

STRATEGIC HUMANITARIAN SERVICES (SHUMAS).

WATER AND SANITATION PROGRAMME.

2009 ANNUAL REPORT.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Water is a vital source for livelihood. Man needs water for almost 80% of his activities. Cameroon is blessed with abundant water, from sources like streams, rivers, springs, rain, lakes and from the ocean. For man to use this water, it needs to be made potable to use conveniently. The government of Cameroon has done much to assure portable water in Cameroon. But unfortunately the rural population, which makes 60% of the total population, has benefited very little from this effort.

For humanity, the poverty of a large percentage of world's population is both a symptom and a cause of water crisis.

Recent estimates suggest that climate change will account for about 20% of the increase in global water scarcity.

According to UNICEF only 44% of people in rural areas of Cameroon, have access to safe drinking water, and nearly 1/2 of the people in developing countries suffer from a health problem caused by water and sanitation deficits. Water covers 71% of the earth surface area, and when you move from one area to the other there is water every world but no drop to drink in the name of pure and clean water.

2. How SHUMAS gets Involved:

- It all started from the numerous needs assessments in communities, and during this process, most of the cry of communities have been that of hunger, poverty and lack of clean drinking water.
- SHUMAS received applications from these communities.
- With this cry, SHUMAS sent her team of technicians to the field for feasibility studies:
 - Identification of sources.
 - Flow rate and distance measurements.
 - Source selection.
 - Population determination and other socio-economic studies.
- Office design: (Estimates, technical design, project write up; etc).
- Feasible projects are selected.

3. Problems Identified in the Field during feasibility Studies:

- Unprotected sources which are often shared with animals.
- Eucalyptus planted in some catchments which take up a lot of water with their deep root system.
- Long distances cover to fetch water: either in valleys / hills. Women and children spent most of their valuable economic time carrying water which the quality and quantity are not the best. The calories they spent during this process are not to be under estimated.
- Hospital sources shows that water related illness are high in such communities (typhoid, malaria, cholera, etc).

4. SHUMAS Intervention:

SHUMAS whose area of interest is to enhance and support sustainable rural development has came up with the 3H water project for rural communities. This project is to construct portable water in rural communities of Cameroon.

Our target is to provide water to 25 villages by 2011 and construct taps with water flowing to the schools she construct as part of our contribution to the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) no 1. Of: water for all by 2015.

Objective:

- Improving rural access to portable water. This specifically entails;
- providing clean portable water in at least 25 rural communities of Cameroon by 2011.
- Ensuring good management of the water.
- Building sufficient stand taps as needed by the community.

Activities

Applications from needy villages have been scrutinized, after a feasibility studies carried out in order to select the villages in desperate need of potable water. The selected villages are also putting together their local materials as their own contribution to the project. This is in line with SHUMAS policy of participatory approach to rural development.

The outcome of the project:

- 25 rural communities have potable water.
- Water management committee is functioning properly in all the communities concerned.
- The entire population has access to potable water.

5. Achievements for 2009.

- Since last year 2008 (one year alone), SHUMAS have realized: 6 communities water projects under the support of 3 –H Projects of Canadian Rotary club International. These are:
 - Kongir community water supply project (phase one).
 - Tonguh community water supply project (phase one).
 - Tobin New lay out community water point.
 - Sarkong community water project. (phase one).
 - Ngulu community water supply project. (phase one).
 - Bamdzeng (Fulani community/ BIOFARM) water supply. (phase one).

Handing over of these first six projects has just been done. It is good to mention that these projects are still at phase one of its realization.

Some pictures to show some major achievements in water works:



A typical source before construction



Community population using water during construction.



Community participation in digging and backfilling of trenches. plus head load transportation.





Stand tap under construction.



A completed catchmen and satnd tap.



A typical water point at Tobin kumbo. And a collection chamber.



Water handed to the community and water flow effectively.

In addition, as part of SHUMAS's schools building programmes she plans to supply water to all the schools she had constructed and is to constructs. This started this year and we have so far provided clean water to:

- G.S.S. Kumbo.
 - C.S. Bamali.
 - G.S. Nkanchi (Mesaje) school project site.
 - G.S. Achialam.
 - G.S. Njinikijem
 - G.S. Fuli
 - G.S. Funge.
 - G.S. Boju (Njap).
- Many applications are still in our table pending execution and some pending studies. Just to name a few, we have the following data of applications in our table since 2007:
 - 2007 we received 60 applications from the Kumbo Urban council, 161 from the Divisional Delegations of Agriculture and Rural Development (Bui, Ndop and Ndonga Mantung) and 168 from other individual communities.
 - 2008 we had 71 applications received.
 - 2009 we had 131 from the North West Region alone, 51 from the North, 10 from the West and 5 from the South West Region.
 - This alone gives a total of 657 applications which only 6 have been realized.
 - How far are we to move from here to meet the challenges of Water for Life decades of 2005 – 2015?
 - Of recent a proposal involving some 13 communities with schools have been prepared and sent to Guinness Cameroon SA 'Water of Life' programme.

7. SEMINARS ATTENDED :

- Consultative workshop for the elaboration of Kumbo integrated water supply scheme : Strategies and Policies. 29th – 30th July 2009.

8. Challenges:

- Bad roads and mobility means.
- Communities without a gravity source.
- Inadequate means of communication.
- Inadequate funds for the running and execution of projects.

9. CONCLUSION :

The year 2009 was a busy one for SHUMAS. From January to December activities were planned for execution in all the programs areas of intervention.

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