


Report 2006-2007

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Global Water and Sanitation Initiative (GWSI)

Appeal No. MAA00002

03/04/2008

This report covers the period of 01/01/2006 to 31/12/2007 of a two-year planning and appeal process.



Children accessing safe water from an improved shallow well system financed by GWSI projects. International Federation.

In brief

Programme summary: The number of fully funded long-term Water and Sanitation (WatSan) projects that have been identified since the launch of the GWSI in 2005 and especially in 2007, has increased, now reaching 27 in total in the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. Sixty percent of the funding is multilateral, with the remaining flowing from bilateral relations. GWSI is on target in relation to the 10 year time scale (2005-2015), where it was expected to mobilize CHF 150 million. As to date, CHF 60 million has been raised. Most projects are still in the early stages of implementation, resulting in a decreased expenditure in relation to the funding received. As projects become more established (most projects have three to four year project time span), the rate of expenditure and the impact of the project is expected to increase.

Goal: To further contribute to the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the International Federations Global Agenda by scaling-up existing Red Cross/Red Crescent (RC/RC) Societies and increasing the participation of beneficiaries in the planning of WatSan activities. It is hoped to reduce by half those without access to sustainable water and sanitation (MDG7). At the same time, GWSI aims to help decrease the burden which results from the outbreak of disease related to people's poor access to water and sanitation facilities, and increase the promotion of good hygiene practices.

Needs: Total 2006-2007 budget CHF 10,308,323 (USD 9,220,325 or EUR 6,247,468) (out of which 29 per cent covered).

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No. of people we help: The overall target is to reach five million people by 2015. At present it is projected that two million people have benefited or will benefit from sustainable water and sanitation activities from 2005 to 2009. Exact figures will soon be available from the mid-term review of projects planned during 2008.

Our partners: Over 2000 community-based groups, Government Line Ministries, and more than 30 Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies (NS). Other partnerships exist with the European Union (EU) Water Facility, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and corporate partners such as Nestle, Shell and Procter and Gamble. Within the International Federation, GWSI works with zonal, regional and country-based structures in its coordination and technical support, with overall programming and technical support provided by the Water and Sanitation Unit in the secretariat in Geneva.

Current context

Political instability has impacted GWSI negatively in Eritrea, the impact of economic constraints has been seen on projects in Zimbabwe, and floods, cyclones and droughts have affected initiatives in Hispaniola, Kenya and Zimbabwe. In Eritrea, the project is still suspended as the delegation and the European Union (EU) are in consultation with government authorities. The effect of natural disasters in the other countries mentioned, has led both host National Societies and delegations/zones to occasionally accept delays on the implementation of projects.

In the future, when addressing "chronic" problems, such as poor water and sanitation amongst vulnerable communities, it is important to understand that "acute" challenges could arise periodically, such as economic downturns, political instability or natural disasters which may have an impact on the implementation of project(s).

Progress towards objectives

Objective/s: To provide more long-term sustainable solutions– and mitigate against recurring disasters – by using proven developmental approaches to build better capacities and coping mechanisms at the community and volunteer/branch level.

The International Federation, together with its member National Societies, is still recognized as a key player in the provision of water and sanitation needs/facilities in times of disaster. However, the need to address the underlying lack of access of people to safe water, sanitation and good hygiene has led National Societies and external parties to seek more long-term solutions to address the current water and sanitation problem.

At present, there is an increased international momentum to scale-up sustainable water and sanitation coverage by 2015. This has been clearly identified by UN Member States (Commission of Sustainable Development (CSD) and MDG's), and underlined by the 2nd UN Decade for Water launched in 2005. Both initiatives reflect the goal of the GWSI and the Water and Sanitation Policy of the International Federation adopted in 2003.

Achievements: Morbidity and mortality are increasingly being addressed in a project's target areas in

view of its link to the loss of productivity, poor or non-existent water and sanitation facilities and poor hygiene practices. The GWSI project has also targeted vulnerable communities in rural areas, where the present water and sanitation coverage is significantly less than the national average, and communities affected by recurring or ongoing disasters or crises such as food insecurity, recurring drought and floods, climate change as well as the HIV and AIDS pandemic. The scale and volume of fully funded projects to-date is a clear indicator of internal and external commitment to this initiative.

Challenges or Constraints: The GWSI reflects “new ways of working” as it has a flexible approach to programming, especially in terms of implementation, where the majority of projects are “delegated” to National Society management, albeit still under the umbrella of the International Federation. This is a learning experience for all partners – but gives greater responsibility and degree of accountability to Host National Societies and individual or Partner National Societies (PNS) consortia. Added to this, the high number of requests for reports on projects has been a challenge for some partners.

Working in partnership

- The GWSI is seen as a foundation for increased partnerships, and has formed close working relationships primarily with community structures at the grass root level. Village-level committees are formed in every project, working closely with host NS branch and volunteer networks, promoting bottom-up planning and management of WatSan interventions and encouraging community buy-in and sustainability. In most cases, these activities are done in close coordination with Government Line Ministries, such as the Ministry of Water Supply, Ministry of Health and/or Rural Development. Government structures, both at the national and district level, act as the coordinating bodies through the host NS for activity planning, as well as provide a forum for engagement with other WatSan players, such as UNICEF, Oxfam, Care and others. This coordinated approach promotes the sharing of experience and capacities, and in some cases joint actions/activities at the field level, including in the field of training.
- The cooperation processes are defined in agreements – most projects have a programme contract between the RC/RC partners. For EU funding, there is a grant or contribution agreement to define the relationship between the EU and RC/RC Societies, both multilaterally and bilaterally. These agreements also define coordinating structures, monitoring and evaluation reports, and encourage accountability and responsibility for each partner.

Contributing to longer-term impact

- The programme contributes to the International Federation’s Global Agenda by reducing the burden which results from the outbreak of disease created by poor water supplies, lack of sanitation, and low hygiene awareness or poor practices. At the same time, GWSI empowers vulnerable communities and builds the capacity in RC/RC National Societies.
- The programme empowers communities to address gender and equity perspectives for the future by promoting water management committees that automatically have equitable gender representation, and by offering community training equally to women, as well as to men. The Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) process is a participatory approach for the control of diarrhoeal diseases which targets women and children and the most vulnerable in the target communities.
- The Programme intends to further contribute to increasing safe water and sanitation coverage (MDG goal 7) through its monitoring mechanisms. Water and sanitation coverage is measured in each project, where coverage is defined as a base line, and the per cent increase in coverage is reflected during the project period.

Looking ahead

- The GWSI is now entering its fourth year of a ten-year initiative, and the impact is beginning to be seen on the ground. Further consolidation is needed. A clear indication of progress, on a country by country basis, will become evident during 2008, as the first mid-term reviews of projects will take place.
- What is clear is that the GWSI has proved to be an effective vehicle for resource mobilization, new ways of working, and increased partnerships. Quality control and programme delivery will be the focus of this initiative in the next two years.

How we work	
<p>All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering quality and accountable assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at http://www.ifrc.org</p>	
<p>The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".</p>	<p>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters. • Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies. • Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability. • Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.
Contact information	
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