



"I caught them with their trousers down; and made them shovel it". Mrs. Weizero Belayinesh Worku

Ethiopia: Open-air defecators pick up their own punishment

They have a new way of doing things in Fura kebele (village) in Ethiopia. They call it community-led total sanitation (CLTS), but part of it is much simpler than that.

No defecation in the open – not ever

Some people in this Ethiopian village thought that the new rule did not apply to them and carried on as they did before. But men caught with their trousers around their ankles soon wished that they had obeyed community wishes. They found themselves carrying their own shit to the nearest latrine.

Weizero (Mrs.) Belayinesh Worku, pictured, is one of the natural community leaders who promised to make her village defecation free when CLTS was introduced in February 2007. And she showed she meant it by confronting offenders in the act.

"After the CLTS approach was introduced, each household in our village dug a latrine of its own. For passers-by, we constructed seven communal latrines along the main road to the market place.



Belayinesh is the sanitation champion. Photo: Plan Ethiopia

"After all these efforts, I found four men at different times defecating in open fields in our village. I ordered them to shovel it with their hands and take it into the nearby toilet. As I caught them with their trousers down, they didn't resist; they only begged me to allow them to handle their shit with leaves. I allowed them and they shovelled it with leaves into the toilet."

Weizero Belayinesh is not the only hero in this kebele in Shebedino Wereda, part of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region in the south-west of Ethiopia.

Another villager Jemal Worku says, "I found passers-by preparing to defecate in open fields. I shouted loudly and stopped them before they defecated. I am always on the watch-out to keep our village clean and free from open defecation."

Belayinesh and Jemal have become two guardians of sanitation and hygiene and have called on all villagers to join them.

Ato Argachew Boa, Chairperson of Fura kebele has promised to continue to improve the quality of sanitation facilities. In their efforts, the community has received support from Plan Ethiopia, Water Action, and local Wereda Health and Water Offices.

Health Extension Worker, Assefash Dichtu, is in no doubt of the importance of the changes. "In our village, open defecation is becoming history."

Matebu Tadesse, Plan Ethiopia, Peter McIntyre

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No subsidies, no compulsion - but community initiative sends sanitation figures soaring

The first eight villages in Shebedino Wereda, Ethiopia, adopted community-led total sanitation (CLTS) in February 2007. Less than three months later it had been extended into 57 villages and 1,436 more households had constructed pit latrines on their own initiative.

Ato Getinet Kassa who is head of the Health Office in Shebedino Wereda notes that all 1,265 households in Fura kebele now have latrines, and that 465 of these were constructed after CLTS was introduced. In Taremesa, 627 latrines were built, raising the number of households with latrines from 28% before CLTS to 71% now.

Neglibile cost

Plan Ethiopia has supported this initiative at negligible cost, around US\$ 2,000 to train community natural leaders, Village Health Agents, Health Extension Workers

and staff from partner institutions. In the past, Plan used to spend about US\$ 25 per household for san plat latrine provision alone. To support the introduction of 1,436 latrines would therefore have cost more than US\$ 35,000. Today there are no subsidies! No compulsion! Communities are doing it on their own initiative at their own cost. They look determined and enthusiastic to make their villages free from open defecation.

There is also a good relationship between the different actors: Plan Ethiopia, Water Action, Shebedino Wereda Health and Water Offices, Community Natural Leaders and communities. The evidence suggests that CLTS makes a difference in sanitation and hygiene and helps to bring an end to open defecation.

However, proper facilitation and continuous follow up focused on quality and usage are important.



One of the 627 local latrines.
Photo: IRC/Dick de Jong

Leku Town: Children “tired of fighting with flies” are on the march

12 May 2007 was a Saturday, and market day in Leku Town. At around 10 am, a crowd of about 200 children appeared and the streets filled with shouts. The shouts were not for their soccer team; but for improved health, as part of a demonstration for a clean environment.

Children carried placards condemning open defecation.

One read:

“We need to live in clean environment!”

Another read:

“Cats do not defecate in the open, but we people do! Let’s learn from cats!”

Others say:

“We don’t tolerate open defecation!”

“Defecating in open field is a rude and anti-development act.”

People attending the market watched the young people with interest and surprise. The demonstration was organised by Leku School Sanitation Club, passed by with children who had participated in CLTS field exercises in their villages. Police gave the children protection and the event was covered by the local FM radio.

Seyoum Getachew, Action Research Officer at Plan Ethiopia Shebedino Programme Unit, says the demonstration was a wake-up call from the children to the Leku Municipality and surrounding communities to end open defecation and create a clean and healthy environment.

An eleven year old girl says, *“I am bored of living in dirty environment. I am tired of fighting with flies. I need to be clean and healthy.”*

Matebu Tadesse, Plan Ethiopia



Children marching for a clean environment
Photo: Plan Ethiopia



and people watching them

Bogodogo: more than 50% say water costs not affordable

More than half of the people who live in Bogodogo, one of five metropolitan areas of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, say that the cost of water is not affordable, a survey by WaterAid shows. Nor is this just an opinion – since in fact six out of ten people lack access to decent water services.

Two years ago WaterAid started a project to support local governments to build water points in Burkina Faso. Local water committees, with help from WaterAid, liaise with water distributors and the community to guarantee the service.

However, the primary objective of providing water for the poor at affordable prices cannot be fully achieved. The price of a cubic metre of water at the standposts in Bogodogo is 1.6 times higher than the price at one of the standposts provided by the water utility ONEA (Office National de l'Eau et de l'Assainissement).

In fact households that live a long way from the standposts may pay six times the price, as they rely on private water vendors to bring water from the water point on their push carts.

No pricing regulations

There are no regulations setting maximum prices for water and electricity in Burkina Faso and, as a result, prices vary enormously. The President of the local water committee admitted: "The prices vary enormously. These houses there could pay 200 CFA while others a bit further 300. The distance makes the price higher."

