

GUERNSEY OVERSEAS AID COMMISSION Mid Term Report

*Water and sanitation project for vulnerable populations in the
Central, Northern and Eastern regions of Côte d'Ivoire*



October 2016

Project Name : **Water and sanitation project for vulnerable populations in the Central, Northern and Eastern regions of Côte d'Ivoire.**

Project Start date : April, 1st 2016

Project End Date : March, 31st 2017

Report time line : July 1st, 2016

Report date : September 30th, 2016

1. Background:

In Côte d'Ivoire, 35% of people living in rural areas do not have access to safe drinking water (MICS 2006). 75% of girls under 15 are in charge of fetching water for their family and 43% of the population does not have access to appropriate sanitary facilities (MICS 2006).

The specific objectives of the project include the rehabilitation of 30 water pumps (to serve 8,400 individuals), the rehabilitation of 45 latrines (to serve 225 individuals), the training of 3,000 people and the distribution of hygiene kit/Non-food items for 4,000 individuals. The project targets vulnerable farmers. Poor farmers and workers are less productive due to frequent illnesses. Without safe water and appropriate sanitation, sustainable development is impossible. Additional beneficiaries are farmers' families (women and children). Many girls are denied their right to education because they are busy fetching water or are deterred by the lack of separate and decent sanitation facilities in schools. Women are forced to spend large parts of their day fetching water (85.9% of women in Côte d'Ivoire are in charge of supplying their family with water).

Poor access to safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation facilities increases children's exposure to diseases such as diarrhoea, malnutrition, malaria and even HIV. Diarrhoea is a major child and infant killer in Cote d'Ivoire, caused by microbes which spread in water, food, on hands, on eating and drinking utensils, by flies and dirt under the fingernails. 88% of diarrheal diseases are due to unsafe water supply, inadequate sanitation, and hygiene¹ In Cote d'Ivoire diarrhea kills around 87,000 children under five each year. Habitat Humanity Côte d'Ivoire (HFHCI) is implementing the project in partnership with local authorities and the communities' members.

2. Community training in hygiene

One of the most important aspects of in the implementation of the HFHCI water, hygiene and sanitation programme is the training of community members in hygiene. During the building of the water pumps in the communities, we noticed that most people were not knowledgeable in hygiene or how to maintain the infrastructures. When the government provides access to clean water, water pumps committees are not set up. The lack of knowledge and management are some of the main reason for poor hygiene practices in the rural communities. The challenge is mainly to set up and train the committees to ensure sustainability in the selected villages. Six (6) water pumps management committees were organized and trained.

The training provided by project supervisors helped set up and organize the water points management teams in all the communities served, as well as equip them with good hygiene practices. The members of the communities (non-hygiene management team) were also trained in hygiene. The training focused on pump maintenance and good hygiene and sanitation practices. The training's objective was to promote a transfer of expertise at the local level so that they provide durable protection and

maintenance of rehabilitated structures. 1,144 people have been trained and 1,112 received hygiene kit in the villages of northern and central region during the reporting period.

The hygiene training helped reinforce the participants' knowledge as demonstrated by pre-training and post-training evaluations. The scores showed that the participants knowledge regarding very basic hygiene practices was low. The post-test showed an increase in knowledge, the lowest score being 18/20. After the training, participants exhibited increased knowledge in pump maintenance and hygiene practices.

The participatory training was conducted in French but translated into the local language Bambara (Northern region) or Baoulé (central region). These languages enabled all participants to understand the training sessions.



Training session: hand washing demonstration in the village of Sotiolo



Training session in village of Pagala

The training of the communities in health and hygiene held in the month of August 2016 for the seven (7) villages in the northern region (**Sitiolo, Pagala, Tchèkéldougou, Koffila, Yèoulessou, Kokolo and Loniéné**). The training sessions in the four (4) villages in the central region (**Booré-Pindrinkro, Bendékro, Krokrokro and Akessémossou**) were organized from August 23rd to September 28th 2016. In total, 1,144 individuals were trained.

3. Construction of latrines

In the Central region, about 43% of the population does not have access to appropriate sanitary facilities. To fight against diseases because of the lack of adequate toilets, the project will construct 12 family latrines. The HFHCI supervisor organized meetings in the villages of Koffi-Ahoussoukro and Ettien-Kouadiokro to explain the selection criteria. These meetings were conducted with the support of the village chiefs and villages authorities. The meetings were held between August and September 2016 with the strong participation of all families. Before the family selection meeting, a public announcement was made by the project supervisor to inform the community members that all people who are in need of decent sanitation must attend and register by filling out an application form. 37 families registered. During the selection process, the primary role of the local authorities was to ensure that the farmers in most need of decent shelter were those selected. After that, the supervisor visited beneficiaries' homes to verify information related to their living conditions. The Twelve (12) families were selected to benefit to this second phase of rehabilitation based on their vulnerability and their willingness to promote sweat equity.