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PAN AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT - WEST AFRICA

(PAID-WA)

**SEMINAR ON DISSEMINATION OF ASSESSMENT
AND RESEARCH RESULTS IN THE RURAL
WATER AND SANITATION SECTOR**

YAOUNDE, 20 APRIL, 1999

A REPORT

by

*Rosetta B. Thompson
Andrew Tayong*

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824-AFW-15949

PAN AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT - WEST AFRICA
(PAID-WA)



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AND RESEARCH RESULTS IN THE RURAL
WATER AND SANITATION SECTOR

YAOUNDE, 20 APRIL, 1999

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(PAID-WA)

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SEMINAR ON DISSEMINATION OF ASSESSMENT AND RESEARCH RESULTS IN THE RURAL WATER AND SANITATION SECTOR

YAOUNDE, 20 APRIL 1999

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Since 1992, PAID-WA has been actively involved in capacity building in the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation sector in Africa. Through collaboration with a renowned sector institution, IRC Community Water Supply and Sanitation Center in the Netherlands, a WHO collaborating center, it organized training courses and carried out studies on key factors of sustainability and impact of water supplies and sanitation in communities. Two of these are the assessment project on Participation, Gender and Demand Responsiveness Making The Links With Impact and Sustainability sponsored by the UNDP-World Bank Water and Sanitation Programme, and the Participatory Approach Research (PAR) project on community water supply management

Having concluded the assessment and research phases of these two projects, the next stage is the dissemination of results to show the practical situation within the sector, particularly in the rural communities, and provide further basis for action. This is in line with the framework of an elaborate programme to disseminate PAID-WA's experiences and findings. A seminar was therefore organised in Yaounde on 20th April, 1999 at Hotel des Deputes to share the results of the assessment and research undertaken by PAID-WA in collaboration with IRC, The Netherlands in the water sector in Cameroon and Ghana

The seminar attracted participants from government, NGOs, diplomatic missions supporting the sector, community members, and both private and public media. Experiences and results were presented and discussed with participants, and syndicate groups met for in depth discussions of issues of capacity building, financial strategy and policy environment in the country.

The following is the seminar report and attached as Annex 1 is the programme of activities.

2.0 OBJECTIVE

The seminar aimed at creating awareness of the problems in the water and sanitation sector resulting from the research and assessment projects carried out by PAID-WA in West African region, particularly Cameroon, and suggest strategies to solve them

Background information distributed before the seminar is attached as Annex 2.

3.0 PARTICIPATION

The level of participation was quite high, about 56 in all eventually, more than the anticipated level, which put much pressure on the conference space available. It however, shows that interest the Cameroon seems to attach to the water sector. Participants were from various organizations and institutions active in the sector - government, external support agencies, development projects, NGOs, diplomatic missions, students and village communities. The recorded list of participants is attached as Annex 3

4.0 OPENING REMARKS

The strong support given by the Ministry of Mines, Water Resources and Power through its Hon Minister Dr Mbele Ndoe Jacques and his team of high level officials, was a testimony to the support the Ministry now gives to the situation of rural water supplies in the country. In his opening address, the Minister acknowledged the problems of the sector, which he noted as ranging from policy, capacity building and investment for effective management. In recounting the Ministry's efforts, he made reference to Law No 98/005 of 14 April, 1998 which laid down regulations governing water resources in the country, and the current application text being developed by his Ministry (see Annexes 4-6). He emphasised the government's interest in ensuring good quality water for the rural communities.

In his earlier welcome address, the Director of PAID-WA, Mr Jean Gbedo, highlighted the activities of PAID-WA in the sector and the experiences accumulated since 1992 during which over 85 senior personnel from 13 countries in Africa have been trained, and the management of rural water supplies in four communities improved. The recently concluded sector assessment, he said, brought the Institute even closer to the reality of rural community water situation (see Annex 7)

The two opening speeches set the stage for the day and added to the enthusiasm of the participants.

5.0 PRESENTATIONS

Presentations were made on the assessment and research projects by Mrs. Rosetta B Thompson (the West African project coordinator - PAID-WA) and Mr. Andrew Tayong (team member and researcher - PAID-WA) respectively.

5.1 The Assessment Project

In the presentation, participants were given brief background to the project, and its global coverage of Asia, Latin America and Africa. PAID-WA in collaboration with IRC coordinated implementation in the West African region. The regional assessment involved Helvetas (Swiss Association) and DED (German Development Cooperation) as partner organizations that carried out the field assessment in Cameroon; Community Water Project (COWAP) and Volta

Community Water and Sanitation Project as the organisations involved in the Ghana assessment. Both countries represented the West African component.

The purpose of the assessment was explained as being to increase the sustainability and impact of water supply and sanitation services to poor communities by improving the capacity of sector agencies to respond to users' demands for these services, using gender-sensitive and participatory approaches. This was based on the rationale that

- sustainability and impact are key goals of water and sanitation investments,
- and the growing feeling that sustained water and sanitation services depend on the establishment and management of such services by community members themselves.

The project implementation involved community assessment, institutional, and policy assessment. The methodology used was shared with participants as well as the specific tools which were highly participatory.

It was made known that in Cameroon, four communities from each partner organization were assessed on the key factors of Gender, Demand-Responsiveness and Participation in relation to sustainability and impact of water projects. This totalled eight communities in three provinces of the country, namely northwest, southwest and central. The process and emerging issues from the assessment were presented. The process, as was explained, involved selecting and training of staff from the participating institutions on the specific participatory tools, field assessment of communities by these staff, the assessment of the institutions and the policy environment by a PAID-WA team (with support from IRC).

Emerging issues from the assessment as explained, covered the sector policy environment, institutional capacity development and community level development issues.

The assessment revealed.

- * that there was no clear policy on water and sanitation in Cameroon which has resulted in uncontrolled and unregulated intervention in the sector;
- * the rather low participation of beneficiaries in the process;
- * lack of sensitivity to gender and poverty issues in project packaging,
- * absence of sanitation programmes to complement the health benefits of water supply services,

all of which tend to have a direct consequence on the sustainability of water supplies system in the rural communities. (see Annex 8 for presentation text).

5.2 Experiences shared by Field Researchers and Community Members

Mr. Stephen Ashu of Helvetas and Mme Tchampi Charlot from DED as their contributions, presented their field experiences at the seminar. They shared the practical situation in the communities with regards to the peoples' reaction to project water, maintenance issues, contributions, and functionality of the systems. The work in the communities gave them the opportunity to assess the level of awareness on gender and poverty in community projects.

Mme Tchammi recounted a situation where men tried to dictate what women should do during the assessment. This could greatly influence the results, and present a problem for the effectiveness of the methodology if not detected and corrected. One of the projects in the Centre province, however, was being managed almost wholly by women. It was also reported that the tools actually facilitated the collection of pertinent and sensitive information, and added to the objectivity of the response. Attached as Annexes 9 and 10 are the presentations from the researchers.

Two representatives from the communities, namely Mrs Ndzanga Pauline from Saa in the centre province and Mr Nicholas Fominyam from Njinibi in the North-west province shared with participants the process of establishing their projects and how they were being managed. They confirmed that the tools used for the assessment in their communities were well received and that it exposed them to new knowledge.

5.3 The Research Project

The research project titled *The Role Of Communities In The Management Of Improved Rural Water Supplies In Developing Countries*, was presented. The main objective was to improve the efficiency, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of water supply management by rural communities in developing countries.

This global research was carried out in six countries namely Nepal and Pakistan (Asia), Colombia and Guatemala (Latin America), and Kenya and Cameroon (Africa) by teams in the various countries.

