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Water and Environmental Sanitation Programme
WES

Annual Report
1996

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Overview of the WES Programme - Major Achievements

In 1996, WES programme continued its efforts and mobilization to ensure national and state investment in the sector and to enhance community ownership and management. The programme activities have been decentralized with increased involvement of states governments and rural councils. The state governments of West Kordofan, North, South and West Darfur have provided funds for the first time for sectoral activities, while federal contribution has increased consistently since 1993. Community's contribution continued to be the major financial source to cover recurrent costs see. *Fig 1 & 2.*

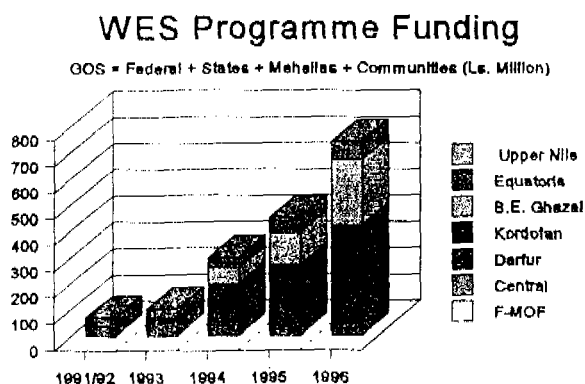


FIG 1

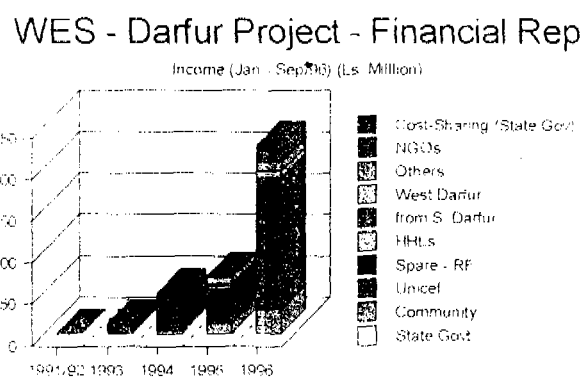


FIG 2

In spite of the critical economic situation and the shrinking external funding, progress was made at the different programme levels as a result of intensive advocacy of WES strategies, new approaches and effective programme implementation. The reporting period is an evident situation of 'doing more with less'. While the overall UNICEF financial input to the programme in 1996 is less 54% than 1992 (*Fig. 3*); the level of service of safe drinking water supply schemes continued to increase the number of beneficiaries from 290,000 to 613,000 in rural, peri-urban and displaced camps, a net increase of 211%. Drilling/borehole operations have been constant, approximately 1,200 boreholes per year, the diversification of other low-cost appropriate technologies, such as, improvement of dug-wells with community handpumps, rehabilitation/protection and construction of Haffirs and water filtration units along the Nile river have increased substantially, from 17 Haffirs in 1995 to 40 in 1996, in cooperation with WFP. However, the promotion and construction of household latrines has significantly increased, 400% compared to 1991 (*Fig.4*). This is the result of an important shift in the approach, technology

