COWASH III DATABASE DEVELOPMENT

1   BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

The three year Community-Led WaSH (COWASH) Support Project in Ethiopia assisted by the Government of Finland was established in May 2011. The project is to assist the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) in the scaling up the Community Managed Project (CMP) approach implementation (one funding modality in the WaSH Implementation Framework). Furthermore, the COWASH is to assist the GoE in WaSH sector development towards the implementation of One National WaSH Program. The project started in July 2011 and its inception phase ended in January 2012. The long bi-lateral Rural Water Supply and Environmental Program (RWSEP) was phased out in September 2011 and thereafter COWASH Component 3 (component that focuses on Amhara region) was commenced in the second quarter of 2004 Ethiopian Fiscal year to support Amhara National Regional State to scale up the CMP implementation modality in Amhara region. The CMP approach implementation was also commenced in 2011 in the "new" regions of Tigray, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR) and in Oromia. Technical assistance support was established at federal and regional levels.

Major progress has been achieved in developing the WaSH sector and WaSH coordination since releasing the original Draft Project Document of COWASH (January 7, 2011), and the situation within the sector has advanced rapidly creating a totally new baseline for the continued implementation of the Project after 2011.

It has become evident that COWASH Project needs to respond to the need of combining efforts of the various WaSH implementers to focus on the development of One National WaSH Program, defined in the WIF. It is a moment of choice between limiting the impact of the GoF intervention narrowly to the access to water through CMP financing modality, or widening the scope to operationalizing the WIF, with impacts brought beyond the access through an integrated, institutionalized, aligned and harmonized WaSH coordination and management, in addition to the benefits of scaling up the CMP approach. The main WaSH stakeholders have mutually concluded that as much as possible the rural WaSH investments should be channelled to the communities so that they become the main implementers of their projects and thus ensure the sustainability.

2   JUSTIFICATION

COWASH's main objective is to support the accelerated implementation of UAP II by mainstreaming the CMP approach at national level through assisting the implementation of CMP projects in 4 regions. COWASH will adapt the guidelines and approaches developed in Amhara Region as part of the RWSEP program. This implies that on the one had there is a lot for regions to learn from each other experiences and on the other the unique nature of the regions should be closely inspected up in adapting the guidelines.

COWASH has also along term commitment of sensitizing, mobilizing and supporting communities to play a great role in water and sanitation sector. This all necessitated the establishment of reliable information management system. As part of this effort, the project has already set its measurement by preparing project M&E plan drawn from the project log-frame. In line with this data collection tools have been developed to track both the indicators and program activities and the concerned people are trained on how to use the tools.

From the previous project experience, however, the project staff have learned that the quality and proper use of project data cannot granted by mere having trained staff and well outlined data collection tools. Thus, would like to establish project database system which systematically captures, organize and summarize project data for informed decision making.

The data collected from the target communities comes to central level for farther compilation and analysis. Owing to the nature of the project, manually compiling the data is next to impossible. As a result, it is recommended to have a robust information management system that can be applied all through the key knots in the data flow system.

In general, the major purposes of the database system are:

1. To track project performances by making comparison of accomplishments against plans in terms of both activities and indicators.

2. To establish evidence based system for justifying the relevancy of the COWASH project.

3. To make comparisons of achievements among the four regions and target communities and suggest the concerned implement partners on the way forward to improve project implementation.

3   REQUIRED SHORT TERM CONSULTANCIES

The database development and the on-going technical support required in COWASH implementation is occasional. The main purpose of the database development and on-going support short-term consultancy is to support COWASH team particularly the M&E Specialist in strengthening the project M&E system by developing M&E Access based database and providing mentoring support on how to efficiently use it.

The specific duties will include the following:

- Review the current project data flow system, identify the critical bottlenecks to implement the database system and draw a recommendation to overcome the challenges.
- Review the data collection tools and project planning process and find a way for smooth integration with the database.

- Develop activities and indicators tracking database that can be used at different levels (line ministry offices at woreda, zone and region levels) and centrally at COWASH Coordination office.
- Prepare a manual detailing the procedures of using the database and some troubleshooting tips and tricks.
- Organize training on how to use the database to focal persons engaged in data collection and entry.
- Test and fix the technical problems which partially or fully hindering the proper functioning of the database.
- Provide ongoing troubleshooting and technical support in general.

Different deliverables expected as a result from the short term expertise provided are:

- Full flagged planning and monitoring database (if possible changed to executable file) on right only CD (to protect the files from potential viruses)
- Users' manual both in hard and soft copies (pdf format)
- Tools and supporting documents associated with the database.