

Philippines
Improvement Plan

Thematic window: Democratic Economic Governance

**Programme Title: Enhancing Access to and Provision of
Water Services with the Active
Participation of the Poor**

IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Evaluation Recommendation # 1: *The JP should develop initiatives to engage the Government and support policy reforms leading to establishment of a single authority for the water sector.*

Response from the Joint Programme Management

While the JP Document (JPD), at the onset, recognized that the national institutional set-up is an important reform that cannot be addressed by the JP given its timeframe and resources, the JP conducted activities that may contribute to the eventual rationalization of the institutional arrangements in the water supply sector. For instance, in aid of future policy-making, an on-line searchable database and a digest (with analysis) on jurisprudence on water supply are currently being finalized, while the crafting of a policy paper on emerging policies in the sector as a result of the integration of the policy outputs of the JP has commenced. In addition, the JP undertook, 5 local water governance forums (LWGF) and a national executive-legislative dialogue, which came up with policy recommendations, including the setting up of a single economic regulatory commission in the medium term and a single water authority for the country in the long term. Given that the MTE validated the need for the reforms and recommended that the JP actively engages in bringing about said reforms, the core Joint Technical Working Group (JTWG), composed of UN partners and government partners, met to brainstorm on what additional and more aggressive and strategic advocacy/activities towards engaging more support for these policies may be included in the year 3 activities of the JP for endorsement to and approval of the Programme Management Committee (PMC) and the National Steering Committee (NSC).

Key Actions	Time Frame	Person Responsible	Follow-Up		Secretariat	
			Comments	Status	Comments	Status

1.1 Tap local civil society partners (for community organizing) to advocate for policy reforms			Following the bottom-up approach to decision/policy-making, the JP would strategically drum up local support, particularly from the 5 regions of the JP, for the policy reforms, including the need for an independent water council and authority, which were also validated by local stakeholders as necessary reforms during the conduct of the LWGFs.			
a. Negotiate integration in TOR of non-government partners engaged for the community organizing under Output 1.3	Jun 2011	Programme Officer (PO), Outcome Officer 2 (OO2), DILG and UNDP		Engagement of NGO partners awaiting UNDP Regional Office approval prior to negotiation.		
b. Implement mobilization/ advocacy - feedback of Declarations - utilize local networks created under various activities (e.g., LWGF and postcard campaign) - capacity development for WATSAN councils as "champions" of reforms	Jul 2011-Dec 2011	Civil Society Partners, Implementing Partners (IPs)	The JP has to come up with a common message for the advocacy.	The team awaits the decision of the INFRACOM on the said policy prior to firming up its message to be disseminated at the local level.		
1.2 Link with other programmes/ initiatives that target public sector reforms						

a. Incorporate in Year 3 AWP	May 2011	Core Joint Technical Working Group (JTWG) composed of Programme Team and focal persons from government and UN IPs and RPs	The extent of the collaboration will have to be limited by the available resources and remaining time for implementation.	Planning exercise held on 23-24 May 2011		
b. Get PMC and NSC approval	Jun 2011	PO and OO1		PMC meeting scheduled in June 2011		
c. Commence discussion with potential partners	Jun 2011-Jul 2011	PO and OO1, UN partners, NEDA, NWRB				
d. Implement activity (whether creation of advocacy group or holding of congressional forum or writeshop on policy reforms for the Philippines)	Aug 2011-Dec 2011	PO and OO1, UN partners, NEDA, NWRB, partner donors and agencies	Final activity depends on the INFRACOM decision on the issue.			

Evaluation Recommendation # 2: *UN agencies should harmonise operational and reporting procedures to minimize delays.*

Response from the Joint Programme Management
UN agencies are currently undergoing harmonization of our accounting systems and also in programming through the UNDAF (United Nations Development Assistance Framework) within the Philippines, which are designed to solve the lack of UN harmonisation.

Key Actions	Time Frame	Person Responsible	Follow-Up		Secretariat	
			Comments	Status	Comments	Status
2.1 UNICEF will seek guidance from its Operations section on the possibilities of harmonising reporting and auditing with UNDP as per	Immediately	UN partners				

recommendation 48 from the MTE						
<p>Evaluation Recommendation # 3: <i>The JP should fast track the activities for Outcome 2 that have lagged behind; particularly (a) completion of the baseline studies, and (b) roll out of the communication plan at the local level.</i></p>						
<p>Response from the Joint Programme Management <i>Repackaging of the contract for the baseline was undertaken to facilitate procurement. The DILG has mobilized additional regional manpower to catch up on the delays particularly for the baseline. Initial baselining for activities that could no longer wait for the baseline report was undertaken, with the plan to conduct revalidation when the baseline report is completed. The JP remains on catch-up mode for these activities/outputs that were delayed due to the delayed baseline.</i></p> <p><i>Specifically for the IEC component, the approval of the joint implementation of the component by DILG and NEDA facilitated the rollout of national IEC activities. The rollout of the initial local IEC skills training has been completed, with the procurement facilitated through the use of direct payment scheme by UNICEF as well as the procurement through NEDA.</i></p>						
Key Actions	Time Frame	Person Responsible	Follow-Up		Secretariat	
			Comments	Status	Comments	Status

