

TANZANIA Looking Back



A participatory impact assessment of older water supply and sanitation improvement projects supported by WaterAid in selected villages of Dodoma Region in Tanzania.

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Tanzania Looking Back

A participative impact study led by Susan Maganga of WaterAid and Herbert Kashililah, the Dodoma Regional WAMMA Co-ordinator. Members of WAMMA Teams for the Districts of Kondoa, Kongwa and Mpwapwa assisted in the research. Their names are James Bujiku, Farida Msilu and Mustafa Mbughu. The research would not have been possible without the support of the Regional Water Engineer for Dodoma, Mr Yunusu Rugeiyamu.

This brief report was summarised from the main report by Mr Donald Navetta and edited by Dave Mather, Country Representative, WaterAid.

Cover photographs:

Front: Berege Village, before the provision of water

Back: Chaludewa village, women's focus group

Foreword



Dear Friends,

Providing access to water and sanitation, along with safe hygiene practices is a primary concern of the Government of Tanzania. Here in the Dodoma Region it is a particularly pressing issue with people having to walk large distances sometimes as far as 10 - 15 kms to collect water of questionable quality.

During our ten years of WAMMA partnership we have progressed from only 35% of our villages having access to safe water to over 70%. This is a remarkable achievement and I would like to congratulate all the WAMMA partners, WaterAid, BSF/IFAD, Government of Netherlands, LVIA, CMSR and other donors/facilitators/enablers, Regional and District personnel, WAMMA teams and last but not least the Communities for their co-operation and efforts over the years.

This study demonstrates the progress made by the Dodoma Water and Sanitation Stakeholders and WAMMA teams in their efforts to improve the lives of our people. Access to safe water brings with it many positive impacts that go beyond health, as important as this may be. The challenge that faces all of us is to maximise those benefits by integrating the activities of various development agencies and Government departments. By consulting with the programme beneficiaries as to the qualitative impacts of WAMMA's work this study is able to argue cogently for such integrated action.

I hope that you will find the study as informative as I did and that it will motivate you to even greater efforts in our fight against poverty.

Isidore L. Shirima
Regional Commissioner, Dodoma.
United Republic of Tanzania.

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Introduction

During 1999 WaterAid carried out an impact assessment of projects implemented in partnership with the Regional and District Governments of Dodoma in the United Republic of Tanzania. The projects had been completed between 1991 and 1994 and the research was part of an international study including similar projects implemented by WaterAid and its partners in Ethiopia, Ghana and India. This booklet summarises the Tanzania component of the study.

The Tanzania Looking Back Study (LBS), as we came to know it, took place in Tandala,

Songambebe, Berege, and Chaludewa villages in Kondoa, Kongwa and Mpwapwa Districts respectively. Integrated teams of local Government staff, under the WaterAid / WAMMA partnership, had been responsible for implementing the study projects.

This report concerns itself with the overall methodology and findings of the study. Please refer to the full report, available from WaterAid Tanzania, for the detailed findings and presentation of data.

Dodoma is one of the 20 mainland regions of Tanzania and is located in the centre of the country. The region is semi arid with average rainfall patterns of 300 to 500mm although it can be as high as 800mm in some areas. Dodoma is classified by the Government as one of its four most vulnerable regions.

Its population of 1.6 million people are mainly farmers and cattle keepers and the region as a whole has an annual food deficit of 2 to 3 months.

The multisectoral teams at the heart of the WAMMA partnership comprise field level staff from the Water, Health, Education and Community Development departments of the Government. Together with their donors they have helped over 100 communities to provide themselves with water and sanitation facilities. There is currently in excess of UK £ 100,000 in community-managed operation and maintenance funds; money raised by the communities themselves from the sale of water.

Study profile

Study approach

The 'Looking Back Study' was designed to measure the long-term impact of community based water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion interventions. In understanding those impacts we hope to be able to better plan and implement our future work within the wider context of people's livelihoods.

WEDC, the Water, Engineering and Development Centre, based at Loughborough University in the UK facilitated several meetings of the study teams from all four of the countries involved. The role of WEDC as project leaders was essential in ensuring common methodologies and the validity of the study findings.

