

6.3 PROGRAMME 3: WATER SERVICES

Measurable objective: Ensure provision of effective, efficient and sustainable basic services, bulk infrastructure by local government and delegated water services institutions.

The Water Services programme ensures access to effective, sustainable and affordable water and sanitation services, through policy development, planning, regulating and monitoring of the sector. This includes institutional and implementation support to local government.

There are 13 sub-programmes:

- Provisioning Policies ensures basic water supply and sanitation services for improved quality of life and poverty alleviation.
- Water and Sanitation Services supports the development of infrastructure for basic water supply and sanitation services at the regional level, for improved quality of life and poverty alleviation.
- Water Sector Policies provides a framework for the effective and sustainable delivery of water services to underpin economic and social development.
- Water Sector Support supports the delivery of sustainable water services at the regional level to underpin economic and social development.
- Institutional Policies supports effective water services institutions.
- Institutional Support provides support at the regional level for effective water services institutions.
- Transfer Policies guides the transfer of operation and maintenance functions and water services schemes for effective local operations and management.
- Transfer of Functions implements the transfer of water services schemes to water services institutions to ensure effective local level operation and management.
- Africa Initiative promotes the programme's activities to achieve UN millennium development and World Summit on Sustainable Development targets in Africa and to support NEPAD.
- African Participation promotes and supports policies to achieve the UN millennium development targets in Africa.

- Operations of Water Services ensures reliable and sustainable supply of water for basic use and economic development. (While this function is still with the Department, it is a temporary arrangement and will be phased out as the transfer programme is completed). The programme is funded with earmarked funds for conditional grants to local government.

6.3.2 The Strategic Framework for Water Services

The fundamental driver of the Strategic Framework for Water Services (SFWS: 2003) is the Constitution, which states that water service provision is a local government function. The SFWS provides a comprehensive summary of policy with respect to the water services sector in South Africa and sets out a strategic framework for its implementation in the short to medium term, including 19 specific outcome targets. The function of infrastructure implementation has already been transferred and water services scheme operation is in the final phases of being transferred to local government and/or appropriate water services institutions.

Due to the broadened definition of water services, which includes basic and higher levels of service as well as service quality, the Water Services Act is in the process of being revised and extended to ensure that appropriate legal mechanisms are in place to enable the sector to achieve its goals. In addition to these, strategies in support of the SFWS are being developed and implemented and include the institutional reform of water service provision as well as regulatory and sector support strategies.

Ensuring access to basic water supply and sanitation services remains a core priority for the Department and an extensive effort is being made to achieve the water and sanitation delivery targets in the SFWS. A key challenge in this regard is that the Department, although accountable for the success of meeting the water and sanitation targets, is in an indirect position in terms of funding and infrastructure provision. Other critical issues to be addressed are the required increased levels of funding, improvement of implementation capacity and associated decision-making processes and sustainable management in Water Services Authorities (WSAs). The current rate of delivery at local government level remains a concern to the Department. In view of the urgency of a greatly increased rate of service delivery, the Department is increasing its hands-on support to local government to ensure that the targets are met.

The Cabinet further approved that 0.75% of the GDP needs to be made available to the Water Services Sector towards the attainment of the 19 water services targets. The investment levels have not been forthcoming and the Department is working with the Department of Provincial and Local Government (DPLG), SALGA and municipalities to address the challenges of inadequate resources. Some of the capacity constraints within the municipalities are addressed through donor support in the implementation of the five-year Local Government Support Programme. Specific outcome targets are set out under the section on "Selected medium-term output targets". The Department has, however, intervened in a limited way to obtain grant support from the People's Republic of China with the view to provide materials to the municipalities for the provision of free basic water, targeting the poor without infrastructure. The limited equitable share available for the operation and maintenance will hamper the rollout of free basic sanitation.

6.3.3 Water Services and Sanitation

Since 1994 various Government policies and legislation relating to water service and the role of local government have been developed and implemented. The Strategic Framework for Water Services (SFWS) that was approved by Cabinet in 2003 provides a comprehensive summary of policy with respect to the water services sector in South Africa and sets out a strategic framework for its implementation over the next ten years. The changed role of the Department is defined in the SFWS as that of sector leader, of which the following four are core responsibilities: policy, support, regulation and information management. The function of infrastructure implementation and water services scheme operation previously performed by the Department was transferred to local government and/or other appropriate water services institutions in line with the Constitutional mandate in 2005.