The research process involved rapport building, diagnosis, solutions, experimentation and monitoring phases. Each phase was carried out with the community members. The data collected were collectively analysed and lessons learnt shared among the villagers and the research team. An advisory group called national reference group (NRG) was created to advise and support the research team. This group also shared in the results at every phase. The whole process involved discovery learning through data collection and training which resulted in spontaneous action taken by the communities.

Main results from this research are:

- improvement in the capacity of communities to manage their systems,
- increased confidence to influence their own development,
- self-reliance spirit enhanced and
- better understanding of community management by the researchers themselves, with increased capacity to carry out action research, and practical ability to apply participatory approaches.

These experiences and findings would be shared with sector professionals, policy makers and community members in different activities planned for the dissemination programme titled *The Promotion of Community Management of Rural Water Supplies in Developing Countries*. This programme involves the production of video on community management of water supplies, publication of manuals on community management of water supplies; seminars, workshops, conferences and a training course.



4a



Opening and Seminar Session
in Denver, 1978

Details of the research project presentation is attached as Annex 11.

6.0 SYNDICATE SESSIONS

After the presentations, participants grouped themselves through a voluntary process in three syndicates to discuss three main issues critical to sustainable water project in Cameroon. These are:

- **Sector Policy for Cameroon**

Task

- The need for sector policy for Cameroon
- Expectations from a sector policy
- Addressing the issues of community participation gender sensitivity and poverty in the policy
- Strategies for sector policy formulation for Cameroon
- Any other relevant point

- **Capacity Building at Institutional and Community levels**

Task

- What elements are considered important in training packages for the sector at.
 - Institutional level
 - Rural community level
- What specific training needs are required by projects and project staff to ensure sensitive sectoral project activities in the rural community?
- Other relevant points

- **Financing Strategy for supporting sectoral performance towards sustainability and impact of rural water supply and sanitation.**

Task

Since issues of sustainability and impact are very critical to the success of community water supply projects, what financial strategies can be evolved for ensuring continuous capacity building at institutional and community levels?

Attached as Annex 12 is the Background Paper for Syndicate discussions, and on Annex 13 are the lists of syndicate groups.

The syndicates worked for one hour and the results presented in a plenary session during which contributions from other participants were taken and reflected in the final outcome below

GROUP 1: ISSUES OF SECTOR POLICY

There is need for a sector policy on rural water and sanitation in Cameroon

1) Issues to address in the policy are.

- Liberalise sector with state control or monitoring
- Define role of the ministries and departments involved
- Set national norms (standards) to be followed by all actors e.g. choice of technology
- Environmental and sanitation issues
- Sector integrated in national economic plan.
- Duty free importation of inputs for O&M.
- Promotion of private sector to invest in the sector
- Local council encouraged to support in their areas

ii) Strategy for Developing the Policy

- Identification of need at the grassroots
- Regional and national committees created to propose a policy
- A national information strategy put in place



6a

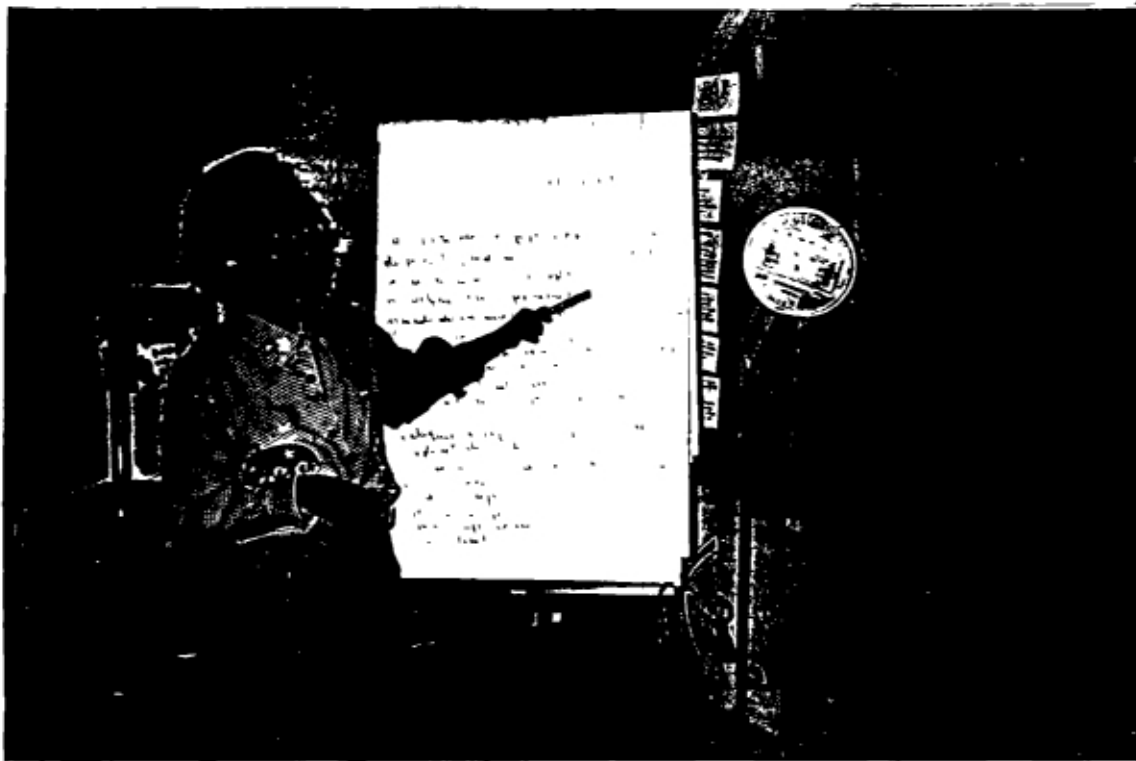


Syndicate Groups

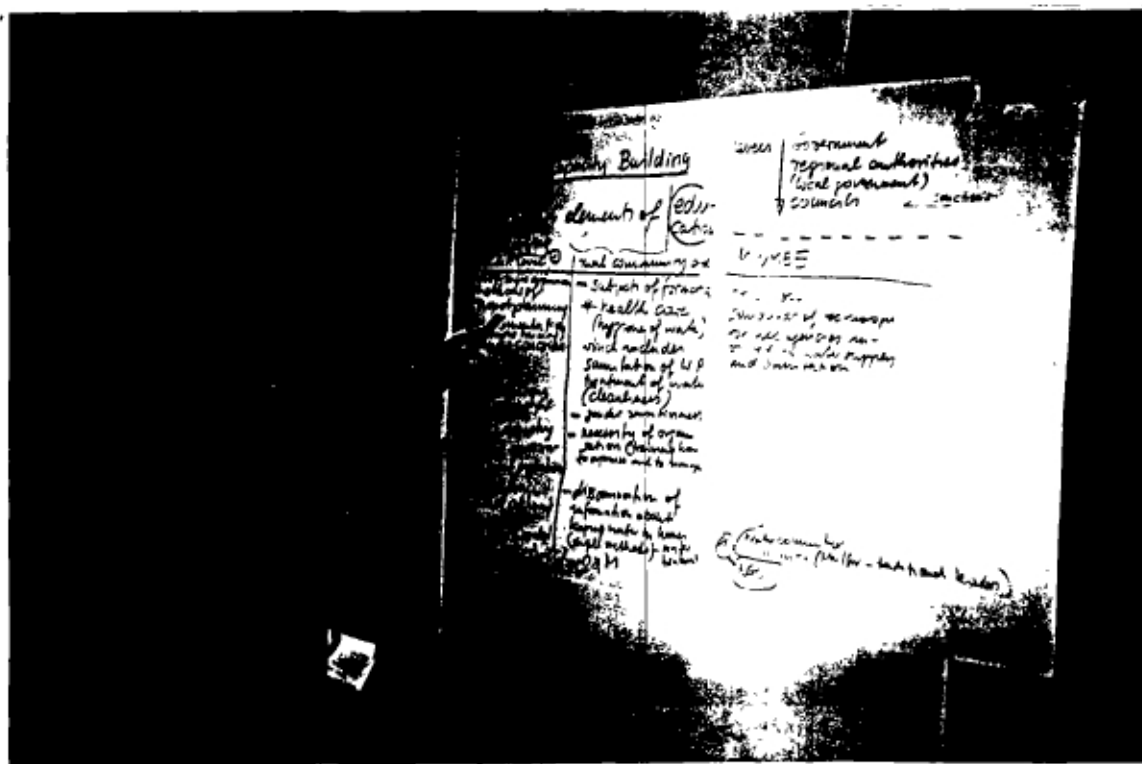


in Session





Syndicate Groups'



