

Programme Update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Global Water and Sanitation Initiative (GWSI)

Appeal No. MAA00002

05/08/2008

This report covers the period 01/01/2008 to 30/06/2008



In Machakos, an arid area of Kenya, surface dams are being constructed to better utilize scarce rainfall for vulnerable communities. **Kenya and Spanish Red Cross Societies**

In brief

Programme purpose: In further contribution to the UN Millennium Development Goals, GWSI encourages the scaling-up of longer-term water and sanitation programming to increase the availability of sustainable water and sanitation infrastructure, and to further strengthen related community and National Society capacity-building efforts in the water and sanitation/hygiene promotion sector. In this process, reducing water and sanitation-related morbidity and mortality, improving health and productivity – in partnership with beneficiary communities, government bodies, European Union (EU)/United Nations (UN) and corporate sector stakeholders. This in line with the International Federation's Global Agenda Goals 2, 3 and 4.

Programme 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 will be undertaking mid-term reviews in the second half of 2008. 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.

Financial situation: There has been a decrease in the 2008 budget from CHF 9,083,000 to CHF 7,768,512 (USD 7,398,583 or EUR 4,774,746). This budget is fully covered. There was a decrease in the budget in view of the challenges to implement the various water and sanitation programmes. See specific sections below. Expenditure overall was 30 per cent.

[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 25 to 30 per cent have benefited.

Our partners: There are over 40 Red Cross and Red Crescent National Society partners, EU, UN and corporate partners, such as Nestle and Shell.

Context

Delays in implementation were noted partially due to political unrest in Kenya and Zimbabwe, flooding in Mozambique, and continued political uncertainty in Eritrea. However, in most cases, events are now over and some progress is notable in all of these countries, especially in Eritrea, where a project suspension was lifted, and activities may start again later in 2008. Host National Societies had to increase their emergency or disaster response activities in these countries, which negatively affected the longer-term programming under the GWSI. At the secretariat level, the water and sanitation unit maintained a dialogue with major back-donors to explain how in-country events would or could impact upon implementation rates. Implementation rates were slowed down to counteract the situation in these countries.

Progress towards outcomes

Outcome(s)/Expected result(s)

Achievements

- “Software” delivery, crucial in the developmental process is well established in most country projects. The training of participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) facilitators and the “rolling out” of community-level PHAST activities are well advanced.
- In general, the water and sanitation unit has seen an increase in its “hardware” delivery, especially in Kenya, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Early results are also evident in Guyana, Namibia, Côte d’Ivoire, Sudan and Mozambique, as seen by the construction of dams, latrines, rainwater harvesting and new and rehabilitated boreholes, springs and wells.
- 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.

Constraints or Challenges

- GWSI was formulated to encourage “new ways of working together” between the International Federation, Red Cross/Red Crescent partners and external stakeholders and donors. This can be challenging at times, as all partners may not be conversant to these new ways of partnering.
- There has been high staff turnover among local and international staff which has led to delays in the implementation of water and sanitation activities.
- Finance management and procurement is at times demanding and time consuming, also contributing to the above-mentioned delays.
- 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. The steep learning curve on GWSI has slowed down the

implementation of water and sanitation activities in some countries, but overall there has been general improvement on the implementation rates. Streamlining finance support from the Geneva secretariat has also contributed to some of these positive results.

- Major changes are now not needed, but more time is needed for water and sanitation teams to familiarize themselves with GWSI, and share lessons learned.

Working in partnership

- Most projects are multilateral “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.
- All GWSI projects are based upon formal agreements between all partners, and are founded upon the project cycle management approach, with regular meetings held between all parties.
- 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.

Contributing to longer-term impact

- The International Federation has now produced a monitoring and evaluation toolkit, as well as guidance notes for all GWSI projects. These tools which will be piloted in the upcoming mid-term review process.
- 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.
- GWSI projects are, through the government mechanisms in each country, recognized as contributors to meeting Millennium Development Goal targets in the water and sanitation sector.

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.
- Conduct regular field missions, as well as undertake mid-term reviews and evaluations of water and sanitation activities.
- Promote “information sharing” amongst the GWSI teams on the ground on their projects.

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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