

Self Supply News



Self-supply News is a bi-monthly newsletter issued by Self-supply Task Force (SSTF) of Ethiopia, which is a forum of government institutions and development partners. JICA WAS-RoPSS Project is currently taking lead to compile this newsletter.

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Mr. Agash (left) and Mr. Bekele (right) and Terminal Evaluation mission members had a round trip in all target woredas in SNNPR, and they had presentations of the results of the evaluation at the meeting to share counterparts.

(Photo by JICA WAS-RoPSS)

It has been said that there is always a season for every task to begin and finish. Before its final completion, the Project for Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Livelihood Improvement through Dissemination Rope Pumps (RPs) for Drinking Water (WAS-RoPSS) has been evaluated by Terminal Evaluation Team from June 13th to July 1st, for what the project has been achieved over the last three and half years. The Evaluation Team was formed of three Japanese and three Ethiopians. And WAS-RoPSS Team had an opportunity to interview with Mr. Agash Asmamaw, a consultant in the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity, and Mr. Bekele Belete, Socio-economist, in Water and Irrigation Development Bureau of SNNPR. "The whole process has been done in an opened and transparent way. We have said what we believed and put it on the terminal evaluation report. And we have observed so many good things." Said Mr. Agash.

"What is typical about this project is its linkage to the TVET system. Usually, inputs and technology transfers are done on individual and/or institution base, and then I had doubt about its

sustainability. But in this project, the technology was transferred through the TVET system, and it will somehow help the system to run by itself. And it is one of the strength that I have observed during our terminal evaluation.”

When Mr. Agash commented on the prospect of the work after the project is terminated, he said, “ The main thing for us is to scale up and build on what is already achieved through the project. A lot of investment, resources and skill training poured towards the rope pump technology. So now it is time for the region (SNNPR-WIDB) to take the work to the next level through continuous engagement the community and strategic communication with stakeholders. If this is done, then I’m very optimistic about rope pump dissemination after termination of the project.”

It is now nearly two years since SNNPR-WIDB has started dissemination of 10,000 RPs to the zones and woredas. And the installation process in some zones and woreda are already underway. Mr. Bekele Belete represented WIDB-SNNPR in the Terminal Evaluation Team. When asked about how the region would utilize the experience and knowledge gained from the project to scale up the work to other parts of the region, “We have already got lessons and experience from the project over the years. I believe every step the project has taken significantly contributes to the 10,000 RP dissemination program.” Continues Mr. Bekele, “Confidence has been built among stakeholders and the systems are also properly developed through the project. And I believe these are the fundamentals of the whole process and/or work. When we look at the participation of the different sectors on the chain, it is very agreeable and encouraging but this doesn’t mean we haven’t witnessed limitations in the terminal evaluation. To me, this is the area where the region needs to intervene, to fill the gap and at the same time, to take the lesson to other non-target zones and woredas.”

Mr. Bekele also commented on the hope after the project, “Like I said, already the project has left us a good fertile ground to continue. Now there is a great chance for us to install the remaining rope pumps in the region within a short period. Things are already in the pipeline and it won’t be a problem to the region to accomplish what is left. Sometimes the issue of Self-supply at household level is not an easy one. It needs to continue doing demand creation, promotion and collaborations with stakeholders. And we have seen how the project has been working in those areas and it provides us a clue how we can take the work and let it run by itself. I do have hope that rope pump dissemination will continue in the region and more people will benefit from it.

(Interview by JICA WAS-RoPSS)

Rope Pump Installation and Maintenance Training in Kaffa and Bench Maji Zones

JICA WAS-RoPSS

As a part of the assistance to Water and Irrigation Development Bureau of SNNPR, WAS-RoPSS Project organised two courses of two-weeks Rope Pump Installation and Maintenance trainings in Kaffa and Bench Maji Zones from July 11 to 23, 2016. Four woreda water technicians and 23 selected Village Technicians from 4 woredas (2 woreda each from 2 zones) including 3 women Village Technicians participated in the training. One zonal officer from Kaffa also voluntarily participated in the course.

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The participants were all active and enthusiastic to continue the installation work after the training, whilst 79 and 100 rope pumps were distributed to Kaffa and Bench Maji zones respectively. 7 and 6 rope pumps were installed during the training in Kaffa and Bench Maji respectively.

