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PT MAINTENANCE

1. PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

About 1800 standposts (PTs) are dispersed over the five districts of the Fayoum governorate. They represent the only safe source of drinking water along with the HCs. The latter are not affordable for at least 20% of the rural people, hence, they are dependent on the availability and supply of PTs. Unfortunately, there are not enough PTs to serve the users satisfactorily. Thus, taps are too crowded and, many times, they are too far for most users. Moreover, the accessible taps often lack water, that brings about low pressure.

Most of the public standposts are in a poor condition concerning water supply, state of maintenance, and hygienic conditions. The main reasons for this as perceived from different outlooks are

- a low service level of water supply
- lack of proper maintenance
- the negligent usage of public facilities by the people¹

2 STEPS TO BE TAKEN

A low service level of water supply and deficiencies in the organization and management of PT maintenance are to be solved on the technical level. These are responsibilities of AW. Upgrading the pipe system and producing more water is necessary to catch up with the current demand of water. Reorganization of the maintenance centres is needed to assure a regular and efficient preservation of public standposts, which in turn serves as a basis for cleaning those taps. Without a regular water supply and an organized upkeep of the PTs, the objective of cleaning them does not even need to be attempted. A maintained standpost encourages at least occasional cleaning by the users.

3 PEOPLE'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS CLEANING

Cleaning PTs as such is not a difficult or tiring task, and yet is it not done. The issue behind it seems to be a much bigger one. In on-site interviews people were asked about their opinions about the conditions of PTs and whether they do something for their upkeep. Usually, major deficiencies were pointed out, such as serious water logging, missing faucets, and distance to standpost, but cleanliness was never mentioned as a matter of real concern. This suggests that people are not concerned with the point of cleaning in general, at least not pertaining to public facilities. Thus, trying to find an approach to cleaning of PTs has to deal with people's attitude towards environmental sanitation or health awareness first. This is a major issue by

¹ Annex 1, 2 show the basic thoughts behind these reasons and possible ways to tackle them.

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itself, PT cleaning being just a little segment of it. Attitudes involve traditions, culture, education, standard of living, as major influences on a person's behaviour. All these components need to be worked on simultaneously in order to secure a lasting change of behaviour. The simple activity of cleaning, if not based on real comprehension of the people, will not be accepted and carried out on a regular basis.

It has also to be investigated whether cleaning, distinct from maintenance will ever be "important" enough for the people/administration to be carried out as an activity on its own.

4 DUTIES AND CONCERNS

Repairs of PTs is the duty of the maintenance centres affiliated to AW. Smaller repairs are at times done by technicians of the Local Unit. Cleaning is typically excluded from maintenance.

Public standposts are often covered with mud, staging a health hazard as well as an obstacle to water fetching. For old PTs, degradation of the whole area is a concern as well, whereas the improved versions with a large concrete structure and a (still) functioning drain are not as easily affected by mud or rubbish on the platform or spillage of water.²

People are mostly concerned about the availability of drinking water, not the conditions of the water source. Besides, unhygienic PTs in their worst conditions are not the only existing health hazards in the countryside.

5 MAINTENANCE AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

As the users are the ones who will notice a change in the conditions of the PTs first, a good relation between them and the maintenance staff is desirable. This would also facilitate the task of maintenance, for up-to-date assessment of PT conditions is a necessary premise. The problem here, is the lack of a reliable connection between the two main actors. Both sides, AW and the final users, act independently from each other, both expecting the other to do his/her 'job' well, i.e., good maintenance and water supply on the one side, and considerate usage of and care for the facilities on the other side. AW, as a governmental institution, is expected to simply provide services. The users, taking advantage of the gratis water supply, do not intend to put more effort into these facilities than necessary.

