



## Towards sustainable sanitation projects

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DURING THE LAST two various decades Sudan has passed through different crises, which were caused by complicated human, political, natural, economic and socio-economic reasons. The most serious of these problems are war and drought.

As a result of these two disasters many national and international organizations got involved in Relief and Rehabilitation operations.

Recently donors and planners in both NGOs and Government of Sudan began to talk about the need developmental projects, and the importance for self-reliance, self-help and sustainability.

### Project background

The area (Mayo) is one of Khartoum's peri-urban residential areas. Most of the dwellers had no employment in their house areas, as such they came to Khartoum in search for jobs. The level of education attained by these people is low, therefore, most are employed for manual labour. Education facilities are poor. A few wateryards are found. Many hand pumps were installed in this area but almost all are not functioning. A few NGOs provide health services through their centres.

### Project identification

It is called peri-urban sanitation project, representing such projects which lie in the transitional stage between relief zone and development period.

San plat slabs are produced and sold at cost. The new aspect of this project is the introduction of income generation in addition to revolving fund which will enable another different areas to get benefit of this invested money when slabs are sold then returned back its sum. The aim is to change the concept of the people towards sanitation not as a service brought from out side but a service created locally. This, also, becomes new source of income, in addition to its health benefits. This activity is control by the council following the approved specification. Characteristics of this san plat can be summarized as follows:

- Since they are of less measurements (70 cm X 70 cm x 7 cm) they consume very less amount of cement, gravel and iron rods then they became very cheap when comparing to other slabs.
- Sloping to the centre giving it the character of being healthy and clean all the time.

The community will have the advantage of implementing this project since a number of its member shall be trained in the different sanitation issues from slab production, community awareness, how to advertise and how to run small business. For proper work a well designed health education training plus other topics in how to generate and to run small activities will be conducted there, giving them the necessary skills. Incentives to those people is very important since they are part of money cycle, so additional money has been added on the top of slab cost to benefit them. Reward shall equal to efforts i.e. if somebody convince more people by the importance of having pit latrine and to buy the slabs he will gain more money.

### Project benefits

In medium term, Mayo area (project site) planned to be a centre for production of slabs from which neighbouring areas are expected to benefit. When carried out as planned, we may ensure an improvement in the micro and macro environment, reduction in cases of different water and sanitation related diseases, creation of income generation base and eventually better quality of life.

### Project strategy

To spread health information and the positive aspects of the sanplat slabs. This should be reflected in the rate of its demand by the beneficiaries. Special strategies:-

- General meetings
- Home visits
- Advertisement
- School visits
- Visits/meetings in places of worship
- Demonstration of the technology
- Establishment of distribution venters.

### Expected problems

Considering that this is a pilot project, a number of problems can be expected; of which the most important is acceptability. Acceptability has three features:

#### **Acceptability of the idea itself**

All NGOs working in sanitation field and the government of Sudan (GOS) use food for work in promoting pit latrines. In this project ADRA provides technical assistance only and we encourage people to depend on themselves and their resources.

***Acceptability of the slabs***

People as of now are used to VIP or in some cases the traditional type. These, they say, are very strong and safe. The VIPs were provided free. As such it is difficult for people to accept what seems less stronger, and worse still at a cost.

***Price acceptability***

Determination of slab cost requires continuous trials, in order to reach what the community may be comfortable with. The price reached must cater for the incentives of

community health volunteers as well as keeping with inflation - thus protecting the value of money from devaluation.

**Conclusion**

As mentioned earlier, this project is considered as a pilot project, hence it has the advantage of trying different methods, ideas and approaches in all of its stages.

A regular monitoring an evaluation is required for correction and adjustments in order for the project to succeed.