



**OPERATION
BLESSING
INTERNATIONAL**

August 10, 1993

Mr. John McEnaney, Project Officer
Agency for International Development
4725 NS
310 21st Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20523-0069

SUBJECT: Quarterly Program Evaluation

Dear Mr. McEnaney:

Please find attached an update on the progress of the water well project in Romania. Kindly let me know if you have any questions or are in need of further information or clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn D. Brogren". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lynn D. Brogren
Director of Operations,
Operation Blessing International
Relief and Development

QUARTERLY REPORT TO A.I.D.
April - June 1993

On Friday, June 11th, we met with Dr. Micka in Bucharest to discuss the water well project. In addition to Dr. Micka and her assistant, Bill Zawko (OBIRD in-country Director), Liviu Neagoe (Project Administrative Director) and Sorin Pascu (Timis county water department) were in attendance. As you know, the project had been on hold since last October due to environmental concerns. We were finally successful in persuading the Romanian government to release pertinent geological and environmental information. Based upon this information and data gathered by the East LifeWater staff, environmental approval was given by A.I.D. for the first five wells to be drilled this season.

Mr. Pascu reiterated the commitment on behalf of the Romanian government to support this project. The Timis county board made a request for funds from Bucharest in the Spring of 1992. These funds were to pay for the cost of making the electric hook-ups, erecting a pump house and paying for the benzine and oil costs incurred in drilling the well. After many months, the overdue money did finally arrive and we have seen five wells become operational so far this year. The water department of Timis county has been very pleased with the drilling efforts, and we have met all environmental requirements of the Romanian government. Mr. Pascu asked that the drilling be allowed to resume immediately. Dr. Micka replied that the Romanian's have bureaucracy and the American's have bureaucracy -- we both should be used to working within that system. As it was, the approval to begin drilling was received within a week of our visit.

In addition to receiving the approval to drill, several updates were given to Dr. Micka. One area discussed was that of the drip irrigation systems. It was reported that almost 200 units have been given to the needy this Spring. Eligible recipients were those families with many children, the elderly or a particular individual who was especially interested in and committed to gardening. The kits were given out in communities in which East LifeWater had drilled a well.

It was also reported that East LifeWater had finally received its non-profit status from the Romanian government. This will allow them to function within the legal system of Romanian law and make them eligible to purchase property.

We have adopted a new policy governing our partnership with the Romanian authorities. There have been many hold-ups due to the inability of the villages to pay for the electric hook-up, build the pump house and cover the expenses of benzine and oil. As a result, we will not begin work in a village until a 50% deposit has been made to East LifeWater to cover these costs.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Two separate trips have been made by LifeWater International volunteers this Spring. Brad Drake and Dave Bushnell went in May (at OBIRD expense) to assure that the East LifeWater crew and equipment were ready to begin drilling when given the go ahead. They demonstrated some additional equipment maintenance techniques to the crew and attempted to repair a clogged well at Seciani only to find that the PVC pipe is broken and could not be repaired. Another hole will have to be drilled in this village to replace the damaged one.

The second technical follow-up visit was made by Randy Fain, LifeWater volunteer and crew leader from last year. He spent almost two weeks in Romania during which time he provided technical support through a refresher course in drilling, and he trained the crew in the slightly different techniques used in drilling a hand pump well.

CURRENT PROBLEM AREAS

We are putting as much pressure as possible on the Timisoara water department to release the geologic and water quality results on the next five proposed sites, but have not been successful in obtaining this information. Unfortunately, we are looking at another delay as we have almost completed the five which were recently approved. The Romanian water department is citing heavy workloads with depleted staff due to summer vacations. We are continuing to press them for the records and stress the urgency of the situation. They clearly understand that we will not be able to drill again until we receive environmental approval from A.I.D. in Washington. There appears to be a fair amount of resentment on the part of the local government officials; they do not want to allow A.I.D. Washington to have input on the environmental issues.

The well in Bucovat has an unacceptable level of iron content in the water. It is not safe for human consumption and is currently being used to water livestock. We are investigating iron filtration systems and the long term viability of this solution. If it does not prove feasible to filter the iron from the water, we

will examine geologic data to determine if high iron levels are prevalent throughout the region, or are specific to the area where the village is located.

We have had two failed well attempts, one in Seciani (as previously noted) and the other in Valcani. The PVC well casing collapsed in Seciani and we plan to drill at an adjacent site. The Valcani attempt did not reach water. We will gather additional information and determine if it is possible to drill a successful well in this area given the constraints of our equipment.