It is to be expected that with an increasing health awareness, based on an increasing education, and pollution of the environment, people will turn more and more to the safe sources

² see also note on the improved PTs in annex 3

of water. Then, when no real alternative is available, and when the need for PT water is perceived much higher than nowadays, the people's care for the basic providers of (drinking) water will augment, too. For the time being, water is not considered a scarce resource by the people. Wherever it is available, it is used abundantly. Thus, a temporary turn-off of water supply is not felt as a means to saving water only, but also as a caprice of the government.

Any approach involving the community of users is advisable in order to guarantee a sustainable preservation of PTs. Again, maintenance is split up into two parts, repairing and cleaning. While AW and the local maintenance staff are responsible for the major repairs, the community itself should be the caretakers of the facilities and execute regular cleaning and maybe minor adjustments. As it is now, people do not see a reason good enough for voluntary cleaning of the taps.

The ideal situation would have been an involvement of the community starting from the planning and implementing phase of public water supply.

"Experience in recent years has taught us that full participation of the target group in the planning, implementation and evaluation of a project is necessary to assure its success in the long run. [...] Apart from technically inferior designs, the major bottleneck for the sustainability of the facilities is the lack of community involvement prior to the installation. The active participation in the planning, construction and financing of the project is expected to create a 'sense of belonging'."³

This seems to be a general insight not subject to a specific place or culture. A permissive administrative structure may elicit spontaneous commitment of the people, but a strict structure as present in Egypt, tends to prevent any community participation by taking all public responsibilities from them. The present situation is the result of a long period of "domination" by the government, and a change cannot come immediate also if the conditions ask for it.

It is important to give people more than a 'sense of belonging', and to allow a meaningful participation, i.e., to show them that their opinion matters, not only once but more and more often. Thus, a participatory approach in these societies needs time as well as a re-education of people.

The PT rehabilitation, that is started by AW, tries to catch up with the needed grounds for future cleaning, yet, it falls into the same trap of overruling the community, even if for its

³ IWACO. Workshop Kran Kelompok, Bogor , Indonesia. "Participatory Planning of Urban Social Water Supply and Sanitation", v.1.

benefit. It is not always possible to have people participate in the decision-making process, in fact, sometimes it rather is a nuisance to progress. Especially concerning the rehabilitation of PTs, that is bound to certain economic and technical restrictions, people's interaction may seem to be superfluous. However, as people's participation is wanted in the long run, they have to be mixed up in the process the earlier the better. Provision and rehabilitation of facilities is desirable, but only if people will have a share in the effort. This could be done by having people provide food for the technicians, or give some money prior to the repairs.

The question remains of why most users prefer not to participate, and just to 'take' the situation as it is instead of improving it for their own sake. An improvement would not need a major organization, or large amounts of money. It could be effected by sincere motivation and simple steps towards a better cleanliness. The assumption is that people are used to clean and keep their houses clean, thus the problem is only how to get them to clean common property. The assumption should be investigated more properly. Are people concerned about personal cleanliness, or sanitary conditions at their homes? If so, then awareness for the upkeep of social facilities is needed. If, on the other hand, it is found that habitual cleanliness is unknown or not sufficient even in private property then it is rather difficult to try to establish a public maintenance, or even the awareness for it.

note:
done by women in private sphere, taps are public sphere

6 CLEANING

Cleaning of PTs should not be treated as a cosmetic act. There should be a reason for the people to do so. As water is a basic element of daily life, and about 45 % of households in the rural areas do not have a HC, PTs are an essential source of clean water for the substantial part of the rural population. Cleaning should be, most of all, a means of preventing additional health hazards and obstacles to water fetching. It also contributes to a longer life of the standpost, i.e., the lasting availability of drinking water resources. As long as at least one of these points is not a main concern for people in the community, PT cleaning as such is not interesting.

Cleaning does not require a large amount of money or material. It mostly entails to remove garbage and mud from platform and drain. It is a so called "labour intensive" task that could easily be carried out by the users themselves, assuming that the taps are in a 'cleanable' condition, i.e., before expecting people to clean the facilities, the latter should be repaired and in a good condition staging the ideal situation only to be preserved, not to be bettered, by the people.

