

Statement of Capability by WEDC

The Water Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC) is one of the world's leading education and research institutes for developing knowledge and capacity in water and sanitation. We focus on solutions for people in low- and middle-income countries, helping to provide evidence-based answers to important questions about what to do and how to do it.

WEDC works to develop the underlying analysis and synthesis of evidence from the field; and to influence policy and practice through capacity building and communicating innovation and good practice to key target groups.

WEDC is a self-funded institute operating within the Department of Civil and Building Engineering at Loughborough University in the United Kingdom. WEDC has a world-wide reputation which was endorsed in 1998 by the award of a Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education with the following citation: "It provides outstanding support for developing countries and is internationally recognised as a leader in providing sustainable infrastructure. Its partnerships with universities, aid agencies, non-governmental organisations and governments transcend academic, institutional and cultural boundaries in pursuit of improving the quality of life for those most in need."

We emphasize the integration of social, gender, health, technical, economic, financial, institutional and environmental perspectives. WEDC

comprises 24 staff, made up of 15 professional and research staff with extensive practical experience of working in developing countries, plus publications, library, laboratory and support staff.

In addition, WEDC has an extensive network of contacts, including over one thousand water professionals who have studied at WEDC or attended WEDC conferences, and others who have worked with us on research and consultancy projects. We are committed to strengthening professional and management capacity in the water supply and sanitation sector.

WEDC collaborates in research, education, training and consultancy with a wide range of academic and research institutes, bilateral donor agencies (we work extensively with DFID, the British aid programme), international organisations (e.g. UNICEF, WHO, World Bank), resource centres, international consultancy firms, specialist organizations and non-government organizations (for example, WaterAid, Médecins sans Frontières).

Our expertise in the water and sanitation sector is long established: the first training course was held in 1971. Approximately 50 participants attend WEDC MSc programmes and short courses at Loughborough each year, and 200 students study by distance learning. WEDC's education programmes include MSc, Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate levels in *Water and Environmental Management*, *Water and Waste Engineering*, and *Infrastructure for Emergencies*, as well as special 'tailor-made' short courses for professional or institutional capacity development. These are available either at Loughborough or in-country.

The regular WEDC Conference is a major international event for researchers and practitioners to share knowledge in water supply, sanitation, hygiene and water resources management. It is held in either Africa or Asia; each is co-organized by WEDC and a Local Organizing Committee formed by agencies operating nationally in relevant fields. There have been 34 conferences to date, attended by a total of more than 8,000 participants and with more than 1,900 papers presented. The 34th conference in Addis Ababa in May 2009 was attended by 645 participants from 63 countries.

WEDC consultancy work focuses on the development of broadly-based, interdisciplinary and sustainable

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solutions for the MDGs and beyond, and institutional strengthening to support implementation and management.

In 2001 WEDC was awarded the second five year contract for the WELL Resource Centre Network in Water, Sanitation and Environmental Health, to provide technical and knowledge-based services in water and sanitation to the UK government's international development programme, in collaboration with The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and the IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre in the Netherlands.

WEDC's specific strengths include:

- Policy and strategy development for governments and aid agencies
- Programme and project identification and preparation
- Technical support services, technical backstopping and information support
- Capacity building and institutional development programmes including diagnostics
- Sector monitoring, reviews and evaluation for global, regional,

national and programme/project levels.

- Knowledge and information management, including dissemination, communication and publication using a range of different media
- Conferencing, networking and partnership for knowledge transfer
- Working with local agencies and the international community to develop technology and management options that are appropriate for local conditions
- Research methodology and data analysis

