

# SADC *engagements*

SEPTEMBER 2010

water • sanitation • learning • sharing • sustainable resources and service delivery



# CSOs from Southern Africa *exchange sanitation knowledge* in practice

By Dick de Jong

“This workshop raised questions about the Amalooloo toilets in South Africa. As we are also getting these toilets in Zambia I hope that you keep us informed about these problems on the ground”, Elisha N'gonomo, Director of a large civil society organization Village Water in Zambia, asked the South African participants on the last day of their Civil Society Learning Journey and Capacity Building Workshop in Roodeplaat, Pretoria, South Africa.

This is one of the immediate follow ups coming out of documenting workshop case studies and field visits in practice through written articles, photo stories, and short video clips.

The Water Information Network South Africa (WIN-SA) co-organized the workshop at the Roode Plaat training centre of the Department of Water Affairs, 25 minutes out of Pretoria, from 17 to 21 May 2010. It brought together 20 directors and project managers from SADC civil society organizations from Botswana, Madagascar, Malawi, Niger, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and from various provinces in South Africa.

The focus was on sharing experiences, and developing a stronger network of civil society organizations working on water, sanitation and hygiene services in the SADC region.

The second focus was on developing simple advocacy, communication and marketing efforts that CSOs must undertake, based on the field evidence from their projects, to influence different stakeholders to be more responsive to the poorer section of their societies.

## Push a fertilizer, not a toilet

Human excreta and urine is a hidden treasure and should be turned into liquid and solid fertilizers, was a strong message at the workshop. But unfortunately it is not yet scaled up at policy level.

“Push a fertilizer that helps growing of food, rather than a toilet”, Linus Dakenskog from the Swedish Environment Institute advised participants. He based his presentation on the evidence from a 14-month productive sanitation programme he was involved in with the West African regional network CREPA in north Niger. It was funded by the Department of Agriculture to increase food production. Food security funds are more readily available and are higher than for sanitation.

## Communication 'must haves'

After presentations and discussions on the country experiences a communication session followed with the four 'must haves' for communication by not for profit organizations for any successful campaign:

A customised Amalooloo toilet designed for Zambia.



- 1 Clear measurable goals.
- 2 Extensive knowledge of whom you are trying to reach and what moves them-Target Audience.
- 3 Compelling messages that connect with your target audience.
- 4 Pre-test any communication product/tool with a small selection of your target audience before you mass produce a leaflet, poster or video.

IRC's Dick de Jong did an elevator pitch in four groups: making your NGO pitch to get funding for a rainwater programme to a CEO of large donor.

## Practical work and sustainability

The how to write session to a “tell your story” was widened by adding, photo stories and videos. This was applied already in the second field trip on Thursday. This full day field visit was to the company that produces the Amalooloo dry toilet. After an introduction from company director Mr. Lukas Fourie the visit to two field sites to an area where the company had won a contract to roll out 1,000 of these units in the Mortebele Local Municipality in North West Province was an eye opener for many. The field realities and company presentation did not match 100 percent and triggered a lot of discussions and exchanges between participants on sustainability of dry sanitation and community-led sanitation.

## Four outputs

On the last day we had presentations and very interesting discussions from four group presentations:

- a PowerPoint with video from the first field trip on Ma Thsepo, the founder of the Water for Food founder;
- a short film with a Flip video camera from the Environment and Sanitation News service on the discrepancy between the Amalooloo dry toilets we had seen at the company head quarters and the first toilets we visited in the field;
- a presentation with photos on one of the case studies presented at the workshop; and
- a story for a newsletter with highlights from the workshop.

# WIN-SA takes *Knowledge sharing* to Namibia!



From left:  
Jay Bhagwan,  
Nantanga Theopoline,  
Levi Zulu, Vistorina  
Kauna Aihuki, E  
Karabo, Ditshego  
Magoro, Uahorekua

The purpose of the meeting was to engage the ministry on the knowledge sharing initiatives managed by WIN-SA and how the SAKNSS can contribute to Namibia's implementation plan.

The SAKNSS will contribute towards the implementation of the Namibian strategy by making facilitating and ensuring access to the available a body of knowledge, resources and experiences from the region. A number of best and poor practices have been well documented within the region. Namibia, unlike many developing countries, stand a good chance to delivers sustainable sanitation services and accelerate its MDG targets. SAKNSS facilitate knowledge sharing by virtually bringing together from government, private, civil society, academia, research and donors to share and exchange sustainable sanitation solutions. It will also facilitate regional capacity building/training programmes and the development of the node's website.