A number of factors push prices even higher, such as time it takes the vendors

to fill their containers and pull the water carts, and the availability of water. The water has a high price at the collection point and a much higher price by the time it gets to the households. But even though more than 50 % of households told WaterAid that the water is not affordable, they have no other choice.

Location policy lifted

Until now, official policy dictated that the location of water points had to be at the boundary of planned and unplanned settlements. Fortunately, that policy has now been lifted and WaterAid hopes to locate water points within the two kilometre stretch of unplanned settlements. This will improve access and help to force down the price of water.

Bogodogo

In Bogodogo, 421,000 inhabitants live on 11,000 hectares of land, just under half of which is urban while the greater part is rural.

Half of the population of Bogodogo live in extreme poverty with an annual income of less than 15,000 CFA F (EUR 23) and are totally dependent on others to meet their basic needs. The constituency is run by a mayor supported by a Secretary General; a first and a second deputy mayor; and two Commissions (General and Institutional Affairs, and Financial and Economic).

Open defecation problem

Another problem is the low coverage in household latrines in Bogodogo. A few households own latrines in these villages,

supported by a WaterAid project two years ago. However, there is a high level of defecation in open places next to the home.

Lack of drainage means that when it rains, it is impossible for children to go to school or to access even basic necessities.

Many local initiatives have tried to address these problems, but failed because of lack of financial resources. The municipality cannot provide support, as it is not financially independent and cannot prioritise local investment. More coordinated efforts and investments are needed to address this problem.

Decentralisation in theory only

At present, the municipality is at the mercy of the national government, in the absence of good selection criteria for allocating resources to solve major problems identified by the community.

Mme Drabo Zoénabou, mayor of Bogodogo, says: "Decentralisation works in Burkina only in theory or in reports". She adds: "Allow us at least for a year to run our own budget."

Mme Drabo has just been elected to the national parliament as an MP. Bogodogo hopes that she can use her new office to improve decentralisation by matching resources for communes to their responsibilities.

Caridad Machín Camacho

You can watch a short video (in French and English) of members of the local water committee talking about the water situation in Bogodogo: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0khpcCi_Qo

WASH quotes

"We can get more learners and expand the curriculum to Grade 6 or 7 but not without water".

Dr Theofilus Kamupingene, Director of Education, Omaheke Region, Namibia. Director of Education in Namibia's Omaheke Region, Dr Theofilus Kamupingene, speaking about the severe water shortages faced by local primary schools and how this is preventing pupils moving on to secondary and tertiary education.

"The story on private sector participation is not over, it's simply being rewritten. When the emotions over this issue subside over the next few years, there will be a robust return to private sector participation that involves subtler forms of risk sharing".

Jordan Schwartz, Senior Infrastructure Specialist for the World Bank, speaking to Business News Americas about private sector participation in the water sector in the Latin America and Caribbean region.

"Local governments are supposed to supervise, not take charge of the whole water system".

Jennifer Namuyangu, Minister of State for water, Uganda, speaking at the opening of the annual performance review workshop for water authorities in Bweyogerere, Wakiso district. Ms. Namuyangu complained that local government leaders in several districts had refused private operators to take over the water supply, while others had misused conditional grants meant for management of water systems.

From the GWA Secretariat

It is with pleasure that we announce the results of elections for our Steering Committee members: We will welcome new members Eva Rathgeber and Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt to our Steering Committee meeting in September 2007 in the Netherlands. We are also happy that Ethne Davey and Maria Angelica Alegria were re-elected.

The Gender and Water Alliance is blooming, which shows in the increasing membership and many activities taking place. To mention just a few:

- Regional Strategic Planning Workshops for the Lusophone region and for South East Asia and Pacific; the suggestions for activities are promising.
- After successfully displaying the travelling photo exhibition on Gender and Water in Latin America, the African chapter kicked off in August at The International Waters Conference in Cape Town, South Africa. This exhibition is developed together with IW-Learn and the Gender Equity Unit of the University of the Western Cape. Now other African countries can start to add their panels and display this exhibit.
- Our Cooperative Agreement with UN-Habitat for The Lake Victoria and Water for African Cities programmes are under way, which will entail a lot of training on gender and Watsan issues in towns and cities.

For more information about our activities please visit our website: www.genderandwater.org.

We now have members in more than 100 countries! However, sometimes we lose contact as people change their e-mail and postal address and do not inform us. Without contact, there is no global network, so please inform us if your address changes!

Joke Muylwijk, Executive Director

Gender, water and integrity – first outcomes of E-conference

“Male irrigators may meet with male canal operators in seafood bars and drink and joke with them. For women, this is not a possible option, as it would reflect very badly on their social status”.

This is a quote from a contribution to the electronic conference (E-conference) series on Gender, Water and Integrity facilitated by the GWA Secretariat from March 26 till May 13, 2007. During the conference the following three topics were discussed:

- corruption in the water sectors: the different impact on women and men and different practices related to integrity;
- good practice in breaking with corruption in the water sector;
- suggestions and strategies for formulating a policy paper on gender, water and integrity.

One of the perceptions shared during the E-conference was that gender roles are culturally and context specific and, although traditionally based, can and do change. Corruption is not a product of gender, but the roles that women and men play and the power they have are crucial. Corruption requires a facilitating environment, and men and women have different opportunities to influence social and legal arrangements in water distribution. These cultural issues tend to reduce the level of participation of women in corrupt practices, and therefore tend to make their actions more transparent and honest.

Women more vulnerable

It was argued that the cultural roles of women as managers of domestic water and household care-givers, makes them vulnerable to corrupt practices, since women are less likely to have sufficient social capital to be able to buy themselves immunity from these practices.

Others argued that women are not necessarily the victims of corruption, as corruption does not always reduce access to clean water. In cases where public or 'regular' water service provision is failing,

corruption may actually be designed to increase access to clean water. Poor people in general and women in particular, often have to rely on corrupt practices or alternative mechanisms of accessing water. Conversely, they have the least resources available to do so.

