

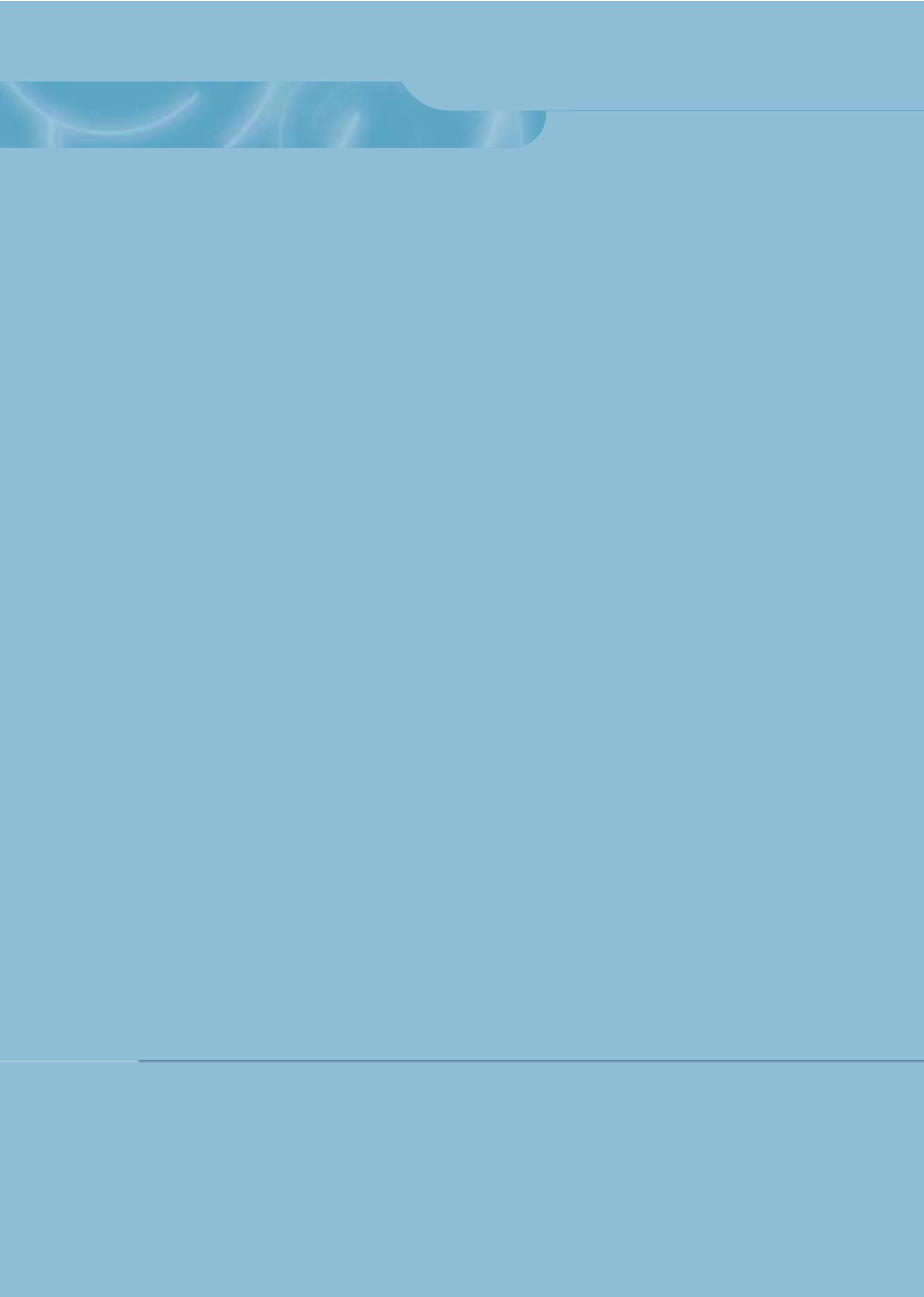


2001

Annual Report



International Water and Sanitation Centre



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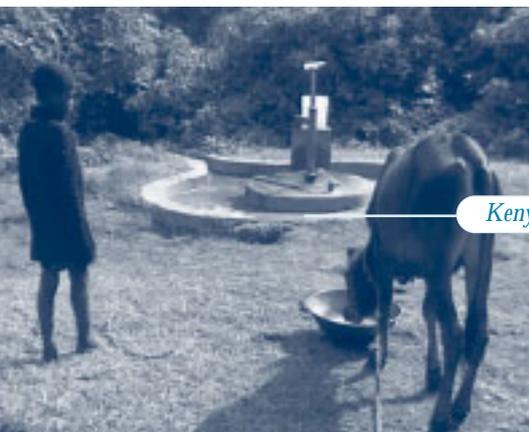
IRC in 2001

For IRC, 2001 was a pivotal year. An in-depth evaluation commissioned by the Dutch Government found substantial recognition and support for our key role as an international knowledge broker with strong partners in the developing world. The extensive and easily accessible information holding, the family of web sites, as well as SOURCE, the digest of sector news that we produce jointly with the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) are widely appreciated. The sector also looks to IRC as a leading low-cost publishing house and this is an area where the evaluation sees a need to reinforce the progress being achieved in electronic publishing and information communication technology.

