

Developing a Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation Programme Management in the Rural Areas of Nigeria

Otti V. I.

Civil Engineering Department
Federal Polytechnic, Oko

ABSTRACT

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) development in Nigeria has constantly suffered from lack of clear policy direction and lack of focus in terms of goals and objectives. This has resulted in the country's inability to substantially improve coverage of the rural population with safe water and improved sanitation services. This is particularly obvious in the field of sanitation and hygiene. Also the poor management of water and sanitation resources are the impediment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Therefore the paper discusses the future and success of government, NGO and private sector collaboration in rural water and sanitation programme implementation.

Keywords: *Water Supply, Sanitation, Programme, Private Sector, Policy, Rural*

1. INTRODUCTION

Over the last decade many rural water supply programmes were implemented throughout the developing world. The overall objective of this has to improve health and living condition of rural population in a cost effective manner on the basis of the felt needs of the community [3]. Rural water supply and sanitation (RWSS) programmes for rural development, through National water sanitation policy, which involves community participation, gears towards the reduction of average level of contamination at the point of injection and the cause of various abdominal diseases in the dry season. Moreso nearby water sources are dry, women and children in some villages taking long distance in search of water, which they carry home in heavy container along steep valleys and dangerous Hills.

However, the programme promotes the combination of safe drinking water and hygienic facilities as precondition for health and success in the fight against poverty, hunger, child death and gender inequality.

Therefore, below is the sectorial context and the links and relationship between the various policies and strategies for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) policy and strategies chart [4]

As mentioned above, the policy and strategy are focused on framework and comprehensive programme setup, within which efficient use of increase sector, which will support the scaling-up of RWSS activities in Nigeria, with the national objective to consolidate increase and sustain universal access to adequate quantities of affordable and

safe water in rural Nigeria by the year 2015 and hygiene sanitation facilities in the rural Nigeria by the year 2020.

NRWSS (2004) stated that in her strategic framework for water supply and sanitation programme that the approach requires the setting up of a planning process research and manpower development, institutional structure, legal framework and financial strategy that will meet the socio-economic requirement of the country. The centre piece of Nigeria's water supply and sanitation policy is the provision of sufficient potable water and adequate sanitation for all Nigerians in an affordable and sustainable way through participatory investment by the three tier of government (Federal, State and Local Government Areas), the private sector and the beneficiary group, by initiating a system management programme called community water supply and sanitation programme.

The community water supply and sanitation is an ambitious initiative aimed at establishing a demand led community based approach for the development of water supply and sanitation facilities for the poor rural people of Nigeria. The community water supply and sanitation programme will introduce an innovative programme approach which will be centred on a participatory methodology to develop affordable and sustainable water supply and sanitation facilities for the rural communities. This will be people-centred, where people organize themselves into a community based organization, plan, design, build and manage their projects. [5]

The overall objective of the programme is to improve the living condition of the rural communities by increasing

their effective access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities, and improving their hygienic practice in sustained and cost effective. The programme components as to be directly focused to women for their betterment such as safe drinking water need, sanitation facilities, improved hygienic practice, improve childcare along with total living condition of family [9]. The main challenge of the community programme will be to ensure long-term sustainability of water supply and sanitation facilities to be constructed under the programme. More so, to ensure the sustainability, the programme has to be

adopted as an approach by involving local authorities, Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) and private sector for programme implementation, facilitation and support. This is a three-way interactive process of government, NGO and private sector collaboration that supports Community Based Organization (CBO) to acquire the necessary capacity. The programme when implemented will reveal the sense of ownership, self-management capability will be strengthened with this three capacity development initiative in all aspects of programme [7].

