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EXAMINING SUSTAINABILITY OF USAID'S MILLENNIUM WATER ALLIANCE ACTIVITY IN ETHIOPIA

WEBINAR

May 17, 2018 | 9:00 am EST

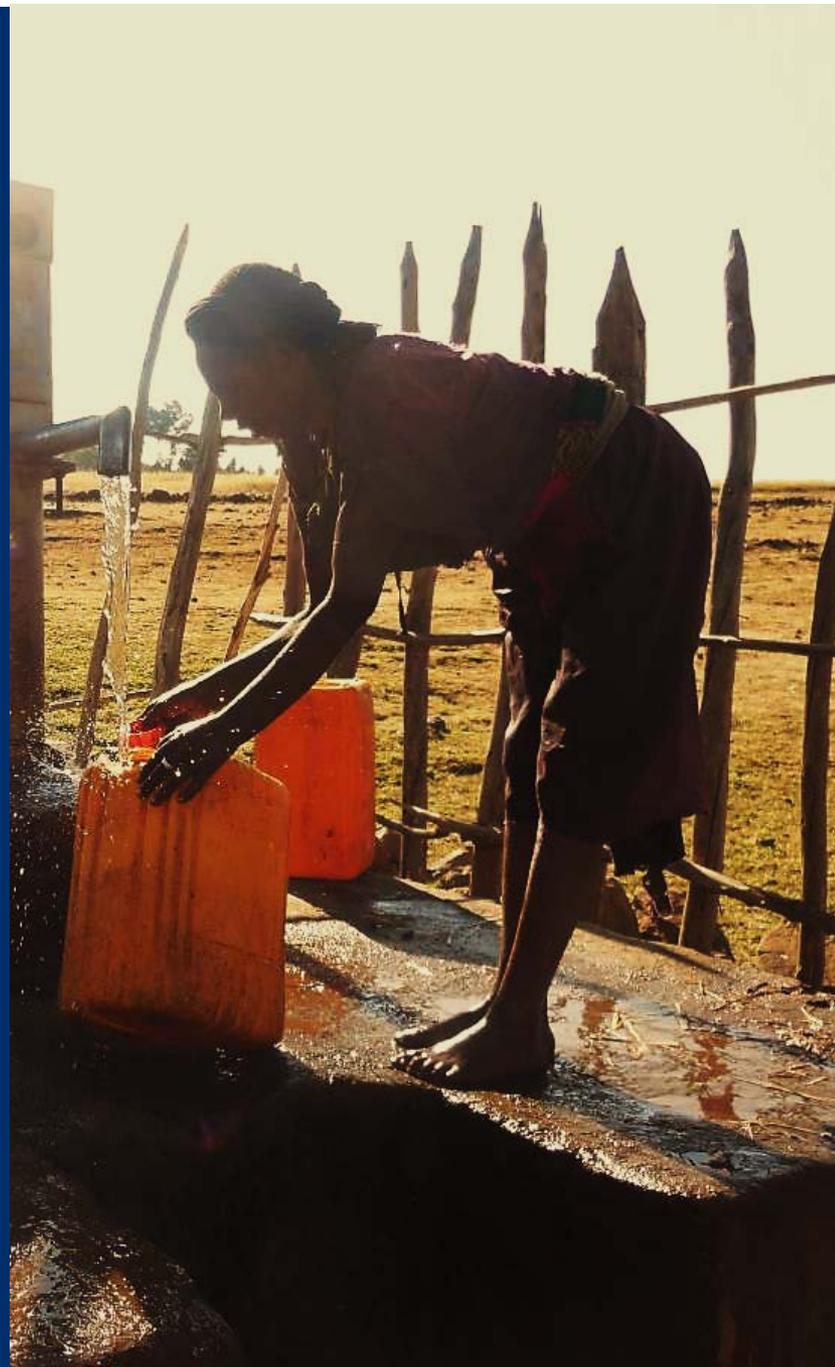