Another significant finding was the support for IRC's role in building the capacity of resource centres (RCs) in the South. These centres are very important for creating access to sector information and improving sector performance.

The Dutch Government has embraced the evaluation findings and the new Business Plan has a firm focus on knowledge sharing and capacity building. These core areas are now the basis of IRC's activities, both through the Dutch funding and in our work with other partners.

Very positive indeed is that several projects developed in 2001 will strongly contribute to the new focus of the IRC. An excellent example is the WELL Resource Centre Network Development Programme. In the five-year contract with the UK Department for International Development (DFID), won in a competitive market, IRC is working closely with the Water, Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC) and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), and with eight southern partners to provide a wide range of information, desk research and



Kenya: cattle getting water

advisory services in water supply, sanitation and environmental health. Another example is the Dutch supported exchange programme for young professionals from RCs in the South.

These and other projects, including those implemented with EU support, will further strengthen the necessary working relations with organizations in the North and the South. Collaborative efforts between these organizations will lead to more efficient development and sharing of information and to a reduction in the current overlap. Similar benefits accrue from the expansion of IRC's close collaboration with the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) and from IRC agreeing to host the secretariat of the Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) and seconding a staff member as GWA's Executive Secretary. The Alliance has an expanding and well-respected influence on gender perspectives across the whole water sector.

Closer to home, IRC has collaborated with the International Institute for Infrastructural, Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering in Delft, with inputs into various courses and exposure visits and into the Water Education and Training (WET) Symposium. It is envisaged that this collaboration will be further intensified with IHE becoming the UNESCO-IHE Water Institute.

It has been a stimulating year and one in which we can be proud of our work and that of our partners in the developing world. With the new business plan and a healthy financial situation, IRC is in a strong position to make an important impact through its core activities. We are better able to support our partners and to help them to enhance the effectiveness of their own efforts. We readily accept our responsibility to ensure that the resources we have at our disposal are put to best use. So many people in the world still have so little in terms of good water, sanitation and hygiene services. Our mandate is to help redress that situation, and we will continue to do so with vigour.

We are grateful to the Dutch Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their continuing long-term support. We also appreciate the strong support that we have received from our partners and clients and will continue to demonstrate our dedication to the shared goal of improving water and sanitation conditions in the developing world.

Joop B. Hoekman
Chairman, IRC Governing Board

Improving access to and use of sector information

The collation, synthesis and dissemination of information is one of the principal ways that a knowledge-based institution such as IRC can contribute to enabling the world's poor to attain their water and sanitation needs in a sustainable and effective way. IRC uses different mechanisms to facilitate opportune access to and use of quality information and innovation. This contributes to making the work of sector professionals more efficient and effective. Following a demand-based approach, IRC continually updates its knowledge base emphasizing sector issues that rise in importance. Following the successful launch of Vision 21: Water for People at the Second World Water Forum in The Hague in March 2000, the demand has been for concerted advocacy, institutional reforms to advance people-centred approaches, more attention for sanitation and hygiene promotion, and better integration of water and sanitation activities with those of broader water resources management.

Information communication technology is evolving rapidly and IRC wants to make use of the best available information-sharing software. With financial support from VROM, IRC embarked on testing state-of-the-art software based on pattern recognition and comparing this with keyword based search engines. Testing also includes a review of connectivity problems in the South and an experiment with text-mining software that facilitates electronic abstracting. Twelve partners from the South participated in the project. Though all had adequate equipment, most had connectivity problems. IRC therefore plans to assist partners by mirroring their web sites on a server in the Netherlands and to help them in building their knowledge-sharing capacity.

