

COMMUNITY-LED ACCELERATED WASH (COWASH) PROJECT

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Abbreviation	Interpretation
AfDB	African Development Bank
BoE	Bureau of Education
BoFED	Bureau of Finance and Economic Development
BoH	Bureau of Health
CDF	Community Development Fund
CLTSH	Community-Led Total Sanitation and Hygiene
CMP	Community Managed Project
COWASH	Community Led Accelerated WASH in Ethiopia
CTA	Chief Technical Advisor
CWA	Consolidated WaSH Account
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
EFY	Ethiopian Fiscal Year
ETB	Ethiopian Birr
EUR	Euro
FinnWASH-BG	Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Programme in Benishangul-Gumuz Region
FTAT	Federal Technical Assistance Team
GoE	Government of Ethiopia
GoF	Government of Finland
GTP	Growth and Transformation Plan
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
HRD	Human Resource Development
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
JMP	Joint Monitoring Program
JTR	Joint Monitoring Review
KWT	Kebele WaSH Team
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
METB	Million Birr
MEUR	Million Euros
MFA	Ministry for Foreign Affairs (of Finland)
MFI	Microfinance Institution
MIS	Management Information System
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoFED	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoWIE	Ministry of Water, Irrigation & Energy
MSF	Multi-Stakeholder Forum
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NWCO	National WaSH Coordination Office
NWI	National WaSH Inventory
NWSC	National WaSH Steering Committee
NWTT	National WaSH Technical Team

Abbreviation	Interpretation
ODF	Open Defecation Free
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
RSU	Regional Support Unit
RWCO	Regional WaSH Coordination Office
RWSC	Regional WaSH Steering Committee
RWSEP	Rural Water Supply and Environment Programme
RWTT	Regional WaSH Technical Team
SNNPR	Southern Nations & Nationalities Peoples Region
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
SWAp	Sector Wide Approach
TA	Technical Assistance
UAP	Universal Access Plan
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
WaSH	Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene
WASHCO	Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Committee
WB	The World Bank
WIF	WaSH Implementation Framework
WMP	Woreda Managed Project
WRDB	Water Resources Development Bureau
WSP	Water Safety Plan
WSP-AF	Water and Sanitation Program-Africa
WSSD	Water Supply and Sanitation Directorate
WWT	Woreda WaSH Team
WYCB	Women, Youth and Children Bureau

1 SUMMARY

The overall objective of the project is to achieve the universal access to WASH in the rural areas of Ethiopia. The project is contributing towards this objective through the construction of water supplies, institutional sanitation facilities and through the promotion of hygiene and sanitation. The indicators measuring the overall objective are:

- Access to safe rural water fulfilling the UAP II criteria in the targeted woredas
- Rate of functionality of rural water supplies in the targeted woredas
- Percentage of rural ODF kebeles in the targeted woredas
- Percentage of institutions (schools and health facilities) accessing water supply
- Percentage of institutions (schools and health facilities) accessing sanitation facilities

Unfortunately, it is not possible to report the achievement of the overall objective in this quarter report as the above indicators are measured only annually.

The project purpose is to support the acceleration of UAP-rural water and sanitation targets attainment through the establishment of an enabling environment and the implementation of CMP interventions in selected rural areas of Ethiopia.

The indicators measuring the project purpose and the present status of the achievements are:

- Percentage of Regions implementing CMP approach

There are 9 regions in Ethiopia. The target of the project was to increase the CMP approach into 5 regions during the project period. So far, CMP is implemented in Amhara, Tigray, SNNP, Oromia and Benishangul-Gumuz regions. COWASH itself has expanded only to 4 regions so far but is planning to start in the Benishangul-Gumuz region during the 4th quarter of the current Ethiopian fiscal year. The FinnWASH project in Benishangul-Gumuz region is also implementing the CMP approach although the approach in this project is called CDF, but it is still the same.

