In 2000 the UN declared the Millennium Development Goals. Since their adoption by ALL United Nations Member States in 2000, the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals have become a universal framework for development and a means for developing countries and their development partners to work together in pursuit of a shared future for all.

MDG No. 4 and 7:
"Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five"
"Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water"

In 2007 gtz-IWRM of the Yemeni-German Water Sector Program improved a Yemeni Pottery to enable the production of high temperature ceramics using a gas fired kiln. Potters for Peace (PFP) in Nicaragua has developed a “ready to use” ceramic filter which eliminates almost 100% of all Bacteria in Water. The filters remove bacteria including E. coli and Vibrio cholera as well as Giardia and Cryptosporidium. Since then PFP has helped to set up production sites in Countries like Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Ghana, El Salvador, the Darfur region of Sudan and Myanmar, (Burma) and recently in Yemen. Tens of thousands of filters have been distributed worldwide by organizations such as International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Doctors Without Borders, UNICEF, Plan International, Project Concern International, Oxfam and USAID. Potters for Peace has relied on partner health organizations to provide appropriate training and education about filter use. The PFP filter is simple in design, easy for families to use, and performs exceptionally well in laboratory test. Research underway at the University of North Carolina indicates that with small additions of iron oxide the filter can effectively remove viruses as well. With proper cleaning, maintenance and monitoring this filter technology can provide potable water for rural families that draw their water from surface-influenced, contaminated sources such as springs, rivers, wells, or standing surface water.

gtz-IWRM therefore promotes the production and distribution of this filter (see picture) to be used in rural areas where access to safe drinking water is very difficult and water networks are not available yet. Using these filters also enables us to promote the rain water harvesting concept as a possible source for drinking water.

gtz-IWRM is working on this subject because drinking water supply in Yemen mostly relies on more and more scarcer groundwater resources. If we want to implement a sustainable water management concept IWRM also has to focus on domestic water supply. We strongly belief that most rural households could be safely supplied out of an integrated rain water harvesting concept which is supported by all partners.