PTs should be checked on a regular basis to prevent unnecessary water spillage and a worsening of hygienic conditions, as in the frequent case of a broken faucet. As economizing water consumption is mostly the interest of AW, not the consumers', they should see to the proper maintenance of the facilities. A

shortcoming of repairs makes cleaning appear as a useless activity.

7 FINDINGS OF INTERVIEWS

The socio-economic survey of December 1992 revealed that PTs are used by over half of the rural consumers of Fayoum Governorate. Mostly women are fetching water and are best aware of the conditions of the PTs. The latter are usually in a bad shape and in need of rehabilitation. The survey found a certain preparedness of the people to pay for improvements, although the "how much", "how" and "when" are still unclear. Most people hold AW or its district maintenance centres responsible for the repairing, others, the Local Unit. At times, repairs are done by a private plumber⁴ hired by the people. Regular cleaning of the PT is not existent, as people do not consider it their responsibility.

- 1) In the current research, however, it was found that most users, i.e., women, do not even know who the responsible for the repair is. Most people asked stated that some technicians would pass by from time to time for repairing. They did not know how to inform the maintenance centres.
- 2) There is no initiative to clean the PT mostly because reparations have to be carried out before it may be possible to start cleaning. Thus, the users are not fully to be blamed for the overall conditions of the PTs as they were designed to deteriorate with the time. Most of the time, inadequate drainage causes water logging and an environment attractive to water related diseases. Deliberate water spillage is hardly ever the case. Faucets are subject to intensive usage by the people and should be devised for that purpose.
- 3) The improved PTs, however portray a different situation. There, women are willing to throw some water over the platform in order to wash away mud or other remains. That presupposes a slightly sloping, smooth platform and a functioning drain that is only available at the rehabilitated PTs. When asked whether it is possible that these taps are kept clean by the users, most answers were positive. People believed it an easy task, as the platform is easy to clean and the drain is open or screened. Women are able to keep the platform clean without additional work or waste of time. They were very pleased about the improved PTs in contrast to the old ones.
- 4) Most women are very much aware about the unhygienic

⁴FDWSP: Socio-Economic Aspects of Drinking Water and Sanitation in Fayoum Rural Communities, Dec.1992, p. 30-32

and unhealthy conditions at the PTs. They commented on the bad conditions of the old taps, yet, no initiative was taken by them to alleviate their state. PTs are perceived to be the government's responsibility. Yet, they never complained to the local government or other officials about the bad state of maintenance, as long as some water was flowing. Leaking faucets or broken platforms are not a problem worth mentioning. Blocked drains may create a muddy and slippery surrounding, and water fetching may be complicated, therefore, this is seen as a bigger issue. However, all deficiencies are endured without complaints as long as there is water. Only when the water supply cedes, and not even that is secure, the users are likely to inform the LU, mostly via others⁵.

- 5) Concerning monetary contributions, the women asserted that they willingly gave "some pounds" when asked by the labourers who installed the improved PTs⁶. They said that they were so happy about the new tap, that they did not mind paying. All of the surrounding houses contributed as much as they could afford. They quickly added that reparations are done for free.

8 ORGANIZING CLEANING

APPROACH ONE: PT Cleaning by the Community.

Parts of the community will clean the taps regularly, for their own benefit, so to speak. Community participation in this activity would have the advantage that the cleaning is done by the users themselves. This link has a direct effect on usage, as having to clean the PT, the user is less likely to produce more dirt than unavoidable.

In reality, no such cleaning is observed. Women clean the taps occasionally, this is mostly the case with the improved PTs. Old, dirty taps need a different treatment. There, cleaning would require much more time, effort and material (concrete for platform) and at times it is made pointless through the absence of a proper drain or the leaking faucet.