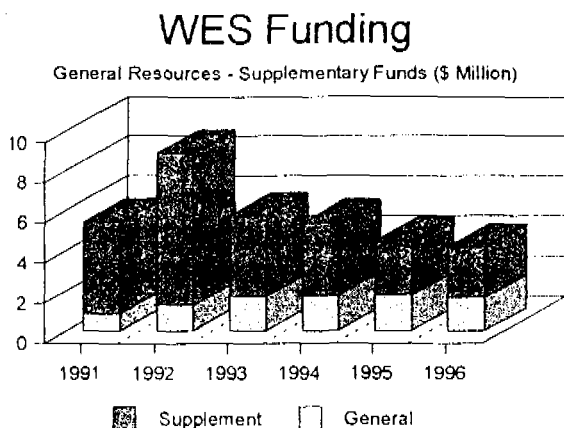


FIG 3

WES Programme Implementation

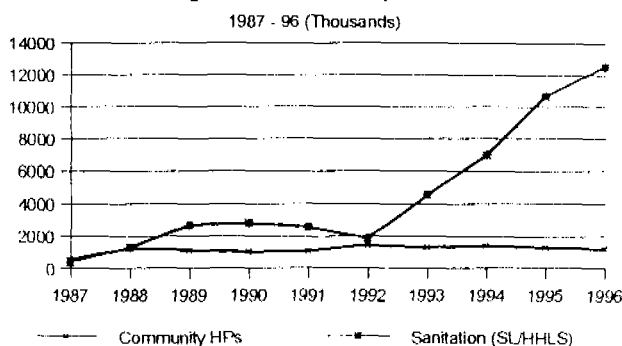


FIG 4

choice, and role of Unicef in promotion rather than construction, and involvement of women from planning to field level, especially field cadres in local councils. Also, the introduction of sanitation and health education in peri-urban areas is a landmark in WES programme in cooperation with local and international NGOs. Khartoum State Water Corporation and local councils. Information, education and communications on safe drinking water supply, and health education messages have been organized and supported through different fora i.e. World Water Day, Sudan Environmental Day, as well as in programs tailored for WES interventions in the Sudan television and radio programs. WES participation in the guinea worm eradication program has been improved not only in terms of national and state level coordination, but more importantly in containment and provision of clean water in Sennar, South Darfur, Equatoria, and Bahr El Ghazal areas.

The Annual Review Meeting held recently in Nyala, South Darfur State has endorsed the new structure for WES projects at area and state level, and complete transfer of planning, implementation, staffing and financing responsibilities to the states for the first time in the history of WES programme.

Programme Level

a) Institutionalization/Decentralization

Over the last three years WES programme has exerted tremendous efforts to institutionalize and decentralize activities at all levels. Nine state level WES executing units were established to plan, implement and monitor their own plans of action, which were endorsed and approved by their respective Walis and Ministers of Engineering Affairs and Finance, for the first time in WES programme for each area/state. A training

course was conducted in June 1996 for 20 state and area project managers/coordinators on "Management for Sustainability in Water and Sanitation" aimed

at enhancing their managerial capabilities. In line with this capacity building activity, the last review meeting held in Nyala on 5-8 November, 1996 was a benchmark in the history of the WES programme especially the restructuring of WES executing units.

A further step in 1996 was the establishment of WES units at rural councils parallel to the integration and coordination of WES activities done by line departments of the State Ministries of Health and Engineering Affairs. 60 WES units were established in 1996 compared to 20 WES units in 1995. In the south, because of the emergency nature of the programme and in the absence of physical existence of state governments infrastructure no further decentralization has taken place at state level. The projects are still operating at area level. The appointment of project managers in Bahr El Ghazal and Equatoria will create a conducive environment for 1997 interventions.

b) Local Resources Mobilization

Social mobilization has been effectively used to ensure tangible state and community contribution to accelerate WES implementation and expansion. Workshops and meetings at both state and council levels were organized by WES projects to orient decision makers, local government officials and community leaders on the need to incorporate WES activities in their annual development budgets. During 1996, communities and their local institutions have contributed LS. 414 million out of 691 million.

Despite the country's financial situation, the contribution and commitment from the state governments has been very promising and encouraging in 1996, if compared to the previous years. In some states like in Darfur the contribution towards WES budget was remarkable. North and South Darfur states have allocated LS. 250 million for the purchase of drilling equipment on cost-sharing basis. The South Darfur government has committed to budget the equivalent of US\$ 3 million for the water and environmental sanitation sector in a three year plan. West Kordofan State is another example that needs to be documented.

c) **Women's Participation/Empowerment**

The recognition of the role of women was initiated in 1994 for tangible integration and mainstreaming of gender issues in WES programme at the different levels. A total of 105 women (67 in 1996) have been appointed -as Health Officers, Sanitary Overseers, Handpump Mechanic Trainers, Health Educators and Social Workers- to enhance their

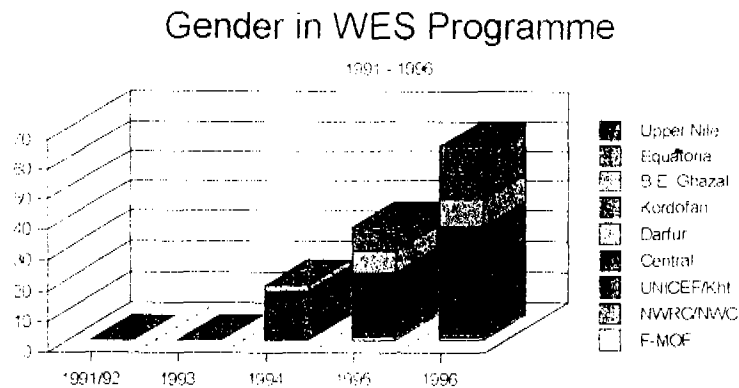


FIG 5

participation and role (Fig. 5). There is a noticeable improvement of health and education promotion because of the increase in the number of women participating WES activities. This trend will be consolidated in state line departments and rural councils.

