

Summary of Findings of Supportive Supervision to Amhara

February 15-19, 2016, (Yohannes Melaku, Arto Suominen)

The field visit to communities, woredas, zones and region reveal that the CMP approach is beneficial and preferred WASH implementation modality at all levels and the woredas are implementing and managing the approach excellently. However, low per dime rate to experts, low amount of investment budget allocated by the project as compared to the high implementation capacities of woredas, reluctance of communities in setting and collecting O&M tariff, lack of environmental protection activities around the water sources, lack of formal written agreement of the landowners who provided their land to the water schemes construction and poor post use- management of latrines by the school community are the major areas/gaps which need the attention of the different stakeholders. The major findings of the supportive supervision are indicated hereunder:

Comparison of the CMP approach from other approaches:

In both woredas the CMP and WMP project approaches have been practiced and in addition in Basona Werana Woreda NGO managed project approach has been used by four local NGOs. The WWT members and even the zones water departments have made comparison of the CMP with other approaches. The WWT members, the zonal water departments heads & experts and the regional deputy bureau heads which were met during the visit expressed their opinion that the CMP approach has a lot of advantages over other approaches and the following being the major ones.

- Fast implementation rate of water schemes as it gives implementation responsibilities to individual water point WASHCOs and uses simple procurement and financial management procedures.
- It closes the chance of rent seeking/corruption as the approach is transparent & managed by the community.
- It ensures the functionality and long term sustainability of water points as it builds strong community capacity and ownership from the beginning.
- It reduces the procurement related bureaucracies and delays caused as observed in the WMP approach.
- It is cost effective due to the use of artisans in labor contracting and procurement of materials by WASHCOs which minimizes the 25-35% overhead and profit margins by contractors, and mobilized more community resources.
- It builds the local skills (artisans) which skills are essential for the O&M.

As the water, irrigation and energy bureau has understood the above listed advantages of the approach, it decided that many of the elements/processes of the CMP approach, other than investment fund management by WASHCOs, to be replicated in all woredas of the region regardless of the funding modality.

Impact of COWASH/CMP:

According to the woreda health focal persons, laboratory records show that the occurrence of diarrhea has decreased in many places due to the increase of improved water service and increased hygienic practice of the communities. The reduction in the incidence of waterborne diseases was also witnessed by the households and WASHCO members communicated. This was supported by some figures that water born diseases which was 50-60% before some 3 years has now decreased to 5-10%. In addition the water born diseases which had been ranking in the top line of the 10 top diseases in the woredas has now moved to the bottom line of the 10 top diseases.

Mothers in the visited sites are now engaged in other household activities, farming and soil and water conservation activities as they have saved time due to the availability of potable water at close distance.

In addition many women WASHCO members stated that they are able to prepare food timely to their children and students go to schools timely and attend classes regularly and girls have got more time to study their exercise books at home.

Reporting and communication:

One of the good lessons learned from the visit include the timely and quality of reporting which has also contributed a lot for the success of the approach. The reporting include the daily water office head progress report of COWASH to the woreda administrator or command post, the zone receives weekly the report of progress of water points in the woredas, the woredas and zones report to the BoFED the fund utilization quarterly and the zone water departments and woreda water office reports the physical report to the water, irrigation and energy bureau quarterly and the woreda water office report the investment fund utilization to the bureau quarterly and even monthly as needed. The report from zone to water bureau is done by using the e-mail.

In the woredas and zones visited the team learned that there is strong communication between the woredas, zones and the RSU zonal advisor. This has contributed a lot for the success of the approach in the two visited woredas. The communication is done face-to-face (especially for Basona Werana as it is located in the same town with that of the North Shewa zone water department) and by telephone ranging from daily to weekly.

Coordination and integration of WASH sector offices:

The coordination and integration of WASH sector offices is very strong at woreda and zonal levels. WWTs make regular meetings to discuss and make decisions on the project. The ZWT and the ZWTT members in North Shewa zone make meetings once in a week and the COWASH is one of the agendas to be discussed

in the meetings. In South Wollo the zonal level WASH responsibility is fully shouldered on the ZWTT and it meets at least once in a month. Good coordination at the region level was also observed.

Support to woredas and zones:

One of the things which contributed to the excellent achievements in the visited woredas is the regular and objective oriented support provided by the zone water department and the RSU. This was boldly expressed by the WWT members of both woredas. The support by the zones include training WWT members and woreda WASH sector office experts on CMP management based on the ToT trainings the ZWTT received from the region/RSU. Sharing experience among the woredas in the review meetings organized by the zones and the supportive supervision conducted by the zone water departments to the woredas are also other faces of the support of the zones to the woredas.

The RSU zonal advisor is also providing the required support to zones so that they can implement the planned activities in the zones and also for the zones to give the required support to woredas.

The supervision team would like to highly appreciate the zonal advisor for the excellent support he has been providing as it is boldly expressed by the meeting participants in all the woredas and zones visited.

Community contribution:

The community contribution in COWASH/CMP is expected to be at least 15% of the total cost of the project and the region decided the minimum to be 30% of the construction cost of a water point. In the visited woredas, the average contribution of the community is well above the minimum recommended by the region. The 2007 EFY average community contribution of water points in the two visited woredas has been reported to be 35% and 68% in Tenta and Basona Werana woredas respectively. The existence of such considerable amount of community contribution has been confirmed from the discussion made with WASHCOs & beneficiaries of visited water points and also from randomly selected water point files at the water office.

WASH actors in the woredas:

The team learnt that in the visited woredas COWASH is the major financier of WASH. Some amount of budget is also allocated by the woreda from its block grant matched by the region. This block grant is used through the WMP approach. The block grant amount is nearly same with the COWASH funding. Very small number of water points are also constructed in Basona Werana woreda by four local NGOs and SLM project. On the contrary the rural water supply access coverage of the woredas as per the GTP II standard is not by far

more than 50% and the woredas have acquired high implementation capacity. Therefore there is a need for seeing ways for the woredas to have increased budget from the project and even from other sources since the coming fiscal year.

CMP Project file management:

The supervision team had the chance to randomly chose and observe the project file management. In both woredas the project files have been found to be excellently filled, include all the formats and are very legible. As per the CMP specialist who is one of the supervision team member, the files in the two visited woredas are the best CMP files ever seen and can be exemplary for other woredas in the region which think that CMP approach is full of paper work and difficult to manage. One of the factors which contributed for the better file management especially in Basona Werana woreda is that the responsibility of COWASH implementation has been divided to most of the woreda water office staff. In the file management the office secretary is given the major responsibility for the proper placement and checking the completeness of the project files. The visited project files also have found to be audited by BoFED. The only recommendation given in the two woredas project files is the need for attaching the project follow up tag on the cover of each project file.

WASH facilities data management:

The two woredas have by 100% completed the COWASH data up to 2007 EFY and data have been reported to the RSU and FTAT. The team work in the two woredas water offices also contributed for the success in this respect and the supervision team encouraged the experts to complete also the 2008 EFY WASH facilities data and report to the RSU timely. The WASH facility location map of the woredas which was prepared by the GIS expert of FTAT was given to the Woreda administrators and they expressed their happiness on the availability of such good maps. The Tenta woreda administrator called the woreda agriculture office experts to prepare such a map also for the dams and irrigation being constructed in the woreda.

The issue of the woredas which did not complete the database collection has been discussed with the RSU staff and the respective zonal advisors promised to get the complete data and report to the FTAT.

WASHCO legalization process:

The practice of the region in legalization of WASHCOs is at an infant stage and tested only in 16 model schemes. None of the visited woredas started the legalization and even Tenta woreda CMP supervisor do not have the information on the guideline and by-law prepared by the bureau. In the discussion made with the water resources and water supply scheme management core process leader

of the water bureau the necessary trainings have been provided to all woreda water office heads, and the guideline, by-law & certification/legalization responsibility of the water users' associations has been given to the offices. So there is a hope that the legalization in the CMP woredas to be started soon.

By-laws and water tariff collection:

In the visited water points WASHCOs have by-law which has been in use during the construction of the project and also is use during the management. The supervision team observed the by-law at the water points. Penalty of absentees during construction and the payment for new users to become user of the scheme has been found to be applied by WASHCOs.

