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Integrated approach to rural development

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1. INTRODUCTION

The National Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme in Zimbabwe is a result of the recommendations made in the National Master Plan for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (NMWP) which was presented to Cabinet for approval in 1987. Although the plan is yet to have final approval, a large number of the recommendations of the NMWP were adopted and implemented by sector ministries so that work could go ahead in a co-ordinated manner.

The general objectives of the programme are to improve the quality of life for rural population through the provision of safe and adequate drinking water from primary water supplies and improve sanitation through the construction of ventilated improved pit latrines (VIP's).

2. THE INTEGRATED RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROGRAMME (IRWSS)

In implementing this programme, cognisance was taken of the fact that the full benefits of such a programme would only be realised if the elements of clean water, good

sanitation and health and hygiene education were linked together. To achieve this, several Ministries, each with different skills to contribute, were involved.

As mentioned above, one of the recommendations of the NMWP which was adopted was the establishment of the National Action Committee (NAC). Its membership is drawn from all ministries operating in the sector which are involved at national, provincial and district levels. The Committee agreed to a division of responsibilities and decentralised planning and implementation as shown in the table below. The Ministry of Local Government, Rural and Urban Development also established the National Coordination Unit (NCU) for the daily coordination of the development of rural water supply and sanitation.

Table 1 : Division of Responsibility (Ref: 1)

MINISTRY	ABBREVIATION	RESPONSIBILITY
Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development	MFEPD	Donor co-ordination. Control of funds. Programme monitoring.
Ministry of Local Government and Rural and Urban Development	MLGRUD	Project co-ordination monitoring and reporting. Liaison with local authorities. Preparation of programme plans.
District Development Fund	DDF	Water point siting. Well sinking. Borehole drilling. Headworks construction, Rehabilitation of water points, Maintenance of water points, Development of 3-tier maintenance system, Updating inventory of primary water supplies.

MINISTRY	ABBREVIATION	RESPONSIBILITY
Ministry of Energy and Water Resources and Development	MEWRD	Water point siting, Borehole drilling, Headworks construction, Hydrogeological research.
Ministry of Health	MOH	Health education, Hand dug shallow wells, Spring protection, Construction of VIP's, Latrine builder and community training.
Ministry of Community and Co-operative Development	MCCD	Community mobilization, Community training, Coordination of pre-siting of water points, Opening ceremonies, Monitoring of community inputs.
Department of Agricultural, Technical and Extension Services: Ministry of Lands, Agriculture and Rural Resettlement	AGRITEX	Land use planning, Dissemination of information.

Some statistics of the programme are shown in the following tables. With the exception of Mutoko which was funded by the Zimbabwe Government, all projects have been funded by donors. Also refer to Appendix 1. (Ref. 1).

Table 2 : Integrated Projects (Ref: 1)

District	Project Duration	*Budget (Z\$)	Financier
Mt Darwin	1987 - 1990	4 099 000	NORAD
Mudzi	88 - 91	1 976 000	NORAD
Chipinge/Makoni	87 - 89	5 936 000	NORAD
Chipinge	89 - 92	1 176 000	NORAD
Makoni	89 - 91	1 176 000	NORAD
Chimanimani	88 - 92	1 976 000	NORAD
Zaka	88 - 92	1 682 000	NORAD
Bulalima Mangwe	88 - 94	4 000 000	DUTCH
Nkayi	88 - 94	4 300 000	DUTCH
Guruve	88 - 93	4 000 000	DUTCH
Nyaminyami	88 - 92	2 600 000	DUTCH
Mutoko	89 - 92	4 330 000	ZIMB. GOVT.
Gutu	89 - 90	4 200 000	KFN
Matobo )			
Bulalima Mangwe )	86 - 90	6 200 000	EEC
Insiza )			
Umzingwane )			

\* 1Z\$ = £0.19 March 1991.

Table 3 : Achievements 1985 - 1989 (Ref: 1)

Facility	1985	1989
Shallow Wells	24	7 463
Deep Wells	1 718	6 157
Boreholes	6 444	10 494
V.I.P.'s	6 000	187 000

The 1989 figures represent 73% coverage in respect to water supply and 21% for sanitation. The target figure is 50%.

### 3. CONSTRAINTS AND SOLUTIONS

Although the sector has its inherent problems, the constraints faced in implementing the programme are mainly induced by the national economic framework within which it is operating; therefore some of the solutions lie outside the scope of the sector.

Co-ordination problems have mainly been due to uneven commitment from the various ministries concerned for various reasons; e.g. shortage of staff, Ministry not represented at district level etc. MLGRUD has had to organise regular intensive coordination workshops and it is hoped that such team building workshops and activities should help solve this problem.

Transport shortage is a constraint which is caused by the national foreign currency problem. The problem has in some cases been solved by the use of donor funds available in foreign currency to procure the necessary vehicles. It has been recommended that a transport element be included in future project reports and plans.

Materials and Equipment shortages have been a major constraint in the programme. There has been a national shortage of cement and a short term solution was to import from Zambia. A long term solution is to increase the production capacity of the local factories. There has also been a shortage of equipment and raw materials that have a foreign currency component such as tools and spare parts. Again donor funds available in foreign currency have been used to procure these.

