

A Critical Support Project

Community Participation (The Social Aspects)
in the Rural Water Supply Project in the Dry Zone

1.0 Introduction

This proposal outlines a supplementary activity of the 3000 well Rural Water Supply Project in the Dry Zone (hereinafter referred to as the Project). The Project was approved by the Government of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma and the UNICEF Executive Board of 1978 and formalized under a Master Plan of Operations signed jointly by the Ministry of Planning and Finance on behalf of the Government and UNICEF on 7 December 1978.

This Project being assisted by UNICEF and the Australian Government, together with other UNICEF-assisted projects, all have as their ultimate objective the improvement of the health of the villagers, particularly the reduction of the incidence of gastrointestinal diseases, and elimination of trachoma and leprosy and other water-related diseases which are especially prevalent in the Dry Zone where the present Project is concentrated.

- The need to initiate actions to ensure effective community participation (social aspects) in the Project was recognized as urgent during the mid-term Tripartite Review held in September 1979 between the Government and UNICEF.

An intersectoral task force was constituted^{1/} and instructed to formulate a strategy and submit a plan of action for the development of community participation processes in the Project. This document describes the plan of action (hereinafter referred to as the sub-project) formulated by the task force.

2.0 Duration of the sub project

Two and one half years (to the end of the present Third Four-Year Plan). First six months, January to June 1980, preparatory stage, plus two years full scale implementation (June 1980 to 1982).

^{1/} The task force included representatives from FERD, RWSD, Department of Health (which includes HEB and ESD), Department of Social Welfare, Institute of Economics, Department of Psychology, ADAB, WHO and UNICEF, and met formally on five occasions.

3.0 Objectives

- 3.1 The short-term objective is to provide assistance to the Village Water Committees to improve their organizational skills, to maintain and operate the pumping units, and ensure adequate use of tubewell water.
- 3.2 The long-term objective is to support the achievement of the health improvement targets set out in the project presently being implemented by the Rural Water Supply Division of the Agricultural Mechanization Department.

4.0 Strategy

This sub-project is designed as an operational experiment (related to the Burmese context) intended as an integral component of the Rural Water Supply Programme. It is proposed that "social development teams" ^{1/} be created. The social development teams will be the main instrument for realizing the objectives. The department responsible for implementation of the project will recruit and develop a cadre of village level workers (mainly drawn from the unemployed young people) and train and supervise them in on-going work with the village water committees as the drilling and technical work is planned and proceeds.

The teams will be trained by the Health Education Bureau of the Department of Health, in organizational and social skills and learn to specifically assist in strengthening the existing village water committees under direction of the Village People's Councils.

The village water committees will be assisted by the social development teams to clearly define their role and responsibilities in information gathering, plan the village end of the improved water supply system and the associated sanitation and health inputs. This would enable the village water committees to carry through the implementation and maintenance, of the village oriented plan on a day-to-day basis.

The preparatory stage of the sub-project will involve the recruitment

^{1/} These may require a suitable Burmese name rather than "social development teams".

of an overall supervisor and two deputy field supervisors for each of the three divisions in the Dry Zone. These nine persons (three supervisors plus six deputy field supervisors) will be trained and supervised technically by the Health Education Bureau (HEB), the Environmental Sanitation Division (ESD), the Rural Water Supply Division (RWSD) and the UN Adviser. The core of this training will take place under actual field conditions associated with the present drilling programme, and for this purpose the trainees and trainers will be organized into the first village social development teams.

These "prototype" teams, made up of the eventual supervisory staff, will join with a number of existing or embryonic village water committees and will be responsible for thoroughly exploring the nature of the committee's tasks and the manner in which the teams as external agents can effectively service the villages.

From this initial service activity, these prototype teams, along with RWSD, HEB, ESD and the adviser, will collectively examine and extract the field experience and systematically put together and gradually improve upon the content, communication support materials, "How to....guides" and skills which will constitute the basis for the initial training and assignment details of the teams to be recruited, appointed, and fielded in the main implementation stages of the sub-project.

The supervisors with their direct field experience in village level work will produce the "How to....guides" material, and be well-placed to train and supervise the social development teams.

They will also, from experience, work out detailed work and reporting schedules for the teams and village water committees and plan the educational and administrative aspects of the supervisory process.

