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## RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION (RWSS): SELECT ASSIGNMENTS

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Our **Technical Review Support for the RWSS Sector Reform Process to the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM), Government of India (GoI)** involved substantive input to the RWSS Sector Assessments, Vision Statements, Policy, Strategy and Action Plans being prepared by various States. The reviews offered systematic commentary on various outputs so that these could be oriented in line with the reform principles enunciated by the RGNDWM. Tasks were undertaken for nine States- **Assam, Goa, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh (MP), Orissa, Punjab, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.**

Prepared for DFID India, the **State Strategies for Water and Environmental Sanitation for Andhra Pradesh (AP), MP, Orissa and West Bengal** identified key sector challenges and priority intervention areas with special reference to the situation of the poor.

The **RWSS Sector Assessment for Bihar** was intended to inform the State's Sector Vision, Policy and Action Plan in line with reform principles enunciated by the GoI. Undertaken for UNICEF, it involved analysis of a range of secondary data, State, district and village level consultations and primary surveys. Critical areas for reforming service delivery, successful approaches and potential institutional arrangements for achieving desired results, were identified. This was followed by the **Development of the RWSS Sector Vision, Strategy, Policy and Action Plan for Bihar.**

The **Situation Analysis of the RWSS Sector in Himachal Pradesh (HP) and MP** was undertaken for AusAID. Aimed at developing the future RWSS Sector Strategy in these States and conceptualising projects for potential donor support, this involved a comprehensive assessment of the RWSS Sector in the two States, including water resource circumstances and use practices, institutional arrangements, constraints and capacities at the State, district and village levels, access and demand issues, especially among the poor and women, and the performance of ongoing government programs. This was followed by **Pre-feasibility Missions for Select RWSS Sector Projects in HP and MP.** A critical analysis of natural resource conditions and technical, institutional, social and programme parameters, followed by consultations and negotiations with institutional stakeholders, were carried out during the Pre-feasibility Missions.

TARU detailed the **Institutional Arrangements for Implementing a Reformed Approach for Rural Water and Sanitation Sector in Maharashtra** for the Water and Sanitation Program- South Asia (WSP-SA). This involved assessment of key sectoral constraints and examination of current institutional arrangements and design of a transition path for institutions in order to facilitate the implementation of a demand-responsive and sustainable reformed approach. Apart from the design of new arrangements and transition paths to reform, the study identified capacity building needs for institutions at various levels. The findings fed into the design of a World Bank-assisted rural water supply and sanitation

program being implemented in the State (*Jalswarajya*). An earlier **Institutional Reform Study for the Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in Maharashtra** for DFID India had involved a review of key resource management and institutional issues in the water resources and water supply sectors; analysis of finances and allocation systems at the State and district levels; design of participatory assessment mechanisms; development of a pragmatic and achievable vision; and, assistance in negotiation to further the reform process.

TARU led the Institutional and Social Development component in the **Design of the Maharashtra Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project**. Proposed to be implemented in four districts of the State with DFID India support, this ten-year project was based on demand-responsive sustainable systems, source protection, full recovery and robust Operation and Maintenance (O&M) arrangements. This project design provided the basis for institutional reforms in the Water and Environmental Sanitation Sector of Maharashtra.

Our **Review of the Evolution of World Bank-supported Projects in the RWSS Sector in India** over the last 15 years drew upon the experience of six projects across the States of **Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Uttarakhand**. Drawing on secondary reviews to assess national and global trends and identify their influence on the design of successive projects and supplementing these with discussions with project stakeholders and field visits, this assignment provided a comparative analysis of the salient features of the six projects and examined the institutional arrangements at the community level, especially the legal status and provisions for the operation of the Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs). This is one of the few multi-State analyses of the design and working of RWSS Sector interventions in India.

The **Policy and Legislative Environment Review for the AP Water and Environmental Sanitation Sector Development Project** of DFID India was undertaken with WEDC and involved a review of relevant policy and legislation, stakeholder and risk analyses and support to the project design and preparation of project documents.

