Country Level Consultations

- BANGLADESH
- INDIA
- NEPAL
- PAKISTAN
- SRI LANKA

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Acknowledgements

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Robert A. Boydell
Regional Manager South Asia
UNDP/World Bank Water & Sanitation Program
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COUNTRY LEVEL CONSULTATIONS

Overview

The joint UNDP World Bank Water and Sanitation Programme which evolved from the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, consists of a number of regional, inter-regional and country projects funded largely by UNDP and supplemented by a number of bilateral agencies. Donors providing supplementary funds are: Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the Netherlands. In South Asia the Program's core funding is through the UNDP regional project RAS/92/001 “Water and Sanitation for Asia”. A Regional water and Sanitation Group for South Asia (RWSG-SA) was established at New Delhi in 1991 to cover the South Asian countries including Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The Regional Water and Sanitation Group for South Asia (RWSG-SA), is active in five countries of concentration: India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal, which have a total population of approximately 1.1 billion. The overall population growth rate is high with urban populations expanding more rapidly than rural. However, the rural poor population remains large. These countries are all making large investments in urban and rural water and sanitation from both domestic and external sources, with the support of the World Bank and other multilateral and bilateral donors.

Working in Partnership

The purpose of the Program is to facilitate countries to improve the service delivery for providing poor people access to water supply and sanitation systems on a sustainable basis.

The Program works in partnership with countries and at regional and global levels to learn new and innovative project designs and implementation and to disseminate best practices within the country, regionally and globally to enable capacity building for sustainable service delivery.

Intermediate Goals and Activities

The intermediate goals set by the Program to achieve the ultimate objective are:

- learning and dissemination;
- building local level capacity;
- supporting sustainable investment;

The regional project “Water and Sanitation for Asia” was designed to address the above intermediate goals through the following activities:

- set the groundwork to increase access of the poor people to safe water and sanitation through human resource development, institutional reorganization and training, and improved sector planning and reform;
establish networks for in-country and inter-country exchange of information, skill and technologies for supporting sustainable service delivery; and

promote and support investment in scaling up water and sanitation program to meet the needs of the poor.

Program Strategies

Learning and Disseminating Lessons

RWSG-SA continues to focus on learning and disseminating lessons. Over the past year, learning activities in the region have primarily focused on strategic monitoring and evaluation of rural water and sanitation projects. Several concrete outputs have emerged from the regional and country teams, including a case study of five bilaterally-funded rural water supply projects in India, and documentation of the JAKPAS pilot project in Nepal and the CWSSP pilot project in Sri Lanka. During the past year, RWSG-SA has continued to focus and refine its learning agenda by establishing common study themes and approaches across the countries of the region. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) grant for participatory development has been an important factor in these learning and dissemination activities.

The RWSG-SA has also begun to document issues, particularly sanitation in peri-urban settlements, where the poor live in difficult conditions. In Pakistan, case studies of urban sanitation provision have been prepared as the basis for a national workshop. In the coming year, RWSG-SA will continue to strive to ensure important lessons from the sector are documented and widely disseminated.

Capacity Building

The RWSG-SA country teams are involved in a range of capacity-building activities, including participation in sectoral discussion and development forums, workshops, training courses, inter-country exchanges, and dissemination of information. In addition, RWSG-SA assists in preparing capacity-building components within the investment projects it is helping to prepare.

As a complement to the country and project initiatives, RWSG-SA plans a number of regional capacity building activities based on an analysis of institutional, financial, and technical issues related to design and implementation of large rural water supply and urban sanitation investments.

The RWSG-SA views the issues of capacity-building as a process involving all stakeholders. Thus, the Program will involve government staff, External Support Agencies (ESAs) at the policy and managerial levels, project staff, NGOs, the community and their representatives. The Program will collaborate with other ESAs such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), UNICEF,
Danish International Development Agency (Danida), British Overseas Development Administration (ODA), Directorate General of International Cooperation (DGIS) of the Netherlands, and the Swiss Development Corporation (SDC).

Supporting Sustainable Investments

During fiscal year 1996, RWSG-SA continued to assist the region's governments and ESAs in the development of sector policies and strategies. For example, the Program participated in a joint SDC/Danida sector review in Bangladesh, continued to support discussion fora such as the 'Think Tank' in India, and is participating in the Sector Development Program in Sri Lanka and the Social Action Program in Pakistan. Currently, the Program is involved in the development of six rural water supply and sanitation projects and four urban projects in the region.

In the coming year RWSG-SA's involvement in routine project management will reduce somewhat but strategic project monitoring and supervision will selectively increase. The Program plans to become involved in the design and execution of a number of projects in Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan, both World Bank and bilaterally funded. In particular, evaluation, and feed-back mechanisms to foster internal learning within the projects. The Program will also continue to link its activities with broader environmental concerns by promoting community-based approaches to solid waste management and minor drainage systems in urban areas, and local watershed management in rural areas as part of investment projects.

Work-planning

The foundation of the Program activities are laid through the preparation of the country work plan, which is produced annually. The country level work plans are prepared with due consideration to the local context, and in the past were largely an internal exercise.

The Tripartite Review of the UNDP's regional project supporting the Program in the Asia region was held in September 1995. One of the recommendations that emerged was that the RWSGs should hold formal consultations with the partners to widen the base of our learning for purposes of documentation and dissemination.

It was further agreed that the consultative process should include the major sector actors including government agencies, beneficiaries/NGOs, private sector donors. The Tripartite review was attended by government and donor representatives from the South Asian countries.

In response to the findings of the Tripartite review of the regional project, it has been agreed to introduce more and direct stakeholder participation through “Country Level Consultations” (CLC) for the preparation of the workplan starting with FY1996/97 workplan.

The Program planning process starts with the CLC followed by the Regional Retreat, Annual Managers Meeting and finally, the Annual Workplan. Workplans prepared at the country level were brought together during February 1996 to form a regional workplan for South Asia. The RWSG-SA Regional Retreat was held in Goa, India, from February 27-March 1, 1996. Regional workplans in turn are the building blocks of the Program's global activities.
The UNDP-World Bank Water and Sanitation Program completed its first ever Annual Consultation Meeting on January 18, 1996. The meeting was held in Dhaka under trying circumstances: widespread disturbances and violence on the streets made it difficult for members to attend the consultative discussions.

