



Capacity Development Project for the Provision of Services for Basic Human Needs in Kassala, the Republic of Sudan (K-TOP)

Volume. 2 No. 4 March 2013

K-TOP is a Technical Cooperation Project between Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Kassala State Government from May 2012 to April 2014.

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Planning Cluster

New Start of Kassala Take-Off Project after Mid-Term Review



After signing on the Joint Mid-Term Review Report, Mr. Musa (Director General, State Ministry of Finance), Mr. Gamal (Director General, General Directorate of Economic Planning and Development), Ms. Miyazaki (JICA Headquarters), Mr. Mori (JICA Sudan Office) and Mr. Tanaka (Team Leader of K-TOP) shook their hands with smiles. (December 2012)

K-TOP is now in the middle of three-year implementation phase. In September 2012, K-TOP counterparts (C/Ps) conducted the self-evaluation of the project with the technical support from an evaluation consultant from Japan. Based on the result of the self-evaluation, from November to December 2012, C/Ps and the Mid-Term Review Mission came from JICA Headquarters carried out the Mid-Term Review.

In the Mid-Term Review, C/Ps and the Mission investigate and analyze the current situation of the project and try to figure out how far the project has achieved its project purpose and what are the challenges for the project. On the basis of the collected information, they proposed the future direction and the suggestions on the project for the remaining half of the project period.



Self-evaluation in State Water Corporation. C/Ps and Japanese experts worked together to review the current situation of the K-TOP and evaluate the activities. (September 2012)



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After the Mission conducted numerous interviews (in total, with 54 persons from C/Ps and project related persons) and visited the project activities and field sites, C/Ps discussed with the Mission in order to finalize together the Joint Mid-Term Review Report. The report shows the results of evaluation based on five criteria, namely, relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability. After these all intensive process, K-TOP and the Mission organized the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting on December 20th, 2012.

Ms. Ota (on the left), one of the evaluation consultants, visited the New Halfa Factory of Sudan Sugar Company, and made an interview to Director General of the factory. The factory is hiring KVTC graduates and accepting KVTC trainees as interns. Furthermore, KVTC trainers conducted training to technicians in the factory. (December 2012)

In the JCC meeting, the Mission reported the result of the Joint Mid-Term Review for each cluster which finalized with C/Ps. Based on the report, the Mission explained that how far the K-TOP's Overall Goal (Basic human needs of the people in Kassala State are ensured by enabling them to access quality public services by the State) and Cluster Purposes for five clusters were achieved so far and what are the challenges and suggestions to earn more outcomes in the future.

Technology Transfer and Extension Administration extension officers showed Mr. Nabeya from JICA Headquarters the project activities in Flood Irrigation Zone. (December 2012).



In the end of the JCC meeting, the words by Mr. Mori of JICA Sudan Office made C/Ps' eyes shining.

"There were voices from the other states that they want to know about K-TOP. It seems that K-TOP is now being a model for the whole Sudan. Furthermore, through the Mid-Term Review, I felt that Kassala State Government staffs are now having a pride and confidence for providing better public service for citizens."



On the next day of the JCC meeting, Kassala was a beautiful sunny day as usual. Mr. Musa (Director General, State Ministry of Finance, Economy and Manpower) as a representative of Kassala State Government, Ms. Miyazaki as a representative of JICA Headquarters and Mr. Mori as a representative of JICA Sudan Office signed on the Joint Mid-Term Review Report, and finally, the whole review process finished. At the same time, it seems that K-TOP made a new start towards Kassala take-off.

The report of the Mid-Term Review in the JCC meeting. The Mission from Japan presented the result of the Joint Mid-Term Review which C/Ps and the Mission finalized together taking about one month. (December 2012)



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Water Cluster

Solar Pumping System in Banard Village

Sudan is one of the richest countries of solar energy resources. Concerning this climate feature in Sudan, the pilot project of using the solar energy for elevating water pump was raised. Banard village in Khasim Elgirba locality was chosen as the pilot project site.