Presentation

Group 2: Capacity Building at Institutional and Community levels**Important elements of training/education****Institutional level**

- Awareness
- Methods of project planning implementation, monitoring and Evaluation (continuous training)
- Gender Consciousness and gender analysis skills for projects
- Participatory Approaches
- Environmental Protection with bias to catchment protection.
- Training supported by audio-visual
- Training of trainers
- Sanitation and wastes disposal

Community Level

- Health care (hygiene, sanitation and quality of water (cleanliness)
- Gender sensitization and integration in community planning
- Community Organization and management
- Water storage methods/protection
- Operation and maintenance

Government Level**Target group:**

- Regional authorities (local governments)
- Councils
- Sector Professionals on the Ministry of Mines, Water Resources and Power
- Policy
- Standardization of technology
- Sanitation development

Group 3: FINANCING STRATEGY TO SUPPORT THE SECTOR

Actors

- Government
- Sector Institutions
- Beneficiaries

Levels of Intervention

- Investment
- Operation and maintenance
- Management by communities

Types of Contributions by Beneficiaries

- Cost of maintenance
- Timing of collection period
- Sensitisation on the importance of water
- Contributions from associations
- Kind contributions - Labour, materials, agricultural produce

Possible Sources of Funding

- Budget provision by the government
- Organisations and industries in the areas should be enabled to finance projects e g SONEL, SNEC, etc.
- NGO financing strategies should be known.
- These can be aided through sensitization by sector organizations.

There was a general agreement of the need for policy on rural water and sanitation in Cameroon, that training is required at the three levels of sector involvement and the type specified, and the fact that financing has to be shared by government, institutions and the beneficiaries

7.0 CLOSING

At the closing, the syndicates/plenary conclusions were shared with the Hon Minister and members of his entourage most of who were ministerial and sector staff

The seminar was closed by the Minister of Mines, Water Resources and Power. In his closing speech, the Minister thanked the participants and the organizations that participated. He reaffirmed his Ministry's commitment to the development and application of the national policy on rural water supply and sanitation in Cameroon. He appreciated the findings of the research and assessment projects which he said would lay the groundwork for the policy formulation. The resolutions proposed by participants would be seriously taken into consideration. The Minister promised to establish a new way of life in rural communities through sensitization and education of the rural population on health, hygiene and the protection of the environment.

He then thanked the World Bank and UNDP for the continuous support to improve health, drinking water, sanitation, and fight against poverty. PAID-WA and IRC, Netherlands for the efforts being made in the sector. The Minister's closing speech is attached as Annex 12.

8.0 CONCLUSION

The seminar started with a warm welcome by Mr. Jean Gbedo, Director of PAID-WA, followed by an opening speech by the Minister of Mines, Water Resources and Power.

Presentations were made on the assessment project, PAD project, and the field experiences. Syndicate sessions followed for in-depth discussions on policy, capacity building and financing strategy for the efficiency of the sector.

The need for a policy on rural water supply and sanitation sector was highly recommended, and the need for capacity building at both institutional and community levels strongly supported. Financing should be shared by the government, sector institutions and beneficiaries.

The Minister expressed appreciation for the initiatives and experiences of PAID-WA and other organizations like Helvetas and DED in the sector in Cameroon, and took note of the major resolutions made which are as follows:

- ⇒ The establishment of a mechanism of sector planning and national monitoring system in the sector
- ⇒ Encouragement of community management of water resources, water supply and sanitation systems
- ⇒ Harmonization of intervention by both public and private sector operators through a discussion platform.

The participants had assurances that the Ministry would expedite the development and application of the national policy on rural water supply and sanitation. The assessment and research findings were considered a base for policy formulation for the sector.

Throughout the seminar, the project researchers present, namely, Mme Hannelore Knott, Ms Rose Elive, Mme Charlot Tchamti, Messrs Stephen Ashu and Peter Nche, made useful contributions.

Overall, the seminar was a success as it was able to get the attention of the key policy-making ministry in that sector towards a move for action, created awareness among sector partners on the key project focus of gender, poverty and demand responsiveness in relation to impact and sustainability, as well as the practical community situation; and provided an opportunity through syndicate and plenary discussions, for participants to make contributions towards new policy orientation on community water projects.

ANNEXES

**PAN AFRICAN INSTITUTE
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SEMINAR ON DISSEMINATION OF ASSESSMENT RESULTS IN THE RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION SECTOR

YAOUNDE, 20TH APRIL 1999

PROGRAMME

TIME	ACTIVITY
8.30-9.00	Arrival and registration
9 00-9.20	Welcome address by Director of PAID-WA
	Opening by Minister of Mines, Water Resources and Power
9.20-9.50	West African Assessment on Rural Water Supply and Sanitation
9.50-10.05	Research on Community Management of Rural Water Supplies
10.05-10.30	Emerging issues from the assessment
10 30-10.45	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
10 45-11.15	PAD Dissemination. Promotion of Community Management
11.15-1.00	Syndicate sessions
1.00-1.30	REFRESHMENT
1.30-2.30	Plenary Discussion
2 30-2.45	Preparation for the Minister's closing
2.45-3 30	Synthesis of outcome and closing
3 30	Dinner

At this seminar, PAID-WA will also share the results of a 4-year research project in this sector with participants. The following is a brief background of this project.

PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH

The research was on the management of community water supplies aiming at improving community management and sustainability of rural water supplies. Six countries were involved and four communities selected from three provinces in Cameroon were used for the research.

Major phases in the research were diagnosis, solution identification, experimentation and monitoring and evaluation. Each was implemented with the aim of training community members on how to use selected tools in future on their own.

Diagnosis identified management and technical problems in the functioning of the systems, solution identification came out with potential solutions to the problems, experimentation was the trial of feasible solutions while monitoring and evaluation showed how to follow-up activities and projects.

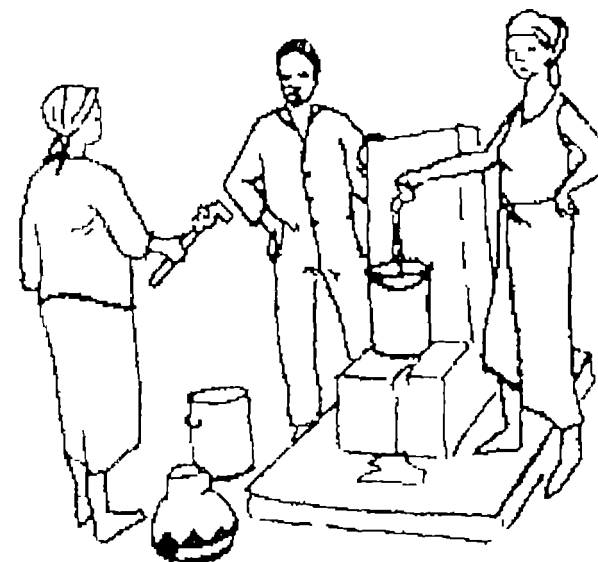
Participatory Action Research (PAR) methodology was used which creates the links between training, research and action. Selected PRA tools and techniques used for the research authentically involved the communities.

