

Improvement of Sanitation and Hygiene in Rapidly Growing Towns

1.0 Background

The current population of Tanzania is estimated to be approximately 37.5M, but is expected to rise to nearly 70M by 2025, by this time 40% are expected to reside within urban areas¹. Taking into consideration the rate of growth as noted here, it can be assumed that a significant proportion of this population will be in small towns², which are often under- and un-served areas. This rate of urbanisation is alarming considering the efforts of governments to provide basic services. However a report by WHO/UNICEF³ revealed that since 1990 there has been a significant increase in the number of people accessing improved water and sanitation in urban areas. Still the urban population growth rate surpasses this increase as proved by recent research⁴ which found that if efforts to provide water and sanitation to the urban un-served continue at the current rate, by 2015 more than 2.7 billion and 672 million of the world's population will still be living without basic sanitation and improved sources of drinking water respectively. It is on this understanding that WaterAid found a niche to engage in the water sector to supplement the governments' efforts in providing their people with basic services especially water and sanitation.

WaterAid work with a wide range of local partner organisations including religious organisations, municipal and district councils, local development organisations and the private sector; utilizing their knowledge and understanding to reach those communities most in need. WaterAid's partners help communities set up low-cost, sustainable projects using technologies that are affordable, appropriate to local conditions and which can be maintained by the community themselves.

Based on the experiences accrued since 1983 to 2010 in rural areas and piloting approaches and research studies in selected urban areas, WaterAid has planned to extend the successes of its activities into prioritized urban especially small town areas.

In recognition of the high rate of urbanization in Tanzania, which puts pressure on the already inadequate water and sanitation services, WaterAid Tanzania has developed a new urban strategy with a focus on water supply, environmental sanitation and hygiene to the poor.

2.0 Current Status of Urbanisation

High rate of urbanisation is contributed by:

- Natural population growth in cities and towns (estimated by the UN to account for 60% of urban population growth);
- Natural growth of villages especially those which are well located in business or political opportune areas
- People moving from rural to urban areas seeking for better life opportunities

¹ Gerlach, Esther and Franceys, Richard (2007): Tanzania Urban Water and Sanitation Analysis: An assessment of present and planned service provision in urban and peri-urban low-income areas

² Caplan, K. and Harvey, E. (2010). Small Town Water and Sanitation Delivery – Taking a Wider View: Water Aid

³ WHO/UNICEF (2010), Joint Monitoring Programme

⁴ Caplan, K. and Harvey, E. (2010). Small Town Water and Sanitation Delivery – Taking a Wider View: Water Aid

3.0 Status of service development (water, sanitation and hygiene) for Small Town (STs) in Tanzania

Statistics already show that between one third and one half of the urban population lives in unplanned / informal settlements with deficiencies in infrastructure services including water and sanitation (see photo 1 below). The existing infrastructures are old, dilapidated and inadequate to meet the ever increasing demand for water and sanitation⁵.



Photo 1: common Latrine in Kibiti



Photo 2: Water point in poor conditions

People living in unplanned settlements are mostly affected by the shortage of water supply and sanitation services. Their common sources of water for domestic use are standpipes, public taps, kiosks (see photo 2 above), water vendors or shallow wells. The cost of water provision in unplanned settlements is higher than the conventional systems and requires innovative ways of service provision. The service providers are not regulated and charge higher prices than household connection. In addition the quality of the water is unknown. The utility faces higher costs in awareness raising on payment of bills and face more illegal connection and vandalism of water infrastructures.

In most STs this seemed not to be a problem but people in these areas have to build the culture of cleanliness now because when the STs have grown to big cities it will be unmanageable.



Photo 3: Solid waste disposal practices

The institutions responsible for water and sanitation service provision are small and lack capacity, both human and financial, to develop the WaSH services to meet the demand. The latter is increasing at a high rate that is not proportional to the capacity of the UWSA.