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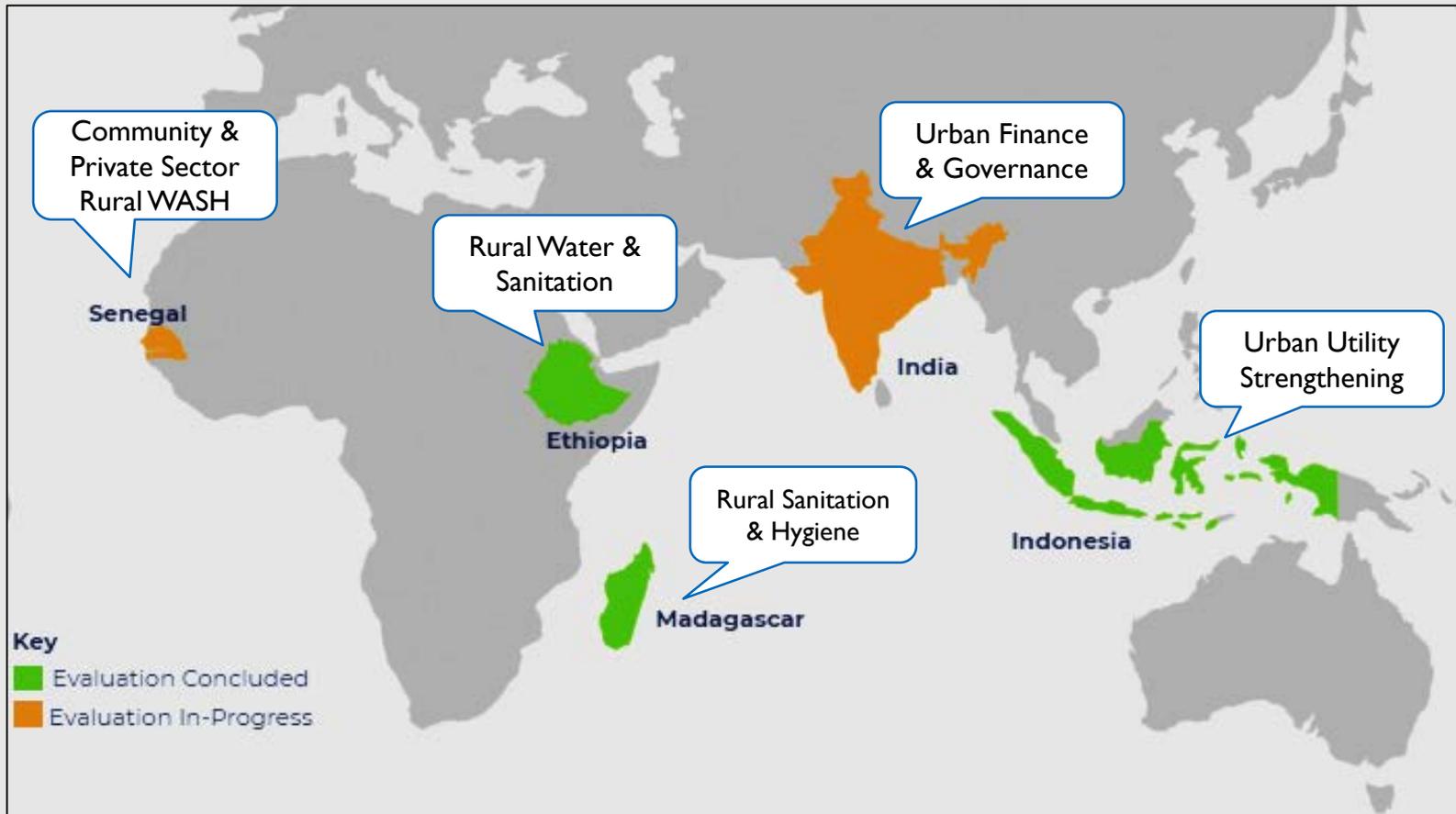
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Hosted by the Water Communications and
Knowledge Management (CKM)
Project and USAID's Water Office