After four years of research, management of community water supplies in all four communities has changed as well as the behavior of the people. The findings and experiences in this research are the focus of dissemination at this seminar.



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SEMINAR ON DISSEMINATION OF ASSESSMENT RESULTS IN THE RURAL WATER AND SANITATION SECTOR



SEMINAR FOR POLICY MAKERS
AND SECTOR PARTNERS,
YAOUNDE, CAMEROON, 20TH APRIL 1999

Organised by:



PAID-WA
PAN AFRICAN INSTITUTE
FOR DEVELOPMENT -
WEST AFRICA

In Collaboration with:



IRC
International Water and
Sanitation Centre

Sponsored by:



UNDP-World Bank
Water and Sanitation
Program

**PARTICIPATION, GENDER AND
DEMAND-RESPONSIVENESS:
Making the links with Impact and Sustainability
of Water and Sanitation Investment.**

INTRODUCTION

The assessment project is an initiative of the UNDP-World Bank Water and Sanitation program and an outcome of a two-day workshop in October 1997 at the International Reference Center for Community Water Supply and Sanitation (IRC) in The Hague, The Netherlands. This was in response to observation from members of the Program's Advisory Committee (PAC), that participation and gender lacked visibility in the last (1997) work plan of the UNDP-World Bank Water and Sanitation Program which might have minimised the achievement of that sector

The project has a global coverage and involved a number of institutions and sector operators. The African component was coordinated by Pan African Institute for Development-West Africa in collaboration with International Rural Water and Sanitation Center (IRC), The Hague.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSESSMENT

To increase the sustainability of water supply and sanitation services for poor communities by improving the capacity of sector agencies to respond to users' demands for water supply and sanitation services using gender-sensitive and participatory approaches

ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) methodology was used consisting of participatory rapid appraisal (PRA) and SARAR tools which include transect

walk, mapping, pocket voting, history of participation, card scoring, ladders I & II, wealth ranking and community data sheet
Field assessors selected from sector institutions were trained and used for the data collection processes at community level

Sixteen communities from Cameroon and Ghana, representing the region, were selected on the basis of set criteria and assessed for the project

MAJOR ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

Methodology adaptation workshop organized in Limbe, Cameroon, for all four participating organizations - COWAP Upper East and West Regions, Volta Region Water and Sanitation Project (Ghana), Helvetas Swiss Association and DED German Development Association (Cameroon)

Tools training workshop in Ghana and Cameroon on the application of the selected tools and the Participatory Learning and Action approach.

Field assessment in sixteen villages by all four participating organizations in both Ghana and Cameroon on how their water and sanitation services were established and are being managed.

Institutional assessment by PAID-WA in all four institutions on the method of systems' establishment in villages, and the national policy on water and sanitation sector

THE SEMINAR

This assessment project has come out with emerging issues which PAID-WA is interested in sharing with policy makers and sector support organizations and agencies for discussion towards enriching the water and sanitation sector.

**SEMINAR ON DISSEMINATION OF AN ASSESSMENT AND RESEARCH RESULTS IN THE
RURAL WATER AND SANITATION SECTOR**

SEMINAR WORKSHOP IN YAOUNDE - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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NESTOR NGA ETOGA	Afrique Magazine	Yaounde	39-18-19
GERVAIS GOUET	La Pume du Jour	Douala	22-17-94
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Mr. Andrew Tayong	PAID-WA, Buea	B P. 133, Buea	432632
Mr. Alfred Asaah	PAID-WA, Buea	B.P. 133, Buea	432632

**Seminar on the Dissemination of Assessment Results
in the Rural Sector Water and Sanitation
Yaounde, 20 April 1999**

***Opening Speech by the
Minister of Mines, Water and Energy***

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me today to preside over the opening ceremony of this important seminar on the dissemination of assessment results in the rural sector water and sanitation. Research and evaluation jointly carried out in Cameroon and Ghana on community basis by the Pan African Institute for development, West Africa Anglophone (PAID/WA - Buea) and the International Reference Centre for Water and Sanitation, The Hague, The Netherlands, with the support of UNDP and the World Bank.

This is an opportunity for me to wish a warm welcome to this audience made up of personalities and dignitaries. Thank you for having accepted to attend this encounter for, your contributions will be very precious.

As you know, water is a necessity for the living environment. It is also a fundamental human right but which everybody do not, unfortunately, have access to. Drinkable water, health and economic growth form an inseparable trilogy. In fact, for an area to develop, there is need for hard working population and hard work results from good health. How can we speak of good health without drinkable water that can regenerate the mind and the body.

It has become increasingly evident that water, this resource which was undoubtedly abundant some few decades ago, is now quantitatively and qualitatively threatened and scarce. This undermines significantly our dream to attain socio-economic development in the third millennium. For water quality to be sustainable, something should be done. That is the rationale behind this seminar, which highlights the importance of the assessment of water resources and sanitation services which are necessary for a sound management.

Specialists such as Dr Ismil SERAGELDIN have sounded the alarm: "unless the current tendency is changed, we will have a serious water crisis throughout the world".

In Africa in general, and Cameroon in particular, this crisis is now visible.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Being aware of this situation, the Cameroonian Government took it as a duty for some years now, to monitor more closely our rural areas.

Though SNEC, a parastatal under the supervision of the Ministry that I am heading, by a Convention signed with the Cameroon Government, is in charge of the management of water

in virtually all our urban areas, the Ministry of Mines, Water and Energy undertook to invest directly or indirectly in the rural water sector. Thus apart from external financing, the public investment budget set aside an average of one billion CFA francs per year for rural water.

Despite the efforts made over the years, and the international assistance, the needs are still very high. The populations themselves are not well aware of the necessity of these equipment, since they are not always familiar with the technology and maintenance thereof.

In view to this situation, it has become a necessity to review the water policy for the whole country. A new law on water was passed and promulgated in 1998 (Law No. 98/005 of 14 April 1998 on the water regime Law No. 84/013 of 5 December 1984). This law, in pursuance to the principles governing the management of the environment and the protection of public health, defines a more community oriented legal framework of water which is considered as a national property.

Water therefore become a national community property. It should be protected, managed soundly and always be available. It involves and promotes community participation of the beneficiaries. In reality, it gives the populations the responsibility of the operation and maintenance of equipment, teaches them how to get and manage essential parts of the equipment, on the basis of qualitative and quantitative rational management of resources through water committees.

In other words, acquire autonomy in the domain of water management. The Pan African Institute for Development – West Africa, with a proven experience in the domain of community management of water and sectoral collaboration with major international institutions, over the last four years carries out a research in Cameroon and more recently, an evaluation on the water sector in Cameroon and Ghana on the utilisation of relevant community participation approaches to secure the sustainability and positive impact of water projects. This evaluation was initiated by the Programme of Water and Sanitation of UNDP–The World Bank as a result of a two-day workshop held in October 1997 at the International Reference Centre for Water and Sanitation. The proceedings of this seminar should serve as a contribution to government efforts to define an adequate policy for the sector.

I seize this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to the organisers of this seminar.

My hope and my wish are that the deliberations of this seminar be fruitful and enriching for us all.

I hereby declare open the seminar on the dissemination of assessment results in the rural sector water and sanitation.

Long live the International co-operation
 Long live President Paul BIYA, President of the Republic of Cameroon
 Long live Cameroon.

