

Presentation

Presentation from the 2009 World Water Week in Stockholm
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WORLD
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WEEK

Strengthening Community Management of Water Schemes in the Post Conflict Context of Eastern DRC



MURRAY BURT

tearfund

Introduction

Case Study: Swima Village,
South Kivu, DRC.

In a post conflict environment where government capacity is limited, strengthening of traditional community water management structures has proved to be very successful in achieving sustainability.



Public Tap-stand on the Swima water supply network

Background / Context

South Kivu, Eastern DRC



Conflict

- Eastern DRC has seen more than a decade of conflict which ended in July 2003 when the Transitional Government of DRC took power.

Post Conflict

- Large numbers of refugees are returning on a daily basis
- Refugees arrive into an environment with inadequate, war damaged infrastructure, including a lack of adequate safe water and sanitation services
- The war created huge capacity gaps



UNHCR Voluntary Repatriation Programme

The Kamati ya Maji Safi (KMS) Story

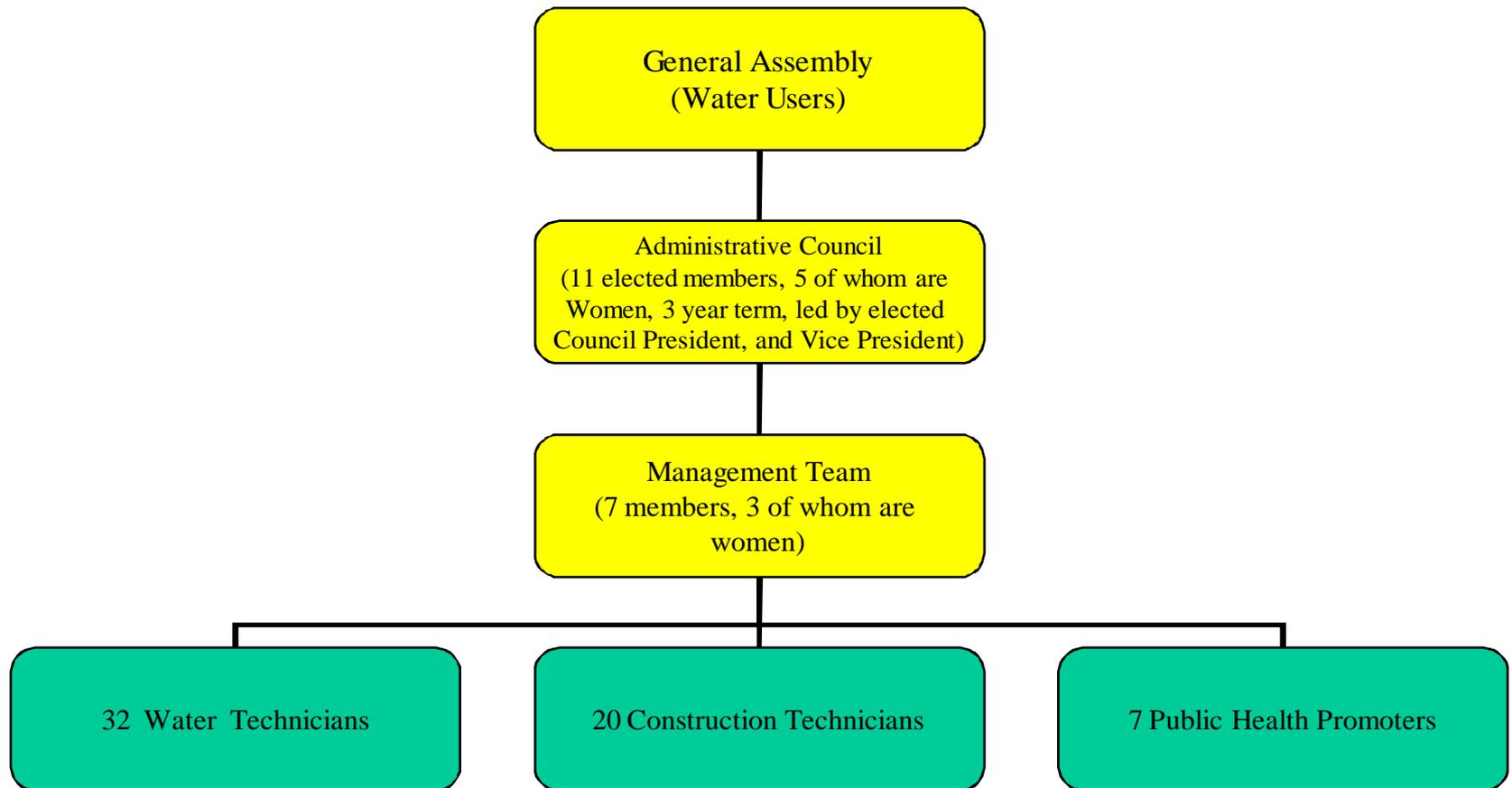
Building on Existing Social Capital over 12 Years