Access to basic water supply and sanitation services remains a priority development area for South Africa. In the past year, the Department's role in supporting local government, particularly Project Consolidate and its proactive and active involvement in the Imbizos Programme was acknowledged in various forums throughout the country. Plans are in place to build on this foundation as it is through this support that local government can deliver on its mandate.

A lot of progress has been made with regard to the targets and the country has achieved the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of halving the backlog of access to basic sanitation and water by 2015. However, serious challenges lie ahead in terms of achieving the targets the country has set. During the last financial year 1.1 million additional people

received access to basic water and an additional 100 000 households received access to basic sanitation.

Of the 252 000 buckets identified, 140 000 buckets have been eliminated to date. Comprehensive plans are in place to deal with the remainder and with the tremendous support and collaboration received from leadership at all levels of Government, this target will be met.

The Department through the Social Cluster, submitted a Service Delivery Acceleration Plan to the Cabinet Lekgotla. The approval of this plan by Cabinet implies that the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry will in 2007 take a lead in ensuring that targets are met. This plan places a lot of emphasis on joint partnerships between National DPLG, SALGA, Department of National Treasury and municipalities, with the DWAF taking the lead in terms of providing strategic direction to accelerated service delivery. Other key strategic interventions are mobilisation of resources, both human and financial, the intensification of the current support initiatives and hands-on monitoring of delivery at local government level.

An amount of R950 million has also been made directly available to the Department to ensure access of water and sanitation services to schools and clinics. The DWAF will have to focus on ensuring that the December 2007 second target, ensuring access to water and sanitation services to all clinics in the country, is met. National Treasury further responded to the concerns of the Department on the state of bulk infrastructure in the country by allocating an amount of R1.4 billion over a three-year period to implement the regional bulk infrastructure programme.

The need to ensure sustainable and cost effective services by local government continues to be a challenge. In 2006, a strategy to guide institutional reform of water service provision was developed and will be presented to Cabinet by June 2007 for final approval.

The year 2006 saw an improvement in the provisioning of free basic water to communities. There is still a need to find more effective ways of supporting struggling municipalities where poverty levels are high. The Department is concerned about communities who are not benefiting from this service due to lack of infrastructure. As part of the service delivery acceleration plan, municipalities will be encouraged to look at creative means of providing interim services to unserved communities.

Water Services Medium-Term Output Targets

SUB-PROGRAMME	OUTPUTS	MEASURES	2007/08 TARGETS	2008/09 TARGETS	2009/10 TARGETS
Ensure provision of basic services	Basic sanitation and water services provided to all	Number of buckets eradicated in the formal settlements	100% of buckets backlog eradicated in the formal established settlements by December 2007	-	-
		Number of clinics provided with water and sanitation services	100% of clinics backlog eradicated by December 2007	-	-
		Number of people provided with basic sanitation services	800 000 households provided with basic sanitation services	One million households provided with basic sanitation services	One million households provided with basic sanitation services
		Number of households reached through health and hygiene education programme	800 000 households reached through health and hygiene education programme	One million households reached through health and hygiene education programme	One million households reached through health and hygiene education programme
		Number of schools provided with water and sanitation services	5% of schools backlog eradicated	100% of schools backlog eradicated	-
		Percentage of total number of schools reached through education programme on water conservation, sanitation and forestry	10% of total number of schools reached through education programme on water, conservation, sanitation and forestry	20% of total number of schools reached through education programme on water, conservation, sanitation and, forestry	30% of total number of schools reached through education programme on water, conservation, sanitation and forestry
		Number of people provided with basic water services	2.4 million people provided with basic water services	4.8 million people provided with basic water services	-

