

Improved Water Policy and Institutions in 6 Focal States

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 two looks at the second WSSSRP II objective: *to improve Water Policy and Institutions in 6 Focal States.*

“The programme has built the capacity of small town structure, WCA, to operate and manage their WASH facilities; at least we are confident that they will sustain these facilities because they can and are happy to do so.”

Kenechukwu Okonkwo — Water Supply Officer, Small Town Water & Sanitation Agency, Anambra

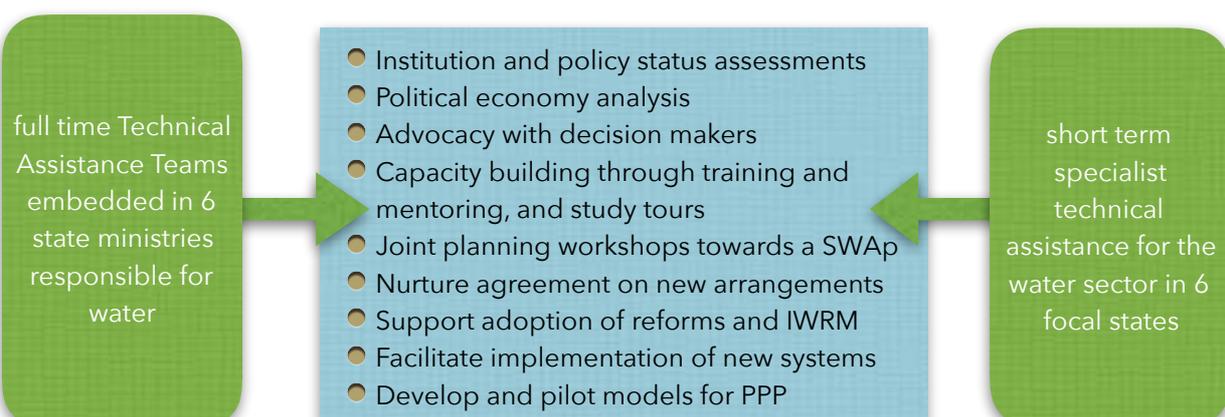
WSSSRP II was the successor programme to WSSSRP I. Although the themes of the programme remained largely the same, the big difference was that the second phase was much more focused on capacity building, co-ordination, and day-to-day advice consistent with changing the way state officials operate. Significantly, technical assistance team members were embedded in the state ministries. They worked alongside counterpart staff on a day-to-day basis and advised on, rather than managed, programme estimates. This meant that state officials could take ownership and leadership of the reform process more readily, relying on the technical assistance team to provide them with the necessary technical support.

WSSSRP had demonstrated that a second phase was needed to address these issues:

- ▶ Ongoing advocacy with all stakeholders was required to support stronger political buy-in and to develop broad understanding of the implications of institutional reform in the sector.
- ▶ Water legislation across the six states was at different stages, and needed completion with the active participation of, and in consultation with stakeholders.
- ▶ Water sector coordination was lacking. Institutional restructuring had not been completed in the states, and capacity to implement new processes and systems was low. Planning and budgeting for implementation was weak. Operational transparency and accountability was low.

WSSSRP II had four objectives, the second of which was to address the issues of policy and to build capacity of institutions at state level. The Programme Implementation Agencies in this instance were the ministries of water, the associated water boards, and water consumer associations (WCAs) or their equivalents in the six focal states of Anambra, Cross River, Jigawa, Kano, Osun and Yobe

How WSSSRP II helped develop State Policy and Institutions



Key achievements 2013 – 2017

a. State Water Law enacted and implemented

- ▶ Advocacy for inclusion of small town provision into draft legislation
- ▶ 6 Water Bills reviewed, prepared, advocated and enacted into law

b. Sector institutions structured in line with State Water Law

- ▶ Restructuring plans for state ministries developed and being implemented
- ▶ Establishment of Small Town Units (STU) in state ministries prior to transformation into Small Town Water Supply and Sanitation Agencies (STOWAs)
- ▶ STOWAs & Urban Water Asset Holding Corporations established
- ▶ Small town water agency structure strengthened to support WCAs
- ▶ Water Consumers Associations (WCAs) formed in small towns
- ▶ State WASH Policies approved and being implemented

c. Budget for sector institutions secured

- ▶ Baseline survey for small towns and urban areas conducted
- ▶ Capacity building on best practice for cost recovery implemented
- ▶ Medium term water sector strategies based on policy targets developed
- ▶ Medium term expenditure frameworks developed
- ▶ Sector Wide Approach (SWAp) used to prepare short-term budget estimates
- ▶ Advocacy for prioritisation of state funding to water supply and sanitation conducted

d. States adopt IWRM principles, Water Law enacted and implemented

- ▶ State Water Resources agencies trained in IWRM principles
- ▶ IWRM Coalitions established and revived, addressing flooding and pollution issues
- ▶ State level IWRM Management Committees revitalised/established
- ▶ Catchment Management Plans and Water Charters developed

e. Private sector participation strategy developed and implemented

- ▶ State-specific PSP assessment and strategy developed and being implemented for water supply schemes
- ▶ Awareness raising and promotion of PPP opportunities
- ▶ Review of Water Boards to consider functioning as a service provider

f. Sector monitoring and review is institutionalised

- ▶ Sector Wide Approach (SWAp) instituted in state institutions
- ▶ Quarterly sector coordination meetings institutionalised
- ▶ Inter-Agency Task Groups (IATG) established on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

”Since the Programme we’ve seen increased budgetary planning and provision for WASH from the state”

Kabiru Abass – WSSSRP II, Institution and Policy Expert, Anambra

Has WSSSRP II made a lasting difference?

The big question is whether the momentum for reform can be sustained. If the new-style organisations can deliver “safe, adequate and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene”, then the improved services are likely to be popular with everyone and bring kudos to politicians, and then have an assured future.

Yet this scenario depends on getting financially behind the water sector, at a time when all state MDAs have to operate within a restricted funding envelope reflecting the fall in national oil revenue. As a result, to sustain and test the new water organisations will depend on state governors making pro-water budget allocations.

But bringing water to the top of the agenda has not been at all easy. Even with the Programme in place, all six states found it hard to provide the 30% counterpart funding that would have unlocked up to €5 million each from the EU for works projects. Eventually WSSSRP advocacy paid off and all states have now identified funding. But it is only at the end of the Programme that these joint-funded works are finally about to go out to tender. This means that the capability of the new institutions remains untested, and contract supervision is a concern.

Indeed, even during the programme, arrangements designed to help the states step up service delivery and to better link MDAs with consumers did not work as they should. Although the EU facilitated states to pay staff allowances, local administration of the advances proved to be a challenge meaning that eventually this form of programme support could not continue.

More positively, as WSSSRP II comes to an end, there’s broad agreement that there have been substantive changes; now all state ministries and most politicians have a positive attitude to reform. This is partly the result of advocacy, but the passage of new State Laws sanctioning the setting up water institutions such as Small Town Units and Water Consumer Associations, means that reform is considered relevant and useful. Ultimately though, after the Programme concludes, continued political and administrative backing will be needed to ensure further progress in water sector reform.

To find out more about how WSSSRP II has contributed to better water, sanitation and hygiene service delivery for Nigeria, and to download Factsheets 1, 3 and 4 visit:

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

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