

GLOBAL WATER CHALLENGES AND THE NEED FOR RESOURCE ASSESSMENTS

Safe drinking water

Meeting
**BASIC
NEEDS**
for water

requires

Understanding
**WATER
RESOURCES**

achieved by

**COMPREHENSIVE
WATER RESOURCES
ASSESSMENT**



Meeting **BASIC NEEDS** is a focus of the **United Nations Millennium Development Goals**

Millennium Development Goal 7 seeks to:

- Halve the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water;
- Reverse the loss of environmental resources.

In order for Member States to provide water to meet BASIC NEEDS and support national DEVELOPMENT GOALS

It is essential to understand:

- How much water exists and where it comes from;
- How sustainable water resources are for current and future use;
- How vulnerable water resources are to pollution and climate change.

This is accomplished by conducting **A COMPREHENSIVE WATER RESOURCES ASSESSMENT.**

Adequate national assessments still do not exist in many countries. The problem is particularly acute with respect to groundwater resources. The greatest proportion of the Earth's available fresh water is located underground, and this vital resource is often poorly understood and poorly managed. The 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development recognized the need to assist developing countries in adequately assessing and monitoring their water resources. It is imperative to strengthen the capacity of developing countries to conduct **COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENTS.**