As a part of the training, the participants were instructed to give a short training on operation and maintenance of rope pump to the users when they install rope pumps. It was a pleasure for the Project Team to find that all users in Kaffa started fencing and planting flowers and immediately after the installation!!

Ms. Habtam, Deputy Head of Gimbo Woreda Water Office said that the people really need such a technology and will continue maintain it, while many other rural dwellers still need to have one at their homestead. She continued, “we do not stop moving forward”, and showed her strong commitment to continue the program. The participants are taking the COC test in a-week time in Hawassa to prove their attainment.



Reducer construction during the training, Shea Bench Woreda, Bench Maji Zone (Photo WAS-RoPSS)

Good Practice of Rope Pump Use and Maintenance in Kaffa Zone



Mr. Sisay Eshete (left) and his pump. Behind him is coffee plans. All RP users in Kaffa fenced the water point immediately after the installation. (Photo by JICA WAS-RoPSS)

Mr. Sisay Eshete, a farmer in Kuti Kebele, Gimbo Woreda, Kaffa zone, showed the Project Team a great example of rope pump use and his strong commitment to improve his livelihood with rope pump.

Mr. Sisay has got his first rope pump just a few days before the Project Team’s visit to his house. His pump was placed on the dug well beside the coffee plantation in his homestead. He has fenced the water point and planted flowers beautifully around the well. He started watering his seedlings and his coffee, apples and other fruit trees immediately after the installation.

According to his explanation, he decided to have a rope pump when he heard the explanation about the RP technology at a community meeting. He thought that the technology may help his family life in many respects; to have better access to water for drinking and domestic use, to guard the children and animals from falling into the well, to protect well from the heartless people putting killed cats and rats into it, and to use water in his backyard garden.

Mr. Sisay said that he decided to use the first rope pump only for drinking and domestic use and he would have the second one in his garden for agricultural production.

Promoting Self-supply : the challenges of implementation at the district level

IRC, Millennium Water Alliance

Unimproved Self-supply, such as unprotected wells and sprigs are the main source of drinking water supply for about 28 million people living in rural Ethiopia, in 2015. The figure has remained constant since the 1990's despite massive investment and increase in water supply infrastructures, as the rural population also nearly doubled (JMP Data). Achieving universal access by 2030 without working on Self-supply would be unrealistic.

The Millennium Water Alliance (MWA) program and partners are implementing a three year Conrad Hilton Foundation Grant on WaSH that includes accelerating Self-supply as one of the components. On June 23rd, we had a training and review meeting on Self-supply in South Gondar with CARE International and the government partners working together on this activity. The discussion at the meeting was an eye opener to the challenges of implementing the national self-supply acceleration policy.

Integrating Self-supply into WaSH sector planning and reporting

It is three years since the Ethiopian government adopted Self-supply as one of its service delivery models and developed a specific strategy for Self-supply, but Self-supply hasn't yet been integrated into water sector plans at sub national (regional and woreda/district) levels according to woreda offices in South Gonder. One of the efforts of the Self-supply acceleration pilot project implemented by MWA partners has been to support woredas to develop Self-supply plans as an integral part of their WaSH planning.

Each MWA supported woreda has developed a Self-supply plan, with NGOs working jointly with woreda water and other sector offices, based on a detailed baseline study. However, the plan is referred to by woreda government staff as CARE's plan for Self-supply. The priority given to its implementation is marginal.

Self-supply is not included in planning directives rolled out from the national level (the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity) to the regions and then zones and woredas. Nor do the reporting formats of the woreda water offices require reporting against their Self-supply plans. However, regions present their "group-self supply" activities in sector review meetings. The woreda staff say that unless Self-supply targets in potential kebeles are included in their planning and reporting formats, Self-supply is unlikely get attention by woreda government offices. (Continue to the next page)



Self-supply workshop in South Gondar (Photo by IRC)

Making Self-supply count

The MWA Self-supply project aims to enable 55,000 people to access clean drinking water through Self-supply, including both individual household and group self-supply facilities. The target might be achievable in the seven program woredas of MWA, given the high prevalence of sharing self-supply wells among households, which helps to increase the number of people that can be reached. Group-led facilities are obviously shared, but household facilities are often shared too. Theoretically, Self-supply facilities (mostly hand dug-wells) need to be fully protected and provide tested safe water to be counted in drinking water supply coverage, although current monitoring systems have no way of counting household self-supply facilities.

