

**Dzivarasekwa Extension Water and Sanitation Project
Learning, Monitoring and Evaluation Exercise - 20 Dec 2011**



Background

Harare partners (Zimbabwe Homeless People's Federation, Dialogue on Shelter and City of Harare) participated at the Africa Learning Platform workshop organized by Slum Dwellers International in Uganda. Through the Learning Platform, SDI intends to strengthen mainstreaming of learning, monitoring and evaluation of its affiliates' programmes. It is against this backdrop that the 5 SDI countries that participated were expected to select a project that would be used as a learning ground. Zimbabweans therefore selected the Dzivarasekwa Extension project hence the meeting had been organized to reflect on the water and sanitation interventions.

Dzivarasekwa Extension site was allocated to the Federation by the government and in the absence of reticulated infrastructure services which are yet to be installed, the Federation has started implementing alternative water and sanitation projects. These interventions which consist of construction of eco-san toilets and installation of boreholes has been underway since the families occupied the site in June 2011. The meeting therefore sought to reflect on the project's interventions using, but not limited to, the following guidelines;

- How many families currently on the site?
- How many toilets and boreholes have been constructed so far?
- What challenges have we experienced so far?
- How have we resolved these challenges?
- How many exchanges have we conducted so far?
- What lessons have we learnt during these exchanges?
- What are the financing mechanisms and related to that - affordability issues or lack thereof?
- What are the labour arrangements and related to that - on-site trainings?

- What is the linkage with the community beyond Federation?
- What has been the impact of the project on Dzivarasekwa Ext community?
- What has been learnt from the project so far?
- What impact has the project had on policy or government thinking?

The meeting noted that a total of 413 families have since moved on to the site. It was reported that 62 eco-san toilets have been built and of these 12 are at different levels of completion. There are two boreholes at the site, one of which was installed by the alliance of the Zimbabwe Homeless People's Federation and Dialogue on Shelter whilst the other was installed at the local clinic by other aid agencies. Besides, the installed two boreholes, it was also reported that families also had wells at the plots which were used for other household needs. The meeting then observed the need to maintain cleanliness with respect to the water sources given the current typhoid outbreak in Harare. Related to this subject of cleanliness, the members also highlighted that solid waste management was topical issue which had a bearing on water sources. During the meeting, it was also reported that according to recent tests conducted by University of Zimbabwe's Biological Sciences Department, water from the two boreholes was safe for consumption.

Network	Toilets under construction	Total No. of Toilets completed	No. of Beneficiaries on Site	No. Of Beneficiaries allocated
Harare South	2	9	49	50
Harare Central	Nil	13	45	51
Harare North	1	4	29	31
Harare West	1	3	34	39
Harare East	Nil	2	17	23
Harare North-West	6	14	201	202
Greater Harare	2	5	38	50

Dzivarasekwa Extension members indicated that the boreholes especially the one installed by the Federation was being used continuously throughout day and night hence this was likely reduce its lifespan. The members proposed that 2 additional boreholes could ease the pressure on the existing water facilities but in the meantime they had started regulating usage. This excessive pressure was being necessitated by the fact that besides Federation members, the boreholes were also being used by people from adjacent settlements particularly Mbuya Nehanda Housing Co-operative. With respect to eco-san toilets, it was reported that 12 were communal units whilst the remainder were for individual families. The former were being used by the wider community. Through the reflection on the management of the water and sanitation facilities installed by the Federation, the members resolved that there was need to set up a water and sanitation committee. It also emerged that community bickering had somewhat stalled financial contributions and construction teams had downed tools. However, after a lengthy

discussion on the matter, it was resolved that the relevant teams would address the challenges and resume work.

It was noted that exchanges with other areas and countries had provided a lot of learning opportunities for the water and sanitation interventions. In particular, inward and outward exchanges with Malawi, Chinhoyi Federation, Bulawayo, Domboshava and City of Harare Harare officials had all provided the prospect of continuously reflecting and improving on the project. The Malawians, for instance, were cited for their support around improving the workmanship of the eco-san toilets. The Malawians also assisted with developing the capacity of the local artisans from Dzivarasekwa Extension and this has improved the pace and quality of workmanship. It was noted that besides improving the skills, the exchanges had also managed to lower the costs significantly. On average the members reported that they were building each unit at a cost of \$300.00 and \$400.00 for a unit with a bathroom addition. Whilst members also made contributions towards construction of their toilets, communal toilet facilities were largely financed by Gungano at a cost of \$900.00 with the community being expected to collectively manage the repayments. The table below summarises the financing arrangements;

Type of intervention	Individual input	Gungano Input
Individual ecosan toilets	30% (bricks and sand	70% (cement, labour, roofing and plumbing fittings)
Communal ecosan toilets	Nil	100%
Borehole	Nil	100%

Emerging Additional Learning Questions

- There is scope of expanding the observations and lessons learnt on how the construction process evolved.
- There is need to understand more the communal toilets concept particularly in respect of the number of beneficiaries versus finances injected, efficiency, maintenance and health issues.
- There is also need to explore the differences and benefits thereof of combined toilets versus the bath and toilet (separate) especially around the costs and efficiency.
- Over the 6 months period of the project, the Federation has learnt that the original bill of quantities has changed resulting in the lowering of costs and this provides an area for further inquiry.
- The provision of initial capital on water points and what the idea has produced is also worth pursuing in view of initiating a sustainable community-led process of mobilizing financial resource for additional boreholes.

Conclusion

The meeting then concluded by observing that the community of Dzivarasekwa Extension needed to improve the management aspects of their facilities. In addition, it was noted a lot of lessons had been learnt through exchanges and, in particular, these had contributed greatly to the eco-san toilets. Nonetheless, it was also pointed out that there was scope to learn more and improve on the toilet facilities. The water tests conducted for the two boreholes at the site had, besides confirmation of the safety of water, also triggered a heightened sense of cleanliness and the emergence of solid waste management issues. Whilst significant inroads had been made around getting buy-in and support for the eco-

san toilets, all this was yet to amount to any policy up-loading. Thus, more was needed in terms of stepping up efforts geared towards converting political support into policy ideas.