

AUSTRIA: A CASE STUDY ON COMMITMENTS-RELATED BEST PRACTICE OR LESSONS LEARNED IN WATER

1. Which specific WSSD or Agenda 21 commitment does your case study address?

- Chapter 18 of Agenda 21, Para 25 – 28 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
- Water supply and sanitation in rural areas and small towns in the Province Sofala in Moçambique
- Demand driven approach by mobilization and organization of local users and capacity building for administration on all levels

2. Please briefly describe the essential characteristics of the case study you wish to share including the nature of activities undertaken

PAARSS: Projecto de Abastecimento e Agua Rural e Saneamento em Sofala – Programme for rural water supply and sanitation in Sofala Province, Moçambique: The main objective of the water sector program of Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) is to improve the well being of the population and contribute to a reduction of the poverty for families living in the rural areas and the centres of development in the Sofala Province. The project will contribute to this overall objective by promotion of drinking water supply and adequate sanitation, involving and networking three strategic partners: the users and their water and sanitation committees (WAS), the districts (of Buzi, Cheringoma, Chibabava and Marromeu with the municipalities of Dondo and Marromeu) and the province with the Department for Water and Sanitation (DAS) as part of the provincial government.

Description of PAARSS: The first Plan for Actions to Reduce the Absolute Poverty (PRSP, PARPA) 2001-2005, considers health and basic infrastructures as a priority area in the effort to promote the human development through creation of a favourable environment to reduce the poverty. The goals presented in PARPA are basically the same as in the National Water Policy (NWP) and correspond to the 5 years plan by the Government of Moçambique (GoM) and the National Water Directorate (DNA), 2000 –2004. In the PARPA the programme for water is divided in two components, management of water resources and water supply and sanitation.

Within agreements on the bilateral co-operation between the Province Government of Sofala and Austria (1999 –2001), one was the triennial sub sector programme for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (PAARSS), implemented by the Provincial Directorate for Public Works and Housing (DPOPH). The PAARSS programme was incorporated in the Austrian Development Co-operation Sector Programme. Phase 1 of PAARSS initiated the activities in May 1999 and ended on the 30th of September 2002. Phase 2 started in October 2002 and will last 3 years. The programme aims to create awareness of the national water sector policy in the population, capacity within the Department for Water and Sanitation (DAS) and to enable DAS to implement the National Water Policy (NWP) as foreseen by the Plan for Transforming the National Water Policy (RWTP).

For the practical implementation of the programme the following districts were selected: Buzi, Cheringoma, Chibabava and Marromeu as well as the municipalities of Dondo and Marromeu.

The main strategy of the programme is to create a sector and territorial understanding between the actors and consumers in the sub sector for rural water supply and sanitation. Through consciousness and awareness concerning problems related to water resources as well as water supply and sanitation, the

users will define the demand and initiate the development and acquisition of infrastructures for water and sanitation. The process is defined as the demand driven process.

To make the demand principle operational it was necessary to elaborate two strategies: a communication strategy and a gender strategy. The strategies are tools for the mobilisation campaigns, training and public information in an environment where the users in their majority are illiterate women in remote rural areas.

At user level the legal status for community management and the services provided from the district administration is still to define. So far there are no models for the financial management, which makes it difficult to achieve sustainability for water and sanitation systems. PAARSS prefers to focus on the organisation and mobilisation of the communities, where involvement, training and monitoring is crucial for a sustainable water supply.

Based on these two strategies the training and capacity building is initiated within the province (DAS), district administrations, and municipal administration down to community level. Six private companies / NGOs were trained by the Professional Training Centre for Water and Sanitation (CFPAS), to perform mobilisation and empowerment of users through animators and community trainers. Simultaneously radio programs specially addressing the demand process were produced and emitted. Theatre groups were created and trained in Buzi, Cheringoma and Chibabava and in the other districts/municipalities the already existing groups were reactivated. The task of the theatre groups was to reinforce the message transmitted by the community trainers.

During the implementation of the first phase of PAARSS, the Austrian Development Co-operation reduced the number of sectors from four to two, Decentralisation and Rural Development. The new phase of PAARSS will be one of the components within the triennial sector program for Rural Development financed by Austrian Development Co-operation.

3. Please explain the nature and characteristics of particular challenges and constraints faced, if any.

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4. What are the lessons learned in the process, positive and/or negative?

The successful use of the two strategies has been recognised by the National Water Directorate (DNA), who will adopt them in the elaboration of the national communication strategy for rural water. The database PAARSS created with DAS serving as demand management tool, has also been renowned by DNA and will be applied in other provinces. The EU financed project Zamwat intends to apply same

strategies and methods during the implementation of their support to the five DAS in the Zambezi Valley. The Zamwat is counting on DAS together with PAARSS as the strategic partners in the Sofala province.

5. What has been the impact of such a case in the area(s) concerned?

By the end of phase 1 of the programme 130 Water Committees had been registered, of those 88 elaborated their application for water supply infrastructures. Within the timeframe of the programme the small piped systems in the towns of Cheringoma and Marrmeou benefited from feasibility study and the following rehabilitation.

When analysing the table of results, it is possible to observe the need of a continuation of the programme with a second phase. Out of the created committees, 88 made their application and only 42 received a repaired or new infrastructure. In numbers PAARSS contributed to 21% of the coverage rate in Dondo, 23 % in Cheringoma and 13 % in Marromeu. In global terms 22 000 people benefited from the actions, representing 9% of the coverage in the districts with disperse wells. The water supply guaranteed by rehabilitation of the small piped systems in Marromeu and Cheringoma augmented the coverage to 95% and 97% of the coverage in each town.

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