- **1997**, customary local level informal groups were mobilized to take a role alongside government for management of a new spring fed piped water scheme.
- **1998 – 2003**, Water scheme damaged and fell into disrepair during the conflict period.
- **2003**, The local level informal institution for water management reborn as Kamati ya Maji Safi (KMS) “Committee for Clean Water”
- **2003 – 07**, Tearfund engaged in a process of capacity building to empower the community to sustainably manage its own water supply scheme.
- **2007 – 09**, KMS are now independently managing the water supply and sanitation services within their community.



KMS Institutional Framework

Equitable Community Management involves community in decision making



Women A Strong Voice

Recognizing Gender Issues in Community Management



- Throughout the process, women have been active leaders in decision making.
- Women in Swima village embraced advocacy as a tool to create awareness and bring about change.
- Women identified water quality issues, played a key role in the identification of new springs and involved in hygiene advocacy
- Women have good representation in the General Assembly, Administrative Council and Management Council.

Capacity Building

Sustainable Community Management Takes Time to Develop

Four Year Capacity Building Programme focussed on:

- Engineering and Technology
- Economics and Finance
- Management and Administration
- Hygiene and Sanitation Promotion
- Social and Environmental Responsibility



2003

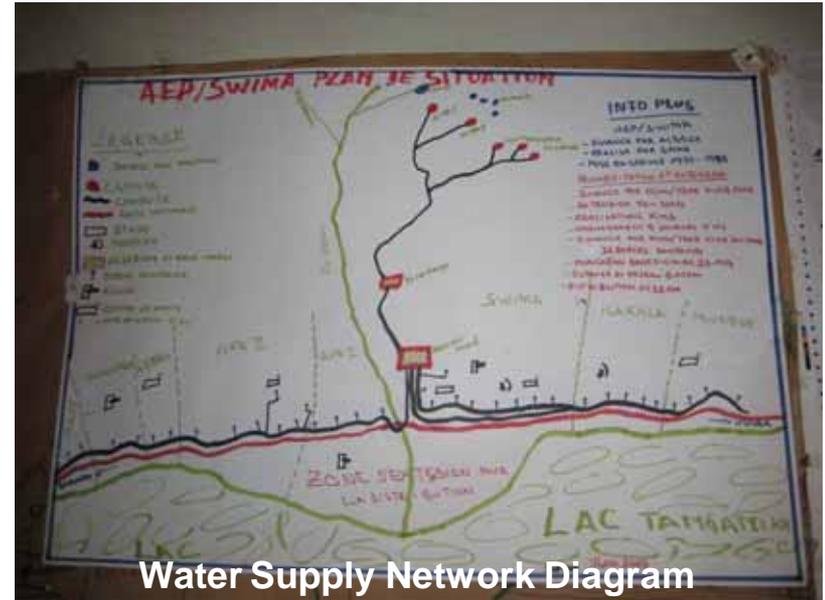
Four Year Period

2007

Engineering and Technology

Importance of Appropriate Sustainable Technology

- Spring protection and gravity piped water systems preferred over wells due to lower ongoing maintenance costs, ease of user access, availability of spare parts.
- Gravity piped water schemes need to be large enough to generate enough income to be economically viable and support management structure
- Empowerment of KMS to plan and manage rehabilitation of their own water scheme resulted in a high level of technical knowledge retention within the community.



