



Sustainability of Changes in Hygiene Behaviour

Progress Report no 1: December 2000-June 2001

Activity nr. WW178501

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LIBRARY IRC
PO Box 93190, 2509 AD THE HAGUE
Tel.: +31 70 30 689 80
Fax: +31 70 35 899 64
BARCODE: 18077
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Compiled by: Eveline Bolt
IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre
CA-Coordinator
Delft, the Netherlands
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IRC Water and Sanitation Centre

IRC facilitates the creation, sharing, and use of knowledge so that sector staff and organizations can better support poor men, women and children in developing countries to obtain water and sanitation services they will use and can sustain. It does this by improving the information and knowledge base of the sector and by strengthening sector resource centres in the South.

As a gateway to quality information, the IRC maintains a Documentation Unit and a web site with a weekly news service, and produces publications in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese both in print and electronically. It also offers training and experience-based learning activities, advisory and evaluation services, applied research and learning projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America; and conducts advocacy activities for the sector as a whole. Topics include community management, gender and equity, institutional development, integrated water resources management, school sanitation, and hygiene promotion.

IRC staff work as facilitators in helping people make their own decisions; are equal partners with sector professionals from the South; stimulate dialogue among all parties to create trust and promote change; and create a learning environment to develop better alternatives.

IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre
PO Box 2869
2601 CW Delft
The Netherlands
Tel: +31 (0)15 2192939
Fax: +31 (0)15 2190955
E-mail: general@irc.nl
Website: <http://www.irc.nl>

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Executive Summary

This progress report reflects project progress during the period December 2000-June 2001. Progress is according to plan. The main activities implemented are the first International Workshop at IRC and pre-testing of tools combined with enumerator training at the country level. Following pre-testing the survey tools are being/will be finalised.

List of abbreviations

CA	Concerted Action
DGIS	Directorate General International Co-operation
EC	European Commission
GTZ	German Agency for Development Co-operation
IRC	International Water and Sanitation Centre
LSHTM	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
NEWAH	Nepal Water for Health Organisation
NETWAS	Network for Water and Sanitation International
RA	Research Assistant
SEUF	Socio-Economic Unit Foundation
USEP	Uganda Association for Socio-Economic Progress
VRCWSA	Volta Region Community Water Supply and Sanitation Agency
WAU	Water Aid Uganda

Introduction

This is the first progress report written in the context of the Study on Sustaining Changes in Hygiene behaviour. This study will be carried out over a period of three years and has the following objectives:

- To develop an active network in the field of hygiene promotion;
- To assess the level of sustainability of behavioural change 1 to 3 years after a hygiene promotion intervention;
- To develop a methodology for simple/cost-effective longitudinal monitoring of behavioural changes;
- To get insight in relationships between project approaches and external conditions and sustainability of changes in hygiene behaviour;
- To determine policy and programming implications and influence policy to increase the effectiveness of water and sanitation programmes.

The study combines Concerted Action activities financed by the European Commission (EC) and actual field research, financed by the Dutch Government (DGIS) and the CA-members. This means that output delivery for both donors are the same, but that both donors finance different aspects of the study resulting in these outputs. For more details about the study reference is made to proposal no. ICA4-199-40024 or EC-contract no. ICA4-CT-2000-30038 or DGIS act.nr. WW178501.

IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre, being the study co-ordinator, is the contractual partner of both the EC and DGIS. A total of 8 CA-members/study partners are/will be sub-contracted by IRC. These are:

1. Network for Water and Sanitation-International, Kenya (**NETWAS**);
2. WaterAid Uganda (**WAU**), who will work in collaboration with Uganda Association for Socio-Economic Progress (**USEP**);
3. Volta Region Community Water Supply and Sanitation Agency, Ghana (**VRCWSA**);
4. Nepal Water for Health Organisation (**NEWAH**);
5. COSI-Foundation for Technical Cooperation, Sri Lanka (**COSI**);
6. Socio-Economic Unit Foundation, Kerala, India (**SEUF**);
7. London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom (**LSHTM**);
8. German Agency for Technical Cooperation, Germany (**GTZ**).

All organisations involved are of a different nature, having different mandates in the water and sanitation sector. However, we all have a common interest in looking at the long term effectiveness of efforts in the field of hygiene promotion and in challenging the existing assumptions. Whereas the Asian and African members/partners will carry out the actual research, the European members/partners will provide support as resource organisations.

This progress report is a brief account of what has been undertaken over the past 6 months. For more contents and more information about the first international workshop and the outputs, reference is made to the workshop report, of which a draft has been sent in April.

