Learning and Practice Alliance (LPA) with in RiPPLE Project

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What is RiPPLE

- A 5 year *consortium research program* that aims to advance evidence-based learning on water supply sanitation and hygiene sector
- *Action research* that focuses on three key sector themes and two component
- Involves *capacity building* of the sector
Thematic Areas & Cross Cutting Issues

Thematic areas
- Growth
- Finance
- Governance & Planning

Components
- Sanitation & Hygiene
- Mapping
- Capacity building
Partners

• Four **Consortium Partners** (ODI, IRC, WAE and IDR of AAU)

• Twelve **Network Partners**: Oromiya WRDB, BGR WRDB, SNNPR WRDB, R&D dep. in MoWR, SJC in AAU, WSP, ECWP, British Geological Survey, IDS of Sussex, Meta Meta consulting, IWMI, Practical Action/Intermediate Technology Consulting.
Objectives of RiPPLE

• Creating research structures and processes that enable effective collaboration across all partners, institutions and key stakeholders

• Establishing a set of research program activities that lead to strengthened sector financing approach and delivery of WSS services that maximize opportunities for pro-poor growth
Cont’d

• Building long-term approaches to capacity building that reinforce research capacity development in Ethiopia
Why Learning and Practice Alliance? (LPA)

- Little integration between different sectors actors for lesson sharing
- Research and innovation takes place in isolation and used mostly for academic consumption
- Ownership of research and innovation is not created outside of the pilot team
- Limited opportunity of scaling up
- Documentation of good & bad practices is lacking
What do learning and practice alliances do?

• Action research
  – Research carried out by practitioners to find practical solution to their problems supported by researchers (7 case studies)

• Communication and sharing
  – Frequent sharing and discussion within and between platforms of experiences and lessons learned

• Dissemination
  – Dissemination of lessons and results outside of the LPA

• Documentation
Steps followed to set up LPAs

1) Individual discussion with different institutions by RF with the support of RiPPLE team

2) Undertake workshop with the participation of government sectors, NGOs and academic institutions to introduce the RiPPLE Program and LPA concept
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3) Some institutions have assigned focal persons which serves in the day to day activities of RiPPLE in relation to their respective bureaus

4) Formally establish LPA with working modalities
Working Modality of LPAs

• ToR is developed:

- The structure of the LPA
- The Objective of the LPA
- The Roles and Responsibilities of the LPA
- Member organizations
- The Time/Frequency to meet
Structure of LPAs

There are three different structures in the three regions where the program is being implemented:

- Oromiya: General Assembly and Research team
- BG: General Assembly, Research Advisory & Review Board and Research Team
- SNNPR: General Assembly, Steering Committee & Research Team
Focal points:
- Person nominated from LPA member institutions
- Based on particular research topic
- Contact person in particular institutions for the research teams
- Facilitate interaction/collaboration and data collection

E. Haraghe zonal-level Platform:
- Wide group of stakeholders
- Oversee LPA process
- Identify research areas
- Support research process
- Engaged in dissemination, use and outscaling of research results
- Knowledge and experience sharing
- Joint planning and working between groups involved in LPA

Research results brought back to platform for:
- Review
- Communication and dissemination
- Use in implementation
- Identify further research topics

Research teams:
- Carry out research activities
- Based on topics
- Various timeframes
- Various membership
Structure of LPA

- General Assembly
- Technical Research Group
- Steering Committee
Means of Communication

• Quarterly published news letter
• Info sheet
• Website : www.rippleethiopia.org
• Intranet: www.rippleethiopia.org/intranet
Success

- High interest from sector actors as there is gap in learning and practice alliance in the sector
- Identification of researchable area with LPA members
- Undertaking research with the participation of LPA members
- The platform has created a good information sharing opportunity among members
Challenges

• The concept of LPA was understood by members slowly as it is a new concept.
• Linking research to implementation is a challenge as there is no such experience in the sector (The project is unique in nature).
• In the country, as the gathering of practitioners is not well organized/integrated and did not bear concrete fruit. However, LPA approach is trying to prove the other way round.
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• Integration of all the three thematic areas in all three region where RiPPLE is working
Lessons learned

• Frequent communications and information exchange among LPA members keeps them live during the life of the program (e.g. participation in the process of action research, distribution of relevant documents like proceedings is very important)

• RiPPLE news letter, info sheets and Website is very important for the successful implementation of the program in the country

• Keeping members participation at all stages of the process is very important
Cont’d

• The role of the facilitator in following up of the LPAs activities is critical
Learning, Scaling-up? Innovation?

- Learning is the process by which new knowledge is created in groups or individuals.
- Innovation is the creation/introduction of new ideas, goods, services, and practices which are intended to be useful.
- “The act of introducing something new”
- Scaling-up: replication, expansion, increased coverage.

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THANK YOU