We are finding it difficult to hire men for the crew who are motivated to work for their pay. As a result, there are ongoing personnel problems mainly due to insubordination. We have instituted new personnel policies outlining steps to be taken in cases where an employee refuses to take direction, does not come to work as required or negatively impacts the project through irresponsible actions or theft.

To date, 24 wells have been drilled. Please find below a synopsis of the current status of these wells.

CURRENT STATUS OF WELLS	NO. OF WELLS
Fully Operational	8
Complete but awaiting Romanian funds	9
In process	4
High iron content	1
Failed well attempts	2

CONCLUSION

We are making good progress in making all existing wells fully operational. We are, however, encountering a fair amount of resistance from the Romanian authorities in the area of releasing information necessary to continue with this project. Romania continues to be a difficult country in which to work in the sense of open communication and cooperation, a common situation when working in developing countries. It is also a country of tremendous need and potential. We are hopeful that this project will continue going forward and reach its full capacity to benefit the people of Northwestern Romania.

"Weekly Status Report" - East Life Water - Date:06/30/93

Site	PWD Approval	Pre-Pay Renel	Pre-Pay Fuel/Oil Contract	ESPA/T & AID Approval	Well Drilled	Water Tested	Pump House Erected	Electrical Hook-up Completed	Pump Installed/ Complete!	Comments
Carani 1	✓	✓		✓ 5/3/93	✓ 4/10/92	✓	✓	✓	✓ 5/9/93	Need Electric Meter
Carani 2	✓	✓		✓ 5/3/93	✓ 4/20/92	✓	✓	✓		Need Electric Meter and then Install Pump
Sinandrei Distribution System	✓	✓	✓	✓ 5/3/93	✓ 4/23/92	✓	✓	✓	✓	System Operational Since August 1992
Seciani Distribution System	✓	✓	✓	✓ 5/3/93	✓ 5/2/92		✓	✓		Attempted to drill the clogged well open; find that PVC is broken! Can't repair!! 5/5/93
Cornesti Distribution System	✓	✓	✓	✓ 5/3/93	✓ 5/6/92	✓	✓	✓	✓	In operation since March, 1993
Calacea Distribution System	✓	✓	✓	✓ 5/3/93	✓ 5/7/92	✓	✓	✓	✓	In operation since April, 1993. Install electrical safety equipment.
Hodoni 1 Distribution System	✓			✓ 5/3/93	✓ 5/11/92					No money for well house, meter, etc.
Hodoni 2 Distribution System	✓	✓		✓ 5/3/93	✓ 6/17/92	✓	✓ 4/18/93	✓ 4/28/93	✓ 5/5/93	Operational since April, 1993
Satchinez Distribution System	✓			✓ 5/3/93	✓ 5/25/92					No money for well house & meter, etc. Need to test well for pump size.

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Ghiroda 1	✓	✓		✓ 5/3/93	✓ 6/3/92	✓	✓	✓	✓	Operational since November, 1992.
Ghiroda 2	✓	✓		✓ 5/3/93	✓ 6/8/92	✓	✓	✓	✓	Operational since November, 1992
Gelu 1 Distribution System	✓	✓	✓	✓ 5/3/93	✓ 6/22/92	✓				No water for pump house, electric meter, etc.
Gelu 2	✓		✓	✓ 5/3/93	✓ 7/7/92					No money for pump house, electric meter, etc.
Varias Distribution System	✓	✓	✓	✓ 5/3/93	✓ 7/15/92	✓	✓			Need to finish pump house, then install pump and electric meter
Cernateaz	✓			✓ 5/3/93	✓ 7/21/92					No money for pump house, electric meter, etc.
Bucovat	✓	✓		✓ 5/3/93	✓ 8/4/92	✓	?	✓	✓ Iron in water. Water is used for animals.	Well water is too high in iron. Not acceptable by World Health standards and Romanian Government.
Tomnatic Distribution System	✓	✓	✓	✓ 5/3/93	✓ 8/24/92	✓	✓	✓	✓	Operational since April, 1993
Valcani Distribution System	✓		✓	X	✓ 9/3/92					Drilled 150 meters but reached no water!!!

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Vizejdia Population 320	✓ 3/31/93	✓ 4/10/93	✓ 4/29/93	✓ 4/3/93						Drilling In Progress
Urseni Population 1161	✓ 3/31/93			✓ 4/9/93						
Bretea Distribution System Population 590	✓ 3/31/93	✓	✓	✓ 4/9/93	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Operational since July, 1993
Rovinita Population 405	✓ 3/31/93	✓	✓	✓ 4/9/93	✓	✓				Pump house is in progress, electric meter is paid for Job in progress
Crivina 1 Population 400	✓ 3/31/93			✓ 4/9/93						
Crivina 2	✓ 3/31/93			✓ 4/9/93						