



Welcome to NAC's Internal News eBulletin where we keep you updated on key activities taking place in the Sector. Now you don't necessarily need to be there to know it. I am keeping an eagle's eye on it for you and my pen is your Informer!



When the Only Sign of Hope Becomes a Threat to Life: Hailstorm Destroys a School and 41 Homes in Mt Darwin District.

It's that time of the year again when rains are found causing havoc to communities. In December 2011, a hailstorm attacked Mt Darwin District ravaging classroom and toilet blocks at 2 local schools and destroying furniture worth thousands of united states dollars. This has left school authorities with no option except to conduct lessons under trees. However, considering that we are in the rainy season, chances are high that pupils will be affected by the incessant rains. According to the district education authorities, the estimated cost of the damage is US\$47 000 for the primary school and US\$37 000 for the secondary school. The major challenge in the ongoing repairs by local communities is access to resources.



This predicament that befell the 2 schools has also not spared the surrounding villagers who are also languishing after their homesteads were wrecked leaving the ordinary men with no shelter and highly exposed to risks of WASH related diseases.



About 41 households were left homeless in Tsakare village. From history, we all know that Mt Darwin is a high malaria transmission zone; lack of shelter will result in exposure to mosquito bites likely leading to a malaria outbreak. There is also a high possibility of diarrheal outbreak due to unsanitary living conditions as some villagers have now resorted to the use of makeshift latrines and the open bush for defecation.

NAC Review and Planning Workshop Tabled for Mid February

As the new year begins, and Ministry of Finance prepares to release funds allocated to the various sectors in the 2012 budget, the National Action Committee for WASH is also preparing for a Review and Planning Workshop to inform its 2012 programme implementation plan. The three sub-sectors of Rural WASH, WRM and Urban WASH have already started reflecting on the workplans developed during the 2011 Joint Sector Review and are in the process of re-prioritizing activities based on funds committed by Ministry of Finance during the national budget presentation process.

A feeling with NAC is that, the first step towards this workshop be having all the three sub-committees meeting to agree on issues requiring attention during the review; consolidate their 2011 progress reports, and re-orient 2012 workplans developed during the 2011 JSR. The Urban WASH Sub-Committee met on the 20th of January 2012 at Ministry of Local Government, Rural and Urban Development and fished out the following priority issues and actions:

Priority Issue	Action
Policy guidelines for urban WASH sector	Finalize urban WASH sector policy chapter
Regulation of urban WASH sector	Prepare concept paper on establishment of independent regular for urban WASH sector
Urban WASH sector strategy	Develop urban WASH sector chapter of WASH strategy and investment plan
Affordable sanitation technologies in urban areas	Develop a concept paper for promotion of affordable sanitation technologies in urban areas
Handing over of WASH services to local authorities in towns where these are being managed by ZINWA	Develop guidelines and criteria for handing over of WASH services to local authorities
Taking over of procurement of water treatment chemicals by Local authorities and ZINWA	Facilitate implementation of the recommendations of the phase-out study for water treatment chemicals
Cost recovery for urban WASH sector	Support local authorities in strengthening their capacity in cost recovery including upgrading of billing systems and customer care. Facilitate implementation of the key recommendations of the tariff study
Sector coordination and knowledge management	1. Strengthen sub-sector coordination 2. Prepare a concept paper for knowledge management framework for urban WASH sector

WRM met on the 31st and the Rural WASH has blocked Thursday the 9th for its sub-committee meeting.

The three sub-committees are also working on their respective background papers. Consultants engaged to develop these papers are supposed to make preliminary presentations to their respective sub-sectors any day between Wednesday the 8th and Friday the 10th.

Matabeleland N PWSSC and NAC on a Joint M&E Visit to Nkayi



Nkayi is one of the first districts in the province to benefit from the 2010 National Fiscus under the Rural Capital Development Fund (RCDF). PWSSC, represented by the PWSSC Chair (DID), DDF and MoLGURD recently conducted a joint monitoring visit with NAC from the 16th to the 18th of January. Major highlights from the monitoring visit as noted by the PWSSC team are as follows:

- Local communities still remain very innovative especially with limited resources. In picture is a clear sign of community innovation where a cattle trough is made out of locally available wood resource
- DWSSC continues to meet regularly even when there is limited funding and no major activities on the ground with the primary purpose of improving co-ordination, planning and information sharing among stakeholders.
- Although government provided funding for this programme Council realised that a gap exists in terms of service delivery and access to safe water and dignified sanitation among community members. As such Council talked of a line item on WASH in its 2012 Budget. However, it still remains to be seen whether the RDC is going to operationalise this line item
- Questionable community ownership of institutional WASH facilities (e.g. Sivomo Sec. School). Community only opts to benefit from the borehole when it is functional but distance itself whenever there is a breakdown claiming that the facility belongs to Sivomo school.
- WPCs are in place but are relatively inactive and only meet under very *ad hoc* circumstances. Most of these committees have not been trained and are oblivious of their roles and responsibilities
- Some of the water points rehabilitated in 2010 are already in faulty state. This is attributed to substandard spares and the issue of workmanship.
- Latrine builder training was not standardized across villages and wards. Although an EHT was assigned to monitor the training sessions, training was not regularly monitored and lacked a standard programme.
- Hygiene promotion was silent during programme implementation. This is now impacting on sanitation interventions that were put in place.

A Successful 2012 Provincial Coordinators' Retreat for D.I.D



This retreat attended by high profile figures in the Ministry amongst which was the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry P.I Mbiriri; Director Finance and Administration L. Muzondo; Director Human Resources P. Maringire and Director D.I.D, H.B Sibanda registered a resounding success as proved by a strong people driven plan that the team was able to come up with for the year 2012. The retreat held from the 26th to the 27th saw Provincial Coordinators giving a review of programme implementation since 2010.

This was followed by a thorough evaluation of challenges, gaps and opportunities encountered along the road before mapping the wayforward in terms of programme implementation.

The last day of the retreat saw the Provincial Coordinators outlining to their Director respective areas of high priority in 2012. Some of the highlighted areas were:

- Need to develop a consolidated and comprehensive workplan for programme implementation
- Enhance their coordination role at provincial level
- Develop strategies for reinforcing programme implementation
- Strengthen issues of information management and flow for evidence based planning

In his remarks, the Permanent Secretary alluded to the fact that DID was one of the very few departments in the Ministry which don't generate income, but unlike others is very fortunate in the sense that Ministry of Finance sympathizes with it and therefore makes sure that it gets a fair share of the cake out of every budget presentation. He also challenged the Provincial Coordinators that Economists were a very rare and precious breed of professionals especially in the WASH sector, and therefore should work towards being recognised as one through contributing to current debates and proposals.

Other News Making Headlines

- Cup favourites-Zebras kicked themselves out of AFCON 2012. Loss to S. Africa!!!
- Typhoid outbreak still on the rise in Harare, so watch out!!
- National Consultative stakeholders' workshop to commission uBVIP pilot on the cards

Till we meet again, it's a bye bye for now!!

