



# The impact and importance of water

EIRIS Investor Conference, London. 7 June  
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# WaterAid

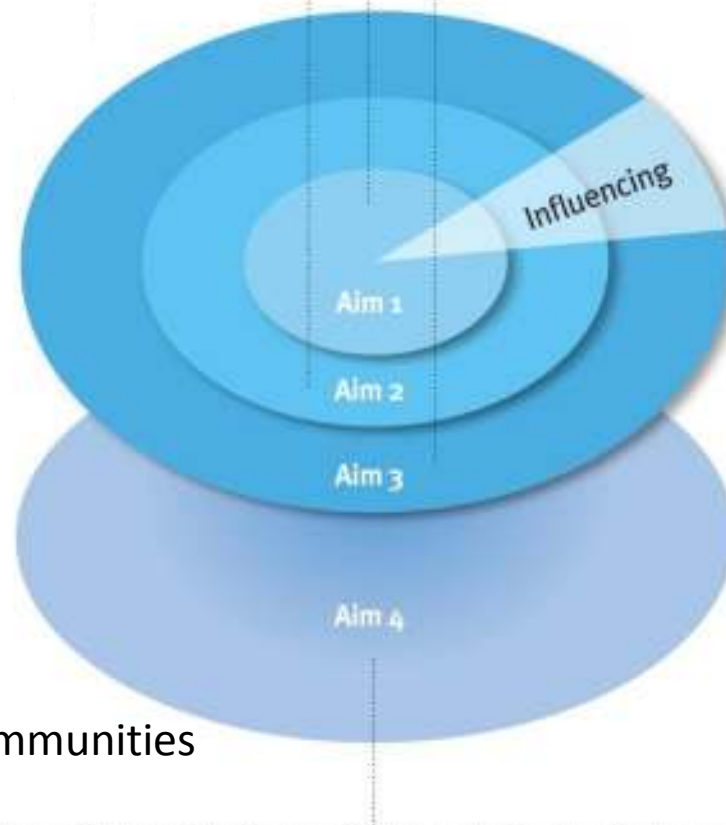
A world where everyone has access to safe water and sanitation



**AIM 1**  
Rights-based  
service delivery

**AIM 2**  
Build capacity of  
government  
service providers

**AIM 3**  
Advocating for the role of  
WASH in development



# What we do

Marginalised and hard-to-reach communities  
Around 2m people a year

**AIM 4**  
Develop as an organisation

# Water, Water everywhere



- Water is life
  - Industry/economy (inc. energy)
  - Agriculture and food
  - Livelihoods
  - **Domestic: drinking, sanitation, hygiene**
- Issues differ depending on context
  - Natural resource risk to self + others
  - **Socio-political risk to society**

