Socio-economic aspects of decentralised water projects in Africa
• **Socio-economic impacts**

  • Socio-economics is the social science that studies how economic activity affects and is shaped by social processes.

  • Socio-economic impacts include changes that occur in:
    • people’s way of life
    • their cultural traditions
    • their community
    • their standard and quality of life

  • The analysis of socio-economic impacts is a complex and challenging task requiring the development of an approach tailored to promote community involvement and progressive feedback.

  • The provision of safe water supply / basic sanitation has multiple socio-economic impacts on the civil society.

  • Example: Millennium Development Goals
• **Millennium Development Goals**

• The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight international development goals that were established in 2000.

• All 189 United Nations member states at the time committed to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

• The Millennium Development Goals are an ambitious agenda for reducing poverty and improving lives.

• Water supply and sanitation is essential in order to achieve the MDGs.
• Achievement of MDG 7: ensure environmental sustainability

• Each goal has specific targets.
• Target 7C: By 2015, halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.
• The target of halving the proportion of people without access to an improved drinking water source was achieved in 2010, five years ahead of schedule.

Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source, 1990 and 2012 (Percentage)

- Sub-Saharan Africa: 48% in 1990, 64% in 2012
- Northern Africa: 87% in 2012
- Developed regions: 98% in 2012
- Developing regions: 70% in 1990, 87% in 2012
- World: 76% in 1990, 89% in 2012

Source: The Millennium Development Goals Report 2014
• Areas of physical and economic water scarcity

Source: Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture, 2007
• Drinking water coverage in sub-Saharan Africa (2012)
• **Distribution of the water collection burden in sub-Saharan Africa**

• Where water supplies are not readily accessible, water must be carried from its source.
• **Achievement of MDG 7: ensure environmental sustainability**

• Of the 69 countries not on track to meet the MDG sanitation target, 37 are in sub-Saharan Africa.
• Access to sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa (2012)
• The provision of safe drinking water and basic sanitation contributes to sustainable improvements in peoples’ lives

• Questions:

• To what extent and how is the impact orientation of decentralised water projects?

• What are the impacts on peoples’ living conditions to be expected from the provision of safe water and basic sanitation?

• How, under which preconditions and to what extent can water supply and sanitation projects contribute to improvements in the health, education and poverty situation of people?
• Socio-economic impacts

- Time savings due to improved access
  - Regular school attendance
- Better health
  - Income-generating activities
  - Reduced care for family members
- Better nutritional status
  - Reduced costs for medicine
  - Reduced costs for water
  - Reduced care for family members
  - Lower mortality
  - Lower risks of other diseases

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
• Socio-economic impacts

WATER & SANITATION

- Time / energy savings due to improved access
- Better health
- Better nutritional status
- Improved sanitation
- Reduces water losses
- Better cooperation

Less miscarriages
Low susceptibility to other diseases
Reduced environmental risks
Economic sustainability
Improved coverage

Improve maternal health
Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
Ensure environmental sustainability
Develop a global partnership for development
• Socio-economic impacts of improved water supply and sanitation

• Water supply and sanitation are essential for
  • human dignity
  • human health and survival
  • food production and security
  • security for women and children
  • empowerment of women
  • education of children
  • household’s income generation
  • reduction in productivity losses due to morbidity and malnutrition
  • management and protection of natural resources

Water supply & sanitation  ↔  Socio-economy
Effect of socio-economic factors on access to improved water sources and basic sanitation in Bomet Municipality, Kenya

1. The type of water source used by household is significantly influenced by the occupation of the household head
   → water projects should grant special attention to poorer households when implementing strategies for population access to safe and reliable water.

2. The level of education of the household head significantly influenced the type of water source
   → Need for basic education

3. The type of toilet facility used by households is significantly influenced by the marital status of household head. Male headed households are more likely to adopt private improved toilet facilities compared with female-headed households
   → Need to empower women through financial awareness and education.
• **Conclusion**

• Access to improved drinking water and sanitation is extremely uneven within individual countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

• Lack of improved water and sanitation facilities is predominantly a rural and poverty-related phenomenon.

• Sustainable and equitable economic development and poverty reduction have water as a precondition.

• Access to clean water and sanitation is a precondition for healthy human living and has direct impact on the wellbeing and productivity of the population.

• Water is essential for ensuring food and energy security.

• Safe water supply and basic sanitation has multiple impacts on socio-economic development in sub-Saharan Africa.

• Stakeholders of development cooperation are required to consider the socio-economic effects of water projects in order to get the best results.