

EUWI-MSF
Field visit findings report
October 10,2006

by Kaleab Getaneh
CRDA-WWG/Intermon Oxfam



Background

Objective:

- To give a fresh overview of the grassroots challenges, efforts and enhance the practicality of the issues to be raised
- To bring message from the community to the forum

Background.....

Number and composition of participants:

- 27 people in two groups
- MoWR, MoH, regional Health and water bureaux - Tigray, Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa, Harari, Oromia, NGOs, donor agencies, technical collages, etc

Visited areas and host org.

- Hittosa community managed water supply and sanitation intervention in Hittosa woreda, in Oromia region - Water Action
- Langano small scale community Defluoridation Plants in Alemtena woreda - CRS
- Community level bio sand filter water treatment and sanitation intervention in the surroundings of Debre Ziet - EKHC

Things visited and discussions

EKHC

- Water supply facilities
- Bio sand filter production and distribution center
- Sanitation facilities
- Bio sand filter utilization at the household level
- Discussion with the household members and project staff of the host organization

Things visited....

CRS

- Water supply scheme with the defluoridation plants
 - Sanitation facilities at the household level
 - Discussion with the local government and community representatives
- 

Things visited...

WACT

- Water supply scheme
- Discussion with the management board and community water administration office staff



Areas of discussion

Group 1-Debre Ziet and Alem Tena area

- Scaling up
- Integration of water supply, sanitation and hygiene
- Functionality of water supply systems

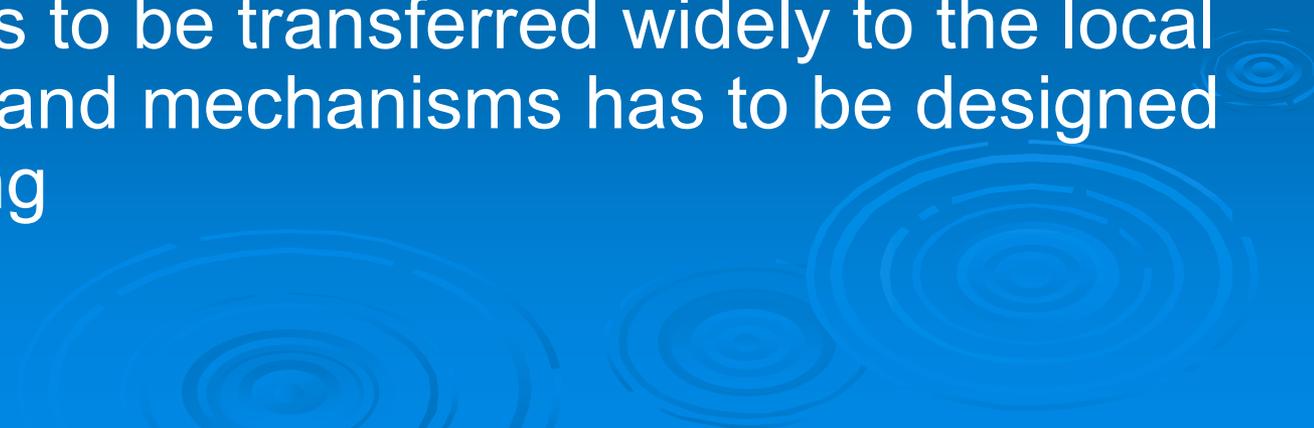
Group 2-Hittosa area

- Community management system and legal status
- Level of coordination with stakeholders



Major findings

Bio sand filter water treatment intervention

- The bio sand filter technology is one good option in providing access to water supply
 - The attempt to research is the technology is appreciable but the research and follow up has to continue further to reduce the cost, weight, increase the efficiency, etc
 - The skill has to be transferred widely to the local community and mechanisms has to be designed for marketing
- 
- The background of the slide features a blue gradient with several concentric white circles of varying sizes, resembling ripples on water, positioned in the lower right and bottom center areas.

Major findings...

- The findings of the technical research has to be well communicated
- Some advocacy needs to be done at different level for wide acceptance of the technology
- The integration and coordination with all levels of gov't structure has to improved for wider scaling up

Major findings...

- There is an attempt to integrate water supply and sanitation but there is a lot to be done (sufficient time, innovative approach and continuous effort)
 - In the sanitation and hygiene more emphasis is given to access to latrine
 - In the sanitation and hygiene component emphasis should be given school sanitation
- 

Major findings...

Water supply scheme with the defluoridation plants

- The technology is very relevant for rift valley area(8mg-1.4 mg)
- The plant is being well managed by the community
- The community pays for water and has a saving of over 3000 birr at the moment
- There is very good coordination with the government in the research and piloting at all level
- The replication of the technology is started by government and other NGOs
- There is very good attempt on integrating sanitation and hygiene in the project

Major findings...

Hittosa community managed scheme

- Community is managing big water supply scheme (over 70,000) and even successfully made power transition at the board level
- The community pays for water and the system has a saving of around 1 million birr
- Compared to the scale of the scheme the community may have capacity limitation to replace the system
- There is a challenge in sustainability of the source because of the decline in the yield despite some attempts



Major findings...

- There is a need for immediate legalization of the scheme for improved management of the scheme
- There is good working relationship between the local government and the community
- There is a need for better integration of sanitation and hygiene with water supply

Conclusions

- Communities can manage water supply schemes if they are given proper support
 - Intensive promotion of innovative and appropriate technologies has to be done
 - A platform has to be created in the sub sector to challenge and approve innovative technologies (professional group)
 - The research and findings have to be well linked with training and research institutions
- 

Community messages

The forum should look in to:

- the replication of the pilot interventions to other areas and save at least children from the effect of fluoride
- ways of addressing other communities that are still suffering from lack of clean water, sanitation and hygiene
- addressing environmental degradation for sustainable water supply
- Reducing the effect of increased fuel price and replacement cost of existing schemes



Thanks