ANNEX 5

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
Paix - Travail - Patrie

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
Peace - Work - Fatherland

MINISTRE DES MINES, DE L'EAU
ET DE L'ENERGIE

MINISTRY OF WATER, MINES
AND POWER

DIRECTION DE L'EAU

DEPARTMENT OF WATER

Yaounde, 14 April 1999

CIRCULAR LETTER No 106 /99/MINMEE/DEAU

on the preparation of decrees and orders relating to the implementation of the Law no 98/005 of 14 April 1998 fixing the water regime

- To: - Governors of provinces
- Government Delegates for Urban Councils
 - Provincial Delegates of Mines, Water and Power
 - The president of the Employers' Trade-Unions
 - General Managers of industrial and commercial companies
 - Directors of hotel and tourism centres

The quality of surface and underground waters intended to the purification of drinking water, their exploitation and their protection against any contamination is one of the current main concern of policy makers in general and the Government in particular

In view of the growing problems of the environment pollution, especially the irreversible nature of its adverse effects on the quality of water resources and their impact on the drinkable water reserves, the National Assembly at its ordinary session of March 1998, examined and passed the bill to fix the water regime, this was promulgated by the President of the Republic on 14 April 1998.

The objective of the coming years to implement a policy aiming at boosting the economy through intensive industrialisation and the concomitant duty to protect the environment, will bring about the necessity to reconcile industrial activities with both the quality of drinking water resources and the exigency of good health.

Industrial and commercial companies produced and poured each year more effluvia and wastes than useful materials. Therefore, the accumulation of polluted water and wastes appear to be more important than the production of useful products. The adoption of a legal and regulatory framework came as a result of our effort to find adequate solutions through the fundamental principles and relevant policies on the exploitation and protection of water resources.

Thus, the Law no 98/005 of 14 April 1998 to fix the water regime gives the opportunity to define instruments that set the objectives for the improvement of the quality of water and to ensure its sound management.

The aim of this circular letter is to invite all the managers of industrial and commercial companies which carry such activities that pour polluted water in the sewage systems, artificial sewers for rainwater, surface and underground waters, and/or bring about the tapping of surface and underground water, to appreciate the rationale behind this law and to give access in their enterprises, to engineers of the Ministry of Mines, Water and Power, mandated by a memo. to identify and collect relevant information for the preparation of decrees and orders relating to this Law.

I hereby invite all the administrative authorities to take familiar with the main principles developed in that important Law and to engage in the preparation of implementing instruments thereof.

CC:

- MINPAT
- MINDIC
- MINTOUR
- CRTV/RADIO/TELE
- SOPECAM/CAMEROON TRIB.

Water Supply in Cameroon Rural Areas within a New Regulatory Framework

by

Daniel TAIGUEU

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Sub-Director of Urban Water Supply
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In Cameroon, a new law on water has just been promulgated. This presentation aims at showing the aspects that this law is likely to improve in the supply of drinkable water and sanitation (AEPA) in Cameroon.

Situation of Cameroon before the 1998 law

The logic behind AEPA project is not always conducive to a real local development. "Project Approaches" that count essentially on donors are not always consistent with the objectives of local development controlled by the populations concerned. We have realised that most of the project stopped with the withdrawal of external actors, especially when grants stopped flowing. In some cases, these approaches stifled local potentials, and in others they involve new actors, the legitimacy of who is not clearly known. This is mainly due by the fact that time limits are so short that they do not enable local populations to follow the rhythm of the process imposed on them. It should be pointed out that money is not enough to instigate real development in the field. Fortunately, the new AEPA policy endeavours to involve beneficiaries in rural water programmes. As for sanitation, they endeavours to associate beneficiaries and the private sector.

The new law No. 98/005 of 14 April to fix water regime is likely to improve the situation in Cameroon.

We can ask ourselves what innovations has this law introduced as concerns partnership, pricing, protection of the environment and the organisation of the water sector in Cameroon.

Greater opening towards empowerment

From the outset, though this law stipulates that water is a national property, its protection and management being the sole responsibility of the state, it clearly state the possibility to:

- transfer all or part of its prerogatives to the regions or councils, on the one hand; and,
- give a third party the right to use public property by dealership or leasing; on the other hand.

The end of monopoly is contemplated

In fact, any person can offer water to the public for drinking purpose or human usage, provided that he/she makes sure that the water is consistent with established standards. Quality control should be carried out regularly by sworn civil servants or state workers,

commissioned for that. The end of the monopoly is likely to have a positive impact on the costs of water supply in Cameroon.

A new vision of partnership

Apart from a great complementarity among the actors of this sector, the new law clearly states that in the absence of public distribution of drinkable water, the utilisation of private wells, tanks to stock water, catchment point to supply human beings should be considered. Thus, alternative water supply systems are recognised and accepted. But these systems should be built according to the state-of-the-art and abide by the regulation in force. More attention should be paid to the protection of the environment.

This law also provide for:

- tax for the deterioration of the water quality and of the environment to be paid by individuals or corporate bodies who own installations that can bring about pollution;
- a sanitation tax imposed on individuals or state structures who own installations that are linked up to private or public sewers.

More rigorous and rational management

Taxes for collection of surface or under ground water for non-domestic use are provided for and call for more serious management of water resources.

Funds collected here and there may serve as significant contribution to the financing of the activities of the sector. The law provides for a special account for that.

Greater co-ordination of the activities of the sector

The law provides for the creation of a National Water Committee, a consultative organ that will bring together various actors of the sector.

The Water Department are working now on the preparation of various decrees for the implementation of this law. Researches carried out before the seminar on the "Dissemination of Assessment Results in the Rural Sector Water and Sanitation" will be of great help for this work.

**SPEECH BY THE DIRECTOR OF PAN AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR
DEVELOPMENT - WEST AFRICA, BUEA**

**ON THE OPENING CEREMONY OF A SEMINAR ON
DISSEMINATION OF ASSESSMENT AND RESEARCH RESULTS
IN THE RURAL WATER AND SANITATION SECTOR**

The Honourable Minister of Mines, Water Resources and Energy,
The Representative of the IRC, The Netherlands,
Heads of Rural Water Promoting Agencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Secretary General of the International Association of the Pan African Institute for Development (PAID) and indeed on my own behalf, I wish to heartily welcome all of you to this very important and timely seminar on the dissemination of results of assessment and research in the rural water and sanitation sector.

Allow me to express my pleasure to be here with you today to participate in these crucial deliberations. It is indeed gratifying to see all of you, distinguished personalities, convening to reflect on this aspect which hitherto, had been neglected or not given sufficient attention.

There is abounding statistics that there is an international water problem. And in this case, we should acquaint ourselves with the fact that, this

problem will exacerbate into a crisis in Africa especially where it will become not only the most critical resource issue but also the most limiting input to food security and economic and social development. This scenario therefore calls for urgent and appropriate management of available water resources.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This project actually is UNDP/WB sponsored and has a global coverage involving a number of institutions and sector operators. The African component was coordinated by Pan African Institute for Development - West Africa in collaboration with the International Rural Water and Sanitation Center (IRC), The Hague. Cameroon and Ghana were the two countries that were selected in the sub-Saharan region. It is also part of the international community's reaction to this global concern.

The assessment exercise proper had the following characteristics:

Sixteen communities were chosen from the two countries that were selected to represent the sub region based on a set-down criteria to assess the project. In Cameroon three provinces were selected and four communities were involved in the exercise

The main objective was to increase the sustainability of water supply and sanitation services for poor communities in the improvement of their capacity to respond to users' demands using gender-sensitive and

participatory approaches. It should be emphasised that a true gender focus on water-resource management would entail a complete rethinking of the issues of access to water, of the differing and sometimes conflicting interest of men and women, of their relative input into and power over decision-making, and of the role composition of the community.

The methodology applied was the Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) that consisted of Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) and SARAR tools that were adapted in a workshop which was held in Limbe. The PAR i.e. Participatory Action Research approach began in 1994 with the collaboration of IRC. This allows and empowers all stakeholders, researchers, community members and various agencies to be totally and actively involved in the entire process of ensuring the management of community water and sanitation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The idea of the promotion of popular participation has strongly gaining grounds to the extent that policy makers are unhesitantly integrating it into their policies, programs and projects. A number of NGOs are working to develop standards and indicators for evaluating successes or failures of projects. Recently, NGOs are also focusing on gender roles as a crucial element in water supply and management. In addition, they are already giving support to the continuing formation of water committees and to research on traditional values and knowledge, with a view to adapting them to suit current socio-ecological conditions.

