N-WASHE CO-ORDINATING AND TRAINING TEAM

REPORT ON CONDUCTED SURVEYS TO ESTABLISH WASHE BEHAVIOURS IN 15 DISTRICTS OF EASTERN AND SOUTHERN PROVINCES

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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Consultant

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Acknowledgements

Firstly I would like to thank N-WASHE for giving me this opportunity to carry out this survey. The survey was indeed interesting in that it revealed real existing situations that are usually imagined otherwise. The study though not comprehensive afforded me a chance to see which WASHE practices are most neglected in the communities. It was also interesting to work with children from primary schools who contributed in the collection of the information.

I further extend my gratitude to Mr I. J. Mbewe, Co-ordinator of N-WASHE who took particular interest to ensure this study succeeded. My thanks too to Mr Paul Mboshya who took time to brief me about the survey and the developed formats that were used in the exercise. I would also like to recognise the services of Mr Lawrence Michelo who assisted in the collection of data in some of the districts in Southern province.

I also want to pay tribute to all district staff in the Ministry of Education in the 15 districts where the surveys were conducted for their effective facilitation in mobilising the required teachers that took part in the exercise. Finally my thanks go to the teachers and pupils that did the actual collection of the information in the selected villages in both Eastern and Southern province.
1.0. INTRODUCTION

It is generally believed that latrine coverage in Zambia, especially in the rural areas is very low. It is also common knowledge that the country lacks accurate information on latrine coverage in the country. The country does not have reliable systems for collection of such information. The wish to carry out thorough surveys that can bring out the required information accurately is being hampered by lack of funds.

In order to address this situation, N-WASHE engaged a consultant to carry out surveys in 15 different districts of Eastern and Southern provinces. This study has provided information on the existing situation in the about 200 villages where information was collected. The planned target for this exercise was 225 villages in 15 districts. Due to different reasons, only information from 194 villages was successfully included in the exercise.

The fifteen districts where this study took place were; Nyimba, Petauke, Katete, Chadiza, Chipata, Mambwe, Lundazi, Siavonga, Mazabuka, Monze, Gwembe, Itezhi-tezhi, Sinazongwe, Choma and Kalomo districts. The information given in this report was collected between 10th and 27th September, 2000.

The formats used to collect information from the villages were well thought in their design, but teachers and pupils appear to have experienced problems in following them. Some of the formats were wrongly completed and could not be used in compiling this report. Apart from that some of the districts did not send back all the formats from the 15 schools. As a result, instead of 225 schools and villages being involved, only 194 are included in this report. Details of the number of schools and villages included are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Province</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Villages Included</th>
<th>No. of H/H in the Village</th>
<th>Average Members per H/Hold</th>
<th>H/Holds Interviewed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>Chadiza</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>Chipata</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1151</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>Katete</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1827</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>Lundazi</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>549</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>Mambwe</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>Nyimba</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1355</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>Petauke</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1120</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Eastern</td>
<td></td>
<td>98</td>
<td>6,902</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Population</td>
<td>Level</td>
<td>Status</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Choma</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1454</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>165</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Gwembe</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>571</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>195</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Itezhi-tezhi</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1913</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>195</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Kalomo</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>691</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>150</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Mazabuka</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4259</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>225</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Monze</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>886</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>225</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Siavonga</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>90</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Sinazongwe</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1625</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>195</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Southern</strong></td>
<td>96</td>
<td>11,815</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1,440</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Eastern &amp; Southern Provinces</strong></td>
<td>194</td>
<td>18,717</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2,910</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Specific details on the villages included in the exercise are as given in Annex 1 which is a list of all the surveyed villages in the 15 districts of Eastern and Southern provinces of Zambia.

2.0. OBJECTIVE OF THE CONSULTANCY

The purpose of this consultancy work was among other things to prepare a report indicating existing WASHE practices in the targeted districts and villages. This information will be used by N-WASHE and other co-operating partners to plan future interventions in the water and sanitation sector. Specifically, it will help in the preparation of donor proposals, and enable players estimate required investment in the sector to achieve certain desired levels in coverage.

3.0. METHODOLOGY USED

In order to carry out this exercise, the consultant designed suitable formats which were used at village and district levels to collect and forward data to N-WASHE office in Lusaka. Some of the formats used were developed by N-WASHE and then reviewed by the consultant before they were put to practical use in the field.