# Water, Water everywhere?

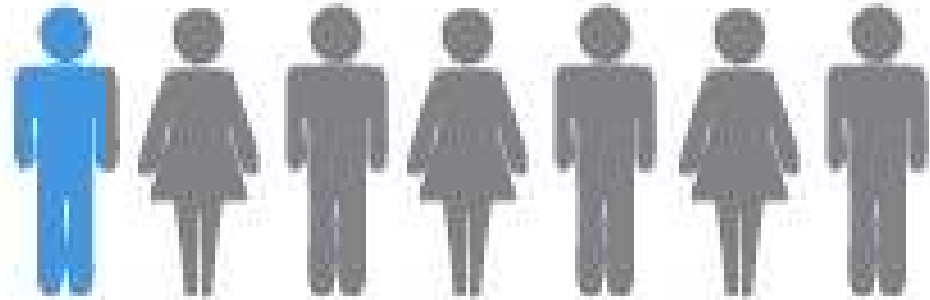


Photo: From 'Enabling Environment in South Africa', IRC presentation 2010

“Service delivery protest” in the township of Siyathemba, South Africa

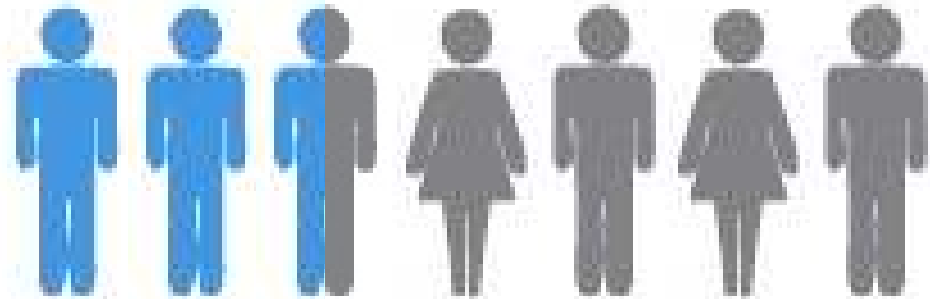
# The WASH crisis

≈1 in 8 without  
safe water



884m people do not use improved sources of drinking water

More than a third  
without sanitation



2.6bn people do not use improved sanitation

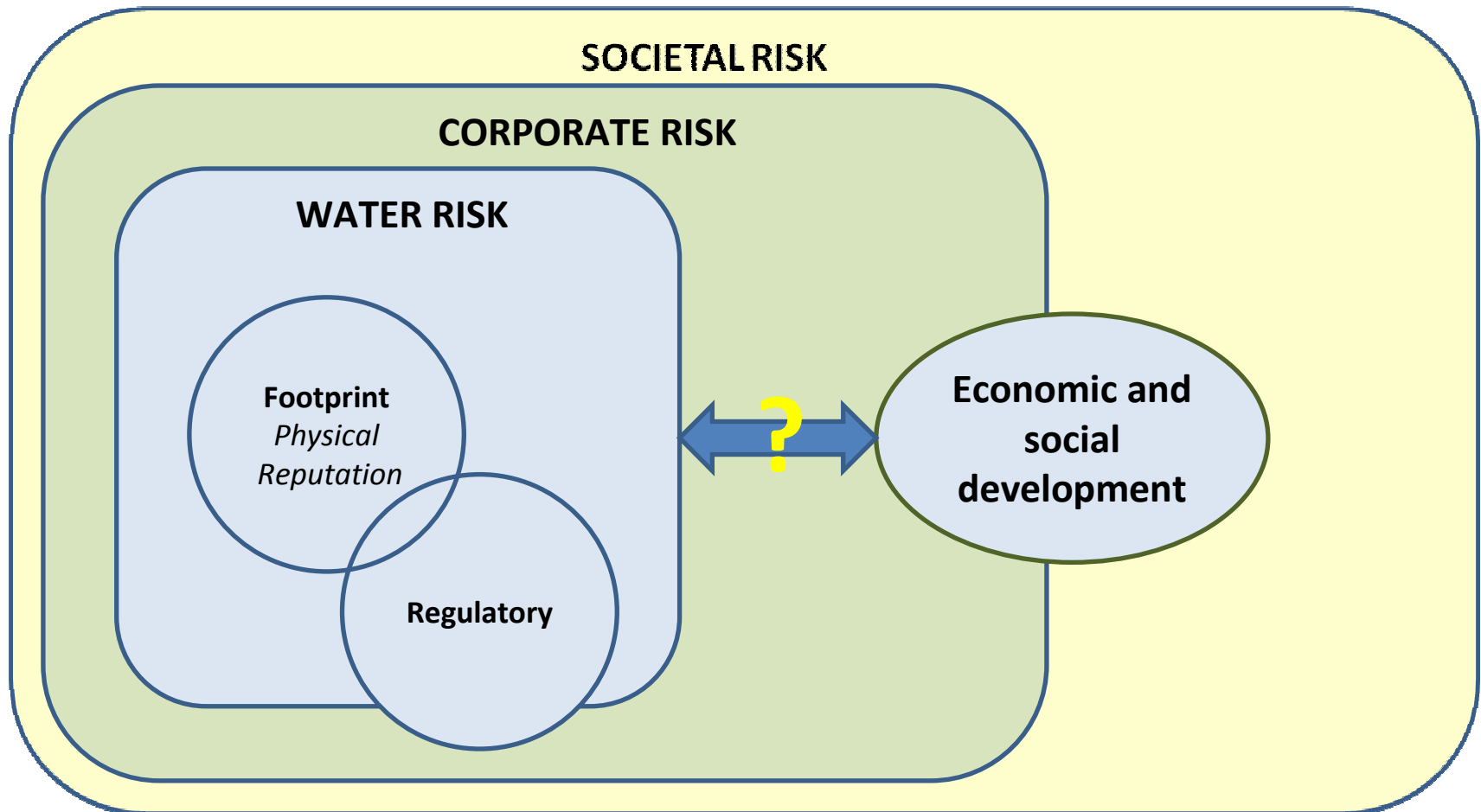
Data source: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme 2010

# Water is central to the MDGs



- Every \$1 invested in sanitation and water creates **\$8 in economic benefits** (UNDP)
- Around **\$4 billion** worth of working days are lost each year due to poor sanitation (WSUP)
- Diarrhoea is **the biggest killer** of under-5s in Africa (The Lancet)
- Girls' school drop-out rates are higher where schools have no separate toilet facilities for boys and girls (WELL)
- Development matters to business

# Water as strategic risk



# Business and Water

- **Manage the ‘water box’**
  - ‘Do no harm’
  - Public policy engagement
- **Understand wider risks**
  - Development landscape and relationships with actors (e.g. government, donors, NGOs)
  - Opportunity to play a role in development that is in line with managing long-term risk
- **Disclose**
  - Dilemmas and collective problems



# Investor community



- Invest responsibly
  - Assess risks: integrate into analysis
  - Ask questions: improve disclosure
- Include wider corporate risks
  - When engaging with businesses
- Look for opportunity
  - Proxies that business understands & manages long-term risk
  - Link issues (e.g. water, energy, climate) – via governance/legitimacy

# What can we bring?

- Help companies and investors understand how the water box links to wider risk
- Share our experience and understanding of the development landscape
- Explore shared agendas



# Dilemmas



- Roles of business and government
  - Community projects can replace or undermine government policy
  - Fragility, where government is weak?
  - Power dynamics?
- Exposure to new risks?
  - Community resentment outside boundary
  - Transfer of responsibility from government to business



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[www.wateraid.org](http://www.wateraid.org)



# Key Challenges



- Acknowledgement of fundamental role
  - Elevating priority of WASH
- Sector building
  - Co-ordination and harmonisation of actors
  - Support country capacity to sustain
  - Enhance targeting