

4 Rural water and sanitation service delivery

What did WSSSRP II achieve?



The Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Reform Programme Phase II concluded in May 2017, but what progress was made since it began in 2013?

Four legacy factsheets summarise what the Programme was designed to do, what it did, and what it leaves behind. Number four looks at the final WSSSRP II objective: *to support rural water and sanitation institutions in six states to deliver sustainable water supply and sanitation services.*

“The Programme brought about great change from old practices in the management of human waste. A lot of people now have their own toilets and are using them. You can hardly see open defecation in many communities.”

Muslim Idris — WSSSRP II Institutional and Policy Expert, Kano

WSSSRP II was the successor programme to WSSSRP I. Although the themes of the programme remained largely the same, the big difference was that the second phase was much more focused on capacity building, co-ordination, and day to day advice consistent with changing the way state officials operate. Significantly, technical assistance team members were embedded in the state ministries. They worked alongside counterpart staff on a day to day basis and advised on, rather than managed, programme estimates. This allowed state officials to take ownership and leadership of the reform process more readily, relying on the TAT to provide them with the necessary technical support.

The second phase had four objectives, the fourth and final objective was to support rural water and sanitation institutions in the six focal states to deliver sustainable water supply and sanitation services. Most elements of this objective were implemented by UNICEF working through rural water supply and sanitation agencies (RUWASSAs), particularly in the area of community-led total sanitation (CLTS). But the Atkins-ITAD-Enplan Technical Assistance Team that was solely responsible for implementation for the first three components, also contributed to this fourth objective, namely by improving across the board M&E. The TAT also applied rural experiences in CLTS to small town and urban contexts. For M&E the ambition was to unify the multiple and sometime inconsistent M&E systems and approaches used in states, in different projects and at Federal level. A more unified approach was badly needed to allow institutions at LGA, State and Federal levels to properly assess, budget and effectively manage water supply and sanitation facilities.

How WSSSRP II helped support rural water and sanitation delivery

full time
Technical
Assistance Teams
embedded in 6
state ministries
responsible for
water

- Coordination meetings at state level with ministries and UNICEF to make rural and small town M&E compatible, and harmonise WCA/WASHCOM procedures and practice
- Participate in strategy development for community mobilisation and hygiene promotion
- Joint workshops to disseminate best practice
- Build capacity for compatible community/LGA/State M&E systems
- Develop an improved database of WSS facilities towards a national M&E system

Community
Mobilisation
Expert to support
CLTS activities in
6 focal states

Key achievements 2013 – 2017

a. State level M&E linked to national M&E system

- ▶ Assessment on current M&E situation conducted
- ▶ Inter-Agency Task Group on M&E set up in 5 states
- ▶ Baseline survey conducted in the small towns in all the six states
- ▶ WASH indicators for small towns and urban uploaded to WASHIMS
- ▶ M&E structures set up in the PRS, STOWA & Utilities in six states
- ▶ Capacity development on data management, GIS, asset management, roles and responsibilities in all six States
- ▶ Community led M&E system established
- ▶ Volunteer Hygiene Promoters (VPHs) and Environmental Health Clubs established in small towns
- ▶ Developed the Sanitation and Hygiene Framework being used to pilot CLTS, monitor ODF status, and guide Social Marketing of various latrine options in small towns.
- ▶ CLTS has brought improvement in sanitation, with more towns achieving ODF status.



"Now the communities are more involved in actual supervision of the project, they know what the contract says and are able to monitor compliance by contractors"

Francis Ugwu — WSSSRP II Community Mobilisation Expert

Has WSSSRP II made a lasting difference?

Under WSSSRP II, rural WASH (objective 4) and urban and small town WASH (objective 3) were delivered by different contractors; UNICEF in rural areas and the Atkins-ITAD-Enplan Technical Assistance Team for urban areas and small towns. This meant that the TAT was engaged in just one component of the (rural) objective 4; monitoring and evaluation. Therefore it's unwise to attribute too much change when looking back at just the TAT achievements. But neither should one underestimate the long-term contribution that can be made in apparently small areas.

Most significantly the UNICEF-backed Water Sanitation and Hygiene Management Information System (WASHIMS) serves as a technical tool that brings together stakeholders in water sanitation and health behind a shared set of indicators applicable to rural, small towns and urban areas. This meant getting state Planning Commissions, Bureaux of Statistics, Water Boards, RUWASSAs, and River Basin Development Authorities to work together around one table. Now with the backing of these Inter-Agency Task Groups WASHIMS is becoming the management information system for WASH in all six states. So coordination of the sector is coalescing around a joint need for data. The common interest and wide applicability of the MIS augurs well for the future, and makes other shared approaches such as IWRM more likely to take root.

At the end of the programme, data uploading is ongoing. However some technical and office equipment (computers, GPS and software) are still being procured, meaning that WASHIMS is not fully rolled out. But this is likely to be resolved before the WSSSRP II finally closes. The bigger question is for how long the political will to provide resources for rural water supply and sanitation is sustained. As the other factsheets have demonstrated, political backing in the states is essential. If politicians listen to the demands of citizens, it's likely that water supply and sanitation will become a priority.

To find out more about how WSSSRP II has contributed to better water, sanitation and hygiene service delivery for Nigeria, and to download Factsheets 1, 2 and 3 visit:

- ▶ wsssrp.org
- ▶ europa.eu/capacity4dev/wsssrp-2/

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