<p>3.1 Implement NSC instruction that the JP should use systems (UN or government) where it is more facilitative</p>	<p>Immediately</p>	<p>IPs (UN and government), RPs</p>	<p>Procurement has been a major cause of delays in the JP implementation. UNDP procurement of consultancy services for the baseline caused a 6-months delay in the activity, and impacted on several outputs of the JP dependent on the baseline.</p> <p>UNICEF procurement of the IEC consultancy services also caused months of delay.</p>	<p>DILG still using UNDP procurement.</p> <p>UNICEF, meanwhile, still have some restrictions on what the government partners can procure and what UNICEF should procure. For instance, while NEDA procurement proves faster and less tedious than UNICEF procurement, UNICEF guidelines state that all equipment procurement should be undertaken by UNICEF.</p> <p>UNICEF has proposed to investigate and review its procurement procedures in light of delays caused.</p>		
<p>3.2 Download IEC funds to NEDA to facilitate fund disbursements/mobilization, and hence, facilitate implementation of IEC activities</p>	<p>Jun 2011-May 2012</p>	<p>PMC (approval), UNICEF focal (transfer), DILG and NEDA IEC focals (plans)</p>	<p>The mobilization of money within DILG is quite lengthy.</p>	<p>PMC meeting scheduled in June 2011.</p> <p>UNICEF and partners have identified that transfers to the LGU based on reimbursement are not working, and are currently discussing various options to remove this</p>		

				bottleneck.		
3.3 Use direct payment mode for IEC activities as much as possible	Jun 2010- Dec 2010	UNICEF, DILG and NEDA IEC focals	The mobilization of money within DILG is quite lengthy.	Currently being implemented.		
3.4 Strictly follow advice of MDG-F Secretariat that activities already approved by the PMC for implementation can only be suspended by the PMC	Immediately	Core JTWG		Currently not followed strictly for DILG components.		
3.5 Strictly follow advice of MDG-F Secretariat that deadlines for comments on outputs should be strictly adhered to	Immediately	Core JTWG		Currently not followed strictly for DILG components.		
Evaluation Recommendation # 4: <i>The JP should strengthen the output indicators so that they can more efficiently measure performance and changes in the results.</i>						
Response from the Joint Programme Management <i>The JP engaged an expert that looked at the results framework of the JP with a fresher perspective and came up with recommendations that tightens the framework (its logic, its intended outputs, its indicators). Nevertheless, UNICEF saw the need for further review of the framework, particularly for the IEC component given the recognition that what the JP is trying to achieve may not be realistic within the timeframe and resources that the JP has.</i>						
Key Actions	Time Frame	Person Responsible	Follow-Up		Secretariat	
			Comments	Status	Comments	Status
4.1 Revisit the results framework of the JP						

a. Incorporate in Year 3 AWP	May 2011	Core JTWG		Planning exercise held on 23-24 May 2011		
b. Get PMC and NSC approval	Jun 2011	PO and OOs		PMC meeting scheduled in June 2011		
c. Engage M&E expert	Jun 2011-Jul 2011	NEDA PMT		TOR being prepared		
d. Conduct revalidation workshop	Aug 2011	Expert, IPs				
e. Present revised framework to PMC	Sep 2011	Expert, PO				
f. Endorse for approval of NSC and MDG-F Secretariat	Sep 2011	PMC				
4.2 Revise and update communications plan based on baseline research to ensure more realistic targets	Jun 2011-Sept2011	DILG, NEDA, UNICEF				
a. Incorporate in Year 3 AWP	May 2011	Core JTWG		Planning exercise held on 23-24 May 2011		
b. Get PMC and NSC approval	Jun 2011	PO and OOs		PMC meeting scheduled in June 2011		
c. Engage C4D expert	Jun 2011-Jul 2011	NEDA PMT		TOR being prepared		
d. Conduct review and revision	Aug 2011	Expert, IPs				
e. Present revised plan to PMC	Sep 2011	Expert, PO				
f. Endorse for approval of NSC and MDG-F Secretariat	Sep 2011	PMC				

Evaluation Recommendation # 5: *The JP should develop a broad-based partnership to engage other stakeholders, particularly (a) donor organisations and the private sector to provide funding and investments in water delivery infrastructure, and (b) civil society to strengthen advocacy with government for resource allocations and accountability.*

