

# Harnessing the Potential of Private Providers: Policy and Regulatory Issues

Introduction to the Plenary  
Discussion

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# What are the Challenges?

- Emergence of “new roles” for government, vis a vis NSS actors but:
  - Lack of trust between government and NSS
  - Lack of knowledge and also “misknowledge” about what each is doing
  - Incentives for all parties sometimes do not encourage partnerships
  - Lack of organization and capacity in the private sector (but attempts to organize)
  - Lack of government skills and capacity to play new roles
  - If policy frameworks do exist then, may be lacking operational mechanisms
  - Decentralization impacts: may be more open thinking but also requires capacity at different levels
  - Issue particularly acute in fragile states - how to work with states that do not have population’s interest at heart

# Questions asked by Stakeholders

- How can we best develop national policy frameworks to guide relations between state and NSS sectors?
- How do we translate policy frameworks into practice?
- How can we nurture trust and constructive dialogue between state and NSS sectors?
- Is it possible to organize the NSS better to facilitate dialogue?
- How can we ensure a better mix of regulatory approaches?

# Suggestions for work, activities and products

- Develop and maintain a web-based inventory of NSS policies
- Conduct country case studies and/or develop review papers on specific & innovative NSS policies or regulatory approaches
- Develop & disseminate guidance on best practice in policy and regulation
- Help develop local capacity be more effective stewards
- Map operational policies at the district level
- Support regulatory impact assessments
- Develop database of experts for TA in this area

# Questions for the meeting to consider

- Which of the challenges are most critical and most widespread?
- Which issues should we focus upon in the first instance?
- Which of the suggested types of work would be most useful and feasible?