

WASH – STREAMS Sub – Regional Consultation in Burkina Faso

Ouagadougou, November 18-19, 2004

Summary Report.

1. Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony was presided over by Mr MAIGA Daouda, the General Manager of Safe Water Supply. His introductory note focussed on the following:

- The need for a joint work to better contribute to the Global Wash Campaign in Dakar. To harmonise viewpoints for the Dakar Forum, the session took into account Dakar Forum objectives and main themes of the Forum.
- The necessary need to ensure safe water to all : this requires the contribution of all including the governments, NGOs, local officials as well as the actors from the civil society and the private sector.
- The need to achieve the MGDs, with a value added, i.e, lay the sustainability foundations for a greater impact.
- The upcoming decennial plan « WASH » in 2005-2010 is of key importance to achieve the objectives by 2015.
- Water and sanitation objectives are closely linked to various MDGs, mainly on improving the living conditions of communities living in shanty areas.
- The macro-political context calls for a synergy in our approach.
- The prime Minister, assisted by all the African ministers in charge of water issues launched WASH – STREAMS campaign in October 2003 in Burkina Faso.

2. Participants :

The 23 participants came from four countries including Burkina Faso, Niger, Benin and Mali (see list in annex).

3. Introduction and validation of the programme

Following the presentation of the programme by M. Yéréfólo Mallé (WSSCC co-ordinator in Burkina Faso), participants were requested to validate it. Various minor amendments were brought and all the presentations of the day were given. Recommendations and prospects were validated the second day. Some participants volunteered to help the rapporteurs draft the report of this consultation.

4. Introductory presentations

The following themes were introduced and discussed in plenary

- WASH – STREAMS and MDGs, by M. Cheick Tidiane Tandia, General Manager of CREPA-Head Office (Regional Centre for Potable Water and Sanitation,
- Creation of coalitions, by M. Evariste Kouassi Komlan, CREPA – Head Office,
- Funding of the water and sanitation sector, by M. Yéréfólo Mallé, WSSCC country co-ordinator and WaterAid/ Burkina Faso Representative,
- National policy process by M. Yacouba Zabeirou, CREPA/Niger,
- Local communities, by Yéréfólo Mallé.

Plenary discussions followed these presentations with these main issues brought out:

- Stress on varied partnerships to face the local realities,
- More emphasis on advocacy and capacity building,
- Information and communication,
- New approach: learning programmes involving various actors,
- Sanitation is a neglected sector.

4.1 WASH – STREAMS and the MDGs:

- Lack of information regarding the approach and concepts,
- Stress the development of a concerted strategy,
- Harmonise initiatives,
- Particular consideration of the language issue in the sub-region.

Many participants supported the importance of establishing a WASH – STREAMS partnership in the Sub – Region in view of accelerating the achievement of the MDGs.

4.2 Creation of coalitions

- Coalitions have a limited lifetime,
- Focus on the local level,
- Effective partnerships for a real impact,
- Sharing of key information and knowledge to support local and national partnerships.

4.3 Sector funding

This theme was introduced with a tool developed by WaterAid Nepal and used for calculating the financing gaps in the water and sanitation sector. The participants agreed on the following:

- Many ways exist to assess the necessary financial needs.
- Analysis tools should be mainly used at local level.
- Globally, local dynamics is poorly considered.
- Using national analysis at local level proves inadequate.

- Donors' funding conditionalities though sometimes required are serious blockages
- Reduce dependence from external funding
- New funding strategies and mechanisms are necessary
- Inadequate local planning and financial management capacities

4.4 National policies

The theme was introduced by the case of Niger which reveals

- Many challenges to be taken up
- Long and complicated process for developing policies and strategies
- Lack of feed-back at local level
- Inadequate specific strategies and policies on hygiene and sanitation promotion ; when these exist, they don't take into account the current situation

Regarding sanitation, participants have discussed for long the policies and strategies with the following conclusions:

- Water and sanitation projects should have equal consideration; the latter should not be a « component » of the former: both must be integrated.

The main challenge relates to the institutional constraints. There are too many competing actors. Attributions should be specified to all.

- Sanitation needs to be clearly defined as the term does not limit to building latrines but includes other related actions including hygiene. Therefore, sanitation should be first considered as a personal issue. Household sanitation should first be focussed on and then, progressively improved through application of existing rules and procedures.

The need for sensitising people should be pursued rather than compelling them to comply to set regulations.

4.5 Local communities' role to reach the MDGs

M. Mallé (WaterAid) presented the LMDG-I which is being developed with Enda Tiers Monde and a total 16 communes from Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Mauritania, Ghana and Nigeria.

The main issues included:

- Very few local initiatives exist,
- Importance of Learning,
- Local authorities lack capacities to implement local projects, strategies and policies,
- Importance of learning programmes.

5. Recommendations

Participants came out with the following recommendations:

1- WASH STREAMS and ODM

- Develop and strengthen local partnership
- Strengthen partnership between the local and the national level
- Enhance awareness raising taking into account cultural barriers in order to promote WASH-Streams and the MDGs
- Develop regional partnership basing on the national initiatives existing in the sub-region
- Base on organisations having a wide representation in the various countries: CREPA, Eau Vive, Water Aid, etc.
- Synergies between the various initiatives within safe water supply and sanitation sector in view of achieving the MDGs

2- Coalition

- Stress local partnership with a national level support
- Build local learning strategies and policies.

3- Funding

- Establish new and flexible funding mechanisms which are adapted to the sub-region specificities so that local governments may develop projects which can be implemented.
- Conduct advocacy actions for an equitable distribution of resources to impact all social layers.
- Develop and test tools for analysing, monitoring and planning with regards to the local context (WaterAid, CREPA, IRC...) and which are accepted at national level
- Build the local actors' capacities to develop and properly manage projects
- Develop low-cost and appropriate technologies to reduce investment costs

4- Policies

- Ensure an articulation between the national policies and local plans
- Elaborate or improve sanitation policies and strategies
- Clarify the sanitation institutional frame

5- Local communities

- Stress the achievement of the MDGs through local initiatives.
- Strengthen local authorities' leadership for a better ownership of the MDGs
- Develop and validate local management options through research – action.
- Document and share knowledge between the local projects and programmes.

Annex 1: List of participants at the regional consultation, Ouagadougou November 18-19, 2004

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