One of the issues identified in the visit is that communities are somehow reluctant to start the O&M fund/tariff collection by assuming that the upfront cash contributed will be used whenever there is a need for maintenance and can be contributed when needed. The tariff they have set is very small as compared to the yearly O&M fund required (from 25 cents/month/HH to 50 cents/month/HH). So the team recommended and also informed to the water bureau that this is an area which needs the intervention of the woredas, zones and the bureau to raise the awareness of the users in setting and collecting the required amount of water tariff.

Overall progress in the fiscal year:

From the discussion made with the RSU and the WWT of the visited woredas, the team learned that the progress of planned activities in the region in general and in the visited woredas in particular is found to be progressing well. Both woredas started implementation of the majority of the planned number of water points and provided training to WASHCOs and KWT members. The major activities which have been performed at the region level after the second quarter progress report to the FTAT include

1. revision of the old water points and school latrines construction artisans payment guideline which has been a request by many woredas in the past fiscal years,
2. the region transferred all the investment, capacity building & operational budget of the fiscal year to all woredas & zones,
3. a payment amounting Birr 5,452,565.76 have been paid to Hagbes for the procurement of 54 Yamaha motorbikes which tender has been handled by the regional procurement and materials disposal agency,
4. processing procurement of 40 hand held GPSs and 11 set of water quality testing chemicals by the water, irrigation and energy bureau.

Detailed Discussion made at Beneficiary, WASHCO, Woreda, Zone and Regional Level

COWASH Field Visit Report to Amhara

It was discussed at the federal level to get insight into the impact of the project at different levels so that to include qualitative information into the performance reports of the project. Consequently, it was planned to implement the supportive supervision plans of COWASH FTAT to the project regions, zones and woredas. The main purpose of the visit different from previous visits has been recommended to collect qualitative data from all levels on the project mainly on the impact of the project. For this purpose, checklists have been prepared by the FTAT. A team of two people from the FTAT, namely the CTA and the CMP Specialist made a visit to Bassona Warana woreda, Tenta woreda, North Showa zone, South Wollo zone and region from 15-19 February 2016.

In its visit the team was accompanied & supported by Ato Muluneh Abeje, the zonal advisor for the zones and woredas visited, and the team would like to express its thanks and appreciation to the advisor and his driver Ato Mengiste Eskelalem.

The summary of the discussion made at each level (region, zone, woreda, WASHCO and household) as per the checklists prepared has been made and presented in this report. Each question in the checklist is shown in bold in this report and the discussion results for each question are shown indented under each question. The list and contact addresses of the people met at all levels during the visit are shown in Annex 1 of this report.

A) Discussion at North Showa Zone

North Showa is one of the 10 zones in the Amhara region where COWASH is working. The woreda capital is Debre Berhan located 130Kms from Addis Ababa along the Addis Ababa-Dessie road. The team visited the zone on February 15/2016.

The team met and made meeting with the Zonal water, irrigation and energy department head and two experts of the department. The team introduced the objectives of the visit are to assess the changes COWASH project brought at different levels (region, zone, woreda and community), to learn the experience from each level, identify issues which need attention and find solutions by discussion. The summary of the issues discussed at the zone level are summarized below.

A.1 Provision of support to the woredas

- There are 22 rural woredas and 5 town administrations in the zone out of which 2 woredas namely Basona Werana and Antsokiyana Gemza are the COWASH woredas since the 2006 EFY (2013/14). The remaining 20 woredas are CWA woredas and out of which 4 of them are also the UNICEF supported WASH woredas. The zone water, irrigation and energy department is giving support to all the woredas in general and the 2 COWASH woredas in particular. The support it is providing to the 2 COWASH woredas include training WWT and WASH sector office experts in CMP related issues based on the ToT training it received from the region/RSU, quarterly supportive supervision, organizing quarterly review meeting to evaluate the progress and share experience among the two woredas. The effectiveness of the support has been demonstrated that Basona Werana is ranked the 1st performing in woreda in the zone and one of the best COWASH woredas in the region.

A.2 COWASH progress in 2008 EFY plan

- The zone received the 2008 EFY plan from the region. At present the zone finance department is processing the procurement of lap top and training stationeries for the water office. The zone has planned to give CMP related and O&M management training to woreda staff next week. By this time the zone has received all the capacity building and operational budget of the fiscal year from the region and wish that all the planned activities will be performed.

A.3 Follow up on water points data collection

- Basing on the 2010/11 NWI data collection format every woreda is expected to update its water points data every year (including those newly constructed) and report to the zone water department and the department emails to the water bureau. The data required in the NWI are only basic ones as compared to the COWASH. Both COWASH woredas collected and recorded the data of all the WASH facilities financed by COWASH in the 2006 and 2007 EFYs and reported to the zone and region.

A.4 COWASH contribution in improving coordination or integration in WASH

- The Zonal WASH Technical Team (ZWTT) meets every Friday and the ZWT meets every Monday. The ZWTT discusses on issues and briefs its result to the ZWT every Monday. COWASH project has strengthened this coordination and has become one issue to be discussed in the meetings. Very recently the ZWTT has become relatively weaker in conducting meetings weekly which also weakened the ZWT because it is discussing on issues raised by the ZWTT. The zone administrator office head wrote a letter (we saw the copy at the water department) to each WASH sector department that the focal persons have to

meet once in a week as scheduled. This shows how the zone administrator is strongly following the WASH issues.

A.5 Availability of One WASH plan and report

- The zone water department has a summary plan for all the water points planned in every woreda irrespective of the source of finance and receives also report from woredas irrespective of the financer once in a quarter and report to the water, irrigation and energy bureau.

A.6 Feeling about CMP approach

- The CMP approach is good in ensuring the sustainability of water points as it builds community capacity, implemented water points faster, mobilizes more community resources and increases ownership. This has been demonstrated in the two woredas as the access coverage and management of schemes has highly improved.

A.7 Challenges

- Sometimes delays in budget release from the region are observed.
- The COWASH project allocates lesser amount of investment fund to woredas as compared to the CWA.
- The project has limitations to finance high water supply technologies mainly for institutions this can be associated with low amount of investment budget allocated by the project.

B) Visit to Basona Werana Woreda

B.1) Discussion at woreda level

Basona Werana is one of the two COWASH woredas in North Shoa zone which capital is Debre Berhan (also the capital of the zone).

On February 15 the team met the water office head and experts, discussed on technical issues and collected data required from the office. On February 16 the team met the WWT members (the woreda administrator, the finance office head, the education office head and the water office head). The zone water department head also attended the meeting but the woreda health office head could not attend due to overlap of a training programme.

In the WWT meeting the supervision team briefed the WWT on the major findings of the discussions made at the water office and the visits conducted to water points and institutional latrine. The briefing was structured in to two as appreciation of the woreda/good lessons learned from the woreda and issues which need special attention of the zone, woreda and region.

The team appreciation to the woreda include good reporting (timely and quality wise), high rate of community contribution for construction, excellent water point data management, excellent water point & institutional latrines file management, good communication with the zone water office and the RSU zonal advisor, fast implementation rate of projects, cost effectiveness of projects, good awareness of households on sanitation & hygiene, effective use of manpower at the water office (every staff in the office including the secretary has role in the CMP process and file management). These strong sides have to be maintained as they can be good lessons not only to the zone but also to the region.

The issues which need attention include lack of harmonization in per dime rate among the different WASH financers, budget limitation in COWASH to implement many high water supply technologies, lack of capacity building budget to WASHCOs on projects implemented by the WMP approach from budgets allocated by the woreda and the region, lower amount artisans' payment for latrines and water points construction (the payment guideline is revised this year and the woreda can use & give feedback to the RSU), communities of the visited water points have not yet started collection of tariff and even the tariff they decided to collect from each household in a month is less as compared to the O&M fund required for the scheme, the land for the constructed water points were given by the landowners verbally and there is a need for having a signed agreement with the land owner, need for catchment protection close to the water sources, need for care takers training timely, need for improvement in the finishing work of water points and institutional latrines, need for improvement in the use & management of school latrines and need for raising the awareness of the community on the use of soap for hand washing. The status of COWASH phase III project document preparation was also briefed to the WWT members by the supervision team.

The WWT members expressed their willingness to continue on their strengths and also to see ways how the points raised as issues needing special attention can be improved.

