



# Looking back and looking forwards

Summary of mid-term progress review workshop for the ONE WASH Plus Programme

## Key messages

### Construction

Physical works are progressing well in most towns, averaging 45% in water supply and 43% in sanitation. Major challenges are water sources in Abomsa, and acquisition of land for sludge drying beds and landfills.

### Independent monitoring

A baseline study has been published identifying low levels of WASH services in targeted towns. Data collection for a mid-line service is almost complete.

**Partners in the ONEWASH Plus Programme - all working to find new ways to deliver integrated WASH infrastructure and services in small towns - came together to share information on progress and learn lessons at a mid-term progress review workshop on 20 September 2016. This report provides a brief summary of the presentations and discussions.**

At the mid-way stage of the 5-year initiative the workshop provided a platform for project implementing partners, regional governments, national government, and financing partners (DFID) to discuss whether the project is doing the right things, doing them well, and influencing others.

The implementing partners all presented their progress at the workshop including UNICEF as lead, Salomon as engineering consultants overseeing the infrastructure development, and World Vision focused on 'software' aspects including the promotion of improved sanitation and hygiene. IRC also presented their findings as independent reviewers of the programme. All the presentations can be downloaded at <http://www.ircwash.org/news/mid-term-review-workshop-onewash-plus-programme>

# Introducing the ONEWASH Plus Programme

ONEWASH Plus is an ambitious and complex activity led by UNICEF, working closely with national and regional governments, to deliver improved WASH services in small towns to 250,000. This is not being done by business-as-usual, but by trying to innovate and find better ways to deliver integrated WASH services for urban settlements. It seeks to fill some critical gaps in WASH and to support and influence the One WASH National Programme.

## Setting the scene

The five year programme, financed by DFID, started in December 2013 and ends in December 2018. Many of the activities are focused on 8 small towns in four regions.

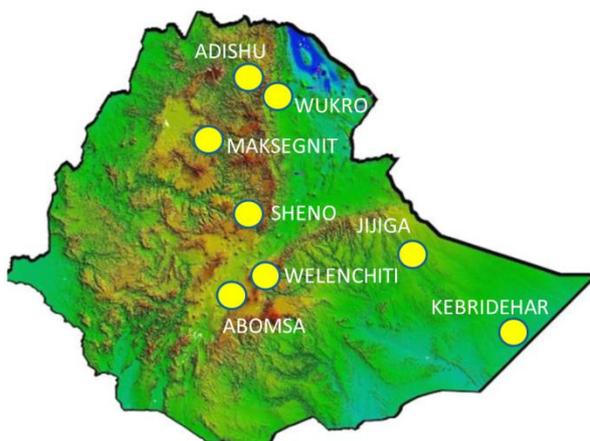


Figure 1. Project towns

UNICEF's presentation set the scene for subsequent presentations introducing the six results areas:

- Sector governance,
- Private Sector and Value for Money
- Resilience and Integrated Water Resources Management
- Equity and Social Accountability (women and girls)
- Urban WASH, and
- Sector Capacity and the main partners involved.

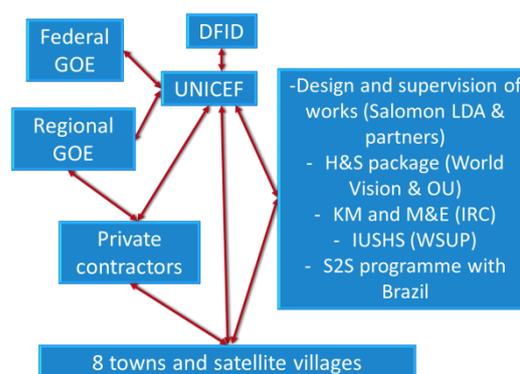


Figure 2. Key project partners and components

## Construction of infrastructure

Salomon LDA presented the progress with infrastructure development in the 8 towns on behalf of the main team and partners (YGRY consulting engineers, AMEN consulting, ACA Raising Consultants and Zenas Engineering).

Phase 1 (August 2014- April 2015) was summarised including the development of Sanitation Master Plans, the design of water supply improvement works, the business plan development and related studies, and the study to assess environment impacts.