It was decided to go ahead with the meeting despite the disturbed conditions, as the Program believes that a participatory consultative process is essential in developing the Work Plan of the Country Team that is likely to achieve greatest impact, and ownership, by important stakeholders.
## Bangladesh — A Statistical Profile

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*1994 data from *World Development Report 1996*

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*Data from Human Development Report 1996*
Recent Developments

POLICY dialogue has resulted in limited reforms in the sector. The government has in principle agreed to gradually reduce its role from being a provider of services to being a facilitator. Recognizing the efficiency of the private sector, government is disengaging from spares distribution and tubewell maintenance. In the future the government is also considering reducing the subsidy on hardware and leaving training to NGOs. SDC and Danida, the two largest donors to the government-UNICEF program, are likely to start their own bilateral programs, with Danida in the coastal area and SDC in the low water table area. Involvement in the low water table area through the Handpump Training and Monitoring Project and participation in the SDC/Danida review missions will provide the Bangladesh country team (BCT) with new opportunities to influence the future development of the sector.

The Consultation Framework

The day long meeting was attended by Joint Secretary, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Division Chief of the Physical Infrastructure Division, Planning Commission, Chief Engineer, Dhaka WASA, Additional Chief Engineer, DPHE, engineers from LGED, representatives from The World Bank, EU, Danida, Netherlands Embassy, WHO, NGOs, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), and RWSG-SA.

The Program’s goal of improving the lives of the poor through accountable and efficient water supply and sanitation services that people demand and are willing to participate in designing and maintaining—provided the framework for the meeting.

Expectations from the CLC

Expectations were centered around the strategy the Program operates to achieve its goals. The Program strategy calls for (Purposive) Learning for Capacity Building to support Sustainable Investments in the Sector.

Objectives

The purpose and objective of the Consultation was to receive inputs from the government partners and other stakeholders in formulating the annual Work Plan (FY '97) for the Country Team.

Methodology

Two weeks prior to the meeting, participants were invited to attend the meeting, and received a brief description of the background, purpose and agenda of the meeting, a list of participants and program schedule.

The Consultation was held in a participatory and interactive mode. The meeting was facilitated by the Team Leader who described
the objectives, purpose and expectations of the meeting, as recommended in the Triparite Review of the Program.

Several participants welcomed such a meeting of the stakeholders and shared their views on strengthening coordination within the sector. The participants were provided with a focused presentation on the structure, mandate and focus of the Program, which is a collaborative initiative of UNDP and The World Bank to serve as a resource group aiming for improvements in the lives of the poor.

The focus areas of the Program, i.e., Rural Water Supply and Sanitation and Urban Sanitation was explained along with the Selection Criteria which determines which activities the Program will undertake in the countries of operation. The emerging Global Water Partnership (GWP) was also described. The Program’s continuity as a part of the Partnership was described.

Current Programme Status

Country activities have been explained through the Learning-Capacity Building-Sustainable Investment triangle. RWSG, Bangladesh has participated in various Missions and Workshops.

Programme Review

Despite considerable investments and the proliferation of projects, the sector still suffers from the absence of an effective coordination mechanism. The MLGRD&C has a vast jurisdiction, and the Ministry may benefit from comprehensive institutional strengthening to address the need for stronger coordination. Consequently, project processing requires long term, uniform objectives in meeting the needs of the sector. The absence of a comprehensive policy strategy framework for the development of the sector is hampering further progress and strategic achievement in the sector.

Key Issues

The current National Committee on Water Supply and Sanitation headed by the Minister, MLGRD&C with the Chief Engineer, DPH&E as the Member Secretary may be able to address sector coordination. How that body can be activated should be examined.

The dissemination role of RWSG was stressed, and BCT was invited to advise Government on new strategies and approaches to Water and Sanitation delivery. BCT was also urged to engage in policy dialogue with the Government, by discussing broad policy objectives with PC and target and implementation issues with the Ministry and line agencies.

The desirability of BCT’s disseminating latest information and findings on new technologies, approaches and delivery mechanisms for Water and Sanitation services and feeding that information to implementing agencies, NGOs, and academic institutions in Bangladesh, was emphasized.

Urban water utilities are commercially oriented organizations. If cost recovery is guaranteed DWASA will support innovative ways to provide water and sanitation facilities to the urban poor in Dhaka. RWSG’s assistance in NGO intermediation should be encouraged in this connection.

Emphasizing the need to support sustainable investments through cost recovery, it was pointed out that DSK’s experience in delivering
services to the urban poor and recovering user charges proves that the poor are willing to pay for services. The importance of analyzing arsenic contamination in ground water needs to be highlighted.

Recommendations

With a Special Focus on Intermediate Goals

- RWSG may consider providing its support to assist the Ministry to deal with sector coordination and policy development issues.

- RWSG has staff time (national and regional) available for the above task; if the Government and partners are willing to provide support, this activity will be included in FY '97 Work Plan.

- It was suggested that RWSG should also provide recommendations on the appropriateness of pumps (Tara, Mini Tara, Super Tara and Deep Set Pumps).

- Water quality monitoring is not yet a part of RWSG’s activities in Bangladesh, but in future such activities may be considered.

The Program : Challenges Ahead

Overview of FY '97 Workplan

The Bangladesh Country Team (BCT) has a number of activities for the coming year aiming for Structured Learning and capacity building for sustainable investments in the sector to increase the access of the poor to water supply and sanitation services. In line with the focus of the Program, BCT activities mainly address two major priority areas, i.e., Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS), and Urban Sanitation (US). BCT Work Plan follows the Program’s Selection Criteria in selecting projects of opportunity based on the principles of Structured Learning-Capacity Building-Supporting Sustainable Investments.

RWSS: BCT’s Sector Advisory support has helped in regular government-donor meetings to discuss sectoral policy and strategy issues, exchange experiences, and coordinate sectoral activities. In response to a SDC request, BCT is coordinating and facilitating the Policy/Strategy Formulation and Preparatory Process for the next cycle of RWSS Programs. The process included a donor Policy and Strategy workshop in Berne, Switzerland in July 1995. The Berne Workshop recommended a number of policy reforms and strategy reorientation aiming at or demand driven approaches, capacity building at local level, supporting private sector participation, increasing level of cost sharing and withdrawal of unwarranted subsidies. The Berne Workshop also recommended holding a GOB sponsored Policy Workshop, where a concrete Policy Statement for RWSS is developed by the government. BCT is helping in the preparation of the Workshop to be held later this year. The most tangible output of this exercise is GOB’s acceptance of the need for a strategy restructuring and development of a comprehensive policy for the RWSS. Future investments in the sector by GOB and ESAs will be guided by this policy and strategy.

