

ANAMBRA STATE, SCALING UP URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DELIVERY: THE PERSPECTIVE OF WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION SECTOR REFORM PROGRAMME

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Abstract

The provision of water to majority of Nigerians has always been at the discretion of the Government without any say whatsoever by the beneficiary communities. Of course this anomaly has led many communities to be without access to this essential commodity, because the reasons were more political than social-economical. The present democratically elected government has gone a long way to reverse the deprivation of potable water to the majority of Nigerians, through the introduction of progressive policies, legislation and procedures in federal ministry of water resources (FMWR). This paper is intended to discuss practical strategies of maximizing the benefits of such policies to the beneficiary communities through development facilitation, Anambra state ministry of Bureau of utilities and water resources in partnership with World Bank through water supply and sanitation reform programme (WSSSRP) as reference.

KEYWORDS: Water and Sanitation, essential commodity, socio-economical, community, policy, strategy.

Introduction

Water is a source of life and researchers over the years have pointed to the fact that fresh water resources are not unlimited. Although desert encroachment has left some communities homeless in the North and gully erosion is a permanent threat in south eastern part of the country destroying pipe borne water and upturning overhead and ground tanks. Urban communities need to use these scarce resources with care so that future generation will be able to benefit from good quality water. Moreover, correct utilization of water does not mean merely consuming it without thinking what happens to it after words, but means that care should also be taken of the waste water in order to avoid pollution and alleviate the spread of dangerous diseases.[3]

High population growth rates, rapid urbanisation, unsustainable exploitation of water resources for domestic, industrial and agricultural purposes, as well as the continue degradation of freshwater resources through waste discharge in Niger Delta region, are but some of the factors which have in the past led to improper water resources management in many developing countries. Therefore, water supply and sanitation are considered human rights and they are basic priorities of the development programme in Nigeria. More so, experience in developing countries has shown that provision of water and sanitation facilities should go hand in hand with education and training in their proper use before good results in improving the quality of life in the urban communities can be achieved.[5][7]

Consequently, the beneficiaries of water and sanitation projects should learn where the water comes from, where the wastes go to, why these services should be paid for and how to take responsibility for and ownership over the infrastructures provided.

In realizing the complexity of the above issues and the nature of expertise in various organisations, Anambra State Government formed a working agreement with World Bank, through an agency, Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Reform Programme (WSSSRP). Based on the needs of infrastructural development projects in Nigeria, Anambra State Government and World Bank partnership designed a framework for education, training and operation processes in urban and rural community water supply and sanitation projects.[5]

Objective

The aim of the programme is to identify the more promising approaches in order to disseminate these into the rest of the sector for consideration where applicable. The approaches are based on a refined set of internationally acceptable water reformed principles which have emerged over the years.[6] These principles are listed as follows:

- Water sources and catchment protection are essential
- Adequate water allocation needs to be agreed upon between stake holders within a national frame work
- Efficient water use is essential and often an important water sources
- Management needs to be taken care of at lowest appropriate levels

- Involvement of all stake holders is required
- Striking a gender balance is needed as activities related to different roles of men and women
- Skill development are the key to sustainability
- Water is treated as having an economic and socio values.

Methodology

The basic priorities of Anambra State are the empowerment of urban community by providing them with the knowledge to make their own decision and to take ownership of development projects. This programme of education, training and operation is vital part of every urban community water supply and sanitation projects should be an inseparable part of the whole development process, from the pre-project phase through monitoring and evaluation, implementation and finally to the operation and maintenance after a project has been completed.[2]

The programme framework was developed by team of specialist in different fields; engineering, social science, education and training. The framework must be tested with the beneficiaries of various water supply and sanitation projects before making it available for use in infrastructural development projects.[4]

The framework consists of light phases namely;

- i. Pre-project
- ii. Feasibility
- iii. Detailed survey
- iv. Project planning
- v. Monitoring and Evaluation
- vi. Pre contract
- vii. Construction
- viii. Operation and maintenance

Framework table

Technical Issues	Socio-Economic Issues
Pre-Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial approach • Organisation of community • Health Education • Hygiene Education • Payment principles • Vandalising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Entering a community - Community mobilization - Development Programme Principles/financing State Government - Gender issues - Community participation - Communication
Feasibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs analysis • Feasibility study • Technologies/Technical aspects • Cost • Appoint technical consultant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project Process - Committee management - Resources - Agriculture - Introduction to technology
Detailed survey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water & Sanitation committee • Site/terrain features • Ability to pay • Population • Characteristic • Responsibility/payment for services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leadership skill - Introduction to engineering - Cost - Available Technology
Project Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology choice/cost • Project proposal • Fund raising • Project management • Decision making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management procedures - Conflict/stress management - Financial management - Operation and maintenance - Entrepreneurship - Institutional aspects in management skills
Monitoring & Evaluation	On-going – takes place after each phase

(Pre- contract - Design - Training • Tenderers • Project management • Labour/work - Tender period - Tender award	- Specification - Business skill - Contracts - Legal aspects - Risk in business
Construction - Quality - Programme - Budget - Variation orders/ claims - Defects liability period	- Specification - Construction - Management - Contracts - Legal aspects - Risk in business
Operation & maintenance - technical - Routine - Problem solving - Collection of money - Responsibility/vandalism	- Leisure time activities - Diversification skills - Payment collection/control /auditing

Viewing from above table, testing of the whole framework step by step will be a time consuming and expensive process because it requires following implementation of a whole project, which in some cases may continue for a number of years. Four phases have therefore been identified for testing and evaluation namely;

- Pre project
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Construction
- Operation and Maintenance

Each one of the above phases of framework will be tested under the condition of actual infrastructural development projects with different types of urban communities. Anambra State Government in conjunction with World Bank has already developed various educational tools such as posters, booklets, a scale model of a settlement manuals etc. which will be used to convey the information to the communities involved in water supply and sanitation projects. The training will be done by facilitators (NGOs) already engaged with on-going or planned projects, who will use the available tools and follows the steps and requirement of the framework.[8]

The process of training, education and operation will be monitored by social scientists and engineers from the Government as well as specialist in education, training and construction from World Bank. The facilitators and urban community members who will be receiving the training will also provide a valuable feedback on the sustainability and applicability of the framework. The results of the evaluation will then be used for final revision of the framework and the production of guidelines for using the framework in water supply and sanitation projects.[1]

Results

The basic needs approach requires an intervention of Anambra State in the creation of access to essential service. These services include portable water, employment, sanitation, health, education, security, food and others. The provision of these services by the State Government on the other hand, depends on the resources of Federal Government, and the economic policies that are pursued by the government. Obviously a country whose policies are not geared towards sustainable growth and development often fails to afford these services, especially as Federal Government has poor social welfare programme, which is found to lack in the adequate provision of these basic needs, even if she has high level of growth. These policies are, however, only enabling mechanism but cannot deliver and create capacity to have a community facilitation mechanism that will ensure the creation of absorption capacity in the urban communities.[6][7]

Conclusion

The provision of portable water to urban communities is a broad process that requires the coordination of needs, resources and institutional framework. This coordination needs to be underpinned by effective facilitation. The process is often time consuming and depends on the level of development of the urban communities and their institutions. Its success should be judged according to how equitable the power balances turn out to be as well as socio-economic, political and environmental sustainability.[1] It is worth noting that urban community driven development has been in existence but a new experience in water and sanitation is coming up in Nigeria and its success will be determined by how the relationship within resource institutions and communities are managed.

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