4.0 Key Challenges

1. Poor infrastructure in small towns is the result of a continued lack of investment.
2. Exclusion of most needy groups
3. Lack of Sustainability on WaSH Services and inadequate capacity
4. Disproportion between town planning and influx of population

⁵ MoWI (2010): Proposal for upgrading of district urban water supply and sanitation Authorities (DUWSAs), Small Towns (STs), and National Projects (NPs) and MoWI (2009): Annual Report for Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Authority. Financial Year 2007/2008

5. Poor management
6. High rate of conversion of agricultural land to built (residential, commercial and/or industrial) up areas

The scenario that seemed to take part with the improved WaSH services is:
 improved water/other economic derivatives → high rate of development →
 Population increase → increased liquid and solid waste generation → unplanned
 settlements as a result of low capacity of LGAs to plan → diminishing local agricultural
 resources for livelihood

5.0 Preparatory steps

In order to formulate a comprehensive strategic framework, WaterAid Tanzania conducted a strategic stakeholder consultation meeting and an internal strategic planning workshop as well as close future consultation with key and strategic stakeholders including key ministries like: PMORALG, MoWI, MoLHHS, MoHSW and DPs. After finalizing the urban strategy a scoping study was conducted in selected small towns out of which 9 were prioritized for feasibility study.

Discussion with key ministries is taking place whereby the output of bilateral discussions will lead to a consultative meeting with strategic stakeholders. The purpose of this meeting is to define roles and responsibilities of each key stakeholder and draw a common understanding on the way forward regarding development/growth of the STs.

6.0 Programme approach

This programme is therefore intending to work on three key areas:

- Improvement of the systems (systemic issues)
- Technological options (e.g. solutions for human waste disposal/handling will differ from one area to another depending on the population set up and many other environmental factors) towards improvement of services taking into consideration the rapid growth of such areas
- Improvement of Urban WaSH services. These will be checked through business inclination for the matter of ensuring sustainability of the improved services. E.g the aspect of solid waste management, management of water supply services etc. all the improvements will in the end lead to improvement of livelihood of the communities (use of manure from solid waste decomposed matters, use of water supply/alternative waters where applicable to continue existing kitchen garden etc).

To respond to the above key areas the programme will work on the projects detailed here under. Their implementation will take place sequentially and some of them in parallel:

- a. **Improvement of accessibility to equitable and sustainable water supply services.** For a small town this is envisaged to be achieved through clustering of 3 or more small towns for commercial viability. In so doing skilled people will be engaged to manage and expand WaSH services to the intended town communities equitably. Such a cluster does not exist so it has to be developed and piloted.
- b. **Development and pilot of cluster Model 1.** This is about joint management and board of urban water utilities of 3 to 4 small towns. To develop this cluster a participatory process

has to take place. In this process all procedures, laws, regulations, guidelines, water policy etc should give light to this endeavour and the cluster formation be aligned to all these existing instruments.

c. **Town planning issues:** Town planning is therefore expected to start prior other services improvement to ensure that there will not be a part of infrastructure installed to be misallocated. Prior to this activity all stakeholders at the district and respective STs will be brought together for a consultative meeting to seek for their involvement equivalent to what might have taken place at the national level. Whilst at the national level the consultative meeting aims at seeking for technical support to the process, it is also necessary for scaling up of the success.

d. **Solid and liquid waste management:** These are areas where by WaterAid will work with partners to set systems that will ensure the towns develop and grow clean sustainably

Livelihood issues:

The feasibility study revealed that more than 75% of the STs use water for kitchen garden watering (see photo 4).

The ST integrated approach aim to blend approaches. Although access to water supply and sanitation services will override; still it will be important to consider the aspect of local communities to continue getting water for their other uses over and above domestic.



Photo 4: Kitchen garden in Utete ST, Rufiji District

The appropriate water to use for the varied uses will be site specific. Whilst in other STs piped water (because it is plenty) will be used for different economic activities in others alternatives sources could be considered.