

Step by Step Approach Community Participation in Design

RAIN Foundation

December 2013



Systematic Community Engagement
for Meaningful and Lasting Impact



Rainwater belongs to everyone





Participation

Participation does not necessarily imply self-help by under nourished and over-worked people without credit, with inadequate tools and poor materials ... The central issue is that of control and power to decide.



Why Participation?

- ▶ Effective local participation is crucial in the design process for eventual management of rainwater retaining structures.
- ▶ Participatory design can certainly be time-consuming and costly and higher quality of the end product cannot be guaranteed.



Questioning “Participation”

*“The very fact of exclusion from participation is a subtle form of suppression. It gives individuals no opportunity to reflect and decide upon what’s good for them. Others who are supposed to be wiser and who in any case have more power decide the **question** for them and also decide the **methods** and **means** by which subjects may arrive at the enjoyment of what is good for them. This form of coercion and suppression is more subtle and more effective than are overt intimidation and restraint. When it is habitual and embodied in social institutions, it seems the normal and natural state of affairs.” – John Dewey (1939)*



Why Participatory Design?

Participatory design is an integration of three interdisciplinary concerns that span research and practice: “the politics of design; the nature of participation; and method, tools and techniques for participation” (Kensing & Blomberg 1998).



Participatory Design ...

- ▶ “The people destined to use the system play a critical role in designing it”
- ▶ Participatory design thus entails collaborative partnerships and
- ▶ co-construction of knowledge in analysis and
- ▶ co-construction of changes in social practices.



Participatory Design process

- ▶ Traditional designing process, has been dominated by a top-down technical approach that gave dominance to technical solutions rather than integrated water resources management and the multiple use expectations.
- ▶ How can we change this...



We can change this by...

Using a step by step approach to the assessment, design and development of technological and management systems that places a premium on the active involvement of the potential or current users of the system in design and decision-making processes.



Community Participation in Design

Participation should occur at various levels of the project/intervention:

- Design
- Implementation
- Management
- Benefit sharing

However the level of participation desired may depend on the objectives of the intended programme/intervention.





Step by Step Approach

Step 1: Problem Identification

- ▶ With communities and local government
- ▶ Agreement with Woreda/NGO
 - ▶ Local NGO with consultation of Woreda
 - ▶ Consultation process embedded in the governance system
 - ▶ NGO with Woreda officials visit community and decide on purpose to use the water (MUS design)





Step 2: Intervention Planning

- Technical advice in design of structure (looking at 3R/MUS) and knowledge exchange
- Proposal agreement
- Technical person verifies site – probing/measurements
- Local community observing process allocating land, where pump, who is providing land, etc.
- Adapting design- come to a design and plan, number of users, type of users, etc.

- Selection of intervention
 - Area baseline
 - Needs assessment
 - Sources assessment
- Selection of appropriate technology (e.g. sanddam, well, etc.)
- Design





Step 3: Intervention Implementation

- Community mobilization
- Construction work
- Establishment WaSHCo (incl. fee/tariff setting)
- Finalizing construction
- Handover to local government and WaSHCo / community

- Follow up training and monitoring
- Adapting service to needs (flexibility in design)





Intervention Sustainability Solutions FIETS

- F - WaSHCo – cash pot for community management O&M
- I – continuous involvement of Woreda and community – they have ultimate responsibility and handover after 1 year
- E – all interventions consider the landscape (flood prevention mechanisms, downstream water flow considerations, 3R approach
- T – 3R approach, selected water management committee members receive technical training in repair and maintenance of water points
- S – selected water management committee members are trained in M&O, tariff setting, book keeping



Challenges

- *Catchments degradation:* challenge to sustainable utilisation of the rainwater retaining structures is Soil erosion in catchments areas, causing to the siltation. For landscape intervention scope.
- *Resource flows:* necessary local resources to be mobilized in good time. Irregular and untimely resource flows limits community capacity. Need for well defined resource requirements to help community asses their capacity.
- *The socio-political environment:* access and use for the multiple purposes for different groups of community members. Considering the diverse stakeholder interests is key.
- *Expectations management* – time, money requires being flexibie
- *Project design* – who does what



Challenges...

- ▶ Unpredictable climate partners: success of construction works depends on dry weather conditions. Unexpected rains do cause immense damage.
- ▶ Technical design skills: not readily available to ensure the design on paper is easily transferred to the actual structure.
- ▶ Project interest vs community realities.
- ▶ Community participation still a very ambiguous concept: need for participations principles that relate to the context setting.



Rainwater belongs to everyone

Thank you!!

Its worthy every effort!!Our choices today shape the future



Community

“that mythical state of social wholeness in which each member has his place and in which life is regulated by cooperation rather than by competition and conflict”

Charles Abrams