The teams themselves will be recruited and appointed in stages by the department responsible for implementation. This will provide for a gradual build-up of knowledge and allow for problems to be ironed out and ensure increasingly effective introduction, training and service as experience grows.

The teams will be of three persons, ten teams to each of the three divisions, and closely associated with the drilling teams under the authority of the RWSD.

The suggestion is that the team members to be recruited should, where possible, be graduates (from Mandalay and Rangoon Universities), but their homes will have to be within the Dry Zone Divisions of Magwe, Sagaing and Mandalay, preference will be given to persons from the villages, or those who have lived over a good period of time in the villages. Essentially they must be willing to undertake living in the villages on a somewhat itinerant basis.

5.0 Training

5.1 On the appointment of the supervisors, the HEB/ESD/RWSD/UN cadre will provide:

1. An orientation to the Project
2. An introduction to the preparatory stage role of the supervisors
3. A training related to the overall village-oriented community participation approach.
4. A training in the production of training materials and in village support materials.
5. Field service for the supervisor to practise as prototype social development teams.
6. A training period to examine, analyze and document the field experience for subsequent teaching and supervisory activity.
7. A repeat 'field service' practice to improve upon skills and method.
8. A further training period based on this field experience.
9. Prepare the supervisors for the induction, orientation and training of the first group of appointed social development teams.
10. Develop with the supervisors the supervisory methods and reporting systems.

5.2 On the appointment of the social development teams, the HEB/ESD/RWSD/UN cadre joined by the supervisors will provide:

1. An orientation to the Project.
2. An introduction to the role of the social development teams.

3. Training related to the village oriented community participation approach.
4. Training in the method, procedures, reporting system and skills in production of learning materials, and support materials.
5. Field service for the social development teams to practise the method and skills.
6. A training period to examine, analyze and document the field experience.
7. A repeat field service practice.
8. A repeat training period based on the field service.
9. Assign the teams to the village and supervise their activities.

Thereafter the second and third group of social development teams will be provided for, along the above lines, drawing upon the cumulative field experience and materials to improve upon both training and service performance. Subsequently, the social development teams will continue with on-going problem solving training of village water committee members on-the-spot in the villages. The social development team's work will be closely supervised, not just in the administrative sense, but in the on-the-spot training sense, by the supervisory staff.

The total training inputs are multifaceted:

Training of supervisors

Training of social development teams

Training of village water committees

6.0 Administrative responsibilities

To be finalized after discussions
between FERD, Health Department,
AMD and UNICEF.

7.0 Manpower requirements

1 Project Manager	30 man months
2 Deputy Project Managers (2x30)	60 man months
HEB staff	90 man months

ESD staff	90 man months
RWSD staff	24 " "
<u>1</u> / Supervisors (9x28)	252 " "
<u>1</u> / Team members 27x24	
27x20	
36x16	1764 " "
UNICEF adviser	30 " "
Consultations	4 " "

8.0 Transportation

The mobility of the teams (as outriders to the actual drilling activities) is an essential element for the success of the sub-project.

Transportation must therefore be adequately provided, either by UNICEF or an undertaking by the Government department responsible for implementing this sub-project.

9.0 Financial arrangements

The nine supervisory staff and 90 team members should be recruited as daily paid workers.

They will be paid an adequate daily allowance for every day they actually spend in the villages (K25/-). On days that they are receiving training in the towns or during any non-working intervals, they should be paid a retaining per diem (K10/-).

10.0 Evaluation

The HEB/ESD/RWSD/UN cadre will be responsible for on-going assessment and a regular review. Two interim reports will be submitted to monitor and review progress (see Annex 1).

A final report will include recommendations for future actions.

11.0 Commitments by Government and UNICEF

11.1 Government commitment will be as follows:

To be finalized.

1/ To be paid on a daily basis

/...

11.2^{1/} UNICEF commitment will be as follows:

	(US \$ in thousands)		
	1980	1981	1982(Jan.-Jun.)
Supplies & Equipment	90	90	20
Freight	10	10	5
Non-supply assistance	120	150	95
Total	220	250	120

^{1/} UNICEF is prepared to finance initial (1980) Kyat expenditure if Government so approves. 1981, 1982 Government should contribute on an increasing scale.