



Partner districts are within the states of Bihar and Odisha

IRC India Programme

IRC is engaged in strengthening water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) systems in both rural and urban India.

In rural areas, IRC's work is centred on improving the governance and management of WASH services through a series of interventions rooted at the local and community level. IRC is engaged in carrying out assessments of available budgets and existing capacities, across multiple tiers of governance, for delivery of WASH services. Using this information, IRC is building capacities of civil society organisations, to effectively plan and advocate for their needs.

In urban areas, IRC is engaged in assisting stakeholders in identifying and quantifying problems regarding faecal waste management. The rapid assessment tool - the faecal sludge calculator - enables stakeholders to evaluate the sanitation situation, locate the challenges in the service chain and work towards possible solutions. IRC contributes to knowledge creation on sanitation through the multi-stakeholder dialogue series called Insights. In addition, IRC carries out programme/project evaluations on an assignment basis.

Focus elements in India

<p>INSTITUTIONS</p> <p>The aim is to understand the institutions responsible for WATSAN service delivery. This includes assessing the adequacy of the available human resources and their capacities to deliver services as per national and international commitments. Further, understanding the nature of capacity building initiatives available for them.</p>	<p>FINANCE</p> <p>The focus is on understanding the life-cycle costs of WASH service infrastructure (over one-time development cost) in financial planning. The aim is to capture the flow of funds to the local body in order to enable effective planning for WATSAN.</p>
<p>PLANNING</p> <p>The aim is to build capacities of civil society organisations to effectively plan for their WATSAN needs. This includes imparting knowledge on the relevant policies and regulations, the line department and the concerned official, and, the funds available.</p>	<p>LEARNING AND ADAPTATION</p> <p>IRC India will continue to capture and disseminate best practices and share experiences from focus and partner districts at national level platforms.</p>

Project Partners

Akvo, Wetlands International, Nidan, Gram-Utthan, Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability

Collaborative Partners

WaterAid, Water For People, India Sanitation Coalition, Taru Leading Edge

About IRC

IRC is an international think-and-do tank that works with national and local governments, NGOs, entrepreneurs and people around the world to find long-term solutions to the global water, sanitation and hygiene services (WASH) crisis. It was founded in 1968 by the Dutch government upon request of the World Health Organization as a WHO Collaborating Centre. Currently, IRC is established as an autonomous, independent not-for-profit foundation with its headquarters in The Netherlands. It has a presence in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, India and Uganda.

IRC is dedicated to working towards achieving universal access to sustainable WASH services (SDG 6) by focusing on building the government's ability to deliver and maintain water services. This is in sharp contrast to the more conventional charity-based solutions that primarily focus on the installation of hardware. IRC aims to tackle the global chronic waste of resources in the WASH sector, a consequence of short-term and piecemeal interventions resulting in approximately one-third of rural water systems around the world not working.

IRC's approach



Change logic of IRC's Theory of Change

IRC's systems approach believes that sustained WASH services can be delivered through strong and competent national systems. Systems are the networks of people, organisations, institutions, and resources (the "actors" and "factors") necessary to deliver services. They include both hardware and software; management and governance.

The systems approach is grounded in the practical business of identifying and strengthening the necessary sub-systems or the 'building blocks' to deliver effective services. Central to the systems thinking is that - for any service to be delivered, all building blocks must be present and working, at least to a minimum level.

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