NGOs have also recognised the vital role that dissemination and information exchange play in promoting sustainable use and management of water resources. They are, therefore, exploring ways and means of creating national networks and strengthening existing ones. This will facilitate access by NGOs and other social actors in the water sector to other experiences, successes and failures, and new ideas for dissemination.

At this seminar, PAID/WA will share the results of research in the management of community water supplies that it had been engaged in for the past four years.

I would like to express my sincere hope that this conference will pave the way towards a wider and more encompassing understanding of this concept. I wish you all a very fruitful deliberation.

Long Live the Pan African Institute for Development

Long Live the Republic of Cameroon

Long live International Cooperation.

CAMEROON REGIONAL ASSESSMENT

MAIN FINDINGS

- ◆ There is no existing national sector policy on water and sanitation.
- ◆ Key sector actors are the government - through the Ministry of Mines, Water Resources, and Power, Ministry of Agriculture through its Department of Rural Engineering and Community Development, and External Support Agencies (ESAs).
- ◆ Approaches and strategies for rural water supply are guided by government declarations and texts, but operationally tend towards ESAs' defined strategies in the water sector.
- ◆ Demand-responsiveness is mandatory and practised; community participation in project design and initiation is lacking, gender sensitivity in project is partial; and poverty sensitivity is really non-existent
- ◆ Functionality of system in terms of coverage of water supply, availability and reliability of service operations, and quality of water is about average.
- ◆ Community financing of operations and maintenance is poor, as there is still reliance on donor agencies and project technicians for support.
- ◆ Gender differences in roles and contributions are identifiable, but strategic decisions are usually made by structures which are male-dominated.
- ◆ Coverage of water supply at the rural level is low -- many villages without pipe-borne water.
- ◆ Low access to project water tend to lead to poor behavioural change in use of pipe-borne water.
- ◆ Impact of the water project vary with provinces as the important aspect of access to water is not shared in the same degree. The water project has more impact on communities of the western provinces where regularity of water and access is higher. The centre province records lower satisfaction with the system and lower overall impact.

- ◆ Level of achieved benefits matches anticipated benefits, but impact is low due to poor access; satisfaction level for both men and women also very low.
- ◆ There is no apparent focus on sanitation alongside water in the projects assessed.

CONCLUSIONS

- ◆ Eventhough sector agencies believe in gender sensitive project operations, staff capacity to effectively handle this social aspect is lacking.
- ◆ Involvement of all men, women, rich, poor add to the possibility of sustaining the system.
- ◆ Poverty sensitivity is lacking and would require a kind of strategy and know-how to integrate this aspect in the project.
- ◆ Technology choice is determined by sector agencies, but this is also influenced by climatic condition and geographical location as these determine source water type and availability.
- ◆ Demand-responsiveness is practised and tend to have a bearing on feeling of ownership by the community.
- ◆ Community participation in the water project is rather low but active involvement in O&M could generate ownership feeling and willingness to sustain the system.
- ◆ The link of assessed factors with sustainability is obvious, but impact has other important determinant such as access to water.

WEST AFRICAN COMPARISON: SALIENT ISSUES

VARIABLE	CAMEROON	GHANA
Sector Guidelines	Agreement texts, bill, and declaration without precise guidelines	National policy guideline on community water supply
Target	Portable water for all	Acceptable portable water and education services to rural communities and small towns
Strategic focus	Communities to own and manage their water supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Communities to own and manage water supply ◆ Private sector intervention and support
Participation	Cash, labour, kind and project materials, but not in decision making	Cash, labour, kind and project materials with some delegated decisions
Pillars to sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Demand - response ◆ Cost sharing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Demand - response ◆ Cost - sharing
Sector Actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Community ◆ Ministry of Mines, Water and Power ◆ Department of Community Development of MINAGRI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Communities ◆ Private sector ◆ NGOs ◆ District assembly ◆ CWSD of GWSC
Influence of ESAs	Strong	Uncertain but appear regulated by policy
Gender and poverty arrangements	Poor	Poor
Financial Participation	Defined only at project level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Clearly defined ◆ communities 10% ◆ government 15% ◆ ESAs 75%

DIFFERENTIALS

- Clear national policy in Ghana
- Only agreements, bill of 1997 and as directed by MMWRP in Cameroon
- Some delegated decision making to communities in Ghana but none in Cameroon
- Private sector involvement in Ghana a mental strategy for the sector
- Economical and social

POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES

- No discernible private sector involvement in Cameroon as opposed to heavy representation in Ghana (less sustainability potential in Cameroon?)
- ESAs determine exigence of water supply with greater force in Cameroon
- Communities manage O&M with some delegated powers in Ghana but without any in Cameroon
- Clear financial arrangements in Ghana but not universally so in Cameroon
- Clear financial arrangements in Ghana but not universally so in Cameroon

SIMILARITIES

- Insufficient conceptualisation of gender and poverty sensitivity
- Mandatory demand before construction (demand-response): sustainability - enhancing but harmful to coverage?
- Community ownership only during O&M but partnership during construction.

POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES

- Communities and community members are expected to contribute same amounts despite variable levels of financial viability
- Insufficient training of institutional staff on gender and poverty sensitivity
- Women hardly take part in strategic decision-making and skilled-paid jobs despite possible potentials and being major users of water
- Decisions taken by male dominated structures both at committee and community levels
- High proportions of financial defaulters (but willingness to pay?)
- Little involvement of communities in project initiation decisions.

EXPERIENCES FROM THE EVALUATION OF THE PROVILLAGE

*

by Charlot TCHAPMI

1. At the level of tools used

The participatory methodology was highly appreciated by all the communities evaluated. The active involvement of the communities brought about such enthusiasm among them that the members of the target groups felt like the privileged that carry the responsibility to represent the whole community. The enthusiasm was so great that some persons which did not belong to the target group participated in the various steps of the evaluation as observers.

* Among all the tools, the populations were really carried away by mapping, each one ensured that no details of his/her village should be left out. At the end of the process, everybody wanted to obtain a copy of the masterpiece as a souvenir.

2. At the level of the supply of the maintenance fund

In all the communities evaluated, there is a strategy to continuously supply the maintenance fund; yet, the fund is empty. The first explanation for that is poverty, which forces the population to place their priorities on their daily needs. However, in case of a breakdown of the water point, the populations mobilise to raise the funds necessary for repair works. In the meantime, they continue to drink doubtful quality water or to simply resort to natural non-developed water sources, with all the risks involved.

3. At the level of community participation (gender and poverty awareness)

* More often than not, in all the communities evaluated, except MBAZOA I (Sa'a), the financial contribution to water projects was the same for women and men, for all socio-economic groups.

In fact, in MBAZOA, the financial contribution of women is lower than that of men.

The case of LIMAI is unique in the sense that the financing of the three water points came solely from a women group of this village. They got the funds from income generating activities.

* Tasks that necessitate qualified manpower are performed by men. In addition, women are very active for other tasks (carry sand, rubble stone, cleaning around the water point, etc.).

* Participation to management

- Water committees are mainly made up of men, who generally carried off all the decision making positions.
- The only exception is LIMAI, where women make all the decisions pertaining to the water points (there is only one man, the president, out of 8 members).
- At MBAZOA I, women refused to be part of the committee despite the insistence of men. This is a consequence of the tradition which holds that all the meetings should be co-ordinated by men; women should be at the back. Women pretended to be very busy with all their other numerous tasks.