The Handpump Training and Monitoring Project (HTMP) implemented by Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) with management and technical assistance from BCT, is a Danida funded activity ($0.9 million) in the Low Water Table (LWT) areas of four districts of Rajshahi. The Project started in September 1993 and is expected to be completed in June 1997. The Project is undertaking extensive training of Caretakers of Tara Handpumps, a relatively new technology to access water from lowered depths inaccessible by conventional suction pumps. The O&M training of Caretakers and
Training of Trainers is following a participatory approach with interesting visual aids, which will hopefully result in improving participants' knowledge about O&M. Additionally, Health and Hygiene Education messages and spares marketing information are part of the training program to promote greater health impact and sustainable O&M.

Strategic Monitoring (SM) of the HTMP is also a planned activity under this year’s Work Plan. The objective of the SM exercise is to objectively assess the activities of the project from outside to identify what works and what does not and recommend a set of “Good Practices” which in turn can be adapted by the project for improving its operational efficiency and sustainability, and provide lessons for future RWSS projects.

**Urban Sanitation**: Through its special studies (Situation Analysis and other documents) BCT has focussed on urban sanitation and its threat to human health, environment and urban economic and social development. To address the strategic and dynamic issues of urban sanitation, BCT will provide strategic supervision support to the Sanitation Strategy formulation component (Technical Assistance) of the IDA supported DWASA IV Project (US$0.6 million) and possibly also to the first stage investments in low cost sanitation and rehabilitation of sewage system (US$4.1 million).

BCT will also provide strategic supervision support to the sanitation component of the Urban Development Project (Credit 1930-BD) to the Chittagong City Corporation (US$1.5 million), the second largest city in the country. Activities will include demand based sanitation services to city residents, limited sanitation planning and strengthening of the Sanitation Unit of Chittagong City Corporation.

Currently the preparatory activities for the proposed IDA financed Municipal Services Project (MSP) is being undertaken. BCT is well aware of this opportunity to influence the investment decision and the possibilities of providing strategic supervision to improve the operational efficiency of the project as well as create greater impact upon the project beneficiaries. In order to institutionalize our linkage and support to MSP, BCT is keeping close contact with MSP Mission members and also developing two Pilot initiatives, whose experiences will be fed back to the project. BCT’s Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Pilot project (US$60,000) co-financed by SDC and Participatory Development Fund (PDF) will document institutional linkage between formal utility and informal organization (NGO) in rendering water supply and sanitation services for urban slum dwellers in Dhaka and Khulna (a MSP city).

**Others**: BCT will continue its involvement in structured learning initiatives by documenting innovative experiences and undertaking special studies. We have expressed our interest to EMB and SAHIN in participating in the upcoming Sector Work envisaged by the SOD. Such activities will form the basis for continued dialogue for policy and institutional reforms, and help in developing sustainable investments for the sector.
The country level consultation in India, held on 25 January 1996 at New Delhi, was hosted by UNDP.

In the past, consultations in India have been rather informal based round meetings with the concerned ministry officials and donors. In response to the findings of the Tripartite review of the Program, in which many of our partners participated in September/October 1995, it had been decided to make the work planning process more systematic.

This would be achieved through a consultative process with the government both at the central, state and local levels, and with bilateral donors and some NGOs. This consultative process would lead to a better consensus and to greater appreciation of what needs to be done and which agency is best suited to do it, in terms of relative strengths and advantages.
India — A Statistical Profile

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Data from Human Development Report 1996
Recent Developments

As part of the capacity building efforts in India, the Group brings together policy makers, implementing agencies and NGOs in a forum called the Think Tank which aims to forge a policy consensus. One such meeting on slum sanitation held in August 1995 generated a demand for the assistance from the Group on a city wide slum sanitation initiative in Ahmedabad.

It is not the mandate of the Program to fund projects, but it offers assistance in project preparation while investment projects provide the opportunity to pursue learning on topics of interest to the Program. For example, learning takes place around sustainable options for slum sanitation in the Bombay Sewerage Disposal Project and around community participation and cost sharing in the Karnataka Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project. Assistance is being provided to the state level preparation of a sector strategy in the proposed Andhra Pradesh Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Project. These activities, by throwing light on what works and what does not in a variety of field circumstances are expected to contribute to policy making.

The Program also works directly with government on centrally funded activities. In the past the Program provided assistance to the development and pilot testing of monitoring and evaluation structures for the centrally sponsored Low Cost Sanitation Program and to the preparation of the community based Solid Waste Management Project in Panaji. More recently discussions are underway with the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment for the development of strategic sanitation options for a small or medium town. The Program has prepared a strategy paper for the use of Government. Similarly, discussions are being held with Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment for assistance in holding a national level policy seminar.

The Consultation Framework

Changes in approaches to development and the consequent shift from Project to Program approach provided a macro framework for the CLC. Programs are now owned and implemented by national governments. There is an attempt by donors to converge and avoid conflicting messages. Emphasis is placed on working closer to the beneficiaries.

The water sector can deliver direct and impact oriented poverty reduction. However, despite impressive gains a lot remains to be done, particularly in the sanitation sub-sector.

There is a need to work with NGOs, the state governments and the community at large. In this context it is important for the regional projects of the UNDP to be sensitive to the national initiatives/priorities.

Expectations from the CLC

The expectations ranged from:

- greater clarity and focus
- exchange of ideas on the need for
sanitation with particular focus on slum areas with its attendant land tenure problems.

- sanitation in rural areas along with water quality, O&M and training.
- cost recovery as a policy issue.
- focus of attention on backward areas.

**Objectives**

The objectives of government that emerged at the CLC were:

- to seek assistance in identifying and developing technology for water treatment to overcome chemical contamination;
- to seek ways to create greater awareness among communities, training, and involving the communities from the outset.
- to develop workable ways of doing business to improve the effectiveness of investments even though funding is not perceived to be a problem.
- to concentrate efforts on upgrading systems and developing technical choices to suit financial arrangements under different circumstances in the sanitation sub sector. This is particularly pertinent in view of the current thinking about “community ownership” and its relationship to levels of service and choice.
- to discuss various current practices vis a vis funding, subsidies and levels of service which highlight the complexity of current experiences.
- to take a broader view— geographical, financial and institutional— of urban management in the field of urban sanitation. The attempts to isolate the slum areas for management were termed unrealistic.
- to treat water and sanitation as services to be provided, of course, with equitable financing mechanisms.
- to examine land tenure issues and be aware of the effects of development on land prices.
- to make a critical assessment of the dissemination process in view of the current slow rate of replication of good practices.