The Kassala State Water Corporation (SWC) rehabilitation team installed a solar pumping system in Banard village after rehabilitation of the well and the water supply facilities. On January 21st, 2013, the rehabilitation team conducted a test operation. Then, on January 22nd, 2013, the team commenced supplying water to residents in Banard village. SWC staff conducted lectures for village operators on income / expense record keeping, cash reserves, as well as, on operation and maintenance for the solar pumping system.



Solar panel in Banard village

To protect the solar panels against sand storms, the SWC staff and residents planted 150 trees along the fence of the well. Water Committee members, playing a role of operators, will manage the water facility.

The SWC and JICA team would like to enable the residents to have a sense of ownership by improvement of the environment around the water supply facility by themselves. Now, The residents would like also to start agriculture by using surplus water. The JICA team will give them technical guidance in cooperation with the Agriculture Sector people of the Project.



Water distribution point. Comparing with the water pump using fuel energy, the one operating with solar system is less cost and enables the lower price for water fee.

Pipe line network management using GIS system

In November 2012, K-TOP Water cluster team (Kassala State Water Corporation (SWC) and JICA), conducted the second training course on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) which uses the Global Positioning System device (GPS). Nine SWC engineers in Kassala state participated in the training.

After the training course, the GIS unit in SWC selected four engineers from those who received the training to conduct the collection of data and update of water pipeline network regularly. First, they collect the data of wells, pipelines, valves and other technical information by using the GPS device. Then, they enter those data to GIS system and make regularly update to water pipeline network map.

At last, the GIS team formulated an inventory map of the pipe network by GIS. GIS operators will update the map in cooperation with engineers on site in Kassala city. Thereby it will be possible for the SWC to efficiently manage the pipe network and to take countermeasures against leakage in Kassala city.



Mr. Abdul Gadir (SWC Engineer) conducted a training on GIS and GPS to SWC engineers.



Health Cluster

Village Midwives Festival

-Raising the awareness of antenatal care and showing the appreciation toward village midwives' daily works -

On March 4th, 2013, one of the biggest events in K-TOP Health Cluster, Village Midwives (VMWs) Festival was held in Girba locality. There were three main purposes for the Festival: 1) to enhance the support & motivation among VMWs, 2) to raise awareness towards VMWs role and importance of reproductive health (RH) in communities and 3) to provide advocacy for VMWs recruitment issue.

Suddenly, a long parade appeared in the Girba town. The marching band played music and numerous village midwives walked along. Listening to the music, one by one, the neighbor residents gathered and also followed the parade. The parade stopped at the large open-space, and more than 700 people participated in the festival, including State Ministry of Health, Commissioner of Girba Locality, Locality Health Office, Girba Hospital, VMWs, Secondary school students and Girba community people.

The Festival consisted of many activities such as Quiz for secondary school students, lecture of RH, song by VMWs, award ceremony for Good VMWs and so on.

During the Festival, Ms. Suwa, JICA Expert on Maternal and Child Health Program, mentioned that, in Kassala, since most of the deliveries are conducted inside the homes, the role of VMWs is crucial. They are well-trained, graduated the midwifery schools and have a license given by the Ministry of Health. VMWs can support the pregnant women by not only for delivery but also teaching nutrition and issues related pregnancy. When VMWs find a danger sign on pregnant women, they can determine to refer to a health center or hospital and so on. Moreover, Dr. Ezz aldin Abdalla Ali, Director of General in Girba hospital, emphasized the improvement of the relationship between VMWs and hospital staff.

Photo 1) Long parade suddenly appeared in Girba town.

Photo 2) RH Quiz for the secondary school students.

Photo 3) At the end of the Festival, K-TOP Health cluster team distributed the appreciation cross to health visitors and village midwives (Ms. Suwa, center).





Drama play for disseminating reproductive health -Raising awareness in community-

Together with the Festival, for raising the awareness of VMWs' role and importance of antenatal care and finding danger signs, mobile cinema went to three communities and drama group visited seven communities in Girba locality.

The drama group played a comedy story. K-TOP health cluster team and the drama group cooperated for making the scenario of the drama. At first, K-TOP health cluster team requested all content that they want to be included in the drama: who are VMWs, what kind of service they can offer, what the couple must be careful during the wife's pregnancy (antenatal care), what must be prepared before delivery (delivery plan) and so on. Based on the request, the drama group made the scenario and again K-TOP health cluster team checked the content whether it is medically correct or not.

