

Introduction

COWASH is a capacity building project, and as part of sustained Finnish bilateral support to the WASH sector in Ethiopia, it is part of a longer-term capacity development effort.

The project has been implemented in three phases since July 2011. Technical assistance to COWASH is provided by the federal Technical Assistant team (FTAT) is housed inside the MoWIE. The team facilitates overall project implementation and capacity building of the overall project management function, while Regional Support Units (RSUs), whose staff employed by the Regional water Bureaus, facilitate planning and implementation at regional level and below. Woreda WASH teams (WWTs) are responsible for COWASH implementation at community level. COWASH implements its project in 76 districts located in 5 regions.

The objective of COWASH is to contribute to the attainment of WASH targets in the rural areas of Ethiopia through the acceleration of access in rural-water, sanitation and hygiene delivery using the Community Managed Project (CMP) approach. The CMP approach is one of the approaches for rural WASH implementation in the National WASH Implementation Framework (WIF) where the community itself is the project manager who manages the project implementation, finance and procurement from the beginning to the end. Woreda role is to facilitate, capacitate the community to do it.

In its three phase of implementation COWASH contributed a lot for the WASH sector in accelerating WASH coverage and sustainability, showing new approaches & systems, inclusion of cross cutting issues (gender, MSE and inclusive WASH), private sector development and enhancement of working in partnership, physical and human capacity building, supporting new initiatives in the sector (such as CR-WSP), support the development of manuals, guideline and programme documents.

This learning note summarizes the major support and participation of COWASH III (August 2016 to June 2020) in the WASH sector development and coordination at Federal level.

COWASH contribution in capacity building to the WASH sector (2009-2012 EFY)

So as to enhance the implementation of the project interventions, stakeholders have been supported through physical and human capacity building provisions. The fact that many of the procurements had been done in the previous phases of COWASH, there have not been too many procurements made in the third phase of COWASH. The project has built the capacity of the stakeholders over the last three implementation years.

Thus far, a total of 196,340 people, from federal to kebele level, have received different trainings with the support of the project. Of these people trained, 36.1% were female and some 3.3% were reported to have with some kind of disability. As the disability situation of some trainees have not been collected and reported, the number of trainees with some kind of disability seems low.

Over the last four years of COWASH III, a number of items (18 types) have been procured (with the GoE and GoF budget) for different stakeholders at the regional, zone and woreda levels as shown in Box 1. The items have been procured using the government procurement system as per the request of the pertinent sector offices. As some of the items have been re-planned, the planned number of items exceeds the procured items. The main items and procured in the three years are: desktop computers (99), printers (93), laptops (57), motorbikes (71), and water quality test kits with reagents (31).

Box 1: Items Procured in Regions in Four Years (2009-2012 EFY)

a) Items Procured with GoF fund

- 99 desk top computers
- 93 Printers
- 34 Filing Cabinet
- 2 Photocopy Machine
- 71 Motorbikes
- 12 Handheld GPSs
- 12 Digital Cameras
- 57 Laptops
- 31 Generators
- 11 sets of Office furnitures
- 6 External hard disks
- 31 Water Quality Test Kits with Reagents
- 10 Stabilizers

- 1 LCD Projector

b) Items Procured with GoE fund

- 172 sets of Artisan Hand Tools
- 23 Concrete ring producing Molds
- 7 Chain Blocks
- 8 sets of Spring Construction Tools/equipments.

COWASH FTAT contribution to the WASH sector development (2009-2012 EFY)

COWASH FTAT has contributed a lot for the development of Ethiopia's WASH sector. The contribution has been made through participating in different events (MSF, JTR, Taskforce meetings, etc.), preparing guidelines/manuals and designs, programme documents, trainings, etc. COWASH FTAT's contributions to development of the sector over the last four years of the project are indicated below.

- Assisting MoWIE in the preparation of proceeding for the project launching workshop for organizing women and youth led micro-enterprises for monitoring, maintenance and spare part supply chain for drinking water supply & sanitation facilities.
- Assisting NWCO in the development, organizing, executing and reporting of MSF 8, MSF 9 and MSF 10. This included financial contribution, participation in the planning core-group, facilitations and presentations during the MSF event, assessing the progress of the previous MSF undertakings, drafting of undertakings during the MSF event and preparation of proceedings as well as preparation of plan for the implementation of the undertakings
- Assisting NWCO to plan, organize, execute and report the JTR 10, JTR 11 and JTR 12 prior of MSF events and reporting the JTR results in the MSF events.
- Assisting MoWIE through reviewing by preparing synthesis from the different studies prepared for water resource management development in Ethiopia. These studies were aiming to establish National Integrated Water Resource Management Program. In this connection COWASH was a member of the WRM Interest Group and also assisted in the planning of the first Technical Review of the Water Resource Management in Ethiopia.