The Namibia Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry: Directorate of Rural Water Supply hosted the 2nd regional meeting of the Southern Africa Knowledge Node on Sustainable Sanitation (SAKNSS) from 26 to 27 May 2010. The SAKNSS is an initiative between the Stockholm Environment Institute, Water Research Commission and the Water Information Network – South Africa.

The aim of the SAKNSS to promote knowledge sharing on sustainable

sanitation, as a way of fast tracking the MDG targets in the region.

The Node's interaction with Namibia is the outcome of the learning journey undertaken by Namibia to South Africa in 2009, hosted by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA). The purpose of the learning journey was to learn lessons on the implementation of the South African sanitation policy, to inform the development and implementation of the Namibian strategy.

## *This and that* about Namibia

**Capital City:** Windhoek | **Population:** 1 770 000 | **Pop. Density:** 5 per square mile (2 per square km) | **Area:** 318 578 square miles (825 112 square km) | **Rainfall:** 0-660mm per annum. The 2 perineal rivers mark the Southern and much of the northern borders. The Orange (south) and the Kunene and Kavango/Zambezi (North). Namibia being a arid country with very limited water resources and uneven spatial distributed, faces challenges to ensure sufficient WATSAN services to all ens users.

The Water Supply and Sanitation Policy (WSAP) 1993, has been revised in 2008 and roles and responsibilities for WATSAN revised (WSASP). The revised policy recommended that the Directorate of Rural Water Supply be transformed into a Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination.

The development of a five year National Sanitation Strategy was approved in October 2009 by Cabinet; and a WATSAN Forum has been established to oversee the implementation of the National Sanitation Strategy and develop the overall Sector coordination.

Namibia has adopted the following targets:

- The Third National Development Plan (NDP3), 2007-2012; National sanitation coverage should reach 65%. Urban coverage 92.6% and rural coverage 50% by 2012.
- Namibian Vision 2030- 100% sanitation coverage by 2030
- The urban sanitation services are generally good with an estimated coverage ranging from 95% in municipalities to about 60% in communal towns.
- The sanitation coverage in rural areas has slightly improved from 16% (1992) to 18.9% (2000).

# Field visit to the sanitation projects: City of Windhoek

Photos: Jay Bhagwan

The team embarked on a field visit to sanitation projects implemented by the City of Windhoek in the informal settlements of Katutura. The team was led by Mr. Jannie Burger from the City's engineering division. In the areas visited, the City provided a waterborne system and Enviroloo sanitation facilities.

Despite the City's efforts in providing sanitation solutions in these settlements, a number of households, still lack adequate sanitation facilities. Many of the enviroloo facilities have been vandalized, resulting in households constructing their own facilities or reverting to open defecation.

The visit highlighted a number of challenges faced by the bigger cities in providing sustainable sanitation in the informal settlements. Observations by the team were that the mushrooming of the informal settlements is pushing the city to provide services. Due to this, the city is not able to plan in a holistic manner.

The visit provided an opportunity for team members to be exposed to the challenges faced by both the city and the communities in the informal settlements. During the reflection session the team identified a number of lessons and issues from the visit. Some of the challenges faced by the city of Windhoek include issues such as rural urban migration. The rate is moving at a high rate. The reflection session was concluded with the realisation that holistic approaches and long-term strategies targeted at behaviour change should be key components of the Namibian implementation strategy. The strategy should also focus on getting the political will, community mobilisation and clear roles and responsibilities of stakeholders.

## Summary of lessons learned and issues identified during the visit:

- The current focus of the city is on the provision of infrastructure (the city does not have community outreach programmes & lacks strategy for sanitation demand creation and community ownership). The provided infrastructure is not sustainable (there is no O&M).
- Communal or public sanitation facilities are not sustainable: No accountability by the users.
- The informal settlements are pushing the city of Windhoek to deliver services, this result in the lack of proper long-term planning. Most of the inhabitants are not planning to settle permanently in these areas.
- There is no return on investment for the City of Windhoek.
- The experience and lessons from the field trip shows that rural sanitation is much better to manage compared to urban sanitation.
- Technical options/choices are not given much thought.
- Technology failure is not always the result of poor design, improper use and poor construction could lead to failure. A technology option that meets all the sustainability criteria can fail due to social issues. Political pressure results in unsustainable solutions.