INTRODUCTION

USAID's ex-post evaluation series aims to understand whether activity outcomes were sustained beyond the life of a project and why



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I. ACTIVITY BACKGROUND

Activity Name: Millennium Water Alliance-Ethiopia Program (MWA-EP)

Implementer: Millennium Water Alliance (MWA)

Funding: \$7 million

Period of Performance: 2004-2009

1) **Increase the level of access** to sustainable, safe water and sanitation services among poor and vulnerable populations in rural and peri-urban areas

2) **Decrease the prevalence of water and sanitation-related diseases,** increasing time available for economic development, education, etc.

MWA-EP Objectives

3) **Promote integrated water (resources) management** at the local level with a focus on maintaining the quantity and quality of drinking water

4) Develop an efficient, effective, and replicable **partnership model for service delivery and advocacy**

I. ACTIVITY BACKGROUND: MWA-EP Achievements



Water

- Construction or rehabilitation of 505 water schemes
 - Establishment and training of WASHCOs for each water point
-



Sanitation

- Support for 31,369 household latrines
 - Support for 182 public latrines
 - Support for 91 VIP latrines in schools (*not evaluated*)
-



Hygiene

- Hygiene and sanitation education for 301,550 people
-

2. EVALUATION DESIGN: Research Questions

Water	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Access: What is the level of service at MWA-EP water schemes?2. Use: To what extent are community members using the water?3. WP Management: How have water schemes been maintained since the activity ended?
Sanitation & Hygiene	<ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Latrines and Handwashing Use: To what extent are household-level and public latrines functional, adequately maintained, and used?5. Public Latrine Management: What systems were put in place to maintain shared sanitation facilities?
Cross-Cutting	<ol style="list-style-type: none">6. Why: What factors contributed to or impaired long-term sustainability of the activity components?

2. EVALUATION DESIGN: Data Collection Methods

64 Interviews

- Implementers
- Regional Ministries
- Health Extension Workers
- Latrine Owners
- WASHCOs
- Water Users