**Methodology**

The meeting started with sections introducing the work of the Program. The meeting was then split into two Working Groups to deliberate the thrust for the workplan in the rural and urban sub-sectors respectively. The working groups were furnished with an illustrative list of questions to guide their discussion. The two working groups discussed the work planning for the rural and urban areas respectively and presented their findings to the full house.

**Current Programme Status**

An overview of the on-going activities in India and how they relate to the Program’s current focus and priorities provided a number of interesting facts and features. These included the case studies and think tank initiatives and their relevance to dissemination and policy making; the initiatives for Slum Sanitation: pilot project in collaboration with MOUA; citywide slum sanitation in Ahmedabad and Raghubirnagar in Delhi; the Programs’ involvement in Karnataka Rural Water Supply
and Environmental Sanitation in the context of learning and sustainable investments and the emerging role in a similar project in UP.

The following activities, in view of their relevance to both Program and National priorities, were listed for possible inclusion in the coming year’s workplan.

**Rural**
- National Policy Workshop
- Comparative study of rural piped water supply schemes
- Comparative study of the approaches of different donors in a state

**Urban**
- Sector strategy for a state
- Sanitation strategy for small and medium towns

**Programme Review**

Despite the UN agencies’ sustained efforts in creating awareness, and through pilot projects and the impressive officially quoted coverage figures, a lot remains to be done. For instance, there is the example of Delhi where completed rental housing for government employees cannot be allotted for want of water. The needs of the backward and remote areas particularly in enhancing the capacity for project preparation continue to call for urgent attention. In this connection, a lot of available resources are concentrated in a few states. There is a need to broaden the focus of funding and provide assistance to the poorest states and assist these states to improve the quality of project preparation.

**Key Issues**

The key issues which provided the focus for discussions were:
- What are the capacity building opportunities in India, to improve access to water and sanitation services for poor people?
- To identify any on-going or proposed activities that fit into the Program’s focus on capacity building, sustainable investments and learning and dissemination of lessons
- To identify and discuss initiatives that promote improved Monitoring and Evaluation, Applied Research, Training and intersectoral or interregional links, within the sector
- What part can the Program play in any of the above activities or processes?
- What is the most appropriate level of Government at which any identified activities should be focussed?
- What are the mechanisms for feeding experiences and outputs from activities into policy making?

**Recommendations**

*With a Special Focus on Intermediate Goals*

The recommendations are as follows:

**Rural**

*Capacity Building:* Capacity building is required at all levels—from policy making at the highest level to planning, implementation and management. *Training* is an important aspect of capacity building. The ITN should be
reviewed and strengthened to provide assistance to areas identified as gaps within the national priority and programmes. There should be special training to sensitize the administrators on the global consensus in the sector.

**Appropriate Technology:** Information should be made accessible to national and state agencies on request on the technology aspects related to drilling, water treatment, recharge etc.

**Studies:** Studies are necessary to compare the performance of piped water and handpump schemes with emphasis on institutional and cost recovery aspects.

**Case studies** on innovative instances of delivery of services should continue. The ministry will inform the RWSG of instances that come to their notice.

**Policy:** There should be regional workshops, on reforms required in the sector, which should culminate in a national workshop. The regional workshops should be preceded by consultation in a think tank meeting for preparing a paper containing a proposal on the reform agenda.

**IEC:** To facilitate the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment to prepare, implement, monitor and evaluate the IEC program in one district.

**Urban**

The recent success of the Polio immunization campaign will enable clear messages and uniform policy to be developed both of which will be useful when government works with communities.

The approach to planning should take an integrated view of the whole city. The needs of different areas in terms of technical choice, financial mechanisms and institutional arrangements should first be determined and then integrated with the needs of the whole city.

RWSG-SA could provide assistance for the preparation of a strategic sanitation plan for a small/medium town. The process of preparation and implementation of such a plan should be monitored and documented. RWSG could also assist HUDCO on selected aspects of LCS implementation like preparation of strategic sanitation in specific towns and support for monitoring and evaluation.

In summary the possible activities in the urban sector include:

- R&D in low cost technologies
- consensus building
- monitoring and evaluation of participation experiences
- sector development; strategy papers and strategic sanitation planning
- all the activities should be considered within the framework of special needs of women and children and equity considerations.

**The Program: Challenges Ahead**

During the coming year we have identified some opportunities for furthering our activities. In the rural sector these include further involvement in the Karnataka Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project and a further Think Tank meeting focusing on rural water supply and sanitation. In the urban sector we look forward to providing further support to Ahmedabad in preparing a city wide slum sanitation initiative, assistance with the preparation of a slum sanitation activity in Ragubhirnagar, Delhi, a continued involvement in the preparation of sanitation strategies for small towns and in pulling together experiences in the provision of low cost urban sanitation from across the region.

Sector planning at state and federal levels also remains a priority, and we envisage working on the development of the International Training Network as well as specific studies where we hope to work with donor partners and with government.

Discussions are continuously being held with our partners to identify opportunities for collaboration.

UNICEF, a key actor in the rural sector, is undergoing a significant shift in emphasis, creating a vacuum that will be partly filled by ADB and FINNIDA in the rural sub-sector and by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and to a lesser extent the British Overseas Development Administration (ODA), in the urban sector. The World Bank portfolio in the rural sector is relatively small, but growing.
Nepal — A Statistical Profile

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Data from Human Development Report 1996
Recent Developments

HMG has created a Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund (RWSSF) to support the demand-driven community initiatives of local governments, NGOs and the private sector. As a result, the DWSS has gradually shifted its role in communities with populations less than 1,000. Rather than working as the implementing institution, it now provides support to the initiatives. This has allowed a competitive atmosphere to develop in the sector.

In March 1993, HMG approved the Janata Ko Khane Pani Ra Safai Karyakaram (JAKPAS) pilot project, managed by the Program, to field-test the Fund concept. JAKPAS was extended for an additional nine months in December 1994 to test an expanded range of institutional options and to develop a pipeline of 125 schemes for completion under the RWSSF. To date, 30 support organizations, including NGOs, firms and consortia arrangements with local governments have been engaged in two tranches. The support organizations work in 147 communities using a process that incorporates the community into the prefeasibility, action planning, scheme implementation, maintenance and monitoring phases. Construction has been completed in approximately 50 communities.

