

SUMMARY OF THE NSRWSS

Why do we need a National Strategy?

Clean water and environmental sanitation are basic needs of people's daily life and they have become urgent requirements for protection and improvement of people's health and living conditions as well as in the cause of industrialization and modernization.

Currently, over 60% of rural population use the water which does not meet basic hygienic criteria and half of rural households do not have latrines. Water and sanitation related diseases such as diarrhea, intestinal worms and intestinal diseases and are very common, accounting for the highest proportion of people's popular diseases. Construction of WSS facilities has become very crucial requirement over a large-scaled area in the coming years.

In that context, a strategy which provides long term and overall framework for RWSS development is needed.

What is National Strategy on RWSS ?

RWSS is a very large concept and this strategy focuses mainly on the supply of clean water for domestic use and on sanitation needs of households. The study scope of the strategy covers all rural areas in the country.

National Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy is approved by the Prime Minister under Decision No. 104/2000/ QD – Ttg dated 25 August 2000. The Strategy is not only a master plan, but an overall framework of where the sector wants to be in 20 years time and general guidelines on how to achieve these goals set in the Strategy.

Development objectives:

- Improved health through reduced water and sanitation related diseases by improving water supply, latrines and promote hygienic practices of people.
- Improved living conditions through better access to water and sanitation, narrowing down the gap between urban and rural areas.
- Reduce to the lowest level untreated human and livestock excreta which cause environmental pollution, smell and flies and reduce organic pollution of water resources

Immediate objectives:

To achieve the above development objectives the following immediate objectives must be implemented:

By year 2020

- All rural residents will use clean water of national quality standards with at least 60 liters/capita/day and use improved hygienic sanitation facilities.
- Universal good personal hygiene practices and good environmental sanitation of communes and villages through focused IEC

By year 2010

- 85% of rural population will use clean domestic water
- 70% of rural households will have access to and use of improved hygienic latrines and have good personal hygienic practices.

What makes the strategy new?

- *Sustainable development* will be the basic underlying principle of the Strategy. This means that all planning and implementation shall give priority to sustainability rather than to other factors such as speed of implementation. At the same time it must be ensured that immediate development shall not produce harmful effects for the future and water resources shall be reasonably exploited.
- The General approach of the strategy is *demand responsive, users have to pay and socialization of RWSS Sector*. This will replace the former supply- driven approach and there's changes in the roles of users and the Government as following :

| Approach | User will | Government will |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Demand responsive | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide on what type of RWSS facilities they want, how they will organise for construction and O&M, and how they will pay for them. • Manage, operate and maintain the schemes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act as consulting and supportive agency. • Provide information on health, technology, finance mechanism, loan, etc. |
| Socialisation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide on whether construction, O&M should be done by themselves or by contractors through competitive tendering | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a legal basis for the participation of all economic sectors and communities in financing, construction, manufacturing spare parts. service provision, operation and maintenance of scheme. |

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| Cost recovery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay all construction and operational costs for RWSS facilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide <u>loans</u> at a favorable interest rate. • Provide <u>grants</u> to the poor and the social policy target households, full piped water supply scheme, a number of special cases. |
|---------------|--|---|

In order to apply the demand responsive approach and to achieve sustainable development, 5 implementation guidelines need to be followed:

- Users shall decide on the selection of technology, site of full piped water supply scheme, level of service and operational arrangement that they want. Government agencies will not do all these for users but act as managerial and advisory agency.
- Users shall pay all construction costs and management and operation costs. Government only support the poor, the social policy target households and certain types of technologies that need promotion.
- IEC programmes that provide guidance to people for their understanding of technologies, techniques, operation and maintenance, financial mechanism, credit etc. to help them make correct decisions, should be carried out before the planning or construction of RWSS facilities.
- Effective operation and management arrangements of shared RWSS facilities (for example full piped water supply schemes) shall be clearly put in place prior to construction of facilities.
- Advanced and appropriate technologies (technologies that: are easy to operate, use spare parts, equipment or materials produced in the country or locally; have been tested and shown to be sustainable; not too expensive and are acceptable to users; are environmentally acceptable) shall be promoted. Technologies which are harmful for health and environment shall be rejected.