c) **KAP Studies**

Three KAP surveys have been completed in Blue Nile, White Nile and Sennar States. This activity has been initiated to identify and measure the community awareness at the project areas. The outcome of the survey will assist the projects to formulate more realistic and practical health education and sanitation strategies through concerned local institutions. It will also serve to develop more appropriate information and communication packages to enhance the knowledge, attitude and practices of mothers and children in the handling of safe drinking water and household/environmental sanitation. The survey will continue Darfur and Kordofan states by end of the year, and in the south in 1997.

d) Guinea Worm Eradication

WES programme has developed a practical plan and gave the elimination of this crippling water borne disease a top priority, wherever feasible and accessible. Promotion of low-cost affordable water supply options i.e. improvement of hand dug wells, rehabilitation, protection of haffirs and slow sand filters were reinforced in 1996 PPAs in guinea worm endemic areas. Also, collaboration and integration of activities among concerned agencies, has been realized and further enhanced at all levels during the last six months. The secondment of a water engineer from the NWC to SGWEP to link and streamline water activities has been positively reflected in the field implementation during 1996. The joint monitoring field visits coordinated between WES programme and SGWEP to the endemic area in Darfur, Central States and Kordofan have paved the way for better planning, especially monitoring of supplies at village level. Major constraints for the programme include inaccessibility due to civil strife, inadequate health infrastructure; inadequate communications; limited transportation; other logistical capabilities and supplies; and insufficient financial support. It is crucial that the federal and state government give priority to allocation of funds to accelerate the on-going eradication efforts.

e) Technology Choice

Parallel to the review/assessment of the sanitation component initiated in 1994, which led to the recommendation that UNICEF should promote a broader technology choice for household latrines (rather than concentration on ventilated improved pit latrines fully subsidized by WES projects) plus the introduction of a simpler option, known as SanPlat. Its benefits and impact on the acceleration and promotion of this approach can be observed in 1996 achievements.

Parallel to the above, the programme also undertook the initiative to compare and demonstrate different VLOM handpump options. Though the National Water Corporation opted, in early 1995, for the Afridev handpump as the future standard handpump in water supply projects, UNICEF headquarters fielded a mission to assess this decision. The national counterpart has gone ahead with their decision to opt for the Afridev as the standard handpump in the medium-long term. Although the mission's report has been received only very recently (November 1996), the National Water Corporation has undertaken a number of actions to implement their decision *inter alia* the mission's recommendations discussed in November 1995: (i) gradual introduction of the new technology, taking into account the necessary infrastructure available in the country; (ii) preparation of a draft plan of action for 1997 implementation to introduce, implement, monitor and evaluate the VLOM concept using Afridev technology with the participation of the private sector; (iii) improvement of operation and maintenance aspects in Kordofan area through the established WES units at state and council level; (iv) improvement and further development of existing data base through a plan of action with the Non-Nile

Water Resources Directorate, a technical wing of the former National Rural Water Corporation; and (v) the decision to rely less on UNICEF assistance for the procurement of handpumps. ADRA and the National Water Corporation through the modality of procurement of services have started this process with the procurement of the first lot of 100 Afridev handpumps. A second package is being processed by NWC. From UNICEF SCO perspective, this is a major and important step towards a more sustainable system with concrete and tangible efforts done by local counterparts who have started to pay for their own equipment, after almost 2 decades of continuous UNICEF full subsidy. The National Water Corporation will forward comments on the mission's report before end of the year.

f) Inter-agency Collaboration

WIS programme has consolidated its collaboration with local and external allies to avoid overlap of services, ensure expansion and transfer of approaches. Coordination with ADRA and SUDRA has been further enhanced especially in the field of sanitation, hygiene education and operation and maintenance of handpumps in peri-urban areas of Khartoum. The experience of ADRA in this regard is very rich and this needs to be documented and shared with others for wider replication. ADRA was able to promote low cost sanitation options on actual cost basis among vulnerable communities, including displaced camps. Collaboration with WFP have resulted in rehabilitation and construction of 44 Haffirs in 10 states targeting guinea worm endemic areas, needy communities and locations where other water supply options are not feasible. Cooperation has been initiated with Human Appeal International, Africa Muslim Committee and MSF (Holland). A complementary proposal for the environmental sanitation component has been agreed with CARE for a project to be executed in South Kordofan. Assistance to El Montdah El Islami and Plan Sudan have been done through the National Water Corporation, and Blue Nile State Water Corporation in the area of water supply and to OXFAM and SCF(UK) in North Darfur.