The Consultation Framework

The participants of the meeting were representatives of the National Planning Commission, relevant Ministries, Departments, Corporations, External Support Agencies, Non-Government Organisations and the World Bank.

Expectations from the CLC

The expectations were centered around how to provide services to the large part of the population who still lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation services. The need to design and use low-cost technology in the sector was emphasized. RWSG-SA was expected to provide relevant inputs from its regional and global experience.

Objectives

The objective of the meeting was to introduce the UNDP/World Bank Water and Sanitation Group - South Asia (RWSG-SA) to the participants and to identify possible areas for RWSG's involvement in Nepal could be identified.

Methodology

The meeting was divided into three sessions: the inaugural session, the second for presentations and discussion on the implementation challenges of Water and Sanitation issues in Nepal, and finally Group Work on important themes. The meeting had broad representation and was highly
participatory with open and frank comments. The presentation was followed by active discussions by the participants.

The themes for Group Work were Rural Water Supply and Sanitation, Institutional Arrangements and Urban Environmental Sanitation. The Groups presented their recommendations at the end.

In South Asia, RWSG has not been involved in urban water supply. However, it has done work related to the urban poor and community based solid waste management.

Key Issues

Lessons have shown that as far as policies are concerned everybody speaks almost the same language, but implementation is a main issue. The "New Project Cycle"; listening, piloting, learning and mainstreaming was discussed. Main issues are, cost sharing, eligibility criteria, community management, role of partner organizations.

Issues such as the relationship between demand generation and "professional judgement" need to be explored. Professionals who are outsiders can manipulate the demand of the people and hence the correct demand is not always reflected. Should the role of professionals be limited to generation of awareness? And the remainder left to the communities as the communities know what is good and bad for them?

There is a consensus as far as the role of the government is concerned, the selection of approach, cost-sharing, the role of NGOs and the local bodies. However, the real challenge is how to operationalize policies effectively. Major implementation challenges are decentralization, institutional reform and the role and responsibilities of NGOs and the private sector. There was lively discussion and considerable differences in views on the definition, selection and the capacity of NGOs.

Other challenges are emphasizing process while meeting the targets identifying good NGOs, coordination between various actors and bringing uniformity in policy matters. Problems include donor driven approaches, lack of enough good NGOs at the grassroots.
level, weak monitoring and evaluation, lack of human resources and politicization of the sector.

There are instances where NGOs are not able to work in remote and difficult areas, they sometimes lack technical capacity to plan and implement the systems, and some are heavily dependent on external donors. In this context, should DWSS gradually be phased out of the implementation of WSS schemes? NGOs have a comparative advantage in implementing demand-driven and community based approaches. The capacity of local bodies and NGOs can be built and strengthened by providing appropriate training.

A major challenge is to change the attitudes of people, both in government and outside. Though attitudes have been changing, the pace is slower than desired. Many people don’t yet understand that water is also an economic good, and think that Government should provide it freely. On the other hand, there is a challenge to bring autonomy to sector institutions. There is a need to have quality manpower in the sector to deliver services effectively.

Recommendations

With a Special Focus on Intermediate Goals

The following recommendations emerged from the consultation:

RWSS

1. Training needs for middle level technicians
2. Need for Community Mobilization Training
3. Need to promote NGOs wherever possible
4. Need to develop simple manuals/guidelines
5. Need to develop M & E guidelines
6. Need to make Support Agencies responsible for M&E

Institutional

1. Need for clear mandates
2. Legislation
3. Need for training to enhance capability
4. Support DDCs, and VDCs for monitoring and evaluation

Urban Environmental Sanitation

1. Sector Study and Institutional Arrangements for Environmental Sanitation
2. On Site Sanitation
3. Consumer Education for proper use of water
4. Need to study and implement urban/peri-urban sanitation Service Delivery Systems.
5. Community Based Solid Waste Management in outside-valley towns
6. Transferring “Sulab” experience to urban areas
7. Study Tours

The Program: Challenges Ahead

There was a strong interest among donors and the Government to involve RWSG-SA in efforts to take sector reforms forward in a substantive and
meaningful way. A number of possible activities emerged from the country consultation. In the urban sub-sector strategic sanitation planning for small towns was proposed. In the rural sub-sector, RWSG-SA will be exploring the possibility of supporting a national training center for RWSS; and finally Sector Advisory Support, including support to develop the monitoring, evaluation and learning capacity of DWSS and a comparative study of RWSS implementation arrangements.

Having managed the JAKPAS Pilot Project, which comes to a close in June 1996, the Program will continue to provide strategic support to the National Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund (RWSSF) Board. Assistance will focus in the following areas:

- analyzing monitoring and evaluation data
- assessing what works and does not work
- assessing how project rules are being communicated and understood and if they include the desired incentives
- assessing the effectiveness of training, local management structures, and resource mobilization, and
- evaluating the impact of the project with emphasis on the sustainability of services.
The Pakistan Country Level Consultative Meeting formed part of the Water and Sanitation Program's workplanning for the 1996/97 work period and took place at Islamabad over two days: 29th and 30th January 1996.

The past year has been a year of consolidation for the Program in the rural water supply and sanitation sector. The Program has continued to be involved with the major IDA rural water and sanitation project which covers AJK, Sindh, and Balochistan and the multi-donor supported Social Action Program Project (SAP) of the Government of Pakistan.
### Pakistan — A Statistical Profile

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*1994 data from World Development Report 1996*

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<td>Rural sanitation</td>
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<tr>
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<td>62%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Data from Human Development Report 1996*
Recent Developments

The past year has been a year of consolidation for the Program in the rural water supply and sanitation sector. The Program has continued to be involved with the major IDA rural water and sanitation project which covers AJK, Sindh, and Balochistan and the multi-donor supported Social Action Program Project (SAP) of the Government of Pakistan. Structured learning within the AJK portion of the IDA rural water supply and sanitation project has provided some valuable lessons on the application of eligibility criteria and cost sharing arrangements. The Program will be disseminating these lessons during the coming months.

One of the key areas of interest for the group has been the efforts of provincial governments to forge operational relationships with non-governmental organizations. Efforts have been underway this year in the northern areas, Punjab, Sindh and in the North West Frontier Province (NWFP). The varying success of these efforts have been monitored by the Program and this will be a continuing area of interest for us during the coming year.

