



Good Practices in Rural Water Services



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Important Issues & Goals

- A key barrier to investment in irrigation and rural water supply is the poor record of maintenance, management, operational cost recovery, which reduces sustainability of the systems
- Need to speed up and lower the cost of rural water supply and sanitation projects, with more community involvement and ownership
- Need to break the cycle of under-performing irrigation, deferred maintenance, inefficient water use, and ineffective user organizations

Solution Strategy 1: Accelerate Implementation of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Projects

Good Practices

- Local governments focus on setting standards and monitoring performance for 24-hour service provision with community management, affordable access by the poor, gender inclusiveness, and sustainable O&M
- Structure turn-key projects for private firms, and/or
- Outsource project implementation to capable NGOs

Solution Strategy 2: Reform Irrigation from Water Allocation System into Water Service Provision

Good Practices

- Introduce service agreements between irrigation providers and water user organizations, with training for both sides on negotiating effective agreements
- Introduce performance benchmarking of irrigation service providers and support capacity development programs towards their financial autonomy

Summary

Good practices

- For **rural water supply and sanitation** projects, accelerate implementation and results through turn-key projects for private firms and/or by outsourcing implementation to capable NGOs, with standards set by government
- For **irrigation** as a service, introduce service agreements, performance benchmarking of service providers, and gradually transform infrastructure and management for demand driven operation