



## Selected Resources on the Human Right to Water and Sanitation

Compiled by GIZ project "Realizing Human Rights in Development Cooperation"

<http://www.gtz.de/human-rights>

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### I. Human rights in German development policy

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

Collection of 2-page factsheets that explain what the human rights-based approach in development cooperation means in general and for all priority sectors of German development cooperation. The factsheet on the water and sanitation sector is 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)  
(English)

[http://www.bmz.de/de/publikationen/themen/menschenrechte/BMZ\\_Informationsbroschuere\\_07\\_2010.pdf](http://www.bmz.de/de/publikationen/themen/menschenrechte/BMZ_Informationsbroschuere_07_2010.pdf)  
(German)

#### **GTZ (2009), The Human Right to Water and Sanitation – Translating Theory into Practice**

Explanation of the human rights-based approach in the water sector: the human rights obligations, principles and criteria relating to the water and sanitation sector, illustrated with the application and experiences in the water sector reform programme in Kenya.

<http://www.gtz.de/de/dokumente/gtz2009-human-right-to-water-and-sanitation.pdf>

### II. Human rights reference documents for the right to water and sanitation

**International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)** The right to water can be deduced from the right to an adequate standard of living (Art. 11) and the right to health (Art.12)

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cescr.htm>

#### **UN General Assembly (2010), Resolution on the human right to water and sanitation**

**(A/64/L.63/Rev.1), 26 July 2010** reconfirms the right to water and specifically includes sanitation

<http://doc.un.org/DocBox/docbox.nsf/GetAll?OpenAgent&DS=A/64/L.63/Rev.1>

**UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2003), General Comment No. 15 on right to water (E/C.12/2002/11), 20 January 2003** provides an authoritative interpretation of the core content of the right to water and related state obligations.

[http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/0/a5458d1d1bbd713fc1256cc400389e94/\\$FILE/G0340229.pdf](http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/0/a5458d1d1bbd713fc1256cc400389e94/$FILE/G0340229.pdf)

All States parties are obliged to submit regular reports to the Committee on how the rights are being implemented. The Committee examines each report and addresses its concerns and recommendations to the State party in the form of "concluding observations".

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cescr/sessions.htm>

#### **UN ECOSOC, Sub-Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (2005), Guidelines for the Realization of the Right to Drinking Water and Sanitation (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2005/25), 11 July 2005**

These guidelines which were developed by a sub-commission of the UN were passed by the Economic and Social Council of the UN in 2006. They explicitly address the right to sanitation.

[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)

#### **Website of the Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation**

The website documents the work of the independent expert: her mandate, technical reports, reports from country visits and press releases. It also features a list of all relevant international standards on the right to water and sanitation.

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/water/lexpert/index.htm>

### III. More on the human right to water and sanitation

**WHO et al. (2003), Right to Water, Health and Human Rights, Publication Series No. 3, 2003**

A thorough introduction to the topic.

<http://www.righttowater.info/wp-content/uploads/Right-to-Water.pdf>

**Water and Sanitation Website of the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE)**

COHRE is a human rights NGO specified on the right to housing and the right to water and sanitation. COHRE has a consultative status with UN bodies and has published a number of background papers, parallel reports to UN mechanisms, technical reports, manuals, and resources on these rights issues for specific countries and in general. Their Right to Water and Sanitation website contains a wealth of useful resources a selection of which is also featured here.

<http://www.cohre.org/topics/water-and-sanitation>

**COHRE, AAAS, SDC and UN-HABITAT (2007), Manual on the Right to Water and Sanitation**

Comprehensive guide to assist policy makers and practitioners in implementing the human right to water and sanitation; contains good practice examples and a checklist.

[http://www.cohre.org/sites/default/files/manual\\_on\\_the\\_right\\_to\\_water\\_and\\_sanitation\\_2008.pdf](http://www.cohre.org/sites/default/files/manual_on_the_right_to_water_and_sanitation_2008.pdf)

**COHRE (2003), Legal Resources for the Right to Water and Sanitation**

In this publication, COHRE collected international, regional and selected national legal sources on the right to water and sanitation as well as selected case law.

[http://www.cohre.org/sites/default/files/sources\\_8\\_-\\_legal\\_resources\\_for\\_the\\_right\\_to\\_water\\_october\\_2003.pdf](http://www.cohre.org/sites/default/files/sources_8_-_legal_resources_for_the_right_to_water_october_2003.pdf)

**COHRE, WaterAid, SDC and UN-HABITAT (2008), Sanitation: A Human Rights Imperative**

This brochure defines the legal basis for the right to sanitation. It discusses the resulting state obligations and what governments need to do to respect, protect and realize the right to sanitation.

[http://www.cohre.org/sites/default/files/sanitation\\_report\\_eng\\_29\\_dec\\_2008.pdf](http://www.cohre.org/sites/default/files/sanitation_report_eng_29_dec_2008.pdf)

**Information Portal on the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation by Right to Water**

A hub of information and resources on the rights to water and sanitation; includes resources and useful information on the human rights protection system and how it can be employed to advance the right to water and sanitation, publications, manuals, country case studies, legal case studies etc.

<http://www.righttowater.info/>

**SDC (2008), A Human Rights-Based Approach to Water and Sanitation, Briefing Paper.**

This short SDC briefing paper focuses on the practical implementation human rights-based approach to water and sanitation. It highlights lessons learned for development practitioners.

[http://www.deza.admin.ch/ressources/resource\\_en\\_170500.pdf](http://www.deza.admin.ch/ressources/resource_en_170500.pdf)

**WaterAid (2008), Tackling the Silent Killer – The Case for Sanitation**

This report of the NGO WaterAid advocates an increased prioritisation of sanitation derived from the human right to sanitation and in view of the substandard supply of sanitation and its fatal effects in many developing countries.

<http://www.wateraid.org/other/startdownload.asp?DocumentID=249&mode=plugin>

**UN Practitioners Portal on HRBA Programming – Resources on Water and Sanitation**

A growing collection of resources on applying a human rights-based approach (HRBA) in the water and sanitation sector.

[http://hrbaportal.org/?page\\_id=3206](http://hrbaportal.org/?page_id=3206)