Cumbersome Financial Procedures due to centralisation of all Government payments have meant that suppliers have had to go for long periods without payment and this has led to traders being reluctant to supply Government agencies. It is recommended that Government should streamline its financial procedures to ensure faster payment of invoices.

Staff Shortages have been a notable constraint for Government agencies due to the drift of qualified personnel to the private sector because of low Civil Service salaries. Technical assistance from donors and the use of consultants has been used to fill this gap. Thus the issue of qualified, experienced local personnel still remains a challenge for the future.

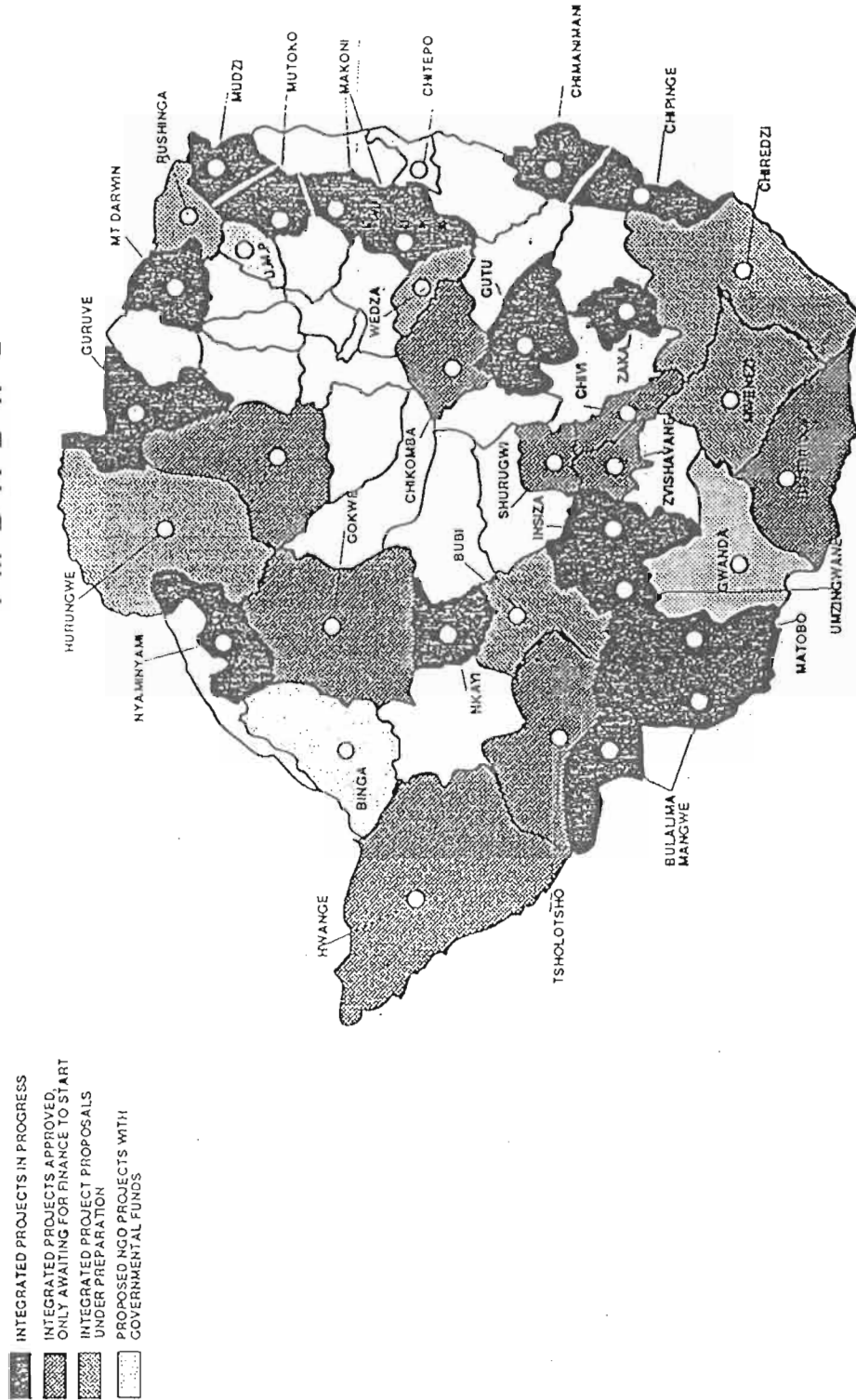
### 4. CONCLUSION

Despite all these constraints, the sector has had remarkable achievements as shown in the tables above. The integrated approach should be further consolidated and strengthened. The role of the Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) should be recognised, and with improved coordination, all water and sanitation projects will move towards the integrated approach which focuses on decentralised planning and implementation of projects, community participation, health and hygiene education, establishment of a community based operation and maintenance system where this is not already established.

# NATIONAL RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROGRAMME

Status May 1990

## Z I M B A B W E



Appendix 1. (Ref. 1)

The National Co-ordination Unit  
Ministry of Local Government Rural and Urban Development  
May 1990

### REFERENCES

1. National Co-ordinating Unit, Ministry of Local Government, Rural and Urban Development. "Draft 5 Year Development Plan for the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Sector, 1991 - 1995". October 1990.