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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, WATER SUPPLY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION

**Developing Healthier Communities through Education and Empowerment
“User’s Manual”**

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The “Developing Healthier Communities Through Education and Empowerment Toolkit” is aimed at assisting facilitators to encourage communities at the micro level to take ownership of, and be responsible for, their own health and well-being. Improved preventative health programmes are the key to reducing morbidity and mortality rates in rural communities. The benefits of a healthy population, both economically and in terms of well being, are immeasurable.

This Toolkit attempts to contribute to most of the MDG’s, through healthier rural communities. The approaches outlined in this Toolkit have been developed over the past 7 years by SNV, and its partners, in Bhutan. Whilst the specific example and case study is relate to water and environmental sanitation in Bhutan, the same approach could be used for a myriad of health related issues in other districts and countries. The methodology and tools provided are easily adapted to a variety of contexts and situations. The Toolkit provides an overview of the general approach and includes two major components: The Users Manual (inclusive of the workshop Manual); and the Training Guide.

The main objectives of this Toolkit are: to provide facilitators with a framework for developing healthier communities through education, empowerment, ownership and responsibility; to upgrade and expand the skills of facilitating agencies and development professionals involved in health issues at the community level; to provide a practical set of techniques and tools for easy use; and to share field experiences and lessons learned.
