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Community-based environmental sanitation in Addis Ababa

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Community-based environmental sanitation in Addis Ababa (Outline notes)

Tore Lium, Water and Sanitation Program – Eastern and Southern Africa

From problem via knowledge to action

The 1994 census recorded a population of 2.1 million, but this may have been an underestimate. The present population may be between two and a half and three million.

The problem

Sanitation services characteristics

- The sewerage system has the capacity to deal with 200,000 people, but serves 30,000 — 50,000.
- Septic tanks serve about 175,000.
- Dry pit latrines serve about 1,560,000, mainly multi-family shared.
- Drainage: whole blocks of the city are without any improved drainage.
- Water supply was not investigated, demand is heavily suppressed.
- *About 700, 000 people do not have access to their own excreta disposal system.*

Knowledge

What is being done to address (or arrest) this situation?

- Region 14 (now Addis Ababa City Government) with 30 — 50 projects.
- UNDP-World Bank Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) and UNICEF wanted information.
- The Government of Italy agreed to support investigations — CERFE was contracted.

Objectives

1. Catalogue and map all recent/ongoing CBES projects (or components).
2. Study good/bad practices in twelve selected projects.

Findings

Emerging knowledge

- 118 projects were identified as active between 1 January 1994 and 31 July 1996.
- 72 projects were operated by 23 NGOs and 46 were operated by 19 government agencies.
- 47% of the kebelles (sub-districts) were the target of one or more projects.
- 500,000 — 700,000 people were estimated to be direct or indirect beneficiaries of a project (or projects).

- 41 projects had less than 3000 beneficiaries — 25 had more than 20,000 beneficiaries.
- Projects had a total of 41 different donors or financiers (including domestic sources).

Sub-sector projects

- 84 projects deal with storm drainage.
- 62 projects deal with excreta disposal.
- 8 projects deal with solid waste disposal.
- Only three projects deal with sullage disposal.
- Limited integration: two-thirds of drainage and half of excreta disposal projects are 'free-standing' — often caused by single mandate of agency.

Case studies

Nine NGO projects and three government projects:

Two approaches:

1. Rely on Kebele administration or development committee (government)
 2. Form new community committees (NGOs)
- People's participation is pronounced but is in different or diverse ways — also with some limitations.
 - Technologies are appropriate and generally to high/appropriate standard — with some obvious weaknesses (inadequate pit ventilation, flat slopes of drains, etc).
 - Cost recovery policy is not clear and varied across projects — from supportive to detrimental to sustainability of service.
 - Lack of secure tenure in rental housing is a disincentive or limitation to community commitment and contribution.

Some conclusions and recommendations

- There was significant impact of the 118 projects in terms of local improvements.
- Local solutions — decentralized under a coherent city wide strategy — seems to provide the only viable avenue for improvements in the near term. Massive latent capacity has been created by so many projects in so many parts of the city.
- "Territorial" specialization reduces the overall impact — better integrated or co-ordinated interventions are needed.
- Coordination, service planning/management and better monitoring need to be put in place — a sanitation council (or forum) of stakeholders is needed.

- CBES should have a stronger element of site-based rather than sub-project-based planning.
- The demand-driven approach should be integrated with multi-contextual considerations.
- Massive publicity campaigns are needed to enhance awareness and to explain potential benefits.
- Some critical links between local and trunk infrastructure need to be strengthened — e.g., pit emptying, capacity to place and remove solid waste skips, waste disposal.

There is still a long way to go for Addis Ababa to become a clean city, but movement is in hand.

Actions taken or under way

Critical communications measures

- The initiatives have been guided by the same stakeholder reference group throughout.
- A number of stakeholders and task forces have helped to build consensus.

Specific follow-up initiatives

- Proposal for the multi-tiered Addis Ababa sanitation forum — vetted by a workshop and now with the City Government for adoption.
- TOR for management information system and monitoring and evaluation system for CBES — study/design carried out by Rodeco Consulting GMBH, with Omnitech and WSP-ESA (funded by GTZ).
- Study on institutional arrangements and financing mechanisms for CBES by Tropics Consulting Engineers — how will communities be able to access support to meet their demands?

European Union enters the scene

- EU has committed substantial funds for WSS in Addis Ababa.
- How to make sure the poor communities will also benefit?
- Above case studies in place and attracted EU's interest — WSP-ESA developed additional building blocks with AACG in preparation for a project.

Detailed project preparation by WSP-ESA / AACG has included:

- definition of project strategy for CBES (now community Based Water and Sanitation Project — CBWSP — with a water component added);
- the first draft of a detailed Project Operations Manual;
- an outline of the draft implementation plan, including capacity-building measures;
- guidelines to communities and intermediaries: project promotion and awareness creation;
- outline of general awareness and hygiene/behaviour improvement campaign.

Vision

Where will we be in five years time?

- Delivery mechanism for environmental sanitation services for the poor to be tested and mainstreamed, supported by sufficient institutional and implementing capacity at all levels.
- The financing mechanism — a dedicated fund with community access criteria — will be effective and city-wide.
- Capable actors have incentives to develop and sustain the CBES services.
- Adequate trunk infrastructure established to enable and sustain the CBES services.
- Adequate trunk infrastructure established to enable local solutions to function.
- Knowledge of the sanitation situation (service type/level and coverage) available on-line.
- Coordination an informed planning/management of CBES established.
- Strategies developed and tested for Addis Ababa modified and adopted as a model for other cities.

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