

Renowned water and sanitation program for effective school work in Ethiopia: The case of Family and Children Integrated Development Foundation (FCIDF) -2020

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this article is to display the quality water and sanitation program of the FCIDF for the effective School work in Ethiopia, and inline to this, investigate some good practices and challenges with concerned stakeholders. The study focuses was whether the targeting different segments of communities, including children and women were properly addressed or not. Thus, the provision of Quality water and sanitation program of FCIDF if seen effective in Schools partly which determine children's health and well-beings. Although water and sanitation facilities in schools are somehow increasingly recognized as fundamental for promoting good hygiene behavior and children's well-being, the realities on the ground sometimes is different in sizes and quality. Many schools have very poor facilities, compared with others. To this end, this study uses the FCIDF water and sanitation program as a case study to explore the role of creating access to safe water and sanitation supply in Ethiopia as a good practices. The investigation further, took the research question "How can the FCIDF promote and enhance growth and development of quality water and sanitation program in different parts of the country?" In order to address such diverse water and sanitation needs of its target groups, the investigation showed that, the FCIDF had made proper strategy to address the felt needs of the partner communities in line with the national policy priorities complying with donor interests and cultural practices of each targeted communities. The study employed qualitative research approach and two instruments were used to gather relevant data, namely: interviews and document analysis. Theoretical framework developed through three key elements: Water Supply, management of water supply, sanitation and Hygiene were used as tools of analysis. Finally, the study has reviled, an overview of FCIDF, as one of the none- profit making organization in Ethiopia have planned and implemented various water projects in different locations of the country successfully in the year 2019 accordingly.

INTRODUCTION

Access to quality Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) is an essential to life, health and dignity. Timely and adequate safe water supply, provision of sanitation and hygiene services to people including school boys and girls, living both in urban and rural settings is particularly important [1]. The provision of adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities is equally critical in order to control communicable diseases and mitigate crucial health risks and prevent epidemics (USIAD, 2008 [2]). Meanwhile, a wide range of WaSH projects have been implemented in different areas of the nation through financial support of Government and donor agencies. However, the impact of implemented projects to enhance health status of intervention households was rarely investigated using scientific impact assessment techniques. Thus, this study engaged to assess

the Social sustainability across of quality water system means that, each individual community can be informed of the 'bigger picture' of the overall water supply scheme, and therefore to understand how this impacts on the services provided or costs in their respective community. Further, to see the community management and Local NGOs arrangements of the Rural Water Board, together with an extended period of community mobilization by WASHCo in Ethiopia, projects, and the considerable community contributions made towards the cost of infrastructure [3]. In parts, because of the spring yields continue to exceed demand. Inline to this, the global sustainability agenda with regard to safe water and sanitation, program responsible for equipping the next generation of with knowledge and essential skills of WASHCo- management, proactively try to action the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However such water service extension is likely to be done in future as the network is progressively expanded and demands start to meet or exceed dry-season yields. For instance, 17 Communities contributions (in kind and in cash) was around 10% of the total cost of the initial construction of FCIDF, the scheme, around 78% of the total cost for the scheme development and expansion, as good practice example. However, such water service extension is likely to be done in future as the network is progressively expanded and demands start to meet or exceed dry-season yields in the country [4].

Background of the study

From the document analysis we made, FCIDF as a newly reconstructed Local NGO, in January 2019, has been implementing water supply and sanitation projects in three regional states of Ethiopia, namely: Tigray, Oromia, and SNNPR, partnership with Imagine 1 Day (I1D) and Run for Water [5]. Through the year, FCIDF has established a good relationship with different stakeholders such as primary communities, local government, and donors of the projects conducting joint project planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluation. It understood that, the organization has gained adequate knowledge of local context and cross-cultural experience in the areas of its activities implemented. As a case Study, in Ethiopia a high sense of ownership by the community of the water scheme seen important for sustainable. FCIDF has been able to enhance community sense of ownership by building local capacity and changing the mindsets of key stakeholders, designing governance, a well-structured community by-laws have been established, covering issues such as infrastructure vandalism and illegal connections.

