



Commit Phase Success Story- Water Supply and Sanitation in Buliisa, Uganda

Name of Partnership: Improvement of Access to Water and Sanitation in Buliisa

Location: Albertine Region, Sambye Watershed

Sectors involved: Private sector, public sector, civil society

Partners: TOTAL E&P Uganda, Albert Water Management Zone (Ministry of Water and Environment), Buliisa District Local Government, implementing partners: CIDI - Community Integrated Development Initiative, JESE - Joint Effort to Save the Environment



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Thoroughness in the stakeholder engagement activities in the Assess Phase led to much easier agreements in the Commit Phase of this partnership on improving water supply and sanitation in two sub-counties in the Buliisa District, Uganda. These activities were intended to support the Integrated Water Resources Management structures for sustainable use and management of water resources in the Sambye Watershed.

The comprehensive results of the assess phase were successfully shared during a participatory stakeholder consultation process, forming the basis of discussion with respect to commitments. Having this data and information was crucial in ensuring success of the interventions. On this basis, a list of possible interventions was compiled – including a ranking of their respective importance – followed by a declaration of available resources by each partner. This declaration did not only include monetary resources/pledges, but other non-monetary contributions that would help perform the interventions. Subsequently, the roles and responsibilities were clarified in a participatory process, taking into account the interventions and the skills/resources of each partner, and agreed in a common implementation plan that was signed by all partners. The District Local Government was set to supervise implementing partners during implementation; a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between said District Local Government and the implementing partners, clarifying content and schedule of the interventions and trainings.

In general, it can be said that over the course of the partnership, a constant reflection of – and return to – the assess phase was important to remain on course with the visions and in order to measure successes.

Failure/lessons learned:

One important lesson that was learned across this partnership is the benefit of a joint monitoring system that was shared between partners. By jointly monitoring the progress of the partnership activities and by regularly checking in with each of the partners and implementers, we ensured that the partnership was kept on track and that all resources were optimally used. In addition, this approach helps to avoid the overwhelming effect that many separate and possibly differently themed monitoring campaigns by several different actors may have on communities. The beneficiaries thus get a sense of a “one-stop shop” approach where all the interventions are attributed to one single partnership. This in turn also helps to manage possibly different expectations with respect to the outcomes of the campaign.

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