4. Absence of freedom of expression

At NKENG-LIKOG, we experienced the domination of a man over a group of women. We were discussing with women on income generating activities, when that man, who felt that he was threatened - he felt that with our advice the women will acquire some capacities to the point that they will not need him any longer - came in and told us that women of their community are not allowed to talk to strangers, they can only communicate through a man. The conversation stopped, because these women stopped answering questions.

**PRESENTATION OF FIELD RESEARCH
EXPERIENCE FOR HELVETAS**

BY STEPHEN ASHU

NJINIBI

Here the villagers are very satisfied with the performance of their system and in this respect, they see no reason why they should continue contributing money for this operation and maintenance of the system.

They believe that HELVETAS who provided the water should fund the operation and maintenance programme

Once there is major break down, villagers prefer going back to their old sources rather than even contributing for the repairs of even the cheapest spare part like a tap

Another major problem is the fact that water has not reach all the quarters and this has caused these members of the village to rebel against collection

NEI-BAMESSING

The water system here is quite particular because it has treatment facilities.

The water management committee in place is placed under the supervision of the village development union Contributions for the operation and maintenance of the system is quite encouraging. About 90% of the population are contributing Hence because of the structure of the village, once these is a major break down, the villagers stay for long without water Another major problem is that of cleaning the slow sand filters Once this gets block, the villages stay without water because the village Development Union must authorise and disburse funds for this operation to be carried out

BONADIKOMBO

This community falls without the Limbe Urban Municipality There is a well functioning water maintenance committee in place to run the system However, this water management committee is presently confronted with a lot of problems because of shortage of water needs Water is being rationed Some quarters stay for 3 days without water and as such they go back to their old natural sources thus exposing themselves to all sort of water born diseases.

BOLIFAMBA

This village falls without the Buea Rural Council Municipality Here the water systems is quite functional to meet up the present water needs However the chief of the village has taken control of all the management aspects of the water scheme The water management committee has been relegated to the background. They have no control over the system. Once there is a major breakdown, the villagers stay for long without water because the chief of the village who is also the treasurer of the scheme cannot buy the required spare parts to maintain their system More over he has sold all the hand around the catchment area thereby putting the whole system into a possible hazard

PRESENTATION OF PAD COMMUNITY WATER AND SANITATION PROJECT

PROJECT TITLE

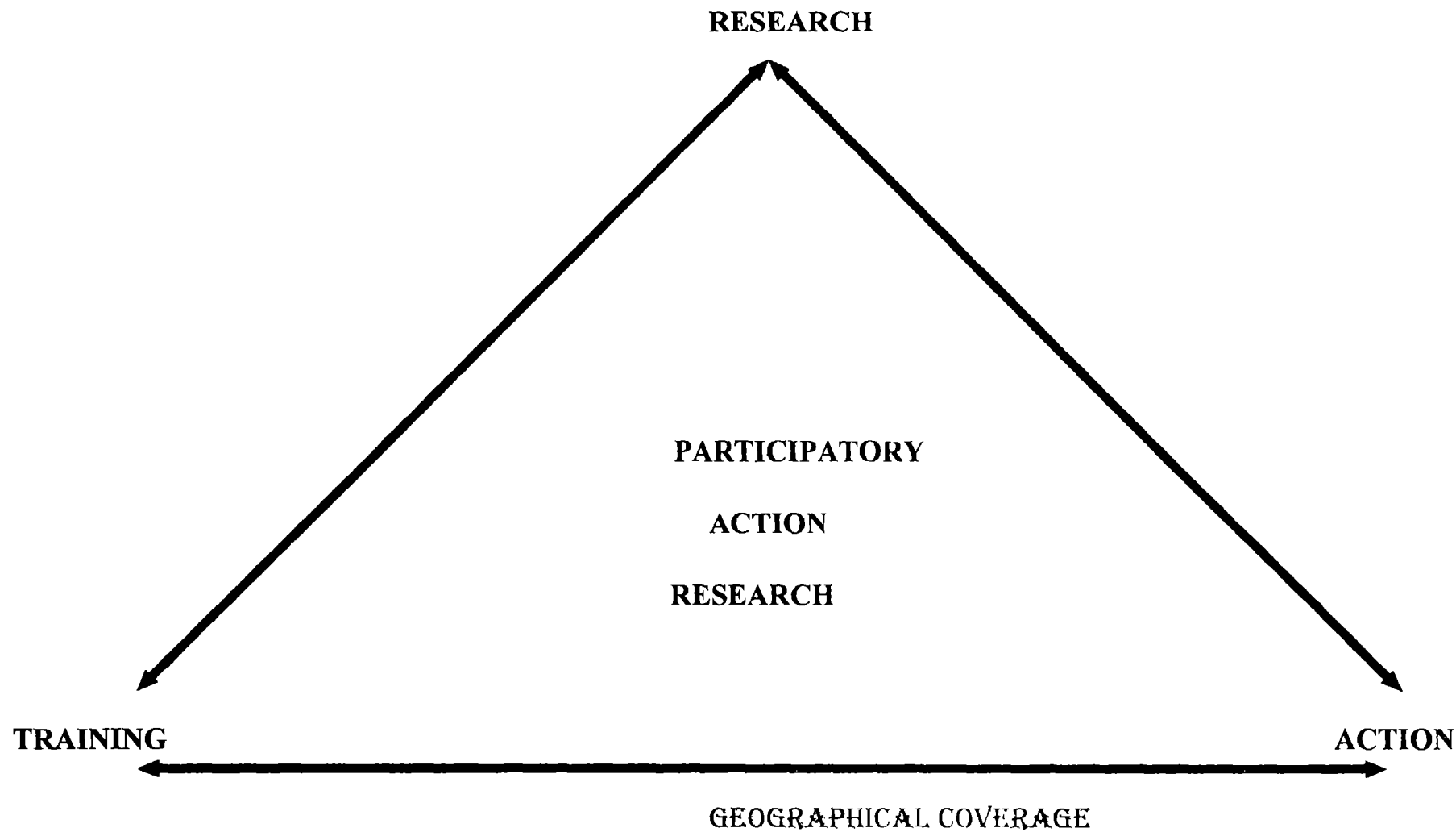
The Role Of Communities In The Management Of Improved Rural Water Supplies In Developing Countries.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

- To Improve The Efficiency, Sustainability And Cost- Effectiveness Of Water Supply Management By Rural Communities In Developing Countries

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- To Improve The Current State Of Understanding On Community Management Of Rural Water Supply Through The Participatory Assessment And Analysis Of The Performance Of Selected Community- Managed Rural Water Supply Systems In Six Countries
- To Analyze And Identify The Support Requirements For Successfully Building Capacity For Community Management Of Rural Water Supply Systems
- To Develop And Test Approaches, Methods And Tools To Enhance The Capacity Of Rural Communities To Manage Their Own Rural Water Supply Systems In An Efficient, Sustainable, Gender-Conscious And Cost- Effective Way
- To Enhance The Research And Support Capacities Of The Partner Organization In Six Developing Countries
- To Disseminate And Share Findings On Research And Approaches Concerning Community Management Of Rural Water Supplies At Community, National And International Levels



Africa:	PAID-WA, Cameroon; NETWAS, Kenya
Latin America:	CINARA, Colombia; AGUA DEL PUEBLO, Guatemala
Asia:	NEWAH, Nepal; AGA KHAN RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME, Pakistan

DISSEMINATION PROJECT

PROMOTION OF COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT OF RURAL WATER SUPPLIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

- To Contribute To Improving The Sector's Capacity For Community Management Of Rural Water Supplies

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- To Actively Disseminate And Share Findings On Experiences Generated Through The Participatory Action Research Project
- To Initiate And Facilitate The Development Of An Information Network To Enhance Multi-Institutional Learning Possibilities On Community Management And Participatory Action Research
- To Develop Training Methodologies And Training Capacity On Community Management And Participatory Action Research For Effective Capacity Building On Participatory Approaches, Methods And Tools.