A detailed report was then provided of progress with construction works under Phase 2 which started in July 2015. This includes the supervision of sanitation works in 8 towns, and water works in 7 towns and 25 satellite villages.

## Summary of progress with physical works

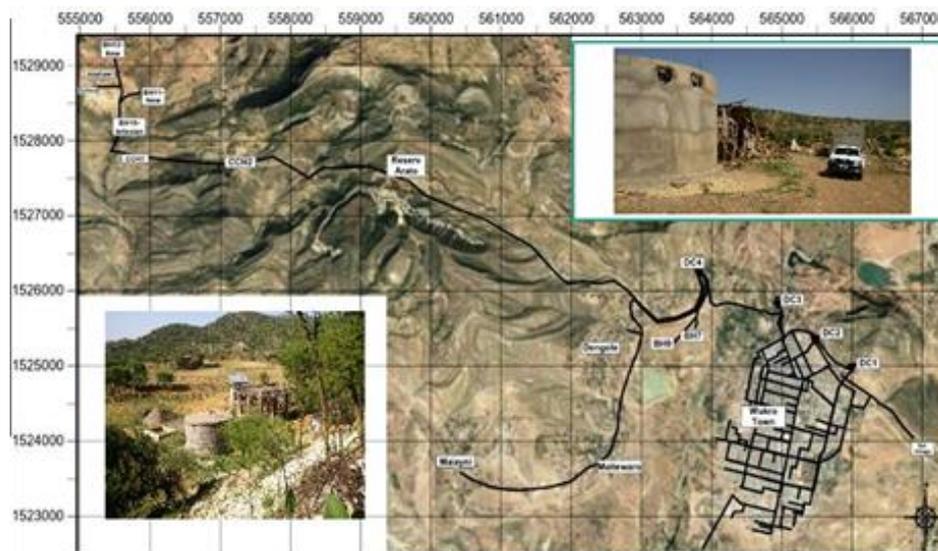
Table 1 summarises the progress reported with construction of new water and sanitation infrastructure.

In two towns, Abomsa and Welenchiti, identification and drilling of suitable water sources is proving a major challenge. High fluoride levels in groundwater present a major challenge to safe water supply.

**Table 1. Physical works progress reported**

Component		Progress with physical works (water)		Progress with physical works (sanitation)		Contract Details
	Maksegnit Town and 4 satellite villages (Jaraye, Aroge Maksegnit, Tsion and Aguash)	80%	Waiting for access to install pumps, generators and transformers	60%	Right of way problems to sludge drying bed and sanitary landfill site to solve.	Start date: 24.06.15 Completion date: 15.11.16 Contract Value: 55,487,866.55 ETB
	Bahir Gimb and Chinchaye	50%	Expect completion by end 2016			
<b>Wukro</b>	Wukro Town and 4 satellite villages (Abahawi, Maitewaru, Dengole, Maiyani)	60%	3 BHs producing 54 l/s	70%	Some delay due to heavy rains	Start date: 25.06.15 Completion date: 16.01.17 Contract Value: 108,556,598.20 ETB
<b>Adishu</b>	Adishu Town & 5 Satellite Villages (Tahitay/ Atsela, Kolasesat, LaelayAtsela, AdiAwlie, Melaiso, Gena)	95%	Only shallow wells with handpumps in villages	60%	Public toilet and SDB/ SLF missing	Start date: 03.09.16 Completion date: 24.11.16 Contract Value: 5,250,000 ETB
<b>Sheno</b>	Sheno Town and 4 satellite villages (Hamusgabeya, Adadi Mato, Chimisse and Adadi)	20%	Delays due to drilling, right of way issues and heavy rain	8%	Delays due to rain and selection sites	Start date: 13.01.16 Completion date: 15.06.17 Contract Value: 66,573,839.4 ETB + 576,262.04 USD + 326,159.85 EURO
<b>Welenchiti</b>	Welenchiti Town and 4 satellite villages (Dengore Tyio, Dengalu, Wangu, Feto)	26%	Major drilling challenges although a test borehole successful with permissible fluoride	70%	Some delay due to clay material for SDB	Start date: 13.01.16 Completion date: 14.04.17 Contract Value: 69,926,599.3 ETB + 277,064.90 USD + 377,552.80 EURO
<b>Abomsa</b>	Abomsa Town and 4 satellite villages (Homba, Gergele, Fetan and Teclahaimanot)	10%	Poor results from drilling, and loss of rig in flood	30%	Site selection causing delays	Start date: 13.01.16 Completion date: 07.05.17 Contract Value: 55,843,447.9 ETB + 1,396,575.64 USD
<b>K/dehar</b>	Water supply	15%	2 new boreholes completed complimented the existing 4	NA	Materials on site	Start date: 25.03.16 Completion date: 30.06.17 Contract Value: 90,167,028.89 ETB
<b>Jijiga</b>	Solid Waste Management	NA		0%		