By participating in this study the WaterAid / WAMMA partnership provided an opportunity for its staff to learn and acquire new skills and techniques in developing and using objectively verifiable indicators for effective long term impact assessment.

We also hope that the study will enable and promote institutionalised impact assessment at different levels of action in both WaterAid supported projects and those supported by other donors in Dodoma and elsewhere.

The study had three main characteristics:

- Firstly, it was designed in such a way that the communities themselves could express how the project interventions have changed their lives. The study communities were able to reflect real and felt changes in their daily lives and to provide indicators of those changes.
- Secondly, the LBS design differs from previous WaterAid evaluations in that it has looked into the long-term impacts (as opposed to short term effects) of its project interventions and the changes in the community's life that can be attributed to them.
- Lastly, the study used a control village to enable it to assess qualitative rather than quantitative impacts.

Study methodology

Methodology

History line

Community mapping

Wealth ranking

Focus group discussions

Interviews

Transect (health) walk

Secondary information

Tools and audiences

Key informants, gender task analysis, questionnaire

Key informants, focus groups

Key informants, 3 pile sorting on hygiene behaviours, individual evaluation

3 pile sorting pocket charts, gender / age task analysis, story with a gap, task force analysis, questionnaire

Semi structured interviews, roles and responsibilities check list

Field reality, defecating site by gender / age, check lists

Key informant interviews, semi structured interviews, documents, records and reports

Sampling strategies

The study communities consisted of three villages where project interventions had taken place and one control village, Chaludewa.

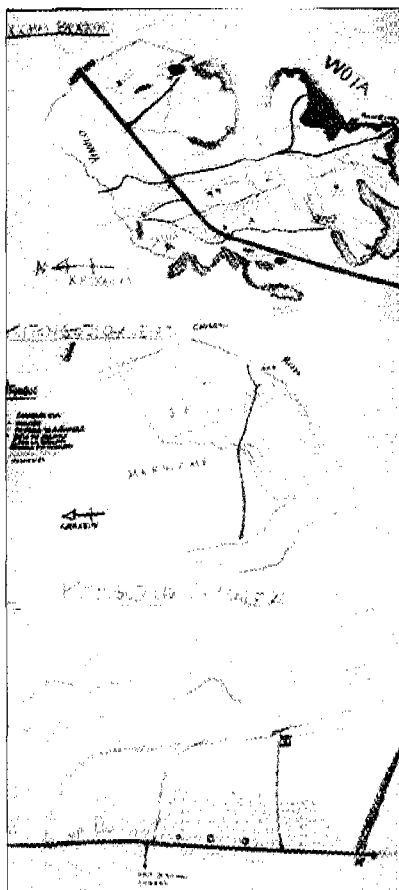
The study sampled participants as follows:

- Men and women of mixed ages and representing different interest groups in each of the selected villages.
- Men and women of different ages from low-income sectors of the community.

- Focus groups of female and male school children from classes Four to Seven .
- Community leaders.

Triangulation

The information gathered by the differing methodologies and from the differing groups was cross-referenced with each other. This enabled the study team to comment on the validity of the findings and to minimise the distortions due to their own preconceptions.



*Berege village.
Mapping out the changes*

"... we were amazed at how our professional viewpoint was challenged by the community members. We never believed that we could do impact research without pre-set indicators ..."

Susan Maganga, researcher

Study profile

Study strengths

The participative nature of the study design facilitated the generation of representative qualitative information, particularly when one considers the large size of the study communities with populations ranging from 1,800 to 16,000.

The continuous liaison with the team leader at Loughborough University and the three meetings of study teams from all of the study countries facilitated a dynamic learning environment for all of the study team members.

The study emphasis on the collection of qualitative data generated by the communities themselves opened up a whole new way of approaching impact studies for the study teams.

Study limitations

Qualitative information is very subjective in its validation and analysis, which makes the information easy to collect but difficult to analyse and interpret.

Inadequate baseline information about the study communities makes it difficult to assess the extent of the expressed changes although the use of a control community helped enormously.