In urban sanitation the Program is involved in an exciting debate around the development of a coherent policy for this sub-sector. A consultant has been working on a review of experiences to date throughout the country, which will culminate in a workshop in spring 1997 bringing together key practitioners in the sub-sector to begin the process of policy development.

A further major investment project, the Community Infrastructure Project (CIP) in NWFP is just getting under way. The Program has been working with SDC to develop a process monitoring structure as an integral part of the project. Association with the CIP gives the Program a further opportunity to learn about urban infrastructure provision with a focus on urban environmental sanitation.

There is a continuing atmosphere of close cooperation between government and donors in the sector. This is typified by the excellent coordination of the SAP committees at federal, provincial and local levels and in particular the work of the RWSS technical group which continues to be chaired by RWSG. This cooperative atmosphere was reflected in the excellent contributions made by many of the Program’s partners to the country level consultations.

The Consultation Framework

UNDP strongly supports regional programs and with the regional nature of RWSG, it is possible to identify several links between projects rooted in Pakistan and the regional experience that can be drawn upon through RWSG. Within this framework, there is a need to consult at all levels and develop new approaches to involve communities as partners in development.

The CLC brought together delegates from the policy as well as field levels belonging to Federal and Provincial Governments, NGOs, Consultants and members of the donor
community. The linkages generated by the meeting could provide a framework which can be supported and built upon to facilitate a wide reaching policy forum.

Expectations from the CLC

A variety of expectations which emerged focussed on the following aspects and needs:

- cost sharing in water supply and sanitation projects. There is a clear need to synthesise some project experiences and pull out key lessons from them.
- community participation is not difficult but requires professional expertise. There is a need for all decision makers to have some understanding of community dynamics and mechanics.
- the need for better documentation of experiences should be met at the earliest.
- the need to link water and sanitation with other sectors calls for good coordination, in which perhaps the RWSG experience would be useful.
- investment and implementation challenges are still substantial.
- improved networking among the various actors in the sector.

Objectives

- to forge strong partnerships to address the challenges in the sector, given the importance of water and sanitation.
- to disseminate experiences and lessons both nationally and regionally.
- to continually review progress and strategies. For example, there is now a need to re-consider the Strategic Investment Plans (SIPs) and rethink some of the issues in the light of the last six years experience.
- to look at new service delivery options, and to recognise that ownership of projects is very important. The involvement of communities at all stages of projects and the subsequent contributions that communities can make to financing and carrying out construction, operation and maintenance are critical to reduce the strain on the government and to ensure that the government has adequate capacity to meet its obligations.

Methodology

The plenary session and discussions were complemented by Working Groups. Each group focused on a different aspect of the sector; one on the urban sub sector, one on the rural sub sector and one on the cross cutting theme of Sector Advisory Support. The groups nominated a chairman and a reporter before starting work. Working Groups were guided, but not limited, by the following questions:

What are the capacity building needs in Pakistan, to improve the access of poor people to water and sanitation?

What projects and programs currently address these needs?

What might be the role of RWSG in these projects or programs?

Are there any other activities that RWSG could become involved in that fit into the Program’s focus on capacity building, sustainable investments and learning and dissemination of lessons?
What part can the Program play in any of the above activities or processes?

What are the mechanisms for feeding experiences and outputs from activities into policy making?

The Sector Advisory Support Group also considered the question:

Are members of the group aware of initiatives that promote improved Monitoring and Evaluation, Applied Research, and Training within the sector or intersectoral or inter-regional links?

At the end of the working group sessions, each reporter presented a summary of the discussion, with key points in answer to the above questions.

**Current Programme Status**

The Pakistan team continued its support to the IDA-assisted RWSS Project in Sindh, Baluchistan, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir provinces; the RWSS sub-sector of the Social Action Program Project (SAPP); and the IDA-assisted Community Infrastructure Project in the North West Frontier Province.

In collaboration with governments and line agencies, the Program has been building systematic learning methodologies into the project cycles. Successes and failures relating to the project rules for village selection, service levels, cost sharing and institutional arrangements can thus be analyzed and documented for use within the project and for wider dissemination.

During the second year of the SAPP, Program staff monitored policy reform and maintained a dialogue with the governments to better analyze achievements and lapses. The respective governments, committed to operationalizing the uniform policies, and Program staff have helped in developing demand-oriented scheme identification criteria. The SAPP project promoted use of non-formal institutions to mobilize communities and emphasized sanitation through local governments and rural developments departments.

Program staff have appraised and developed a plan for the Community Infrastructure Project in the North West Frontier Province to test the effectiveness of participatory approaches to community infrastructure development.

The country team in Pakistan has also worked on flexible technical guidelines, design standards, and service levels for gravity-flow systems to assist the line agencies during the community mobilization process. A computer program has been written to help planners provide appropriate options to communities willing and able to pay.

The Program led the way in policy discussions with the ESA technical groups and larger working groups with government representation. These meetings have provided valuable opportunities for deliberation and brainstorming for the RWSS sector.

**Programme Review**

Emphasis should be on water quality and level of service to ensure that the rural poor do not lose out; payments and financing structures are thus secondary. This issue clearly needs further examination, as does the need for uniform policy and recognition of the time needed to build capacity in communities.

Moreover, tinkering with strategy at the centre will not solve major problems which run down through provincial and district levels to people at the level of implementing projects.
Key Issues

Capacity building needs exist in the public sector as well as within NGOs and CBOs. Capacity building relates to Institutional Development (i.e. changes in organisational structures to reflect changes in policy) and Human Resource Development. The capacity building needs in the public sector relate to:

- functional overlaps and lack of defined roles for public sector agencies in the urban areas;
- lack of appropriate technical know how in agencies, limiting their potential to implement projects which are responsive to community needs; and
- inappropriate staffing of agencies.

Financial issues and cost recovery are critical for the provision of services. Municipalities and local governments will always have a role to play in the provision of trunk services and these must be financed. Appropriate tariff structures and improved levels of collection are required.

There is a long term need to address the effect of political distortions on the sector but this would be a very slow process requiring a building of awareness at all levels of society.

Communities need support and capacity building in: Group working; Assessment of needs; Managing schemes (implementation, O&M and book-keeping). Training is needed (technical and hygiene) and CBOs should be encouraged and supported.

Recommendations

With a Special Focus on Intermediate Goals

Capacity Building Needs (Urban)

There is a need to develop planning techniques that take into account the needs of communities. This will become more critical as the numbers of households living in informal settlements is likely to rise very fast in the next two decades.

