

# Innovative Project Story

## India: West Bengal Drinking Water Sector Improvement Project

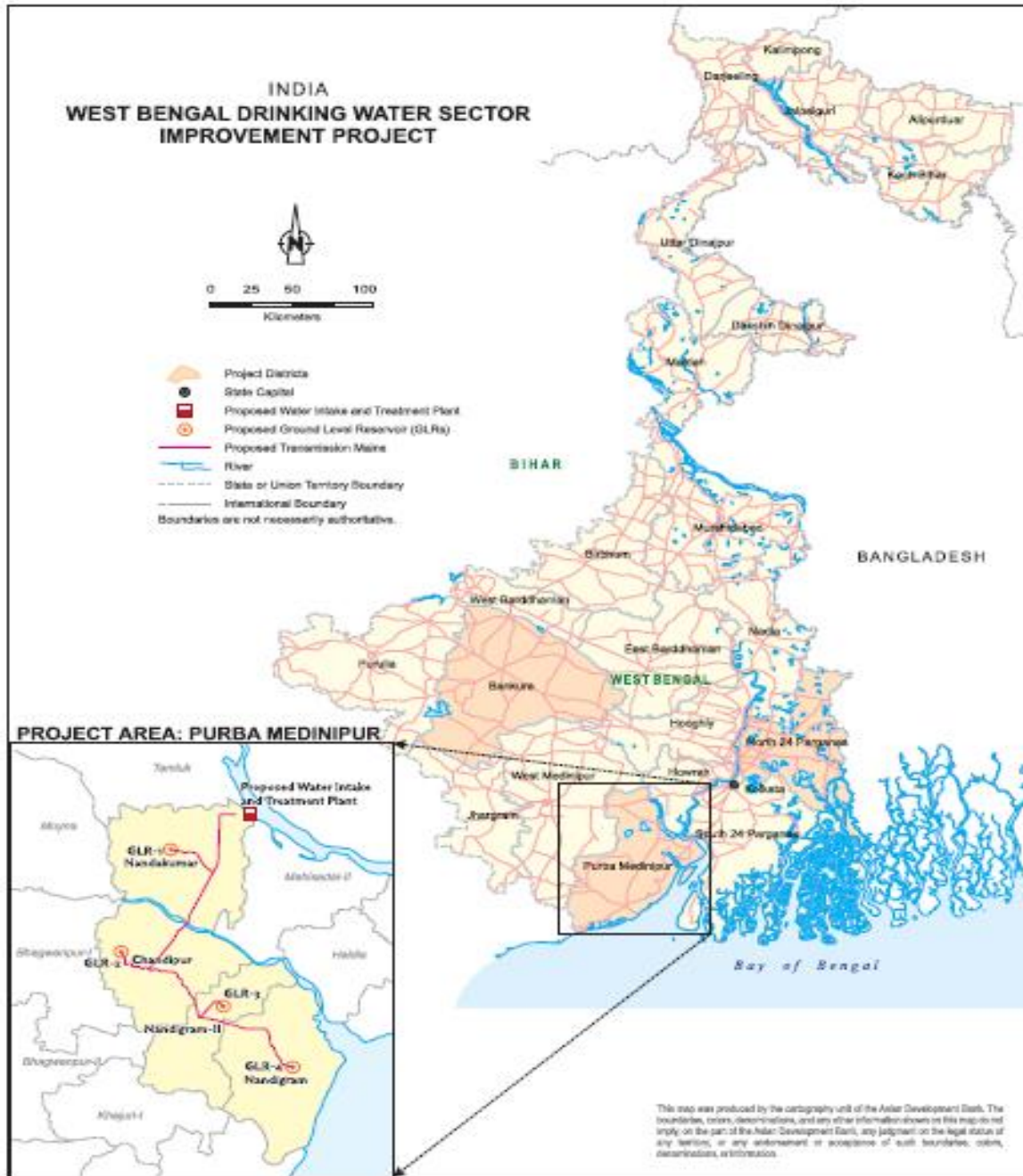
— Day 2 group session

Challenges of Preparing Innovative Project AND  
Meeting Ambitious Project Readiness Targets

Neeta Pokhrel

Asian Development Bank





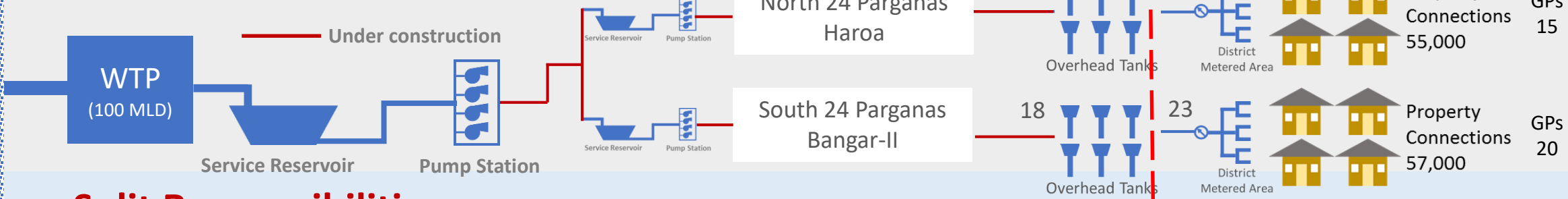
Approved in 2018; Total Project Cost \$354 million  
(ADB Financing: \$240 m loan and \$5 m grant)