- Percentage of Woredas of targeted regions implementing CMP approach

The original and also the revised project documents do not give any targets for the number of woredas implementing CMP approach per region. The increase of the CMP woredas indicates the project purpose achievement. The following table illustrate this performance:

Region	Number of rural Woredas	No. of woredas implementing CMP approach in the beginning of 2004 EFY	No. of woredas implementing CMP approach in the beginning of 2006 EFY	Increase of the woredas implementing CMP approach	Increase of the CMP woredas in percentage (%) from 2004 EFY	Percentage (%) of woredas implementing CMP in a region by 2006 EFY
Amhara	153	27	40	13	48	26
Tigray	36	2	7	5	250	19
SNNPR	125	2	8	4	200	6
Oromia	249	5 (in 2005 EFY)	8	3	60	3
BSGR	20	5	5 (FinnWASH)	0	0	25
TOTAL	653	41	68	25	61	10

- Percentage of Kebeles of targeted woredas implementing COWASH

This indicator also describes the COWASH and CMP expansion progress. In 2004 EFY, CMP was implemented in 661 rural Kebeles, in 2005 EFY, CMP was implemented in 759 kebeles (including the 2004 EFY kebeles) and in 2006 EFY in 960 Kebeles. The increase of the Kebeles from the 2004 EFY to-date is 45 %. This shows how aggressively CMP approach has increased in Ethiopia as a result of COWASH and FinnWASH work.

- Percentage of rural population that has accesses to potable water through CMP under COWASH.
Overall, more than 830,281 rural people in the project woredas of Amhara, Tigray, SNNPR and Oromia have benefited from 3,062 CMP water points constructed by communities with the support of the project since the COWASH project launched in the regions. The COWASH target of the rural population reached with potable water is close to 2 million by 2016. Therefore, COWASH has so far achieved 42 % from the target.
- Amount of regional budget allocated for COWASH
In the original project document the regional government allocations were estimated to 5 million ETB. Today, the 5 regions have committed about 503 million ETB. The project has succeeded to increase the regional allocations by nearly 500 million ETB (19 million EUR using exchange rate of 26).

The COWASH project interventions have been divided into 2 components:

- Component 1: Strengthening the Federal Capacity to Implement Community Managed Projects alongside with a Support to the Establishment of the One WaSH Program.
- Component 2: Establishing and Strengthening the Capacity in Regions to Scale-up the Implementation of Community Managed Projects

This report analyses the achievement levels of the results of each component.

The Result 1 of Component 1: Community Managed Project Approach scaled-up at National Level

It can be concluded that the project has achieved to include the CMP approach as part of WIF, OWP and POM. Furthermore, CMP is known internationally and also nationally at Federal, Regional and Woreda levels in Ethiopia. The project has succeeded to finally attain the CMP Focal Person at Federal level. It is furthermore concluded that CMP has been accepted by all partners in principle, but practical actions to adopt the CMP by the stakeholders are not yet made. It is anyhow evidenced from the stakeholder reports that more emphasis is given to the capacity building and leadership of the community.

The project finally succeeded to complete the revision of the COWASH Project Document and it was finally approved in November 2013 and as a result the revised COWASH framework agreement was signed between MFA and MoFED on January 20, 2014. In the revised project document, COWASH project was extended for 2 years and from 1 region (Amhara) to 5 regions and from 27 woredas to 67 woredas. The revised framework agreement also confirmed that the GoF contribution increased from 11 MEUR to 22 MEUR and the GoE contribution increased from 5 METB to 503 METB.

The project has not yet been able to institutionalize the CMP support mechanisms at Federal level and the **community procurement** and **fund channelling through MFI** has not been accepted by MoFED. This has been the main reason why CMP implementation has not yet been implemented through the Sector Wide Approach i.e. as part of the Consolidated WASH Account funding.

Result 2 of the Component 1: CMP implementation capacity developed

COWASH has successfully developed nearly all required capacity development instruments to facilitate the WASH and CMP implementation in the regions and

woredas. CMP Implementation manual using MFI fund channelling was developed and technical guidelines to implement high technology CMP projects were also developed and disseminated. COWASH has aligned the institutional WASH implementation with the national technical manuals in which preparation of COWASH inputs have been incorporated.

