

Moyo District Dialogue News

News & progress reporting of the Dialogue Sessions of the EU funded project 'Improving Governance in WASH through local dialogues in West Nile'

Moyo District Dialogue #2
2-3 July 2009

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Highlights of the second District Dialogue Session in Moyo District

On 2nd and 3th July 2009 the second District Dialogue Session took place in the Moyo District-Multi-Purpose Centre, gathering representatives from the district, sub-county, NGOs, CBOs, and school management committee.

This session was a follow up of the first one in a series of dialogue sessions forming an important element of the EU funded project 'Improving Governance in WASH through local dialogues in West Nile'. A project that aims to improve health and productivity in communities, improve school attendance and educational results arising from more accountable and responsive WASH service provision.

One of the main objectives of this second session was to follow up on the commitments made during the previous first session and find ways to deal with challenges faced by the stakeholders in improving of various governance practices in WASH as well as identifying other issues effecting accountable and transparent WASH service delivery. The dialogue platform creates the opportunity to learn from each other, which is a key objective of the project: mainstreaming multi-stakeholder learning, knowledge management and capacity building among these WASH stakeholders.

In general, the turn up for the session was very impressive. There was a high turn up and participation of the different stakeholders throughout the process.

Progress and suggestions for dialogue #1 action points

Participants reported back on some of the progress and achievements made since the



Participants of the second district dialogue session in Moyo 2-3 July 2009

Contributing to this newsletter?

All participants of the Moyo District Dialogue Sessions are invited to contribute to this newsletter. Do you have an important story to share? An example from your day to day work related to improving governance, accountability and transparency? Then please contact the facilitators of the dialogue sessions.

last dialogue session as well as the challenges they encountered.

1. Publicising Fund Releases

There remains a communication and information gap; the existing communication channels do not reach the end users:

- Notices are in English and not the local language
- High illiteracy levels in the communities
- No guidance on how to read and use the information
- Publication of the correct fund releases is a problem

Suggestions for improvement

Find the right communication channel:

- E.g. translation of the information into the local language and display this at a public place.
- Use of other IEC materials that the communities can easily use
- Messages in talk shows and use churches and mosques for announcements
- Empower communities to have project management committees to be responsible for sharing useful information with the communities

2. Quarterly WASH Meetings at Sub-county Level to Revitalise the SWSCC

- The Sub-County Water and Sanitation Coordination Committee is revitalised, however meetings still have to take place; therefore WASH related issues are not dealt with in promptly manner
- Need for capacity building on SWSCC roles and responsibilities. To this effect, the LC3 made a request for training the SWSCC to the DWO
- Itula Sub-County has a well functioning SWSCC in place

Suggestions for improvement

- Use monitoring fund for SWSCC meetings and field visits
- Learn from the DWSCC by having regular interaction (like joint field visits) and have SWSCC representatives invited to DWSCC meetings

3. Budget Conferences and enhancing NGOs and CBOs to submit their budgets and work plans

- Only ACORD and the NGO forum have submitted their budgets and plans to the district and can therefore be included in the district plan.
- NGOs when called upon to attend district and Sub-County meetings do not attend
- Some NGOs and CSOs are not registered in the district but at the Community Development Office so accessing information is difficult
- Many NGOs work under the UNHCR program, and thus are accountable to UNHCR to submit work plans and activity reports. Only Ceford and SNV have an MoU with the district

Suggestions for improvement

- District Planning Unit to review the MoU district signs with NGOs and UNHCR
- NGO Forum to ensure that all NGOs and CBOs have registered by August 2009



Participants continuing the dialogue, during the tea break

4. Gender Consideration WASH

- At village level all water committees mainly consist of women however, they are not technically trained
- There are women trained as pump mechanics however the men keep the tools
- Culture and traditions have continued to push women away from technical activities

Suggestions for improvement

- Mobilise women to take part in the technical training
- Each parish is to have its own set of maintenance tools as well as a bicycle for transport
- Mobilise men to contribute to the well functioning of water points
- Set up an agreement between sub-county and pump mechanic to commit to work in the sub-county after receiving the training
- Encourage pump mechanics to work as a team to learn from each other and share tools; they ought to report to the sub-county on the status of the tools
- Inform the communities of the commissioning of the pump mechanics (after the training)
- The Water Source Committee and the pump mechanics are to be supervised by the Assistant Community Development Officers

5. Review Spare part chain for Water:

- At district level two persons from the private sector are supported with money to supply the sub-county with spare parts. This was a resolution made during the 3rd quarter DWSCC meeting
- Contribution from the community is too low to buy spare parts
- The CDO designed a form on how much fee to be collected per household but the Water Source Committees are not using it

Suggestions for improvement

- Water Source Committee to ensure monthly water fee collection
- Opening savings account with SACCOs
- The DWO to clearly inform and discuss with the communities how much maintenance needs to be recovered by sub-counties and other lower levels
- District to set a minimum fee for all water points to avoid exploitation
- Increase accountability and transparency on WASH
- District and sub-county to design a standard format for water point assessment

- Audits to be conducted by SWSCC on monthly basis (to check if all money is collected and accounted for)
- For schools the law allows to raise extra money and use school fund for pump repair, by consensus of the parents

“These recommendations should all lead to more transparency and accountability in water service delivery”

6. M&E of WASH Facilities

- DWSCC is the forum for tabling a joint monitoring of WASH facilities
- Only the health department has enough staff on the ground for regular monitoring

Suggestions for improvement

- DWSCC to develop format with agreed indicators for monitoring of WASH at different levels (S/C, communities, institutions, water points etc.); which will be discussed in next DWSCC meeting
- Maximise available resources especially human resource for monitoring WASH activities

The District Planning and Budgeting Process

Based on the presentations provided by the District Education, Health and Water Departments the District Planning and Budgeted cycle was discussed to get insight into the different stages, timing and different actors involved. Some highlights are found in the boxes.

