

India: Water and sanitation improving the lives of women and children

Punjab Rural Water and Sanitation Sector Improvement Project

Description

Purpose: To significantly improve delivery of water and sanitation services, reduce open defecation and strengthen service delivery arrangements in targeted villages in the state to improve the quality of rural life.

Expected Results (include): About 8.47 million rural people, including over 4 million women expected to benefit. Specific targets include installing a water connection and toilet for every rural household, a minimum of 10 hours of daily water supply, sewerage systems in over 315 villages and safe water supplied to over 121 villages that are currently drinking contaminated water.

IBRD Financing: \$248 million

Development Challenge

Only 31 percent of the 167 million rural households in India have access to tap water and domestic toilets (Census 2011). While Punjab has high coverage for water (95 percent) and sanitation (71 percent), the rural water and sanitation sector in the state still continues to face major challenges. A large number of water supply schemes are serving only a limited population with house connections. The rapidly deteriorating water quality in the state is also leading to serious health problems. Roughly 29 percent of water supply schemes face water quality issues.

Project Description

The project supports the government in addressing these challenges. It helps reorganize the department of water supply and sanitation to focus on service delivery through upgrades for improving efficiency to progressively scale up service levels to achieve 100 percent meter connections for all rural households. These activities particularly benefit women and children: they are otherwise responsible for daily water collection and storage and improved sanitation and water delivery will free up their time for more productive activities.



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For more information:

<http://www.worldbank.org/projects/P150520?lang=en>

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2014/02/27/rural-punjab-improved-water-sanitation->