



DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY

NOTES AND CRITICAL ISSUES OF THE SWISS AND IRISH AID PROJECT SITE VISIT MEETING HELD ON THE 12th AND 13th FEBRUARY 2007 AT VHEMBE AND MOGALAKWENA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES

Item	Issues & Decisions Taken	
1.	<p>BACKGROUND</p> <p>The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Irish Aid visited the project sites in Limpopo, in the Vhembe and Mogalakwena District Municipalities, who are recipients of the Swiss donor funding.</p> <p>PURPOSE</p> <p>The purpose of the visits was to understand the organization, functioning and the management of the water business by municipalities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To strengthen lesson learning and sharing around issues of water services provision and management To determine constraints in water service provision and to explore areas of support and increased partnership To get an insight into the running of the WIN-SA Programme <p>ORGANIZATION, FUNCTIONING AND THE MANAGEMENT OF THE WATER BUSINESS BY MUNICIPALITIES.</p> <p>Vhembe District Municipality (VDM) and Mogalakwena District Municipality (MDM)</p> <p>With a population of 1 388 427 people and 308 547 households of which 89, 7% reside in rural areas, VDM is responsible for the bulk water supply and an interim agreement has been signed for the supply, operations and maintenance of the retail pending the S78 process</p> <p>VDM is responsible for the provision of sanitation services whilst its four local municipalities implement the FBW policies.</p> <p>On the other hand, Mogalakwena District Municipality provides water and sanitation services to a population of 323 303 people with a rural backlog of 95687 households. MDM is a good model municipality with it's ability to manage its budget and to spend all its allocated budget as was in their last financial year (06/07) and were able to complete all their water and sanitation projects. The challenge they experienced but were able to solve was with regard to MIG Allocated budget they were not familiar with it's requirements of technical reports.</p> <p>TO DETERMINE CONSTRAINTS IN WATER SERVICE PROVISION</p>	

AND TO EXPLORE AREAS OF SUPPORT AND INCREASED PARTNERSHIP

CONSTRAINTS/ CHALLENGES

Infrastructure backlog to RDP streets taps is 53% (about 729 136 people) 527 communities (85, 9%) experience operation and maintenance problems and poor infrastructure conditions.
Only 51 communities (6,6 %) have adequate water infrastructure
About R528 million is needed to eradicate backlog for water and R264 million per annum is needed for sanitation to reach the national targets for 2010 and there is no funding to meet the targets
No monitoring and evaluation systems to secure our water services, and the by-laws are not yet adopted. Procurement process need to be tight but easy to implement and user friendly.
Lack of intergraded planning approach there's lack of collaboration with other private institutions e.g. Water Boards
Increased Social and Technical Support from DWAF and other State Organs
Water quality problems occurs due to lack of underground water and limited sources
Distance to street tap a wide spread problem which results in unauthorized connections and also because water demand exceeds design capacity
Cross boarder scheme exists with Mopani DM, Infrastructure deterioration excessive due to limited budget and capacity
Deep rural areas typically dependant on individual boreholes supply system

MILESTONES

Water Master plan per scheme are available
VDM Sanitation backlog to VIP or better and safe Sanitation is at 73%
No bucket sanitation system
MDM is a Water Service Authority and also serves as a Water Service Provider. No large grey areas
Indigent Register is utilized for Free Basic Services
VDM adopted Free Basic Water in 2003 and supply water by metered borehole as Free Basic Water Supply
MDM's reporting was focusing more on H&H issues and wasn't clear on it's backlog and measurable achievements. But the good work was evident during site visits were real implementation is happening.
Sanitation treated as a FBS as most of MDM communities (98%) are rural and don't have basic sanitation.
Supply water by tankering vehicles to the poor as FBW

INSIGHT INTO THE RUNNING OF THE WIN-SA PROGRAMME

SWISS AND IRISH AID COMMENTS.

WIN-SA's lesson learning and sharing is not happening in Limpopo. All lesson learning's from other municipalities like Zululand in KZN were through DM's own initiatives.

One field note was done by WIN at Mogalakwena DM but the municipality wasn't aware of it.

There is lot of community participation, training and capacity building on community based water services projects, women empowerment initiatives, and job creations that need to be documented by WIN – SA. More work need to be done on lesson learning and sharing in Limpopo.

There is a need for a Provincial or Local government level WIN – SA Coordinator to document and disseminate local government level lesson learning and sharing initiatives.

The key people who form part of the delegation from the municipalities were available during the visits and made the visitors feel at home. They included the Mayors from both municipalities, Municipal Manager, Water Service Manager, Technical manager, WSP manager, Person in charge of finances And the Operations Manager

The visits were a good experience and a success.