

Armenia - Water to Market Institutional Strengthening

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Overview

Identification

COUNTRY

Armenia

EVALUATION TITLE

Water to Market Institutional Strengthening

EVALUATION TYPE

Independent Performance Evaluation

ID NUMBER

MCC-ARM-MPR-WTM-WUS-v01

Version

VERSION DESCRIPTION

Edited clean data for internal use only

Overview

ABSTRACT

The Water to Market Activity is divided into two subactivities, the Improved Profitability of Water User Association Members Subactivity and the Institutional Strengthening Subactivity. The Institutional Strengthening Subactivity (ISSA) provided general technical support to water user associations (WUAs), the regional organizations that manage the distribution of and payment for irrigation water in Armenia. ISSA also provided assistance to three Water Supply Agencies (WSAs) that operate and maintain irrigation dams and pumping stations. The general aim of ISSA was to strengthen WUAs' and WSAs' managerial, technical, structural, and financial capacity and self-sufficiency. The intent of these improvements was to create more efficient and consistent irrigation supply for WUA members. ISSA also included an irrigation policy reform component, in which a reform strategy was developed through a participatory process with stakeholders such as WUA and government officials.

The WtM impact evaluation originally focused on WtM training, using a random assignment design to evaluate this WtM component. Initially, evaluations of the other three WtM components were not planned. However, MCC subsequently decided to conduct analyses of the effects of the other components to the extent possible using existing quantitative data sources. Although the analyses of WtM credit, ISSA, and PPM have important limitations, these additional analyses can still help document these components' implementation and provide suggestive evidence of whether they generated their intended effects. For each of the four components of the WtM Activity, we examine the following two broad sets of questions:

1. How was the component implemented? What were the characteristics of each component's participants, and how were these participants identified and recruited? What assistance was provided to participants through the component?
2. What were the impacts of the component? What were the impacts on practices or use of new technologies as a result of the component? What were the impacts on key outcomes such as household income and poverty?

We used a combination of quantitative and qualitative data to answer these research questions.

ISSA Evaluation Approach

For the ISSA evaluation, two data sources were used: (1) the Water User Association Administrative Survey and (2) the Water User Survey to compare WUA and water-user outcomes before ISSA to analogous outcomes after ISSA. This before-after design does not allow us to isolate the effect of ISSA from other factors that could have influenced WUAs' and water users' outcomes over this same time period, but it was the only viable option given the absence of a comparison group for the 44 WUAs assisted under the project.

UNITS OF ANALYSIS

Households, administrative data

KIND OF DATA

Administrative records data [adm]

TOPICS

Topic	Vocabulary	URI
Agriculture and Irrigation	MCC Sector	

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Rural areas in the 10 Armenian marzes excepting Yerevan.

UNIVERSE

Water User Surveys were conducted among households in the geographic service area of WUAs served by ISSA and covered the following domains: WUA membership and contracts, dispute resolution among water users, irrigation service fee collection, and WUA representative elections.

WUA Administration Surveys were conducted among all 44 WUAs and covered the following domains: WUA profile and basic characteristics, infrastructure and technical capacity, human resource capacity and wages, office space/equipment/maintenance of information, water intake, water delivery, water losses, energy consumption, financial characteristics, institutional arrangements, relationship with members and government

Producers and Sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

Name	Affiliation
Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.	

FUNDING

Name	Abbreviation	Role
Millennium Challenge Corporation	MCC	

Metadata Production

METADATA PRODUCED BY

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
Millennium Challenge Corporation	MCC		Metadata Entry

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MCC Compact and Program

COMPACT OR THRESHOLD

Armenia Compact

PROGRAM

The Institutional Strengthening Subactivity (ISSA), implemented by Mott MacDonald and VISTAA, provided general technical support to water user associations (WUAs), the regional organizations that manage the distribution of and payment for

irrigation water in Armenia. ISSA also provided assistance to three Water Supply Agencies (WSAs) that operate and maintain irrigation dams and pumping stations. The general aim of ISSA was to strengthen WUAs' and WSAs' managerial, technical, structural, and financial capacity and self-sufficiency. The intent of these improvements was to create more efficient and consistent irrigation supply for WUA members. ISSA also included an irrigation policy reform component, in which a reform strategy was developed through a participatory process with stakeholders such as WUA and government officials.

MCC SECTOR

Agriculture and Irrigation (Ag & Irr)

PROGRAM LOGIC

By the end of this component's implementation in late 2010, all 44 participating WUAs (as well as all three participating WSAs) had completed needs assessments and management improvement plans (MIPs), meeting the goals for the subactivity. In addition, all 44 WUAs received computers, geographic information systems (GIS), and furniture in exchange for completing the first five ISSA milestones, which included establishing an MIP working group and a detailed work plan, installing information boards, and holding representative meetings. Similarly, 227 enterprises and farmer groups were assisted under the PPM, thus slightly surpassing the component's revised target of 225 assisted groups.