The woreda has a rural population of 133,377. The rural water supply coverage which was 91.34 % as per the GTP I standard has been re-calculated as per the GTP II standard and found to be 53.46 %. There are 30 rural kebeles in the woreda of which 10 are covered by COWASH project. In two years COWASH financed the construction of 94 water points (78 on spot and with distributions, 15 hand dug wells and 1 shallow well) which benefited 13,602 rural people and contributed 10.11 % rural water supply access coverage of the woredas as per the GTP I standard. In addition the project financed the construction of 3 institutional latrines (1 for school and 2 for health posts).

B.1.1 Implementation approach/s in use in the woreda (WMP, SS, NGO or CMP) and the most preferred approach in terms of water supply construction and management with justification

- In the woreda, three of the WASH implementation approaches have been practiced. Four local NGOs use NGO managed project approach, budget allocated by the woreda & from the region, and the SLM project use the Woreda Managed Approach (WMP) managed by water and agriculture offices respectively and COWASH implements the CMP approach.
- The WWT has made evaluation and prefers the CMP approach. The CMP approach is good in ensuring the sustainability of water points as it builds community capacity, implemented water points faster, cost effective, mobilized community resources and increased ownership.
- As per the water office head although the office supports the CMP approach, due to lack of capacity building budget to train WASHCOs in CMP management, it could not use the CMP approach for budget allocated by the woreda and it is using the WMP approach.

B.1.2 Construction cost follow up practice and comparison of the CMP approach with that of the WMP approach in terms of cost effectiveness

- The water office records the construction cost of each water point constructed by CMP and WMP approach. From the record it found that CMP approach implemented water points are cost effective as it uses labor contract and materials are procured by communities which avoids 25-35% overhead and profit requested by contractors in the WMP approach. In addition the community contributes its resources which minimizes the money to be used for the construction of one water point and gives the chance to the woreda to construct more water points. Although the expected minimum community contribution for construction as per the water bureau direction is 30%, the average community contribution in the CMP approach implemented water points (mainly springs) in the 2007EFY has been calculated to be 68%. In general it can be said that a budget which constructs 1 water point in the WMP approach can construct 2 water points in the CMP approach by matching community labor and material contribution.

B.1.3 Woreda contribution for WASH investments and management of the allocated funds

- In the 2008 EFY, the woreda allocated Birr 1.3 Million from its block grant for the construction of 28 water points (18 on spot springs, 6 small RPSs and 2 hand dug wells). The fund is managed by the woreda water office (WMP approach).

B.1.4 Changes brought by COWASH/CMP in the woreda

- **Improving the integration and coordination of WASH sector offices**
 - As the approach demands integration of water, sanitation and hygiene and all the WASH sectors to work together, the project contributed in increasing the integration and coordination among the sectors. WASH sector office staff are providing trainings to WASHCOs & KWT members together.
- **Building capacity of implementers, private sector and beneficiaries**
 - The project allocates budget and trains WWT members, WASH offices technical experts, artisans and WASHCOs in the implementation and management of the project.
- **Empowerment of women**
 - Women are meaningfully represented in the water point construction and post construction management.
- **WASH services provision**
 - The COWASH water points constructed in 2 years benefited 13,602 rural people. The budget allocated for the health office to support the CLTSH is also contributing to declare some kebeles as ODF in the near future.
- **Recognized impact (change) (social and/or economical)**
 - The occurrence of water borne diseases in the areas decreased.
 - In many of the communities the water points are brought closer to the community and girls have got enough time to study and attend classes regularly (this was reported by the education office head as heard during the formal inauguration of one school water point).
- **Change in the ownership of water facilities by the community**
 - There are good signs of ownership by the community during construction and also in properly managing and using the schemes.
- **In allocating budget for WASH from the woreda capital budget**
 - As the woreda build its capacity of implementing more projects, in 2008EFY allocated Birr 1.3 million from its capital budget to construct 28 water pints using the WMP approach.
- **WASH data management**
 - The woreda collected data of all the CMP constructed water points & institutional latrines and reported to the zone & RSU.

B.1.5 Participation and management of the community in CMP process

- Communities participate in the construction of water points better than those NGO and WMP projects. For the CMP approach, in 2007 EFY the average community contribution for construction was 68 %. This high percentage is achieved as in the CMP approach as WASHCOs pay cash only for artisans and procurement of industrial construction materials mainly cement and reinforcement bar. Sand, stone, river gravel and wood for fencing and

unskilled labor required for the construction of water points is largely covered/contributed by the community.

- Although it needs improvement and support from the woreda water office, the role played by the community in the management of the water points is very encouraging.

B.1.6 Degree of satisfaction of the woreda with the ongoing COWASH/CMP (water and sanitation) and issues needing improvement in the CMP process

- The sector offices and the woreda as a whole are satisfied with the CMP approach. The capacity building and the overall support provided by the project in improving the WASH situation of the woreda was highly appreciated as it has created better implementation and management capacity of projects at all levels.
- There is no major problem reported in the process but recommended that there is a need for improvement of the artisans payment guideline for the construction of water points and institutional latrines, the project needs to allocate more investment fund so that kebeles needing high technologies can be served by the approach and there should be an incentive for the experts working in the approach as it has so many formats which requires concentration. One of the incentives can be to use a better per dime rate like that of the SLM, AGP and UNICEF.

B.1.7 Actions proposed to strengthen COWASH intervention in hygiene and sanitation (households and institutions)

- No major action proposed.

B.1.8 Types and degree of supports provided from zone and region in CMP implementation

- The water office is getting the required support from the zone water department. The support includes assistance in the preparation of RPSs deigns, training the WWT members and woreda experts in CMP related issues, support in the supervision of construction and advising the woreda to use its allocated budget properly. There is also strong support for non-COWASH funded projects from the zone water department.
- The RSU supports the WASH sector offices technically and also conducted number of supportive supervisions. The support they are getting from the RSU zonal advisor is one of the major reasons for the woreda to perform well in the approach. But the support the offices are getting from bureaus is weak.

B.1.9 Status and management of WASHCO legalization

- Very recently, the water bureau sent the guideline and by-law for legalizing WASHCOs and gave the responsibility of legalizing to the woreda water office.

Although it needs detail referring of the guideline the associations to be established are categorized in to 8. Those hand dug wells, shallow wells, springs and small RPSs are required to have an association and a kebele level federation having a general assembly members of two from each water point (the chairperson and cashier). Anyways the woreda has not yet started legalizing WASHCOs.

B.1.10 Availability of 2008 Plan in the woreda and its implementation status

The woreda received the plan from the region and so far the following activities have been implemented.

- Although the plan is to construct 28 water points, the WWT approved 38 water points.
- WASHCOs of the 38 water points have been trained in CMP management.
- The construction of 32 water points started (1 hand dug well, 23 on spot springs and 8 small RPSs) and is at the range of 5 % to 45 % progress and one spring construction completed.
- CMP refresher training has been given to KWT members of the 10 CMP kebeles.
- Procurement of artisans hand tools is on progress.

B.1.11 Major challenges/problems of water supplies in the rural areas of the woreda and COWASH in particular

- There are 6 kebeles in the woreda which cannot be served by hand dug wells and on sport springs due to shortage of enough investment budget for the high technologies.
- Shortage of capacity building budget for non-COWASH project financed water points (those financed by the woreda capital budget and budget support from the region).
- Shortage of LCD projector in the water office.
- Shortage of GPS as compared to the number of sports needing GPS (there are only 3 GPSs in the water office).

B.1.12 Observation on CMP project file management

- The project files are found to be well recorded and managed and also audited by BoFED. Except the project follow up tag all the CMP forms have been clearly filled and attached in the project file. All staff in the water office including the secretary has a role in the project file management. It is the best project file the CMP specialist has ever seen in the project. From one randomly selected project file we were able to get the cost of construction as Birr 47,553 (Birr 25,000 for CMP and Birr 22,553 the community contribution in labor and materials) which gives the calculation that the community contribution covers 47.4 % of the investment cost.

B.1.13 Reporting of COWASH progress to the region (frequency/report formats/challenge?)

- The water office reports physical performance of all the COWASH planned activities and the use of investment budget at the end of every quarter in hard copy.
- The finance office reports the financial report of the use of the capacity building and operational budget quarterly to BoFED in hard copy.