Planned versus realized activities

Project administration

This first six months of the project went according to plan. No major difficulties occurred except for the difficult communication with GTZ, which resulted in the contracts still not being signed.

Contracts for both the EC part as well as for the DGIS part of the project were drawn up with all, except for one project partner. Whereas GTZ did provide a consultant to take part in the project as a resource person on its behalf, the contractual arrangements between IRC and GTZ have still not been settled.

The first International Workshop

The first International Workshop was held from February 5-16, 2001. This workshop had the objective to enable the partners to:

- outline the current state of knowledge and experiences with regards to the relation between hygiene promotion approaches applied and the sustainability of changes in hygiene behaviour;
- consolidate the network of research partners;
- identify knowledge gaps;
- develop an approach for field research to build on the current knowledge level with particular regard to sustainability;
- identify activities for active dissemination of the current knowledge and the research results.

Within a commonly defined study framework, the delegates of the partners developed their own study hypotheses, research plan and tools for data collection.

Reference is made to the workshop report, of which a draft was sent in April. This report provides details of the workshop, the upgraded research plans and tools and an overall project planning. This report also has a chapter that indicates the existing gaps in knowledge and hence justifies the need for knowledge development. Last but not least the workshop report has a chapter on dissemination. As such the workshop report combines deliverable 1-4 as mentioned in the project proposal to the EC.

Activities in the field

After the workshop IRC staff ensured the production of word and excel files that will facilitate the use of the tools and the processing of survey data. Upon return in their country the Asian and African partners prepared for the pre-testing of the tools and for training of enumerators to be involved during the actual survey periods. At the time of writing this progress report, all but one of the study partners has done the pre-testing and used the pre-testing as an opportunity to train the enumerators. In the period covered by this report IRC staff has been able to visit the study teams of Nepal, Sri Lanka and Kenya.

INDIA

In **India** the research team started with a two-day workshop early April, where key-persons to be involved in the study were briefed. The materials were translated in Malayalam (the regional language) before the pre-testing. A first pre-test was done by the two study team members. Whereas the observation checklist and the questions were found good to generate the required data, the pictures for the pocket voting needed to be replaced. Pocket voting at the household level work out well.

Two Panchayats were selected from two districts in Kerala. One of them having been subject to a sanitation project of the Government of Kerala, the other to a water supply, sanitation and education project of the RNE. Enumerators were selected from the study areas. They are graduates, active and experienced social workers, having good rapport with the people. Being from the study area, they can adapt the timing of their survey activities to the schedule of community members.

Late April the enumerators received a one week training, which included further pre-testing of the tools. Particular emphasis was put on ensuring a uniform understanding of indicators.

The main study will commence on June 15. The Indian study team also decided to include a control group.

Ghana

In **Ghana** the study team organised a planning meeting with actors involved in the study. It then undertook a training for Research Assistants (RA) and Data Entry Officer from May 14-18 and combined this with the pre-testing of the tools.

- In line with the workshops undertaken by the other study teams the objectives of the Ghanaian workshop were to:
- Introduce participants to the background of the research;
- Explain the partnership role of VRCWSA in the Concerted Action;
- Discuss with participants the research methods to be used;
- Examine and discuss the research tools;
- Discuss the roles and tasks of RA's with participants;
- Discuss and practice methods of household selection with the RA's;
- Practice how to fill in the tools and take this information into the (data-collection) spreadsheets;
- Pre-test research tools in the pre-selected communities;
- Review and modify the research tools.

A wide variety of training methods were used (see annex I) and as a result of the pre-testing the tools were slightly modified.

The team also selected the study communities, using criteria such as accessibility, heterogeneity, having a previous history of water and sanitation related diseases. It decided that all 5 RA's will enter the community together and spend a maximum of three days in each of the communities. Per community the RA's will do an average of

5 households each. In each of the communities the school will be visited for interaction with 22 students.

When entering a survey community the RA's will first do the school survey and then use community map sketching and selection of the sample households. The second day of the survey will be spent on data collection at the household level and the third day on data assessment and transfer to the excel spreadsheet.

The RA's will start in pairs of 1 male and 1 female. Since most households keep their drinking water storage containers in the sitting room or the bedroom, the female RA is first to assist the male RA doing water storage observation, before she goes of on her own.

Nepal

Before going to the Netherlands to attend the first International Workshop the **Nepali** study team sought moral support from WaterAid/Nepal as well as financial support from DfID and WaterAid to cover costs involved in the actual field work (in particular salary and travel costs for the enumerators). WaterAid agreed to financial assistance.

