

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Below is the additional information that might be of interest to know by the delegation or your office. Have touched on experiences or other lessons learnt in the course of implementing urban wash besides what has been presented.

Differences between urban WASH and the rural WASH,

1. Urban WASH interventions are mostly ignored compared to the rural wash and yet there is high poverty level in the urban poor compared to the rural.
2. In terms of understanding of issues for behavior change, the urban poor understand and respond quickly to behavior changes than the rural due to differences in literacy levels.
3. Access to information on wash is greater in the urban areas than the rural setting, as there are several means of communication like phones, radios, film shows, leaflets etc unlike the rural community whereby traditional meetings dominates as mode of communication.
4. Urban WASH requires more funding than the rural, for instance in the urban one needs sophisticated facilities to manage waste properly i.e. construction of waste facilities like sludge ponds, dumpsite and also transportation of both liquid and solid waste is a challenge.
5. WASH programs can be sustained in the urban areas with the use of private sector as opposed to the rural community as money changes hands for development activities in the urban through service providers like the private entrepreneurs. The urban community has no time to go voluntary/development work than paid work.

Other expertise needed.

1. MRCS needed more expertise in communication, hence the project engaged a consultant to help come up with communication strategy befitting the lifestyles urban people.
2. MRCS needed advanced expertise to properly supervise and guide construction works of modern waste facilities constructed in Mzuzu and Karonga, however government and NLRC through their engineers came to our rescue to supervise and provide guidance on how best the facilities could be constructed.
3. MRCS needed expertise to desludge latrines for completion of sanitation chain and the sustained use of latrines, that is why a private sector with MDU expertise was required and engaged

Working with the private sector.

Working with private sector had more advantages as outlined below:

1. Work is done quickly in time with good quantity and quality.

2. In times of need for equipment and machinery, the private was there to provide facilitate smooth operation even at lower or no cost involvement. Vehicles and other machineries could be readily made available as required.
3. For the sustenance of sanitation and water services, involvement of private or semi-private sectors like WES Management, Water Board and the Universities etc is crucial as they will always be there to provide the services even when the project phases out. The water boards will still be there providing water to the people through Water Users Association, Small and Medium Entrepreneurs including WES Management will still be there providing services like waste collection at a reasonable rate. Universities will still be there for knowledge seeking and sharing.

The role of Red Cross in the urban WASH

1. Red Cross has a big role to play in the urban WASH as it plays an auxiliary role to the government by providing services the governments cannot do due to limited resources as evidenced by the EU Funded WASH Interventions in Malawi,
2. Managed to reach out to the urban poor with safe water and sanitation facilities where the water board and other service providers could not reach.
3. Contributed to proper waste management in the two cities by constructing and rehabilitating waste facilities that could not have been done by the authorities as experience has shown that financial allocations to waste management issues are always low in the two towns and even elsewhere in the developing countries.

Emptying latrines as a business for the Red Cross.

1. Red Cross can do emptying as a business only if it works in collaboration with the private sector for the fact that a private sector is more competent in business management, marketing and operation. Further-more in times of need for equipment and machinery, the private sector is always there to provide and facilitate smooth operation. Vehicles and other machineries could be readily made available as required. In terms of customer identification, the private company is competent enough to do the work while red cross has the capacity to provide volunteers who can be trained as artisans and operators. Red Cross is also more exposed.
2. It should be noted that where there is no reliable dumping site, latrine emptying poses a big challenge in terms of sludge disposal and treatment. Chances of affecting surrounding communities are high if not properly handled.

How to make latrines at market places sustainable?

1. Experience has shown that latrines built at market places can be sustained only if they are privatized to be run by the private entrepreneurs and report to the city authorities. This promotes care and maintenance of the facilities for continuous and maximum utilization of the latrines. This is exactly what is going on in Malawi.

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