People are primarily interested in the availability of drinking water. The conditions or upkeep of the tap's surrounding is secondary, as long as water is provided. Therefore, water supply should be linked to the hygienic conditions of the tap and surrounding. The threat to suspend the supply until the tap will be cleaned by the people might be an effective way to keep PTs

⁵ see annex 8 for questionnaire

⁶ These statements were heard at Ruffaya standpost. Ruffaya and Halfiyya are the only two improved PTs in usage at the time of the research. See annex 3.

clean⁷(?). The need for drinking water along with social pressure may take care that individuals do not dirty the tap and environment excessively. (Perhaps, with the time, cleaning the taps will become customary, so that no conditional education in form of 'punishment for bad behaviour' is needed.)

Threat could be one form of organizing cleaning, but this implies AW or local structures to actually turn off the water in case of severe pollution of taps and environment, and hence, to check regularly on the taps. This option involves more than one party, community, inspector and AW. If the community is not apt to perform the job, than it should not be enforced on them.

The youth group who offered themselves as a PT maintenance group⁸ was supposed to inform the project about their plans. Even help was offered, in terms of simultaneous rehabilitation of the taps to be cleaned by them. This group was the most encouraging one but they never started with their activities.

However, a community approach would be a sustainable option if ever initiated. The people are then supposed to allocate the needed resources, materials and time, among themselves, and no external financing would be necessary. Yet, the beginning is still a big problem, as people have to be convinced about the need of cleaning.

APPROACH TWO: PT cleaning by an appointed caretaker.

The options of a caretaker or a water vendor were already discussed in a prior research⁹, but with the assumption to bill consumption of PTs. This is not realized yet, thus the possibility to charge users, directly or indirectly, for the cleaning via the waterbill is not given. A volunteer-caretaker, as proposed before, is not a realistic option. The caretaker has to be paid for his duty, this also heightens his/her feeling of responsibility.

The approach could be structured as follows: The PT caretaker job has to be publicised through announcements and newspaper ads. People have to be informed about the exact tasks of a caretaker. Men, women and youth are appropriate for the job. Each caretaker may be in charge of one or more PTs, dependent on his/her mobility, and/or time. The work is to be charged per PT, i.e., the more PTs are cleaned by one person, the more he/she earns. The suggested pay is LE 10 per PT. It is expected that each ezba (hamlet) with PT has one caretaker, and main villages may have one or more, taking care of several PTs within his/her reach. So, a LU encompassing main villages, attached villages and hamlets, would have to pay LE 500, in average (50 PTs/LU x LE 10/PT). Materials

⁷ This is the idea of the head of the LU, Kalamshah (see annex 5). He did not believe in voluntary community cleaning.

⁸ see annex 4

⁹FaDWSP: file PT-10.WP, from 14.2.1993

for cleaning have to be provided, and an inspector has to be appointed that checks regularly on the caretakers' work. The inspector could be an existing employee of the LU, so no further pay would be needed, except for materials and transportation costs. Otherwise, the LU inquires the accountable *omda* (in attached village) or *sheick el balad* (in hamlet) about the caretaker's monthly performance before paying. These, in turn, have to have voluntary informants reporting unclean PTs.

There has not yet been a try-out for this option. All the research limited itself in analyzing the possible frame for the job, i.e., funding organization, supervision. The LUs were pessimistic when talking about money. They argued to have not a big enough budget for the salary, and probably they did not want to manage such an apparently so 'unnecessary' activity. The MSA, on the other hand, insisted that cleaning PTs is very much a task of the local government. Special funds are allocated for local development, and maintenance of public facilities is one of the mayor purposes. So, it is less a money problem than the lack of willingness of LU/LVC to spend it on this task. The MSA is a useful contact as they have to approve of spending and new plans. They might be able to push the activity through the right channels.

9 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

PT cleaning should be incorporated into the larger endeavour of rural health education. Health may be the only viable reason for cleaning PTs, if the connection between them is (made) clear to the people. Environmental sanitation is a matter still too far from rural Egyptian concerns. Health education and on-site sanitation together form a solid ground for a lasting health awareness. In this sense a future cooperation between FaDWSP and FaRHFP is desirable, and the "cleaning of PTs" can be included in their plans of operation. Health promoters are presently being trained in *Itsa* district by the FaRHFP. They could be media to link PT conditions to health issues. This could be a possible approach to the problem. Note: Health education needs a lot of time to effect some change in people's behaviour.