Advocacy

Persuading decision-makers to give priority to investments in improved water, sanitation and hygiene is becoming more and more critical. Equally important are activities that orient sector professionals to new and more effective ways of working and help them to better involve stakeholders in improving sector performance. IRC takes part in a global advocacy campaign that receives support from all major players in the sector. The WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All) Campaign was officially

launched in December 2001 at the Bonn Freshwater Conference and given extra prominence on an exhibition stand shared by IRC and the WASH Campaign coordinator, WSSCC. IRC continued its role as the Internet focal point for World Water Day (WWD) information exchange. The activity expanded during the year, as the lead agency for WWD 2001, the World Health Organization (WHO) sought to maintain the public relations momentum of the day throughout the year. IRC collaborated with WHO to set up the web site <http://www.worldwaterday.org> and used its own extensive WWD contacts list to spread e-mail news about events and information supporting the year's theme "Water and Health". There were nearly a quarter of a million page views on the WWD site, nearly a third of them in March 2001 (WWD is 22 March). More than 100 WWD events were submitted for publication on the site and comments were received from all parts of the world.

Example of advocacy support: The Seventh Video, produced by IRC in 2000, turned out to be a very powerful advocacy tool for community management of water supply systems. It was shown on many occasions. Its strength is that it is an honest message from practitioners in the field that shows both the positive side and the limitations and conflicts.

On 7 March 2001, Blandina Betty Batiir wrote:

Thanks for this wonderful web site. I am the Regional Director of Community Water and Sanitation Agency in the Upper East Region of Ghana in West Africa. Your Web site has assisted us with information on the Theme, advocacy, diseases, etc. We would have been lost in our efforts without your web site.

IRC staff and partners (co) authored 18 articles and papers that were published in international periodicals and at international conferences.

Tomorrow's professionals will have a major influence on approaches to water, sanitation and hygiene improvements around the world. For this reason, IRC participated actively in the Youth World Water Forum on water awareness in Vlissingen, The Netherlands, on 25-27 June 2001. IRC staff arranged

Burkina Faso: school sanitation facilities need improvement



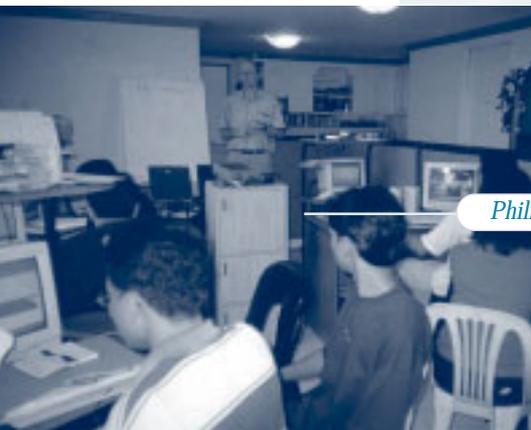
lectures and workshops on gender, communication and water awareness. The objective was to assist establishment of an international youth network to raise global awareness about the rights and duties of young people in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector. The emerging Youth Water Action Team made inputs to the Bonn International Freshwater Conference and will also share a vision on water issues of young people at the Third World Water Forum in Japan in 2003.

Documentation and Information Services

IRC has a comprehensive collection of printed and electronic documentation on water and sanitation and electronic linkages to many more information sources. New items are added to the collection in response to issues that are in demand in the sector. The 2001 Evaluation of IRC found that the organisation's role as a reference and documentation centre is very much appreciated. In its new business plan IRC has taken up the challenge to further strengthen its role in this area by helping to increase the number of outlets for information products in developing countries, explore arrangements for low-cost distribution of printed documents, and help Southern resource centres to disseminate information both electronically and in print form. The year saw another 300 unpublished documents added to the electronic library, raising to 1,900 the number of such full text documents that can be made available on CD-ROM. The IRCDOC bibliographic database now holds over 13,500 records. This includes 625 documents accessible via the web page (www.irc.nl/products/documentation/ircdoc/search.html). The popularity of online searching in IRCDOC is evidenced by a threefold increase in the number of searches – up to 11,190 by outside visitors during the year. Together these searches in the database resulted in 26,000 page views.

“...the IRC database is the most valuable one of published and unpublished literature concerning water in developing countries”.

Seidl, Le Jalle, Vezina (Nov 2001): comparison of 5 European web sites (OIEau, IRC, WEDC, pSEau, H2O.net)



Philippines: Electronic communication training

Readership of the joint WSSCC/IRC Source Water and Sanitation News continued to grow to an average of 145 page views per day. Source Weekly and Source Bulletin give readers a concise digest of sector news collected from a wide variety of sources, both on the web site and by e-mail. It is a highly cost-effective way of keeping readers up-to-date with what is going on around the world. The combined e-mail circulation increased to 1,898 by the end of the year. Paper copies of Source Bulletin are provided six times a year to more than 5,000 readers in 126 countries, mainly in the South.

