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IDWSSD in Zambia - implementation and coordination

INTRODUCTION

01. Preparatory Activities

The National Action Committee for IDWSSD was established in April 1980 with mainly advisory and coordinating functions under the chairmanship of the National Commission for Development Planning and with the participation of the Government ministries and agencies involved with water and sanitation sector programmes. The first activity organised by the NAC was the joint meeting of the Government, the UN system of organisations and representatives of the Bilateral Aid Community on the IDWSSD which took place in Lusaka on 30th July 1980. Overall assessment was made of Zambia's progress in the area of water supply and sanitation. From discussions which followed it was clear that the Government was aware of, and concerned with finding effective solutions to the problems resulting from the lack of available clean water and good sanitation facilities.

02. In November 1980 the text of Zambia's declaration of intent on the IDWSSD was presented at the official launching day ceremony of the IDWSSD. Zambia accepted the IDWSS objectives of providing safe water supply and adequate sanitation for all, and would make a concerted effort to achieve the goal within the Decade (1981-1990). An improvement in the quality of water and in its availability together with a parallel provision of better sanitation would result, inter alia in a large reduction in the incidence of waterborne diseases and would also witness a marked decline in infant mortality.

03. Decade Plan

The need for the preparation of a Decade Plan was proposed as early as February 1979 by a WHO/SIDA Mission to Zambia, and endorsed by a Primary Health Care National Conference in April 1980. The NAC undertook the task and completed the draft document in December 1983. The Decade Plan was the very first step of a comprehensive evaluation of the most important elements associated with development of water supply and sanitation in Zambia. The objective of the Plan was to provide the Government with the necessary tool for making sound decisions in development of water

supply, sanitation and other related sectors; as well as to provide a working document for external donors which should make their commitment of assistance easier and better assured.

04. Exchange Visits

IDWSSD has the specific intention to cause more awareness among the member nations of the UN about the urgent need to do more to improve on water supply and sanitation in their countries. The most difficult communities to influence are the rural communities who live in small groups which are remote and sometimes inaccessible. The NAC recognised therefore the many advantages to be gained from exchange visits to neighbouring countries and requested financial assistance from WHO which was provided for mounting the visits to four countries - Tanzania, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Swaziland from 13 November to 13 December 1982. The consensus from the visits clearly identified the need for sub-regional cooperation in the implementation of IDWSSD programmes and for Governments to take deliberate efforts to make the rural communities realise that they need water supply and sanitation facilities for their own good health, and they should be made to take part in establishing them.

CONFERENCE OF ZAMBIA IDWSSD

05. Participants and Objectives

The conference on Zambia IDWSSD was held at the main campus of the University of Zambia in Lusaka from 26-30 March 1984. Participants from government ministries, district councils, educational institutions and organisations in the country participated. Also participating were invited national officers from neighbouring countries of Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Swaziland and Lesotho and representatives from UN and other specialised donor agencies. The objectives of the Conference were to promote the necessary administrative and management policies, political, technical and financial backings for a successful implementation of the IDWSSD programmes in Zambia. Furthermore, the Conference would provide the opportune environment for participants to offer constructive suggestions for improving the contents of the Document Plan of Action for Water Supply and Sanitation in Zambia, as well as help evolve a national consensus

for a definitive policy on the development of the sector in general and the achievement of the Decade objectives in particular.

06. Main Conference Recommendations

The Conference reemphasised many of the recommendations made in the Plan of Action Document among which were the following:

- (i) The NAC be given Cabinet approval and be allowed to operate as an independent legal body with a servicing secretariat.
- (ii) A National Water and Sanitation Authority be established with the functions of coordinating technical planning and implementing all national water resources and sanitation projects.
- (iii) Health education and community participation must be strongly encouraged, not only for ensuring community appreciation and cooperation, but also for meeting the unskilled labour requirements for implementing and executing sector projects.

IDWSSD ADVISER PROJECT

07. Commencement and Objective

The first project of the NAC is a UNDP funded and Government executed project that falls within the IDWSSD. The project started on March 1, 1984 with the appointment of a national (Zambia) expert as IDWSSD Adviser. The development objective of the project is to assist in the coordination of IDWSSD activities in order to improve both urban and rural water and sanitation sector needs of all communities and to attain the overall objective of primary health care for all by the 2000.

