

# Selected Resources

## The Human Right to Water and Sanitation

### Human rights in German development policy

#### BMZ Strategy and Guidelines on human rights in German development policy

The cross-sectoral strategy affirms the central role of human rights in German development policy and contains binding requirements for the implementing agencies; the Guidelines provide guidance on the incorporation of human rights standards and principles, including gender, in programme proposals.

- BMZ Strategy (2011), linking human rights and water in the context of the Millennium Development Goals and poverty reduction:  
[http://www.bmz.de/en/publications/type\\_of\\_publication/strategies/Strategiepapier305\\_04\\_2011.pdf](http://www.bmz.de/en/publications/type_of_publication/strategies/Strategiepapier305_04_2011.pdf)
- BMZ Guidelines (2013), see in particular Annex pages xiv-xv:  
[http://www.bmz.de/en/zentrales\\_downloadarchiv/themen\\_und\\_schwerpunkte/menschenrechte/Leitfaden\\_PV\\_2013\\_en.pdf](http://www.bmz.de/en/zentrales_downloadarchiv/themen_und_schwerpunkte/menschenrechte/Leitfaden_PV_2013_en.pdf)

#### BMZ (2010), Human rights in practice – Fact sheets on a human rights-based approach in development cooperation

Collection of 2-page fact sheets that explain what the human rights-based approach in development cooperation means in general and for all priority sectors of German development cooperation. The fact sheet on water and sanitation can be found on pages 10-11.

- [http://www.bmz.de/en/publications/topics/human\\_rights/BMZ\\_Information\\_Brochure\\_7\\_2010e.pdf](http://www.bmz.de/en/publications/topics/human_rights/BMZ_Information_Brochure_7_2010e.pdf)

BMZ special 'German Development Cooperation in the Sanitation Sector' (2009) declares that the realisation of the right to adequate living conditions through adequate sanitation infrastructure is a primary goal of German development policy in the sanitation sector.

- [http://www.bmz.de/en/publications/type\\_of\\_publication/strategies/spezial157.pdf](http://www.bmz.de/en/publications/type_of_publication/strategies/spezial157.pdf)

BMZ Water Sector Strategy Paper (2006) entails a section on the human rights dimension of water.

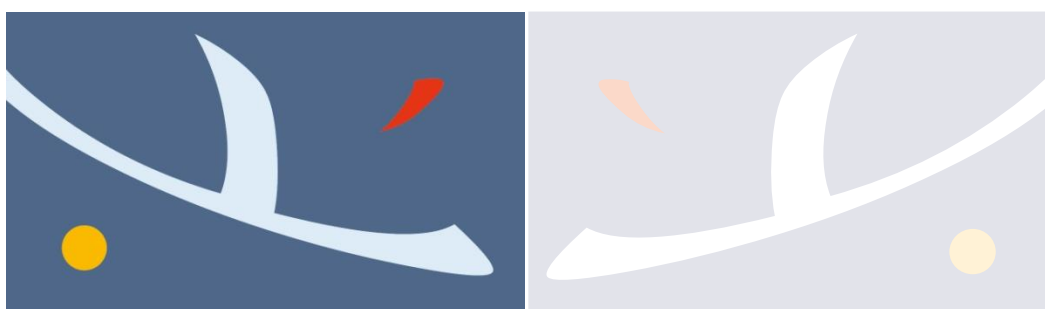
- [https://www.bmz.de/en/publications/type\\_of\\_publication/strategies/konzept152.pdf](https://www.bmz.de/en/publications/type_of_publication/strategies/konzept152.pdf)

### United Nations reference documents on the right to water and sanitation

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); Article 11, the right to an adequate standard of living including the right to water, and Article 12, the right to health

- <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx>

UN General Assembly resolution on the human right to water and sanitation (A/RES/64/292, 2010) reiterates the right to water and specifically refers to a right to sanitation in this context



- [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/64/292](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/64/292)
- Overview of relevant UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions:  
<http://www.ohchr.org/en/Issues/WaterAndSanitation/SRWater/Pages/Resolutions.aspx>

UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), General Comment No. 15 on ICESCR Articles 11 and 12: the right to water (E/C.12/2002/11, 2002)

The treaty bodies, committees of independent experts established under the UN human rights treaties, issue “General Comments”, authoritative interpretations of the provisions of the treaty. The CESCR, through General Comment No. 15, has interpreted Articles 11 and 12 in respect to the right to water. It elaborates on the legal basis of the (implicit) right and clarifies its core elements: availability, quality and accessibility/affordability.