Response from the Joint Programme Management						
<p><i>The JP, through the IP officials and the Programme Management Team (PMT), have started to work on the delivery of the hard infrastructure for the 36 municipalities despite the fact that the JP's design is limited only to the soft components of water supply provision. The JP deliverables (capacity and readiness of LGUs to accept investments in hard infrastructure) are seen as pre-requisites to investment confidence in LGUs.</i></p>						
Key Actions	Time Frame	Person Responsible	Follow-Up		Secretariat	
			Comments	Status	Comments	Status
5.1 Tap local civil society partners (for community organizing) to advocate for more government resources allocation						
a. Negotiate integration in TOR of non-government partners engaged for the community organizing under Output 1.3	Jun 2011	PO, OO2, DILG and UNDP		Engagement of NGO partners awaiting UNDP Regional Office approval prior to negotiation.		
b. Implement mobilization/ advocacy	Jul 2011-Dec 2011	Civil Society Partners, IPs				
5.2 Link up with other donors and government agencies implementing water supply and sanitation projects						
a. Incorporate in Year 3 AWP	May 2011	Core JTWG	The extent of the collaboration will have to be limited by the available resources and remaining time for implementation.	Planning exercise held on 23-24 May 2011		
b. Get PMC and NSC approval	Jun 2011	PO and OOs		PMC meeting scheduled in June 2011		

<p>c. Commence discussion with potential partners (DOH, NAPC, ADB, JICA, WB, UN, ICRC, private sector, civil society)</p>	<p>Jun 2011-Jul 2011</p>	<p>PO and OOs, UN partners, NEDA, DILG, NWRB</p>		<p>MOA with DOH and NAPC signed for the prioritization of the 36 JP beneficiary municipalities in the "Sagana at Ligtas na Tubig para sa Lahat" program. Proposal for ICRC submitted for JP municipalities that are affected by conflicts. Linked up with Vestergaard, a private company, for their fund-raising activities to benefit some communities within the 36 JP municipalities.</p>		
<p>d. Implement activity</p>	<p>Jun 2011-end of JP</p>	<p>PO and OOs, UN partners, NEDA, DILG, NWRB, partner donors and agencies</p>	<p>Release of budget for the 36 municipalities for the establishment of hard infrastructure will commence upon completion of plans and feasibility studies.</p> <p>Fund-raising activities of Vestergaard will run from August 2011 to January 2012 and turnover of portable purifiers (as interim and disaster-response systems) will be by February 2012.</p>			

5.3 Conduct donor's forum	Oct 2011	IPs and RPs	During the anniversary of the decentralization, in parallel with the planned showcase of best practices among local government units, a donor's forum showing what the JP intends to do, and how it can complement other donor's programs/projects, is recommended.			
---------------------------	----------	-------------	---	--	--	--

Evaluation Recommendation # 6: *The JP should develop and strengthen linkages with other UN agency programmes that have an effect on water resources management such as environment, climate change, sanitation and pollution.*

Response from the Joint Programme Management

The JP has already recognized the potential impact of current issues such as climate change, environment degradation, and pollution on the availability of quality water sources for the supply of drinking water.

Key Actions	Time Frame	Person Responsible	Follow-Up		Secretariat	
			Comments	Status	Comments	Status
6.1 Establish linkage with MDG-F 1656 for climate change-proofing of local sector plans	Jun 2011- Nov 2011	OO2, DILG		Climate change vulnerability risk mapping being adopted for sector plans.		
6.2 Establish linkage with the World Health Organization for ensuring the delivery of quality water to the 36 municipalities	Jun 2011- Dec 2011	OO2, DILG		Discussions held with WHO on assistance for the preparation of Water Safety Plans for LGU-managed utilities to ensure water quality compliance		

6.3 Interfacing of the Toolbox with other existing tools/systems (see attached figure)	Jun 2011- Dec 2011	OO2, DILG	Ultimately, integration of all existing tools related to water and sanitation into the WATSAN Toolbox is envisioned. This will ensure the sustainability of the toolbox beyond the JP for up-scaling.	Discussions held with other target partners such as WB, UNICEF and WHO		
--	-----------------------	-----------	---	--	--	--

Endorsed by:

RODERICK M. PLANTA

NEDA Director IV and Programme Coordinator
As Co-Chair, PMC

RENAUD MEYER

Country Director, UNDP
As Co-Chair, PMC

AUSTERE A. PANADERO

Undersecretary, DILG
As Member, PMC

NATHANIEL C. SANTOS

Deputy Executive Director, NWRB
As Member,
PMC

TIM GRIEVE

WASH Expert, UNICEF
As Member, PMC

Approved by:

ROLANDO G. TUNGPALAN

Deputy Director General, NEDA
As Co-Chair, NSC

JACQUELINE BADCOCK

UN Resident Coordinator
As Co-Chair, NSC

VICENTE SELLES ZARAGOSI

AECID Coordinator-General
As Member, NSC