“Source Weekly just gets better and better. Thank you! It's a wonderful digest of useful info. Keep up the wonderful work”.

Kathy Eales, National Sanitation Co-ordination Office, South Africa

“...the response we received after posting the announcement of the publication of our Safe Water System handbook was excellent. We received many requests for information from readers of the Source Weekly and Bulletin”.

Jon Macy, National Center for Infectious Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USA

Web sites

IRC's web site has continued to grow in both content and popularity. In 2001, issue-related pages were added for Community Water Management and for School Sanitation and Hygiene Education. The number of page views increased by 60 percent, after doubling in the previous year. Visitors from developed countries still make up more than 80 percent of the total.

Partners from West Africa and Asia joined IRC staff in two six-day workshops on strengthening electronic information services. The workshops helped partners in the South to increase their use of the Internet and to enhance their participation in electronic conferencing. This is important because they are a prime

Number of page views

<i>IRC site:</i>	<i>301,483</i>
<i>Source pages:</i>	<i>50,778</i>
<i>InterWATER site:</i>	<i>18,945</i>
<i>Sanitation Connection</i>	<i>74,380</i>



information access point in their countries for sector professionals not yet having Internet access.

In addition to maintaining its own web site, IRC operates a family of web pages for and with the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC). During the year there were significant improvements made to the design and navigation of the www.wsscc.org site, which includes Source, InterWATER and the Global Environmental Sanitation Initiative (GESI) in addition to the Council's own home page. New interactive tools attracted encouraging interest. Polls were conducted on hygiene promotion, design for sustainability, and pit latrines, and a total of 200 people cast votes via the site. The diarrhoeal clock, a counter of the lives lost each day to diarrhoeal disease, has also proved popular. Overall, page views of the Council sites rose by 27% in the year, to nearly 190,000.

IRC also took part in a multi-agency group which founded Sanitation Connection, a web "portal" that enables users to locate key documents on all aspects of environmental sanitation. On behalf of a core group comprising WSSCC, WHO, UNEP, the International Water Association and the Water and Sanitation Program, IRC and WEDC developed the conceptual framework for the initiative. IRC subsequently contributed material on two topics: gender and school sanitation.

Publishing

We seek to bring down the costs of knowledge products and our aim is to progressively foster a network of information outlets in developing countries. We are also working more and more with partners, to help establish IRC as the publisher of choice for sector documents and, increasingly, videos. The trend towards electronic dissemination continued in 2001. The number of downloads of IRC titles increased significantly again during the year to some 11,000, while the hard-copy distribution of IRC publications decreased to 2,800. Making publications available on the Internet and also through email is much appreciated. A significant new IRC publication is *Keep it Working*:



Colombia: Training workshop Community management

A field manual to support community management of rural water supplies. It is based on the results from a four-year action research project on community water management in Nepal, Kenya, Colombia, Guatemala, Pakistan and Cameroon.

The dissemination phase of this project also resulted in the production of seven videos, jointly developed with partners.

Other related publications will be published in 2002.

Another new co-publication by IRC and the Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) *The Best of Two Worlds? Methodology for Participatory Assessment of Community Water Services* is an adaptation of a PhD thesis by an IRC staff member. In collaboration with WHO, IRC developed an updated version of the Training package for managers and planners on operation and maintenance of rural water supply and sanitation systems. IRC and UNICEF collaborated on the production of an Indonesian translation of our longstanding bestseller on hygiene education *Just Stir Gently*.

The IRC publications catalogue is available online at <http://www.irc.nl/products/publications/index.html>

Thanks for the book: Keep it Working.

I have found it quite interesting and informative. The tools and illustrations are simple and easily understood by communities. It is a positive step towards ensuring sustainable community water and sanitation systems.

Eng. Samuel Wambua, Executive Director. Network for Water and Sanitation International (NETWAS), NAIROBI. Kenya

Training activities

Over the years, IRC has been increasingly transferring training skills to its partners in the South. The Evaluation showed this to be a welcome strategy, both for capacity building and to keep down costs. Activities in 2001 included eight briefing programmes, two study tours involving high level Indian sector staff and a Training of Trainers course in the Netherlands and 11 short courses run by partners. IRC also contributed lectures and examination content for students at IHE, Delft. Several of the courses reflect the current sector emphasis on community management. Partners bring their rich experience in these courses giving them a clear regional focus. Scaling-up Community Management was also the topic of a conference for senior managers and programme directors held in December in The Netherlands. Furthermore IRC has supported nine in-country workshops on community management and other themes.