For a faster accomplishment of PT cleaning, the caretaker option should be preferred. LU or LVC have to play an active role as the employer and supervisor of the caretaker. Their attitude towards the matter is crucial for the start and sustainability of the activity.

CDAs should be visited and their functions in the community analyzed. They can be an agency to carry out the cleaning with the help of community participation. Needed funds can be allocated in their budget plans and have to be approved by the MSA¹⁰.

Finally, cleaning should not stand as an activity on its own. For

¹⁰ see annex 7 for more information about CDAs

most parties involved, except AW, cleaning is part of maintenance. If it is not carried out as such, then, it has to be accompanied by another "important" activity, such as street cleaning, otherwise it is not done at all. PT cleaning is not an issue for users unless the bad conditions of the tap create worse problems. Then, tap and surrounding need to be cleaned, but most probably the tap is also in need of some major repairs. Improved PTs are relatively "clean", but what is the real measure? The stake should not be set too high, too early. As long as they are in a good shape, they will be occasionally cleaned by the users.

ANNEX 1 Perceived reasons of malfunction

Low service level of water supply

- A. insufficient water supply
 - A.1. old pipe system
 - A.2. low water pressure
 - low production of water

Lack of proper maintenance

- A. malcomprehension of responsibilities
 - A.1. duties left undone
- B. deficiencies in maintenance centres
 - B.1. delay of repairs
 - shortage in transportation
 - shortage of staff
 - lack of material;
 - impermanent inadequate solutions

Negligent usage of the facilities

- A. deficient state of facilities
 - A.1. water spillage
 - A.2. indifference to cleaning
 - A.3. lack of feeling of obligation of the people
 - lack of incorporation into the decision-making process
- B. lack of sanitary concern (underestimation/negligence of health hazards)
 - novelty of various diseases(?)
- C. lack of environmental awareness (water spillage by leaving taps open)
 - novelty of scarce resources (?)

ANNEX 2 Possible steps to be taken

For a better service level

- A. improve water supply
 - A.1. upgrade pipe system, extend, repair
 - A.2. produce more water

For a better maintenance

- A. make clear the responsibilities of all parties involved
 - A.1. explain the necessity of cooperation for achievement
- B. reorganize maintenance centres
 - B.1. repair according to urgency and check regularly
 - make lasting, acceptable repairs
 - get needed transportation facilities
 - employ needed staff
 - get needed material

For conscious usage of the facilities

- A. repair facilities
 - A.1. prevent water spillage
 - encourage motivation to cleaning
- B. incorporate people in early decision-making process
- C. promote health and sanitary education
- D. promote environmental awareness through campaigns and educational programs

ANNEX 3 Improved Public Taps visited on July 1st, 1993

1. Two improved PTs were installed in Itsa district, in the villages Al Rufayya and Halfeyya, in october 1992. The taps have enforced concrete platforms and standposts. They are situated in the same place of the old tap and are under the supervision of the Itsa maintenance centre.

In the framework of the sociological survey, both taps were visited by employees of Al Azab, in december 1992. They were found to be

- in good conditions
- both taps working and clean
- drains not blocked

The only problem to be faced in future seemed to be the surrounding muddy environment that could easily be brought onto the platform as most users walk over it. The women replied that they just throw some water on the platform and it becomes spotless. They said that the new platform was easy to clean and to keep clean, but that the dirt around the tap is the responsibility of the landowner in charge.

2.1. Al Ruffaya

The recent visit found that

- the new tap was in a bad condition
- the faucet was leaking, i.e., it did not close properly anymore
- the case door of the water meter was missing
- + the platform was clean
- + the open drain clean, not blocked

The women were very pleased about the new tap and the strong water pressure. Concerning the cleaning the same statements as before (dec. 1992) were given.

