



INNOVATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL SOCIETIES

Quenching Thirst: Delivering Water to Rural Morocco

Despite a decade of investment, in 2004, Morocco still struggled to meet its goal of near universal access to potable water. Millions of Moroccans faced health risks associated with poor-quality water, and women and children had to devote much of their time to hauling water from far-flung wells and streams. To speed up progress, the national water utility began to develop public-private partnership contracts to expand and manage water supply in a cost-effective manner. By 2014, the percentage of rural Moroccans with access to potable water had soared to 94% from 61% a decade earlier.

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Moroccan town on the edge of the Sahara. Photo by Martyn E. Jones.

Where Credit is Due: Microfinance Regulatory Reform in Tunisia

In the wake of the 2011 civil uprising that toppled Tunisia's long-time authoritarian government, Interim Finance Minister Jaloul Ayed wanted to expand access of the poor to microfinance loans. He organized a team of staff members and external consultants to assess past policy and propose new ideas. The system they put in place opened the door to private-sector lenders under the watch of a new supervisory authority. Their work enabled Tunisia's microfinance sector to move toward a market-based system, although it also disrupted the existing industry. In 2015, the new system was poised to expand services for Tunisia's poorer citizens.

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ISS Featured Interview

In a 2009 interview with ISS, **Ek Sonn Chan**, the general director of the Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority in Cambodia, discusses his role in providing clean and affordable water to residents. He describes the reforms he implemented, including restructured management, installation of meters, and an automatic billing system.



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Phone: +1 609-258-5258 | Fax: + 1 609.258.7762
iss@princeton.edu | successfulsocieties.princeton.edu

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