The consultant and two other persons from N-WASHE visited all the 15 districts covered under this exercise and discussed with district staff the nature of the exercise and its importance. All developed formats and the planned modalities through which data was collected were thoroughly discussed with the teachers in the districts before the actual data collection commenced.

The District Education Officer's office was used as contact office at district level. One senior staff from the DEO’s office, 15 teachers and 30 pupils were involved in this exercise.

The selection of the 15 villages in each district was randomly done by the DEO's office in consultation with the D-WASHE committee. Care was taken to ensure that the selected
schools were not in one geographical area. Due to limited available, most of the schools selected were those within 50 km radius away from the district headquarters.

4.0. FINDINGS OF THE SURVEYS

The surveys carried out included data on orphans, widows, latrine situation, children’s excreta disposal, hand washing practices, water supply sources, drinking water storage vessels, families with dish racks and disposal of solid waste. Given below are tables containing this information;

4.01. Orphans and Widows

The survey showed that out of the 2,910 households interviewed in 194 villages, 125 households (4.3%) were headed by orphans, while another 385 (13%) were headed by widows. Up to 1,187 (40%) households reported that they were keeping and supporting orphans within their homes. The total number of orphans being supported in the 2,910 households is 3,035. See details in Annex 2.

4.02. Latrine situation

The survey on latrines showed that out of the 2,910 households interviewed in 194 villages, only 1,207 (41%) have latrines. These latrines by type are as given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Families with Latrines</th>
<th>Latrines by types</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Traditional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,207</td>
<td>807</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Out of the 1,207 latrines, 446 (37%) were found with covers which fit properly, while 609 (50%) were found clean without urine or excreta on the squatting platform. Detailed information on latrines is given in Annex 3.

4.03. Disposal of children’s excreta

A survey on disposal of children’s excreta was carried out in order see how much communities care on how to dispose of children’s excreta. This survey showed that out of the 2,675 household interviewed, only 970 (36%) stated that they throw it into the latrine. The common practice noted was that children’s excreta were treated as mere solid waste, and was often disposed of the way the household did with solid waste.

Some of the households who were found to have no babies in their homes at the time the survey declined to answer this question, hence only 2,675 households were included in
the survey. Annex 4 provides all the information on children’s excreta disposal methods as collected during the survey.

4.04. Hand washing

Hand washing practices are always very critical in the prevention of diarrhoeal diseases. The survey conducted was aimed at establishing common practices in the targeted communities, and looked into; hand-washing facilities, hand washing times and common materials used to wash hands.

The information collected showed that out of the 2,910 households, only 653 (22%) households do have hand washing facilities next to their latrines, and that hand washing is usually done in traditional basins which is not very hygienic. The survey also showed that all households do wash their hands before having main meals; breakfast, lunch and dinner, but only about half practice washing hands after using the latrine, before preparing meals and after cleaning children’s bottoms.

Also noted is the fact that very few households 1,239 (43%) households use soap when washing their hands. The common practice even where soap is available is to wash hands using water only. Detailed information collected on hand washing is given in Annex 5.

4.05 Water Supply Sources.

The survey on water supply was aimed at establishing the common sources used in the surveyed villages, and how far away these sources are located. Out of a total of 2,910 households interviewed, 1,988 (68%) got their water from protected sources, while the rest did not use protected sources. Protected sources in use were mainly boreholes (1,250), dug well with bucket (605), and dug wells equipped with hand pumps (133). Unprotected sources in use included; springs (79), rivers and streams (147), ponds and dams (23) and 528 scoop holes.

Distances to these water sources ranged from 0 up to more than 5 kilometres. Noted is the fact that most of the house holds interviewed (2,532) had their water sources within 1 km radius. This number of households represents 87% of the total number of households interviewed. Detailed information on findings on water supply sources is given in Annex 6.

4.06 Water carrying vessels

The survey on common vessels used to transport the water to their homes was conducted in order to establish the possible ways through which water can get polluted during transportation to the homes. This survey revealed that up to 1,246 (43 %) households out of the 2,910 households use some form of open vessels.
These vessels used to carry water are mainly, open buckets, clay pots and calabashes. It was also noted that a good number of households (1,587) have adopted the use of plastic Jerry cans with lids that reduce chances of the water getting contaminated on the way.