Gender training South Africa

Introducing more gender sensitive action in the South Africa water and sanitation programmes is a politically-supported, key objective of the Department of Water and Sanitation. The National Community Water and Sanitation Training Institute (NCWSTI) and IRC facilitated this process through four training activities: awareness raising for gender workshops, a Training of Trainers course and testing of a pilot training course. NCWSTI is also one of the partners collaborating in the WELL Resource Network.

A new venture for IRC was an Internet-based training course. In collaboration with The (European) Network University (TNU) in Amsterdam, IRC managed a three-week course on Institutional Changes in the Urban Water and Sanitation Sector – Risks and Opportunities. It proved a successful activity and ran three times during the year, with a good mix of participants including people from water companies, the World Bank, consulting firms, NGOs, and universities. Participants liked the process of directed distance learning via the Internet and rated the content and structure of the course highly. The average time needed turned out to be 12-15 hours of reading, assignment debating and studying a week of which 5 -6 hours on line per week. A demonstration version of the course can be found online at <http://www.netuni.nl/demos/water/index.htm>

“The information contained in the course and linked web sites was excellent and timely. The content and structure were well organized, pace of information developed just right”. (Simon Thuo, civil engineer, Kenya)
“As a process of directed learning, via internet sources, both content and structure were excellent.” (Martin E. Parkes, agricultural engineer).



Information flows like water

National workshop in Cameroon

Rural communities have the potential to take responsibility for managing their water supplies. However, community management is often not sustainable in the long term as lack of capacity, local conflict, abuse of funds, reluctance to pay or poor communication can erode management institutions and rules. Communities do not only need initial support in creating good management practices, they need continuous and long-term support to keep their management systems, and thus their water supplies, operational.

This is the experience of some 40 representatives of stakeholders in the Cameroon water sector who were brought together on 29 and 30 March 2001 to discuss opportunities and constraints in creating more sustainable community managed water supplies. The national workshop was hosted by the key ministry for rural water supply in Cameroon, the Ministry of Mines, Water and Energy (MINMEE).

Advisory services

IRC continued to undertake appraisals, evaluations and other technical support activities during 2001 in response to requests. For the future, in response to the results of the Evaluation, we will consciously select activities which support our roles as knowledge broker and capacity builder of resource centres. The missions undertaken to 14 countries showed a shift in focus from water supply to policy and institutional development issues (9), sanitation and hygiene (6), participatory methodologies (4) and gender issues (3).

In Benin, IRC was asked to undertake a participatory assessment of the World Bank/Danida Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme, with the exercise seen as a pilot for possible use of the Methodology for Participatory Assessment (MPA) on other programmes in the country. The stakeholder assessment and policy assessment were both well received. GTZ and Belgian Development Cooperation Department have both requested

Cameroon: women help construction



support from IRC and WSP to oversee use of the MPA in their ongoing programmes. It is expected that a Training of Trainers course will be organised and advisory support given for the evaluation and analysis.

Several advisory support missions were conducted in India. In Andhra Pradesh (AP), IRC provided support for the Centre for Development Studies, which is building the capacity of the AP Academy for Rural Development (APARD) for training development, advice, documentation, publications and information. IRC's contribution was funded by the Royal Netherlands Embassy. With support from UNICEF and funding from DFID, IRC contributed to a five-month community monitoring project in Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. The aim is to develop model systems for community monitoring which can be applied more widely. At national level, IRC is working with WEDC and with inputs from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to help jump start the human resources development component for sector reform in 63 pilot districts (70 million people). The programme will begin in Delft with a strategic planning workshop involving 12 senior personnel from the Government, UNICEF and WSP.

Watershed specialists in India: Protect 'groundwater reserve' at village level

Regulations in India that support the pre-eminence of domestic water should be enforced, and a 'groundwater reserve' should be identified and managed at the village level. This was a major recommendation from 50 participants in a series of workshops/field visits from 5 – 16 May in Andhra Pradesh, India., bringing together NGOs from South Asia and India working on watershed management and water supply and sanitation. IRC participated in and facilitated the Natural Resources Institute's (NRI) Water Households and Rural Livelihoods (WHIRL) project workshop <http://www.nri.org/WSS-IWRM/>. The next three years of the project will seek to identify ways to turn these recommendations into action.

Supporting Sector Innovation

Over the years, the water, sanitation and related hygiene sector has led the way in pioneering new participatory methodologies, gender-sensitive approaches and technological advances. IRC has contributed to this particularly through programmes in which it worked with partners in the South. Increasingly these programmes also include partners from the North. Several new collaborative programmes were launched in 2001 including EU supported projects. Essential in these programmes is that they enable the participating organizations to experiment with new approaches and adjust these to the local realities. This helps them to better support the sector in the countries where they are working.