Capacity Building Needs (Rural and sub-sector)

There is a need for awareness creation and strengthening focussed around: unified policy; political awareness; institutions; and communities.

Unified Policy

Policy should be publicised and operationalised (policy should cover identification of schemes, use of selection criteria, development of cost sharing formulae, and the application of choice in service levels).

Institutions

There is a need to: increase the low absorption capacity of departments through training; create capacity in departments for community organisation; develop MIS; involve NGOs (there is a need for identification, prequalification and thus increased credibility for bona fide NGOs); development and strengthening of NGOs to ensure adequate standards; and training of engineers at university level to orient them towards working with the community.

Political Awareness

There is a need to orient politicians to understand the main objectives of this sector development.

Sector Advisory Support

A number of cross cutting themes can be found in the sector advisory support:
Facilitation of Networking

- There is a need to obtain and collate information on institutions involved in water and sanitation projects (a database).
- Development or strengthening of networks in the water and sanitation sector would be useful. This could be focused at the provincial and national levels.
- National, regional and international connections should be developed to link Pakistan to activities and experiences within and outside the country.

Capacity Building

- There is a need for changes in procedures and rules to facilitate NGOs and government to work together.
- Training programmes should be developed for planning bodies at different levels to address the issues of choices and levels of service.
- People should be educated and empowered to make choices, especially technical choices.

NGOs/ Communities

There is a need to identify “genuine” NGOs and focus capacity building on these.
- Skill development is required to match requirements.
- Gender balance should be a goal.

Dynamic Partnership Between NGOs and Government

- An NGO-Government forum for the sector is needed.
- Communities should be represented at the various fora.
- Government and NGO strengths should be exploited (Government could provide “hardware” and NGOs “software” - although these boundaries should be flexible).
- Communities should select NGOs, NOT Government.
- There should be improved linkages between Government departments.

Strengthening of Local Level Monitoring and Evaluation

- Selective and targeted M&E should be used to work towards building a model of good practice.
- Learning should be documented.
- Process monitoring at community level is required.
- There is a need to explore whether donor pressure is inhibiting community participation.

Applied Research

Applied research should be carried out to include:
- To what extent are people really involved in each stage of the project cycle?
- Local level monitoring mechanisms?
- What is the gender balance and gender issues in existing projects?
- How effective are existing intersectoral links (i.e. district coordination committees etc) and how could this be improved?
What are the real transaction costs of intermediation?

Collection and evaluation of existing research initiatives in the Water and Sanitation sector.

Regional Exchanges

These could usefully cover:

- urban sanitation;
- gender issues; and
- exchanges within regional countries

Overall, there is a need to gain endorsement for policy at the highest level and to continue to work towards operationalising policy at middle and lower levels in the public sector.

Possible Roles For RWSG

The following possible roles for RWSG were identified:

- Assist Government in developing and implementing low income community projects.
- Prepare a technical manual for NGO use within communities in Urdu and other local languages, covering experience to date with sanitation technologies for tertiary services.
- Collate the experiences of NGOs working in the sector for wider dissemination.
- Facilitate working groups, workshops or seminars for people and organisations working in the field, could be based on the model of the existing RWSS Technical Group.

Technical training to Government, NGOs and CBOs - support to training institutes such as Daoud College of Technology, possible linkages to the international Training Network.

Technical training to Government, NGOs and CBOs - visits to successful projects by NGO and CBO staff and possible involvement of staff in project process to learn through experience negotiation and community development skills.

facilitation of networking;

development and implementation of planning and appraisal support within P&D department;

assistance with development of flexible technical planning and design system;

capacity building for mid-level government officials;

assistance with skills development in NGOs;

development of organisational negotiation skills for CBOs; and

assistance with and dissemination of applied research.

The Program : Challenges Ahead

The Program aims to make a major contribution to the urban sanitation sector. This task will allow the Program to:

- develop new partnerships with NGOs and CBOs and also with other donors, particularly ODA and UNICEF.
• contribute in a major way to a national policy debate within Pakistan; and
• tie in with efforts at the regional level in this area.

The Program will aim to publish a major document on the Pakistan experience before the end of the year. In future years the Program will focus efforts on preparing a strategic sanitation plan for a number of small towns and monitor the planning process to provide guidelines for planning in other towns.

In the rural sub-sector the Program aims to widen the base of its learning and to carry out a review of recent initiatives in the sub-sector, including government and donor sponsored programs in all the provinces and federal areas.

Assistance with the implementation of process monitoring under CIP will continue to be a feature of our workplan. However, some activities may diminish to some extent as we widen our focus to consider other activities in the sector.
The Country Level Consultation, carried out by the RWSG-SA and hosted by the UNDP Resident Mission and the Government of Sri Lanka, was held at Colombo on January 16, 1996.

The UNDP has been collaborating in the formulation of the District Development Plans since 1987. Recently, a UNDP-funded sector coordination program has been launched to develop a comprehensive sector plan and to establish an effective sector coordination mechanism.
Sri Lanka — A Statistical Profile

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<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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Data from Human Development Report 1996
Recent Developments

SEVERAL significant developments have occurred during the past few years. First, the government has endorsed rural water supply strategy incorporating a community-centered, demand-driven approach. Second, district development plans and investment programs for RWSS have been prepared. Third, the IDA-funded Community Water Supply and Sanitation Project (CWSSP) has been scaled up to a national program. Fourth, a UNDP-funded sector coordination program has been launched to develop a comprehensive sector plan and to establish an effective sector coordination mechanism.

The first meeting of the working groups of the Sector Development Program (SDP) was held in December 1995. The National Sector Coordination Committee has also been established within the Ministry of Housing, Construction and Public Utilities (MHCD&PU) to coordinate all sector activities. Structured learning has been mainstreamed in the CWSSP Project, and a number of special studies on policy-relevant issues are being undertaken. There are also plans to conduct a case study of the lessons learned from CWSSP.

Work under the IDA-funded Clean Settlement Program (CSP) is underway in low-income portions of urban and peri-urban areas. This Program aims to improve living conditions in 185 low-income settlements in the Colombo metropolitan area. The Program will adopt the community-managed infrastructure. Six pilot projects are currently underway, and work in the remaining settlements will take place over the next five-year period.

The Low-Cost Sanitation Project, which has assisted in the improvement of sanitation facilities in a large part of the Western Province, will be coming to a close, and follow-up activities will be carried out to identify key impacts and lessons.

