

## **22<sup>nd</sup> of March: The international Water Day**

### **A Note from the President**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> of March is the international day devoted to water. Although the problems related to water do not coincide with particular dates, this day gives us the opportunity to think once again about these top priority problems which are getting more severe as years go by.

Water is a scarce commodity for many regions of the world. At the same time Floods and Droughts continue to cause losses of lives and extraordinary damages in many parts of the world.

Access to potable water and sanitation remains undoubtedly the major problem of many third world countries. In an attempt to live in better conditions millions of people move the increasing urbanization of third world mega-cities is one of the most severe problem, governments have to face during the recent decades. The problem is even worse if it is faced together with extreme poverty, adult literacy widespread corruption and extreme unemployment.

If for instance we take as an example Lagos / Nigeria which is the fastest growing mega-city of the world (6% a year) it seems that the target to provide water sanitation is not tangible to 15 million (and in 5 years) 24 million people most of which live in slums without electricity and transport, suffering from widespread illnesses. The city's water supply network reaches only the 30% of the total area of the city whereas 80% of the water is stolen.

Similar situation seems to exist in most other mega-cities of the third world.

International aid is either too little or it is directed through central governmental institutions where corruption is widespread. As a result international aid seems not to be sufficient and inefficiently utilized.

I take this opportunity to inform our members who wish to make donations for assisting people of third world mega-cities to have access to potable water and sanitation, that they can find all the details in [www.actionaid.org](http://www.actionaid.org).

George Tsakiris  
President of EWRA