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CBO Federation for the sustainability of rural water supply

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TOWARDS THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

CBO Federation for the sustainability of rural water supply

P.K.W. De. Silva, Sri Lanka

INVOLVEMENT OF COMMUNITY Based Organizations (CBOs) in rural development in Srilanka has significantly increased during the last few decades. This has been further strengthened through the participatory development approaches adapted by the government and Non-governmental institutions in the recent past. This tendency has lead to the formation of various types of Community Based Organizations at village level. Nevertheless, majority of those organizations were not functioning effectively due to imbedded issues in institutional structure and other organizational issues. These issues have been worsened among CBOs, which were formed to perform set targets.

The 3rd ADB Assisted Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project provides water supply and sanitation in selected communities in 6 districts of Srilanka. The project adapts a novel and innovative approach by placing the beneficiary community in the center of the process by giving responsibilities to these CBOs. These CBOs are actively involved in decision-making process of the project implementation. There will be more than 1000 CBOs at the end of the project period and they are responsible for the sustainable management of completed water supply and sanitation facilities.

Management of the water supply facilities in an efficient way through CBOs is a challenging task and the project has taken tremendous effort to institutionalize and strengthen them. The formation of federation of CBOs is one of the measures taken by the project and it avoids the isolation of CBOs in issues involved in management of water supply schemes.

What is the CBOs Federation

Realizing the importance of sustainability of CBOs, ADB assisted rural water supply and sanitation project initiated to set up CBOs federation at Divisional, District and National levels. The Divisional level set up is in progress at present and District / National set up will be activated once the divisional set up is completed.

The CBOs federation is an organization, affiliated with village level CBOs, which has been established to work collectively towards the sustainability of rural water supply projects. All the CBOs formed at sub-project (Village) level were encouraged to join at Divisional, District and National level federations for their own interests. This initiative would be primarily beneficial to refresh the CBOs and subsequently make impact on the sustainability of the facilities provided.

Why we need a federation

Placing the community in the center of the process, 425 CBOs are affiliated at divisional level to work together in sustainable management of the schemes. 26 such federations have been established so far in 6 project districts. It is significant that 67,900 households are members of CBOs federation and they are involved in managing different water supply technologies such as 341 pipe borne water supply schemes, 642 tube wells and 6352 common wells.

Progress in Establishment of CBOs Federation

The demarcated Village (GN Division) is the base in establishing CBOs for obtaining project benefits (water supply and sanitation) at village level. There will be 958 CBOs established at the end of the project period in year 2004.It is significant that 895 CBOs have already been formed at the project location.

These CBOs are encouraged and assisted by the project to affiliate with Divisional and National levels. It is revealed that out of 58 federations planned, 26 have been already formed at Divisional level. In addition 2 District federations have been established by amalgamating existing Divisional level federations. The National level formation would be the final task in this regard and the project has already prepared the work program to complete the assigned task by the end of year 2003.

The following table presents the progress of CBOs federation at all levels.

The key roles and responsibilities of the CBOs Federation

- Facilitate resource mobilization, technical support, training and capacity building and other related activities for the provision of Water supply and Sanitation
- Co-ordinate planning and implementation of WATSAN activities through partnership with the Government and Non-government sector.
- Ensure environmental harmony in all sector development activities and encourage CBOs for conservation of water sources and catchments preservation.
- Assist in conflict resolution and settlement of disputes arises during the management of service.
- Provide effective backup support to CBOs in managing their water supply schemes by strengthening Local authorities, NWSDB, Private sector and NGOs.

Table I: Present Involvement of the Federation in Managing Water Supply

Name of project district	No. of CBOs Federations at Divisional level	CBOs managed RWS programs involved with the CBOs federation at present				
		Pipe Schemes	Wells	Rain Water	HP Well	No. of families benefited
Hambantota	04	54	384	1741	109	10889
Monaragala	04	33	1981	891	213	16558
Kegalle	05	135	1725	759	05	9226
Kalutara	03	44	629	450	13	8676
Puttalam	05	42	375	821	101	10935
Anuradapuraya	05	33	1258	404	201	11616
Total	26	341	6352	5066	642	67900

- Represent the project co-ordination meeting and other development forum in the area to enhance the importance of water supply and sanitation.
- Provision of advisory services to the project beneficiaries and the other stake holders of the project.

Strategies Being Used for the Sustainability of CBOs Federation

- All the CBOs, established in the water and sanitation projects are qualified and encouraged to obtain membership.
- The legal entity and recognition of CBOs federations are assured through the registration within the legal framework of the country.
- Financial stability of the CBOs federation is assured by registration through the establishment of Sustainable Maintenance Fund (SMF) at Divisional level. Financial and operational arrangements of the SMF to be finalized and the federations will act as the major executing partner of the fund. SMF of each federation will be strengthened through the earning of

  a. Annual membership fees of the CBOs
  b. Project contribution toward the SMF
  c. At cost services rendered by the federation

- All the CBOs federations were encouraged to set up office building with the participation of all stakeholders. The project has proposed to grant SR.100, 000.00 for each federation at Divisional and District level.
- Institutional capacity development programs of the CBOs have been integrated with the divisional level federations. Delivering of training / providing of financial assistance and materials etc.
- Guidance has been developed to represent the CBOs federations at each level of project co-ordination meeting.

Divisional level CBOs federations
(3Members) → DLCC
District level CBOs federations
(3Members) → PLCC
National level CBOs federations
(3Members) NSC → NSC

Table II: Present Progress on Establishment of Federation

Name of project district	Progress on formation of CBOs		Progress on formation of CBOs federation at Divisional level		Progress on formation of CBOs federation at District level		Status on National level formation
	Anticipated task	Present progress	Anticipated task	Present progress	Anticipated task	Present progress	
Hambantota	133	131	09	04	01		National level federation will be set up before the project conclusion.
Monaragala	183	183	09	04	01		
Kegalle	189	165	10	05	01	In Progress	
Kalutara	134	122	10	03	01		
Puttalam	152	140	10	05	01		
Anuradapuraya	167	154	10	05	01		
TOTAL	958	895	58	26	6		01

- Facilities have been developed to act as a sector partners in planning, implementing and managing the WATSAN programs.
- The implementation mechanism and co-ordination structure of the CBOs federation has been linked with the proposed rural water supply policies.
  This has been very much influenced for the smooth functioning of federation.
- Information centers have been established at divisional level with supervision of CBOs federation.

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