- [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=E%2FC.12%2f2002%2f11&Lang=en](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=E%2FC.12%2f2002%2f11&Lang=en)

All states parties are obliged to regularly submit reports to the CESCR on the progress and steps taken to implement the rights stipulated by the Covenant. The Committee examines each report and addresses its concerns and recommendations to the state party in the form of “Concluding Observations”.

- [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/SessionsList.aspx?Treaty=CESCR](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/SessionsList.aspx?Treaty=CESCR)

#### UN Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation

The Special Rapporteur – since 2014 held by Mr. Léo Heller – is mandated to study the human rights obligations related to water and sanitation, to promote best practices, and to carry out country visits and issue recommendations thereafter.

- Website, offering a wide range of information on relevant international standards, country visits and annual reports:  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/WaterAndSanitation/SRWater/Pages/SRWaterIndex.aspx>
- Handbook (2014) to provide practical guidance to states and other stakeholders on how the rights to water and sanitation can be incorporated into law, policy, budgets and service provision:  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/WaterAndSanitation/SRWater/Pages/Handbook.aspx>
- On the Right Track – Good practices in realising the right to water and sanitation (2012), putting an emphasis on implementation and accountability:  
[http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Water/BookonGoodPractices\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Water/BookonGoodPractices_en.pdf)

- The report on the realisation of the right to drinking water and sanitation (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2005/25, 2005) contains draft guidelines intended to assist policymakers, international agencies and civil society to implement the right:  
[http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/water/docs/SUB\\_Com\\_Guisse\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/water/docs/SUB_Com_Guisse_guidelines.pdf)

## More on the human right to water and sanitation

### Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

- The “Right to water and sanitation toolkit” lists the key aspects of the right to water as well as links to relevant documents of the UN system, such as factsheets, FAQ and an overview of legal obligations regarding the right to water and sanitation:  
[www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/ESCR/Pages/Water.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/ESCR/Pages/Water.aspx)

### UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

- Website on water, sanitation and hygiene:  
<http://www.unicef.org/wash/>
- Water, sanitation and hygiene in schools (2012):  
[http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/CFS\\_WASH\\_E\\_web.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/CFS_WASH_E_web.pdf)

### UN inter-agency mechanism on all freshwater-related issues, including sanitation (UN-WATER)

- Website with information, activities, publications and statistics compiled within the UN system:  
<http://www.unwater.org/home/en/>
- Snapshot of progress towards the MDG drinking water and sanitation target (2014):  
[http://www.wssinfo.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/documents/Four-page-JMP-2014-Snapshot-standard-online-publishing.pdf](http://www.wssinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/Four-page-JMP-2014-Snapshot-standard-online-publishing.pdf); more detailed progress report:  
[apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/112727/1/9789241507240\\_eng.pdf](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/112727/1/9789241507240_eng.pdf)
- FAO, Coping with water scarcity – An action framework for agriculture and food security (2012):  
[www.fao.org/docrep/016/i3015e/i3015e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/016/i3015e/i3015e.pdf)
- International Decade for Action “Water for Life” 2005-2015:  
[http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/waterandsustainabledevelopment2015/open\\_working\\_group\\_sdg.shtml](http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/waterandsustainabledevelopment2015/open_working_group_sdg.shtml)

## UN Economic Commission for Europe

No one left behind – Good practices to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation in the Pan-European region (2012), with an emphasis on the accessibility of services for particularly vulnerable and marginalised groups.

- [http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/799No\\_one\\_left\\_behind\\_E.pdf](http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/799No_one_left_behind_E.pdf)

## UN practitioners' portal on HRBA to programming – Resources on water and sanitation

An extensive collection of resources on the application of the human rights-based approach in the water and sanitation sector.

