INTRODUCTION

Nicaragua’s National Human Development Plan 2018-2021 has, as a central pillar, to increase access to water and sanitation (WSS).

The Fondo de Inversión Social de Emergencia (FISE, by its acronym in Spanish) is the government entity in charge of overseeing rural water and sanitation services in the country.

IMPACT EVALUATION

The results show that the intervention was effective in improving the management capacity of the water and sanitation committees (CAPS). According to the CAPS score, on a scale of 1 to 6, the intervention resulted in an increase from 2.54 to 2.92 (+.38 points).

Three out of the five components improved: formal operation (+.46 points), financial stability (+.47 points), and system operation and maintenance (+.50 points).

RESULTS

Although short-term, the results are promising. All components, except number of technicians, improved. Noteworthy are improvements on: having equipment, an annual assigned budget, funding for expenses related to trips and fuel, and internet services.

The results suggest improvements in the institutional capacity of CAPS in charge of overseeing services in rural areas.

Since the program targeted all municipalities in the country, and the experimental design is at the community level, it is not possible to provide causal estimates of the intervention at the UMAS level.

CONCLUSIONS AND LIMITATIONS

This impact evaluation analyzes the PROSASR Program in Nicaragua. PROSASR has the following objectives:

a) Increase sustainable access to water and sanitation services in poor, rural regions.

b) Improve the capacity of the water and sanitation committees (CAPS, by its acronym in Spanish) to respond rapidly, and effectively, to an emergency.

Component I had, as a central objective, to promote capacity-building of water and sanitation municipality units (UMAS) responsible of offering technical assistance to water and sanitation committees (CAPS) in rural areas.

The indices relating to sanitation improved:

-1.5 PERCENTAGE POINTS

Open-defecation experienced a decrease equivalent to -32%.

+6.8 PERCENTAGE POINTS

Access to improved sanitation experienced an increase equivalent to +3.54%.

+3.5 PERCENTAGE POINTS

Access to unshared sanitation facilities experienced an increase equivalent to +4.5%.

Conclusions and limitations

The PROSASR has the following objectives:

a) Increase the provision of safe drinking water and sanitation.

b) Improve the capacity of the water and sanitation committees (CAPS, by its acronym in Spanish) to respond rapidly, and effectively, to an emergency.

Component I had, as a central objective, to promote capacity-building of water and sanitation municipality units (UMAS) responsible of offering technical assistance to water and sanitation committees (CAPS) in rural areas.

The results show that the intervention was effective in improving the management capacity of the water and sanitation committees (CAPS). According to the CAPS score, on a scale of 1 to 6, the intervention resulted in an increase from 2.54 to 2.92 (+.38 points).

Three out of the five components improved: formal operation (+.46 points), financial stability (+.47 points), and system operation and maintenance (+.50 points).

Aside from the results on diarrhea, all effects reported here exclude contaminated control communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Expand funds for the implementation of an additional survey, in one- or two-year’s time. Given that the AVAR training existed recently, the effects of the intervention, especially at the household level, may not have fully materialized.

Long-term effects are expected in: increases in a household’s access to safely managed water, in reduction in diarrhea, and in access to clean sanitation and hygiene.

MAIN LESSON

To a large degree, measures of institutional strengthening and capacity-building in rural water and sanitation sectors can have positive effects in improving the management and operation of rural water and sanitation providers.

LOOKING FORWARD

If an additional data-collection exercise were to take place, an exploration into long-term effects is needed, as this remains the central objective driving improvements in the sustainability of water and sanitation services.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS 2015-2019

Throughout fiscalized trainings, the Aprendizaje Virtual de Resultados (AVAR, by its acronym in Spanish) was designed to improve management and technical capacity, and generate action-plans to improve conditions within communities.

Personal experience at the municipality, and community, also received support from water and sanitation regional advisors (ARAS, by its acronym in Spanish), who assisted in the implementation of the components of PROSASR.

In addition to improving CAPS management, emphasis was also placed on a clean environment and improved hygiene.

The results show that the intervention was effective in improving the management capacity of the water and sanitation committees (CAPS). According to the CAPS score, on a scale of 1 to 6, the intervention resulted in an increase from 2.54 to 2.92 (+.38 points).

Three out of the five components improved: formal operation (+.46 points), financial stability (+.47 points), and system operation and maintenance (+.50 points).

Although short-term, the results are promising. All components, except number of technicians, improved. Noteworthy are improvements on: having equipment, an annual assigned budget, funding for expenses related to trips and fuel, and internet services.

The results suggest improvements in the institutional capacity of CAPS in charge of overseeing services in rural areas.

Since the program targeted all municipalities in the country, and the experimental design is at the community level, it is not possible to provide causal estimates of the intervention at the UMAS level.

The three components which improved in the evaluation are:

-46 POINTS

Formal operation (19% or .35 standard deviations).

-47 POINTS

Financial stability (22% or .45 standard deviations).

-50 POINTS

System operation and maintenance (19% or .33 standard deviations).

No statistically significant effects were found on the following two components:

+28 POINTS

Adequate protection of water source (9% or .18 standard deviations).

+18 POINTS

Adaptation criteria for water supply (8% or .18 standard deviations).

IMPACT EVALUATION: SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT (PROSASR, BY ITS ACRONYM IN SPANISH)

EVALUACIÓN DE IMPACTO: PROYECTO SOSTENIBLE (PROSASR, POR SUS ACRÓNIMOS EN ESPAÑOL)

RESUMEN DE RESULTADOS 2015-2019

de servicios

mejoraron: gestión del prestador

operation

la intervención fue efectiva para

all municipalities in the country,

Humano 2018-2021 of Nicaragua

Sobresalen los componentes de

de Agua Potable y Saneamiento

nivel comunidad, no es posible

RESULTADOS

IMPACT EVALUATION

IN ADDITION TO IMPROVING CAPS MANAGEMENT, EMPHASIS WAS ALSO PLACED ON A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT AND IMPROVED HYGIENE:

-2.2 PERCENTAGE POINTS

Presence of diarrhea had a decrease equivalent to -16%.

THE THREE COMPONENTS WHICH IMPROVED IN THE EVALUATION ARE:

+46 POINTS

Formal operation (19% or .35 standard deviations).

+47 POINTS

Financial stability (22% or .45 standard deviations).

+50 POINTS

System operation and maintenance (19% or .33 standard deviations).

NO STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS WERE FOUND ON THE FOLLOWING TWO COMPONENTS:

+28 POINTS

Adequate protection of water source (9% or .18 standard deviations).

+18 POINTS

Adaptation criteria for water supply (8% or .18 standard deviations).

MAIN LESSON

To a large degree, measures of institutional strengthening and capacity-building in rural water and sanitation sectors can have positive effects in improving the management and operation of rural water and sanitation providers.

LOOKING FORWARD

If an additional data-collection exercise were to take place, an exploration into long-term effects is needed, as this remains the central objective driving improvements in the sustainability of water and sanitation services.