

# Annual report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Global Water and Sanitation Initiative (GWSI)

Appeal No. MAA00002

21/04/2009

This report covers the period 01/01/2008 to  
31/12/2008.



Long-term projects, like the above in Zimbabwe, provide safe water to vulnerable communities, and reduce the impact of water, sanitation and hygiene-related diseases such as cholera. **International Federation**

### In brief

**Programme purpose:** GWSI encourages the scaling-up of longer-term water and sanitation programming to increase the availability of sustainable water and sanitation infrastructure, promote improved hygiene awareness and behavioural change, while further strengthening community and National Society capacities. This initiative also contributes to the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), and it works towards reducing water and sanitation-related morbidity and mortality, and improving health and productivity – in partnership with beneficiary communities, government bodies, the European Union (EU), the United Nations (UN) and corporate sector stakeholders. This is in line with the International Federation's Global Agenda Goals 2, 3 and 4.

**Programme(s) summary:** GWSI is a ten-year initiative started in 2005. This initiative has now identified and provided funding for 11 multilateral, and 16 bilateral country-based projects in the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. Most projects have a life span of two to four years, some of which are now reaching mid-way in their implementation period, and have begun undertaking mid-term reviews, initially in Zambia and Kenya. The water and sanitation unit at the Geneva secretariat and the water and sanitation teams in the zones provide technical and finance/grants management support to the multilateral projects, and on an ad hoc basis to bilateral GWSI projects. However, during the reporting period, some responsibilities, especially for financial management of multilateral projects, have moved to the zonal/country level.

**Financial situation:** The total 2008 budget is CHF 7,768,512 (USD 7,398,583 or EUR 5,179,008),

of which 62 per cent covered. Expenditure overall was 56 per cent. Underexpenditure is due partly to the high staff turnover among local and international staff which has led to delays in the implementation of water and sanitation activities, as well as the lower expenditure which takes place in the initial set up (international and local recruitment, office set-up, training, community mobilization, base line survey and focused planning) of these two to four-year water and sanitation projects.

[Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

**No. of people we help:** The present portfolio of 27 fully-funded projects under the GWSI targets 2,000,000 people of which to date, an estimated 40 per cent have benefited by year end. Since the beginning of the year, there has been an increase of 10 to 15 per cent of people who have benefited from this initiative.

**Our partners:** The secretariat works with over 40 Red Cross and Red Crescent National Society partners, EU, UN and corporate partners, such as Nestle and Shell. Further resource mobilization efforts took place in 2008, and will continue into 2009.

## Context

Previous delays in implementation have improved significantly during 2008, especially in infrastructural activities (hardware) in the multilateral projects in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Namibia, Hispaniola, Guyana and Kenya. The delayed start-up to the project in Eritrea, mostly due to political constraints, is now expected to resume activities in early 2009. Despite continued political and economic uncertainty in Zimbabwe, exacerbated with a severe cholera epidemic, implementation has continued to improve. At the secretariat level, the water and sanitation unit maintains a dialogue with major back-donors to explain how in-country events would or could impact upon implementation rates, and provides technical and programming backstopping to the multilateral projects in Guyana, Hispaniola, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Namibia, Mozambique, Kenya, Eritrea, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

## Progress towards outcomes

### Outcome(s)/Expected result(s)

- Increased emphasis on “software” led project design and implementation, and by doing so, improve the integration/linkages to other community health interventions.
- Increased community and gender-balanced participation, through the Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteer and branch network, leading to improved sustainability of water and sanitation programmes.
- Larger and longer-term programming, securing and mobilizing adequate resources, benefiting from economies of scale, maintaining low costs-per-beneficiary, and further enhancing qualitative and quantitative impact.
- Maintaining a focus on low-cost, low-tech “hardware” options where appropriate.
- Further building upon existing National Society water and sanitation capacity, providing technical and programming support to National Societies from international, zonal, regional and country levels where appropriate, while fostering wider partnership options.