The RSUs in all 4 regions of Amhara, Tigray, SNNPR and Oromia have been trained and capacitated for the facilitation of the CMP planning, implementation and capacity building in woredas. As a result, WASHCOs have managed to construct 3,062 water points benefitting more than 830,281 men and women. It is to be mentioned that the number of water points planned in the original project document was 1,650.

As a result of this capacity building, 157 schools and 37 health facilities have got access to water supply until end of the reporting period. Besides, 229 community water points and 5 school water points were rehabilitated with the support of the project by the end of March 31, 2014. Accordingly, over 70,899 rural people and 1,484 students and teachers are benefiting from these institutional water points rehabilitated with the support of the project.

Moreover, emphasis to sanitation and hygiene has been showing improvement. By the end of the reporting period, 35 schools and 16 health facilities (29 in Amhara, 12 in Tigray and 10 in Oromia) have got access to improved latrines. In terms of beneficiaries, more than 22,038 students and teachers and 1,554 health staff and clients benefit from these latrines.

The challenge in using the RSU's capacity in Tigray and SNNPR regions has been the use of RSU specialists' time and skills to other Water Bureau's activities and COWASH activities have got less attention.

Result 3 of Component 1: Development and Implementation of One WASH National Program Supported

COWASH assisted in the development of WIF and OWNPN document and succeeded in making CMP part of these documents. Furthermore, CMP is made part of POM, which is in its final stage.

Due to MoFED not accepting the channelling of public funds through MFIs to communities, the CMP integration into One WASH has not yet been possible. Accordingly, COWASH has to continue as a bilateral project until the community procurement and investment fund channelling to communities is solved. COWASH with UNICEF and SNV took this as an initiative and started to revise the CMP Implementation Manual into the new Manual which implements the CMP approach through the use of Public Funds Financial and Procurement Systems. This Manual is nearly completed and once approved by MoFED will facilitate CMP implementation in OWNPN and CMP as well as COWASH full integration into One WASH.

Result 1 of Component 2: Target regions, zones and woredas capable to plan, manage, monitor and implement rural WASH interventions using CMP approach

The achievement of this result can be described with the following outcomes:

- ✓ Woredas, Zones and regional sector bureaus have been preparing their annual plans.
- ✓ Woredas have been trainings thousands of community and woreda level people as a result of the support provided by the COWASH FTAT.
- ✓ Communities managed to procure construction materials and build and administer their own water points

Result 2 of Component 2: Financial and procurement services delivered for CMP intervention at all levels in the selected regions

COWASH funds have been flowing down to beneficiary communities, Woredas and zones; regions have managed to request funds from MFA.

The requests and transfer GoF funds to the regions delayed this year due to the delay in the signing of revised regional financing agreements. This further delayed approval of annual plans and the transfer requests were able to be made only after the annual plans were approved. This will have an implication to the achievement of physical targets of 2006 EFY.

Result 3 of Component 2: Sustainable community and institutional access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene in the target woredas increased

The delay in the approval of the annual plans has affected the promotion, approval and construction of water points. Many activities started in the third quarter of the fiscal year. Anyhow, some water supply constructions started at the end of the previous fiscal year were completed in the reporting period.

The situation of the 2006 EFY water supply construction plans vs. achievements is as follows:

Region	No. of WP constructions planned for 2006 EFY	No. of water points constructed in 9 months in 2006 EFY	Achievement (%)
Amhara	1,215	90	7
Tigray	236	45	19
SNNPR	302	58	19
Oromia	399	86	22
TOTAL	2,152	279	13

The total cumulative number of water points constructed by COWASH is 3,256. This represents 70 % from the planned water points until end of 2006 EFY and 39 % from the total 8,276 water point planned to be constructed until end of June 2016. On top of the new water point construction, COWASH has also rehabilitated 234 old water points, which did not give service to the communities. If the rehabilitated water points are taken into the cumulative number of water points, the total COWASH water point construction progress is 42 %.