Perhaps the whole approach of trying to monitor and evaluate self-supply only in terms of additional people that access clean drinking water is flawed anyway. Having water on premises enables households to access more water which is used for sanitation and hygiene, livestock watering and household irrigation to produce fruits and vegetables and other perennial crops that boost the household income. It saves time and energy spent collecting water for communal or other unsafe sources. However, these benefits are not captured and reported by monitoring systems that only focus on counting the number of people accessing safe drinking water supply.

Loans for Self-supply

A Self-supply baseline study done by IRC, with MWA in seven woredas show households use their own financial resources for initial construction of Self-supply facilities (mostly hand dug wells). However, upgrading the wells will require more capital investment and households are likely to need loans, to buy water lifting pumps for example.

One of the partners of MWA, water.org, has made efforts to encourage micro finance intuitions (MFIs) to provide loans by support household investments in Self-supply. They have worked on market studies and providing other assistance, and signing a MoU with some MFIs, like Amheara Credit and Saving Institution (ACSI). At the meeting, ACSI's representative from one of the woreda offices reported that now they have been given directives to provide loans for WaSH from the head office. They have started providing loans, though cautiously. They provide loans to households who jointly engage in productive use of self-supply facilities, such as, household irrigation, taking their horticulture crops or other crops on farm as collateral. This is an encouraging boost for the Self-supply acceleration efforts.



Group discussion on loan for Self-supply (Photo by IRC)

Going forward

At the national level, the self-supply task force chaired by the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity and composed of NGOs and development partners has its work cut out. It needs to make more effort to advocate for integration of self-supply in WaSH planning and reporting processes (and formats) at all levels. The task force also needs to advocate for a monitoring system that helps to capture the benefits of Self-supply, not just in-terms of the number of people reached, but also the service levels provided.

(Ms. Bethel Terefe, IRC)

Activities done in June & July 2016

- June 12 - July 1 Terminal Evaluation Study and Joint Coordination Committee (JICA WAS-RoPSS)
- July
- Rope pump installation, operation & maintenance training in Bench Maji zone and Keffa zone (JICA WAS-RoPSS)
 - Woreda level sensitization training for MWA-EP Self-supply project woredas (MWA-EP)
 - Business skill development training for private businesses for three MWA-EP project woredas (MWA-EP)
 - Meeting and discussions with Micro Finance Institutions (ACSI) (MWA-EP)
 - A joint meeting between CARE South Gondar Sub office staff and ACSI MFI's regional, zonal (South Gondar) and Woreda (Dara, Farta and Este) key staffs participated on a day meeting, where the way forward for MFI engagement in SSA is agreed. (MWA-EP)
 - Supporting private business applicants for challenge fund (MWA-EP)
 - MWA-EP SSA regular steering committee meetings for updates and some action points (MWA-EP)
 - Promotional tools development for demand creation (MWA-EP)
 - WWA /IRC facilitated the global backstop support team monthly call for Ethiopia SSA program, in which representatives of SSA IPs' headquarters and strategic partners took part. (MWA-EP)
 - Self-supply Task Force Meeting

Coming up in August & September 2016

- July 30 COC test for rope pump installers (JICA WAS-RoPSS)
- In August
- Rope pump Workshop on RP quality control and O&M strategies (JICA WAS-RoPSS)
 - Self-supply Task Force Meeting
 - Evaluation and award of/for challenge fund applicants (MWA-EP)
 - Cascaded training to kebele level (Kebele cabinet, DAs, and HEWs, etc.) by the project woredas (MWA-EP)
 - Self-supply acceleration promotion at community level (organizing sensitization events, visits, etc.) (MWA-EP)
 - Supporting private sectors on business development and technical skills through training and coaching (MWA-EP)
 - MWA-EP self-supply Acceleration project Steering committee joint monitoring field visit (MWA-EP)
 - Close follow-up with MFIs (MWA-EP)
 - Promoting one of the self-supply technologies, HWTS, through "Try- and- buy" approach (MWA-EP)
 - WWA /IRC will facilitate the global backstop support team monthly call for Ethiopia SSA program (MWA-EP)
 - A learning and sharing forum that include SSA section will be organized by the end of August/early September, 2016 (MWA-EP)

If you have any comments, questions, suggestions, please contact us at;

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CoWASH <http://www.cmpethiopia.org/>

IRC <http://www.ircwash.org/>

A4A <http://www.aquaforall.org/>

RWSN <http://www.rural-water-supply.net/en/resources/details/662>

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