The story is about a shop owner who keeps his pregnant wife inside his house and never let her go out. One day, the neighbor brings the VMW in their locality to his house, because the shop owner does not allow his wife to go to the health center although she looks something wrong. The VMW found a danger sign from his wife and recommend referring to the hospital. During her conviction, his wife falls down...(the)

Hope this dissemination campaign can contribute to make more and more pregnant women take a reproductive health service from VMWs and more and more mothers' and babies' lives will be saved.

The drama was held in the late evening, the time when most of workers finish their works. The drama is not only for women but also for men and boys who will be father in the future.



All people there were laughing and enjoying the drama, and at the same time, remembering the important messages.



Voice from VMW (speech in VMW Festival)

On behalf of VMWs in Girba locality I want to welcome the guests and thank JICA K-TOP and Reproductive Health department in Kassala Ministry of Health (MoH) for organizing this VMW Festival. This is the only event that supports VMWs and shows their role and importance in the community, and advocate for VMWs' employment. It has strengthened our sense of government and also Girba locality people supports.

Moreover, we thank JICA and MoH for distributing VMWs kits and conducting the in-service training for all VMWs in Girba locality. We learned many new techniques regarding antenatal care, delivery and postnatal care.

To achieve the goal of reducing maternal and neonatal mortality, we need at least one VMW for each community. We hope all officials to speed-up the appointment of all VMWs in fixed government jobs and to provide consumables and continuous trainings.



VMWs representative speech.
Ms. Masheir El Tahir (VMW in 2 Arab)



Vocational Training Cluster

Step toward leading vocational training center for human resource development

-Seeking for win-win relationship with local industries-

On March 11th, 2013, Kassala Vocational Training Center (KVTC) and the industry department in Kassala State Ministry of Investment and Tourism cohosted a seminar entitled "Relationship between Vocational Training Institutions and Industries -its importance and approach-". The seminar was conducted for introducing KVTC and its good practice of the cooperation with the company. Fifty four people from company, association, organization and government participated in the seminar.

KVTC introduced the relationship with Sudan Sugar Company (SSC). The company uses various kinds of machineries through the process of producing sugar, from growing sugar cane to purifying sugar, and hires numerous employees. However, SSC has not provided many training opportunities for the employees to upgrade their skills. Concerning this issue, KVTC and Mr. Atsunori Kume, JICA Expert on vocational training curriculum and teaching materials development, suggested SSC to adopt CUDBAS (Curriculum Development Based on Ability Structure) method for knowing the training needs of SSC technicians. Based on those needs, KVTC can prepare the skill-up training.

First, KVTC trainer facilitates five SSC long-experienced technicians to write on cards the required capacity (knowledge, skill and attitude) for their work, thirty cards per person. After that, they check all cards whether there are same contents or not and classify in task categories. Each category is ranked by the degree of importance and structured into a chart. Based on the chart, supervisors evaluate their unit technicians by five-point scale and make the Ability Map of the unit. The Ability Map visualizes the strong point and weak point of an individual employee and the section as a group, and shows what capacity needs to be improved. In the case of SSC, KVTC conducted CUDBAS workshop for technicians in the tractor maintenance section. On the later date, KVTC trainer provided for SSC technicians "training on electronic fuel injection system" and "training on hydraulic system" according to the Ability Map information.

On the other hand, conducting CUDBAS workshop in the company is also good opportunity for KVTC to know the needs of the industry and reflect the needs to its class and curriculum for their trainees. Moreover, because of the cooperative relationship with SSC, the company is accepting more KVTC trainees for in-plant training and offering the broken machineries as a training material. Now, it can be said that KVTC and SSC is constructing "win-win" relationship.



Mr. Alharith (left), Deputy Director in KVTC, and Mr. Kume (right), JICA Expert, introduced the relationship between KVTC and SSC as a good practice.



Mr. Alharith, Deputy Director in KVTC, facilitated CUDBAS Workshop in SSC (left-center).