They did not seem to care about the leaking as long as there is water. When asking about the responsible for the repair, they did not know. Some men who were present said that AW does the repair and that its technicians pass by on a regular basis. They did not inform anybody about the needed of repair of the PT, but rely on the technicians.

The adjacent land was expanded and reached the border of the PT in the meanwhile. In fact, the landowner claims that the tap stands on his property. This is not a real problem for him, but now the mud is threatening to conquer the platform.

Recommendations

- Mend leakage
- Tell maintenance centre to check also improved PTs on a regular basis, in shorter intervals
- Build a higher wall around the platform bordering the agricultural land in order to prevent mud advancing, or

- prevent further trouble or planting of surrounding stripe of land by buying it from the landowner
- Inform people about the responsible maintenance centres, or tell them to inform also their LU in case of a defect

2.2. Halfiyya

It was observed that

- the new tap was in a poor condition
- there was no water coming from both faucets
- the platform was muddy and dirty
- the pipe drain was blocked
- the end of the pipe was placed partly below water level

It was remarked by the people that this situation continued since about three months. When pushing, a tiny stream of water could be obtained from the faucet. Rarely anybody was using the improved tap, while the old, inappropriate PT in the neighbourhood was crowded. People believed that the water was turned off.

Concerning the willingness to clean the PT, the women argued that if there would be water it would be no problem to keep it clean. Again, they stressed the simplicity of cleaning the improved PTs. Everybody joined in the cleaning effort as the new tap was installed, but since the lack of water its purpose disappeared. Thus, no necessity is perceived for further cleaning of the tap.

Here, too, the actual distribution of responsibilities was not clear to the people. They thought it not required to act, but just counted on the responsible agency (AW?) to do its work.

Recommendations

- Check reason of malfunction, repair
- Tell maintenance centre to check also improved PTs on a regular basis, in shorter intervals
- Clean drain and platform to facilitate future maintenance by users
- Inform people about the responsible maintenance centres, or tell them to inform also their LU in case of a defect

ANNEX 4 Cleaning of PTs

1. Youth, Tersa

This group attended a session on cleanliness in the youth centre, Tersa, and appeared to be very interested in the matter. They decided to become active for the community, and settled to organize a cleaning/maintenance group for PTs from within their rows. Their duties would include cleanliness of streets and PTs. The maintenance centres still are in charge of repairs, but they would not mind support from the public. In fact, an employee of the local maintenance branch was present and promised to teach the boys how to fix a broken tap.

The youth contacted the LU for moral and financial support. The need and cost of material or other expenditures is not yet clear, but they searched for an agency that would at least cover expenses of drinks and snacks.

Unlike the main users who visit the taps every day, these boys would have to check on the taps regularly in order to guarantee their cleanliness. As they are not officially paid their actual assignment is not subject to control. The successful accomplishment of their job is conditional on their personal willingness and ability only. These could be studied through interviews as well. Once the organization is well established social control may keep it at work.

2. Appointed caretaker

The employment of a governmental caretaker is another possibility. This person would have the same tasks as mentioned above by the youth, but he would receive a monthly salary in return of his regular cleaning of PTs and streets. He would be the only responsible person and lack of proper maintenance should be distracted from his salary. This would back the actual accomplishment of the cleaning. The local government should be responsible to provide a sufficient number of PT cleaners, to remunerate them and to check on their charges.

This raises the point of financing this job. There are two possibilities. The caretaker represents an additional job in the community, or an existing place takes over his tasks as well, i.e., an additional salary is not necessary.

- 1) The additional job needs additional financing, either from the local governmental budget or through new fund raising. It also creates employment.

- 2) Adding the tasks to an already existing job needs to find an underemployed occupation that can carry out these tasks within the frame of his/her time and salary, e.g. the street cleaners in the big cities. No extra salary would be needed, but some rewards could be paid for initiative and/or regular cleaning. These

could be either "baksheesh" from people, (the cleaner will take care of collecting it himself), or taken from the village budget.