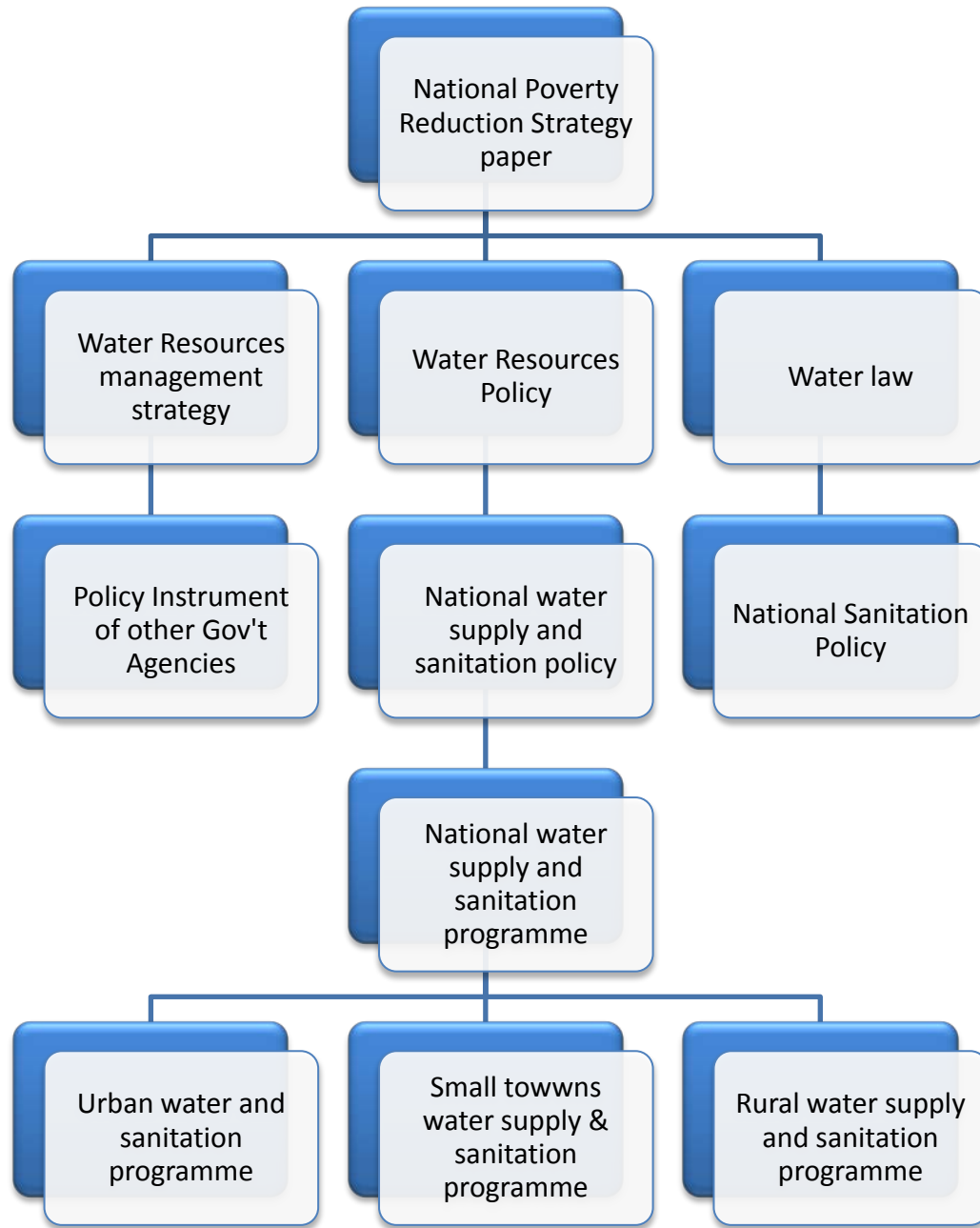


Fig. Sustainable water resources programme

2. OBJECTIVE OF RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROGRAMME

The objective of Rural water supply and sanitation programme are:

- Provision of basic water sanitation service to communities that will contribute towards the capital cost and pay the normal operation, maintenance and repair cost of their facilities.
- Ensure sustainability of these facilities through community ownership and management, community decision-making in their design, active private sector provision of goods and service, and public sector promotion and support [9].
- Maximize health benefits by integrating water sanitation and hygienic education interventions, including the establishment of hygiene education and latrine construction capabilities at village level.
- Evaluation of the future and limitations of the inter-sectoral and integrated approach to be adopted in the rural water supply and sanitation provision in Nigeria based on the UNICEF's experience throughout the country.
- Comparison of RWSS policies and strategies arrangement and CBO institution setup and identification of the opportunities and threats to be posed by the latter.
- Drawing conclusion and making recommendation in relation to the Nigerian experience that may be relevant to other low-income countries.