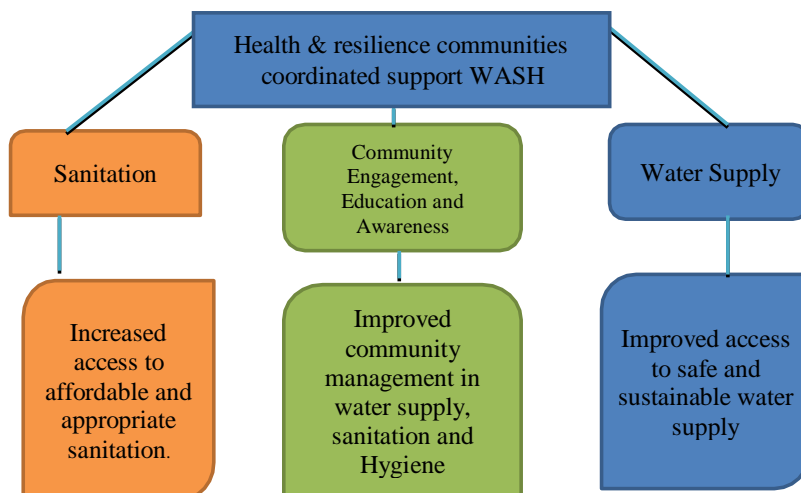
In order to achieve the intended project goal, FCIDF together with its partners namely Run for Water & (I1D) mobilized resources including cash, materials needed for the project, skilled personnel, and leadership and necessary inputs. This was matched by a minimum of 10% communities' contribution in kind and labor. With the resource mobilized, FCIDF has been able deliver 8 sustainable projects. This article presents the overall financial and physical achievements (plan's Vs accomplishment) of the projects. A total of 11,760 people (50% women) are directly benefiting from WASH programs implemented in 2019 in the three regional states mentioned above. Of the total beneficiaries, 35% are school enrolled children and the rest are members of the communities at large. The main challenges that occurred during the year among others were budget constraint, inflation of construction material price, and volatile security related issues. Despite all the challenges, FCIDF was able to successfully accomplish all projects on time and at a reasonable cost. As a result, FCIDF has been awarded certificates of appreciation from donors, partner communities, and local governments. In 2019, FCIDF received a project funding of Brr 4, 141,969 and invested 3,530,797 (78%) on direct program cost during the year. The remaining 22% was spent on project monitoring, evaluation, management and overhead costs. Thus, a FCIDF exhibited a stewardship for donor money by utilizing over 90% of funds for direct program activities.

METHODOLOGY

A qualitative research design was used in this study. In particular, a case study was employed. Stratified and purposive sampling techniques were used to select the research site and potential respondents. The study was delimited to one Local NGO named: Family and children Integrated development foundation (FCIDF) in Ethiopia [6]. FCIDF was selected as a case study because it is one of the new reconstructed non-profit organization pursuant to the enactment of proclamation # 1113/2019 of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopian Agency for Civil Societies Organization. To study, as one of the leading and promising local NGO in Ethiopia, by considering what it offers mainly in urban and rural water and sanitation program in the country, in accordance to focus mainly on rural water development was based on the fact that a majority of the Ethiopian population (85%) is engaged in agricultural work and lives in rural areas, Wolde, (2010), the result of water and sanitation programme that has a focus on rural development will have some relevance in this context, especially in meeting the human development needs of the communities, especially for women and girls in different parts of the country [7]. Due to socially constructed gender roles, adolescent girls even who are in schools and women are responsible to fetch water from long distance carrying up to 20 litres of jerry cans on their back. This has been negatively affecting women's health and school attendance and performance [8].