Mobilisation and participation needed

Social mobilisation processes are considered very important in understanding the complexity and the fight against corruption in the water sector, and participatory approaches with a gender focus are perceived as possible solutions. The broadening of the ownership of and participation in the decision-making process, is very important as this increases transparency and so reduces the possibility of corrupt practices. However, real participation is sometimes prohibited by existing systems, structures, ideologies and cultures. Women are sometimes subordinate to men and cannot always voice their needs.

Contributions to this e-conference will be used as inputs for an international workshop GWA hopes to organise together with members and with global and local partners. The outcomes of the E-conference and the workshop will be used to produce a policy paper on Gender, Water and Integrity.

All contributions to this e-conference will become available on CD-ROM soon. The summaries of each discussion topic will be uploaded on the website of GWA.



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Children put sanitation habits in the picture

Frescos on the walls of villages in Benin show people defecating in places they should not, while others drink water that has been polluted as a result. These are the most visible results of an awareness raising campaign on water and sanitation by the non governmental organisation AMEM.



"Do not drink this unsafe water" message on the wall in Benin

AMEM (Aide à la Mère et à l'Enfance Malheureuse), strives for sustainable development related to access to drinking water, and adequate facilities for hygiene and sanitation, by targeting mothers and children and stimulating grass-root initiatives. AMEM works through social mobilisation: awareness raising, education, information and communication.

The water and sanitation awareness campaign started in 2002 aiming to:

- Raise awareness among children and adults about dangers and diseases related to water and sanitation
- Raise awareness about shortages and contamination of water

An important factor has been the involvement of schoolchildren in a drawing and writing competition designed to achieve behavioural change in their communities. Children were educated about the importance and need for clean water, sources of contamination and protection measures. Through group work and brainstorming they contributed ideas for improvements in two areas "Water and Shortage" and "Water and Contamination". In 2002, pupils from seven schools in Cotonou drew pictures to illustrate problems and solutions. In 2005, pupils from Adouanko village wrote letters to a friend about the non-respect of hygiene and sanitation and suggested

solutions for behavioural change in their community. In 2006, these activities were expanded to schools in the Abomey-Calavi district.

The winning pictures have been published in local newspapers, spreading the messages further.

Outcomes of the campaign

The children very much enjoyed being involved in the competition. They liked the participatory approach, responded intelligently and asked questions freely as if it was a game. The fact that they were outside the classroom contributed to this success. Olga Daguia, an AMEM fieldworker said: "The children still ask me when I will come again, whenever they see me passing in the street".

Parents asked for some of the children's drawings to be painted on the walls of their villages to remind the whole community about right and wrong practices.

The project has succeeded in raising awareness and has led to behavioural change:

- In the villages, it is now prohibited to defecate in the open. Some villagers have started constructing water-closets and others have requested subsidy for public latrines;
- Women from villages like Adouanko are willing and committed to provide training to women in other villages on sanitation and hygiene;
- Women are committed to keep the community clean, cleaning offices, public places etc. and have organised themselves to sweep public places and the lagoon banks.

Winning hearts and minds

Before the schoolchildren could become involved in the campaign, the teachers first had to be convinced of the need to become actively involved although there was no money for extra payments. AMEM

won the teachers over with round table discussions relating to water, hygiene and health in school environments.

Another difficulty was that at the beginning women in the villages were more interested in microfinance than in hygiene and sanitation. AMEM didn't have any credits to grant, nor money to distribute. Because of the patience and endurance of the fieldworkers of AMEM, people progressively understood the relationship between hygiene, sanitation, health and development of their community. Today, the message is more readily understood.

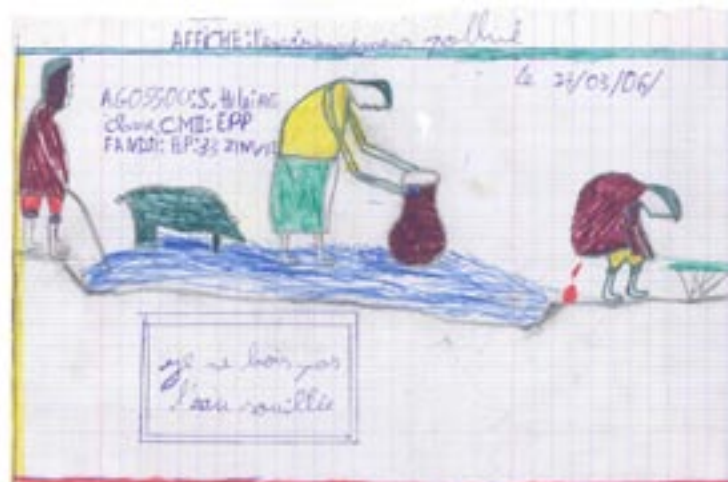
Future of the project

Since the winning drawings were published in the local newspapers, many more schools have asked to become part of the programme. AMEM offers women in the project area literacy classes, so that they can take the lead on awareness raising and slowly take over the work done by AMEM.

Sponsors are being sought to fund the construction of latrines and water supply facilities, to put into practice what is learned.

In order to ensure the sustainability of the programme, AMEM will continue to lead awareness raising sessions, and will follow and evaluate the programme.

For further information, please contact Mrs. DAGUIA Casimilia Olga 03, P.O Box 0072, Cotonou, Benin, e-mail: odaguia@yahoo.fr or amem.ong@poste.net.



I am not drinking polluted water

AguaJaring brings state-of-the-art learning on legal issues for IWRM

The countries of Southeast Asia are learning about state-of-the-art measures to improve the legal and regulatory framework to integrate sustainable management of water resources – with the help of a rapidly growing capacity building network.

AguaJaring, the network in Southeast Asia (SEA) affiliated to CapNet, organised a successful conference and regional training of trainers (TOT) workshop to strengthen the capacity of institutions and networks to implement IWRM processes within the region.