3. METHODOLOGY

The process of mobilizing the villagers for the community water supply and sanitation programme (CWSSP) is described below as a sustainable venture. Non-Governmental Organisations with a proven track record for institutional building and development work are to be assigned to guide and assist the communities that will be identified for the [CWSSP Projects] the NGOs to be selected are to be experienced in social mobilization methodologies and institutional development and capacity building. These NGOs will interact with the communities and assist the communities to carry out needs assessment analysis using participatory Rural Appraisal tools [1].

Technical plans are to be drawn up and formulated with the support of the NGO/Local Government authorities and to be approved by the general membership as special meetings communication with the general membership is to be sustained through regular general meetings, access to minutes of steering community meetings and financial management records. These procedures are to ensure democratic control, consensus, transparency and accountability. The CBOs are to be guided in appointing separate committees for calling quotation, purchasing, payments and storage in order to ensure transparencies in procurement activities and the private sector are to supply the appurtenance [5].

The regular coordination meetings are to be conducted at local government level with the active participation of Local Government and Administrative officer, NGOs, Private Sector and CBO representatives are to provide a good platform to discuss field issues and to arrive consensus. The coordination committee meeting is to provide the opportunity to share responsibilities in the project decision making process among the Government, NGO, Private sector and community. The key concept of the programme is to build the institutional capacity through a community based approach so that the entire community would be galvanize for a holistic development.

The table below shows phases of the programme cycle which are the social mobilization, planning, construction and operation and maintenance. The government, NGOs and the private sector are to be given opportunity to act strategically as facilitators or change agents in all phases of the programme cycle. This situation will be compatible with the participatory development aspects in the grass-root level programme is to be weighted towards participatory development approach through the in-depth social mobilization process. The CBOs are to be involved in community water supply and sanitations programme and will be capable of taking full responsibility for the water supply activity as learning organization with the facilitation and support of NGOs, government and the private sector.

The NGO to be selected must accept the responsibility to establish and prepare the CBOs in line with the participatory development approach. The CBOs leadership will need programme implementation skills, including purchasing, financial control, water quality control, construction supervision and technical related training in a practical manner in addition to team dynamic social mobilization, group commitment and self-help innovation [10].

Table 1: The role of Government NGOs, and Private Sector in the process of CBO diversification

Project partner	Social mobilization	Planning	Construction	Operation
CBO	Establish community organization as a viable development centre to address community needs, which will introduce a workable process of diversification	Decide on water supply option as well as the priorities of the communities at the grass-root level	Construct water supply facilities pre preparatory action to improve skill to handle rural works in village	Undertake operation and maintenance responsibility diversification setting in the CBO continue maintaining schemes of the CWSS in a sustaining way
NGO as partner organisation	Make aware and mobilize people to establish a CBO to address RWSS as well as their ready needs and issues	Guide CBO to decide on water supply options water supply project design diversification action plan	Guide and support CBO for construction quality assurance of construction activities skills development to undertake other rural works through CBO	Awareness creation in diversification activities with RWSS and focus on skills development leadership development and participatory planning exercise
Government	Identify potential NGOs to work as POs training and capacity building of POs and CBOs to meet village level needs	Technical guidance and training linkage development of CBOs to undertake community based activities	Technical guidance and training linkage building for other rural based work	Establishment of O&M mechanism and continues assistance for O&M water quality monitoring improve resources allocation and mobilization through CBOs
Private sector	Linkage building to ensure input supply and marketing of quality product	Technical assistance for scheme planning development of input-output marketing plan with CBOs	Technical assistance for scheme construction supply of construction materials and service provision of lending facilities to CBOs (by local bank)	Supply of material and services for O&M activities technical assistance for O&M activities water quality testing development of marketing and purchasing plan with CBOs.

