



## Learning and Sharing Workshop

# Governance for Sustainable Sanitation Services Central America

*27-29 January 2010, San Salvador, El Salvador*

From 27 to 29 January, IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre in collaboration with RRAS-CA (Red Regional de Agua y Saneamiento de Centro-América) and RAS-ES (Red de Agua y Saneamiento de El Salvador) organise a learning and sharing workshop on governance for sustainable sanitation services for Central America, supported by the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC). The workshop will take place in San Salvador. The objective of the workshop is to bring together experiences from the Central American region on efforts to strengthen governance for sustainable sanitation services, and draw lessons from these.

### **Background**

During LatinoSan, held in November 2007 over 600 professionals from Latin America discussed a wide range of issues related to attaining the sanitation challenges in the region. The declaration of Cali reiterated the commitment of political leaders in the region to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals on sanitation, and their contribution to the International Year of Sanitation in 2008. During the event, a number of key issues emerged:

- Although coverage to sanitation in the region continues to rise, still a significant number of people do not have such access. These tend to be located in the poorer countries, particularly in Central America, and are often the most vulnerable groups, including indigenous communities, and urban slum dwellers. Better emphasis is needed on how priorities in investment are set.
- Sustainability. With a relatively high coverage level, more attention should be needed on maintaining sanitation services. The region has an increasing set of experiences with mechanisms to support the ongoing sustainability of water supply services, particularly at decentralised local government level. There is an expressed demand and interest to extend such mechanisms to sanitation as well.
- This also includes the environmental sustainability. As a more urbanised region, a higher percentage of the population has access to waterborne sanitation options. At the same time, water resources conflicts are increasing. Hence, there is a need to develop sanitation within an IWRM framework, not only looking at on-site options, but also seeing how even off-site options can be developed and managed in an IWRM framework.

Based on the above, researchers and practitioners in the region have been looking into underlying governance arrangements for sanitation, for example at the role of local governments in planning of sanitation interventions, or the links between water resources authorities and sanitation development plans. The results of this work point to the need to further strengthen governance arrangements at decentralised level, both for prioritizing further investments in sanitation, as well as for planning for sustainability.

### **Learning and sharing workshop**

In response to this need, a learning and sharing workshop is organised which aims to bring together practitioners from the region to share lessons learnt on how to address practical issues of governance in their programmes and to identify lessons learnt.

During the workshop, participants are asked to present their experiences in addressing issues of governance based on their own programmes. The event will have an interactive character and through participatory sessions, as a group we will analyse underlying governance factors and identify lessons learnt.

### **Call for abstracts**

We would like to invite practitioners, programme managers and researchers involved in the field of sanitation and governance to submit an abstract of a paper in Spanish (250 words max.) before 30 September to [brussee@irc.nl](mailto:brussee@irc.nl). Participants can submit either a practice-paper (short 4 page papers, reflecting practical experiences) or research-papers (papers of up to 10 pages, based on research into the field of governance and sanitation).

Please indicate which questions your paper intends to address and provide with your abstract, the name, title, affiliation, full mailing address, e-mail address, phone and fax numbers of the main contact and the presenting author.

The papers should focus on one or more of the following topics:

- Governance of sanitation
- Financing sanitation
- Participatory planning approaches for sanitation
- Institutions for sanitation
- Linkages between sanitation and IWRM
- Any other topics related to governance of sanitation

Authors of papers accepted for inclusion in the programme will be notified by 15 October 2009, and will be invited to submit a full paper before 30 November 2009. Papers will be reviewed by subject specialists. Authors will then be asked to submit a final version addressing the reviewers' comments before 15 January 2010. Final versions will be published in the workshop proceedings and on the IRC website.

### **Further information**

The workshop will be restricted to a maximum of 25 participants, and is limited only to those whose papers are accepted. Workshop participation is free of charge. Participants need to cover their own travel, visa, accommodation costs and meals (except for lunches), but financial support will be available for selected authors. Selection will be done on the basis of the quality of the draft papers.

For further information and to register for the workshop please contact [brussee@irc.nl](mailto:brussee@irc.nl).