The Consultation Framework

The Country Level Consultation (CLC) held at Colombo on January 16, 1996, highlighted the opening up of the planning process of the UNDP/WB Programme to a broad group of sector actors.

The CLC was inaugurated and chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Housing Construction and Public Utilities (MOHC&PU), UNDP Representative and the World Bank Representative.

A total of 27 delegates from External Affairs Department, MOHC&PU, water and sanitation sector agencies, Clean Settlements Unit, Plantation Sector, NGOs, and Donors including GTZ, WHO, UNDP, World Bank, Swiss/Helvetas participated.

The framework of the CLC was built round the hope that an honest and frank exchange of ideas, resources and efforts would lead towards establishing better partnerships to expand access to Water and Sanitation for the unserved poor.

Sharing of experiences, discussion of issues and constraints in implementing the regional programme formed an important part of this framework. Relevance, realism and support generated among various members were pinpointed as indicators to judge the outcome of the CLC.
Expectations from the CLC

The expectations which ranked highest included:

- assistance to the sector to improve coordination
- ways and means of minimizing duplication of efforts
- elimination of wastage of resources
- fostering a greater understanding of the Program
- developing a better understanding of the Program's future role in sector development.

Objectives

Collectively, the objectives of the Program, the consultation process and the Program activities in South Asia include:

- assisting participating countries to build capacity for better policy
- development of institutional and human resources
- constantly learning from experiences, disseminating the lessons learnt and thereby supporting investments for sustainable service.

The overall objective of the CLC was to guide future planning and implementation of water and sanitation activities in Sri Lanka within the regional and global context.

Methodology

Group work was chosen as the means to identify and discuss the key issues, the expectations of the members on actions for the Program to address the issues, and how the recommended actions would contribute to the Program's intermediate goals for capacity building, learning, and supporting sustainable investment.

Three themes were identified for group work:

- Role of the Program in Urban Sub-Sector;
- Role of the Program in Rural Sub-sector;
- Role of the Program in Sector Advisory Support.

Each working group, after thorough discussions, was to prepare and present a summary of their recommendations for the Program's role in each of the three sub-sectors. Questions on which the working groups should focus were framed.

Current Programme Status

In summary the activities in Sri Lanka include:

- Support to the UNDP funded National Sector Co-ordination program
- Strategic Support to the IDA funded CWSSP, and
- Assistance to government and IDA for the preparation of water and sanitation project for the Low Income Urban communities (LICs) including the setting up of a process monitoring system.

Programme Review

The review of the programme indicated substantial achievements for the government and the Program in building capacity for large scale implementation of rural water supply and sanitation in Sri Lanka through the CWSSP, a project with novel institutional partnership between the government and NGOs for service delivery. The project has successfully embarked into large scale implementation with over 400 rural water supply and sanitation schemes being constructed by the communities with the help of over 70 NGOs.

Another feature of the Programme's support to the sector is the launching of the National Sector Development Program (NSDP). The NSDP has recently concluded its first conference in December 1995, in which the workplan for NSDP has been outlined.
Key Issues

Key issues in the urban sub-sector included process monitoring, finalization of guidelines for flexible planning and implementation of water supply & sanitation in low income settlements, arriving at a common definition of Greater Colombo area and its low income communities, continuation of CSP process monitoring to strengthen capacity of CSPU, support organisations and CBOs and finalization of flexible planning and design standards to provide wide options for community preference, establishment of a National Sector-Coordination Secretariat.

In the Rural and Plantation sub-sectors the key issues included developing a Sector Training Network, providing strategic support and improved implementation procedures for sustainable investments for estates and review of specifications for technology & products and quality assurance through a permanent committee. Sector Advisory Support issues included adequate monitoring & evaluation, learning & dissemination, applied research, intersector/regional links, training/capacity building. Development of a National Policy on water and sanitation was identified as a key issue.

Recommendations

With a Special Focus on Intermediate Goals

The following table summarizes the recommendations and reflects the consensus reached at the consultive meeting on the Program’s future activities in Sri Lanka, for FY 1996.

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<th>LEARNING</th>
<th>SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT</th>
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<td>- Process Monitoring</td>
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<td>- Finalization of Flexible Standards</td>
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<td>2. National Sector Development Program</td>
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<td>- Definition of Greater Colombo</td>
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<td>- Establishment of Training Network</td>
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<td>- Strategic implementation support to the Estate Plantation Sector</td>
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<td>- Development of Policy and Operational Guidelines for cost sharing, O&amp;M cost recovery, M&amp;E and back up support, selection criteria, community management and maintenance arrangements</td>
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<td>- investment prioritization</td>
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<td>- M&amp;E, learning/dissemination</td>
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It was strongly recommended that the existing UNDP Project for "National Water Supply and Sector Development" should be the framework in which the RWSG-SA should work in Sri Lanka and that a National Country officer should be recruited, to serve in the Project Management Group and, to act as the RWSG-SAs country representative.

The Program: Challenges Ahead

The main Program activity during the coming fiscal year will be supporting the UNDP-funded and nationally-executed SDP. The three-year Cooperating Agency Agreement between the World Bank and GoSL signed in March 1996 gives the Program an important role in the future development of the rural and community water supply and sanitation sub-sectors in Sri Lanka.

Main activities to be carried out by RWSG-SA are the recruitment of national staff and an international adviser, training and study visits, and supervisory support for the SDP. Specifically, the Program will assist in the development of sub-sector plans for the rural and low-income urban sub-sectors and will provide information and expertise to support the working groups established under the SDP.

Additional activities include the design and supervision of a strategic monitoring and feedback system for the Clean Settlement Program and the design and supervision of an ex-post evaluation of the Low-Cost Sanitation Project to identify important impacts and key lessons learned.

This will mean an expanded role for RWSG-SA in Sri Lanka during fiscal year 1997 through the presence of full-time national staff and at least quarterly supervisory missions from RWSG-SA. This will better position the Program for taking advantage of new opportunities that may arise.

As a continuation of its efforts to assist GoSL and donors to support the scaling-up of projects in rural and low-income peri-urban areas, RWSG-SA will support policy-relevant learning in the sector through the provision of strategic supervision to the CWSS Project and a focused learning activity, as well as through process monitoring in the Clean Settlement Program and an ex-post evaluation of the Low-Cost Sanitation Project.
The Working Groups at the Country Level Consultations produced useful papers with a wealth of details. Working Group papers of each country, along with a list of participants etc. are available on request from:

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