A total of 15 participant were purposively selected from those who already involved in water and sanitation programs including communities' agents and interviewed. The participants interviewed were in different ways expressed their views and confirmed that, the FCIDF's positively contributing and providing quality services to its concerned / targeted communities. This study is further guided by the conceptual framework provided in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Conceptual framework for health & resilience Communities through coordinated support in WASH Program.



Each boxes above make up the frame work which may influence each other as a system. One cannot stand alone without other, as a system to function and work together. The adequate water supply system may focus at the various school levels, and may be also affected by various structural relationships, which might be horizontal or vertical relations on the hierarchy of water supply and education system. The organization of WASH involves mainly the three elements namely: Water Supply, management of water supply, sanitation and Hygiene, and further the different parties for its proper function, which may be affected by the structure and that include the institutional capacity and culture, and above all the awareness and commitment of the decision making bodies, as well as staff involved at the various levels.

However, this conceptual framework, strategy of looking the provision of water and sanitation services to schools, as one of interrelated system of WASHCo may result useful depend on the awareness and commitment of those directly involved. These include the Institutions, MoE and policy makers, at the state and national levels to seriously consider the fact on the ground, in the country at large. Thus, some of these influences have been determined by institutional policy, various communities, which is itself influenced by state and national policies of water and sanitation of the country.

Basic WASH In schools

The 2030 Agenda established seems ambitious, towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets, which aim, among other things, for universal access to WASH for all and safe, inclusive and effective learning environments for all. It further calls for systematic attention to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the implementation of the new Agenda.

Achieving universal access to basic WASH services in schools by 2030 presents a huge challenge. In many countries it will not only imply building and upgrading WASH facilities in schools but also strengthening Education Information Management Systems so they go beyond simply recording the availability of WASH infrastructure to take account of the quality of WASH services provided for students and staff. 2016 baseline estimates for basic water, sanitation and hygiene services were only available for 92, 101 and 81 countries respectively. Furthermore only 68 countries were able to generate national coverage estimates for all three types of basic WASH service in schools (WHO/UNICEF (2015) [9].

Performed activtities In Collaboration with stakeholders

During the study year of 2019, FCIDF closely worked with Imagine 1 Day (I1D, and Run for water, and also with different development agencies, including the government ones in different parts of the regions. FCIDF has also maintained its good relationship as possible with donors and partners. The completed projects have been implemented with various activities as scheduled in most cases. There were discussions with our sole partners to improve current and future working conditions. As a result, pending studied projects have been reinitiated; extensions were made on projects whose time is nearby and proposals being submitted for new funding. Therefore, the organization has carried out different major activities with its different stakeholders in the year 2019. Some of the basic performed activities were: 4 springs caped, 4 water tanks build (5 to 25m3) 14 water points constructed 4 water tap erected, 10.5 km of pipe lines restored, 3 manual water well drilled & fitted with hand pump. 56 Water and Sanitation committee members trained (WASHCO training) 11,760 people access clean and adequate water from newly installed water supply projects [10].

Service delivery models for rural water supply service

Service delivery models for rural water supply services whilst the WASH Implementation Framework which identifies various methods of implementing the initial capital construction/rehabilitation works for rural water supplies, with the exception of Self Supply, there has been only one model for ongoing service delivery in rural areas: that of the community WASH Committees (WASHCOs) [11]. In towns, public water utilities may be appointed to run the urban networks, and for multi-village schemes. Rural Water Boards/ committees are increasingly being applied as management models (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Service Delivery Models for Rural Water Supplies in Ethiopia.

Service Delivery Model	Model Population Size/ context	Type of Water Technology
Self-water supply WASHCO Public water utilities Rural communities' actors, include (Students & Staff)	General rural, small and scattered communities. Rural communities and sometimes, small towns, with schools. Urban centers of various size	Variables, can include Spring protection, well upgrading, water points, etc. Variable, often hand pumps and piped systems. Generally, piped systems fed by gravity and/or pumped. Generally piped water systems.