Figure 3. Water work plans for Wukro



A common challenge in most of the towns is the acquisition of land for the sludge treatment and solid waste disposal. Land is scarce and no one wants these facilities on their doorstep. The challenges making agreements with communities, negotiating rights of way and compensation have delayed progress with these components in most towns.

Lessons learned that were identified include:

- The sub-contractor relationship and their capacity and quality is critical to progress
- Proper geophysical studies should not be rushed to secure good water sources
- Consider equity issues (e.g. with respect to tariffs) in business plan preparation

Best practices according to Salomon in the programme include: the inclusion of satellite villages, institutional WASH, water kiosks, attention to children, gender and disability issues, considering solid and sludge management, BCBT to bring in capacity building and sanitation master plans with a minimum sanitation package.

Questions that were asked related to tariff setting, ensuring equity and the role of kiosks and vendors, ensuring disabled access, management by utilities and the environmental and regulatory framework for approvals.

## Building capacities

Switching from ‘hardware’ to ‘software’, World Vision presented a summary of the work in the towns to build capacities and drive change in sanitation and hygiene, including both solid and liquid waste management.



Figure 4. CLTSH promotion activities.

The work in the towns builds on earlier activities such as Knowledge Attitude Practice, Vulnerability Analysis and Stakeholder analyses, and appraisals on informal water vendors.

Table 2. Progress reported in hygiene and sanitation

	PPOs trained	Artisans trained	HEPs trained	ODF villages	Schools reached	Schools with improved MHM	Health posts reached
<b>Maksegnit</b>	7	5	9	4	12	7	2
<b>Wukro</b>	14	10	14	6	12	6	3
<b>Adishu</b>	7	7	13	5	8	6	3
<b>Sheno</b>	7	5	9	4	12	7	2
<b>Welenchiti</b>	14	7	10	3	12	7	4
<b>Abomsa</b>	15	6	3	2	12	7	2
<b>Kebridehar</b>	28	16	17		6	6	3
<b>Jijiga</b>	32		12		8		1

A summary of the progress reported by World Vision is included in Table 2. A total of 24 villages have been declared ODF and CLTSH activities have been taken into the urban context and adapted.

In all of the towns public private operators (PPOs) have been set up to provide solid waste collection services.

Artisans have also been formed in groups and trained with a focus on producing products and providing services to improve household sanitation facilities such as the production of slabs for latrines.

World Vision estimate to have reached over 27000 girls through MHM activities in schools, with reductions in the drop-out rate of girls attending school claimed.

Challenges identified include coordinating between the hardware and software arms of the programme, and delays due to security issues in Oromia and Amhara.

Questions from the audience included clarity on the supply chain for MHM products.

## Taking an independent view

IRCs highlighted its role to independently monitor the programme over its duration with specific attention and focus through primary data collection and research studies to the implementation and innovation-focused activities in the 8 towns and satellite villages. This includes monitoring inputs, outputs, outcomes, and impacts as well as supporting

the partners to manage and disseminate the knowledge developed.

Activities to date have included:

- A Quasi-randomised control trial (8 project towns, 8 control towns) set up with a baseline (Sep-Dec 2014) including 7 surveys (urban system, sources, public water points, water quality, institutional WASH, waste collector, household survey) and a Midline survey (Aug-Sep 2016) including seven Focus Group Discussion themes
- Annual sustainability checks
- Documentation of innovations (learning notes) and interventions (intervention tracking reports)
- Knowledge management: dropbox, web publication etc

The baseline survey illustrates why these towns were chosen. Despite high levels of coverage in most of the towns (and also the control towns), service levels in both water and sanitation are poor. Only 9% households were assessed to receive services in line with GTPI.