The study approach can raise high levels of enthusiasm and expectations within the community. If these expectations cannot be managed and / or fulfilled there could well be negative implications for future interventions.

Objectives of the study

- To provide an opportunity for WaterAid staff and partners to learn and acquire new skills and techniques when using objectively verifiable indicators for effective impact assessment of projects on benefiting communities.
- To promote institutionalisation of impact assessment skills at different levels of action in WaterAid supported projects not only in Dodoma but also in other areas.
- To provide for an opportunity for better planning of WaterAid supported projects to enhance the sustainability at consumer level taking into account the utilisation of appropriate technology and other factors such as environment.
- To provide for yet another opportunity to share experiences with other WaterAid programmes, partners and other stakeholders in order to contribute to the overall WaterAid programme's future strategic thinking and planning.

Study findings

The LBS has, in general, indicated an increase in the communities sense of ownership of assets, enhanced livelihood activities, improved household purchasing power and increased capacity to embark on other community development activities. In particular it highlighted gains in well being through improved health, a reduction in psychological stress and increased school attendance; these gains were particularly noted in the lives of women and children.

Livelihood

Access to a reliable water supply, at a reasonable distance, and that is affordable in adequate quantities has helped the people save their time, energy and money for other income generating activities.

Examples of the use that people made of their freed up time are those of Songambebe and Tandala villages where the physical energy saved motivated especially the women and youth to effectively engage themselves in petty business such as selling vegetables, brewing local beer, making pottery and planting trees.

Social interaction

The study observed that the drastically reduced walking distance and therefore time spent collecting water increased the quality time available for family interaction. Men, women and youth now have time to attend more often to social obligations, religious rites and customs.

The on-going and successful community management of the water supply schemes has helped build the communities confidence to embark on other development activities. These initiatives include the beneficiaries' participation in completing the construction of a vocational training institute at Songambebe and a dispensary and two classrooms as well as a teacher's house at Berege. Other initiatives include the formation of a credit society and tree-planting group in Tandala and Songambebe villages respectively.

"... money saved from buying water at exorbitant prices could now be used for other items such as sugar, kerosene for home lighting, soap bars, school uniforms and analgesic drugs and has enabled one to sip a good and tastier cup of tea at home or café bar, this was almost impossible in the past..."

Mzee Siwa, Water Committee member, Tandala village

Study findings

Psychological stress

The accessibility of water close to the home has significantly contributed to the reduction of both men's and women's psychological stress. In the past women and children rose before dawn to collect water from remote places. Fear of wild animals, sexual harassment and uncertainty over the availability of water all combined to induce high levels of stress for women and their families. Men and women reported a more harmonious family life following the completion of the scheme.



Songambele village. Mother and daughter collecting and paying for their water, close to home

Hygiene/Health

A marked decrease in the incidence of water washed/water borne diseases such as diarrhoea, scabies and eye disease, especially in children was reported to the study team. Improved nutritional status in under-five children was attributed to their mothers and other caretakers have enough time to breast feed and prepare meals on time due to having water near their homes.

"... in the past women and daughters used to be sexually abused and harassed at water sources by source owners. That is not there now because of the water we have in the village. We thank WaterAid a hundred times for their assistance to us..."

Mdala Zuhura, Songambele village

"... we feel privileged to have been assisted in having tap water. Our status has been raised up by having water at the Mosque 24 hours daily and make our five daily prayers and cleanse the corpses before burial. We can now fulfil our spiritual needs as required by the Muslim belief and this promotes peace at heart..."

A villager, Tandala village

Study findings

Improved hygiene practices such as washing one's hands after toilet use and before taking meals were reported and observed in the three main study villages when compared with the control village. The improvement in household and personal cleanliness, particularly that of women and school children, was evidenced by such things as cleaner clothes, drying racks for kitchen utensils and protection of water pots. The women's personal hygiene including their menstrual hygiene has also improved because they can now have more frequent baths during menses than before.

Improved hygiene and sanitation practices have also been influenced by cultural transmission to people from different ethnic origin migrating into the study villages (especially Songambebe where the population has tripled over a five year period). The migrants were attracted to the village by the availability of water.