Water Supply Network Diagram



Water Storage Reservoir

Economics and Finance

Importance of Economic Modelling and Revenue Collection

- Financial modelling was completed to determine sustainable system size and costs for operation and maintenance, asset replacement, and expansion.
- In the post disaster context it was recognised that the community cannot carry the full financial burden.
- Currently the system collects enough to cover the cost of the system for operation and maintenance, but not replacement or expansion.
- Capital costs are covered by external donors, but plans are in place to increase the revenue collection as livelihoods become more established and community wealth increases.



KMS Office in Swima village,
Eastern Congo

Management and Administration Training

Sustainable Community Management Invests in Human Capital

Training and capacity building for the Administrative Council and Management Team over the four year period included modules on:

- Community Water Systems Management
- Water system operation and maintenance
- Project cycle management
- Financial management and bookkeeping
- Fund raising
- Accountability and customer service
- Community mobilisation



Hygiene and Sanitation Promotion

A Holistic Approach to Service Provision

KMS has seven full time public health promoters who:

- undertake public health promotion in the seven villages
- promotion of safe sanitation facilities
- promotion of safe hand washing



Government Recognition

Effective Community Management is Recognised by Government

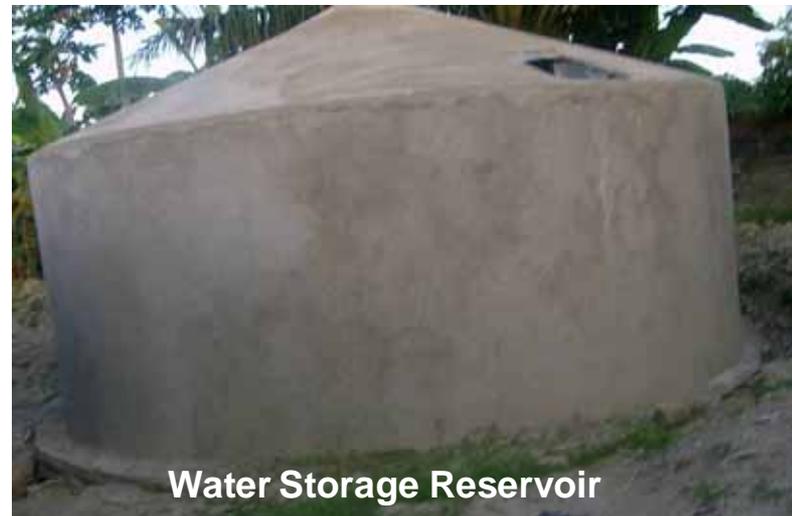
- 20th March 2007, KMS officially registered under the Local Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) Act and recognised by the Government as an official partner in provision of water services
- From this point KMS has assumed full responsibilities for long term management of the water scheme.
- 15th October 2008 KMS and Government jointly organise Global Handwash Day Celebration Football Match.



Looking to the Future

Sustainable Community Management is Replicable

- 2008 – 09, KMS continued with successful management and expansion of the water scheme.
- 2008, KMS commenced training technicians from other parts of the district.
- The success of KMS has inspired and challenged other Water User Groups in the South Kivu province to reach similar levels of sustainability. And other communities within the area are working to replicate the management structure.



Water Storage Reservoir

Analysis of Programme Success

1. Sense of ownership created by strengthening existing customary local level informal groups to manage and resolve their own water and sanitation problems, rather than creating new groups.
2. Development of human capital to enhance the chances of project sustainability for communities' emerging out of war. And understanding that this takes time.
3. The inclusion of women, at all stages in the decision making process.
4. Establishing government recognition of KMS as an official 'local water association' with a recognised mandate.





Key Learning Points

Project Sustainability In a Post Conflict Context



1. Capacity building of communities for local management of water systems is an effective method to ensure sustainability before government has re-established adequate institutional capacity.
2. Successful and sustainable new community based organizations are those which build upon existing local structures already in place.
3. Investment in local human capacity should be a priority and a means to ensure sustainability. Donors need to realise that this takes time.
4. Involving women in decision making can have a significant impact on the sustainability of water and sanitation programmes.
5. It is important to develop realistic economic models and set realistic tariff rates.
6. Selection of appropriate technology is important for sustainability.

Conclusion

This case study is a good example of transformation of a local level informal water committee to an official Local NGO recognised by the Government as mandated partner in provision of water services.

Communities seem to replicate successes of communities they can associate with, and the KMS success has actually steered other communities in South Kivu, Eastern Congo towards well managed community water user systems.