08. Project Activities

These include:

- (i) Preparation of conference reports, financial statements of income and expenditure on the Zambia IDWSSD Conference.
- (ii) Organisation and establishment of IDWSSD secretariat.
- (iii) Preparation of the Mid-Decade Evaluation document on water supply and sanitation sector.
- (iv) Review of comments and finalisation of the Plan of Action Document.
- (v) Production of a report on consumption figures and population projections for design of water supply systems which would lead to the drawing up of guidelines and standards for design of water supply systems.

- (vi) Management support on the public standpost Water Supply project also being implemented by the NAC with financial assistance from the WHO/IRC in The Hague.

09. Future Activities

- (i) Manpower survey for the water supply and sanitation sector.
- (ii) Project identification, planning and formulation of priority activities of water supply systems in the rural areas; terms of reference for Water Master Plan for large and small urban townships.
- (iii) Handpumps survey and recommendations of appropriate types for Zambia.
- (iv) Water quality monitoring project to be implemented with financial assistance of WHO and NORAD in the Western Province of Zambia.
- (v) National workshop on drinking water quality to be organised late 1985.

ZAMBIA - SOCIOCULTURAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS

10. Location and Geography

The country covers an area of 752,614 square kilometres of which 8,789 km² is water surface area. It is landlocked, situated in Central Africa and divided into 9 provinces which are further divided up into 55 districts. It lies in the savannah woodland zone with altitudes ranging up to 1200 metres, having a tropical climate characterised by wet summers and dry winters. The country is fortunate to be drained by four major rivers - The Zambezi, Kafue, Luangwa and Chambeshi rivers. There are also a number of fairly large lakes - The Tanganyika, Mweru, Bangweulu and Kariba. Zambia has in general an abundance of water resources both from surface and underground sources but these have not been fully explored.

11. Socio-cultural Aspects

The socio-cultural parameters that are needed to understand how people perceive water supply and sanitation projects have not been well studied in Zambia. To this end the WHO/SIDA cooperative project based in Zambia from 1981-1983, attempted to provide a synthesis of socio-economic and cultural information for nine countries in South-Eastern Africa (see Table 1) which enabled a fair comparison of some of the typical distinctive features of the countries, highlighting the socio-economic context, and the cultural constraints governing sector operations. From Table 1 the following issues are noticeable:

Table 1 Comparative Socio-economic and Cultural Data

	POPULATION		GNP PER PERSON		OTHER SOCIO-CULTURAL DATA				
	Total (000) 1981	Rural (%) 1981	US \$ 1981	Average Annual growth (%) 1960-81	Adult Literacy (%) 1980	Primary School attend- ance(%) 1980	Life Expec- tancy 1981	Infant Mortality per 1000 1981	Daily Calorie % 1980
Botswana	930	84	1,010	7.9	61	NA	57	80	NA
Ethiopia	31,800	86	110	1.4	8	43	46	150	76
Kenya	17,363	85	420	2.9	47	100	56	80	88
Lesotho	1,372	88	540	7.0	52	100	52	110	107
Malawi	6,241	90	200	2.7	35	62	44	170	94
Mozambique	12,500	91	350	NA	33	93	NA	110	70
Swaziland	641	85	760	5.5	65	NA	54	156	NA
Uganda	13,600	91	220	0.6	53	50	48	100	83
Zambia	6,000	56	600	0.0	68	95	51	104	93

Sources: (ref. 1 & 2)

(i) Population - There was a consistent pattern of large rural population (85-91 percent) in all the countries except Zambia on account of her mineral wealth resulting in concentration of population along urban centres on the lines of rail.

(ii) Life Expectancy - on the average stands at 51 years and appears to correlate well with higher income levels.

(iii) Infant Mortality - This rate can be considered as indicator of foremost need for improved water supply and sanitation based on the evidence that disease due to contaminated water and lack of hygiene account for 80 percent and more of infant deaths. The aggregates presented for the countries underline the current weak state of primary health care, not only in Zambia but in other countries as well. The Health for all strategy objective is an infant mortality rate below 50 per 1000 live births by the year 2000.

12. Economy

Over the past decade, the course of the Zambian economy as revealed by the available data on Gross Domestic Product, has been characterised by an uneven and inadequate growth performance. Various conscious efforts and attempts have been made by Government at economic development of the country particularly in agriculture mining, manufacturing,

energy, transport, communications and manpower development. The past decade had also been crisis years for foreign exchange situation which had continued to be critical and was a major constraint on domestic economic growth. Government has tried to meet the situation by tightening its fiscal and monetary discipline and through exchange rate adjustment which in December 1984 was 2.4 Zambia Kwacha (2.40) to 1.0 British Sterling (£1).