SUB-PROGRAMME	OUTPUTS	MEASURES	2007/08 TARGETS	2008/09 TARGETS	2009/10 TARGETS
Ensure provision of basic services (cont)	Free basic water and sanitation services provided to those who have access to basic services	Number of people having access to free basic services	Free basic water provided to 50% of population with basic water services	Free basic water provided to 100% of population with basic water services WSA providing FBW to communities	-
Ensure provision of basic services(continued)	Local government support plan implemented	Improved basic service delivery by municipalities	Approved DWAF local government support plan aligned to DPLG five year plan	Review and ongoing implementation	Review and ongoing implementation
	Regional bulk infrastructure developed and maintained	Sustainable infrastructure	Approved policy and guidelines and piloted; work started on 40 projects	Complete 23 of the 40 projects	Complete 23 of the 40 projects
Drinking water quality management	Compliance of water service authorities with drinking water quality standards	Percentage of water services authorities complying with drinking water quality management standards	100% of water services authorities submit reports to DWAF; support provided to needy municipalities	100% of water services authorities submit reports to DWAF; support provided to needy municipalities	100% of water services authorities submit reports to DWAF; support provided to needy municipalities
Water Sector policies and regulations	Legislation aligned to strategic services framework for water services	Water services legislations reviewed	Promulgation of revised Water Services Act Regulatory strategy developed. Institutional reform strategy developed.	Begin to implement new legislation; devise a plan to implement the two strategies	100% Implementation of legislation and complete implementation of strategies

SUB-PROGRAMME	OUTPUTS	MEASURES	2007/08 TARGETS	2008/09 TARGETS	2009/10 TARGETS
Water Sector Support	Water sector institutions executing their legislative functions as stipulated in the Water Services Act	Percentage of water sector institutions operating effectively and improved performance	Improved performance by 25% of water sector institutions Sector support strategy and implementation plan developed and implemented	Improved performance by 50% of WSA and WSP	Improved performance by 50% of WSA and WSP
Water Sector Support			Intergovernmental relations act implemented Mobilise international support through Masibambane 3		
Transfer Policies and Transfer of Functions	Water schemes transferred	Number of schemes transferred and agreements in place	317 schemes 57 agreements	Monitor compliance with conditions of transfer agreements	Monitor compliance with conditions of transfer agreements
		Number of schemes that comply with standards	70% of schemes complying with standards	80% of all WS of schemes complying with standards	100% of all WS of schemes complying with standards
Operations of Water Services	Reliable and sustainable supply of water provided for basic use and economic development	Percentage water supplied for basic use and economic development	80% compliance	100% compliance	-
Africa Initiative and Africa Participation	Support to water services programmes in Africa supported Sustainable Development targets	Participation in international forums	Participate in international conferences Host African Conference Provide support to NEPAD initiatives	Participate in international conferences Host youth conference	Participate in international conferences

6.3.4 Resource information – Water Services

Water Services							
Sub-programme	Audited outcome			Adjusted appropriation	Medium-term expenditure estimate		
	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Provisioning Policies	8,609	6,326	3,335	2,999	33,999	39,409	49,734
Water and Sanitation Services	1,021,882	282,746	200,450	18,132	394,497	647,440	979,180
Water Sector Policies	35,348	42,168	41,421	44,586	50,004	55,063	58,909
Water Sector Support	61,913	68,883	68,336	75,324	88,691	95,328	102,440
Institutional Policies	10,732	3,518	6,595	10,845	11,387	12,184	13,037
Institutional Support	47,270	49,113	44,994	46,264	47,705	51,614	55,561
Transfer Policies	224	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer of Functions	10,719	28,460	14,411	18,194	16,255	17,392	18,609
Africa Initiative	113	-	195	100	100	107	114
African Participation	-	-	-	300	803	859	919
Water Services Administration	5,212	5,977	7,867	10,183	10,711	11,162	11,914
Water Services Support	99,491	122,305	55,061	105,913	90,726	105,450	117,359
Operations of Water Services	1,089,929	951,863	1,068,333	1,132,125	1,168,782	1,383,142	1,119,815
Total of sub-programmes	2,391,442	1,561,359	1,510,998	1,464,966	1,913,660	2,419,150	2,527,591
Change to 2006 Budget Estimate				2,715	369,557	646,831	620,567