
About the program

**Name:** Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Program (RWSSP) in Ethiopia.

**Program aim:** To increase access to and use of improved water supply and sanitation services by rural communities in the country.

**Implementation period:** 2006–2014

**Cost:** UA 60.2 million contribution by
- African Development Bank (AfDB), UA 43.61 million, 72%
- The Government and communities in Ethiopia: UA 16.59 million, 28%

**Program coverage**
- 9 administrative regions of Ethiopia
- 125 woredas (districts)

1 Unit of Account (UA) = 1.46 US$, as at December 2014

About the evaluation

**Evaluation aim:**

- To account for the program’s development outcomes to the AfDB Board of Directors and to the Government of Ethiopia; and
- To give advice, backed by evidence, to the Bank on how to sustain the benefits of the program and on what to include in the design and execution of similar future programs.

**Evaluation objective:**

To get a credible estimate of the net effect of the program, at community and household level, on (i) access to improved water and daily per capita safe water consumption; (ii) diarrhea incidence among under-five children; (iii) travel time saved in fetching water; (iv) children’s school attendance; and (v) women’s productive employment.

**Sample size and approach:**

- Primary data was collected from a randomly selected sample of 228 communities and 2,736 households, covering both beneficiary and non-beneficiary (comparison) communities. Supplementary data was collected from 74 schools, 73 health centers and 114 water sources.
- The sample was distributed across 38 woredas, of 3 administrative regions – Oromia, Amhara and Southern Nations, Nationalities and People’s Region (SNNPR). The sample accounted for close to 87% of the people directly benefiting from the program.
- Secondary data was derived from relevant documents, reports and databases
- Propensity score matching and difference-in-difference techniques provided the basis for the data analysis.
Key findings of the evaluation

The evaluation revealed the following effects of the RWSSP in Ethiopia:

Effective:
- 6810 water supply and sanitation facilities constructed
- 80% of the target water supply and sanitation facilities delivered
- 69 percentage point increase in household access to, and use of, an improved water source by the RWSSP communities
- 45% reduction of diarrhea incidence in the entire population
- 1057 public latrines constructed, and household construction of 66,534 private latrines promoted
- Increase in household sanitation coverage from 73% to 81%
- 23 minutes of time-saving in fetching water per household per day
- Local water and sanitation committees established and trained, effective community participation in the delivery of the program

Not effective:
- No impact on daily per capita safe water consumption, which already far exceeded the national standard.
- Insignificant impact on diarrhea incidence in children under 5 years
- Only 20% of the people used soap while washing hands at critical times
- For 41% of water facilities, water is contaminated at source
- For 68% of households, water is contaminated at point of use
- About 91% of households that don’t own latrines continued the practice of open defecation
- No discernible impact on school enrolment rates, which were already in excess of 95%
- Insignificant impact on women's participation in productive employment
- The sustainability of the RWSSP facilities and services is limited by insufficient institutional, technical, financial, and monitoring and evaluation capacity of the beneficiary communities

Recommendations from the evaluation

The evaluation made the following recommendations to the Bank. The Bank should:

- Develop a clear strategy for sustaining the benefits of the RWSSP in collaboration with key stakeholders. Key stakeholders. These include the Federal, Regional and Woreda administrations, and the water, sanitation and hygiene committees.
- Support the development and implementation of an effective monitoring, evaluation and learning system to ensure regular, pertinent data collection, analysis, reporting and feed-back, especially for supporting the sustainability of the RWSSP community water supply, sanitation and hygiene results.

Evaluation Task Managers: Foday Turay, Chief Evaluation Officer, and Girma Kumbi, Principal Evaluation Officer, IDEV
Publication Coordinated by Jacqueline Nyagahima, Knowledge Management Consultant, IDEV
Date of publication: September 2016
Complete report is available online at idev.afdb.org