4. CHALLENGES OF COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROGRAMME

- Lack of institutional financial capacity building to ensure the socio-economic sustainability of CBO
- Non availability of possible situation activities for CBOs like micro-credit, macro insurance, marketing, processing entrepreneurship, “post-harvesting technologies among the members.
- Inadequate awareness programme such as Team Dynamics through social mobilization and necessary technical know-how for members at community level may not assure CBO’s social sustainability.
- Non development of CBO consortia to enhance their stability and increase peer learning and good governance as happened with NGO-consortia extremely membership participation.
- Lack of confidential building of the community leadership, and CBO in the business world.
- Unimproving leadership qualities community members and decision making skills on commercialized situation in modern era of CBO.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- Operation and maintenance section – responsible for the day to day delivery of water services to all villages
- Construction and repair section – responsible for rehabilitation, extension and augmentation of the water supply system as will be required by the growth of the village.
- Design section – responsible for ensuring that all water supply and waste water system with all their components are to be properly recorded and mapped, and that these documents are to be constantly updated and correctly filed.
- Administrative support section – responsible for supporting the Head of the local authority and all sections with proper administrative procedure. Special projects to be put in place towards capacity building of the local authority to operate and maintain the rural water supply scheme.
- There should be recruitment of personnel based on their qualification and not on their political affiliation.
- CBO – there should be fully involvement community based organisation (CBO) from the beginning to the final implementation of the project (programme).
- Structures to sustain the programme should be put in place.
- WASCOM- should be motivated at community level to encourage them to work.

6. DISCUSSION

The sector-wise affiliation and adjustment are to be needed for effective, efficient and sustainable programme implementation and long-term operation and maintenance process in the context, government, NGOs and private sector, will have to play in critical strategic role to strength the institutional capacity of the CBOs. This collaboration will be an effective and efficient one with a long term perspective. The mechanism will be integrated in the process of three-way communication and responsibilities will be entrusted to relevant sectors with capacity and mutual understanding. The total development process will be institutionalized through government NGO and private sector coordination to put in place a key development centre at the village level to address all community development needs and issues, especially, for removing the vulnerabilities and negative elements of the CBO activities in a sustainable manner

and assume a wider role in society not as a community water supply and sanitation activist [1].

7. CONCLUSION

The basic needs approach requires an intervention by the federal government in the creation of access to essential services. These services include potable water employment, sanitation, health, education, security, food and others. The provision of the services by the federal government on the hand, depends on the resources of the national and economic policies, and if the nation's policies which are not geared towards sustainable growth and development may often fail to afford these services and many also be found to lack in the provision of basic needs [6].

REFERENCES

- [1] Adegoke, T. (2007) "Partnership in the water and sanitation sector". International water and sanitation centre: Thematic Overview paper No. 18, pp 27-35.
- [2] ALTAF, M.A. (1994b) "The Economic of Household Response to Inadequate Water Supplies". Third World Planning Review 16(1) pp 41-57.
- [3] EVANS, P. (1992) Paying the paper: An overview of community financing of water and Sanitation: International Water and Sanitation Centre. The Hague pp 46.
- [4] FMWR, (2005) "Rural water supply and sanitation" Programme implementation manual. Pp 43 – 46.
- [5] HAZELTON, D.G. et al. 1996. Community Water Schemes cost recovery: Conference Paper at Port Elizabeth pp 15.
- [6] NRWSS, (2004) Strategic framework for water supply and sanitation programme" pp 21 – 43.
- [7] Sara, J. and Katz, T. (1997) "Making Rural water supply sustainable: Report on the Impact of project Rules: UNDP – World Bank water and sanitation Programme: Washington DC
- [8] Shordt, et al (2004) "Monitoring Millennium Development Goals, for water and sanitation". A review of experiences and challenges. International water and sanitation centre, the Hague.
- [9] UNICEF, (1991) The situation of women and children in Tanzania: An overview, Dar-es-Salam pp 45.

[10] WORLD BANK, (2000) A Hand Book for Practitioners: Evaluating the Impact of Development

Projects on Poverty: Washington DC World Bank, pp 11-23.

RWSS – Rural Water Supply and Sanitation

NRWSSP – National Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme

FMWR – Federal Ministry of Water Resources

CBO – Community Based Organisation

NGO – Non-Governmental Organisation

CNSSP – Community Water Supply and Sanitation Programme

WASCOM -Water and Sanitation Commitees