The success factors of the project as reported by the WWT members

- Strong follow up and support of the WWT to the project. The woreda administrator receives every day the progress of the water points construction in the woreda in general and in the COWASH kebeles in particular.
- The strong support the woreda is getting from the zonal water office and the zonal advisor of RSU.
- The capacity building activities done by the project to the WWT, sector office experts, KWT members and WASHCOs.
- The transparency of the CMP approach and giving responsibility for the community to manage the implementation of their own projects.
- The high demand for water from the community has made the WWT to be very sensitive and accountable to the work.
- The WWT follows not only financial audits of project accounts done by BoFED but also conducts process and physical audit of the water points constructed.

Finally the woreda administrator appreciated the support being provided by the project and confirmed that they have the capacity to implement more projects if the project allocates considerable amount of budget.

B.2) Discussion with water point WASHCOs in Basona Warana

Kosso on spot spring in Bakelo kebele was visited by the team. The scheme, which was constructed in 2014/15 (2007 EFY), benefits 35 households which is equivalent to 175 people. The constructed structures include a capping structure and 4000 liters capacity collection chamber.

The team met and held discussion with three WASHCO members: Ato Mindaye Ashnafi (chairperson), Wro. Gete Nake (treasurer) and Ato Getahun Takele (store keeper).



B.2.1 WASHCO organization and its sex composition

- The scheme has 5 WASHCO members, of which 3 males and 2 females. The female members possess the treasurer and control/auditor positions.
- They were elected by the community in a meeting conducted for this purpose after briefed by the woreda water office experts about the CMP approach.

B.2.2 Availability of by-laws and WASHCO legalization status

- The beneficiary community has a written by-law to be used both during and after construction of the scheme. Some of the points in the by-law include the penalty for late arrival & absents during the scheme construction, payment for new households users, tariff amount etc.

- The woreda has not yet started legalizing WASHCOs.

B.2.3 The role of the WASHCO members in the construction of the water point and degree of participation of each member

- All the WASHCO members were active during construction in supplying labor and materials and also coordinating communities to participate in and contribute for the construction. WASHCO members had worked on a shift basis in leading and managing the construction of the spring.

B.2.4 Felling of members working as WASHCO and serving the community

- They are very happy serving communities as WASHCO members as they have already seen that communities are drinking clean and potable water as compared to the source they were using before the construction of the scheme. In addition, they are also getting the benefit from the constructed water point. These have made the WASHCO member happy and willing to serve the community in the management of the scheme.

B.2.5 Contracting and financial agreement signing

- The scheme was constructed by an artisan contracted by the WASHCO and signed construction agreement with the WASHCO chairperson. Beneficiary communities have assisted the artisan in supplying local construction materials and labor for excavating. The WASHCO managed the fund allocated by the WWT after it signed funding agreement with the woreda administer and the WASHCO has paid the payment to the artisan and procured materials by withdrawing investment fund from ACSI.

B.2.6 Contribution of the beneficiary community in the construction of the water point (upfront cash, labour and material contribution)

- During the preparation of the project application, every household contributed Birr 132 as an upfront cash for O&M which made the total amount contributed to Birr 4500 and saved it in ACSI. The community supplied sand, stone, coarse aggregate and eucalyptus and participated in the excavation of spring eye, collection chamber foundation and trenches during the construction of the scheme.

B.2.7 Presence of households who couldn't contribute for the construction of the water point and covering their share if any

- All the 35 households contributed upfront cash for O&M, and the local construction materials and labor during construction.

B.2.8 Recording of the contribution of the community and the daily construction progress of the water supply construction including document keeping and book of account

- Although it was not possible to see as the secretary of the WASHCO went to the woreda capital for education related meeting, it was reported by the WASHCO members and confirmed by the water office head that the required information have been recorded well.

B.2.9 Guarding of the water point (employment of guard, cash contribution and methods of payment to the guard)

- As the WASHCO believes that it is the property of all households and no fear of the damage of the scheme, they have nether employed a guard nor guarding on rotation basis by households.

B.2.10 Water tariff related issues (status of tariff collection, amount of tariff set, method of tariff collection and measures taken on household which are not willing/able to pay tariff if any)

- The community agreed to pay 50 cents per month per household as tariff and to be collected once in a year. The first tariff is to be collected at the end of this month. This small amount of tariff was set assuming that the scheme has enough amount of money for O&M which has been collected as an upfront contribution.

B.2.11 Responsible person/body for the maintenance of your water point

- Caretakers have not yet been trained for the scheme.

B.2.12 Benefits gained by the community due to the construction of the water point

- Before the construction of the scheme the community members were using the same source, which was not developed and protected. After the construction of the on spot spring communities are getting clean and adequate quantity of water from the developed spring. Even some WASHCO member has expressed that the occurrence of waterborne diseases which were causing dysentery have reduced after the water point is constructed.
- The time taken for fetch water has been reduced and this has given chance for girls to study their education after school at home.

B.2.13 Complaints received by WASHCOs on the water (quality, distance, tariff, quantity, etc.) from the beneficiary of the scheme

- No complains heard from communities.

B.2.14 Observation on the water point (cleanliness, accessibility, fencing, etc.)

- The scheme is well constructed and fenced. Beneficiaries are extremely happy with the quality, quantity including the structure of the on spot spring.



B.2.15 Meeting programmes of WASHCO members with the user communities

- WASHCO are meeting once in a month. The WASHCO meets the users at least once in a quarter.

Issues identified by the supervision team and recommendations given to the WASHCO

- The land for the spring construction has been given to the WASHCO by the land owner only on verbal agreement and the team recommended the agreement to be on written basis to give responses to future requests of the land owner family which may come in the future.
- There are eucalyptus trees at very close distance to the spring eye, the yield of the spring has to be observed and if these trees have negative impact on the yield removal of the trees can be seen as attentive.
- There is a need for constructing proper steps leading to the water collection area so that communities can easily access to it.
- The very small amount set tariff cannot cover the yearly O&M cost and there is a need for revising the tariff and needs strong assistance from the water office in the revision of the tariff.



B.3) Visit to beneficiary households

The team visited one household latrine and household level water management. The family has a well constructed household latrine with hand washing facility. It is also learned that the drinking water management of the household is good the jerry cans are properly washed before fetching water. The only recommendation given by the team to the household is to use soap for hand washing after use of toilets.



B.4) Visit to School latrine

The team also shortly visited a school latrine constructed for Basona high school serving more than 2000 students (the only high school in the woreda). There are three blocks of latrine each with four seats for teachers (although the design recommends 2 seats), boys and girls. In general the construction quality is good but the holes of each seat is very small in size, the boys and girls urinal do not have proper slope to lead the urine to the holes, there are no hand washing facilities in all the blocks. The other problem observed is in the site selection of the latrine books especially the girls latrine which is located very close to the boundary of the school compound and the road very close to it which shows the sign that the latrines are also in use by people which are not the school community by passing the poorly constructed fence of the school. In addition to the above construction quality and site selection issues many students are defecating open even on the floors of the blocks & urinals and no cleaning is practiced which shows poor management by the school community. This management problem has been discussed with the school head master and promised to improve the situation.





C) Discussion at South Wollo Zone

South Wollo is one of the 10 zones in the Amhara region where COWASH is working. The woreda capital is Dessie located 400Kms from Addis Ababa along the Addis Ababa-Mekele road. The team visited the zone on February 16/2016.

The team met and made meeting with the delegate of the Zonal water, irrigation and energy department head who is also the COWASH focal person. The team introduced the objectives and the summary of the issues discussed at the zone level are summarized below.

C.1 Provision of support to the woredas

- There are 20 rural woredas and 4 town administrations in the zone out of which 4 woredas namely Tenta, Kalu, Dessie Zuriya and Borena are the COWASH woredas since the 2006 EFY (2013/14). The remaining 16 woredas are CWA woredas and out of which 4 of them are also the UNICEF WASH woredas. The zone water, irrigation and energy department is giving support to all the woredas in general and the 4 COWASH woredas on particular. The support it is providing to the COWASH woredas include training WWT members and WASH sector office experts in CMP related, quarterly supportive supervision, organizing quarterly review meeting to evaluate the progress, rank their performance and share experience among the four woredas.

C.2 COWASH progress

- The zone received the 2008 EFY plan from the region. The procurement of lap computer to the water department is being processed by the finance department. The zone has also planned to give CMP related trainings to woreda staff next week.