Enviroloo toilet in Katutura informal settlement



A vandalised enviroloo toilet in Katutura informal settlements, Windhoek



Waterborne toilet in one of the parks in the Katutura settlements

# Sharing Lessons on the Sector Wide Approach in the Water Sector: *Mozambique Visits South Africa*

The Sector Wide Approach (SWAp) is a relatively new approach to financial and technical development cooperation whose key feature is “ a single policy and expenditure programme under government leadership, with common approaches across the sector... accompanied by progressive reliance on government procedures to disburse and account for all funds” (The Global Mechanism, 2007). Ultimately, and when properly implemented and managed, such an approach has the potential to “strengthen the partner governments’ ownership and leadership in policy and strategy development, implementation and decision-making processes, improve coordination between all stakeholders and enhance alignment of external support to national systems” (Ibid).

The question of how this potential can be achieved in practice, and how SWAp can help accelerate achievement of MDGs and sustainable service delivery, was explored at a lessons learning and sharing seminar between South Africa and Mozambique from 25th to 26th of May 2010 in Pretoria. South Africa’s water and sanitation sector has had formidable experience in the SWAp through the Masibambane program initiated in 2001. Mozambique, on the other hand, has had a SWAp in place for the rural water and sanitation for some time now.

Senior officials from the Mozambican National Directorate of Water attended the seminar with the view of gaining insights from South Africa’s experience of Masibambane. For South Africa, the workshop was an opportunity to gain insights from the challenges Mozambique faces in building its water sector and the lessons it has learnt so far.

## The objectives of the seminar were:

- To examine the evolution of the sector wide approach in the water sector in both the South African and Mozambique contexts.
- To identify from examples what works in practice and what the key success factors.
- Use the outcomes of the seminar for further documentation and tool development on effective SWAP practices.
- Pilot a bilateral exchange between South Africa and Mozambique towards a Southern Africa region wide lesson learning and exchange on water.

## Some of the sharing points included the following:

- In South Africa, the approach was to develop the policy, the legal framework/strategy (Strategic Framework for Water Services), and the institutional structures before implementation could begin. The framework was developed through a highly consultative, collaborative, and bottom up process undertaken through various

platforms, and encompassed the shared vision, and the common and tangible goals and objectives for the all the sector partners. This concise but clear and all inclusive framework set the collaborative platform that the sector needed in order to fully realise its goals and objectives. Through consultation and collaboration, confidence and trust were built thereby creating an enabling environment for the SWAp in water and sanitation services delivery.

- For Mozambique, the approach was to first undertake consultations at national level platforms in order to understand the needs, vision and objectives for the sector. After this, a pilot was done, in order to better inform the policy, strategy and implementation plan. Mozambique’s SWAp was particularly focused on Rural Water Supply and Sanitation and gaining insight on how such an approach has been applied to the wider water and sanitation sector would be of value in trying to shape their programme.

## Overall, the lessons shared by the two countries included the following:

- The SWAp takes time, funds, commitment, detailed and inclusive planning, and strong collaboration in order to be effective in achieving the intended goals.
- The key to the success of the approach lies in its collaboration rather than consultation.
- The SWAp is a process rather than a procedure or product.
- For both countries, the approach bound the sector together through shared vision and goals.
- For both countries, the approach has a strong link to sustainability of services and accelerating the achievement of the Millenium Development Goals.

For Mozambique, the workshop was an eye opener on what has worked and what hasn’t in South Africa, and this would help them to make more informed decisions going forward. For South Africa, although the Masibambane programme is soon coming to an end, the workshop was an opportunity to share what the programme has achieved and learnt so far and also served as an eye opener on what could have been done differently. It was the hope of the visiting group that the lessons shared would assist them better structure it’s SWAP implementation.

It is hoped that the envisaged Southern Africa regional lessons learning and exchange initiative will serve as a valuable platform for gaining insight and knowledge on establishing, planning, implementing and supporting a sector wide approach in the water sector, for all the countries in the region.

# HIV and sanitation challenges: *the story of Nata Village in Botswana*



The Botswana health care system is playing a critical role by ensuring that people living with HIV/AIDS get proper medication, i.e. administering ARVs, counselling etc.

**N**ata is a village of 6000 people in the North-East of Botswana, where an estimated 37% of the adult population is HIV/AIDS infected, the majority of the households are female headed

and experience high levels of poverty, and the majority of the population do not have any sanitation facilities. This means most households do not have even a simple latrine, and there are no sewers or treatment facilities in the area. Due to the non-affordability of sanitation components by the poor and the narrow range of sanitation options available locally, open defecation is widely practiced (WTO, 2010).

The Botswana health care system is playing a critical role by ensuring that people living with HIV/AIDS get proper medication, i.e. administering ARVs, counselling etc. The Nata clinic is responsible for health care delivery to the 6000 residents and the surrounding villages.

