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**VUFO-NGO Resource Centre INGO Water and Sanitation Working Group**

**Meeting held on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2005, Room 9, La Thanh Hotel**

**Chairperson: John Collett (Plan in Vietnam)**

**Agenda topics:**

Acceptance of the minutes of previous meeting

Sharing main points from sub-group meeting on WES at schools

Discussion on updating INGO W&S Reference Document

“Social marketing of sanitation and hygiene” presented by Jaime Frias – IDE Vietnam

“Decentralized technical water system management” presented by Lutz Meyer – BORDA

**Agreements and actions:**

The meeting agreed with the idea of establishing a dedicated working group on water, sanitation and hygiene at schools. JC will discuss further with Joanne Fairley (CWS) and UNICEF, and if appropriate with the VUFO-NGO Resource Centre. JC will also circulate the minutes of the School WES Meeting to all members of the W&S Working Group.

The meeting agreed with the idea of producing a revised and expanded second edition of the INGO Water and Sanitation Reference Document. JC will contact members of the W&S Working Group seeking their assistance.

The date for the next meeting of the W&S Working Group was set for Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2005. Venue and programme to be announced.

## List of participants

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## Welcome and introductions

JC welcomed the participants and invited them to briefly introduce themselves.

## Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting

JC checked that everyone had received the minutes of the previous meeting, circulated by Joanne Fairley. The only action point arising from the previous meeting was the agreement to hold a one-day meeting for interested parties on the subject of water, environmental sanitation and hygiene at schools. JC reported that this had taken place successfully on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, hosted by Plan and attended by 25 participants from 16 INGOs. There being no discussion of the previous minutes, they were accepted by the meeting as a fair record.

## Main points from sub-group meeting on WES at schools

JC presented the main findings and concerns arising from the meeting on WES at schools:

- 1) New schools are still being built without WES facilities.
- 2) Various different standards being applied – MOET, MOC, CERWASS. These propose widely different ratios for pupils per WC, pupils per urinal-place, and number of pupils per tap for hand-washing. The amount of water to be provided for cooking (at crèches and kindergartens), cleaning and watering is not clear in the standards.
- 3) Designs are not child-friendly, nor disabled-friendly. Age (size), gender and cultural preferences are not paid adequate attention.
- 4) The location of toilets at primary and secondary schools is inconvenient. At kindergartens, toilets are part of the main building, so why not for PS and SS?
- 5) Toilets relegated to the corner of the school plot often become neglected with the result that they are disliked by pupils who consider them to be dirty and unsafe places.
- 6) Soap for hand-washing is rarely available and it's unusual to find convenient arrangements for feet-washing.
- 7) Are towels really necessary or do they create another problem?
- 8) Often there's no clear responsibility for toilet cleaning. At best, toilets get cleaned at the end of the day. It's very rare they also get cleaned once mid-morning and once mid-afternoon. Cleaning toilets is sometimes a task given to pupils as a form of punishment.

- 9) No clear responsibility for maintenance and repair. No arrangements for septic tank emptying.
- 10) Safety of drinking water questionable. Ceramic candle filters often broken. Boiling maybe practical at crèches and kindergartens where meals are prepared. Bottled water? Bring your own?
- 11) Designs should incorporate water saving measures to help reduce volume of water needed and to minimize problem of waste water disposal. This will also help pupils to be more aware of the value of water.
- 12) Teachers, parents and the school administration often show little interest regarding WES arrangements at schools.

KP suggested that we should not only consider details like the location or the design of WES facilities at schools but should also think strategically about what we have learnt through our work to date. Then we can develop an analysis as a basis for talking to government partners and helping them appreciate the issues and to see what needs to be improved.

JC agreed this was an important objective for the sub-group to address.

JC shared with the participants the idea of establishing a formal School WES Working Group (which had been proposed in email correspondence among the sub-group members after the meeting), and asked for their viewpoints. There were no objections and it was agreed to pursue this idea by discussing further with Joanne Fairley (CWS), UNICEF and the VUFO-NGO Resource Centre.

JC also agreed to circulate the minutes of the School WES meeting to all members of the W&S working group.

#### Revision and expansion of INGO W&S Reference Document

JC explained the background to this document which was prepared on behalf of the W&S Working Group by Ross Tomlinson in 2004. Originally the idea was to gather together information from all INGOs (and if possible donors) involved with the W&S sector and present it in a “Who’s Doing What and Where?” Directory. Out of 50 or so INGOs supporting the sector, 26 provided descriptions of their work using a format designed for the purpose. Considering the number of INGOs not included in the first edition (now nearly 12 months old) and the absence of a section covering international organizations and bilateral cooperation agencies, it was now proposed to produce a second revised and expanded edition. The electronic database established for the first edition should be fairly easy to update and expand. It was estimated that somebody working part-time should be able to complete the task over a 2 to 3-month period. The participants agreed this was a

good idea. JC to follow up with a message to the members of the W&S Working Group seeking their assistance.

“Harnessing Market Power for Rural Sanitation: Small-scale sanitation private sector delivery in Vietnam” led by Jaime Frias – IDE

JF gave a presentation on lessons learnt by IDE through support in Vietnam to small-scale private sector development and marketing of sanitation in rural areas. He highlighted that in rural areas, access to sanitation always lags behind access to water and by introducing a range of low-cost models from private sector suppliers, and developing promotional campaigns and other activities, the project achieved a substantial increase in access to improved sanitation compared to previous years. JF gave examples of promoting sustainable sanitation provision through bridging the skills gap in the capacity of local masons in selling latrines i.e. a model of creating a local network of masons who visit households and provide advice on which design and what materials are suitable and affordable for them. Credit services provided by this network also help to guarantee the competitiveness of the market.

