

PROJECT ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT

Project Title:	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS)
Project Number:	693-0210
Total Obligations:	\$10,989,000
First Obligation:	\$1,500,000 August 31, 1980
Final Obligation:	750,000 September 18, 1987
Country:	Togo
PACD:	December 31, 1987
Final Evaluation:	December 1987

I. Introduction

The seven-year Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project began in 1980 and ran through 1987. The project was implemented by USAID, and the Government of Togo (GOT), with assistance from Peace Corps, the European Development fund (FED), and the Fund for Aid and Cooperation (FAC). The original PACD was September 1984, and was extended to December 1987 after the mid-term evaluation.

The purpose of the RWSS project was to improve the health and living conditions of 600,000 rural persons living in the Savanna and Plateau regions of Togo by providing potable water sources, and improved sanitary facilities. In 1984 an educational component was developed which emphasized health education and proper water utilization.

The project was composed of four components working simultaneously; a) construction (wells, latrines, etc.), b) community development, c) training and human resources development, and d) maintenance. Specific project objectives included:

- completing 1000 drilled wells;
- building 126 water supply cisterns;
- building 612 latrines;
- training 9,600 community health agents;
- training 2,880 construction extension workers;
- creating/training 16,800 village development committees;
- training 1,440 villagers in pump maintenance.

II. Contributions of the Parties

The total project cost was \$16,852,000. The project received assistance from the following sources:

USAID - Obligated \$10,989,000 to support a long-term technical assistance team, well drilling contract, and some

training and material costs. Total project expenditures were \$10,758,655. The difference of \$230,345 was de-obligated.

GOT - Provided an estimated \$3,117,000 for the salaries of government personnel assisting the project.

FAC - Provided \$1,458,000 for the purchase of the Vergnet and UPM pumps installed on the USAID-financed drilled wells.

Peace Corps - Provided an estimated \$750,000 in the form of 30 person-years of effort of Volunteers assigned to the project.

FED - Provided \$538,000 to fund the operational and equipment costs of two regional repair crews.

III. Implementation

Initial project plans focused on the construction of wells, latrines, and other community development activities stimulated by the creation and training of Village Development Committees (VDCs). A total of 212 GOT employees from three separate Ministries were involved in the project's implementation. USAID financed 3 long-term technical assistance advisors under the project in the areas of planning, health education, and construction. These advisors provided a total of 152 person-months of assistance to the project, supplemented by 20 person-months of short-term assistance, and 15 Peace Corps Volunteers.

Site selection for the well bore holes was completed by technicians from the Bureau of Geological Research and Mines and the Directorate of Water and Energy. The firm of Griffin-Intrafor, Inc. was selected as the drilling operations contractor and began work in late 1981. The cost of the materials for latrine construction was financed by USAID, and labor and some material cost were born by the villages.

VDC's were created in each of the project's villages through a series of four meetings. Members of the village chose between 9-13 representatives to serve on the VDC. Responsibilities of the committees included identification of village health problems, maintenance and repair of pumps, micro-project implementation, and organizing and assisting project sponsored health education campaigns. Each member of the committee received training to carry out their specific functions, ie. President, Secretary, or Treasurer.

Subsequent to the RWSS mid-term evaluation conducted in April of 1983, a large training component was added to the project. An underlying principle of the new component was to work closely with those institutions already working in

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the project area, thereby strengthening their institutional capacity and human resources. The project conducted training for GOT regional extension staff, regional technical assistants, Peace Corps volunteers, VDC's, and women oral rehydration therapy (ORT) volunteers in a variety of topics.

Another project initiative that stemmed from the mid-term evaluation was developing alternate technologies for rural water supply, such as capping springs and building cisterns.

IV. Accomplishment of Project Objectives

The project's final evaluation (WASH field report No. 228 of February 1988) concluded that in terms of accomplishments, the project had been highly successful. The seven-year project provided potable water to 864 villages with a total population of about 600,000. The construction component completed 1,048 boreholes, capped 3 springs, and constructed 256 cisterns and 473 latrines. This met or exceeded initial project targets except for latrines. In each of the villages that received a well, a VDC was established and its members trained. A slower than expected supply of some pumps resulted in some of the boreholes not being functional at the time of the final evaluation.

The results of the training component are summarized in the following table:

Task	(number of persons trained)	
	Expected Outputs	Achieved Outputs
1. Training health and community development agents	9,600	8,400
2. Training government agents in construction techniques	2,880	2,000
3. Training local workers in construction techniques	2,000	1,800
4. Training members of Village Development Committees	16,800	10,000
5. Training villagers in pump maintenance	1,440	6,000

The program established to recruit and train pump maintenance teams was organized on a two-tier system. Two persons were trained in each village to handle basic pump repairs, while regional technicians were to be responsible for major problems, and periodic visits to each village. At the time of the final evaluation, the village maintenance teams were operating well, but there were not enough regional technicians to respond to problems with the pumps.

V. Lessons Learned

- The project placed considerable emphasis on the institutional development of GOT social affairs agencies and on VDC's to address the issue of long-term sustainability. The sustainability issue was further emphasized through the project's commitment to working with and through already existing government agencies and structures instead of creating separate project structures. This emphasis was the key to the overall project success.
- On average, each field agent spent the equivalent of one year's time per village in establishing committees, supervising activities, and assuring follow-up activities over the life of the project. Such a large commitment of time allocated to village contacts are necessary to assure effective community development.
- About one-fourth of the total financial resources expended in this project were devoted to community development activities. This figure exceeded the commitment to health education and community development in comparable projects at the time in other countries. However, the evaluation team concluded that this proportion was close to a desirable norm for rural water projects in general, given recent knowledge of the importance of community participation in water and sanitation projects. Without such commitment to popular participation, both short-term and long-term goals will be threatened.
- Women are a key component of any rural water and health project, and should be involved in all phases of the project activities.
- The concept of village responsibility for pump maintenance is viable and should be continued. Villagers have demonstrated a willingness to pay for maintenance costs within reason; however they need to have all of the necessary tools and spare parts easily accessible. There was insufficient support to the pump maintenance effort beyond the village level. This support, in terms of more in-depth expertise and supply systems for spare parts, is essential for long-term viability.
- The sanitation component (latrine construction) is important to the total package, but project resources were insufficient to achieve desired results. Unfortunately, the type of latrine promoted by the project, while hygienic and effective, was beyond the financial means of most villagers.

VI. Financial Close-out

Total LOP Authorized Funding	\$11,739,000
Total Obligation	10,989,000
Total Expenditures	10,758,655
Total De-obligation	<u>230,345</u>
Project Pipeline	\$0

S. Clark
Sarah C. Clark
A.I.D. Representative

2/19/93
Date

Clearance:
Paul Ehmer, HPDO *Paul G Ehmer*
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Date 2/19/93
Date 2/17/93

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