In 2006 EFY, 92 institutional latrines were planned to be constructed, but the 9 months result shows that only 18 (19.6%) have been completed so far in the current fiscal year. Since the beginning of COWASH, a total of 51 institutional latrines have been constructed. This represents 18 % from the total of 297 planned institutional latrines until end of the project period.

The total Component 1 expenditure at the end of March 2014 is EUR 1,909,644. The financial performance of the Component 1 at the end of 9 months of 2006 EFY compared to the total 5 years budget of COWASH of EUR 3,730,410 is 51 % and compared to the original 3-years COWASH project of EUR 2,486,940 is 77 %. The fee budget of Component 1 for the 3 years as per the original agreement was EUR 945,900. The actual fee expenditures up to the end of March 2014 according to the consultant tender categorization of experts is EUR 839,935 representing 89 % budget utilization.

The total amount of funds received by the 4 regions from MFA is Birr 214,003,328. From this amount regions have utilized Birr 141,047,129 (66%) The total amount regions have received from the GoE contributions is Birr 164,402,818. From this amount regions have used Birr 80,074,718 (49%).

The financial utilization of the GoF and GoE funds has been low. In 2006 EFY, the low utilization was caused from the delayed revised COWASH framework agreement and delayed regional financing agreements signing. Due to the late signings the approvals of the annual work plans delayed up to March 2014 and fund requests and fund transfers started to work in April 2014.

More detailed budget/usage analysis is presented in Annex 1.

2 PROGRESS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

The detailed output based progress and analysis of deviations of COWASH targets versus outputs during the first 9 months of 2006 EFY and the cumulative progress since the beginning of COWASH are presented in Annex 1. The COWASH actions and results related to crosscutting issues is presented in Annex 2.

3 RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The problems encountered and mitigating actions taken have been summarized in the following table.

Like the previous fiscal year, different kinds of challenges have been faced during the reporting period. The major ones that require the attention of National WaSH Steering Committee (NWSC) are indicated as follows.

Challenges	Measures taken
<p>Delay in NWSC meetings on COWASH: The 2006 EFY COWASH Component 1 annual plan should have been approved before the new fiscal year starts. The NWSC meeting was held on March 31, 2014 and some decisions, including approval of the plan, were made. The delay in the meeting was due to the delay in signing the agreement with MoFED on the COWASH extension of 2 years.</p>	<p>COWASH reminded the pertinent stakeholders to carry out the meeting timely</p>
<p>Delay in preparation and approval of regional annual plans. The 2006 EFY annual plans of COWASH in the regions were expected to be prepared before the end of 2005 EFY. However, the plans were approved in the 3rd quarter due to presence of competing activities in the regions and woredas. Another reason for the delay in the approval of annual plans was the delay in the signing of the COWASH Framework Agreement of 2 years extension with increased budget contributions from the GoE and GoF. The Framework Agreement was needed to be signed first before the Regional Financing Agreements could be amended. The delay in the preparation and approval of annual plans will hamper the implementation rate and budget utilization of woredas thereby affecting the contribution of COWASH in accelerating the GTP/UAP WASH targets.</p>	<p>COWASH provided technical assistance to all the regions in the preparation of their annual plans timely and reminded the RWSC members for timely approval of the plans</p>
<p>Delay in the revision of the regional financing agreements: The present financing agreements are valid until July 2014. However, many of the regions have finished the amount of GoF contribution indicated in the financing agreement and, hence, these agreements are expected to be updated based on the new budget allocations defined in the revised COWASH project document (2011-2016). The regional financing agreements were delayed until the 3rd quarter and that has affected the implementation of some activities of the project in the regions. Currently, all the regional financing agreements are signed and the BSG financing agreement is ready for signing by the Embassy of Finland.</p>	<p>The need for revision of regional financing agreements was understood by both parties. COWASH FTAT has been informing RWSC members on the need for revising the agreements. Though it was late, all the regional financing agreements are now signed.</p>
<p>Delay in sending quarterly reports: Quarterly performance reports are expected from regions to prepare project performance report at the federal level and submit to the pertinent bodies timely. However, quarterly reports from the regions are delayed and this takes much time to prepare the performance report of the project at the federal level. Quality of the regional reports is also a problem that is delaying the finalization of federal level reports.</p>	<p>The problem persists in the quarters. COWASH FTAT has been assisting RSUs in preparing regional reports and providing feedback on the reports sent to COWASH FTAT.</p>
<p>Lack of attention to WaSH and busy WWTs and RWSCs: Much is expected from Regional WaSH Steering Committees (RWSCs) and WWTs in leading, coordinating, speeding-up and sustaining CMPs in particular and WaSH activities in general. However, many of the RWSCs and WWTs are overstretched with a number of other competing activities and less attention is given to CMP/WaSH related activities. Annual plans are not prepared timely and challenges that the project is facing at different times are not discussed and solutions sought.</p>	<p>This has been raised during CMP management trainings in the regions and COWASH FTAT has been raising the issue to WWT and RWSC members to give emphasis to WaSH.</p>

