

Get involved in the 4th World Water Forum

Preparations for the 4th World Water Forum, to be held in Mexico in March 2006,



have started. The organisers of the Forum say they want to achieve multi-stakeholder involvement in its preparation as well as broad participation in the event itself to ensure that the knowledge and experience of local actors shape the thematic content of the discussions.

This global event will focus on identifying how best to involve local actors in the design of a global vision for sustainable water development as well as ways to support specific local actions for its implementation.

The Forums' central theme **Local Actions for a Global Challenge** will be addressed through the examination of five core issues, each referring to a major global water challenge:

Water for development in recognition that governments need to pay more attention to ensuring that water contributes to social and economic development. We need to have a better understanding of the contribution of water related services to national, regional and local development, of the minimum levels of investment needed in water infrastructure to kick-start and sustain development, and of ways in which to help government design a more holistic and cross-sectoral approach to water development.

Integrated water resource management is a conceptual tool to manage water and other related resources in a more effective and sustainable

manner, particularly as competition for water use is rising between different users. But how have different countries approached IWRM, how far have they got in the process and in what way have these plans actually improved water management and for whom?


Water supply and sanitation for all. Many people in the world still do not have adequate access to safe water and sanitation. Why is this the case? What are the political, financial, technological, institutional or cultural blockages and how can they be overcome? **Water management for food and the environment.** Irrigated agriculture is the largest consumer of water in the world, but as food needs rise with population growth how is it going to



© 1996 Susanne Riveles/Lutheran World Relief, Courtesy of Photoshare

be sustained, and competition between different uses and the environment reconciled? More needs to be done to improve the productivity of water in agriculture while ensuring environmental protection.

Water security has three different but interrelated features. First, the issue of how better to respond to the effects of extreme natural events (floods,



droughts) as a result of climate change, especially for poor and vulnerable communities. Second, the need to find ways better to protect water systems and related infrastructure in the event of war. And finally, the notion of "hydro-solidarity", a concept seeking to develop a set of principles among citizens for the ethical use of water for the sake of peaceful coexistence.

*For more information visit:
www.worldwaterforum4.org.mx.
Alternatively, you can write to:
4th World Water Forum
Secretariat, Av. Insurgentes Sur
No.2140, 2nd Floor, Mexico City
01070, Mexico. Email: feedback@worldwaterforum4.org.mx.*