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

To target beneficiaries for PPM assistance, ACDI compiled a list of registered small businesses operating in food production, processing, or marketing. Through this method, they found fewer than 200 possible beneficiary groups. After program implementers determined that there were likely far fewer than the original target of 300 registered enterprises that could benefit from PPM assistance, the target number of participants was reduced to 225 over the entire implementation period. To meet implementation targets, program implementers also targeted farmers' groups for assistance. Given the dearth of registered production and processing enterprises in Armenia, MCC and MCA-Armenia decided that ACDI specialists should also organize and assist informal groups of farmers. The objective of this assistance was to strengthen farmer groups' ability to work directly with newly established consolidation centers and recently trained fruit processors, thus strengthening new links in key value chains. By September 2011, ACDI had assisted 94 farmer groups (in addition to 133 enterprises), thus meeting its revised target of 225 assisted beneficiary groups.

Sampling

Study Population

Water User Surveys were conducted among households in the geographic service area of WUAs served by ISSA and covered the following domains: WUA membership and contracts, dispute resolution among water users, irrigation service fee collection, and WUA representative elections. WUA Administration Surveys were conducted among all 44 WUAs and covered the following domains: WUA profile and basic characteristics, infrastructure and technical capacity, human resource capacity and wages, office space/equipment/maintenance of information, water intake, water delivery, water losses, energy consumption, financial characteristics, institutional arrangements, relationship with members and government

Sampling Procedure

Water User Survey:

The total number of surveyed households in 2009 was 1,420 (480 for targeted WUAs and 940 for non-targeted WUAs), and the 2010 and 2011 surveys featured (or will feature) a similar number of surveys for targeted versus non-targeted WUAs. Under the survey's methodology, all targeted WUAs were surveyed in both 2009 and 2010, but only a sub-sample of non-targeted WUAs was surveyed in both 2009 and 2010.

Water User Association Administrative Survey:

The WUA Administrative Survey collected administrative information from all 44 Water User Associations.

Questionnaires

Overview

Water User Survey:

The total number of surveyed households in 2009 was 1,420 (480 for targeted WUAs and 940 for non-targeted WUAs), and the 2010 and 2011 surveys featured (or will feature) a similar number of surveys for targeted versus non-targeted WUAs. Under the survey's methodology, all targeted WUAs were surveyed in both 2009 and 2010, but only a sub-sample of non-targeted WUAs was surveyed in both 2009 and 2010.

Water User Association Administrative Survey:

The WUA Administrative Survey collected administrative information from all 44 Water User Associations.

Data Collection

Data Collection Dates

Start	End	Cycle
2007	2010	WUA Administrative Survey
2009-11	2009-12	WUA User Survey 1
2010-11	2010-12	WUA User Survey 2

Data Collection Mode

Other [oth]

Data Collection Notes

Water User Survey:

Water User Surveys were conducted by AVAG Solutions in 2009 and 2010 among households in the geographic service area of WUAs served by ISSA and covered the following domains: WUA membership and contracts, dispute resolution among water users, irrigation service fee collection, and WUA representative elections. The total number of surveyed households in 2009 and 2010 was 1,420 (480 for the 8 targeted WUAs and 940 for 36 non-targeted WUAs). Although the same households were not surveyed in 2009 and 2010, the same number of households in each community were surveyed in both years.

WUA Administrative Survey:

Collected by AVAG Solutions for the 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010 fiscal years, WUA administrative data provided annual estimates of service fee collection rates, WUA income and expenditures, and other important performance metrics. The survey was administered through gathering information from the State Water Committee of the Ministry of Territorial Administration of the Republic of Armenia, as well as through direct contact with the WUAs.

Questionnaires

Water User Survey:

The total number of surveyed households in 2009 was 1,420 (480 for targeted WUAs and 940 for non-targeted WUAs), and the 2010 and 2011 surveys featured (or will feature) a similar number of surveys for targeted versus non-targeted WUAs. Under the survey's methodology, all targeted WUAs were surveyed in both 2009 and 2010, but only a sub-sample of non-targeted WUAs was surveyed in both 2009 and 2010.

Water User Association Administrative Survey:

The WUA Administrative Survey collected administrative information from all 44 Water User Associations.

Data Collectors

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation
AVAG Solutions	AVAG	

Data Processing

No content available

Data Appraisal

No content available