Official employment presupposes the willingness of the LU to take care of this extra task, i.e., organization and management of the new activity, and/or their ability to pay for these services. An interview with the LU can shed some light on this matter. Some money from the community could be collected nonetheless (rewards, "baksheesh"), to make users participate in the cleaning, even if only financially.

ANNEX 5 Meeting with the head of the Local Unit, Kalamshah
Sunday, 4.7.1993

This meeting was arranged in order to get to know the authority's opinion about the matter of cleaning PTs. Ideally, the users should clean the taps themselves without involvement of the local government. This would be the least expensive and administered, and self-surveying option.

As the only means of making people be more careful in their usage of PTs, the head of the LU proposed to close the tap in case of an abuse by the users until the damage is repaired by the people. The houses closest to the tap are regarded accountable to further the message. He believed that this is a reliable system, since the pressure of the need of water would make the people repair the tap and take better care of it, in future. We mentioned the maintenance centres' tasks to repair the taps. He replied that people would be more aware of the upkeep of PTs if forced to repair them themselves, or remain without water.

When talking about cleaning the tap in particular, i.e., not only repairing necessary damage, such as a broken pipeline or faucet, the response was different. He believed that users will never clean the tap voluntarily, and any other solution needs money to be collected from the people which is nearly an impossibility. He suggested two methods to cover the costs:

- (A) employment of a water vendor responsible also for the cleanliness of tap; (his salary and?) costs for maintenance are added to the price of water sold
- (B) increasing the price of water for owners of HCs for the amount of the water used at PTs; water meters on PTs will reveal this amount; PT users are not charged

In short, in his opinion it is impossible to collect money for the maintenance of water supply facilities unless water will be charged for. Then, the costs involved can be added to some existing bills.

He said that when a new pipeline was introduced it was possible to gather some contributions from the people. It was simply stated that they are to pay 40% while the government covers 60% of the costs. Their 'participation' was required if the improvement was to be executed. People wanted the connection badly, thus, they paid. Cleaning the taps does not appear to be that badly wanted, moreover, there is no governmental support behind this action.

In some villages the realization of the "Law of Cleanliness" (kanun el nadafa) can be seen. A law has the necessary support to collect a fixed amount of money from its citizens, as well as to make the matter be more respected by them. The prerequisite to implement this law is the village's adherence to the "chat el tanzim" which implies a regulated village structure. A village can still apply for such a 'regulation', however, that implies

major restrictions for future constructions as well as the affliction of additional costs from the local government, e.g., for the employment of street cleaners. These costs are usually carried by the government, that, nowadays, refuses new applications due to a lack of money. So, according to the LU, it is not realistic to hope for the Law to be implemented.

ANNEX 6 Local Village Council

The two major goals of the LVC, sometimes also called Public Local Councils (PLC), are 'democracy' and 'rural development'. Some of its tasks are (Law 43, 1979):

- Planning of new projects and institutions
- Promotion of participation and self-motivation
- Local taxes
- Preparation of the village plan

The LVC is made up of at least 16 male representatives and one woman. Their office is to be found in the LU's complex.

The LVC must report each month to the district council about its actions and plans and needs the approval of the LU on most issues. One source of income for the LVC is money paid for issuing official papers, such as ID-cards. Since 1981, however, LVCs receive American development money through ORDEV for infrastructural works. These are considerable amounts (LE 10.000-50.000). The LVC only decides on the spending of a small portion of this money, while the big expenditures are decided on district level.¹¹

A talk to the head of the development department (MSA) described the current offices of the LVC more significantly. He believed that the LVC is the institution to approach as they decide on the purpose of available funds. They are the ones to suggest new fees and can therefore raise additional resources from the people.