AUDIENCES

- Community Groups And Organisations
- Sector Professionals
 - Decision Makers
 - Supervisors
 - Field Staff
- Including Staff Working In
 - Health,
 - Community Development And
 - Environment
- Researchers
- Policy Makers

ACTIVITIES

- Video On Community Management
- Leaflets
- Articles
- Presentation At Conferences
- Country Case Study
- Community Management Manuals
- Inputs In IRC Articles
- Case Stories
- Training Courses

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDED FOR

- Continuation Of Training Course
- Translation Of Documents Into French
- Further Support To Pilot Communities
- Post Training Follow - Up Of Trainees
- Translation Of Video

SEMINAR ON DISSEMINATION OF ASSESSMENT RESULTS IN THE RURAL SECTOR WATER AND SANITATION

Background Paper on Syndicate Discussions

INTRODUCTION

Development in Rural Water Supply and Sanitation sector requires strategic planning and a collaborative effort to sustain the benefits accrued from its investments. This implies that development projects or programs must take into account the essential elements of sustainability when planning and implementing activities. Government, donors, professionals, institutions and beneficiaries must work together.

Paramount to key factors of sustainability are enabling policy environment, institutional and human resource development that make up capacity building in the sector. Consequently, capacity building involves improvement of the policy environment and most importantly, institutional and human resource development at national and local levels, with emphasis on local community organizations.

G.J. Alaerts et al, (1991), reported in the proceedings of the UNDP symposium, Delft, 3-5 June, 1991 that many national and local institutions responsible for water management and water service delivery do not work efficiently or effectively because of :

- inappropriate policies for water management and unclear definition of the mandates of the institutions;
- lack of resources (inadequate funding and human resources);
- working in an environment that is not conducive for institutions and inhibits jobs satisfaction;
- inadequate education and training facilities; and
- lack of participation and commitment from communities and customers,

Results from the assessment and research projects carried out by PAID-WA confirm this assertion, and are calling for a collaborative effort from Governments, NGOs, International organizations, Diplomatic Missions, industries, religious organizations and all other actors of the sector and related sectors to join hands in facing the challenges.

Capacity building was identified in various forums as a major aspect for sustainable development in the sector. The main objective of capacity building is to improve the quality of decision making, sector efficiency and managerial performance in the planning and implementation of water and sanitation sector programs and projects. The importance of this factor makes it another major focus of discussion in this seminar, more so as it involves other resources such as funding which need to be organised and adequately harnessed

There will be three syndicate groups to discuss the major issues as follows:

- Issue of sector policy for Cameroon
- Issue of capacity building at institutional and community levels
- Financing strategies for supporting sectoral performance towards sustainability and impact of rural water supply and sanitation projects

FINANCING STRATEGIES FOR SUPPORTING SECTORAL PERFORMANCE TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY AND IMPACT OF RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROJECTS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

The syndicate on financing strategies for sectoral support shall deliberate on the following:

Since issues of sustainability and impact are very critical to the success of community water supply projects, what financial strategies can be evolved for ensuring continuous capacity building at institutional and community levels?

SYNDICATE SESSION

Group Members

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Tiagu Daniel (Chairperson) | 8. Ketcha |
| 2. Manga Blaise | 9. Joseph Kapa |
| 3. Koffi Joseph | 10. Ndjopen K. |
| 4. Fominyam | 11. Ntche Peter |
| 5. Mrs. Ibokueme Helene | 12. John Menfo |
| 6. Joseph Owono | 13. Angoula Alain Thierry |
| 7. Khunju G. | 14. Assembe Henri |
| | 15. Ashu Stephen (rappporteur) |

Group Members

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Mbonde Njube | 11. Kandem J.Fr |
| 2. Nkem Samuel | 12. Elizabeth Mosima |
| 3. Nembot David | 13. Mapan Marie |
| 4. Kouna Emile | 14. Tony Madeline |
| 5. Bilong Marc | 15. Louis Mboyfam |
| 6. Njie E. | 16. Talla Takeam |
| 7. Ndzanga Pauline | 17. Edwin Ngambi |
| 8. Rose Etive | 18. Assam James |
| 9. Maolinde Leorance | 19. Techapni Char Lotte |
| 10. Ouembe Emma | 20. Knott H. (Rappporteur) |

Group Members

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Kouamo Jean-Chaude | 9. Max Song Mbang |
| 2. Afand Andela | 10. Fongah Chrysantus |
| 3. Dieudonne Cauaghan | 11. Gervais Gouet |
| 4. Nestor Nga Etoga | 12. Alain Oguide |
| 5. Jean Baptiste | 13. Silatsa N.M. |
| 6. Buan Kwe Pierre | 14. Djuiga Edwige |
| 7. Mme Amougou Augustine | 15. Martine Marie Nsoe |
| 8. Enow Enow Samuel | 16. Paul Djombi |
| | 17. Mbessa Beatrice (Rappporteur) |

Seminar on the Dissemination of Assessment Results in the Rural Sector Water and Sanitation

Yaounde, 20 April 1999

Closing Speech by the Minister of Mines, Water and Energy

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This morning, the Director of the Pan African Institute for Development – West Africa Anglophone, Buea pointed out clearly that there is a threat hanging on water and sanitation throughout the world.

The International Community is becoming aware of this fact. The United Nations Organisation launched an International Decade for Water and Sanitation 1981–1990. They went further by declaring the 22nd of March, World Water Day.

For Africa, organisations such as the Pan African Institute for Development – West Africa and the International Reference Centre for Water and Sanitation are mobilising especially in Cameroon and Ghana.

As concerns Cameroon, on behalf of the New Deal Government, I wish to extend my congratulations to the praiseworthy organisations which assist us. They can count on the availability of the Minister of Mines, Water and Energy who has the duty to define and implement national policy on water and sanitation.

With the dissemination of research findings the concepts resulting from the human intellectual efforts become more digestible. It is also a means to go from reflection to action.

You have worked your brains for a number of years now. You have identified and collected numerous facts which are likely to provide useful information for the improvement of living conditions.

The seminar which is about to end has produced an important reflection work for the future of the policy of water and sanitation. The assessment of the rural sector water and sanitation problems is the first step towards the materialisation of the policy of awareness creation and empowerment in the domain of water and management.

The recommendations and resolutions that have just been made public should be implemented. In short:

- set up a sector planning mechanism, a kind of national observation post for water and sanitation;

- encourage and better organise community management of water resources and water and sanitation technical equipment;
- harmonise and better co-ordinate various interventions by both public and private actors through the promotion of dialogue, conservation and the definition of an efficient participatory partnership policy;
- initiate a new school of live by sensitising and educating rural populations on health, hygiene and protection of the environment.

We can in final analysis admit that our proceedings bear hopes. The Government will, in due course, take them into consideration for the betterment of the rural populations of Cameroon.

Let me at this juncture, extend my thanks to all participants for the work done and for their fruitful contributions.

My very special gratitude goes to UNDP and the World Bank which always care for health and water-related problems, as well as poverty alleviation.

All my heartfelt thanks to the organisers of this seminar, especially to the Director of the Pan African Institute for Development - West Africa, Buea and the Director of the International Reference Centre for Water and Sanitation, The Hague, The Netherlands.

Ladies and Gentlemen, accept my congratulations and my heartfelt thanks.

I hereby declare close the proceedings of the seminar on the Dissemination of Assessment Results in the Rural Sector Water and Sanitation.

Long Live the International co-operation

Long live President Paul BIYA, President of the Republic of Cameroon

Long live Cameroon.