MAGNITUDE OF IDWSSD PROGRAMMES

13. Present Service Levels

In 1983 the coverage and service levels in water supply and sanitation were estimated (ref. 3) as follows:-

(i) Large urban areas water supply systems catered for 48 percent of urban population with house connections, 22 percent by shared/communal taps whilst the remaining population used traditional sources of unacceptable quality.

(ii) For the smaller urban townships Water Supply Schemes, 27 percent of the population had house connections and 18 percent used shared/communal taps, the remaining population used stand posts and traditional sources.

(iii) For rural water supplies, only 32 percent of the rural population had access to clean water supplied through protected shallow wells, boreholes and

small piped water supplies.

- (iv) Large urban areas sanitation facilities included; individual flush toilets used by 45 percent of the population whilst 7 percent used communal flush toilets and the remaining 48 percent used other excreta disposal methods, mostly pit latrines.
- (v) For the small urban Townships, 28 percent of the population used individual and communal flush toilets whilst the remaining 72 percent used other excreta disposal methods.
- (vi) Rural sanitation facilities of pit latrines were used by 48 percent of the rural population.

14. Capital Expenditure

The present level of yearly capital expenditure for water and sanitation sector is estimated at 22.1 million Kwacha (£9.2 million). External funds available during 1982/83 totalled 129.1 million Kwacha (£53.8 million) made up of loans and grants. For a 100 percent coverage of the population a high level service capital expenditure of 163 million Kwacha (£67.9 million) is envisaged yearly.

15. Recurrent Expenditure

The present level of recurrent expenditure (excluding debt charges) and revenues total 42.04 million Kwacha (£17.5 million) whilst the recurrent expenditure for 100 percent coverage has been estimated at 69.6 million Kwacha (£29 million).

16. Manpower

The manpower requirements to be trained for water supplies and sanitation facilities include 180 professionals, 1900 subprofessionals/technicians, 2200 plant/pump operators, plumbers, welders, etc. The present position regarding staff and manpower for running sector programmes is however not very good. No comprehensive data concerning present establishments exist for all the sector agencies.

IDWSSD EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPACT

17. National Development Plans

IDWSSD is yet to receive the recognition it deserves in Zambia. The party (UNIP) had already spelt out the next 10 years National Plan 1985 - 1995. Apart from this, Government has National Development Plans, and an Annual Plan which contains projects carried over from previous year and addition of new programmes with summary of programme for the following year. NAC aims to have written

into the next 4th National Development Plan IDWSSD Programmes which would ensure full coverage of the population within the period of the 4th NDP 1986-1990.

18. Decade Approach

There is a national commitment to practice approaches of extending services to the rural population and the urban poor, community involvement, health, education and integration of IDWSSD with primary Health Care/Health for all by the year 2000. Assessment of impacts and progress for the sector had been a difficult step since water supply and sanitation programmes could not readily be separated from other socio-economic development programmes of the country. Furthermore the financial resources made available for sector projects have been grossly inadequate. For the implementation of the proposals for 100 percent coverage, an increase in the annual capital investments including recurrent expenditure from the 1983 level of 64 million Kwacha (£26.7 million) to about 233 million Kwacha (£97 million) shall be required.

19. Prospects for the Future

This paper has outlined Zambia's efforts for implementation and coordination of IDWSSD programmes. The magnitude of the problem is enormous yet the economic capability of the country for achieving the stated goals is not very bright. Success of IDWSSD programmes in Zambia will require concerted efforts. Unlike in the past, water supply and sanitation schemes must become self-financing; more efforts are needed to revamp revenue collection so that recurrent costs, at least, can be met and, wherever possible, part of capital costs. In the rural areas the user community must be mobilised and educated to effectively support the programmes. Significant savings in construction costs operation and maintenance costs can be realised through community participation. UNDP, WHO, UNICEF, World Bank, and many donor agencies have continued to provide financial and technical assistance for IDWSSD programmes. The role of external aid, agencies should continue and ensure that Zambia is assisted in the implementation of its programmes and projects - procuring finance, assistance in importing materials (foreign exchange component) organisation of workshops, conferences and others. The Government of Zambia appreciates the need for the international community to herald IDWSSD; but in Zambia there are other basic free services like health and education, which are very costly to Government. Thus the provision of potable water and adequate sanitation should be seen in this context.

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