



**WATER AND SANITATION
FOR HEALTH PROJECT**

BALANCED DEVELOPMENT

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by

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BALANCED DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

Balanced development is a complex issue involving aspects of local needs, available resources, sustainability of projects, and national policies. USAID is concerned with improving the effectiveness of its development programs, insuring their long-term viability, and providing assistance to the most needy population groups. Because of competing demands for development assistance, imbalances have arisen over the years between water supply systems and sanitation services and between urban and rural investments.

To reduce these imbalances, USAID, through the WASH Project, has undertaken a number of corrective strategies in the areas of integrated development, appropriate technology, and national planning. WASH activities are concentrated in the general areas of short-term technical assistance and development of technical information. The following outlines some of the principal WASH activities to date.

Integrated Development

From its beginning in 1980, WASH has emphasized the essential complementarity of water supply and sanitation. Early experience in the WASH Project, however, showed that water and sanitation programs normally were not fully effective unless specific efforts were made to incorporate hygiene education and community participation activities. At present, these four essential elements--water, sanitation, hygiene education, and community participation--are stressed by WASH in its program development and are now found in most rural water projects financed by USAID.

WASH assistance has contributed to the planning, implementation, and evaluation of a number of integrated water and sanitation programs in Africa and Latin America. In 1981, USAID began supporting the on-going Malawi rural piped water program, but added sanitation and health education to the overall program. As a result of WASH involvement in training, evaluation, and program design, USAID strengthened the sanitation and health education aspects in 1983 and is now reviewing proposals for a continuation of the integrated project. Similarly, WASH recommendations in Zaire in 1984 assisted USAID in expanding the SANRU Rural Primary Health Care Project to include a major component of well drilling, spring improvement, and latrine construction. WASH assistance has also been instrumental in strengthening the hygiene education and community participation aspects of integrated water and sanitation projects in Togo and Burkina Faso in Africa, and in Haiti and Belize in Latin America.

References:

Malawi Self-Help Rural Water Supply Program: Final Evaluation, WASH Field Report No. 186, August 1986.

Training Plan for the Water and Sanitation Component of SANRU II (Rural Health - Zaire), WASH Field Report No. 160, November 1985.

Strategy for Implementation and Evaluation of the Togo Rural Wells and Sanitation Project, WASH Field Report No. 27, October 1981.

Final Evaluation: USAID/Burkina Faso Rural Water Supply Project, WASH Field Report No. 191, August 1986.

Mid-Term Evaluation of the USAID/CARE Community Water System Project in the Republic of Haiti, WASH Field Report No. 205, February 1987.

Report on Technical Assistance to the Village-Level Water and Sanitation Project, CARE/Belize, WASH Field Report No. 193, July 1986.

Appropriate Technology in Sanitation

WASH efforts to promote appropriate technology in sanitation have dealt with two main areas: alternative technologies for poor urban slums and training assistance for rural latrine construction. In 1982, a WASH team prepared proposals for a demonstration project for alternative methods of improving wastewater and excreta disposal in the unsewered areas of greater Cairo. Currently, WASH is working with the Government of Djibouti to identify acceptable methods of upgrading household sanitation in the low-income areas of Djibouti City. For rural areas, WASH has prepared a training guide for latrine construction and has carried out latrine construction training workshops in Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, and the Dominican Republic.

References:

Implementation Plan for Unsewered Areas Demonstration Project in Greater Cairo, WASH Field Report No. 186, September 1982.

Training Support for Urban Sanitation Activities in Djibouti, WASH Field Report No. 160, January 1987.

A Workshop Design for Latrine Construction: A Training Guide, WASH Technical Report No. 27, June 1984.

National Planning for Underserved Areas

The primary approach of WASH to channel additional resources to underserved areas has been to assist countries to strengthen their national planning capabilities. This has been done in the context of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, in which countries wishing to prepare a Decade Plan are assisted by WASH in a process of institutional development of their planning agencies. WASH consultants have been involved in reconnaissance surveys, policy and strategy workshops, national seminars, and the preparation of short-term action plans. WASH has provided continuing assistance to Decade planning activities in the Central African Republic, Zaire, and Swaziland. At present, WASH is collaborating with WHO in a Decade planning workshop in Djibouti.

References:

Recommendations for Initial Water and Sanitation Decade Planning Activities in the Central African Republic, WASH Field Report No. 53, September 1982.

Formulation of National Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Strategies in the Central African Republic, WASH Field Report No. 72, March 1983.

A Seminar on Water Supply and Sanitation Strategies in the Central African Republic, WASH Field Report No. 97, July 1983.

Central African Republic: Identification and Formulation of Water Supply and Sanitation Projects, WASH Field Report No. 158, December 1985.

Recommendations for National Rural Water Supply Planning in Zaire, WASH Field Report No. 138, January 1985.

Formulation of National Rural Water Supply Policies and Strategies in Zaire, WASH Field Report No. 142, May 1985.

National Seminar on Rural Water Supply Policies and Strategies in Zaire, WASH Field Report No. 150, June 1985.

Design of a National Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Plan in Zaire, WASH Field Report No. 171, February 1986.