

Lessons Learned

RWSG-EAP
August 1998

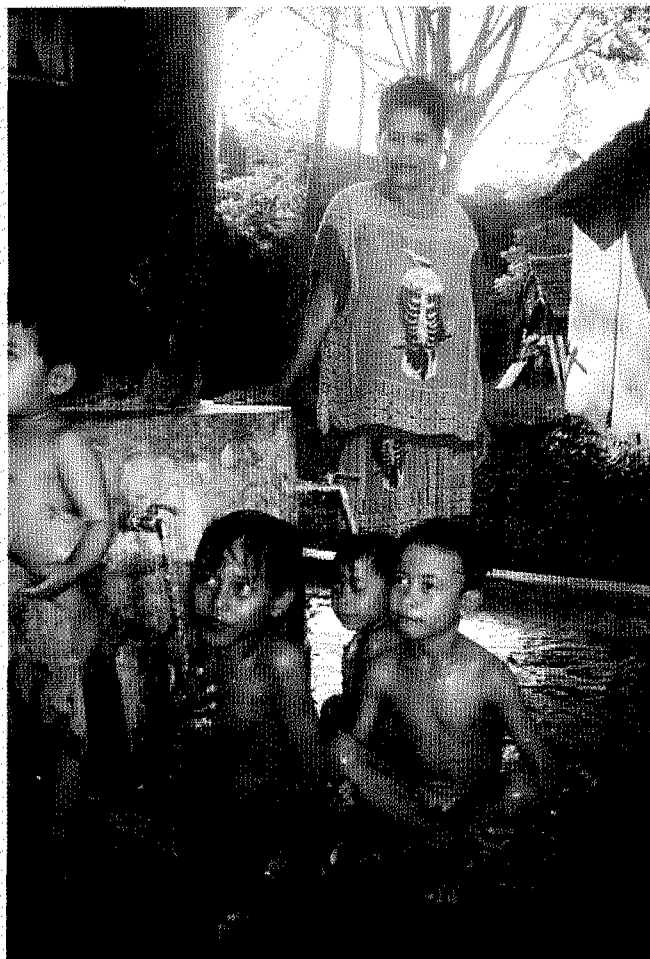
*Demand
Ownership
Sustainability*

Mutual learning from field mission in Indonesia

Overview:

Findings from a field mission to Central and West Java, Indonesia, undertaken by RWSG-EAP in February 1997, added further credence to the fact that lessons learned in one place are often applicable in others. So that sharing experiences is an effective way to stop re-inventing the wheel. The specific purpose of this mission was to learn from the planning, implementation and post-implementation experiences of various Community Managed Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (CMRWSS) Projects in Indonesia, and share these findings with water and sanitation programs elsewhere in the region.

RWSG-EAP mission team members comprised Alfred Lambertus (Jakarta), Thanh Nguyen Cong (Hanoi) and Santanu Lahiri (Vientiane). Local partners included community members from Cibodas, Babakan Leungsir, Tanjungkarang, Umbulharjo, Piyanggang and Sepakung villages.



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The four different types of projects visited were implemented by:

- **NGO and Community partnership** (PESAT¹ Project)
- **NGO, Community and Government partnership** (CARE² Project)
- **NGO, Community and Government partnership** (WSSLIC³ Project, World Bank)
- **Community and Government partnership** (VIP⁴ Project, World Bank).

The Regional Water and Sanitation Group for East Asia and the Pacific (RWSG-EAP), has been assisting the Indonesian Government with the preparation of the Water Supply and Sanitation Project for Low Income Communities (WSSLIC). This project is reaching an estimated 2 million people in 1400 unserved and under-served villages of central and eastern Indonesia, to provide them with safe, adequate, reliable and easily accessible water supply and sanitation services. The 5-year project, started in 1993, has been an innovative one for the Indonesian Government, where the strong tradition of centralized management has been replaced by a decentralized and more demand-driven approach.