In each council certain "communities" are represented, among those "Society", "Education", "Health", "Complaints & Opinions" and "Sport & Youth", that may be able to organize and perform the cleaning/maintenance for PTs as well, if considered part of their objective. Then, the council may be able to stimulate the people of the community to contribute a significant portion of the financing.

¹¹ Mayfield, J.B., M. Naguib, Administrative and Social Environment of the Farmers in an Egyptian Village, EWUP-report No.69, Egyptian Water Use and Management Project. Cairo, 1984.

Community Development Associations are to promote community development in general, as the name already suggests. There exist about 200 in whole Fayoum governorate. Most of them are comprehensive in their objectives, merely aiming at fulfilling their target. Others have a rather confined range, including religious, youth, women or environmental issues. All of these associations are considered indigenous NGOs, although placed under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Affairs. On the governorate, as well as the district level a great variety of community associations can be found, whereas on village level the broader CDA is prevalent¹². According to Law 32, that states regulations for all kinds of associations, the MSA has the power to intervene in the election of board members or in budgetary affairs if judged necessary, i.e., when an association, or its field of action is held to be contrary to the stated national interests.

These groupings based on community participation could be a useful approach to set up a sustainable system of PT maintenance. They can be used as mediators between maintenance centres and users/community. With a budget of their own, an association with a suitable objective could incorporate the responsibility of cleaning and maintaining PTs in their sphere of action and raise community participation. The advantage of involving a CDA in PT cleaning is the informal link between government and public. As associations are to be found on village level as well, they know people, situation and potentialities of the community and may combine this knowledge to a superior organization than the local administration, for instance. The fact that on village level not many organizations with 'specialized' concerns, such as water committees or health groups, are established makes the CDA the only point of reference there. Within its larger aims, a more defined project could be formulated. This possibility and possible implications should be discussed in a talk to the representatives of a CDA in a specific district or village. It is advisable also to meet the "mother"-association in Fayoum city, that is engaged in supporting all associations in the whole governorate. They may have an exhaustive lists of community activities¹³, and know about their possibilities and limitations.

CDAs on village and district level have to send their plans of operation to the department of development in the district capital, that eventually will advance it to the main quarters of

¹² Information taken from CARE office, Fayoum. Our contact person there is Dr.Nabila. See also List of CDAs in the annex (arabic only).

¹³ In July, 1993, Mohamed Kamel Abd El Wahab was the head of this association. More information can be obtained from the MSA, particularly the development department, that supervises CDAs and approves of their activities. Contact person at that time was Amin Mansour (speaks excellent English).

the MSA. Funds for developmental activities are allocated by the MSA and deposited in banks of development associations with a suitable objective. Associations can allocate needed capital in their budget plans that has to be agreed on by the MSA. Mansour said that there is hardly a case of refusal for funding as most development associations use their resources purposefully. The MSA, i.e., the expert of the development department in charge, monitors activities and application of the funds. Aims and structure of the association have to be registered by a separate department and scrutinised by the state security before being approved.

ANNEX 8 QUESTIONS FOR USERS OF PUBLIC TAPS

Fayoum, June 1993

- A. 1. Do you know about diseases transmitted by water?
2. Did you go to school? Did you learn anything about health and cleanliness? (TV, family, meetings)
- B. 1. What do you have to say about the conditions of the PTs?*2. **Do you think it is necessary to clean PTs? Why?**
3. Is the platform easy to clean, keep clean? How?*4. Is the drain working properly, not broken or blocked? Why?*
- D. 1. Who do you think is responsible for the maintenance of PTs? Is it done?
2. Who do you think is responsible for their cleanliness? Is it done?
3. What do you do if a PT is a) broken?
 b) leaking?
 c) very dirty?
4. Assuming the PT is repaired, do you think it is possible that **users** keep the taps clean? How?
5. Do users already clean or repair the taps at times?
6. Would you like to pay something and have a working and clean PT? **How much?** (e.g. for caretaker)
7. What is the best way to pay for these services? (e.g. monthly, yearly; to LU, to another society?)