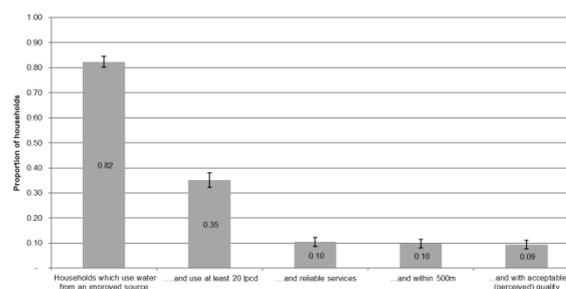


Figure 5. Water supply service levels following GTPI norms.

Sustainability checks have been undertaken and will be repeated annually. These enable the programme to track if has improved the conditions for sustainable delivery of services. In the first round of sustainability checks poor scores were identified at authority/ provider level on:

- TWU staffing
- Asset management
- Initiatives for urban poor
- Sanitary inspection for public stand posts
- NRW, and
- Catchment management/ protection

Poor enabling environment scores included aspects such as M&E, regulation and financing. The Programme is working to address most of these challenges.

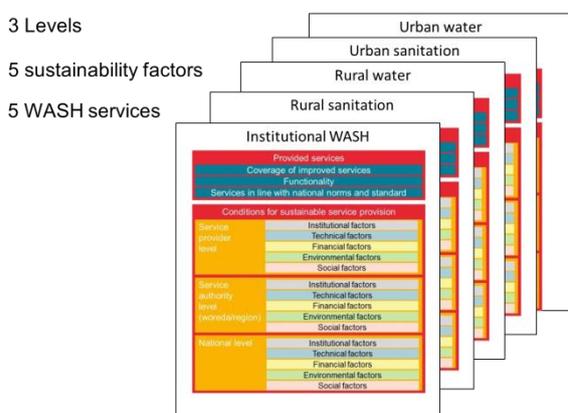


Figure 6. The Sustainability Check framework.

Although IRCs mid-line survey results were not yet available with data collection still to be completed in Amhara in September 2016, some highlights from the FGDs were presented.

For example with respect to MHM in schools in Tigray where interventions included the distribution of sanitary pads, providing MHM changing rooms, facilities for safe disposal, and education on MHM the following were identified:

- Positive changes: Reported reduced absenteeism of girls, subject is not a taboo anymore (or it's becoming less so)
- Challenges: In many schools there is a serious shortage of water supply for MHM, for hand washing after using toilets; nearly all schools don't have water storage tanks;

most toilets don't provide privacy for girls; and cleanliness of latrines is an issue

- Sustainability: continuity of procurement and distribution of pads beyond the project is an issue. Some opportunities exist, some schools and PTAs are allocating budget. Local reusable sanitary pad providers are being organized, but haven't yet started producing or selling to schools.



Figure 7. Focus Group Discussion on MHM in Tigray.

Linked to mid-line survey, an intern at IRC, has undertaken a detailed study of water supply services in Welenchiti. The results, presented in a poster at the workshop, illustrate how:

- Underperforming water systems create inequities in water supply
- Inequity is between good and poor supply areas and is not about quantity consumed
- Inequity is about the costs (financial, time, emotional distress) associated with accessing water

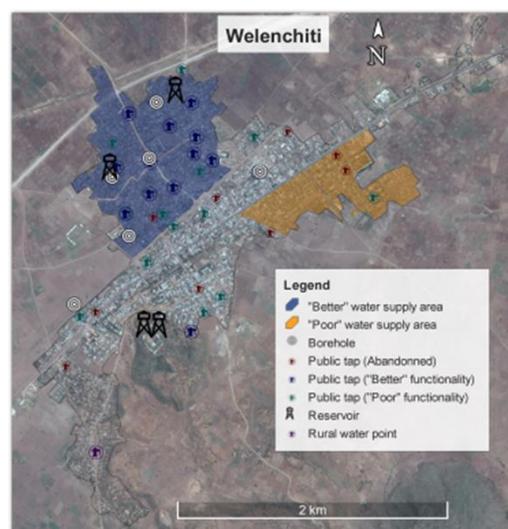


Figure 8. Comparison of better and poor water supply zones in Welenchiti.