This was the first training of trainers by AguaJaring for the SEA region and it gathered participants from member countries to discuss the theories and state-of-the-art legislative and institutional issues in IWRM through sharing experiences and specialist presentations.

The conference and TOT is part of a series of programmes to support implementation of IWRM in member countries. It has given good momentum to the AguaJaring network that grew out of the former SeaCapNet, and has a vision to become one of the leading capacity building networks on IWRM in Southeast Asia. AguaJaring will be officially launched at the 3rd Southeast Asia Water Forum, 22-26 October 2007.

The events took place from 9-14 July 2007 in Kuala Lumpur (where AguaJaring has its secretariat), in collaboration with the Malaysian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Kuala Lumpur Bar Council and the private sector. It was coordinated by the National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia (NAHRIM).

The TOT provided:

- A platform for discussions among member countries on the future challenges facing water resources management in the region
- A good overview of the global and regional issues in member countries, presented by experienced and qualified presenters from partner agencies inside and outside the region
- Development of people with skills in legislation and institutional arrangements for the region so that they, with AguaJaring, can cascade capacity building at country level
- Contribution from participants in chartering new directions for the region and the basis for a roadmap for AguaJaring in the years to come.

www.aguajaring.org

CapNet-Lanka helps Plan to boost Sri Lanka WES programme

CapNet-Lanka has been helping the NGO Plan to adopt an integrated approach to water supply, environmental sanitation and hygiene education in Sri Lanka. Now, a pilot study in two tea-estate communities in Sri Lanka demonstrates that Plan's Water and Environmental Sanitation (WES) programme has resulted in a fivefold increase in water use. However, the study identified a need

for further steps to make water safe, to deal with waste water and solid waste, and to ensure sustainability.

Plan, is a non-profit, humanitarian, child sponsorship organisation, and its WES programme adopts a demand responsive approach.

An evaluation in 2003 showed that measures in Plan's Sri Lanka WES programme to protect water sources and catchment areas were inadequate, threatening the sustainability of water supply schemes. Poor solid and wastewater management of households exacerbated the pollution of water sources and catchment areas. The challenge has been to implement an integrated approach between water supply, environmental sanitation and hygiene education.

CapNet-Lanka conducted an awareness programme on IWRM for Plan staff in March 2006. Subsequently, Plan WES technical advisors participated in an IWRM training of trainers course in September 2006, also conducted by CapNet-Lanka.

In early 2007 a CapNet-Lanka pilot study in two tea-estate communities, Great Valley in Deltota and Kelabokka in Kabaragala identified recharge areas and drainage networks, monitored water quantity

and quality in upstream areas and water pollution downstream. A survey identified water management practices, health and sanitation. On 2 July 2007, a workshop was held with Plan Sri Lanka management and technical staff on the outcomes of the study. The main findings were:

- Priority is given to sustain sufficient water supply
- Water use has increased five times since individual taps were introduced, suggesting that water is also being used to improve sanitation
- Filtration has to be improved and people need to be educated to boil water before consumption
- Wastewater discharge and solid waste disposal have to be improved through low tech wastewater treatment (constructed wetlands), composting and home gardening
- Sustainability of the water supply scheme depends on the involvement of the beneficiaries and their commitment to the water supply scheme
- A strong water user association that includes members of the younger generation is vital for the sustainable use of water resources
- Behavioural changes in sanitation and collective actions are essential.

For more details on the study and action plan: mmowjood@pdn.ac.lk



Water use increased five times

Brazil network boosts transboundary river basin programme

Vera Reis develops activities to promote integrated water management in the Acre River Basin, a transboundary basin shared by Peru, Brazil and Bolivia. Her work as a researcher with the MAP Initiative (Madre de Dios-Peru, Acre-Brazil e Pando-Bolivia), has made her appreciate the benefits the programme has gained through being supported by the Brazilian network.

Interviewed some time after she had taken part in a training course on IWRM organised by CapNet-Brasil in Sao Paulo, she said: "We have had great incentives and constant guidance from CapNet-Brasil, and the training course materials have been very useful in our work".

As part of her work, she promotes international seminars and workshops. Recently this included the International Seminar on Legal Aspects and Strategic Actions for the Upper Acre River

Transboundary Basin Management, attended by representatives of the governments of Brazil, Bolivia and Peru, as well as by regional and local institutions. Participatory workshops with representatives from several sectors of the tri-national social movement, such as indigenous groups and rural growers, are also being held. The idea is to include their demands and suggestions in the Acre River Basin management.

Recently MAP's first publication about the Basin "Towards the participatory management of the Upper Acre River Basin: diagnosis and advancements" was launched in Spanish and Portuguese. It contains biogeophysical information about the basin, aspects of land use and occupation, legal aspects of water resources management, and initiatives taken in the three countries that share the Basin.

Check www.map-amazonia.net for more information



Researcher with the MAP Initiative Mrs. Vera Reis

West Africa network takes giant step forward with first general assembly

WA-Net, the partnership network that promotes training, research, education and dissemination of information in West Africa, has taken a giant step forward with strong support from institutions in the region.

The network has a new constitution, a work plan and a commitment to activities within and outside the scope of the European Union Water Facility (EUWF).

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) that represents 15 West African states has expressed a wish to formalise its relationship with WA-Net through a memorandum of understanding.

These gains became obvious at the first general assembly of WA-Net, held in Accra, Ghana, from 25 to 26 June 2007. This was an opportunity to gather members from several institutions of different West African countries and to agree the constitution.

It was agreed that membership will be limited to institutions, each of which will appoint a focal point person. Member institutions will prepare project proposals and organise workshops and training according to the WA-Net work plan.

Amongst other decisions at the meeting, it was decided to make full use of co-funding

from the EUWF to organise activities. Activities supported by the EUWF through Cap-Net are all co-funded, with the EUWF contributing a maximum of 75% of the cost. It was decided that other activities should also be initiated outside the EUWF framework. A website will be developed to publicise activities.

