



Improved Water, Sanitation & Hygiene in Rural Areas of Zimbabwe – Rural Wash Programme (RWP)

General Points

This is a synopsis of the third Annual Review (AR) of the RWP that was completed for DFID by Evidence on Demand in 2015.

Summary

Poor people living in rural areas of Zimbabwe are disproportionately affected by a lack of rural Water and Sanitation Hygiene (WASH), which generates a significant, yet preventable, disease burden. 98% of people without an improved drinking water source are located in rural areas, while 48% of the rural population practices open defecation. The Rural WASH Programme, running from June 2012 to July 2016, was set up to facilitate a reduction in WASH related diseases and women's workload, and improve basic education outcomes and gender equality. The programme was implemented by UNICEF and its eight Implementing Partners as part of its Country Programme of Cooperation in Zimbabwe. Engagement from the private sector is being encouraged. DFID contributed £33 million across 30 target districts to the programme, while the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) increased the number of target districts to 33 through a CHF 5.8 million contribution. The areas were chosen as a result of their low WASH access and high propensity to cholera. The aim of the programme is to provide equitable and sustainable access and use of safe water supply to 1.506 million people in the 30 DFID districts and an additional 220,000 people in the 3 SDC districts.

Key Ideas and Debates

This was the third AR of the RWP. Following the 2014 AR, a Project Improvement Plan (PIP) was developed by the Rural WASH Project Management Team (PMT) with help from the Project Advisory Committee (PAC), and many areas of the log frame were revised. The 2015 AR was carried out to assess the performance of the programme over the last twelve months.

Insight and Findings

The review noted progress in achieving many of the programme outputs, which should pave the way to achieving the higher level outcomes. Developments have been made in the equitable and sustainable use of protected water supplies; the use of improved sanitation; and the adoption of improved hygiene practices among the rural populations of the thirty-three districts. There has been success in the drilling of new water boreholes and the replacement of those which already exist, in line with the existing targets. Significant progress has also been made in the take-up of the zero-subsidy latrine and there have been moves towards ODF, although this is still behind target. A delayed start means that progress, while accelerating, is still behind target on increasing sanitation coverage and zero subsidy latrine construction. The log frame has been revised to place targets at a more achievable level, but there are concerns that this will have negative implications for the sustainability and value for money of the programme, and that the targets may not be achieved in the time remaining.

Implications for advisers

It has been recommended that a Value-for-Money study of the programme, involving a detailed consideration of each component, be carried out in 2015/16 to determine the net worth of the study. The results of the study are expected to be used to inform future programming of RWASH.

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