The upcoming activities of IRC include:

- Reporting of the midline survey
- A second round of sustainability checks and plans
- Learning note on integrated S&H interventions
- Extending VFM analysis
- Journal papers on Sustainability checks and BCBT

Further topics for learning notes will also be identified on the basis of the workshop presentations and discussions.

In the discussion, one critical question was how the baseline/ midline results relate to the critical drought conditions in the first half of 2016.

## Innovations

UNICEF came back to emphasize the programmes focus on innovation. Three examples were presented on how the programme is seeking to drive innovation to find solutions to neglected problems.

The Build- Capacity Building- Transfer (BCBT) arrangement for contracting has been developed to ensure stronger involvement of the private sector in post-construction and ensure clearer lines of liability for services. It includes packaging elements of the contract, and includes job skills transfer regulated by a performance based arrangement.

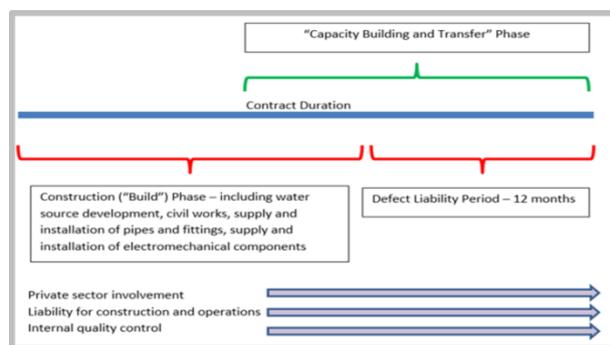


Figure 9. The BCBT concept

BCBT is considered to be a promising new procurement and contract management approach and is claimed to be more cost-effective.

The programme has also built south-south linkages through a Ethiopia-Brazil partnership. This is focused on piloting alternative sewerage solutions in Wukro, and supporting the development of regulatory frameworks based on good experiences in Brazil.

Finally, innovations in solid and liquid waste management were highlighted. In solid waste management this includes promoting reduce, recycle, reuse. In liquid water management, the idea is to ignite or start up a business and provide an incentive for the private sector to diversify their business. Sanitation marketing that goes beyond slab production. New businesses are being established through the programme and the aim is to help these go to scale.

## Panel discussion

The workshop concluded with a panel discussion. On the panel were Ato Daba Dugama from Oromia Water Bureau, Dr. Sam Godfrey UNICEF WASH Chief, W/so Martha Salomon from DfID, Ato Yimer Abtie Amhara Water Bureau Deputy Head, and Ato Bahiru Woldemariam from MoWIE. The panel were asked to give reflections on:

- Are we doing the right things?
- What can we do better?
- And how can it have more influence?

Overall, there was a strong consensus that the programme is doing the right things and filling some critical gaps with a strong focus on services for women and girls and the private sector. The packaging of contracts was picked out by Amhara's representative as an example and is something the region seeks to try out further. Including solid and liquid waste management was cited as something to emulate by Oromia so WASH projects go further even than combining water and sanitation. MoWIE highlighted the importance of quality assurance during the design phase.

In terms of doing better, there was a call from UNICEF for more disciplines to spread the word about BCBT with supervising engineers talking more about it from the beginning so it builds into plans with utilities and suppliers. He also challenged the sector to work towards

to integrated WASH contracts where different ministries fund such integrated projects. Other calls included making more use of the excellent training modules developed by the OU, and examining the clustering of towns to support service delivery.

DFID made a call to also spread the messages from progress in these 8 towns, taking the lessons learned to the multi-stakeholder forum, sector meetings and globally.

Overall, this was a highly successful workshop. One that might have lasted longer

to allow more debate. One that might have been organised even earlier to strengthen the relationships between organisations involved. And one to consider repeating to help maintain the good progress to date by the programme.

## Notes

All the presentations can be downloaded at <http://www.ircwash.org/news/mid-term-review-workshop-onewash-plus-programme>



## About...

This report provides a brief summary of the presentations and discussions at the ONE WASH Plus Programme mid-term progress review workshop, held in Addis Ababa on 20 September 2016. It was prepared by John Butterworth based on presentations given and notes by Alana Potter.