Challenges	Measures taken
<p>Assignment of RSU staff for non-COWASH activities: Regional water bureaus have continued assigning some of the Regional Support Unit (RSU) staff for some time-taking non-COWASH activities and this is affecting the supervision and technical assistance provided to the woredas and preparing quarterly reports timely at the regional level. This problem is increasing from time to time in some regions like SNNPR and Tigray.</p>	<p>Though the issue has been taken to the attention of the regional Water Bureau heads and Embassy of Finland, the problem is still there in SNNPR and Tigray regions.</p>
<p>Non-independent nature of the RSU: In all regional financing agreements it is indicated that the RSU should have an independent nature. However, only Amhara region has tried to implement that commitment even though in Amhara the RSU Administration Manual has not been approved and therefore the RSU is dependent on the Water Bureau procurements.</p>	<p>The independence of RSU has not been respected in any of the regions; it is relatively better in Amhara. COWASH recommended the issue to be discussed in each of the RWSC meetings.</p>
<p>Lack of vehicle: Regional and woreda experts have not been able to provide technical assistance to the beneficiaries and carry out supervision works due to lack of field vehicles. The procurement of SNNPR RSU car took much time.</p>	<p>SNNPR has paid 30% of the price of the car and discussing with supplier on the delivery of the car and Oromia has received the car.. COWASH FTAT have been discussing with regions to speed up the procurement of the cars.</p>

4 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The key issues requiring actions are:

- 1) Completion and approval of the CMP Implementation Manual using Public Finance and Procurement systems
 - The final manual will be ready in June 2014. The manual is to be sent by MoWIE for the approval of MoFED.
 - Once MoFED has approved the CMP Implementation Manual the National WASH Steering Committee has to decide on when and at what scale COWASH is going to use this manual in 2007 EFY implementation
- 2) Tendering of the Component 1 Technical Assistance and possible extension of the present consultancy agreement in order to avoid break in Component 1 technical assistance.
 - The agreement of the present consultancy with Ramboll is ending on July 31, 2014. The MFA together with MoWIE and regional stakeholders is to organize tendering for the remaining period of COWASH.
 - If the break between the on-going and new consultancy is to be avoided, the MFA should agree on extension with Ramboll and allow the use of the reimbursable budget for the use in International technical assistance Fees.
 - The extension should also agree to use the local consultancy (long and short term) from the reimbursable budget as the original Ramboll agreement defines.

5 ANNEXES

Annex 1: Detailed output-based report and financial analysis

Annex 2: Analysis of crosscutting issues implemented in COWASH

Annex 3: Analysis of Component 1 plan implementation in 2006 EFY