## Innovations

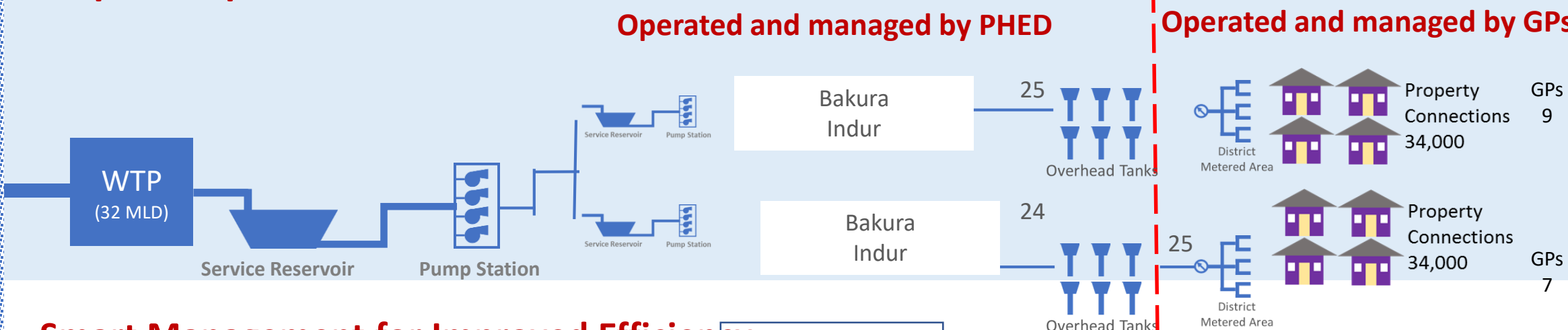
- Grid-based and district wide schemes with integrated planning to provide drinking water to over 1.65 million rural population (bulk system able to supply to 2.5 million)
- 70lpcd metered continuous water supplied through household-connections on a district metering area basis
- Split Innovative institutional framework for asset management and service delivery with bulk supply by PHED, and distribution supply by Gram Panchayats
- Smart water management for bulk and distribution supply for a more reliable, resilient, and efficient, service delivery and monitoring
- Highly inclusive: 33% women skilled and employed to operate the services.



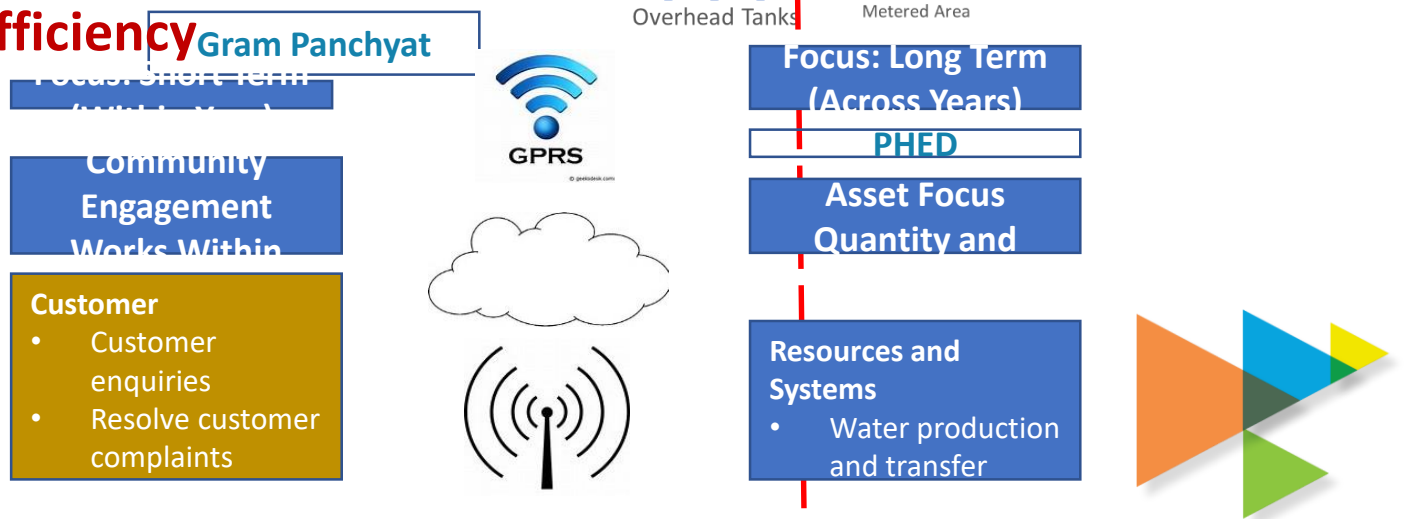
# Grid-based Schemes for the Districts



## Split Responsibilities



## Smart Management for Improved Efficiency and Service Delivery



# Lessons and Story Behind the Story

## Result

- Innovative project with very high project readiness at approval
- Ahead of projected progress targets- 9 out of total 10 works packages awarded; final works package at financial evaluation stage; all loan and grant consultants fully mobilized; and PMU and PIUs fully staffed.

## Lessons

Innovative, well designed and highly ready project can go hand in hand. Lessons:

- Invest time and resources in planning, survey and data gathering, alternatives assessment and detailed design
- Use own consultants and resources upfront,
- Staff PMU and PIUs early
- Consult with stakeholders extensively
- Know implementing agency capacity and supplement with good quality consultants
- Match design and procurement packaging with local contractor capacities and appetite
- Prepare for safeguards management - clearances, approvals, land, etc.