C.3 Follow up on water points data collection

- Basing on the 2010/11 NWI data collection format every woreda is expected to update its water points data every year (including those newly constructed) and report to the water department and the department emails to the water bureau. The data required in the NWI are only basic ones as compared to the COWASH. Both COWASH woredas collected and recorded the data of all the WASH facilities financed by COWASH in the 2006 and 2007EFYs and reported to the zone and region.

C.4 COWASH contribution in improving coordination or integration in WASH

- Although the ZWT is not active the ZWTT chaired by finance department meets at least once in a month and the COWASH is one of the project on which evaluation and discussion is made. The new approach nature of the

project/CMP approach to the zone contributed a lot for the coordination of the ZWTT as there are many issues including trainings which require the coordination of the WASH sectors. The four WASH sector offices focal persons and the ACSI branch accountant gives the CMP related trainings to the woreda experts together.

C.5 Availability of One WASH plan and report

- The zone water department has a summary plan for all the water points planned in every woreda irrespective of the source of finance and receives also report from woredas irrespective of the financer once in a quarter and report to the water, irrigation and energy bureau. Based on the compiled one plan of 2008 EFY a total of 1748 rural water points are to be constructed in the 20 woredas by different sources of finance.

C.6 Feeling about CMP approach

- The CMP approach is good in fostering implementation rate and ensuring the sustainability of water points as it gives the implementation responsibility to communities, reduces the procurement related bureaucracies observed in the WMP approach, mobilized community resources and increased ownership. The water department promoted and advised to the non-COWASH woredas to use the elements of the CMP approach which can be used in the WMP approach.

C.7 Challenges

- Lower amount of artisans' labor payment amount for the construction of water points and institutional latrines is the major challenges reported by the woredas during the quarterly reviews and the supervisions made to woredas by the zone.

C.9 Additional information

- The rural water supply access coverage of the zone as per the GTP I standard was 89% and re-calculated by the zone department and found to be 51% as per the GTP II standard. Although this is the general coverage every woreda is given an assignment to revisit its coverage as per the GTP II standard and report to the zone.

D) Visit to Tenta Woreda

D.1) Discussion at woreda level

Tenta is one of the four COWASH woredas in South Wollo zone which capital is Ajibar located 120Km to the West of Dessie (the zonal capital). Out of the 120Kms distance 80km is asphalt road and 40Km is all weather gravel road.

On February 17 the team met the CMP supervisor and discussed on technical issues and collected data required from the water office. On the same day the team met the WWT members (the woreda administrator, the finance office head, the health office head and the water office head).

In the WWT meeting the supervision team briefed on the major findings of the discussions made at the water office and the visits conducted to water points and institutional latrine. The briefing was structured in to two as appreciation of the woreda/good lessons learned from the woreda and issues which need special attention of the zone, woreda and region. As most of the issues found in the discussion with the water office and observations from the field are almost the same as that of the Basona Werana woreda and can be referred from the woreda report.

The WWT members expressed their willingness to continue on their strengths and also to see ways how the points raised as issues needing special attention can be improved.

The woreda has a total population 185,850 out of which 171,268 are rural population. The rural water supply access coverage which was 89.1% as per the GTP I standard has been re-calculated as per the GTP II standard and found to be 51%. The re-calculation as per the GTP II standard was made by taking sample water points out of the 625 rural water points existing in the woreda and those which beneficiaries are located in less than 1Km are taken as they are and those schemes with beneficiaries located in more than 1Km are reduced by a factor of 2/3 and the users are summed and the sampled water points users data was converted to the 625 water points existing in the woreda and the access coverage has been revised. There are 31 rural kebeles in the woreda of which 23 are covered by COWASH project. In two years COWASH financed the construction of 81 water points (53 hand dug wells and 28 on spot springs) which benefited 16,654 rural people and contributed 9.73% rural water supply access coverage of the woredas as per the GTP I standard. In addition the project financed the construction of 3 institutional latrines (1 for school and 2 for health posts).

D.1.1 Implementation approach/s in use in the woreda (WMP, SS, NGO or CMP) and the most preferred approach in terms of water supply construction and management with justification

- In the woreda, two of the WASH implementation approaches have been practiced. The budget allocated by the woreda from its block grant & the budget allocated from the region, and the SLM project use the Woreda Managed Approach (WMP) managed by water and agriculture offices respectively and COWASH implements the CMP approach.
- The CMP approach is good in fostering implementation rate and ensuring the sustainability of water points as it reduces the procurement bureaucracies, fasters rate of implementation, cost effective due to the use of artisans in labor contracting (in CMP water points are constructed at an average labor cost of Birr 4000 and in WMP the minimum tender prices for labor is Birr 6000) and procurement of materials by WASHCOs which minimizes over head and profit margins by contractors, mobilized more community resources and increased ownership.

D.1.2 Construction cost follow up practice and comparison of the CMP approach with that of the WMP approach in terms of cost effectiveness

- The water office records the construction cost of each water point constructed by CMP and the tender prices of those implemented by WMP approach. From the record it found that CMP approach implemented water points are cost effective as it uses labor contract and materials are procured by communities which avoid overhead and profit by contractors. In addition the community contributes its resources which minimize the cash to be used for the construction. As per the CMP supervisor the average community contribution in the CMP approach implemented water points in the 2007EFY has been calculated to be 35%.

D.1.3 Woreda contribution for WASH investments and management of the allocated funds

- In the 2008 EFY, the woreda allocated Birr 800,000 from its block grant and the region allocated Birr 354,000 for the construction of number of water points. The fund is managed by the woreda water office (WMP approach).

D.1.4 Changes brought by COWASH/CMP in the woreda

- **Improving the integration and coordination of WASH sector offices**
 - As the project is the major WASH financier in the woreda and demands integration of water, sanitation and hygiene and all the WASH sectors are working together for the effectiveness of the project.
- **Building capacity of implementers, private sector and beneficiaries**

- The project has built the capacity of WWT members, WASH offices technical experts, artisans and WASHCOs in the implementation and management of the project. The members appreciated the practice of training youths from the woreda as artisans as it is the best way of ensuring local capacity for implementation.
- **Empowerment of women**
 - Women are boldly represented in the water point construction and post construction management.
- **WASH services provision**
 - The COWASH water points constructed in 2 years benefited 16,654 rural people. The budget allocated for the health office to support the CLTSH is also contributing to declare some kebeles as ODF in the near future.
- **Recognized impact (change) (social and/or economical)**
 - The occurrence of water borne diseases in the areas decreased. This was supported in data by the health office head that before 3 years 50-60% of the communities in kebeles were affected by water born diseases but nowadays the percentage dropped 5 to 10%. In addition the water born diseases have become in the bottom line of the top ten diseases in the woreda.
 - In many of the communities the water points are brought closer to the community and girls have got enough time to study and attend classes regularly. Surprisingly this was also clearly reported by the women of the visited water point by the supervision team.
 - Due to the time saved in fetching water the involvement of women in soil and water conservation activities has increased.
- **Change in the ownership of water facilities by the community**
 - There is good sign of ownership by the community which needs strong support from the water office to maintain it.
- **In allocating budget for WASH from the woreda capital budget**
 - As the woreda build its capacity of implementing more projects, in 2008EFY allocated Birr 800,000 from its capital budget to construct number of water points using the WMP approach.
- **WASH data management**
 - The woreda collected data of all the CMP constructed water points & institutional latrines and reported to the zone & RSU.

D.1.5 Participation and management of the community in CMP process

- Communities participated in the construction of water point better than the WMP project. The 2007EFY average community contribution has been calculated to be 35%.

- Although it needs improvement and support from the woreda water office, the role played by the community in the management of the water points is very encouraging.

D.1.6 Degree of satisfaction of the woreda with the ongoing COWASH/CMP (water and sanitation) and issues needing improvement in the CMP process

- The woreda as a whole is highly satisfied the various supports which have been provided by the project. The provision of car to the woreda water office is the one of the major supports by the project which the administration had never dreamed it and thanked the project for all the supports being provided.
- The major problem the woreda had faced in the last 2 years was the lower amount of artisans' payment guideline for the construction of water points and institutional latrines. The water office received the revised artisans payment guideline from the RSU for use in the 2008EFY and made discussion with artisans and every artisan expressed his/her satisfaction on the revised payment guideline.