Project Level

Physical Achievements

Regardless of problems encountered during the enforcement of the new federal system, the critical economic environment, accessibility and logistical problems; sustainable progress was made in 1996. As of October 1996, 917 community HPs were completed and 759 water schemes were rehabilitated in the north and in the accessible areas of the south. Over 450,000 people have benefited from the activity.

40 Haffirs were rehabilitated, mainly in guinea worm endemic areas. More than 12,000 household latrines and 62 school latrines were constructed as a result of the new low cost

option introduced in 1994 to bridge the gap and increase access to environmental sanitation. The software elements of the programme have been integrated at all project levels; 628 village committees were formed to help change attitudes and practices and almost 1692 pump mechanics at the village level were trained to provide O&M services. Social mobilization activities, community and WES personnel training, workshops and review meetings at federal and area level (steering committees) have been intensively conducted to ensure effective field implementation and community participation. About 820,000 people have practically benefited from the physical achievements realized through both regular and emergency WES programme in the north and the south, as of October 1996 (Fig. 6).

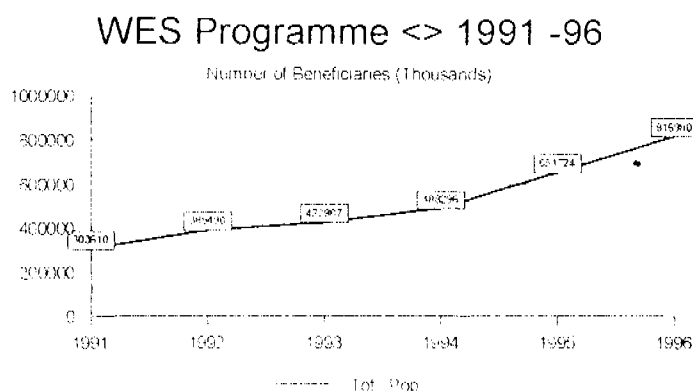


FIG 6

Sectoral Level

UNICEF's role model and advocacy at the very highest level for the introduction of low-cost appropriate technologies, the interlinking of water, sanitation and health, the empowerment of women and equally importantly the empowerment of the community, the need for cost-sharing, and the importance of working with and through the available delivery mechanisms of the government. In 1996, as a difference to previous years, WES programme has played an active role in promoting and advocating sectorial issues i.e. sustainability of operation and maintenance of water supply systems, especially in the rural areas; the initiation of a national baseline survey to measure the actual status of access to safe drinking water supply and sanitation, and a sectoral review, as basis for the preparation of strategic plans, at federal and state level to target end-decade goals.

a) National Seminar on Water & Sanitation Sector

In view of the critical situation of the water supply systems in rural and urban areas and due to the continued deterioration of water supply schemes, WES programme has taken

the lead to support the National Water Corporation (NWC) to conduct a national seminar to assess the new structure and operation and maintenance (O&M) aspects along the lines of the government new federal system. The seminar was held in April 1996 and was attended by practically all the sector decision makers, relevant institutions at national and state level and NGOs. The seminar deliberations and recommendations have been widely shared among concerned parties to streamline the sector future plans.

b) WATSAN National Baseline Survey

The preparatory phase of the WATSAN (Water and Sanitation), revealed that the whole sector lacks the proper information system required for planning and sectoral investment in the future. In response to this situation, WES programme assisted the Central Bureau of Statistics to execute a National Baseline Survey (for the first time) to assess the sector and provide information for development and management of water resources and environmental sanitation in the country. Field execution of the first phase in 6 states has been completed in September 1996 in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Finance, the National Water Corporation, State Water Corporations, and the Non Nile Water Resources Directorate. The second phase has just started in 10 states; the third phase will be executed in accessible/secure areas in the south. Data processing and analysis are also scheduled for early 1997.

c) Water and Sanitation Sector Review

Along the lines of UNICEF technical assistance to the sector, in response to the National Water Corporation request, WES programme facilitated the Water and Sanitation Sectoral Review by an international consultant. The overall objective of the review has been to set the basis for a strategic plan for the country within the framework of the federal system and the current economic status i.e. manpower, O&M and cost-recovery policies, etc. This review plus the forthcoming National Baseline Survey will provide the necessary framework for the preparation of investment plans both at national and state level.

Constraints:

- Institutional capacities responsible for coordination, planning and monitoring of software activities are still weak at the state level, in spite of the established federal system in the country.
- The country overall economic situation and the low contribution from the state government constrains effective local resources mobilization necessary for expansion and capital investment.
- Lack of environmental awareness at community level affects the acceleration of sanitation promotion hygiene and behavioral change.

