

BOLGATANGA

COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION
MANAGEMENT PROJECT

824 GHBO89

PROGRESS REPORT
JULY - 1989 - DECEMBER

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INTRODUCTION

The Bolgatanga Community Water Supply and Sanitation Management Pilot Project is advancing the process of gradual transfer of management skills and technical expertise to the local people. The basic aim of the current report is to review activities carried out in Phase 3 of the Project (July to December 1989). It therefore updates the first report that covered Phases 1 and 2 (July 1988 to June 1989).

For easy comprehension of the present report, readers may obtain background information from the first report. Phase 3 of the Project covers:-

- * In-depth training of Village Mechanics;
- * Support for Water Committees in Problem-Resolving and Accounting Training;
- * Latrine Promotion and Health Education;
- * Selection and Training of Local Artisans for Latrine Construction;
- * Motivation of needy communities towards Hand dug Well Construction.

The present report highlights methods of resolving problems experienced in implementation and sectoral reports on progress made in Phase 3.

COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

The Bolgatanga Pilot Project emphasises community organisation as an essential ingredient towards the transfer of management responsibility to the local inhabitants. Motivation of the people at the grassroots is vital for attaining sustainable community participation.

To help attain these goals, the Project has maintained a programme of continuous contact with pump communities to enhance traditional skills in management.

Regular field visits and consultations with target groups has motivated active collective decision making and subsequent participation in project activities.

In furtherance with the two-way stage by stage system of adaptation and transfer of managerial skills, pump communities proposed local latrine builders for selection by the project staff. Through field visits the pace by which communities are grasping the community management is closely monitored by project staff. Corrective measures are suggested in problem areas.

3. WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES

Because of their strategic role in the project, activities to ensure the continuous participation of women in community water supply and sanitation was sustained. Despite heavy rains during the first half of the period under review (July to September), frequent visits by the Women's Work Specialist motivated women and ensured some achievements.

Five new women's groups were formed. Three women's groups established farms during the farming season. The produce will be used as seed in the next season to expand their farms. The ultimate aim is to generate funds to feed their group accounts.

next season and the rest sold to feed women group accounts.

Health and sanitation messages were transmitted to the women. A resource person from the Project undertook education on Oral Rehydration Salt Therapy and the preparation of salt-sugar solution for children having diarrhoea. Dangers of drinking water from other sources like dams prone with virus carrying water-borne diseases and regular cleaning of water containers was emphasised.

Training of women mechanics was carried out both at group meetings and during special community mechanics training sessions. Enthusiasm continued to be high and visible among the women on their involvement in the maintenance and management of their own water supply.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The period July to December 1989 saw the intensification of education on the payment of outstanding tariffs owed to the Ghana Water and Sewerage Corporation by defaulting pump communities. As a result the last three pump communities settled outstanding tariffs to the GWSC and are organising towards the opening of community bank accounts. Forty seven of the fifty pump communities in the project area are operating bank accounts.

Despite this achievement a campaign has been launched with the aim of mobilising more funds from pump communities got an enthusiastic response. Consequently, some pump communities have exceeded the minimum annual target of ~~18,262.00~~ *18,262.00* ~~per community~~. This is an indication of success in community involvement in funding of water sources. Phase 3 fell within the harvesting time and the higher response may be attributable to availability of funds as income is seasonal in this part of the country among the farming communities.

5. PUMP INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE AND PERFORMANCE

During Phase 3, five more pumps were installed. Seven of the already installed pumps underwent repairs while monitoring of the pumps for their performance in terms of water output and user preference was sustained.

Though the three types of pumps installed are about a year in the field breakdown rates have been significant in the Aquadev (mono). Three of the eight(8) repairs are due to perforation of rising mains by the plastic sleeve rod centralizers.

Besides these, there has not been any major repair carried out on the other pumps either than schedule replacement of bearing and lubrication of Nipples in the Volanta pumps.

All minor repairs were carried out by the community mechanics assisted by Area Mechanics. Project staff provided specialised expertise where necessary.

HEALTH AND SANITATION SECTOR ACTIVITIES

Activities in this sector were intensified during the period under review. In order to transfer the technique of constructing the modified Mozambique slab design to the local people, community-based masons were recruited. They were proposed by the community and selected by project staff. Training has started for this nucleus of local based latrine builders whose task is to promote installation and use of the simple toilets.

