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**Box 1 Guiding principles of the Rural Health Program in Thatta District**

- Building partnerships with all health stakeholders, including public, nongovernmental, and private providers; non-health-sector stakeholders and communities.
- Strengthening district health systems through participatory planning, effective monitoring, and improving support systems.
- Engaging and empowering communities by increasing their involvement in decision-making and in taking responsibility for their health needs.
- Providing technical support and serving as a catalyst of change and a facilitator without engaging in direct implementation and delivery of services.