The availability of water at the dispensary particularly, especially during deliveries, has helped maintain the cleanliness of the delivery room, ward and dispensary facilities. It has raised the community awareness of positive health and hygiene related behaviours. This awareness raising has continued long after the project activities stopped.

School attendance

Water availability in the community has significantly contributed to improved enrolment, punctuality and attendance, particularly for girl children.

The number of school sessions and opening hours that were reduced due to water scarcity at Berege have returned to normal and the enrolment age, which was raised to ten years, has also been reduced to the normal seven to eight years.

Environmental

School children and a few individuals are now promoting tree planting at their schools and households respectively creating pleasant scenery to look at. This has only been made possible by the availability of water.

"... in the past you could see us, old, young and children with pus dripping off the eyes and itchy skins due to lack of water for washing our faces and bodies regularly. This is purely now over ..."

Mdalla Rhoda and Mzee Bomu, Songambebe village

"... It is now difficult to find school children loitering around the village looking for water which was common in the past as everyone had to use an extra hand to collect as much water as possible from distant sources ..."

Mzee Gilbert Kityangile, Songambebe village

Study findings

The price of success

Demand

The number of standposts could not cope with the increased demand in all three villages. Long queues and harsh words were reported especially between people collecting water for business (e.g. beer makers) and people collecting water for drinking. Young girls and boys are sent to reserve a place in the queue early in the morning and may be late or miss school. This situation was especially bad in Tandala where money is collected through a household levy rather than by quantity used.

Livelihoods

Paying for water is a big burden for the poorer sections of the community; especially in Tandala and Berege where food security is a major problem. Poorer people reported that they collect water from unprotected sources when available and have to make do with minimum amounts at other times.

In Tandala village where water is supplied from a spring the livestock owners are now prevented from allowing their cattle to graze around the water source. In Berege there is continuing conflict between the private individual who operates the scheme on behalf of the community and the local water vendors who have been put out of business.

Environmental

In Tandala people reported a big increase in sightings of wild animals such as lion and hyena since the spring source was protected. Since no one goes to the water source anymore to collect water or graze livestock it has been left to grow into a wild forest not fit for human activity.

And the cost of failure

"...once, a couple of years back, a wife of a livestock owner who was pregnant, died at the wellsource while trying to pull a wooden trough for watering the cattle..."

...there is only one big dry riverbed where everyone goes to collect water from. We have another source 8 km away and it has water only during rainy season...

...the water we drink is dirty, if you visit it you will understand what we mean when we say well owners seal their wells. Look at us, even our children are dirty and some have skin rashes. This is because we don't have enough water, let alone clean and safe water..."

Contend various people from the control village where no water project has been implemented.

Lessons learnt

Livelihood

Accessibility to water in terms of affordability, short distance, time and quality has the possibility of saving time, energy and money. It makes space for other income generating activities that may boost peoples purchasing power, particularly that of women.

However, the improved attainment of assets like good and durable houses, milling machines and other labour saving facilities depends mostly on the individual's economic ability although water does facilitate the functioning of some of those assets.

Social and cultural

The availability of water enhances freedom of interaction between people both in terms of time available and people's pride in themselves and their community. It is not only that people have the time and confidence to organise around other development activities. Activities such as cleansing oneself prior to going to the Mosque or Church, being able to wash the dead or new borne children all enhance social standing and promote interaction.

Psychological

It was a surprise to the study team just how much importance people attached to the reduction of psychological stress. In terms of peoples quality of life the impact of reduced sexual, physical and mental harassment and the drastic reduction in women's workload was felt to promote family harmony. In particular the creation of quality time

for the families as well as creating time to attend to other social and leisure activities was seen to be very important.

Hygiene/Health

There is no doubt that projects that integrate sanitation and hygiene promotion with water supply have significant positive impacts on people's health, especially those of women and children. However, project initiators require long and frequent contacts with the community to sensitise individuals and households on the importance of improving and promoting hygiene behaviours.