After the workshop the Nepali study team recruited 3 experienced and 2 relatively inexperienced enumerators. All took part in the enumerator training, which was combined with pre-testing of the tools. Annex II provides the training programme. One of the inexperienced, yet trained enumerator will remain a reserve, since it can hardly be expected that all enumerators will remain available over the entire study period.

Timing of the pre-testing was somewhat hampered and delayed as a result of nation wide strikes in the country that made timely traveling impossible.

Kenya

Upon return from the Netherlands the team in **Kenya** started of by visiting the Maseno WATSAN project in Kisumu district. Since NETWAS in not involved in implementation of water supply projects it had to look for an implementing partner to be able to select study communities. The visit was meant to:

- update the Maseno WATSAN staff on the progress of the study;
- present the outcome of the first International Workshop;
- prepare for the pre-test and the selection and training of enumerators.

The team also met with the Public Health Officers in charge of Maseno and Kombewa Divisions.

The team selected 6 enumerators with some public health background. Three of them will carry out the survey in projects completed in 1998 and three in projects completed in 2000. They will be trained from June 18-23. Also in Kenya training of the enumerators will be combined with pre-testing of the tools.

Sri Lanka

In **Sri Lanka** the study team organised a group discussion to check the validity of the selected key-behaviours and hypotheses. This discussion was participated in by staff of the Community Water Supply and Sanitation Project (two training officers, two community development officers and a former consultant for the hygiene education programme) and by two staff members of the partner NGO. Suggestions for changes were made. Study communities and enumerators were selected. The enumerators were selected using criteria such as previous experience with data collection, a friendly and non-threatening attitude towards those responding to the questionnaires.

Half a day workshop was organised to brief the enumerators who will be involved in the study. On May 8 and May 27 pre-testing was done of survey questions and observation. The research team compiled a list of modifications to the study plan and the tools. After review by IRC staff the study plan and the tools will be finalised. Once the tools are finalised another two days of training will be organised.

Uganda

In **Uganda** pre-testing and training of the selected enumerators is planned for early July.

The resources person from **LSHTM** and **GTZ** took part in the first International Workshop and commented upon the study plans and tools.

Networking and Dissemination

To facilitate communication and sharing of information a yahoo discussion group was started. At least for the time being membership of this group is restricted to the study partners.

The IRC web-site has a couple of pages on the project and project documents, such as the workshop report will be put on the web after finalisation. The study featured in Source Bulletin of the Collaborative Council as well as in IRC-newsletter, which led to a number of request for further information, most of people associated to the Water Supply Programme of the World Bank. Unless people have very specific questions, information request will be dealt with by referring people to the web-site.

In **Ghana** the study team ensured project coverage in the January-March edition of WATSAN News of the VRCWSA. In addition the team informed district staff of the Ghana Education Service and the Operations Research Unit of the Ministry of Health.

In **Sri Lanka** a project presentation given at the quarterly meeting of the Water and Sanitation Collaborative Group of which COSI is in the Steering Committee.

Financial information

Costs involved in knowledge and experience sharing and documentation thereof as well as most of the salary costs of the CA-co-ordinator are financed through the EC. The DGIS and the CA-members finance salary costs for the members to take part in the Concerted Action and to do the field research around which the Concerted Action is built. DGIS also tops up funds made available by the EC for local travel and dissemination activities.

Upon receipt of signed contract the first instalment from the EC-funds as well as from the DGIS funds have been released. The contracts stipulate the outputs to be delivered before the release of the second and third instalment.

So far expenditure is in line with the budget.

Plans for future

1. The teams of Ghana, Uganda and India will be visited in July and August.
2. Once all comments on the draft workshop report have been received and processed, the draft report will be transformed in a final one. It is expected that this will materialise in July. The report will also be made available on the web-site.
3. As part of the dissemination plan a first newsletter will be compiled for electronic and, if deemed useful, hard copy distribution.
4. The study teams will carry out the first survey.
5. A decision will be made regarding the participation in the project of GTZ.
6. Develop an outline for a description of hygiene promotion activities as undertaken in the study communities.
7. Study teams will prepare the descriptions of the hygiene promotion activities.



International Water and Sanitation Centre

P.O. BOX 2869

2601 CW DELFT

THE NETHERLANDS

telephone: +31 (0)15 219 29 39

telefax: +31 (0)15 219 09 55

e-mail: general@irc.nl

website: <http://www.irc.nl>