D.1.7 Actions proposed to strengthen COWASH intervention in hygiene and sanitation (households and institutions)

- In order to create a complete ODF kebeles the project need to finance the construction of public toilets in market and other people gathering places. This is what is planned by CWA in the two small towns in the woreda.
- The project has to also finance mini research on effectiveness of the project support in sanitation and hygiene including the CLTSH approach.

D.1.8 Types and degree of supports provided from zone and region in CMP implementation

- The water office is getting the required support from the zone water department. The support includes training the WWT members and woreda experts in CMP related issues, support in the supervision of construction and advising the woreda to use its allocated budget properly.
- The RSU zonal advisor strongly supports the WAS sector offices technically and also conducted number of supportive supervisions.

D.1.9 Status and management of WASHCO legalization

- As per the CMP supervisor the office did not receive the guideline and by-law for legalizing WASHCOs and no practical work done in legalization.

D.1.10 Availability of 2008 Plan in the woreda and its implementation status

The woreda received the plan from the water bureau and so far the following activities have been implemented.

- The plan is to construct 28 water points.
- 22 water point applications have been received and appraised at desk level.
- 18 of the 22 applications have been appraise at field level and approved by the WWT.
- The 18 (7 hand dug wells and 11 springs) water points WASHCOs have been trained in CMP management and the projects entered in to implementation.
- KWT members from 6 kebeles have been trained in CMP projects promotion, application preparation, appraisal and reporting.
- Procurement of spring construction tools (pipe wrenches, pipe traders, pipe cutters etc.) is on progress.

D.1.11 Major challenges/problems of water supplies in the rural areas of the woreda and COWASH in particular

- Staff turnover is the major problem in the woreda. For example out of the WWT members the woreda administrator, the health and water office heads are new.
- Problem of getting shallow ground water in lowland areas of the woreda. Even this year the problem will be aggravated due to the shortage of rain in the areas.

D.1.12 Observation on CMP project file management

- The project files are well recorded, managed and also audited by BoFED. Except the project follow up tag all the CMP forms have been clearly filled and attached in the project file. It is one of the best project files the CMP specialist has ever seen in the project.

D.1.13 Reporting of COWASH progress to the region (frequency/report formats/challenge?)

- The water office reports physical performance of all the COWASH planned activities and the use of investment budget at the end of every quarter in hard copy.
- The finance office reports the financial report of the use of the capacity building and operational budget quarterly to BoFED in hard copy.

Finally the woreda administrator appreciated the support being provided by the project and expressed his wish the project support to continue also in phase III.

D.2) Discussion with water point WASHCOs in Tenta woreda

Motuma on spot spring in 01 Yamer kebele was visited by the team. The scheme, which was constructed in 2013/14 (2006 EFY), benefits 40 households which is equivalent to 200 people. The constructed structures include a capping structure, 4000 liters capacity collection chamber and small cattle trough.

The team met and held discussion with three WASHCO members: Ato Seid Liben (secretary), Wro. Astatke Addissu (treasurer), Wro. Serke Liben (control/auditor) and Ato Adem Assefa (store keeper).



D.2.1 WASHCO organization and its sex composition

- The scheme has 5 WASHCO members, of which 3 males and 2 females. The female members possess the treasurer and control/auditor positions.
- They were elected by the community in a meeting conducted for this purpose after being briefed by the woreda water office experts about the CMP approach.

D.2.2 Availability of by-laws and WASHCO legalization status

- The beneficiary community has a written by-law to be used both during and after construction of the scheme. Some of the points in the by-law include the penalty for late arrival & absents during the scheme construction, payment for

new households users, penalties for the improper operation of the scheme & associated damages, tariff amount etc.

- The woreda has not yet started legalizing WASHCOs.

D.2.3 The role of the WASHCO members in the construction of the water point and degree of participation of each member

- All the WASHCO members were active during construction in supplying labor and materials and also coordinating communities to participate in and contribute for the construction.

D.2.4 Felling of members working as WASHCO and serving the community

- They are very happy serving communities as WASHCO members as they have already seen that communities are drinking clean and potable water as compared to the source they were using before the construction of the scheme (a very far located hand dug well and a highly turbid flowing stream). These have made the WASHCO member happy and willing to serve the community in the management of the scheme.

D.2.5 Contracting and financial agreement signing

- The scheme was constructed by an artisan contracted by the WASHCO and signed construction agreement with the WASHCO chairperson. The copy of the agreement is seen in the hands of the WASHCO.
- The WASHCO chairperson signed funding agreement with the WWT chairperson and the copy is found in the hands of the WASHCO secretary.

D.2.6 Contribution of the beneficiary community in the construction of the water point (upfront cash, labour and material contribution)

- During the preparation of the project application, every household contributed Birr ranging from Birr 36- Birr 72 as an upfront cash for O&M which made the total amount contributed to Birr 1000 and saved it in ACSI. The cash contribution is made to vary to accommodate all community members. The community supplied stone and eucalyptus and participated in the excavation of spring eye, collection chamber foundation and trenches during the construction of the scheme.

D.2.7 Presence of households who couldn't contribute for the construction of the water point and covering their share if any

- All the 40 households contributed upfront cash for O&M, and the local construction materials and labor during construction.

D.2.8 Recording of the contribution of the community and the daily construction progress of the water supply construction including document keeping and book of account

- The copies of the recorded community contribution and construction have been seen in the project file in the hand of the WASHCO secretary.

D.2.9 Guarding of the water point (employment of guard, cash contribution and methods of payment to the guard)

- The community is guarding the water point on rotational basis and found to be even much better than employing a guard. As the by-law clearly states on the penalties of defectors, the households are using the scheme properly on rotational basis guarding.



D.2.10 Water tariff related issues (status of tariff collection, amount of tariff set, method of tariff collection and measures taken on household which are not willing/able to pay tariff if any)

- The community agreed to pay 25 cents per month per household as tariff and to be collected once in a year. The first tariff amounting Birr 500 has been collected last year (Birr 300 is in the hand of the WASHCO chairperson and Birr 200 in the hand of the treasurer). The small amount of tariff was set assuming that the scheme has enough amount of money for O&M which has been collected as an upfront contribution.

D.2.11 Responsible person/body for the maintenance of your water point

- The WASHCO secretary is trained as care taker.

D.2.12 Benefits gained by the community due to the construction of the water point

- Before the construction of the scheme the community members were using almost half of their domestic use from a very turbid flowing stream as the hand dug well is very far from them and were frequently affected by water born diseases. After the construction of the on spot spring communities are getting clean and adequate quantity of water from the developed spring. Even WASHCO members and other users have expressed that the occurrence of waterborne diseases decreased. The only fear they have now is that the chance of to be affected by water born diseases when they visit their relatives which do not have improved water supply source.
- The time taken to fetch water has been reduced and this has given chance for mothers to prepare food and send their children timely to school, for girls to study their education after school at home.

D.2.13 Complaints received by WASHCOs on the water (quality, distance, tariff, quantity, etc.) from the beneficiary of the scheme

- Leaches are coming from the spring when fetch water and they are using cloths to prevent the leach from entering their pot and requested need for chlorinating the source.

D.2.14 Observation on the water point (cleanliness, accessibility, fencing, etc.)

- The scheme has acceptable construction quality, well fenced and has easy access to users. There is one leaking faucet which needs maintenance.

D.2.15 Meeting programmes of WASHCO members with the user communities

- WASHCO are meeting once in a month. The WASHCO meets the users all least once in year. Since the construction of the scheme they meet 3 times in cloth to 18 months.

Issues identified by the supervision team and recommendations given to the WASHCO

- The land for the spring construction has been given to the WASHCO by the land owner only on verbal agreement and the team recommended the

agreement to be on written basis to give responses to future requests of the land owner family which may come in the future.

- During the visit of the team there has been a complain by the land owner of the spring that communities have not removed the soil excavated for the spring construction for the remaining part of his land. The WASHCO members have agreed to organize community labor and remove the soil from the remaining part of his land.
- The scheme has to be well chlorinated to kill the leaches in the source, this assignment has been given to the water office.
- The very small amount set tariff cannot cover the yearly O&M cost and there is a need for revising the tariff and needs strong assistance from the water office in the revision of the tariff.