28 Observations

- Household Latrines
- Water Schemes, including water quality testing



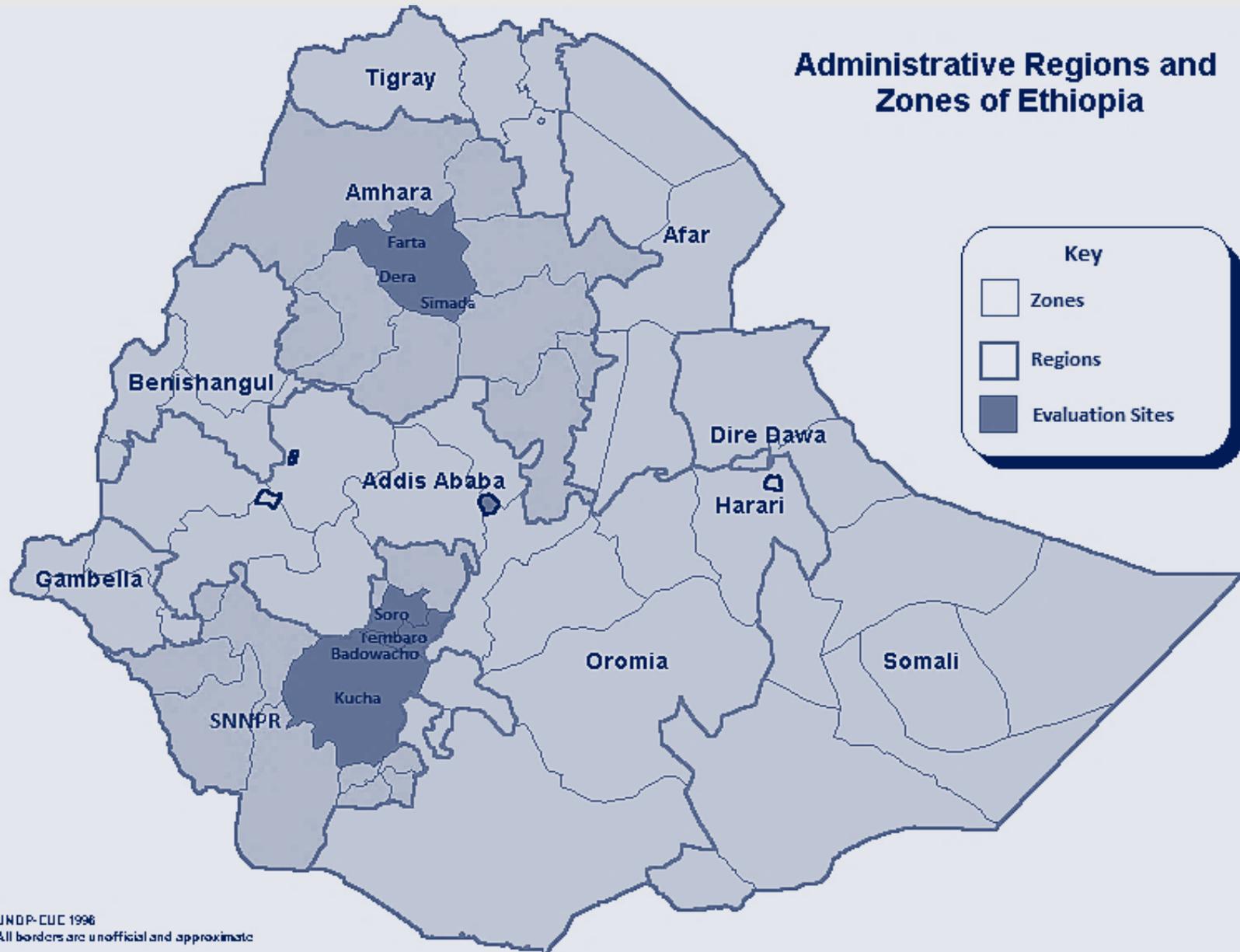
Secondary Data

- Water Point Inventory Data in South Gondar Zone, Amhara
 - 4 Woredas
 - 54 activity WPs and 4,352 non-activity WPs
- Hygiene and Sanitation Data in Farta and Simada



2. EVALUATION DESIGN: Evaluation Sites

Administrative Regions and Zones of Ethiopia



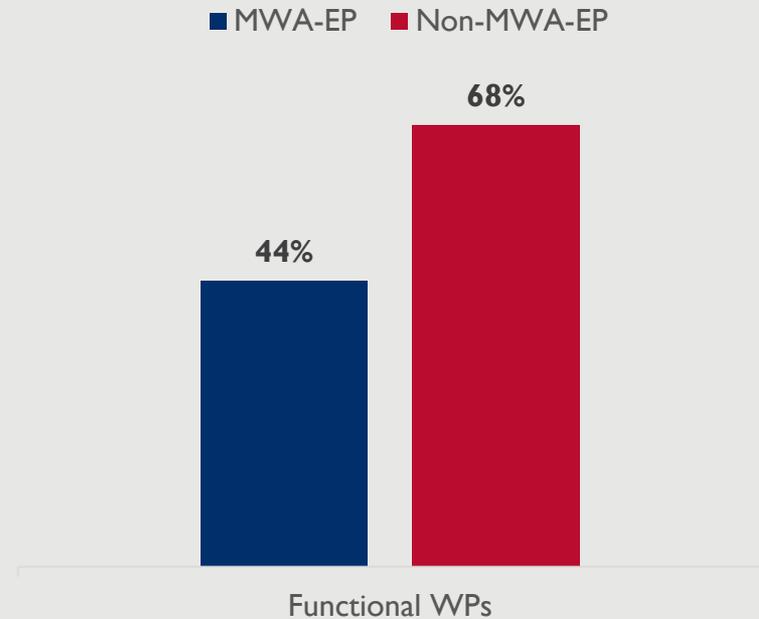
3. FINDINGS: Water Points - Current Status and Use

Functionality

- 5 of 13 visited WPs fully functional
- No livestock drinking troughs or washing basins functional



Amhara Inventory: WPs



3. FINDINGS: Water Points - Current Status and Use

Quantity

- Most WPs could produce 20L/person/day
- Users able to access 20L/person/day
- Most use multiple water sources

Quality

- Only 1 WP was tested regularly
- Most people thought water was safe, but 7/10 were contaminated with *E. Coli*
- Fluoride: one site in SNNP above the norm; No positive Arsenic tests



3. FINDINGS: Water Points - Current Status and Use

Reliability

- Need for major and minor repairs was common
- Some seasonal fluctuations, but primary issues were mechanical



Use

- Typically used daily when functioning
- MWA WPs- most frequently used for drinking
- Other sources- used for a variety of needs
- Typically, WPs are available to all
- Some exceptions: WP owners; those who don't pay fees

Accessibility

- Wait + travel times likely >30min
- None of the WPs were accessible for those with disabilities