- Advocating and acting on behalf of the most vulnerable for equity in water and sanitation provision, with a special focus upon People Living with HIV (PLWHIV)/AIDS, women and children, the elderly, the disenfranchised, the poorest, and those in post-disaster/post-conflict situations.

## Achievement

- “Software” delivery, crucial in the developmental process, is well established in all country projects. The training of participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) facilitators, and the “rolling out” of community-level PHAST activities are well advanced, and have now also been established in 2008 in Nigeria and the Côte d’Ivoire, in addition to the other previously established projects.
- Continued use of the PHAST methodology encourages communities to respect all members’ roles in decision making and engagement in project activities, regardless of gender, age, wealth or vulnerability. An increased “pool” of community and National Society staff and volunteers are now familiar with the “rolling out” of PHAST.
- In general, the water and sanitation unit continues to see a sharp increase in its “hardware” delivery overall. Results are also now evident in Guyana, and some better progress is now seen in Hispaniola, even though it is still affected by recurring cyclones. Diversity in technology choice is geared towards sustainability, and it is encouraging to see improved capacities in a wide range of technical interventions, such as groundwater development, surface and sub-surface dam construction and rainwater harvesting.

## Constraints or Challenges

- There continues to be a high staff turnover among local and international staff which has led to delays in the implementation of water and sanitation activities. However, some new appointments have led to the rapid improvement of project delivery.
- GWSI was created to encourage “new ways of working together” between the International Federation, external stakeholders and donors. This can be challenging at times, as all partners may not be conversant to these new ways of partnering. However, as partnerships continue, a greater overall understanding of roles and responsibilities continues to be established.
- Financial management support from Geneva has been demanding, but 2008 has seen a better structured system established, and an increasing amount of responsibility for this being taken up at the zonal/country level. However, this process is still in transition until at least mid-2009.
- Important lessons have been learned in these first years of GWSI, such as the importance of having standardized agreements, procedures and reporting formats. These tools are now increasingly being used over time.
- As GWSI begins to reach its half-way point (2010), major changes are not needed, but more time is still needed for water and sanitation teams and partners to further familiarize themselves with the benefits of GWSI programming, as well as share key lessons learned.

## Working in partnership

- All GWSI projects are subject to government approval and coordination. Regular attendance and meetings with the Government at the national and local level is crucial. Interaction with the WASH (United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)-led water and sanitation coordination body) in most countries is well established, with government authorities also represented, and as active partners in GWSI project activities.
- Most projects are multilaterally "delegated" projects, where a lead Partner National Society or Partner National Society consortium takes the implementation lead with the Host National Society. Although the International Federation is the "applicant" in most cases, this does mean that the onus is upon Host and Partner National Society delivery mechanisms – with limited, but crucial support from the International Federation. The effectiveness of this relationship varies significantly from country to country, but sees continued improvement.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

- GWSI projects are, through the government mechanisms in each country, recognized as contributors to meeting the MDG targets in the water and sanitation sector. In most cases, the activities of longer-established projects have been considered for extension and expansion in countries such as Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Kenya, to further benefit from the capacities already established, thus creating further opportunities to contribute to the MDGs.
- All GWSI project managers are invited to annual meetings to share experiences, achievements and constraints. Reports from all of their projects are shared amongst them, as was done in 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya; and in 2008 in Windhoek, Namibia. Similar meetings have been planned for 2009.

## Looking ahead

- To continue to provide technical, managerial and financial management backstopping from the secretariat in Geneva and in the zones to all GWSI projects, while further encouraging zonal and country level structures to assume overall financial management responsibilities by the end of 2009.
- The water and sanitation unit will continue to conduct regular field missions, as well as undertake mid-term reviews and evaluations of water and sanitation activities under the GWSI umbrella.
- Continue to promote "information sharing" amongst the GWSI teams on the ground on their projects. The secretariat will also provide further resource mobilization and coordination among GWSI partners.

## How we work

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".

### Global Agenda Goals:

- 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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