Progressing Community Management

In the eighth year of the Community Water Management project, IRC and its six southern partners were proactive in disseminating experiences, lessons learned and success stories through videos, articles, conference presentations, and books (see the “Keep it Working” field manual). In December, IRC facilitated an international mini-conference for senior policy makers and programme managers from external support agencies, international and national NGOs and research institutes. An international steering committee (IRC, WEDC, SKAT, WSSCC and WaterAid) helped to organise the workshop and will remain active in follow-up work.

Case studies illustrating ways to scale up community management were the entry point for the discussions, which sought ways to improve support mechanisms by stakeholders at international, national and district levels.

Zimbabwe: Local councilor checking a community pump



The participants affirmed the strong need for governments to institutionalise community management approaches as a primary tool in the delivery of water services. They stressed the need for an integrated approach bringing together:

- policies that acknowledge and build upon the key role of communities in water supply management;
- effective legislation, regulation and enforcement;
- support agencies that are responsive to community demand;
- application of new technologies (participatory tools, geographic information systems (GIS), data management, decision support systems) that can underpin such support frameworks;
- cost recovery and financial models that can help pay for and support the necessary backup for community efforts.

The conference was a first step. Outcomes will include a synthesis document and a work plan for an advocacy campaign. A series of follow-up conferences and workshops are planned.

Community water resources

Following up its work for DGIS on Watershed management and livelihoods, IRC hosted a side workshop at the WEDC conference in Zambia in August 2001. Water sanitation and hygiene professionals from 13 countries discussed competition for precious water resources and the weak bargaining position of poor communities needing basic water sanitation and hygiene services. They urged other professionals to play active parts in national, regional and local integrated water resources management fora. The emphasis should not be on “providing domestic water and sanitation” they argued. The sector mission should be rephrased to “providing water to sustain life and livelihood”.

Promoting Hygiene and Sanitation

IRC has been active for a number of years in applied research and knowledge sharing on hygiene promotion and sanitation. It is highly encouraging to see that sector agencies are united in recognising these twin themes as the top priority for advocacy



India: latrine part production

and investment in the coming years. During 2001, IRC worked with UNICEF and UNICEF offices and other organizations in six countries on school sanitation and hygiene education.

A separate but linked project implemented with UNICEF and the government of India is developing, testing and demonstrating replicable models for hygiene education, along with water supply and environmental improvements, in rural primary schools and pre-schools. Through the global project, IRC and UNICEF developed a School Sanitation and Hygiene Manual. It describes a variety of ways of promoting a safe environment for children through education in formal and informal schools. The manual is now being field-tested and adapted, after which it will be made available to a wider audience.

The action research project on Sustaining changes in hygiene behaviour funded by the EU and the Dutch government (DGIS) has selected three areas of focus for its work during the next three years. The project, in which IRC works with two European partners and NGOs from six developing countries, has begun its studies of: safe handling of water; latrine construction and use; and washing of hands. Data collection tools have been chosen, tested and refined, and mid-term study results are expected early next year. This project supports both key operational objectives of IRC's Business Plan. It includes an active dissemination strategy to ensure prompt and practical use of the information generated; and the southern partners are building their own knowledge and support capacities on a high priority issue.

IRC is the lead for the Hygiene Promotion and for the Gender Thematic Group in the WELL Resource Centre Network on Water, Sanitation and Environmental Health project with London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine as second lead; and IRC is second lead, with WEDC as first lead on the Sanitation Thematic Group.

Objectives of the UNICEF/IRC Global SSHE Project

- *to develop and improve country-specific, child-centred teaching programmes utilizing the life skills;*
- *to develop the capacity to utilise designer's guidelines for school facilities,*
- *to support initiatives sustained by the different stakeholders at community level,*
- *to field test the methodology for improved SSHE in at least six countries on three continents,*
- *to document and disseminate the experiences of the pilot projects,*
- *to increase the Global, Regional and National awareness and commitment towards SSHE.*

Institutional Development

People-centred, participatory approaches pose considerable institutional challenges for governments at all levels. IRC's project activities in the area of institutional development aim to contribute to closing the gap between policy and practice by helping sector institutions in selected countries to review sector problems with stakeholders and jointly develop sector improvement programmes. They also include crosscutting activities such as gender mainstreaming and monitoring. A number of specific projects have already been described under the headings of Training Activities and Advisory Services earlier. Two more are described here.