The Assembly urged participants to become fully involved in activities which answer training and capacity building needs in IWRM. In future the WA-Net general assembly will meet annually.

For more information, contact the network coordinator, Dr. Fafré Bagayoko: e-mail: fafre.bagayoko@2ie-edu.org

First IWRM network launched in the Caribbean

For the first time, a regional network dedicated to action research and capacity building in Integrated Water Resources Management has been formed in the Caribbean. The Caribbean WaterNet has been working hard since its formation to plan its work. Projects will include the production of a Caribbean WaterNet website and newsletter and case studies of resources in the region and the issues relevant to IWRM.

The network grew out of the first Integrated Water Resources Management Training of Trainers (ToT) course in the

region. This highly successful workshop was hosted by The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, on Trinidad and Tobago and was planned and run by Cap-Net in conjunction with the Global Water Partnership and the European Union ACP-EU Water Facility. Participants from ten tropical islands seized this opportunity to better understand the principles of IWRM.

Sixteen sessions addressed many facets of IWRM in the Caribbean, from the legal framework to gender issues.

Attendees commended the relevance of the presentations, the comprehensiveness of the course and the organization of the workshop. Their feedback showed that they learnt a great deal about the complexity of IWRM and the necessity for it in our everyday lives.

With creation of Caribbean WaterNet, it looks like great things are going to come out of this beautiful Caribbean region. The process of reforming water management strategies so that they become more holistic has begun in this part of the world.

Ghana: Key lessons from five years resource centre networking

In late 2002, four key sector organisations joined hands to form a Resource Centre Network (RCN) to promote knowledge management (KM) in the water and sanitation sector in Ghana. The four institutions WaterAid, Water Research Institute, KNUST-Department of Civil Engineering and TREND group each kept their individual work focus but together have been able to address needs across the sector.

Promotion activities for knowledge management and intensive delivery of relevant products and services have been crucial in getting the RCN accepted and established. The products were especially needed as only half the estimated budget of US\$140,000 was covered from contributions from Resource Centre members, by IRC contributions, or by contributions from the knowledge Task Force that was set up in 2004.

Resource centre development by IRC and partners in Ghana shows that it is difficult to get core funding for the RCN Ghana's secretariat, for product development, website management and dissemination. On the other hand, there have been opportunities for commissioned research and demand for specific project-related products and services.

The outputs of the RCN Ghana network are a mix of promotion and marketing actions and tools for knowledge management (KM), and products including 'blue pages', a document and enquiry service and a website.

Knowledge management

An assessment of KM issues within the water and sanitation sector in Ghana was carried out in November and December 2002.

A KM workshop in May 2004 discussed activities arising from the background paper "Improving access to and use of information and knowledge within the water and sanitation sector in Ghana".

The Task Force for KM for WASH Ghana held its first meeting in May 2004.

Products

A Resource Centre Network (RCN) Ghana brochure was published, explaining how information and knowledge can help to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and introducing products and services that RCN Ghana can provide.

Blue Pages: This A-Z overview of all relevant WATSAN organisations in Ghana was the first product from the network.

Website: With help of IRC training and a shared content management system the RCN Ghana network developed a web site <http://www.ghana.watsan.net>. However, there have been few resources to keep a regular flow of materials online - the last update was in September 2006.

Networks: RCN partners are actively involved in fostering partnerships and networking between sector players, including existing resource centres, educational/research institutions and key clients for knowledge management services – government agencies, NGOs and communities. Improving technology in Ghana is expanding avenues for information sharing and networking.

The RCN has largely been driven by TREND in collaboration with WaterAid Ghana, which shares the tasks of providing secretariat support, coordinating meetings, product development and website hosting. This leadership by TREND and WaterAid has largely accounted for the progress made so far. Participation by WRI and KNUST-DCE (Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology) is less intensive.

Human and Financial Resource Requirements

Total budget for the process from start until end of Phase 2 (BP development) was estimated at about US\$140,000. The breakdown involves:

- i. start up activities, assessments, investigations up to KM workshop = US\$40,000;
- ii. Promotion activities and quick wins = US 35,000;
- iii. RC Secretariat/Task Force core activities = US\$35,000; and
- iv. Detailed studies, market analysis, concept paper, BP and proposals = US\$30,000.

Only 50% of the required funds have been covered by contributions from resource centres, Task Force members and IRC.

Future challenges

This year, 2007, an improvement is expected in the funding situation, which would allow the formal establishment of RCN structures including the transition of the KM Task Force into a Steering Committee anchored in the Sector Ministry. The RCN Secretariat (currently temporarily hosted by TREND) will be formally established and the Resource Centre Network (RCN) will be formally launched at the national level. Associated learning alliances will be established to facilitate knowledge sharing.

However, some key questions remain:

1. How can the RCN increase the level of political support – with champions and advocates?
2. How to fund activities, meet marketing challenges and build interest among key funding agencies as a step towards securing sustained support for KM activities?
3. How to develop the RC Consortium as a team, to build trust, commitment among other RC members?
4. How to find cost effective ways to extend services to the district assemblies, which are the primary target group for the products and services of RCN Ghana?

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New director 'honoured' to lead IRC into era of innovation

Ben Lamoree takes over as director of IRC from 1 September 2007. The new director has 20 years experience in sustainable development and Integrated Water Resources Management and joins IRC from the Euroconsult Mott MacDonald development consultancy. He succeeds Paul van Koppen who, over the past four and half years, has guided IRC to becoming an autonomous international organisation and set a new direction and business plan for 2007-2011. A new director brings a change in emphasis, but in this case, there will also be a strong element of continuity. Both men see innovation as a key element in IRC work.