The production of Health Training material was completed and are being field tested.

Transmission of health messages started through health education for the VEWs. Areas covered include:

- * pump site sanitation;
- * proper use of water;
- * personal hygiene;
- * diarrhoea diseases (causes, prevention and preparation and use of ORS);
- * malaria (causes and prevention). etc.

These health messages are now being passed on to the Community Health Workers(CHW) through the VEWs during committee meetings and training.

7. HAND DUG WELLS

An important aspect of the Project is the encouragement of needy communities by provision of materials and technical expertise in the construction of wells. Such communities bear the financial costs of the material provided.

Under Phase 3 of the Project, two communities have opened bank accounts in preparation for material cost of well construction. They have also declared their full commitment to provide labour. Some communities are mobilised in readiness for action. However the Project is yet to come out with a detailed

work plan for communities requiring increased water points. Towards the goal of increased water points information is being gathered towards the production of a handbook on Hand-Dug Well Construction.

3. TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Training of Village Extension Workers and Area Mechanics continued in Phase 3. VEW weekly training sessions covered operation and maintenance of hand pumps and support for WASAMCs in problem-resolution.

A programme of training community based mechanics to take over maintenance functions at the local level is in progress. To ensure easy comprehension by illiterate pump mechanics, names of pump parts were translated into the local dialect. Names were made uniform to make it applicable to all pump communities.

A three-day workshop was organised for community based latrine builders to impart the techniques of constructing the Mozambique VIP toilets. Response by the trainees was encouraging.

As part of continuing efforts to encourage participation by local leaders, a second workshop was organised for assembly members. The aim is to review Project activities vis-a-vis the community involvement in Project implementation to marry Project plans with those of the assemblymen. Thus reducing duplication of efforts and ensure effective co-ordination.

PROBLEMS AND METHODS OF RESOLUTIONS

A. INTRODUCTION

Inherent in the implementation of any novel idea, are always accompanying problems.

It is therefore natural that in the process of trying to transfer water and sanitation management from an organised central agency to an illiterate dominated rural population, (decentralised groups) some problems will be encountered.

What is necessary for the advancement of the project despite these initial problems is how necessary corrective measures are taken towards eliminating the problems. Nevertheless no one has ever envisaged having a problem free new project. The task is to reverse the trend where problems represent a block to progress or advancement.

Documenting methods used to resolve some of these problems undoubtedly serve as an important reservoir of knowledge to guide future projects of similar nature.

This section of the report therefore highlights major problems encountered and methods used to resolve or control the situation.

B. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

The main bottlenecks that has arisen in the course of implementing the project has been in mainly in the area of community participation and financial management. It is not surprising in view of the low level of literacy, the following therefore represents summaries of major problems encountered.

Poor attendance to meetings has been a problem. Decisions that require simple majority approval are often delayed. Some of the root causes are known to originate from long standing family disputes, often are due to ineffective communication or key persons in community not favouring choice of water and sanitation committee.

In differences among committee members, women's groups and men. This problem is believed to be due to wrong perceptions amongst the various factions especially men perceiving women are taking over men's traditional role of leadership in the community. Much of it is also due to personality conflicts emanating from rumours.

Financial management conflicts among committee and the community. This problem arises in some communities possibly due to lack of regular meeting and records of accounts. Delays in Banking money collected and the lending out of community funds to individuals also generates tension between the committee and the community.

C. PROBLEMS SOLVING METHODS USED.

The project has adopted approaches of intervention in resolving most problems that arise in the community.

Regular visits to individuals, families and opinion leaders by project staff is the approach often used in resolving family disputes that affect project progress. With the approach disputing factions are able to reconcile and work together either in meeting or communal activities.

The problem of misconceptions on the role of women is removed through frequent community meetings organised and attended by project staff. An understanding of the strategic role of women in water use circle is often created, and much more awareness raised on what women could do to eliminate suffering of the entire community. This has proven useful in bringing about the continuous acceptance of women in management roles.

The problem of financial mismanagement is being resolved through the training of the entire water and sanitation committees on their roles, especially those of the secretaries and treasurers. Though the high illiteracy rate is a contributory factor to improper financial management efforts are made to train the secretary/treasurers on simple record keeping and accounting.

Village Extension Staff together with project staff monitors money retained in cash box and motivates communities to bank such monies to gain interest. This approach has reduced the tendency of individual committee members lending community funds to individuals and being unable to account for it.