October 2001 saw the start of a major new programme to build up the National Community Water and Sanitation Training Institute (NCWSTI) into a national resource centre with a mandate to mainstream gender in the water supply and sanitation sector in South Africa. GEMSA (Gender Mainstreaming in South Africa) will help NCWSTI first to target the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, then progressively to move into training of private-sector technical and social personnel. The three-year programme fits into a larger Netherlands-supported four-year activity focusing on rural local government and infrastructure services, including water supply and sanitation.

The innovative Methodology for Participatory Assessment (MPA) developed with the Water and Sanitation Programme (WSP) was further established through both field activities and PhD research. The results were published in IRC's publication series. The methodology comprises a sequence of participatory tools that enables all stakeholders, from women users to programme managers and policy makers to evaluate and monitor the sustainability of domestic water services and relate it to gender and poverty issues. MPA allows comparable qualitative and quantitative information to be gathered at community level.



Burkina Faso: SSHE workshop

Partners around the World

IRC's operations all involve partners. We depend upon and support a wide range of external support agencies and resource centres in the North and the South. Our strength comes from the shared commitments of these partners to common goals and their willingness to reinforce each other's efforts rather than working competitively or "territorially". Donor collaboration in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector is an example for other sectors to follow. In particular, the way in which two of the sector's major donors, the Dutch and UK governments, have combined forces in a number of innovative sector initiatives in recent years is contributing to accelerated progress on the most critical issues of the day. It has certainly smoothed the way for synergistic efforts involving IRC, WEDC, LSTHM and others, avoiding duplication and enhancing effective knowledge dissemination.

Partners in the South

Synergies among Southern resource centres have been greatly improved by the IRC-supported Streams of Knowledge Coalition (SoK). Links with Southern resource centres are at the heart of IRC's Business Plan, and we warmly welcome the SoK initiative to establish itself as a foundation. An interim Board of Management has been formed. It is chaired by Mrs Rory Villaluna of the Philippine Centre for Water and Sanitation (PCWS). The SoK partners have jointly developed a "toolbox" for strengthening the management and organisation of resource centres. The tools include: self-assessment guidelines; a guide for organisational strengthening of potential resource centres; an impact assessment methodology; quality assurance guidelines; and web site development/electronic information tools. The Sounding Board Group met twice in 2001 to discuss progress with country and regional alliances, and the next steps in testing the tools. The basic IRC goal of building the capacity of resource centres has been given a significant boost by a three-year programme initiated by the Dutch Government: Capacity Building of Young Professionals in Support of Water and Sanitation Sector Improvement. Under the programme, eight young professionals from the South and four Dutch Junior Professional Officers (JPOs) will work through an exchange system in which all gain experience that will prepare them for serving the sector.

In November 2001, the four Dutch JPOs started a three-month preparation programme in IRC. After that, they will join four of IRC's longstanding partners (CINARA, Colombia; NETWAS, Kenya; NEWAH, Nepal; and PCWS, The Philippines) for 15 months.

Young professionals from those centres will come to IRC for 17 months, allowing a one-month overlap with the Dutch JPOs at each end of the exchange. The process will then be repeated, with the same Dutch JPOs

CFPAS, Mozambique
CINARA, Colombia
COSI, Sri Lanka
CREPA, Burkina Faso
IWSD, Zimbabwe
NCWSTI, South Africa
NETWAS, Kenya
NEWAH, Nepal
PCWS, Philippines
SEUF, India

exchanging with a different four young professionals from different southern partners.

IRC believes that this is a powerful way of building resource-centre capacity while also giving 12 young people some rich experiences at the start of their professional careers.

International Partners

UNICEF
WHO
WSP
WSSCC

HR Wallingford, United Kingdom
LSHTM, United Kingdom
pSEau, France
SKAT, Switzerland
WaterAid, United Kingdom
WEDC, United Kingdom

The Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) has maintained the momentum generated by its successful launch at the Second World Water Forum in March 2000. The international coalition of like-minded individuals and agencies has become the primary voice for gender perspectives in the broad water resources sector. IRC has strongly supported GWA from the start. This support has been reinforced by the secondment of Jennifer Francis from IRC as GWA's Executive Secretary and by IRC hosting the Secretariat.

A new Steering Committee was elected in March 2001, headed by Maliha Hussein from Pakistan. Throughout the year, GWA members have spread the gender messages in a wide range of workshops, seminars and conferences. IRC has assisted the alliance in preparing a key messages leaflet on gender and water that was well received by participants in the Bonn International Freshwater Conference in December 2001. IRC is also supporting preparation of an annual report on Gender and Water.