- Accessibility and security to project sites/villages have continued to be a major constraint, especially in the south, though security and commandeering of project vehicles have also been a problem in the north.
- Inadequate information and database system and insufficient number of trained personnel in the field of monitoring and evaluation.
- Over the years development in water sector has tended to favor central towns and high cost technologies instead of rural areas and peri-urban slums.

Future Perspective:

- Prioritize sanitation hygiene education funding at all level especially at community/Mahlias level.
- Promotion of households and community participation to develop sense of services ownership for long term sustainability.
- Promote collaborative approaches among concerned institutions and support joint activities with NGOs.
- Enhance the on-going decentralized approach of WES activities and strengthen the capacities of communities and their local institutions to plan and implement.
- Encourage the use of low-cost technology on a wider scale including the local manufacturing of water supply equipment with priority to handpumps with private sector involvement.

Programme Name:	Water and Environmental Sanitation(WES)	Programme Code:	ZW 909		
Project Name:	Water and Environmental Sanitation	Project No.:	01	Project Code:	W 03
Government Officer:	Mr. Eisa Mohamed Ahmed	UNICEF Officer:	Fernando Mujica		
Project Final Objective:					
1) To provide 1 million people in Sudan with access to safe drinking water and 150,000 people with sanitary means of excreta disposal.					
Planned Budget:	Country Prog: US \$ 3,665,800 Emergency: US \$ 849,300	Estimated Expenditure:	Actual	US \$ 3,643,000 US \$ 821,200	
Project Plan of Action Milestones:	Progress/Achievements:	Constraints:			
Expand delivery of safe drinking water to target groups in rural areas, displaced camps and war affected.	As of end of October, 1996 the project managed to drill and install 920 handpumps in the regular programme and 27 in the emergency areas. 377 handpumps were rehabilitated in the regular, and 382 in the emergency programme. 44 hafirs were rehabilitated in guinea worm areas. Two (2) open dug wells were improved. The total beneficiaries are about 650,000 people.	Aging of drilling equipments and insufficient state government contribution. Inaccessibility to guinea worm areas particularly in southern zones.			
Promotion of sanitation through the expansion of low cost sanitary means of excreta disposal in rural, peri-urban areas, displaced, and war-affected.	As of end of October, 1996 the promotion of sanitation has resulted in construction of 12,507 household latrines (Sandlat) both in regular and emergency programme. Sixty seven (67) school latrines were constructed benefiting about 150,000. To promote peri-urban sanitation a joint programme was implemented in collaboration with NGOs ADRA, SUBRA, and PLAN SUDAN.	Lack of environmental awareness in the rural areas. Inadequate funding from concerned government institutions and the need to incorporate the activities in the government mechanisms.			
Strengthen the institutional framework to ensure community ownership and long term sustainability. Also for coordinated planning and management (federal, state governments and local councils).	Establishment of 9 WES projects at state level in the north to act as distinguished bodies for planning, execution and monitoring of WES activities. Establishment of 79 WES units at rural council level as focal points for community participation and empowerment. The WES units are to play key role in the implementation of WES activities. The restructuring of WES Projects. During the Annual WES Review Meeting 5-7 Nov. 1996 held in Nyala, the new structure has been endorsed by the key government staff. WES execution becomes exclusively state affairs, where by the Area Level unit will be responsible for coordination, planning and follow up.	Progress in some states has been constrained by shortage of qualified staff. In the south, the war situation, funding and accessibility are the main challenges.			

<p>Strengthen monitoring and evaluation units at to provide effective baseline data for policy formulation and planning. Improve field implementation and application of criteria for sites selection.</p>	<p>Knowledge, Attitude and Practice Study" (KAP) has been conducted in WES Central States and it is on-going in the other projects. The study findings will be an input for the formulation of health education sanitation strategy. Establishment of monitoring units at state/project level. The state M &E units have been equipped by computers, staff, vehicles and office equipments. WES staff members attended the NETWAS received training in monitoring and evaluation and gender issues.</p>	<p>In sufficient number of trained staff in the field of monitoring and evaluation. Poor communication.</p>
<p>Building the Sectoral Capacity.</p>	<p>The National Seminar on Operation and Maintenance reviewed the O&M systems in the country and identified the sector major problems. National Baseline Survey has been initiated to provide baseline data for the sector for sound future development. It is a joint effort between the UNICEF, National Water Corporation, and Central Bureau of Statistics. Water and Sanitation Sector Review has been conducted to assess the sector status.</p>	<p>Lack of proper data base system. There is need to consolidate the potential capacity of NWC.</p>