How to implement the National Strategy?

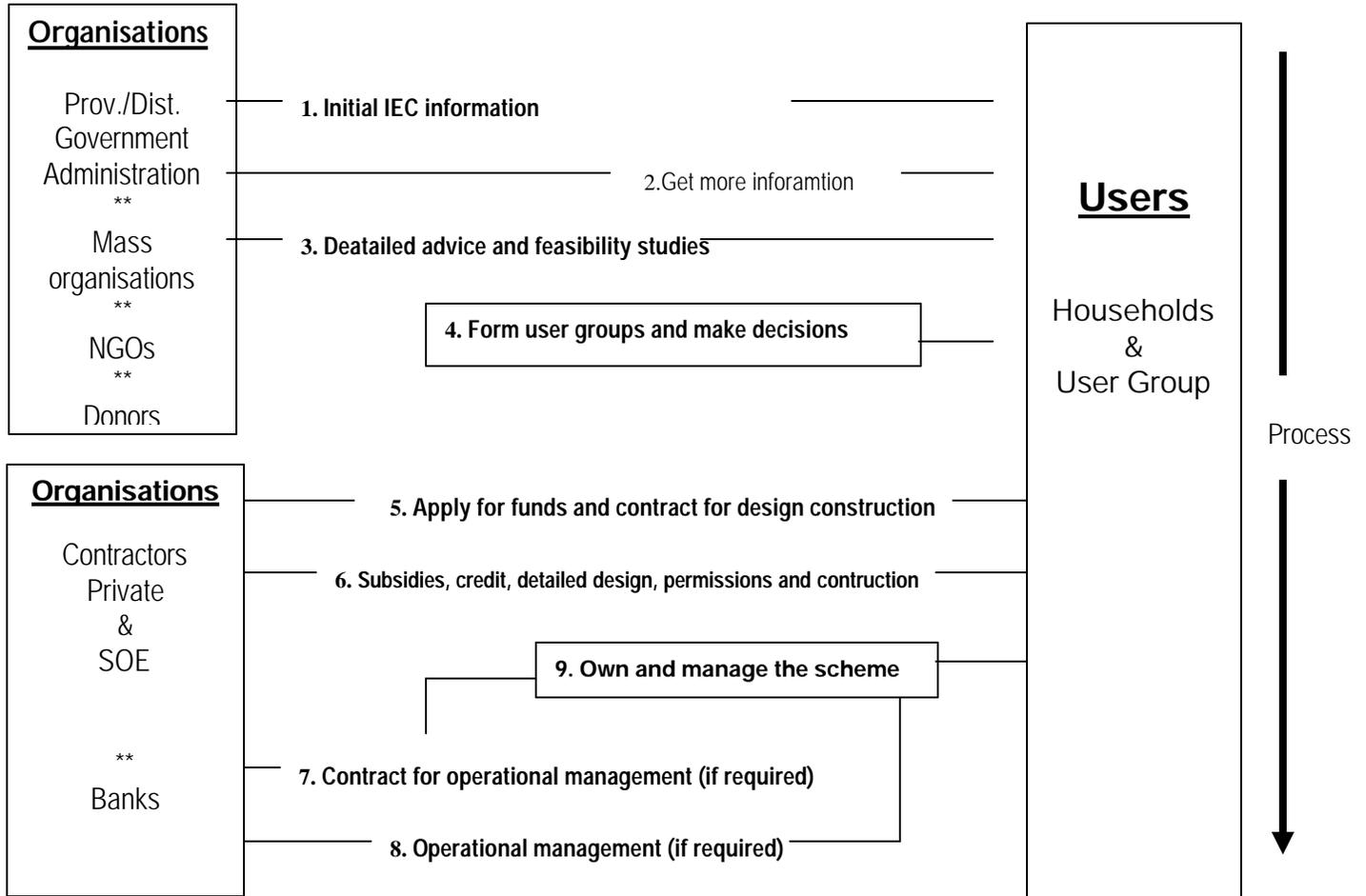
To implement the National Strategy, there are 4 main solutions as follows:

1. IEC and community participation.

At present, the majority of rural population have little knowledge about sanitation, clean water, diseases and health, and about the fact that surrounding living environment should be, and can be improved. Therefore information, education and communication (IEC) activities are vital for the success of all development strategies, and it is necessary to carry out IEC activities at different levels.