RWSG-EAP is involved in a number of studies to draw lessons from ongoing projects. These include the comparative study on VIP & WSSLIC, which will form part of the Global RWSS Study; the Study of Community-based Approaches used in Unicef's Water and Environmental Sanitation (WES) Program in Indonesia; the SiPAS study (Sistem Penyediaan Air Bersih Sederhana, or "simple system for provision of clean water").

Lessons Learned:

The poorest can provide 100% of project costs if the approach for social preparation is appropriate, and they can make informed choices out of available options for services.

- The comparatively poor village of Babakan Leungsir showed enthusiasm and willingness in its plan to pay back the entire 100% of project costs (US\$ 8000 - 1996 \$ rate)

within 40 months to PESAT, an NGO, for the scheme commissioned in February '97.

- Poor villagers of Tanjungkarang took the initiative in paying 70% of project costs, as well as saving 600 meters of pipe length, by digging 6 tunnels to bring spring water to their hamlets. They have been operating and maintaining the scheme effectively for the last few years, without any external incentives.
- In Sepakung, villagers initially paid 20% of project cost, but later expanded the scheme on their own.

These successes were mainly due to effective participatory planning and availability of options from which to make an informed choice, supported by appropriate social preparation (average time 4 to 5 months), which triggered ownership within the communities regarding the schemes.



The Tunnel: a community initiative to dig through the hill and save on pipe costs.

¹PESAT: Yayasan Pengembangan Swadaya Masyarakat or the Foundation for Community Self-Help, an NGO formed in 1991 • ²CARE International • ³Water Supply and Sanitation Project for Low Income Communities • ⁴Village Infrastructure Project.

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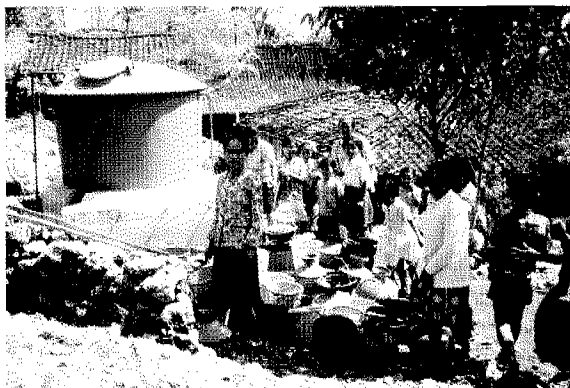
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Participatory assessment of demand creates total involvement of the community.

- Demand can be accurately identified by the community, through facilitation by experts in participatory approaches. Dedicated field supervisors from CARE and PESAT remained in the field throughout social preparation. For the WSSLIC Project, field facilitators visited regularly to conduct social preparation sessions.



WSSLIC: 2000 liter water tank for a gravity-fed system chosen by the community from a range of technology options.

- Social preparation depends upon the dedication and skills of the field facilitators. Effective social preparation helps the community to identify and prioritize its needs and preferences.

Demand creates ownership and ownership triggers system sustainability.

- Demand creates ownership within the community, which is demonstrated later through the community's decision-making, commitment, contribution and involvement in every stage of the scheme. The amount of contribution (100% to nil) by the community is a direct reflection of their ownership, and internalization of the concept of CMWSS Projects. Participatory demand assessment creates the willingness to invest.

Project planning and implementation at the lowest appropriate level maximizes the use of local information.

- RWSS Projects planned and implemented at the lowest appropriate level allows for the inclusion of maximum local information, which helps the community in resource mobilization.

- The communities that showed maximum ownership and paid the maximum contribution felt that CMWSS Projects work better if they are planned at hamlet level. The findings at hamlet level can then be integrated/summarized at village level.

Tasking neighborhood responsibilities, developing 'neighborhood-village' active coordination and open, transparent accounting creates confidence in water-sanitation committees.

- The user communities that institutionalized their organization for managing the services by developing a neighborhood committee, were more effective in operating and maintaining the system.
- Transparent accounting, open to observation by the community, created greater confidence in the Water Committee staff, which resulted in better response from the community.