Q. JC: If the mentioned model can be applied widely in Vietnam, can we estimate when Vietnam’s Millennium Development Goal target of 86% for sanitation will be reached?

A: It’s not possible say when the sanitation target will be reached by applying this model but at the start of the project in 2002, from only 16% of the experimental group owning a hygienic latrine, this doubled to 32% in two years. However, to obtain sanitation improvements nationwide as substantial as this will probably require a variety of appropriate strategies, including community income generation activities and access to credit.

Q: LAT (World Vision): The survey results show about 10% of rural poor households among all latrine buyers. What are the key elements or factors of the project intervention leading to this behavior change? For example, access to competent masons teams?

A: There are many elements to achieve this result. One of them is providing Technical Assistance to build up the strategic framework for promoting changes in demand. The most important thing is to look closely to find potential constraints and then find effective ways to address these constraints.

Q. NQQ (Oxfam GB): What would be IDE’s advice to the National Target Program on Rural Water and Sanitation that’s already in its fifth year of implementation?

A: Instead of using donor and INGO money to subsidize the construction of household latrines, it would be better to use this for researching, developing and marketing a range of technologies that people in different situations want and can afford.

NQQ observed that there was active private sector involvement in tubewell construction which had developed without any special support from government or donors and he wondered why this had happened with water supply but not yet with sanitation. If the answer to this could be discovered, it could help to find new strategies for scaling-up rural sanitation.

Q: How did IDE come up with posters and brochures that were most influential to the local population?

A: IDE has an established methodology for concept development to bring about core messages to different target groups. Prior to the marketing campaign, testing materials such as posters is very important. IDE also collaborates with local artists and designers to produce locally suitable materials.

Q. KP: KP observed that the IDE approach uses many different communication channels to achieve the desired result. He asked how IDE would rank these channels in order of importance and the impact of each channel on particular target groups.

A. The importance of facilitated focus group discussions was highlighted as an essential communication channel.

“Decentralized technical water system management” by Lutz Meyer and Pham Huong Trang – BORDA

LM gave a brief presentation about BORDA and their activities. He explained that in Vietnam, BORDA was collaborating with the Vietnam Institute of Water Resources Research Centre for Irrigation Management (on hydraulic ram pumps for mountainous area irrigation), and with the Hydropower Centre and Hanoi University of Technology Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (on water turbine pumps for irrigation).

Pham Huong Trang then explained the technicalities of three effective and locally relevant decentralized technical water management devices: the Hydraulic Ram Pump, the Water Turbine Pump, and the Decentralized Waste Water Treatment System.

Q. KP: For the hydram, what is the ratio of the volume of water delivered by the pump to the volume of water that flows through the pump?

A. This ratio depends on how high the water is pumped to and the height (or ‘head’) of water that drives the pump. Generally, the higher the water is pumped, the lower the efficiency. The minimum conditions required for a hydram are a 3 meter head and a through-flow of 30 liters per second.

Q. NQQ: How many devices of these kinds has BORDA installed in Vietnam?

A. 90 hydrams and 15 water turbine pumps installed during the past 1 – 1.5 year period.

PTD (PIM Center, VIWRR) added that hydrams have been installed in many mountainous areas of Vietnam like Lao Cai, Bac Kan, Lang Son and the Centre has been involved with their manufacture and installation. The hydram is very useful in mountainous areas because it saves women having to make long and steep journeys to fetch water to their homes. During 1993 – 1994 these devices were introduced as demonstration models, notably in Northern and Central mountainous provinces. Now they have been experimented and disseminated to other provinces.

LM introduced Dewats, a decentralized waste water treatment system that works by gravity-flow and requires no pumps and no chemicals. Desludging takes place every 3 – 5 years. This type of system is well suited to hospitals, hotels, settlements and community toilets but hasn't been materialized in Vietnam yet.

LM also mentioned one of the benefits from Dewats is that companies producing fertilizers from wastes are prepared to come and desludge the system and pay for what they take away. The quality of the liquid outflow from the system is also safe enough for use as fertilizers. BORDA is currently planning to cooperate with a local organization to seek companies interested in buying sludge.

KP: Agreed that the system has great benefits and could generate revenue. But where there are no government subsidies for this technology, and the community has to pay for the construction, will it be viable?

A. From experience in Indonesia where 200 community-based systems have been installed, people were willing to pay for the systems and they have been very successful. It's therefore believed that the system can be viable.

Considering the growing number of industrial zones in Vietnam, waste management is becoming an increasingly urgent issue. Also solid and liquid waste from village and household-level industries is a growing problem. It was pointed out that until the regulatory framework for enforcing the Environment Law was strengthened, it was cheaper for polluters to pay a small fine than for them to invest in waste treatment.

#### Other information

It was agreed the next meeting would be held on Friday 28th October 2005. The venue and program to be announced.

The following INGOs took advantage of the offer of latrine pan and pipe sets from Oxfam HK:

<b>NGO</b>	<b>No. of sets</b>	<b>Contact person</b>	<b>Phone number</b>
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CCF Australia	30	Tran Kieu Hanh	0913047001 7261171 Ext 113
AFAP	20	Pham Thi Minh	8562421 0912360190
CGFFD/DED	1	Rene	0912462966