The main future role for government is to focus on implementing IEC and management activities rather than directly involving in construction of RWSS facilities.

Diagram 4. The implementation process of Demand responsive approach



Four purposes of IEC activities:

1. Encourage an increased demand for clean water and hygienic latrines.
2. Increase people's willingness to pay for their RWSS facilities
3. Provide users with necessary and sufficient information on different RWSS technologies for their choice and monitoring
4. Create awareness and understanding of hygiene and the link between water, sanitation, hygiene practices and health.

Attention to be taken in designing IEC program:

- Regional differences in attitudes, language, literacy, customs and geography will be taken into account.
- Gender issues: particular efforts will be made to direct IEC activities towards women as they have the main responsibility for the collection and use of domestic water and also for the health of the family. However, it will also be important to reach men, who usually make the final decision about major household expenditures.
- Particular emphasis on promotion of construction of hygienic latrines and the proper use of them.
- Construction of facilities at public institutions such as schools, hospitals, markets, etc. will contribute to the IEC campaigns and facilitate the hygiene practices.

2. Expenditure and Finance Mechanism.

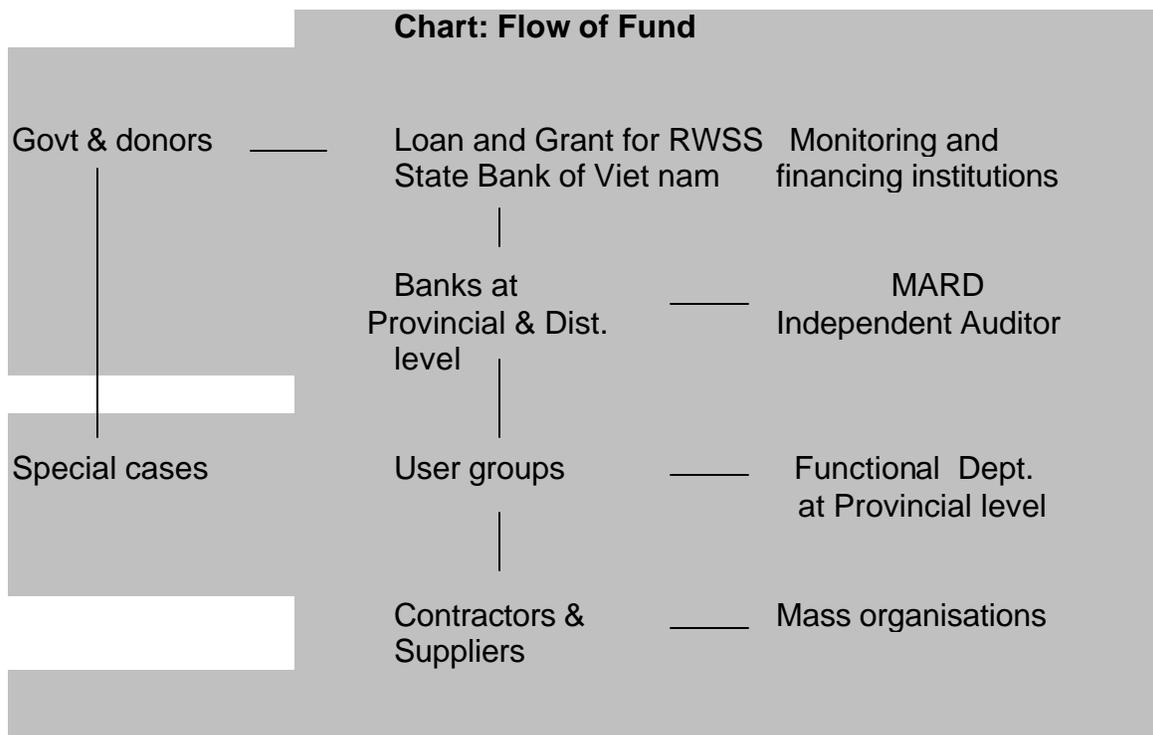
The financial mechanism to enhance the internal strength is based on the principle of users paying most of construction costs, and all the costs of operation, maintenance and management of the facilities. They will therefore need to take out **LOANS** for construction of facilities. These may include:

- Households spend a reasonable proportion of their income (3-5%) to invest in WSS facilities.
- Households can only obtain loans for a maximum **70-75%** of total construction cost of facilities and only when they are able to cover the remaining (about **25-30%**) by themselves. The terms of loans will be from **3-5** years and up to **15 – 20** years for piped water scheme.
- Government encourages private investors and other economic sectors to invest in construction of piped schemes by giving them special policy treatment, such as tax reduction or tax exemption, or loans with preferential interest rates. At the same time, government will have policy to protect investors.
- Government will establish a National Fund for Rural Water and Sanitation. This fund will lend to provincial and district banks at a lower rate than commercial lending in order to encourage people to borrow for construction of WSS facilities.

However, in order to help poor people, social policy target households and those who live in areas with extreme difficulties the Government will have the **GRANTS** to assist them in construction of WSS facilities. These may include:

- Support for poor households and social policy target households with financial assistance for part of the cost of RWSS facilities. The level of assistance may be increased for areas with extreme WSS difficulties such as : drought stricken areas, areas with scarce or polluted water resources, saline intrusion, mountainous areas, flood-prone areas.
- Support to full piped water scheme to make rural areas more civilized, help them move towards urbanization and to reduce the gap between urban and rural areas.
- In some special individual cases, Government will choose to pay most of the costs up to a limit of 90%.

In both cases, funds will be administered by the Bank and users will have to establish themselves into groups or under the form of a cooperative to apply for LOAN or GRANT.



3. Organizational consolidation, strengthening effectiveness of State management and human resource development

- Government bodies will not participate in production, construction or business activities. They only carry out their state management responsibility and provide advisory guidance to users.
- Concentrating responsibility of steering RWSS implementation in MARD but set up a clear division of responsibility among ministries, social organisations and good mechanism for co-ordination.

- Decentralising implementation to the appropriate lowest level in close connection with community organisations.
- Strengthening the effectiveness of state management through promulgation of the system of Improved legal and regulatory documents and its enforcement mechanism.
- Setting up a favorable legal environment to mobilise the participation of private and state owned enterprises in RWSS construction and services.
- Strengthening the training capacity at all levels including tertiary training institutions, professional secondary education schools, vocational centers.

4. Studying and Application of appropriate technology

- Reconsider and improve traditional technologies;
- Encourage application of advanced technologies to make contribution to rural industrialisation and modernisation and to narrow the gap in WSS between rural and urban areas;
- Users' attitudes and practices shall be taken into account and tested in research and development of technology;
- Research will be done to develop typical models and to standardise different types of water schemes of different scale in different regions;
- Information of different technologies, including both advantages and disadvantages, should be introduced to people for their choice and application.
- Technologies that are dangerous for health shall be discouraged.
- RWSS Sector will contribute to Water Resource Management through provision of data collected during the implementation of RWSS Program to the Water Resource Monitoring system.

What should be done to carry out the Strategy?

- Pilot implementation in 15 provinces during the first 2 years and to expand the models up to 46 provinces. These provinces may represent for different ecological areas.
- International assistant should be fully utilized in terms of : technical assistant, financial support and international experiences on RWSS.
- Develop IEC activities.
- Strengthen organisation and management capacity at all level.
- Draft and promulgate of legislative documents
- Human resource development for RWSS Sector.
- Establishment of common database for RWSS.

Where to get more information?

Support to the implementation of the NRWSSS

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Or

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DARD.