'Good reputation'

Ben Lamoree says IRC's good reputation and its focus on eradicating poverty attracted him from the private sector. "IRC is more involved in the content of the development process. The focus is much clearer. In consultancy work, the focus is mixed – there is sometimes a tension between the commercial angle and the development objective. It will be an honour to work for IRC."

He was also attracted by the emphasis on knowledge and innovation. The Year of Sanitation, 2008, will be an early opportunity to show creative approaches, highlighting the links between water and sanitation. He also believes that IRC could raise its profile as a think-tank, not only on water sanitation and hygiene, but also in other new areas.

At Euroconsult, Lamoree was director of the task force on innovation as well as heading the Land and Water Department. His recent focus has been on institutional development for transboundary water management in Southern Africa. Between 1999 and 2003, he was a senior project manager with the International Centre of Water Studies, travelling extensively in Africa, Central America and the Caribbean. He worked for several years in Mozambique on capacity building and institutional development. He is fluent



Paul van Koppen (left) and Ben Lamoree

in Portuguese as well as in English and Dutch.

Ben Lamoree has a previous connection with IRC. In 1997 he undertook a research project for IRC and wrote a paper investigating demand-driven approaches for rural water supply in Mozambique. He later took part in an IRC training seminar on monitoring effectiveness.

The 'best is the enemy of the good'

Paul van Koppen has spent more than four and a half years as director of IRC, and now plans to become more involved in implementation, as consultant, keeping water and sanitation as the focus. He sees IRC literally as rich resource centre, but with still untapped potential. "There is a lot of energy in the organisation. People work very hard, but the work is not always effective. There is a lot of personal commitment, but more value should be put into our development chain, to contribute to our mission and objectives. At the same time, sadly enough, the sector is not always in for new approaches nor for more collaboration and harmonisation. This really hampers us too often in getting our ideas implemented".

Paul also sees IRC as a 'feminine' organisation. "Women tend to want to achieve more. We are not easily satisfied with our work and this is difficult both for IRC as well as the individuals. My main take home message is: 'the best is the enemy of the good'." In the sector, he sees the need for innovation as paramount, especially in trying to reach the MDG targets.

News in Brief

Unhealthy environments: 13 million deaths a year could be avoided

The World Health Organization (WHO) says that 13 million deaths could be prevented every year worldwide if environments were healthier. In some countries, including Angola, Burkina Faso, Mali, and Afghanistan, more than one third of the burden of disease could be prevented. In 23 countries, more than 10% of deaths are due to just two environmental risk factors unsafe water/sanitation, and indoor air pollution. Children under five are the main victims.

Source: WHO

Desalination: large-scale plants threaten environment says WWF

Large-scale, energy-intensive desalination of sea water poses a potential threat to the environment and could exacerbate climate change, says a WWF report. Desalination plants can cause build-ups of brine, increased greenhouse gas emissions and destruction of coastal areas. As large desalination plants become "the new dams" there is a risk that attention gets diverted from less costly, more environmentally-friendly alternatives such as water conservation, water use efficiency and water recycling.

Source: WWF

Africa: improving monitoring systems for MDG targets in Africa

The water and sanitation sector faces the threat of being marginalised in a scramble for public funds, Robert Gakubia, director of Water Services in Kenya, has warned. Speaking at the opening of an international Sector Information Monitoring System (SIMS) workshop, in Nairobi, he called for monitoring strategies that document progress as well as shortfalls, and "justify the use of scarce public funds". More than 90 delegates discussed the SIMS system which brings monitoring into line with the sector-wide approach. Key outcomes will be presented to the African Ministers' Council on Water.

Source: WSP

Sudan: 1,000 Wells for Darfur initiative

The president of Sudan, Omar Al Bashir, has agreed to a '1,000 Wells For Darfur' to tackle water shortages. Egyptian scientist Farouk El-Baz proposed the initiative based on the discovery of an ancient underground mega lake in northern Darfur. In southwest Egypt, 500 wells have been drilled into an identical basin, and have irrigated up to 150,000 acres for at least 100 years, El-Baz says.

Source: Wagdy Sawahel, SciDev.Net

News on Brief continued on page 11

Transparency and governance advice in high demand

IRC is increasingly being contracted for small advisory and training projects on our core themes. In April and May 2007, we agreed nine assignments for 116 days work by IRC staff. It is interesting that our newest theme Transparency and Governance is very much in demand, as these five new assignments show:

- Case study for the World Bank Institute "Preventing corruption in sanitation: A case from Kerala, India".
- Assessment mission Kenya and Uganda for the project "Improving Governance and Anti-Corruption Practices in the Water Sector in Africa".

- Workshops in Nicaragua and Honduras on transparency issues for Transparency International.
- Water Integrity Network, organisation of three regional workshops in Ghana, Burkina, and Colombia.
- DFID Evaluation and Adaptation of a framework and range of methods and Tools for improving Water Governance in Andhra Pradesh.

- Training EU delegates in Bamako, Mali.
- Policy note for advocacy on sector wide approaches (SWAP) with an IWRM perspective. This will be used by the European Commission to encourage a sectoral approach for the water sector in countries.
- Preparation of Programme Document for Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Programme (WASH-Beni) in Benishangul-Gumuz Region, Ethiopia.

Sector wide approach

Sector wide approaches in the WASH sector brought in three assignments:

Outputs from workshop on 'Process documentation for learning alliances and action research'

A workshop was held in the city of Łódź in central Poland, 1-5 July 2007, supported by the SWITCH research project, IRC and EMPOWERS. The purpose of the training was to look into process documentation for learning alliances and action research. The activities being undertaken in the city of Łódź, Poland provided the focus for the practical aspects of the training.

This training workshop combined specialist presentations from key resource persons with practical exercises in groups where creativity was encouraged. Participants put theory into practice using a range of media to document an ongoing action research process. They were involved in undertaking interviews, visiting field sites and documenting activities through photography, video and writing.

SWITCH learning in Łódź

The writing group produced an 8 page supplement with the national newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza. It shows how the



SWITCH writing group at work.

