

Putting It All Together

Water Supply and Sanitation (WATSAN) Toolbox

GTZ provides technical assistance to DILG so that local government officials and staff can benefit from a more holistic training program on water supply and sanitation tailor-made to their needs and situation.



The Water Supply and Sanitation Program Management Office (WSS-PMO) of DILG now follow a structured training program to maximize the learning outcomes of local government officials and staff.

The Water Supply and Sanitation (WATSAN) Toolbox is part of the broader capacity development program being pursued by DILG for LGUs. It is hinged on a holistic training framework that veers away from the “piece-meal” and “one-size-fits-all” approach of the past.

The Bigger Picture

Local government officials and staff involved in the water and sanitation sector must continue upgrading their competencies to ensure that communities have adequate access to water supply and sanitation services. These LGUs turn to government agencies like the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) for the much needed training and technical assistance. They rely on such agencies to provide correct and appropriate training interventions suited to their needs and prevailing situation.

However, not so long ago, the DILG had to grapple with its own barriers vis-a-vis addressing the capacity development needs of LGUs. The perennial challenge of limited budget and resource base prompted DILG to diversify the way it conducts and manages its training programs to maximize learning outcomes. For this, the DILG sought the assistance of the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) Water and Sanitation Program.

Yet instead of merely helping DILG with what it wanted, GTZ went further and offered DILG what it needed—a Water and Sanitation (WATSAN) Training Framework focused on the holistic development of LGU capacities. This entailed a paradigm shift, one that situates training programs in the context of a much larger and continuously evolving capacity development package.

With a broader approach, training inputs now cover conceptualization, development, operation, and management of water supply and sanitation systems.

Tailor-made for LGUs

Guided by the framework, GTZ worked with the Water Supply and Sanitation Program Management Office (WSS-PMO) of DILG in coming-up with the Water Supply and Sanitation Capacity Development Program for LGUs. GTZ made sure that the program is indeed tailor-made for LGUs through mapping and needs analysis exercises.



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An initial output of the program is the Water Supply and Sanitation (WATSAN) Toolbox—a consolidation of water supply and sanitation capacity development products and services offered by the DILG. Following the new training framework, some of the courses offered now include:

- ◆ Introduction to the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)
- ◆ Gender and IWRM
- ◆ Municipal Water Supply, Sewerage and Sanitation Sector Plan Preparation
- ◆ Community Organizing/Organizational Development
- ◆ Environment and Health
- ◆ Safe Water and Health

The toolbox provides pertinent information on the courses offered such as target participants, objectives, learning outcomes, course outline, methodologies, duration and pre-training requirements.

Decentralizing Expertise

GTZ and the WSS-PMO are now developing training modules as a way to document and standardize the training programs consolidated in the WATSAN Toolbox. Presently, there are only nine (9) trainers from the WSS-PMO.

Clearly these trainers need to replicate themselves to better address the expanding needs of the LGUs especially in the light of the holistic training framework offered by DILG.

Through such modules, coupled with the rigorous conduct of training of trainers, the DILG aims to expand its resource-base not only within DILG national and regional knowledge centers but with other agencies as well such as the National Water Resources Board (NWRB), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), among others.

Presently, DILG, through the WSS-PMO is collaborating with the Local Government Academy (LGA) in marketing and promoting the DILG training program

to more LGUs who have yet to experience DILG's new brand of capacity development products and services. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been forged to formalize the cooperation between the two agencies.

Upon GTZ's advise, the WSS-PMO is also looking at integrating the gender dimension in the training framework. In fact they have undergone gender workshops and orientations to better understand how to mainstream gender in the program. This is in keeping with GTZ's participative process of doing things wherein most of the technical inputs come from the WSS-PMO and not from outside consultants.

The challenge at hand is pilot-testing the training program to determine its appropriateness and relevance to LGU needs. The lessons to be gained from this experience will be an important input to the process of developing the Water Supply and Sanitation Roadmap pursued by GTZ along with major stakeholders of the water supply and sanitation sector.

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