Visit to ongoing hand dug well

The team visited a hand dug well under construction which reached at a depth of 3 meters and encountered a water bearing formation of high recharge rate. The team discussed with the chairperson and store keeper of the WASHCO. The team also observed the data being recorded by the WASHCO and found being recorded properly by developing the different recording formats on a paper so as to transfer the corrected data to the printed formats to be submitted to the water office. Although the high discharge of the well is challenging for the community to dig deeper, they are trying their best to increase the depth of the well. The WASHCO is doing its best to complete the



construction of the project as quickly as possible as there is a competition among the WASHCOs which took CMP management training in one batch. The supervision team appreciated the effort being made by the WASHCO in recording the progress and to complete the construction of the well but the competition

among the WASHCO members to complete the construction of the project has to be given attention so that the quality of construction cannot be compromised.

D.3) Visit to beneficiary households

The team visited one household latrine and household level water management. The family has a well constructed household latrine but lacking hand washing facility. It is also learned that the drinking water management of the household is good the jericans are properly washed before fetching water. The only recommendation given by the team to the household is to have a hand washing facility with the latrine and use soap for hand washing after use of toilets.

D.4) Visit to School latrine

The team also shortly visited a school latrine constructed for Ajibar high school serving more than 2000 students (it is the only high school in the woreda). The COWASH project financed the construction of three blocks of latrine, two seats for teachers and each of four seats for boys and girls. In general the construction quality is good and the hole of each seat is wide enough but no urinals and hand washing facilities constructed for the boys and girls latrine. In this school there are additional 6 blocks of latrine conducted by different financers and most of them are full and the non-full ones are very dirty. As per the CMP supervisor the issues was highly discussed at the WWT that to give the chance to other schools but the education office head had strong stand that the latrines are badly needed for the high school. Based on the observation made on the new latrines constructed by the project and those latrines constructed by other financers no cleaning of latrines is practiced which shows poor management by the school community. It is the concern of the team that in such cases emptying of the full latrines has to be the first solution rather than constructing new ones and if emptying is not practiced there will definitely other blocks of latrines in the school in the future.

E) Discussion at the region level

The team made a meeting with the RSU staff, deputy head of water, irrigation and energy (WIE) bureau and water resources & scheme management core process leader of WIE bureau, and deputy bureau head of finance and economic cooperation. The list and contact addresses of the people met are shown in Annex 1 of this report.

The main purpose of the meeting was to brief on the major findings of the visit to the woredas and the zone and also to discuss on some regional issues of COWASH summarized as follows.

E.1 Meeting with the RSU

E.1.1 Give feedback from the visit

The feedback given to the RSU team consists good lessons learned from/appreciation to the zones, woredas and WASHCOs and issues needing special attention of the region.

Good lessons learned/appreciations

- Timely physical and financial progress report by woredas and zones to the region.
- Very good communication between the woredas, zones and RSU advisors.
- Good coordination among WASH sector offices in the zones and woredas.
- Excellent project file management at woredas and community level.
- Both woredas have fully recorded the data of all the WASH facilities constructed by COWASH up to the end of the 2007EFY.
- Effective use of the water office staff (Basona Werana woreda even water office secretary has big role in CMP file management).
- Strong support to woredas from zone. Excellent support from the RSU (especially from the zonal advisor) to the woredas and zones.
- High community contribution for the construction of water points and institutional latrines (in 2007EFY 68% average and 35% average for Banaon Werana and Tenta woredas respectively).
- Cost effectiveness of CMP project as compared to WMP and NGO managed projects.
- Fast implementation rate of water points.
- The CMP project cycle and advantages of the approach are well understood by the woreda and zone officials and experts.
- Auditing of project files well done by BoFED.
- There is a recognized impact (health and social) by woredas and communities due to the constructed water points.

- Good awareness of households on hygiene and sanitation.

Issues needing special attention

- Complain in per dime rate by woreda and zonal experts.
- Budget limitation in the project as compared to the strong implementation capacity of woredas.
- Low water tariff set by WASHCOs.
- Lack of written agreement of the land owners where the water points are constructed and relying on kebele on what will happen in the future.
- Lack of WASHCO capacity building budget for woreda own financed and regional government matching fund implemented water points.
- There is a risk of pollution of water sources by fertilizer and animals feaces around the water points (in the water point visited in Basona Werana woreda donkeys are carrying water filled jericans very close to the spring eye).
- The need for environmental protections around the water point including gully protection.
- Site selection, construction quality, use and management of school latrines need improvement.
- There is a need for consistency at all levels (woreda, zone and region) on how to convert the GTP I water supply access coverage to GTP II.
- There is a need for clarifying the WASHCO legalization procedure as the two woredas have very different status/information on the legalization issues.

E.1.2 Support to the woredas/zones

The RSU provides strong support to zones and woredas. The major areas of support include:-

- The RSU staffs provide different ToT trainings to the zone WASH technical team members so that they can train WWT members and woreda WASH sector offices technical experts.
- The RSU staff conduct supportive supervision to zones and woredas mostly on monthly basis and even in less time when there is a badly need. Although the major support is given by the respective zonal advisor, the regional specialists are also making supportive supervision to woredas and zones.

But the support to zones and woredas by the WASH sector bureaus is weak. The weak support of the bureaus may be due to busyness on other assignments or by relying on the support being provided by the RSU.

E.1.3 COWASH progress

There are number of progresses made for activities planned at the region level, the major ones being the following.

- The 2008 EFY plan has been finalized and distributed to woredas, zones and regional bureaus.
- All the investment, capacity building and operational budget for the fiscal year have been transferred to zones and woredas.
- The artisans' payment guideline for the construction of springs, hand dug wells and institutional latrines have been revised and sent to zones and woredas by the water, irrigation and energy bureau for water points, by the education bureau for latrines in schools and by the health bureau for latrines in health facilities.
- The procurement of motor bikes have been handled by the regional procurement and property disposal agency and Birr 5,452,565.76 transferred to Hagbes for the supply of 54 Yamaha motor bikes for 27 woredas.
- The procurements of 40 hand held GPSs for woredas and 11 set of water quality testing chemicals (one set for each zone water department and one set to the bureau) are in process by the water, irrigation and energy bureau.
- The following progress in the CMP project processing cycles have been recurred in all the 40 woredas at the end of the second quarter of the fiscal year.
 - The construction of 1,148 ware points planned.
 - 1,928 water point applications shave been received by WWT of which 1,795 have been appraised at desk level.
 - 1,456 of the applications have been appraised at field level.
 - 790 of the applications have been approved by the WWT.
 - 429 water points construction are on progress.
 - 9 water point constructions have been completed.

E.1.4 Follow up of COWASH facilities data collection by woredas

- The GIS expert of federal COWASH has prepared the status of the 40 COWASH woredas database. Out of the 40 woredas 7 of them have 100% of the data. The data coverage in other woredas ranges from 0% in two woredas to 99% in number of woredas. The major difference in the coverage of the data base depends mainly on the capacity and effort of woredas to complete the database. It is agreed that the zonal advisor of the respective woredas to closely follow so that those woredas report 100% coverage of the database. In the summary by the expert there are two woredas (Guangua and Zigem) in Awi zone which did not report any database. This issue was discussed with the responsible zonal advisor of the two woredas and said that he emailed to the GIS expert but the expert did not receive. Anyways the supervision team received the data of the two woredas from the advisor and emailed to the GIS expert who will see the data and communicate the advisor if there is a need.

- There is a need by the zonal advisors to support and follow up all woredas to complete & report to the RSU the data base of all the WASH facilities to be constructed in the 2008EFY.

E.1.5 Coordination or integration, any change?

- Many of the RWSC members attend meetings when organized and there are also occasions that COWASH issues have been discussed at the RWTT meeting. But there is a still a need for improvement in health and education bureaus to integrate the COWASH activities with the regular activities of the bureaus.

E.1.6 Challenges (capacity building, system, priorities, staff turnover, per dime etc.)