Detailed information on WASH status and planned activities is available at the Education, Health and Water departments. Performance information of the Sub-County is available at the respective Sub-County office.

Planning starts bottom up: from village, to parish, to sub-county towards the district.

Functionality of the Sub-County Water and Sanitation Coordination Committees

Overall functionality is 67.4%

Best ranked:

Moyo Sub-County-79.3%

Metu Sub-County-57.8%

Aliba Sub-County-56.3%

Middle ranked:

Lefori Sub-Sub-County-53.7%

Dufile Sub-County-46.9%

Worst ranked:

Itula Sub-County-32.5%

Gimara Sub-County-38.5%

Moyo Town Council-46.7%

After this overview a discussion followed on the (communication) gaps within this cycle and participants came with suggestions on how to improve.

Education sector budgets

The villages and/or schools will identify their needs and action plan and submit this to the Parish. At Parish level the different village plans are compiled and sent to the Sub-County technical Planning committee. If the Sub-County is able to deal with an issue they will do so, if not a request will go out to the District Education Officer. The DEO will harmonise with the S/C plan.

For schools there are two major sources of funding for WASH activities: PRDP and the LGMSDP (local government management in service delivery program

The major challenge is that low attendance of the community planning meetings, which makes priority setting not representative of the community needs. And as discussed in the previous session this communication gap needs to be closed.

“We are all agents of change and need to change our attitudes”

District Planning Cycle

July

- Review of functionality Technical Planning Committee

August

- Dissemination of planning information to parishes

September

- Parish planning

October

- Analysis of parish mission, goals and priorities for inclusion into the SC plan

November

- Priorities identification in budget conference (meeting)

December

- Forwarded projects for district consideration

January

- Review of projects and development of project profile

February

- Compilation of the Development plan by TPC

March

- Review of development plan by the executive committee of LCIII
- TPC refine the development plan

April

- Approval of the plan by the council
- Submission of approved plan to the District

May & June

- Final feedback from the District
- Feedback from the sc to councillors & lower levels

Towards the next dialogue

In this second dialogue session several challenges were identified and many action points were derived from the discussions; however some of this are out of the scope of the dialogue sessions. The three priorities coming out of the discussions are:

1. Improve way of dissemination of information towards communities / households
2. Strengthen SWSCC on roles and responsibilities and ensure continuation after project ending
3. Performance of trained mechanics

As a final exercise during the dialogue session a joint action plan was made.

All stakeholders are committed to join hands and move towards a more accountable and responsive WASH service provision.

Joint Action Planning	
Area for improvement	Persons Responsible
Functionality of the SWSCC	Sub-County Chiefs, DWSCC, SWSCC, DEHO and DCAO
Spare part availability (hardware component of water sources)	DWO, Community Development Officer, Sub-County Chiefs and the CAO
Joint WASH sector monitoring	CAO, DWSCC and Sub-County Chiefs

This project is implemented with EDF-Support to the Decentralisation Programme and is facilitated by IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre, Network for Water and Sanitation Uganda (NETWAS), and Community Empowerment for Rural Development (CEFORD)

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NETWAS Uganda

About the project

Project goal

Improved health and productivity in communities, improved school attendance and educational results arising from more accountable and responsive WASH service provision

Project areas

Moyo, Adjumani and Nebbi districts, and 2 sub counties of each district

Project objectives

- mainstream multi-stakeholder learning, knowledge management and capacity building at district and sub-county level
- build capacities among local WASH decision-makers and service providers to become more responsive and accountable towards communities they serve
- enhance capacities of local civil society to become more vocal demanding for WASH services and to take-up their roles as active and responsible WASH consumers

Project activities

- mapping WASH stakeholders at national, regional, district and sub district (sub county) levels; stakeholder analysis
- assessment of situation in districts and sub counties; visioning with stakeholders, creating local level interest; generating national support
- Formation of 3 district and 6 sub county platforms with WASH stakeholders; develop strategies to overcome challenges around WASH service delivery through dialogue and concerted action
- develop capacity building activities in sub counties and communities; carry out pilot project and action research to test promising approaches and apply promising tools and practices and replicate them

Expected project outcomes

- enhanced dialogue between stakeholders
- improved coordination and harmonization of approaches in WASH
- improved responses to complaints and problems of WASH services in targeted sub-counties
- developed, tested and documented approaches, tools and practices to improve transparent and responsive service delivery
- shared lessons learned with other districts in West Nile and at national level (eg. National Sanitation Working Group, governance working group, Uganda Local Government Association)

Target group

- Local district and sub county leaders,
- District and sub county government staff
- NGOs, CBOs, private entrepreneurs, media

Final beneficiaries

Water users, households, school committees, health committees, HIV/AIDS groups and others CBOs in targeted sub counties and districts

Total project Budget: € 225,000