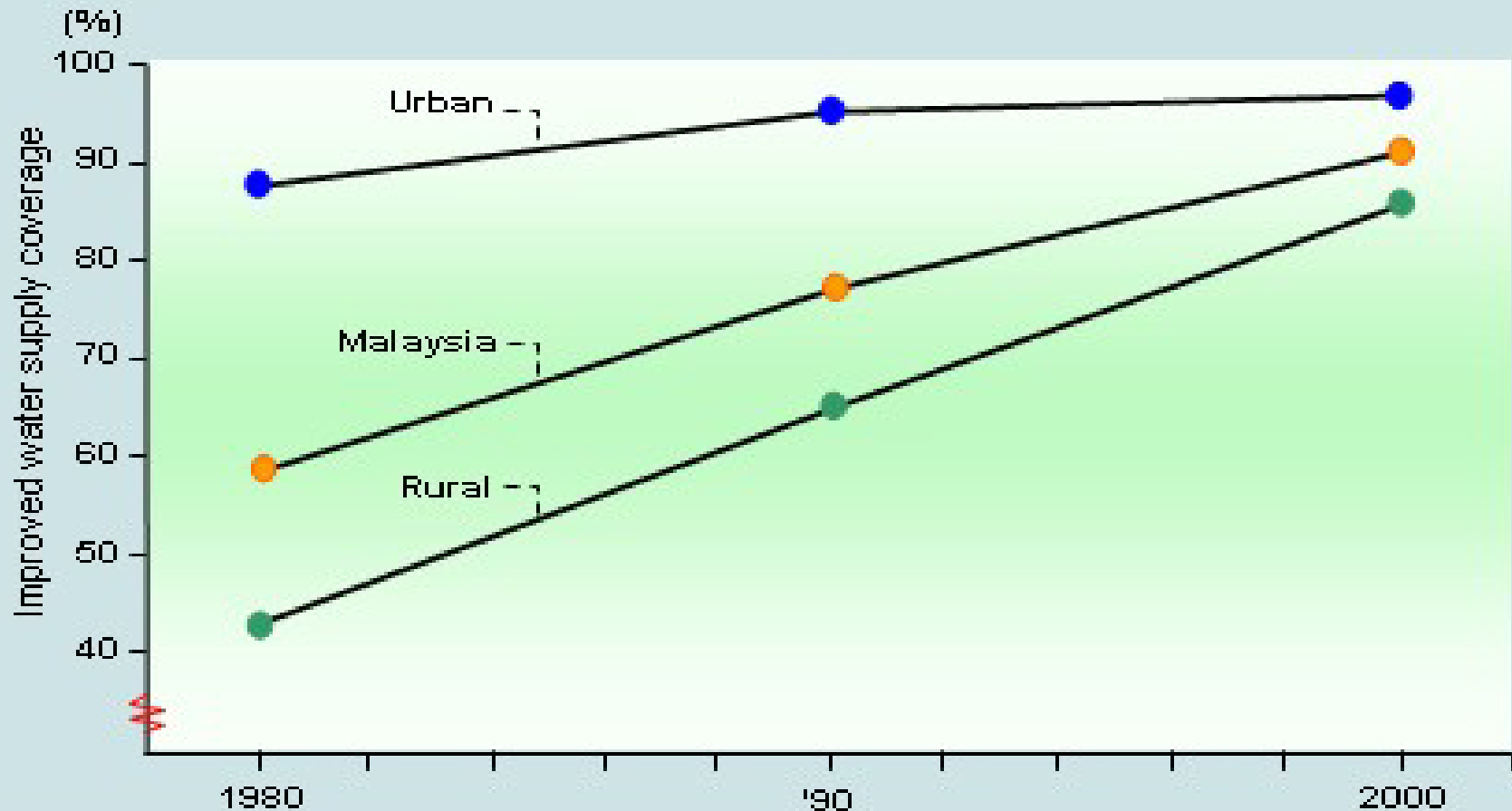
- 7.8 Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source
- 7.9 Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility

**Target 7d: Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020**

- 7.10 Proportion of urban population living in slums

# MDG 7 Malaysia

**Extending improved water coverage still a challenge in outlying rural areas**





# A Human Rights-based Approach to Development



- Enhancing the enabling environment for equitable development, and by empowering people to take their own decisions.
- Brings in legal tools and institutions – laws, the judiciary and the rule of law principle - as a means to secure freedoms and human development.
- Based on the recognition that real success in tackling poverty and vulnerability requires giving the poor and vulnerable both a stake, a voice and real protection in the societies where they live.

## Brings

- the promise of more effective, more sustainable, more rational and more genuine development processes
- Enhanced accountability by identifying specific duties and duty-bearers in the development process.

Moving from the realm of charity → to that of obligation, making it easier to monitor progress.

# Right-based approaches



Includes the following elements:

1. express linkage to rights

*(Hak yang nyata dan sah di segala aspek)*

2. accountability

*(Tanggungjawab yang jelas, bertanggungjawab dan di pertanggungjawabkan)*

3. empowerment

*(Diberi kuasa dan peluang untuk membuat keputusan)*

4. participation

*(Terlibat sama and iklas jujur dari semua pihak)*

5. non-discrimination and attention to vulnerable groups

*(tiada diskriminasi)*

# Rights-based Approach on Water Issues



A rights-based approach has implications for a range of actors concerned directly or indirectly with water issues.

Governments, as primary duty-bearers, must take concrete steps to **respect, protect and fulfil** the right to water and other water-related rights and to ensure that anyone operating within their jurisdiction, ensuring the right of beneficiaries to participate in decision-making that affects them.

# Way Forward (1)



- • **Making access to water a human right** and legislating for the progressive implementation of that right
- • **Introducing “lifeline tariffs”**, cross-subsidies and investments
- • **Regulating water utilities to improve efficiency**, enhance equity and ensure accountability to the poor.
- • Introducing public policies that combine sustainability with equity in the development of water resources **for agriculture and industries.**

# Way Forward (2)



- Develop Integrated Water Resource Management (**IWRM**) strategies that set water use level = ecological sustainability
- Set appropriate **water entitlement** for each citizen (min 20L / day ? )
- **Equity and poor as the center** of the national strategy
- Sufficient **financing** including correct pricing strategies / subsidies in water management / infra
- Embrace effects of **climate change** by placing greater emphasis on adaptation in national water management