- <http://hrbaportal.org/archives/topics/water-sanitation>

## Implementation in development cooperation

- Promising practices on the human rights-based approach in German development cooperation – water and sanitation: ensuring access for the urban poor in Kenya (2013): [www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/uploads/tx\\_commerce/promising\\_practices\\_water\\_and\\_sanitation\\_in\\_kenya.pdf](http://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/uploads/tx_commerce/promising_practices_water_and_sanitation_in_kenya.pdf)
- BMZ/GIZ, The human right to water and sanitation – translating theory into practice (2009) explains the human rights-based approach in the water sector: <http://www.giz.de/fachexpertise/downloads/gtz2009-human-right-to-water-and-sanitation.pdf>
- SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) Reference paper: realising the human right to water and sanitation (2013): <http://sidaenvironmenthelpdesk.se/wordpress3/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Sida-Reference-Paper-Realising-human-right-water-sanitation-2013.pdf>

## German Institute for Human Rights (DIMR)

- Human rights meet water- a conversation (2009), a 3-page interview on how to implement the right to water and sanitation at the example of Kenya, and on how to hold not only states but also private enterprises accountable: [http://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/uploads/tx\\_commerce/hr\\_meet\\_water\\_a\\_conversation.pdf](http://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/uploads/tx_commerce/hr_meet_water_a_conversation.pdf)
- DIMR had a support unit to the previous Special Rapporteur (until 2014) that has published an essay on the human right to water and sanitation (2011): [http://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/uploads/tx\\_commerce/essay\\_lebenselixier\\_und\\_letztes\\_tabu\\_01.pdf](http://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/uploads/tx_commerce/essay_lebenselixier_und_letztes_tabu_01.pdf) (in German only)

- Study “Water for food: a human rights obligation – how states can manage conflicts between the human right to water and the human right to adequate food” (2013), describing a human rights-based approach for defining priorities regarding claims for water, and, respectively, preventing and settling disputes over access to, and availability of, water: [http://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/fileadmin/migrated/tx\\_commerce/Study\\_Water\\_for\\_Food\\_a\\_Human\\_Rights\\_Obligation.pdf](http://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/fileadmin/migrated/tx_commerce/Study_Water_for_Food_a_Human_Rights_Obligation.pdf)

## Waterlex toolkit – Integrating the human right to water and sanitation in development practice

This comprehensive toolkit aims to assist development practitioners in effectively contributing to the realisation of the right to water and sanitation. It contains numerous suggestions on planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation, as well as a great selection of tools and good practices.

- <http://www.waterlex.org/waterlex-toolkit/>
- The right to water and sanitation - A practical guide (2011): [http://www.franciscansinternational.org/fileadmin/docs/Water\\_manual/FI\\_WL\\_The\\_Right\\_to\\_Water\\_and\\_Sanitation\\_-\\_a\\_practical\\_guide.pdf](http://www.franciscansinternational.org/fileadmin/docs/Water_manual/FI_WL_The_Right_to_Water_and_Sanitation_-_a_practical_guide.pdf)

## Information portal on the rights to water and sanitation

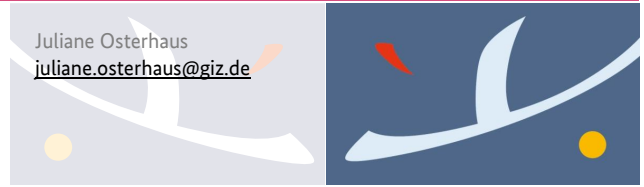
- Website: <http://www.rightttowater.info/>
- Section on the rights-based approach for practitioners with numerous projects and case studies: <http://www.rightttowater.info/rights-in-practice/rights-based-approach-for-practitioners/>

## Case law

A case law database regarding the human right to water and sanitation can be found on ESCR-Net.

- [http://www.escr-net.org/caselaw-database/view/filter?field\\_summary\\_value=&field\\_forum\\_value=&field\\_country\\_tid=All&field\\_thematic\\_focus\\_tid=2426&=Apply](http://www.escr-net.org/caselaw-database/view/filter?field_summary_value=&field_forum_value=&field_country_tid=All&field_thematic_focus_tid=2426&=Apply)

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### The SPHERE handbook

- This online handbook, developed by a network of humanitarian agencies and NGOs, provides a well-structured, practice-oriented guidance with a focus on humanitarian issues: <http://www.spherehandbook.org/en/the-handbook-structure/>

### WaterAid

- This international NGO advocates to improve access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation, and to mainstream gender, disability and ageing in water/sanitation programmes: [www.wateraid.org/](http://www.wateraid.org/)

### End Water Poverty – Sanitation & water for all

End Water Poverty is a global civil society coalition campaigning and advocating to end the water and sanitation crisis.

- Website with information on campaigns, news (including on the post-2015 process) and resources: <http://www.endwaterpoverty.org/>

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