

Mapping and Comparative Analyses of Innovative Financial Mechanisms for Water and Sanitation Provision

Dave Mateo

Key Words: Millennium Development Goals, drinking water supply, sanitation, mapping analysis, comparative analysis, financial mechanisms, partnership

1. INTRODUCTION

There is an apparent need to accelerate all initiatives for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) so as to be “on track” with the agreed timeframe alongside the full commitment to required resources to provide sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. The effective and efficient utilization of available resources allocated for the provision of such services necessitates the development and application of innovative financial mechanisms that both promote reform of the water and sanitation sector and leverage additional resources. This research fundamentally addresses such issue with a particular focus on the financial challenges confronting the sector, as well as the crucial roles that such mechanisms play to overcome the barriers to meeting the overarching arduous goals on water and sanitation.

2. OBJECTIVES

The goal of this research is to simply assess the current situation in the provision of access to water and sanitation. In particular, this research aims to establish a set of recommendation to redirect all the many existing initiatives to keep them focused and guided by providing an overview for understanding financing issues of water and sanitation provision and articulating the implications of having innovative financial mechanisms to effectively and efficiently channel additional resources and stimulate required institutional changes.

3. METHODOLOGIES

Three methodologies were applied to this research. These included: (a) questionnaire method for survey on partnership development on urban water resources management and sanitation provision that provided the primary sources of information; (b) mapping analysis of innovative financial mechanisms that conceptually mapped the present and future states of water and sanitation provision, as well as all the many existing gaps that hinder the progress; and (c) comparative analysis of selected financial mechanisms that promote sector reform and resource leveraging.

4. RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

Among most salient survey results on financial mechanisms is that major challenges facing the water and sanitation is more of institutional and political in nature rather than financial. This does not underestimate, however, the value of innovative and effective financial mechanisms as a significant tool to meet the MDGs on water and sanitation. Some of the key findings of mapping and comparative analyses show that financial commitment remains as a resource most difficult to mobilize but is not impossible should there are appropriate and innovative financing mechanisms in place to do so. These financing mechanisms should be tailored-made to the ground realities and comprehensively address the real needs of the community, and should make full use of the pre-existing capacities and resources available locally as catalysts for further leveraging of additional resources and better sector performance through necessary reforms. In summary, this research concludes that innovative financial mechanisms are crucial not only to materialize needed commitments but also to effectively, efficiently mobilize and leverage available resources in order to speed up all endeavors towards meeting the water and sanitation goals.