COWASH was also the members of the WRM-JTR 1 in Awash-Basin.

- Contributing by reviewing the School WASH designs, construction manuals and maintenance manuals. Participating in the review workshops organised by the MoE for the manuals.
- Assisting an American NGO called SPLASH in school WASH project design and financial planning for Addis Ababa's over 400 public schools
- Contributing by writing, review and commenting to The Open University UK (OU) in the disability training manual an innovative curriculum of study designed to be used in education and training programmes in the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector in Ethiopia.
- Being in a core group for the establishment of the Equity & Disability Inclusion (E&DI) Task Force by writing the concept paper and ToR and facilitating 15 Equity and Disability Inclusion Task Force meetings and acting as a secretary to the Task Force.
- Contributing to the Ministry of Health by commenting to the public toilet designs in terms of disability inclusion
- Contributing to the MoWIE by providing comments to the National WASH Inventory II questionnaires and implementation approach
- Assisting MoWIE Women Affairs in the preparation of strategic action points in Water Policy Review process
- Advising the consultant team preparing the One WASH National Program II Program Document and commenting in four rounds the OWNP II document design drafts especially in terms of gender, climate resilience and disability inclusion
- Contributing through participation and writings in several committees and task forces work of One WASH such as: Equity and Disability Inclusion Task Force, Self Supply Task Force, WASH Financing group, Water Sector Working Group (WSWG), WSWG WASH Sub-Group, WSWG Rural WASH Technical Committee, Sanitation Marketing Multi-Stakeholder Platform, Hygiene and Environmental Health Technical Committee,

Household Water Treatment Systems Technical Working Group, Self-Supply Task Force, WASH Financing Group.

- Contributing financially and providing technical assistance in researches to MSc and PhD level students on CMP sustainability, and operation and maintenance of water schemes.
- Contributing in uploading all the relevant sector documents in its web site.
- Assisting financially and technically in the printing and distribution of the National Rural Water Supply Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Management Strategic Framework and Technical Manuals to 5 COWASH regions, 25 zones, 76 COWASH districts and federal level stakeholders (ministries, NGOs, donors etc.).
- Assisting financially and technically in the development of the National Rural Water Supply Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Management Strategic Framework and Technical Manuals.
- Contributing financially and providing technical assistance to many WASH related events organised by the Ethiopian Government such as: three World Water Days, three International Women Days, three MSF events and one Water and Energy Week
- Assisting National WASH Coordination Office in the Country Preparations and writings for the Sanitation and Water for All ministerial meetings
- Review and commenting the One WASH National Program – Consolidated WASH Account Program Phase I impact baseline design and end baseline design
- Assisting NWCO in the preparation of One WASH Annual Reports in 2009 EFY, 2010 EFY and 2011 EFY
- Contributing through participation the annual review meetings of the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy in 2009 EFY and 2010 EFY
- Contributing through participation in the preparation of Vulnerability & Adaptation Assessment of Ethiopian Water Sector

- Contributing technical assistance in CR-WSP audit training organised by WHO
- Contributing to the MoWIE capacity development by procuring to MoWIE
 - HP Laptop Computer Core i7 8GB, State Minister's Office
 - TV LED display screen size 75" LG, Minister's conference room
 - HP Laptop computer size 14", OOWNP coordination Office
 - Set of roof lights for the Minister's office.

All in all we can say COWASH has contributed a lot in the sector and given the ongoing importance of the issue, the next phase of COWASH from July 2020 will continue to emphasis capacity building and technical assistance, seeking to further institutionalise and scale up the CMP approach.

About COWASH and this learning note

Community-Led Accelerated Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (COWASH) is a bilateral activity between the governments of Finland and Ethiopia. The project combines capacity development, innovation and the delivery of new infrastructure at scale through the empowerment of communities and government, extending community and institutional WASH services through the Community Managed Project (CMP) approach.

The first three phases (from 2011-2020) have included 76 rural districts in five regions: Amhara, Tigray, Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz and Southern Nations and Nationalities Peoples' Region. Activities are focused on achieving the rural WASH targets of the second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II). COWASH is led by the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy and regional water bureaus, with technical assistance provided by Ramboll Finland Oy (lead consultant), Niras Ltd and IRC WASH.

This learning note was drafted by Arto Suominen and Yohannes Melaku and edited by John Butterworth]. The learning note and other materials from the COWASH project are available at www.cmpethiopia.org. For more on COWASH see [@cmpethiopia](https://www.facebook.com/cmpethiopia) on Facebook.

