EXPERIENCE OF OTHER AGENCIES IN WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION

1. In Sri Lanka, an evaluation of Community Water Supply and Sanitation Project of the World Bank (1998)[9] concluded that women's involvement in system management is critical for performance—women are the primary water collectors in most rural households, and have the most interest in ensuring that the water and sanitation service matches their needs and performs well. Furthermore, the study also noted that community-based water supply and sanitation (WSS) services are likely to perform better and have stronger impacts in communities with high levels of social capital. The existence of social networks improves group organization and service functioning, since community members are accustomed to working together as a group. Also, social ties among community members deter free riding, and encourage community members to hold to their commitments. Therefore, in the design of projects that finance community-based WSS services—and in particular in the design of social mobilization efforts—the existing levels of social capital in communities needs to be taken into account. In communities with low level of social capital, special efforts may be necessary to motivate and mobilize community members. Success in one community activity often leads a village to success in a subsequent activity. Similarly, Sara and Katz (1998)[10] showed that demand-responsive community-based WSS services are likely to have sustainable impacts on poverty alleviation and that sustainability of services was markedly higher in communities where households had made informed choices about whether to build a water system and about the type and level of service.

2. Based on a seven-country thematic evaluation[11] of the WSS sector, European Commission (EC) concluded that EC involvement and investment in the sector has been positive and successful, but not so with regard to sanitation, unless sanitation has formed an integral part of a WSS action. The study notes that the financing and implementation of basic WSS infrastructure works in the urban and rural areas has improved the livelihoods of many beneficiaries, but sustainability remains the great challenge. Furthermore, in absence of valid impact data, no definitive statements can be made on the role of EC investment on better health, but available information points to qualified success that of EC investment in WSS has made a positive contribution to better health of the target groups. On gender inequalities, the evaluation concludes that EC assistance have had positive impact on reducing drudgery for women and children and progress has been made at the project and program level but not at the institutional or decision-making level. Furthermore, the study concluded that rigidity in project designs do not permit alternative solutions or the promotion of new technologies and ideas.

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[9] Available: http://lnweb18.worldbank.org/oed/oeddoclib.nsf/DocUNIDViewForJavaSearch/FCDE5B365CA9C462852567F5005D6F73?opendocument

[10] Sara, Jennifer and Travis Katz. 1998. *Making Rural Water Supply Sustainable: Report on the Impact of Project Rules.* UNDF-World Bank Water and Sanitation Program.

[11] European Commission. 2006. *Thematic Evaluation of the Water and Sanitation Sector: Synthesis Report.* Available: EuropeAid 116546/C/SV/Multi