The White Paper on International Development sets out the Government’s policy to seek to strengthen the international commitment to meet the international poverty elimination targets. Improved access to safe and affordable water supply and sanitation is an essential component of the strategy.

The Department for International Development commissioned this Guidance Manual to assist staff and partners to develop effective and sustainable water supply and sanitation programmes. It represents collaboration across a range of professions within my Department and from key UK professionals in the sector. It details interdisciplinary approaches to planning and implementation of partnership-based programmes.”

Clare Short
Secretary of State for International Development

The Manual comprises three chapters and appendices. These take the reader from an overview of the sector, through specific development perspectives, to detailed recommendations for each stage of the project cycle.

Chapter 1
Introduction to water supply and sanitation projects

The first chapter sets the scene. It describes the WS&S sector with particular focus on the development of services for the poor in both urban and rural areas. Emphasis is placed on the importance of co-operation and partnership and the chapter also introduces the DFID programme and project process.

Priority issues
— integration
— partnership
— sanitation
— the urban poor

The guidelines are concerned with household WS&S with the emphasis on meeting the basic needs of the poor in rural and peri-urban areas, inner city informal settlements and slums, and small towns.
Chapter 2
Principles and practice

In order to achieve coherence within the WS&S sector, strong interlinkages between different disciplines are vital. Chapter 2 starts with an inter-disciplinary analysis of key issues and then sets out recommended approaches under seven perspectives:

- Social development
- Health
- Environmental sustainability
- Economic and financial perspectives
- Institutional perspectives
- Technical aspects
- Hygiene promotion and sanitation promotion

These are explored in some detail so that professional staff in DFID and its partners will gain a better understanding of all the aspects and not just their own speciality.

Chapter 3
Water supply and sanitation in the DFID programme and project cycle

This is the ‘How to’ part of the manual which brings together the disciplinary perspectives at each stage of the project cycle. The key issues to be taken into account are set out in a helpful ‘question and recommendation’ format.

Appendices
These include examples of logical frameworks for water supply and sanitation projects.

The 350 page Manual is attractively presented in a colour format, including many photographs, graphics, boxes and summaries and a comprehensive index. The thorough presentation of recommended approaches will be useful for DFID project partners in national and local governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and also for DFID contractors and consultants working on programmes supported by DFID. It will also be of interest to other external support agencies.