



Infrastructure Workshop 2008

Case Study Set 1 – 15 Dec



What to do in Wattamessa?
Decentralized vs. Centralized Water Service

Quick Overview

You have been asked to:

- Assess the water supply sector in Watamessa
- Develop a Concept Paper for a new USAID Mission program
- Specifically suggest whether to focus attention on **centralized or decentralized** water services?



Watamessa

- Post-conflict country transitioning from relief to development
- Agricultural-based economy – 75% rural
- Dire rural **and** urban water supply situation

Case Study Group Work

- Go through 5 slides on Watamessa assessment findings
- Discuss other information needs
- Define “centralized/decentralized” as a group
- Small groups discussion of pros/cons – benefits/risks



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What to do in Wattamessa?
Decentralized vs. Centralized Water Service

Your job, Mr. Phelps...

Two weeks to:

- Assess the water supply sector in Watamessa
- Develop a Concept Paper for a new USAID Mission program
- Specifically should we support **centralized or decentralized** water services?



Your Consultations and Field Trips

USAID and Implementing Partners

- USAID Staff in DG, Health, Educ
- Local governance, Health and Agriculture program staff

Other Donors

- Multilateral banks
- Few other bilaterals
- UNICEF
- WHO

Government

- National – Rural and urban water agencies, Ministry of Health
- District/Municipal – two water companies

Private Sector & other players

- ??

NGOs and other implementers

- Several very active groups



Your Findings

11 years after end of civil war...

- Few reconstruction efforts have been sustained
- Water sector remains grossly under funded
- Sector control at national level diffuse and unclear

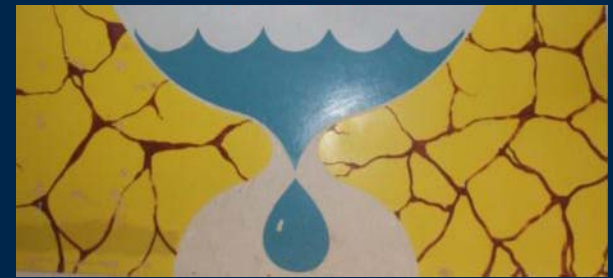
Lots of old piped systems around but...



In many places, plenty of surface water but...



Findings (cont.)



Rural

- 75% of population
- Many large “plantation” villages (1 to even 5K)
- Pre-war mainly deep boreholes w/ small piped networks
- Now only about half have improved water access
- Seasonable water shortages = Regular waterborne disease outbreaks

Urban

- Better access but similar distress despite major donor investments
- Only one real success in regional capital but still...

The Response To-date

- Little evidence of **serious** Government commitment
- Government “vision” 90% coverage by 2020 - **relies on 70% donor funding**
- Donor programs uncoordinated, have had mixed results
- Poor record of sustainability
- Donor programs hamstrung by conflicting national laws and regulations
- Several donors starting to “back out”



So, what do you suggest for Wattamessa?

- Do we have enough information?
- What else do you want to know?

So, should be go centralized or decentralized?



What is “centralized”?

➤ Technology

- Examples?
- Extremes

➤ Management

- Examples?
- Extremes



Considering different concepts

	Pros	Cons
Centralized		
Decentralized		

Do you agree?

“To increase sustainability... programs must seek out **committed government representatives** and invest in their capacity...for engaging communities in their own development.”

From NGO “Sustainability” Study



Study finding...

“In the few cases where water projects were not functional due to issues of maintenance, design issues were often cited, with community members feeling less involved in the process.”

What we proposed...

Institutionalizing Sustainable Water Supply

Implementation Approach

➤ Community Level

- Target “good actors”/committed communities
- Build off “centers of success” and existing engagement
- Limited numbers but intensive engagement
- Remember the keys to sustainability

➤ National Level

- Engage in donor and policy dialogue, but...
- Focus on those facilitating decentralization

Thank you