Despite the medical intervention received by those who are living with HIV/AIDS, they are faced with the risk of getting diarrhea and other diseases related to inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene. In this context the sanitation challenges could result in the ineffectiveness of the medical intervention. According to USAID, diarrheal disease reduces the absorption of antiretroviral medicines and essential nutrients further exacerbating the consequences of HIV and AIDS.

The challenges faced by the community are multifaceted and require a multi stakeholder and holistic approach.

In response to some of these challenges, the WTO is working in partnership with the Nata AIDS and Orphan Trust to implement ecological sanitation projects. The project aims to provide an initial 80 families with safe, sustainable sanitation systems. The project further aims to achieve the far wider impacts of:

- Widespread acceptance of the need for safe sanitation to ensure good health and dignity, and in particular, awareness of the importance of safe sanitation for people living with HIV/AIDS
- Local understanding of the advantages of ecologically sustainable sanitation solutions, and
- Triggering of sanitation demand (through testimony and example, community wide talks and promotion, and by using a CLTS approach), and creating an enabling environment ready for development of a local sanitation marketplace.

The challenge faced by WTO and the Nata AIDS and Orphan Trust is that they lack the financial resources to implement the ecological sanitation project. The initiative provides an opportunity for the private, public sector and the community of Nata to rethink development approaches. By rethinking the current approaches the stakeholders have the potential to address the medical aspects, environment, health & hygiene, local economic development, food security and gender mainstreaming in a holistic manner.

# *Meet the women of Nata Village in Botswana*



But behind their smiles lie harsh realities: more than 50% of the village's pregnant women are infected with HIV/AIDS. This means they have reduced immunity and are more likely to pick up diseases. They're especially prone to diarrhea -- and they're more likely to suffer from it longer than healthier people.

It's a difficult life for these women, but they're still smiling. That's the kind of spirit we at the Nata AIDS and Orphan Trust admire: despite everything, they find joy in their lives.



## How can you help them?

The WTO and the Nata AIDS and Orphan Trust have developed a comprehensive project plan to address some of the challenges in Nata. They are currently looking for collaboration and partnerships with stakeholders from both the private and public sector. To find out about how you can contribute, contact Elisabeth Peuser, [elisabeth\\_p@worldtoilet.org](mailto:elisabeth_p@worldtoilet.org).

To read more about the Nata village visit [www.natavillage.org](http://www.natavillage.org).

THE COMMUNITY OF NATA NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT. ACT NOW!



**Southern Africa knowledge  
node on sustainable sanitation**

Sanitation Matters is a knowledge sharing publication of the Southern Africa knowledge node on sustainable sanitation (SAKNNS). The purpose of the publication is to share information and knowledge on sustainable sanitation within the Southern Africa region.



The aim of the publication is to allow stakeholders to share their experiences, challenges, lessons learned, best practices within the context of urban sanitation. The information will contribute to capacity building and information sharing in order to improve the current practices towards urban sanitation. The issues will ensure improved future planning and implementation of urban sanitation strategies by learning from the past.

**1** Focus of the next issue:  
Urban Sanitation: Challenges and Opportunities

Within the next 30 years, developing countries are predicted to triple their population size and account for 80% of the world's urban population (WaterAid: 2008). Most of the urban poor live in slums and squatter settlements, without adequate access to clean water, sanitation, and health care.

- Africa has the highest annual slum growth rate (4.53% per year), more than twice the global average, and is expected to have the largest number of slums by 2020.
- Already, in the poorer countries of Africa, 80% of the urban population live in slums.

Globally, despite an increase of almost 40% in the number of people served with improved sanitation over 1990-2004, the deficit of urban unserved is growing. According to current projections, the number of urban dwellers without access to improved sanitation will see an increase of almost 50% from 1990 to 2015.

Urban sanitation presents a number of challenges for many developing countries, however there are also opportunities that it can bring. One of the challenges that can also be an opportunity, is the need to rethink the conventional planning and implementation of sanitation. It forces us to look at sanitation in a holistic manner, requiring that all sustainability pillars are addressed in a systematic way. There are also opportunities for uplifting the economic status of citizens, while impacting positively on many other MDGs such as food security.

Interested contributors are invited to share information on issues such as population, environment and development, urban planning and consequences for sanitation, financing, entrepreneurship, re-use, sanitation and food security, technology, community participation, financing, health and hygiene, role of partnerships, leadership, urban sanitation service delivery from collection, transport, treatment and reuse/or final safe disposal and sanitation management etc.

- The length for the text is +/- 1000 words. Articles will be between two to three pages including photos and list of references.
- Deadline for submission is 29 October 2010.

**2** Review procedures for content/articles

Review of articles & editing.

**3** Submission of articles

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