



# Scope of Initiative

## Access to Clean Water and Sanitation

As announced in the 2008-09 Budget, the Australian Government will commence a significant new package of initiatives laying the foundation for implementing its long-term commitment to increase Australia's international development assistance to 0.5 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI) by 2015-16.

The *Access to Clean Water and Sanitation* initiative aims to provide increased access to clean water and effective sanitation services as well as improving water security by protecting freshwater sources. The initiative will support a substantially increased investment in sanitation services while also expanding the provision of sustainable and safe water supply systems, especially for the poorest groups in partner developing countries. It will support a growth in investment in urban and peri-urban water and sanitation services along with further investments in rural water supply and sanitation programs.

The initiative will invest \$300 million over three years. This will include \$8 million in 2008-09, \$100 million in 2009-10, and \$192 million in 2010-11.

The initiative will focus geographically on the Asia-Pacific region and Africa. It will build on existing successful programs and partnerships as well as developing new partnerships with multilateral and international organisations and non-government organisations.

As part of this investment the Australian Government will support a range of activities identified in consultation with key partner organisations and developing countries. Activities under the initiative include:

### **Urban Water and Sanitation**

- Improved efficiency and capacity of water utilities, especially in the provision of services to poor communities.

### **Rural Water and Sanitation**

- Improved water and sanitation systems for small rural towns and increased service delivery capacity of sub-national governments; and
- The promotion of improved hygiene behaviour through school-based education programs and innovative approaches such as "community-led total sanitation".

### **Water Security**

- Protection of freshwater sources of drinking water and increased storage capacity through various approaches, including water safety planning.