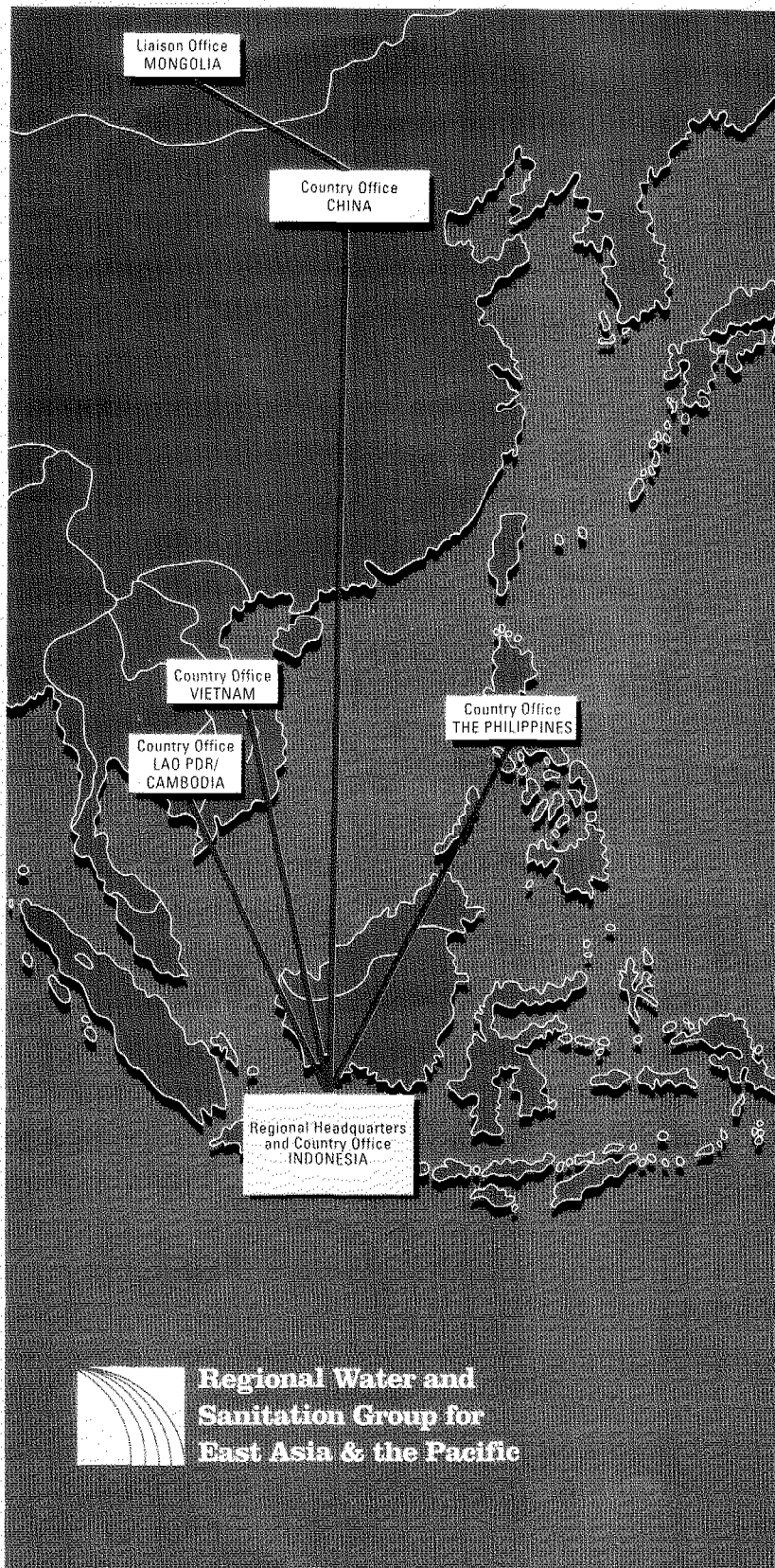


WSSLIC: a community participation session: finding out what they need.

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