

Improved Water Policy and Institutions at Federal Level

What did WSSSRP II achieve?



The Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Reform Programme Phase II concluded in May 2017, but what progress was made since it began in 2013?

Four legacy factsheets summarise what the Programme was designed to do, what it did, and what it leaves behind. Number one looks at the first WSSSRP II objective: *to improve Water Policy and Institutions at Federal Level.*

”The technical departments, RBDAs and other agencies in the FMWR now have the M&E skills to track sector-wide progress”

Charles Ikediashi — Dep. Director, Impact Assessment (M&E, FMWR)

WSSSRP II was the successor programme to the 9th EDF WSSSRP that ran from 2005-11. The main innovation of Phase II was that Technical Assistance Teams (TAT) and the UNICEF consultants were embedded within the ministry/agency receiving the support instead of operating through parallel structures (programme implementation units). The adjustment was driven by the need to increase ownership and sustainability of sector reform. The second phase, also included state-level works contracts to be procured by the Nigeria EU delegation.

WSSSRP II had four objectives, the first was to address the issue of policy and institutions at national level. The Programme Implementation Agencies in this instance were the Federal Ministry of Water Resources (FMWR) and the National Integrated Water Resources Management Commission (NIWRMC). At stake was seeing through the changes that resulted from devolving the implementation of service delivery to state level. This included refocussing the FMWR on setting the overall framework for water supply and sanitation by developing a national policy, passing a new water bill that enshrined the new responsibilities and putting in place integrated water basin management (IWRM) principles that would apply across states. It also meant establishing a common M&E framework, so that service delivery could be compared nationally.

But to implement reforms to the water sector depended on having strong political backing and a favourable economic climate. Yet the Programme had to deal with national and state elections resulting in changes in government, combined with a drop in oil prices and hence cuts in government budgets. This made it hard to push through new policies and laws. It also meant that central government found it difficult to identify its own resources to put behind the changes. Ongoing EU support was therefore essential, and without the WSSSRP II technical assistance teams embedded in the FMWR many of the achievements would have been impossible.

How WSSSRP II helped develop Policy and Federal Institutions

full time
Institution and
Policy Experts
embedded in
FMWR and
NIWRMC

- Institution and policy status assessments
- Political economy analysis
- Stakeholder review meetings
- Advocacy with decision makers
- Capacity building through training and mentoring
- Joint planning workshops
- Nurturing agreement on new arrangements
- Support adoption of reforms
- Facilitate implementation of new systems

short term
specialist
technical
assistance for
FMWR and
NIWRMC

Key achievements 2013 – 2017

a. National Water Resources Bill

- ▶ Federal Water Resources Bill approved by the Federal Executive Council and passed to the National Assembly for enactment
- ▶ Water Resources Bill promoted to stakeholders through the National Water Council
- ▶ National Water Policy in compliance with IWRM Principles approved and adopted

b. Integrated water resource management

- ▶ IWRM principles promoted nationally with water sector stakeholders
- ▶ Capacity of NIWRMC staff enhanced at all levels including catchment management
- ▶ National IWRM strategy promoted with agencies and linked to state IWRM strategies
- ▶ Flood risk management planning and forecasts extended from NIWRMC to 6 focal states
- ▶ GIS training for water asset management and IWRM completed at State and Federal levels and action plans developed

c. National monitoring and evaluation system established in the Federal Ministry of Water Resources

- ▶ Coordination of cross project and agency meetings to shape M&E for the sector
- ▶ Baseline surveys in focal states supported
- ▶ Agreement achieved on a single M&E framework for the sector coordinated from PRS FMWR
- ▶ Inter-Agency Task Group for effective implementation of M&E reforms in MDAs established and functioning
- ▶ Nigerian water sector capacity building for M&E of local water initiatives
- ▶ WASHIMS accepted and adopted by all the water sector stakeholders
- ▶ Harmonisation of MIS for the sector through expanding the scope of WASHIMS to include small town and urban level indicators
- ▶ Support to FMWR for installing a National Databank under the National Urban Water Reform Programme
- ▶ Support to developing state M&E framework to link to the FMWR National Databank
- ▶ M&E Frameworks and Protocols agreed in 5 states consistent with the National M&E

”WSSSRP II has greatly enhanced our understanding integrated water resource management as a way to achieve sustainability in water supply and sanitation”

**Abdulyekeen Olutade — Assistant Chief Hydrogeologist,
EUWSSSRP II, NIWRMC**

Has WSSSRP II made a lasting difference?

It's too early to assess the long term impact of the Programme on building capacity at Federal level because despite the real advances made, some of the fundamentals haven't changed. From the perspective of sector reform, progress depends on continued political willingness to see through the implications of the national policy. Serious ministerial backing was necessary to ensure that Water Resources Bill and its associated Water Resources Policy were eventually adopted. The same backing is needed to sustain the thinking that will allow the FMWR to move away entirely from direct implementation of service delivery activities to focus on setting strategic goals, oversight and monitoring. Yet, in Nigeria given a political and institutional environment that is risky and unpredictable, sustained backing for water sector reform can not be guaranteed. At the midpoint of the programme, many of the eventual achievements were in the balance and the slow progress in approving new laws and providing counterpart funding suggested that, like its predecessor, WSSSRP II might not be able to close out its objectives. Happily, by its close WSSSRP II had achieved much of what it set out to do.

What is clear though, is that there is still more work to be done at Federal level. One outstanding area is building on the advances in monitoring and evaluation. Although national M&E is a key role of the FMWR, the budget allocated to this function is low. Also more needs to be done on developing indicators for dams and irrigation schemes and most of all the ministry M&E team needs ongoing capacity building to implement the new national M&E framework. Even now the Ministry still lacks the office and technical equipment to do the job really well. Also the uptake of IWRM in the states needs to be backed up by the establishment of a regulatory commission that would ensure there is compliance across Nigeria.

Now at the end of WSSSRP II, there have been over 10 years of effort put into reform of the water sector. It's a measure of the success of the Programme that all the key components for sector reform are now in place, and the FMWR is ready to move on.

To find out more about how WSSSRP II has contributed to better water, sanitation and hygiene service delivery for Nigeria, and to download Factsheets 2,3 and 4 visit:

- ▶ wsssrp.org
- ▶ europa.eu/capacity4dev/wsssrp-2/

A Project funded by the European Union and the Federal Government of Nigeria



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