Promotion and strengthening the management of vocational training in Sudan

On August 17th, 2012, the evaluation workshop on "Training Management in Vocational Training in Japan 2012" was hold in Khartoum 2 vocational training centre from 5th to 6th February 2013, after five months from the training in Japan. The workshop aims to evaluate the implementation of action plans which each trainee decided to do after the training in Japan. 16 trainees from various vocational training and technical education institutions in Sudan gathered together and exchanged their good practices in their work place.

From KVTC, Mr. Alharith, Deputy Director, explained the action implemented for developing a new training curriculum which meets the needs in Kassala industries. Through the labor market survey, KVTC found that, although the agricultural machine maintenance has a big need in industries, there was no such training in Kassala State. The curriculum development was conducted by using the CUDBAS method in

collaboration with SSC. The curriculum is planned to be used from September 2013.



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Agriculture and Livelihood Cluster

The way forward Farmers' Direct Sale (1) -More benefit for farmers and consumers-

One of the important activities of K-TOP project (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Irrigation, Animal resources and Fishery (MoA) and JICA) is the marketing of farmer's products. This activity has been fully launched since the 2nd year. Given the fact that there had been almost no activities on marketing the Project has adopted learning-by-doing approach to develop capacities of the extension officers.

As one of the marketing activities, K-TOP is now supporting the farmers in the horticulture zone to do direct sale. In horticulture zone, farmers produce many kinds of vegetables and fruits, for example, tomato, potato, carrot, lemon, grapefruit, mango and so on.

Normally, farmers sell their all products to wholesalers, retailers or middlemen, and those persons sell in the market. However, for farmers, the profits gained from this process are usually cheap and unsatisfactory.

Against such situation, K-TOP introduced the idea of forming small farmers groups and carrying out the direct sale by farmers. The direct sale can have two benefits for both farmer's side and consumer's side. First, farmers can decide the price for their products by themselves. In other words, farmers can compare the profits between the one they can gain from direct sale and the one they can earn by selling to wholesalers, and choose which has more earning for them. Second, in most cases, the direct sale price for the consumer is cheaper than the price which has an intervention from middlemen.

Promotion of direct sale has been a long process. At first, K-TOP looked for farmers who are willing to do the direct sale. Since the idea was new for most of the farmers, both JICA team and TTEA extension officers needed to have numerous meetings with farmers to explain about what is the direct sale, what is the benefit and so on.

At last, K-TOP could find 10 farmers to try the direct sale and divided in two farmers groups: 1) South Sawagi farmer group (5 members) so-called onion group and 2) North Sawagi farmer group (5 members) so-called tomato group.

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Opening day of the direct sale in the Garbel Gash market



Meeting with farmers, TTEA extension officers and JICA team normally start the meeting after sunset when farmers finished their job.



Constructing the skeleton for direct sale place.



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The way forward Farmers' Direct Sale (2)

-More benefit for farmers and consumers-

After the formation of the groups, K-TOP contacted Kassala locality officials and also introduced the idea of direct sale to them. Thankfully the locality understood the idea and offered a site in Garbel Gash market to be a window of direct sell from the farmers to the consumers.

On one hand, the farmers started from constructing the skeleton of the site. They tried to make the place enable to present the products in a neat, healthy, clean and hygienic seen. The cost for the preparation of the site was shared among the farmers themselves.

On the other hand, to encourage the farmer groups, K-TOP provided ten measurement tools, ten calculators and ten notebooks to record the details of the daily buy and sell. Furthermore, the Project offered the training on direct sale for farmers, mainly focusing on how to determine the price in direct sale and make a financial plan.

Because of the all efforts done by farmers, locality, Commissioner, TTEA extension officers and JICA team, the farmer group could do trial selling on April 16th, 2013. Hope the direct sale trial will activate the market in Kassala and farmers can earn more benefit from the products which they spent much time and energy.



Training on direct sale for farmers

“Welcome to the Farmers’ direct sale in Garbel Gash market. We offer various kinds of fresh fruits and vegetables in reasonable price”



Monitoring the purchases and sales



In the direct sell, the farmer groups are selling Agor, Tomato, Onion, Lemon, Chili, El korom.

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