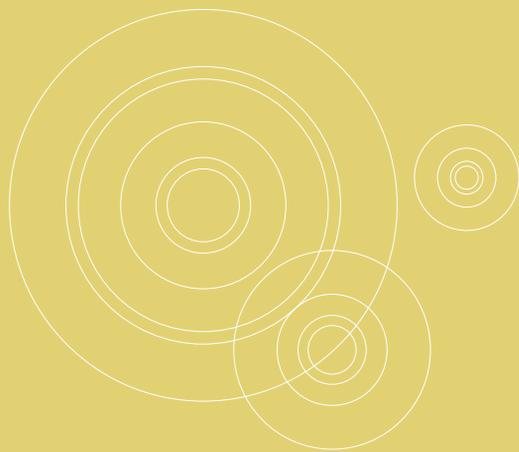


Water and Sanitation Program

# Working to Improve Policies, Practices and Capacities





The Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) is a global partnership, executed by the World Bank and supported by the world's leading donor agencies.<sup>1</sup> In the context of the Millennium Development Goals and the international community's unprecedented agreement for reducing poverty, WSP is dedicated to supporting governments' address the challenge of poverty by focusing on the water and sanitation sector.

The Program's mission is to improve policies, practices, and capacities in the water and sanitation sector. WSP provides advisory services in support of efforts by governments to strengthen institutions in the water and sanitation sector. These services involve accessing experts and best practices—local and global; holding strategy workshops; assisting in the design of legislations, fiscal instruments, and the overall institutional framework for service delivery; and supporting systems of monitoring and evaluation to actively learn from on-going reforms.

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<sup>1</sup>The Program's funding partners are the Governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America; the United Nations Development Programme, The World Bank, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

**A combination of field-based advisory services, pooling of donor resources and access to global expertise and experience has enabled WSP-SA to play a strong role in supporting institutional reform in the water and sanitation sector.**



The Program works in partnership with governments at all levels, financial institutions, external donors, NGOs and the private sector. WSP's services are provided on a grant basis.

### **WSP IN SOUTH ASIA (WSP-SA)**

In South Asia, WSP-SA has a highly focused interdisciplinary team that manages a collaborative, technical assistance program throughout the region. The team has a skill base that draws on expertise from public finance, decentralization, local government and the water and sanitation sector. This diversity of skills reflects the Program's belief that important inter-sectoral linkages including local government reforms, private sector participation, urbanization, and the impact of collective action by communities influence the performance of the water and sanitation sector.

WSP operates under the fiduciary and administrative guidelines of the World Bank, ensuring an important quality control on the Program's operations. In South

Asia, WSP's regional office is in Delhi and it has country offices in Dhaka and Islamabad.

### **WSP-SA'S CAPACITY**

WSP-SA's capacity is based on the principle of an inverted pyramid that encompasses:

- A broad group of implementing partners in the public, private and NGO sectors.
- Global and local expertise, including staff of the WSP global and regional teams, World Bank and IFC. WSP has full access to the skill and knowledge base of the World Bank Group.
- A small highly qualified WSP team to leverage the contracted-in capacity of global and local experts and implementing partners.

Managing access to capacity through networks enables WSP to maintain a broad skill base and sustain the Program's flexibility and ability to respond to requests for support in real time.

### **MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS FOR WATER AND SANITATION**

- By 2015 to reduce by half the proportion of people who are unable to reach, or to afford, safe drinking water. This target was adopted at the United Nations Millennium Summit.
- By 2015 to reduce by half the proportion of people who do not have access to safe sanitation facilities. This target was adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

# Water and Sanitation Program-South Asia

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## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE REGION**

### **Translating Policy Into Reality in the Context of Decentralized Service Delivery**

- Addressing capacity constraints of local governments.
- Aligning financial flows with functional assignments.

### **Incorporating WSS Into Urban Planning**

- Focus on services to urban poor.
- Moving from projects to integrated urban planning.
- Supporting cities to incorporate WSS to the poor into their city development plans, and move from project to integrated urban planning.

### **Culture of Consultation and Communication**

- Creating broad based awareness on water and sanitation sector issues and options for reform.
- Enhancing client capacity to manage strategic communication programs by developing advocacy research material and training.

### **Alternate Service Delivery Arrangements**

- Developing models through which local governments can access sector capacities, including small and medium enterprises and community based organizations.

### **Constructive Engagements with Civil Society**

- Supporting utilities and civil society organizations to constructively engage in planning and monitoring service delivery improvements.

### **Improving Sustainability of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation**

- Institutionalize bottom-up planning for local water resource management, water safety, and contracting for operation and maintenance of rural water supply and sanitation.
- Advocating and building capacity for collective behavior change.