School attendance

It has been established by this study that if the community is provided with water supply, the school attendance and performance of particularly the girl child are significantly boosted. It can reduce the school enrolment age because the school age children are no longer used to walk long distances to fetch water.

Empowerment

Participatory methodologies that empower communities in project planning and implementation have long term impacts that go beyond the effective management of the water supply scheme. Capacity and confidence is built to address other pressing issues such as health clinics, school buildings and in the case of Songambebe an improved environment through tree planting.

Implications for planning

Institutionalising the learning process

The process of carrying out the study has increased the capacity of the study team to carry out qualitative impact assessment studies as well as increasing their understanding of the long-term impact of our work. The challenge now is to find ways to transfer those skills to other project teams and to institutionalise the learning process across all of our project work.

Community management

The study communities have proven to be very innovative in managing their water supply. In Berege the water committee has handed over the management of the water scheme to a private sector operator and in Songambele the water committee has dealt with increased demand by operating a water-rationing scheme.

We now need to document the differing ways in which communities have responded to changing conditions. This will help us better inform existing and new projects on the variety of management options available to them.

Designing for, and managing demand

In semi-arid areas the provision of water can result in large movements of people from areas where water remains scarce. In Songambele, for example, the population has tripled in the six years following the provision of water. This

creates problems not only with the availability of sufficient water but also in the way the provision of water is managed. The migrant population consists of some of the most vulnerable people in the expanded community and yet it has little say in the management of the existing water scheme.

Future expansion of the scheme needs to be planned for at the initial stages of the project planning including how such an expansion can be financed and managed. It is probable that the level of capital contribution for future expansion can and should be much higher in circumstances where there is already an income flow from an existing water supply scheme.

It is also true that future demand for water is not based on population figures alone. Increased economic activity and well being also increases demand for water (e.g. small businesses, improved housing, social gatherings). Issues such as private connections and demand responsive



Chaludewa village. A girl collecting water for livestock from a traditional well. This well is also used for drinking water.

Implications for planning

management need to be anticipated at project inception.

Whilst this did not come through so clearly in the study the issue of livestock cannot be ignored. The inward migration of people may well encroach on land previously used for grazing by pastoralists. Livestock owners within the community are also powerful people and their needs will take significant priority. Future designs of water schemes need to take these issues into account.

Integrated planning

The WAMMA methodology facilitates inputs from the District Governments departments of health, water, education and community development. The teams plan their project interventions together and meet monthly to discuss progress and problems. The district WAMMA co-ordinators also meet monthly at Regional level and reports are made to the respective Regional and District authorities. However it is clear that the present methodology seeks only to facilitate discrete interventions at village level. There is little District based planning and no integration between the WAMMA programme and those dealing with infrastructure (school buildings, health clinics) and agriculture (livestock, land-use).

For WaterAid the development of district based plans would help us to plan interventions that complement those of other agencies. We have already found that our Child to Child hygiene promotion in schools is much more effective if the school children have access to safe water and sanitation. By the same rationale our hygiene promotion work with women would

be more effective if there is a health clinic that also has access to safe water and sanitation.

In other areas we feel that we have been unaware of the possible long-term impacts of our work. Inward migration to a village could not happen unless land is available for agriculture and the distribution of that land can often disenfranchise the more vulnerable members of a community. Closer liaison with the government departments responsible for land-use planning, livestock and agriculture could help us better understand the long term impacts of our work.

Gender and vulnerability

The study has shown that the project interventions in the study villages have had a real and positive impact on the day to day lives of the community and that this is most marked in the lives of women and children. This in itself is reason enough to advocate the continuation of the WAMMA methodology.

However it is also clear from the study that when decisions are being made to build on the success of the water scheme there is still a great deal of inequality. Poor people are less able to take advantage of the increased economic activity, women are less likely to have control over newly acquired assets and new migrants may have little say in the running of the water scheme, as they did not contribute to it. WaterAid and its partner's need to further develop their ability to analyse their project interventions in a way that highlights inequality and maximises benefits for the most vulnerable.

Clean water is essential for life. With it, we live, laugh, celebrate and cry. Without it we die. Safe water is a necessity not a luxury and a quarter of the world's population do not have it.



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