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PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

INNOVATIONS FOR
SUCCESSFUL SOCIETIES
Building Institutions, Escaping Development Traps

Improving Government Accountability and Leading Reform

Innovations for Successful Societies (ISS) helps public servants, policy makers, and scholars to share institution-building strategies that work in especially challenging contexts. Interview-based case studies facilitate these exchanges and provide a basis for scholarly research. To date, ISS has published over 80 reformer-focused cases, which are available for free on a web repository. In its first full year of operation, over 30,000 people in 177 countries have used these web resources. Governments have tapped the materials to learn from each other, inspire discussion in their ranks, and recall the steps they took to implement a reform. Universities and training programs have used the cases in the classroom to help engage students in the operational and strategic aspects of public sector reform.

Incentives, Political Will and Getting Things Done: Bangalore, India

Reforms in Bangalore, India, a little over a decade ago, illustrate the interplay between policies, incentives and implementation. In the 1980s and 1990s, the city's rapid population growth and burgeoning business sector strained municipal services. Municipal government failed to rise to meet the challenges until 1999 when visionary reformers created new structures to improve responsiveness, engaging the private sector and the media. "Keeping Up with a Fast-Moving City: Service Delivery in Bangalore, India, 1999-2004" is one of eight ISS case studies on India and one of the many in the City Management line of research.

Building Capacity, Changing Norms: Madagascar

Madagascar president Marc Ravalomanana won office under the slogan "rapid and sustainable development," but by 2004, two years into his presidency, progress had been frustratingly slow. His chief of staff, Henri Roger Ranaivoson, led hundred-day projects to increase rice production in

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four of the country's 22 administrative regions in response to a steep drop in production that threatened the livelihoods of millions of Malagasy. A recent ISS case study profiles this program, which was extended to central ministries and other regions as well as across a variety of sectors, including family planning, local tax collection and birth registration. Aspects of these Rapid Results projects had lasting impact despite a change in political leadership.

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