3. FINDINGS: Latrines - Current Status and Use

Household Latrines

- Most MWA latrines have been replaced, but are not “improved”
- Owners have not moved up the sanitation ladder
- Usage likely not as high as owners report;
 - 5/15 had no signs of use
 - HEWs note challenges
- No gender or age distinctions in latrine usage

Public Latrines

- No MWA-supported public latrines are functional



3. FINDINGS: Handwashing - Current Status



Handwashing

- People report “always” washing their hands, but
 - No handwashing stations or other signs of handwashing in observations
 - HEWs report challenges in changing behaviors



3. FINDINGS: Factors Affecting Sustainability

Management Factors



WP Maintenance/ Repair

- Significant repair needs. Minor repairs more likely to be completed than major ones
- Biggest challenge: lack of money
 - To a lesser extent, difficulty obtaining parts, and lack of technical capacity



Overall WASHCO Performance

- Communities think performance could be improved, particularly maintenance and repair

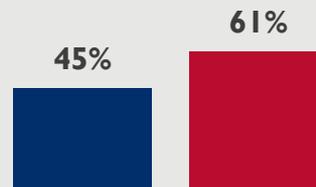


Public Latrines

- Management plans unknown, but apparently unsuccessful

Amhara Inventory: WASHCOs

■ MWA-EP ■ Non-MWA-EP



Functional WASHCOs



3. FINDINGS: Factors Affecting Sustainability

Financial Factors



WASHCO Water Fee Collection

- 7 of 13 WASHCOs had collected fees
- Most WASHCOs report high fee recovery rates (when collecting), but fees are low
- Fee collection and recovery rates linked to higher functionality
- Biggest challenges: poverty, conflicts among water users
- Amhara inventory: Fewer MWA WASHCOs had a maintenance budget
- Fee collection varies by region and woreda



WP Life Cycle Costs

- No WASHCO could cover all life cycle costs; fees insufficient
- No WASHCO had a detailed budget
- Amhara Inventory: Fewer MWA WASHCOs than non-activity WASCHOs could cover their expenses (6% to 19%)

Key		Fee Collection		
		Never Collected	Collected but stopped	Collected while functioning
WP Functionality	Nonfunctional	☹️☹️☹️		
	Partially Functioning		☹️☹️	☹️☹️☹️
	Functional	☹️		☹️☹️☹️

3. FINDINGS: Factors Affecting Sustainability

Financial Factors



Latrines and Handwashing

- Public latrine financial plans unknown, but apparently unsuccessful
- When water is expensive, sanitation and hygiene aren't priorities

3. FINDINGS: Factors Affecting Sustainability

Institutional Factors

- Government engagement was a weakness (per the final evaluation)
- Roles are clear for hygiene and sanitation, but not WP support
- Poor/inconsistent support from woreda water offices to WASHCOs
- Key challenges for the woreda water and health offices:
 - Insufficient budgets
 - Insufficient staff
 - Lack of transportation; Poor accessibility
 - GoE prioritizes other health themes over WASH



3. FINDINGS: Factors Affecting Sustainability

Technical Factors

- Need for repairs unsurprising 9-13 years post-construction

Land Tenure

- No information on MWA-EP's treatment of land tenure issues
- Several types of issues impaired sustainability:
 - Site selection and compensation
 - Incentives for investing in WASH infrastructure, particularly for tenants and landlords
 - Water access rights

Social/Behavioral Factors

- Poorly defined behavior change plans; significant variation by IP (per the final evaluation)
- Key barriers:
 - Advancing beyond base knowledge
 - Norms
- Sustained messaging and/or follow up could be beneficial (likely role for GoE)

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

1

Position government entities to play a stronger role in sustained maintenance and oversight.

2

Examine alternative approaches to improve upon the rural community water management model.

3

Account for life cycle costs when planning for water infrastructure and tariff setting.

4

Assess the suite of water needs and sources when designing new water access projects.

5

Seek stronger, more consistent alternatives to simple education-based behavior change approaches in areas with poor sanitation & hygiene norms.

6

Improve people's understanding and appreciation of water quality.

7

Address land tenure issues during activity design and throughout implementation.

5. QUESTIONS