- In the 2008EFY the regional government has improved the per dime rate for experts going to kebeles from Birr 50 to Birr 100. But the problem is that the COWASH plan for the fiscal year has been prepared and approved as Birr 50. So there is a need for seeing the budget implication of the increase in the COWASH plan and try to apply the rate.
- There is a trainer/s fee in the CWA. As the this practice does not exist in COWASH, it is affecting the motivation of the non-COWASH (bureau) staffs to give trainings to COWASH woredas such include the Climate Risk Screening Training expected to be given by WIE and Agriculture bureau experts who took the ToT. So it is good for the FTAT to discuss with the Embassy how to exercise trainers' fee in COWASH project.
- The long years service given by cars the RSU and the shortage of cars which will make the visit of the zonal advisors at a time to all woredas and zones when required will highly affect the efficiency of the RSU in the coming months and phase unless additional car/s are procured to the RSU.

E.1.7 Other issues

The following issues have been also raised during the discussion with the RSU.

- The status of the phase III project document finalization and the need for confirmation of the phase budget allocation by the regional cabinet.
- How to effectively use the 4 million GoF budget put as contingency in the 2008EFY and the fate of the budget if not use in the phase.
- The RSU has a fear that the estimated amount of GoF contribution for the region for phase III is very small as compared to the capacity built at all levels in the implementation of the CMP approach.

E.2 Discussion with the Water, Irrigation and Energy (WIE) deputy bureau head & Core process Leader

The following issues have been discussed with the deputy bureau head and the water resources & scheme management core process leader of water, irrigation and energy (WIE) bureau.

E.2.1 Water supply access coverage as per GTP II standard

The supervision team reported to the deputy bureau head the fear it has on the compatibility of the water supply access coverage data of the region as per GTP II standard as it heard from the zones that assignment is given to woredas to assess their coverage as per GTP II standard.

- The deputy bureau head said that the bureau gave direction to zones and woredas to revise their coverage based on the direction it got from MoWIE and revision has been made. Anyways he thanked for the information and promised to follow the issue.

E.2.2 Lack of WASHCO capacity building budget for woreda own financed and regional government matching fund implemented water schemes

One of the issues raised by the supervision team to the deputy head as reported by woredas is the lack WASHCO training budget for the water schemes which are constructed and also planned to be constructed this year in the woredas with the budget allocated by the woredas and the amount matched from the region based on the woredas allocated budget. The supervision team understood that the approach in use for such a budget is WMP approach and the number of planned water points is almost comparable with that planned water points by the CMP approach. The head expressed that this is due to shortage of budget in the region but the WASHCOs are given at least O&M management training by the woreda experts in clustered kebeles without per dime to the WASHCOs and even sometime to the trainers.

E.2.3 Feeling about CMP approach

The deputy bureau head highly appreciated the CMP approach for its contribution in increasing the water supply access coverage of woredas, in increasing the ownership of the community which has high contribution in the increased functional rate of water points with a functionality rate of close to 97-98% of rural water supply schemes in the CMP woredas, it has fast implementation rate of water schemes, closes the chance of rent seeking/corruption as the approach is transparent & managed by the project and it is cost effective. Due to these reasons the bureau decided many of the elements/processes of the approach other than investment fund management by WASHCOs to be replicated in all woredas of the region. With this opportunity the deputy bureau head thanked the support it got from the government of Finland, the strong technical support from the RSU & the supervision team and strongly recommends the project to continue its support in a new phase.

E.2.4 Issues of WASHCO legalization, O&M tariff and Land ownership of the constructed water points constructed

The findings of the supervision team on the issues has been raised to and discussed with the water resources and water supply scheme management core process leader of the bureau and the following are the summaries of the discussion on the issues.

Based on the proclamation for the establishment and legalization of water supply services and water boards by the region before number of years, the bureau prepared a guideline and by-law how to establish rural water users association and how to legalize. The bureau gave training to all woreda water office heads on the guideline, by-law and the legalization process which gives responsibility to the woreda water offices. He reported that up to the second quarter of the fiscal year more than 16 water users' associations have been legalized in different woredas of the region to have center for experience sharing to woredas to apply in this location. The guideline classifies the legalization of rural water schemes in to 8 depending on the type of technology and the number of kebeles it serves. For the point sources such as hand dug wells, shallow wells and on spot springs every water point users with a minimum of 10 households can establish a water user association and every water user association in the kebele establish a kebele level water users' federation. The chairperson and treasurer of each water point association will be the member of the general assembly of the federation. Each association contributes money to the federation and employs an expert at the kebeles who will technically assist the associations and the federation. For the time being woreda level federation is not been included in the guideline. The core process leader promised to share by the guideline and by-law to the RSU and FTAT team by email.

The core process leader also agreed on the poor practice of O&M fund/tariff contribution and management in the region. He expressed that this is one of the major reasons which necessitated for legalization of WASHCOs and wish the amount to be contributed and the management of the O&M fund/tariff will be improved onwards.

As per the leader, the bureau has not critically thought on the ownership issue of the land where the water schemes are constructed but has hope that the establishment and legalization of the associations and kebele level federations will contribute to solve such problems.

E.3 Discussion with the BoFEC deputy bureau head

A short discussion was also made with the deputy head of bureau of finance and economic cooperation (BoFEC) and the points raised by the deputy head are summarized as follows.

- The COWASH project was audited by internal auditors of BoFEC and was found to be good project without a problem.
- The bureau head has already made the necessary preparation to discuss on the regional government contribution for COWASH phase III with the regional administrator and very soon a commitment letter will be written to the Embassy of Finland.
- The BoFEC request to the Embassy of Finland for the procurement of one vehicle to the water, irrigation and energy bureau will be re-considered by the two bureaus and for the time the issues can be pended.
- The region would like to be sure that the possible left over money from the phase II of the project if any can be used for the region in phase III of the project and BoFEC demands a letter showing such commitment from the Embassy.

Finally the deputy head expressed the satisfaction of the bureau on the project and wished the new phase to start timely.

Annex 1: Name and contact addresses of people met during the visit

I.N.	Name	Office & position	Telephone
A	North Shewa Zone		
A.1	Ato Brehane Chekol	Zone water, irrigation and energy (ZWIE) department head	0910065498
A.2	Ato Ephrem Minishir	Water supply core process owner	0913004144
A.3	Ato Agazie Zegaye	Energy coordinator	0921920034
B	Basona Werana Woreda (in North Shewa zone)		
B.1	Ato Zemedekun Belete	Woreda Administrator	0920294292
B.2	Ato Chefek Tefera	Head of WoFED	0965904327
B.3	Ato Ayalew Belete	Head of education office	0913079204
B.4	Ato Solomon Kelemu	Water, irrigation and energy (WIE) office head	9011777970
C	Kosso SPD WASHCO (in Basona Werana Woreda)		
C.1	Ato Mindaye Ashnafi	WASHCO chairperson	
C.2	Wro. Gete Nake	WASHCO treasurer	
C.3	Ato Getahun Takel	WASHCO store keeper	
D	South Wello Zone		
D.1	Ato Seid Argaw	Delegate of ZWIE department head & COWASH focal person	0914735634
E	Tenta Woreda (in South Wello zone)		
E.1	Ato Tilahun Shimeles	Woreda Administrator	0914362742
E.2	Ato Sitotaw Teshome	WIE office head	0914065826
E.3	Ato Kindu Demis	WoFED head	0914387437
E.4	Ato Endris H/Michael	Health office head	0914354509
E.3	Ato Mohommed Belay	CMP Supervisor	0914357352
F	Motuma SPD WASHCO (in Tenta Woreda)		
F.1	Ato Seid Liben	WASHCO secretary	
F.2	Wro. Astatek Adissu	WASHCO treasurer	
F.3	Wro. Serke Liben	WASHCO control/auditor	
F.4	Ato Adem Assefa	WASHCO store keeper	
G	Regional Support Unit		
G.1	Ato Abreham kebede	RSU team leader	0918340907
G.2	Ato Muluneh Genetu	Financial management specialist	0918764108
G.3	Ato Mulatu Ferede	CB specialist & zonal advisor	0924395704
G.4	Ato Muluneh Abeje	Zonal advisor	0939253922
G.5	Ato Menilik Wube	Zonal advisor	0932224171
G.6	Ato Animut Admassu	Accountant	0918769587
H	Water, Irrigation and Energy Bureau		
H.1	Ato Abreham Mengesha	Deputy Bureau head	0935982464
H.2	Ato Mammo Yalew	Water resources & scheme management core process leader	
I	Bureau of Finance and Economic Cooperation		
I.1	Ato Girma Tesfaye	Deputy bureau head	0918340676