We facilitated **RWSS Service Providers in Bihar and Jharkhand to Plan for Change Management**. This was one of the first initiatives of its kind in the country where State-level service providers were engaged systematically to develop a Change Management Agenda and Plan for themselves aimed at improving community participation, source and system sustainability and social equity. In undertaking the preparation of the State-level Change Management Action Plans, the TARU Team acted as the Secretariat to the State-level Change Management Core Groups (CMCGs) formed in the two States.

Our **Rapid Review of the Water Supply Sector Reforms Programme (SRP)** initiated by the RGNDWM, GoI was undertaken on behalf of the Water and Sanitation Program- South Asia (WSP-SA). The SRP piloted the transition from a supply-driven approach to a demand-driven community-based approach in the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) Sector. The review covered select locations in five States (**Assam, Punjab, Tamil Nadu (TN), UP and West Bengal**) and assessed progress, examined adherence to SRP principles, detailed institutional arrangements and offered recommendations for mid-term correction to the Rs. 1.8 billion national investment.

TARU prepared the **O&M Strategy and Operational Procedures and Guidelines for the DANIDA-supported RWSS Project in Karnataka**. This drew lessons from experiences within India and outside and included an assessment of existing O&M practices with the

purpose of identifying technical, institutional and financial challenges that needed to be addressed.

Undertaken with WELL, our **Evaluation of DFID India's Support to the WSP-SA** involved an assessment of the impact of such support on furthering RWSS Sector Reform in the country. It further drew lessons to inform DFID India's future role in the Indian RWSS Sector and focused specially on **AP, Kerala and Maharashtra**.

The **Impact Assessment of the Maharashtra RWSS Project**, a project implemented in three districts with DFID India assistance, focused on issues around technical performance; equity, availability and reliability of water supply; health and hygiene behaviour changes; and, sustainability of village and district level project institutions. Based on this, recommendations were made for design of a new project.

The recent **Impact Assessment of the Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP)-awarded Panchayats** covered nearly 6,500 households from across 160 Gram Panchayats in six States- **AP, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, TN, UP and West Bengal**- and aims to assess the impact of interventions in NGP-awarded GPs, the extent and sustainability of behaviour change and local government involvement; and, verify the quality of facilities. At a larger level, the Impact Assessment is aimed at enabling informed decisions on amendments needed to the NGP guidelines and practices.

The **Evaluation of Rural Sanitary Marts (RSMs) and Production Centres (PCs)** for UNICEF drew lessons from the experience in five states, **AP, Kerala, Rajasthan, UP and West Bengal**, to inform sustainable, replicable designs for the future. The evaluation of RSM/ PC performance, including their financial viability, was integrated with investigations into local demand conditions and design issues and constraints. The evaluation identified the key factors influencing household investment in latrines and provided the way forward with respect to alternate designs and implementation arrangements.

Together with WEDC, TARU undertook an **Evaluation of the Rural Sanitation and UNICEF CDD WATSAN Programmes in AP and Karnataka**. The exercise critically evaluated the programme components, delivery systems, institutional mechanisms and stakeholder convergence for future partnerships.

The recently initiated, UNICEF-supported **Assessment of Different Structures of Communication and Capacity Development Units (CCDUs) in the RWSS Sector** will investigate the institutional arrangements and working of CCDUs in eight States (AP, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and UP) to inform a package of interventions that enable the CCDUs to respond to their larger Vision of providing crucial IEC and Human Resource Development (HRD) inputs to the process of RWSS Sector reform in the country.

An **Appraisal of Drinking Water Shortage and Contamination of Water Sources** in Latur and Osmanabad, Maharashtra, pointed to the rapid expansion of water-intensive crops, unsustainable extraction, skewed water markets and technical failures. Technical and institutional solutions were suggested to remedy the situation.

Our institutional development inputs to the WSP-SA Mission for the **Local Government Capacity Needs Assessment for the Bangladesh Arsenic Mitigation and Water Supply Project (BAMWSP)** informed the framework for implementation involving partnership between local government, communities, NGOs, private sector agencies and the project unit. Tasks involved consultations with Government of Bangladesh at Dhaka; field visits and interactions with local government agencies and communities in select districts; assessment of institutional options for delivery of safe arsenic-free water in rural areas; and, a strengthening strategy for local government institutions implementing the World Bank-assisted BAMWSP.