

1. Legislative/Policy Measures

His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka has put forward the governments' policy document "Mahinda Chinthana the way forward" which specifies clearly the targets on the water and sanitation sector up to 2020. Substantial investments have already been made to achieve the set target. It is believed that the necessary investments will be made in future, irrespective of economic or financial crisis that may arise.

2. Investment for Water & Sanitation Sector

The following table gives the investment made in the water and sanitation sector at the national level (Rs. m) in the recent past.

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013*
12,547.57	17,124.00	21,087.88	24,646.88	21,136.16	26,388.89	29,336.81	30,704.94	34,578.20

* Budgeted

It is very evident that there has been no significant budget reduction in the sector.

Subsidy schemes

Arrangements were made to identify those eligible for subsidies and such concessions were granted to them in the latest tariff revision for water and sewerage services effective from October 2012.

The procedure to obtain new water supply connections was simplified and applicants were granted the facility, if needed to pay for it in 24 monthly installments.

Communities of the low income category, identified as "Samurdhi beneficiaries" were given a concessionary rate for new water supply connections amounting to Rs. 4,000.00 plus taxes with 24 installments if required.

In addition to water supply, investments have been made to provide sanitation facilities to the communities in selected local authority areas.

It is evident therefore that subsidy schemes have increased over the period to address issues of this community.

Other budgetary, monetary & fiscal measures

The amount allocated for pipe network extensions was increased from Rs. 4 m to Rs. 5m for every Manager area in order to provide more new water supply connections to the community.

3. Affordability of Water and Sanitation Services

The amount charged for households consuming less than 15 cum/month is far below the unit production cost per cum. 61% of domestic customers consume less than 15 cum per month.

Therefore it is evident that the charges for water and sanitation services are affordable for communities consuming less than 15 cum per month and that it will not have an effect even if there is a reduction on social expenditure.

4. Management of utilities

There is no private sector participation of water or sewerage utilities except in very small Community Managed water supply systems in rural areas.

Private Sector participation

There are plans to secure private sector participation for ventures to produce and supply drinking water to the NWSDB who will in turn be paid for the quantity supplied.

However there isn't any being implemented at present. The national tariff for water supply and sewerage services is applicable throughout the country.

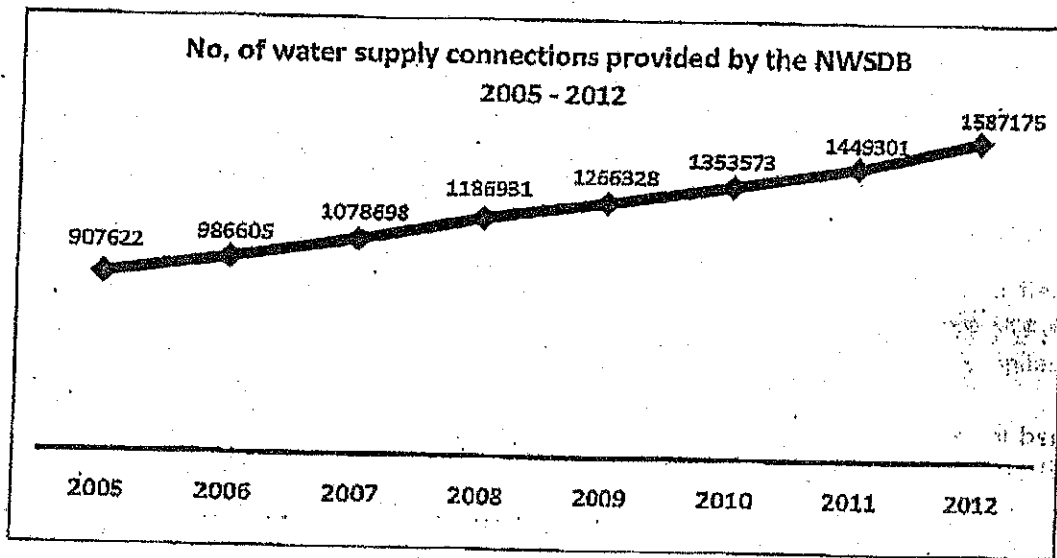
5. Debt relief/bail out measures

None have been practiced.

Ensuring Human Rights Compliances

6. Impact on water and sanitation sector

A special assessment on the impact on financial and economic constraints has not been made but it is evident from the number of new water supply connections taken, that there has been no impact on the water and sanitation sector. Please see graph below.



Water Supply and Sanitation Coverage has been increased during this period.

7. Impact on the most marginalized

All categories of communities have been identified and drinking water is provided either by pipe borne, protected wells, tube well/Hand Pump System, Bowser supply or Rain Water Harvesting Systems as appropriate.

Documentary evidence

The NWSDB's Annual Reports give details of the water supply coverage with respect to communities served from pipe borne systems, protected wells, Tube wells/Hand Pump systems, Rain Water Harvesting Systems etc. Furthermore, the tariff levied for pipe borne drinking water supply and sewerage services give evidence of the specific groups. Those documents can be seen in the website www.waterboard.lk under Corporate Plan Goal No.7.

Safeguards to ensure water supply & sanitation facilities for the marginalized

There are no restrictions in the provision of water supply and sanitation facilities whether it is disadvantaged or marginalized groups. Concessionary rates are given for them to secure water supply connections and for their monthly bills. Therefore, safeguards are in place to ensure the continued enjoyment of the human rights to water and sanitation in particular for disadvantaged and marginalized groups.

8. Justification

Considering the affordability of the community and the concessions granted to the marginalized groups, the tariff for water supply and sewerage facilities is revised from time to time taking inflation into consideration with the approval of the government.

However, the lifeline consumption is provided at a substantially reduced rate to ensure access to safe drinking water with a view to protect human rights.

9. Mechanisms in place

Action is being taken to enhance the productivity of providing water supply and sanitation facilities, such as reduction of power consumption, reduction of non revenue water, etc. with respect to operations.

To reduce water wastage, school level programmes, public awareness programmes and media publicity programmes are being launched to realize the human rights to water and sanitation services.

10. Peoples' participation in decision making

In the case of the rural situation, community involvement in decision making takes place from planning stage up to implementation of the facilities. In some cases the Community manage such facilities as well.

In the case of the urban situation, community involvement is available at planning stage. The cost of securing services is largely reduced when people take part in such activities.

Sustainability

11. Sustainability of water and sanitation facilities

When constructing water supply and sewerage facilities, they are planned for 30 year periods taking financial, social and economic feasibilities and health considerations into consideration with the aim of ensuring the enjoyment of these rights for the present and future generations.

However, the country cannot afford to provide universal pipe borne water supply and sanitation facilities. Therefore appropriate methods of water supply and sanitation facilities are made available aimed at maintaining access, balanced with the aim of extending services to the un- and underserved population.

12. Mechanisms in place for the operation of facilities

The fund requirement for the proper operation and maintenance of water and sanitation infrastructure is met by the tariff levied on customers. In addition, minor rehabilitation of these facilities is covered from this revenue.

The investment required for capital works and replacement of aging infrastructure is met by the government along with international financiers.

Human resource/ capacity building programmes are carried out in house, in county and by overseas scholarships for the employees providing such services. The skilled staff members deployed for the provision of such services are essentially those who have trade qualifications.

- Six pages are in all -