As indicated in Table 2, there does not seem to be clear and fixed distinctions in terms of population size thresholds that define the above model to be applied. The WASHCOs are voluntary in nature, often came under registered NGOs in most places in Ethiopia, from widespread capacity gaps both in terms of the skills of their members, and also in the organizations that are supposed to provide post construction. Monitoring and evaluation support in (the Woredas) level and organization levels are so important part of the arrangement. In the towns the predominant model is that of a public urban utility, one per town, each with a 'Water Board' committee which oversees the utility's operations and strategic planning. The utilities in Ethiopia are 'graded' by the government, based on their service population, performance and other factors. The grading runs from Grade 1 (top) down to Grade 6 (bottom). The basis for grading of the utility includes a mixture of factors, and does not only relate to population sizes, as FCIDF practiced [12]. In some regions there have been efforts by the Zonal and Regional Water and sanitation sectors better than some others (Figures 3, 4 and 5).

(NB: These photos are taken during the data collection period, by the communities' permission).

Figure 3. Collecting water at Kondola's community tap stands.



Figure 4. Bekeya's Village a domestic water connection, Nearby Ambo town.



Figure 5: Spring capped structure and Community water points.



Problems and bottle necks as well measure taken to solve the difficulties.

During the project implementation period un-timely rain, was a major problem and contribute to lag our projects schedule behind the planned for a while, and increasing cost of labour construction materials due to inflation and currency devaluation., However, FCIDF management and water project staff carried out the project with a high commitment in consultation with the community / district line offices and other concerned organization to overcome the above mention problems.

CONCLUSION

The progress of the program under FCIDF is encouraging and almost the major activities were performed successfully as it was witnessed by the participants. The contribution of the projects in addressing the schools and communities need were crucial, almost the majority of the stipulated beneficiaries were addressed, and countable results were achieved. Moreover, the participation of some communities was less during the implementation of the projects, but a high participation rate at the majority of the areas observed according the participants view, and it will also further been stated the need of commitment and attempt in order to bring the best achievements. Nevertheless, the organization’s future plan is to broaden its donor base by capitalizing on the strong partnership created with key Imagine 1 day International and Run for Water. The organization will scale-up this documented sustainable approach to WASH services both in the communities and schools. Schools are among the main target institutions as they partly determine children's health and well-being by providing a healthy or unhealthy environment. Although water and sanitation facilities in schools are increasingly recognized as fundamental for promoting good hygiene behavior and children's well-being, many schools have very poor facilities. Conditions vary from inappropriate and inadequate sanitary facilities to the outright lack of latrines and safe water for drinking and hygiene. This situation contributes to absenteeism and the high drop-out of girls. Therefore, it needs further efforts to redress this, and moreover, various studies required in this field.

In general, the study revealed that FCIDF WaSH project intervention in different Woredas have made a significant contribution to enhance the Water supply development and health status of the rural family through enhancing access to WaSH services. Improvement of water access in many villages is a basic element to promote sanitation and hygiene practices where the project brought significant contribution in the intervention area. Furthermore, the impact of these projects are also observed through significantly improving access to locally standardized water supply access and solid and liquid waste disposal system education which have direct implication to enhance health status of the family. Henceforth, prevalence of clean water access shortage significantly declined in project intervention areas. Furthermore, this organization should develop and capitalize on documentation of success stories and best practices in order to share experiences to other organizations as well as to foster clean water supply, sanitation and hygiene to all as much as possible.

However, achieving universal access to basic WASH services in schools by 2030 presents a huge challenge (WHO/UNICEF). In many countries including Ethiopia, it will not only imply building and upgrading WASH facilities in schools but also strengthening Education Information Management Systems so they go beyond simply recording the availability of WASH infrastructure to take account of the quality of WASH services provided for students and staff, at large for further communities.

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