The shared stand at the Bonn Conference also helped to cement even further, IRC's close and flourishing partnership with the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC). For many years, IRC has supported the Council's communication and advocacy roles and participated in a number of WSSCC Working Groups and Task Forces. Joint products such as the Source news service, InterWATER database on sector organisations and the Council's web site receive good response from the field. The partnership benefits both agencies and results in a high profile for water sanitation and hygiene issues at all levels. Publicity was given to the new WASH advocacy campaign, to the work done on ecological sanitation by the WSSCC Environmental Sanitation Working Group, and to gender and hygiene issues.

IRC has worked with the Water, Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC) at Loughborough University and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) in the UK. This collaboration now has been substantially reinforced and expanded by the award of the new five-year "WELL Resource Centre Network for Water, Sanitation and Environmental Health" contract by DFID. WELL started as Water Engineering at London and Loughborough and has operated as a five-year support programme to DFID led by LSHTM and WEDC. IRC joined the WELL core team to compete for the contract to become the resource centre network to support the UK's development assistance programme for water supply, sanitation and environmental health. The contract was won against

intense international competition. The successful bid includes partnership with eight southern resource centres, who will both contribute expertise and have their own capacities increased through the project.

The WELL contract

www.lboro.ac.uk

Under the WELL contract, the consortium partners will provide services to DFID and DFID partners, including:

- *developing and disseminating information about applied research and best practices related to water supply, sanitation and environmental health;*
- *developing policy and technical advice for the DFID and overseas partners of the UK aid programme;*
- *strengthening the capacity of eight partner organisations in Kenya, Colombia, Bangladesh, Russia, India, Ghana and Zimbabwe; and*
- *providing internet-based access to information and an international help-desk, with an immediate technical response and document services.*

The year 2001 saw IRC strengthen its links with other international partners. Collaboration with UNICEF on school sanitation and hygiene and supporting sector reform in India has already been described, and there are prospects of further joint activity. The World Water Day activity led to renewed collaboration with WHO. And IRC worked closely with the Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) both on the Sanitation Connection development and on further development of the MPA.

Partners close to home

IRC and IHE staff have both benefited from being housed in the same Delft building. During 2001, IRC staff contributed to the IHE post-graduate programme on sanitary engineering and to various workshops, as well as providing guidance to MSc and PhD students. IRC also contributed to the inter-university programme of IHE and Valle University, Colombia.

IHE staged an international symposium on Human Capacity Building in the Water Sector through Innovation and Collaboration to progress thinking on WET (Water, Education and Training), identified as a priority at the Second World Water Forum. IRC mounted a stand at the event and IRC staff made a number of inputs, as well as contributed papers on ICT and E-learning. This marked the start for further collaboration in this area between IHE and IRC.

The cooperation with The Network University in Amsterdam on Internet courses has already been described. IRC also worked with the Netherlands Water Partnership, AID Environment and the Irrigation Water Engineering Group of Wageningen University, to help prepare a Reference Guide on Water Resource Management for the Netherlands Development Organisation SNV. It will be used by SNV professionals, advisers and partners working in the field of integrated water resources management.

*GWA
IHE, Delft
NWP, Delft
TNU, Amsterdam*

General Information

Finance

IRC is an independent, non-profit organization supported by and linked with the Government of the Netherlands, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, the World Bank and the WSSCC. The Netherlands Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided IRC with a core budget of approximately 1.04 million Euro in 2001 annually. This is supplemented with income from services and programmes requested by national governments, multilateral and bilateral donors, UN agencies, international development banks and NGOs. In the year 2001 the supplementary income amounted to some 1.3 million Euro. Aside from its own income, another 700,000 Euro was passed through IRC to partner organizations in the South. Furthermore, IRC was able to involve several of its partners in advisory missions and training activities.

Despite a lower subsidy level IRC staff was able through a series of advisory and training activities and the development of new projects to ensure again a positive financial result.

As a consequence, however, less time could be spent on some of the core activities. This triggered in part the recommendation of the evaluation team calling upon the Netherlands government to stronger support this crucial component. This call was met positively and as a consequence for 2002, the first year of the new business plan, the subsidy level will be substantially higher. It should be realized that the new subsidy also includes financial resources that will be provided to partners in the South, as well as resources, which can be used for joint publications with partners in the North and the South.

Staff

The activities described in this report have been carried out by IRC's staff of 35 and its partners. Disciplines represented among staff are information science, information and communication technology, engineering, sociology, anthropology, economics, and journalism. Some 25% hail from outside the Netherlands.

An important role of IRC staff in carrying out the organization's activities is that of facilitator, guiding partners in coming to grips with sector problems, and jointly identifying and testing solutions.

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