Photo: Gazeta Wyborcza

SWITCH project are trying to promote learning and change for better water management in the city of Łódź. It was produced by a team of participants in an international workshop who learnt writing skills and how to document these kind of complex change processes involved in taking scientific research from ideas to impact.

Faces and Spaces

Working in the National Film, Television & Theatre School based in Łódź a photography exhibition was made by course participants in an international workshop on process documentation.

It explores peoples' lives in Lodz and how they relate to public spaces and water. It aims to show how rehabilitation and restoration projects around water could be made more socially inclusive.

Sokolowka River Back to Life

A short film tells the story of how the city of Łódź are trying to restore an urban river. It was produced as part of a workshop on process documentation by an international group that worked on video and film at the National Film, Television & Theatre School in the city.

You can see their work online at <http://www.switchurbanwater.eu/page/2013>

New IRC TOP: Sanitation for All?

Brian Appleton, Gert de Bruijne and Mirjam Geurts (2007)

For decades, water and sanitation sector professionals complained that sanitation was being neglected. Today, the mood is very different. Powerful arguments about the role of sanitation in reducing poverty, protecting the environment, raising education standards, and spearheading human development attracted massive media attention at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 1992.

As a direct result of that Summit, a vital sanitation target was added to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Target 10 of MDG7 urges governments to "halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation." The challenge to WSS practitioners now is to deliver sustainable sanitation services to more than two billion people by 2015.

This Thematic Overview Paper (TOP) looks at sanitation from a historical

perspective and addresses different 'types' such as basic sanitation, environmental sanitation, and ecological sanitation. It explains the elements of a sanitation system and approaches to technology choice. The interests of different stakeholders are discussed. The TOP lists relevant books, articles and papers, websites and contacts.

Download: [TOP20_San_07.pdf](#) (1.29 MB) from <http://www.irc.nl/page/167>. Thematic Overview Paper 20, 54 p.

New specialist on hygiene and sanitation at IRC

Alana Potter

Programme Officer, Knowledge Development and Advocacy

Alana Potter has joined the IRC as a hygiene and sanitation specialist, working as a programme officer in the Knowledge Development and Advocacy section. She has worked widely in Southern and East Africa. Her previous experience at Mvula Trust in South Africa, includes support to municipalities in South Africa in institutional and social development related to the water and sanitation sector.

She has also had an input into sector policy particularly focused on innovative implementation and action research. She is proficient in programme design, policy analysis, skills development and communication. She has worked in both water services and IWRM on process design and facilitation, governance arrangements, communication strategy and tools development. She has a special interest in sector collaboration and in the linkages between water, sanitation, hygiene and HIV/Aids. She has an MA in psychology.

Resources and Events

Training

Anglophone West Africa Regional Workshop on "Transparency and Accountability in Delivery of Water and Sanitation Services", Accra, Ghana, 26-27 September 2007. Organised by: Ghana Integrity Network (GII) and IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre. Sponsored by: Water Integrity Network (WIN).

This is one of a series of WIN-sponsored Regional Workshops being held in Latin America, South Asia, Francophone and Anglophone West Africa.

The Anglophone West Africa workshop will focus on different approaches for identifying and combating lack of transparency and accountability in the water and sanitation sector at the sectoral, institutional and community levels, involving the private and public sectors, civil society and the donor community. Experience, both positive and negative, will be shared from projects in Anglophone West Africa and further afield. The reasons for the successes and possible approaches to overcoming failures will be presented and debated.

Contact: Gilbert Sam, Ghana Integrity Initiative, gii@ghanatel.com.gh or Marieke Adank, IRC, The Netherlands, adank@irc.nl

Events

Sustainable Livelihoods Approaches to Water and Sanitation Programmes: tackling poverty through multiple uses of water. NETWAS, Nairobi, Kenya, 1-5 October 2007. Organised by: NETWAS - Network for Water and Sanitation

Target group: Managers and staff in development work who want to develop an understanding of a water

and livelihoods approach, development workers and leaders and managers of community based organisations, NGOs, government and donor agencies

To the poor in developing countries water is much more than a crucial resource for health and hygiene. It is also an enabling resource for a wide range of productive activities. Providing water for drinking, cooking and other household activities, while ignoring small scale productive uses, realises only half of its potential.

This one week residential course introduces the concept of water and livelihoods and advocates for a greater attention to the role of water within wider household livelihood strategies – and livelihood impacts. The combination of the domestic and productive benefits can add up to an appreciable impact on livelihoods and poverty eradication.

Course objectives include establishing an understanding of the linkage between water for productive uses and sustainable livelihoods, learning from experiences and best practice, improving awareness and use of sustainable livelihoods approach tools and developing individual/group action plans.

The course uses dynamic participatory adult learning techniques. Participants will visit community based projects for practical field experience and extensively use NETWAS Documentation Centre.

Costs: US\$ 950 (EUR 734). Full board accommodation available for additional US\$ 300 (EUR 232).

Contact: Course Coordinator, NETWAS International, Kenya, PO Box 15614, 00503 Mbagathi, Nairobi, Kenya. Tel.: +254 2 89 05 55, fax: +254 2 89 05 53, e-mail: netwas-international@netwas.org

News in brief continued

Nepal: water borne disease a major health problem

Nepal has the poorest drinking water and sanitation coverage for its population in South Asia and a large percentage of its drinking water contains faecal contaminants that pose a serious public health problem, says Tista Prasai, from the Nepal Academy of Science and Technology. Diarrhoea, intestinal worms, gastritis and jaundice are the top five water borne diseases, but improving the quality of drinking water and sanitation could require investments worth US\$ 2 billion (EUR 1.5 billion).

Source: *Dambaru Ballab Kattel, Ohmynews*

China: drinking water standards and monitoring

Chinese health officials have brought 71 new drinking water standards, including limits on microbe content, organic matter and disinfectants, into effect from 1 July 2007. Zhang Chengyu, a vice secretary in the Ministry of Health said that China would soon establish a national network to inspect water quality, and had already rolled out a pilot monitoring scheme in seven provinces.