4.07 Storage of drinking water in homes

A survey to show how drinking water is stored in the homes was conducted in order to establish what the chances of getting this water contaminated whilst in the home are. This survey showed that 1,046 families out of 2,910 keep their drinking water in either buckets or water pots that have lids to stop dirt from falling in them. Another 1,205 households do use plastic Jerry cans to store drinking water. Together, a total of 2,251 (77%) do keep their water in some form of safe containers. Detailed information on storage of drinking water in the homes is given in Annex 8.

4.08 Dish racks

Dish racks are a simple and hygienic way of keeping eating utensils safe in the rural communities. The survey was conducted to see how many of the targeted households did have dish racks. Out of the 2,910 households interviewed, only 1,172 (40%) did have dish racks as can be seen in Annex 9.

4.09 Disposal of solid waste

This survey was aimed at establishing how households in the targeted communities get rid of solid waste. This has a bearing on how easily their food would get contaminated by flies flying from the decomposing waste matters to clean food. It also has a bearing on how the environment is being treated.

This survey showed that only 1,041 (36%) of the 2,910 households did have either refuse pits or composite pits. The rest of the households were either using a dump site within the locality of the house, or at times had no specific place where to dump their solid waste. This solid waste as already discussed at times included children’s excreta. Detailed information on solid waste disposal is given in Annex 10.

4.10 School Latrine Coverage

Another survey was conducted to establish the number of latrines in schools and work out the present coverage for pupils as well as their members of staff. A total number of 195 schools were included on this programme. This survey revealed that out of these 195 schools covered under this study, only 15 (8%) had adequate sanitation for pupils, when the Ministry of Education figure of 40 pupils to one latrine is used. In certain schools, more than 100 pupils share one latrine. The situation on teachers latrines was equally not very good as information collected indicate that in 40 schools, latrines for teachers were none existent.
Also noted is the fact that out of the 2,226 households living within the school area, only 865. This represents a mere 38% coverage. This showed that the assumption that latrine coverage is higher in communities living near schools than those that are far away is not correct. Detailed information on the schools involved and the number of households, pupils, teachers and completed latrines is given in Annex 11.

5.0. RECOMMENDATIONS

The outcome of these surveys show that there are still serious deficiencies in all areas of Water, Sanitation and application of good Hygiene practices in the two provinces. This situation is not favourable, and if left to continue may lead to an increase in the number of diseases related to poor water, sanitation and hygiene practices.

The following recommendations have been included as mere suggestions on what could be done if coverage in all areas covered under in this report were to be achieved:

- With the large number of orphans and widows living within these communities, it would be quite helpful to include a component in the WASHE programme that target these groups, especially when providing materials for construction of demonstration facilities, such as pit-latrines.
- To improve on the current coverage of safe and hygienic latrines, more resources (human and financial) should be mobilised and directed into the sector. Cheaper but safe technologies should so as to make latrines affordable by many households.
- Well planned and effective hygiene education programmes, using participatory methodologies should be initiated or stepped up so that people can be reminded of the dangers of children’s excreta, not washing hands after using the latrine or before touching any food. The use of soap during hand washing would also have to be stressed during such programmes. The programme could also include a component of how water can be safely carried from the source, and how it can be stored in the homes without exposing it to contamination.
- To ensure the big number of communities still getting their water from unprotected sources is reduced, efforts should continue to mobilise resources for improvement of existing sources as well as for construction of new ones.
- The use of dish-racks though often not taken seriously in communities, contributes allot to ensuring that food utensils are not exposed to contamination. The hygiene education programme can therefore ensure that this message is effectively delivered to the community during hygiene education sessions.
- To reduce free breeding of disease causing germs near homes, the hygiene education programme would have to equally stress the importance of digging refuse pits. Wherever possible, communities would have to be encouraged to make composite heaps instead of ordinary refuse pits.
• Schools usually serve as models on a number of issues in the community. Therefore, to have schools with adequate sanitation for both pupils and teachers is important as communities can easily learn good practices from them. Adequate latrines in schools, also encourage pupils, especially girls to attend classes. A vigorous drive is therefore necessary to mobilise resources for improvement of school sanitation and water supplies.