Source: *Reuters*

India: 'Walk of shame' triggers toilet consciousness

The head of Dabena village in Bilaspur district in India invited Public Health officials on an unsavoury tour around mounds of shit and refuse in his village. Sarpanch Dinesh Kaushik then captured on video film the dismayed and horrified expressions of villagers watching the tour. After the 'walk of shame' villagers pledged to use the toilets provided under the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC). Bahtarai village passed a resolution that anyone found defecating in the open would be fined Rs.50 and that those who exposed them would receive Rs.25.

Source: *Nitin Jugran Bahuguna, Monstersandcritics.com*

Latin America: political pressure 'an obstacle to improvement'

Political pressure on municipal governments often prevents the adoption of measures, to improve the quality of water and sanitation services, such as increasing tariffs and cutting services to non-payers, says Manuel Schiffler, senior economist of the World Bank (WB). He said there was a need to break out of a vicious cycle of low tariffs and low service quality, possibly by giving municipal governments longer terms to insulate them from political cycles, or making agreements with the community that tariff levels have to go up to bring about improvements. He described decentralisation as a double-edged sword. "It brings service providers closer to the users, but it could also mean a drop in the capacity to provide these services."

Source: *BNamericas.com*

Latin America Regional Sanitation Conference, Cali, Colombia, 19-26

November 2007, Organised by: Water and Sanitation Program - Latin America and the Caribbean (WSP-LAC), Colombian Vice Ministry of Water and Sanitation, CINARA (Colombia) and UNICEF

One of a series of regional sanitation conferences in support of the 2008 International Year of Sanitation <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/sanitation/iys.htm>

Contact: Francois Brikké and Martin Gauss, WSP-LAC, wspandean@worldbank.org.

World Toilet Summit. New Delhi, India, 31 October - 4 November 2007. Organised by: Sulabh International and the World Toilet Organization

Theme: "Toilets for Health, Hygiene, Comfort and Dignity": Reshaping Communities and Civil Infrastructure, Improving Quality of Life

Topics:

- meeting the Millennium Development Goal
- individual household toilets in rural and urban areas
- public toilets improving sanitation - design, construction, maintenance and management
- school sanitation
- mobilisation of financial resources: Global Sanitation Bond Fund
- realistic programme coverage by 2015 - the new Road Map
- action plans for UN International Year of Sanitation 2008

Contact: World Toilet Summit - 2007, India, info@worldtoiletsummit2007.org. Web site: <http://www.worldtoiletsummit2007.org/>

New Publications

Morgan, P. (2007). *Toilets that make compost : low-cost, sanitary toilets that produce valuable compost for crops in an African context.* Stockholm, Sweden, Swedish Environmental Institute, EcoSanRes Programm. - xii, 100 p. : 238 fig. - Bibliography: p. 97-99. ISBN 9789197602228

This book is an abbreviation and simplification of "An ecological approach to sanitation in Africa" (Peter Morgan, 2005; updated 2006). It provides practical information which allows those living in rural, peri-urban and even in some urban areas of Africa, to build and practice the art of recycling nutrients from their own excreta in order to gain better crops and vegetables in their backyards and gardens. The book describes three types of toilets:

a single shallow-pit toilet or Arborloo, a toilet with two alternately used shallow pits or Fossa alterna, and a toilet built on a vault above the ground which uses a urine diverting principle where the urine and faeces are separated. The book includes chapters on construction and upgrading toilets, odour and fly control, hygiene, and the use of compost and urine in the garden.

Free downloadable from http://www.ecosanres.org/toilets_that_make_compost.htm

Swedish Environmental Institute, Lilla Nygatan 1, Box 2142, S-103 14 Stockholm, Sweden, tel: +46 8 4121400, fax: +46 8 7230348.

Harvey, P.A. (2007). *Excreta disposal in emergencies : a field manual.*

Loughborough, UK, WEDC, Loughborough University. - xviii, 232 p. : 21 boxes, 42 fig., 6 fotogr., 30 tab. - 47 ref. - ISBN 978184380113 9

In this manual existing, innovative and new technologies and approaches for excreta disposal in emergency situations are investigated. Relevant situations include natural disasters, relief for refugees and internally displaced persons, and complex emergencies, focusing on rural and peri-urban areas.

Free downloadable: <http://tinyurl.com/ytzkoe>

Price: £24.95, by post: WEDC, John Pickford Building, Loughborough University, Leicestershire, LE11 3TU, UK

WRC Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (2007). *Integrated water resource management plan guidelines for local authorities.* Gezina, South Africa, Water Research Commission. (WRC report; no. TT 304/07). - x, 156 p. : 4 fig., 12 tab. - 47 ref. - Includes glossary of terms. - ISBN 9781770055483

The Guideline provides a tool to assist Local Authorities to meet the challenge of striking the right balance between their developmental role and the need to maintain environmental integrity in fulfilling the Constitutional obligations of sustainable development, socio-economic development and a safe and healthy environment.

Pena, M. et al. (eds). (2006). *Aqua 2003: international conference on multiple uses of water for life and sustainable development.* (Water and Environmental Management Series (WEMS)). London, UK, IWA Publishing. - 204 p. - ISBN 1843395045

A selection of papers presented at the International Congress Aqua 2003 held in the city of Cartagena, Colombia, in October 2003.

Price: € 84.00, IWA members € 63.00

Rouse, M.J. (2007). *Institutional governance and regulation of water services : the essential elements.* London, UK, IWA Publishing. - 230 p. - ISBN: 1843391341

This book provides the key elements of policy, governance and regulation necessary for sustainable water and sanitation services.

Price: € 75.00, IWA members € 56.25. Order On-line: <http://www.iwapublishing.com/template.cfm?name=isbn1843391341>

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