



**Secretariat of the
Ecumenical Water Network
(EWN)**

World Council of Churches
P.O. Box 2100
CH-1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland
Phone: +41 (0) 22 791 6205
Fax: +41 (0) 22 791 6201
E-mail: water@wcc-coe.org
<http://water.oikoumene.org>

actalliance

Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque
Independent Expert on human rights obligations
related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation
Human Rights Council and Special Procedures
Division, Office of the High Commissioner for
Human Rights (OHCHR)
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

30 June 2010

Good practices from a human rights perspective in the fields of water and sanitation

Dear Ms. De Albuquerque,

The Ecumenical Water Network (EWN) and the ACT Alliance are deeply committed to promoting the recognition and realization of access to water and sanitation as universal human rights. We welcome and appreciate your constructive and substantive efforts undertaken as part of your mandate towards the further development of the normative content of human rights obligations in relation to access to water and sanitation as well as your work towards the identification and compilation of exemplary good human rights practices in this area.

We are therefore pleased to submit ten (10) good and promising practices from our members and local partners which we believe advance the realization of human rights as they relate to safe drinking water and sanitation. We are confident that the proposed practices can be judged 'good' in the light of at least one of the five normative content elements of the right to water and sanitation of availability, accessibility, quality/safety, affordability, acceptability, and also the cross-cutting criteria of non-discrimination, participation, accountability, impact, and sustainability. In brief, the submissions cover the following themes (see also attached note with summaries of each submission):

1. Promoting accountable governance of community water services, e.g. in Tanzania using Public Expenditure Tracking Systems (PETS)
2. Making participation count, e.g. in Cambodia and in Bangladesh, by finding solid mechanisms for community involvement and decision-making in village water and sanitation initiatives
3. Strengthening and coordinating community and civil society campaigning for the right to water, e.g. in India
4. Rooted advocacy and community mobilization for pro-poor water governance, e.g. in Bangladesh and Indonesia
5. Realizing the core content of the human right to water and sanitation by ensuring basic access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene practices to



The Ecumenical Water Network is a network of churches and church-related organizations that promotes the preservation, responsible management and equitable distribution of water for all, based on the understanding that water is a gift of God and a fundamental human right. The Secretariat of the Ecumenical Water Network is located at the World Council of Churches in Geneva.

- disaster-affected communities with LRRD (Linking relief, rehabilitation and development) perspective, e.g. in Pakistan
6. Using simple schemes and approaches to ensuring fair access to water, sanitation, and hygiene for the most vulnerable, e.g. in Armenia, Malawi, and Central African Republic

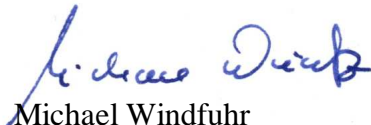
We recognise that not all practices have reached their full maturity but all are taking steps in the right direction to achieve the ultimate goal of universal access to safe, affordable and acceptable drinking water and sanitation, while emphasizing key human rights principles such as non-discrimination, participation and accountability.

We hope that you will consider our submissions for discussion in the upcoming stakeholder consultations in 2010 and for inclusion in your good practice compilation in 2011.

Just for your information, our common initiative, the “Wash United football club” campaign is another example of a creative good practice for education in hygiene and for advocacy work vis-à-vis African Governments. It is a relatively new initiative, therefore we have not filed it as a case but we are attaching a one-pager and will be happy to provide further information if you are interested.

If you require clarification on any of the submissions please do not hesitate to contact Ms Maïke Gorsboth (mgo@wcc-coe.org) from the Ecumenical Water Network / World Council of Churches and Ms Marian Casey-Maslen (Marian.Casey@actalliance.org) from the ACT Alliance.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Windfuhr
Chair of the EWN Steering Group
Human Rights Director, Brot für die Welt



Jill Hawkey
Deputy General Secretary
ACT Alliance Secretariat

Attachments:

- Summary note of the 10 good practices
- Completed questionnaires for each good practice
- One-pager Wash United football campaign





**‘Good Practices’ related to
Access to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation**

submitted by

Ecumenical Water Network & ACT Alliance

to the Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations
related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation
(June 2010)

Summary

1) “Follow the money!”

Accountable governance of water services at the local level through Public Expenditure Tracking Systems (PETS), *Tanzania, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)*

2) “Making participation count”

Participatory rural assessment and participatory wealth ranking
Cambodia, Church World Service

3) “From drops to mighty river”

Strengthening and mobilising community and civil society to assert their right to water
India, Church’s Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA)

4) “Rooted advocacy for pro-poor water governance”

Enhancing environmental health by mobilizing communities
Bangladesh, Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS)

5) “Drinking water, an essential need”

Rehabilitating water supply in rural Armenia
Armenia, Armenia Inter-Church Charitable Round Table Foundation (ART)

6) “Safety in troubled waters”

Water for disaster-affected communities
Pakistan, Church World Service Pakistan / Afghanistan

7) “Working together for water”

Empowering communities to access safe water and improving their environmental health
Bangladesh, Lutheran Health Care Bangladesh

8) “Making water flow”

Community-based resource mobilization
Indonesia, CD Bethesda (Bethesda Community Development)

9) “Springs of life”

Constructing Spring Boxes for Village Water Supplies
Central African Republic, L’Église Evangélique Luthérienne de la République Centrafricaine

10) “Sunny times for water”

A solar-powered gravity water supply scheme
Malawi, Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD)



1) “Follow the money!”

Accountable governance of water services at the local level through Public Expenditure Tracking Systems (PETS)

Tanzania, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)

Norwegian Church Aid, a member of the Ecumenical Water Network and the ACT Alliance, promotes accountable governance of community water services in Tanzania. It uses Public Expenditure Tracking Systems (PETS) which track whether funds allocated for vital public services, such as water and sanitation, education, and health, are actually spent as planned and on behalf of the intended beneficiaries. PET is a tool for Civil Society Organizations creating transparency and accountability by enabling local communities to track public resources and challenge their misuse. Essentially, it is the process of tracking public resources from the source to the point of service.

The system is designed to empower right-holders at the grassroots level to demand rights-based services from relevant public bodies. For this purpose, people participating in PETS committees are trained to read and analyse public budgets and accounts, and to monitor how financial plans are implemented. If realities on site differ from the plan (budget) and the reported expenditure (accounts), the committees have been trained on how to file complaints and secure interventions against corruption by higher level government officials.

PETS is not restricted to water service delivery but can also be applied to other public services, e.g. education or health services, according to the priorities determined by each community. In Tanzania, the practice is supported by the national government and a Guideline has been passed to facilitate the work of PETS.

2) “Making participation count”

Participatory rural assessment and participatory wealth ranking

Cambodia, Church World Service

Community-led planning and implementation is at the heart of the work of Church World Service Cambodia, a partner of the Ecumenical Water Network and member of ACT Alliance. Water and Sanitation User Groups (WSUG) are responsible for addressing their villages’ needs regarding improved water supply and sanitation facilities as well as improved health and hygiene practices. The applied methods include the selection of beneficiaries from the poor and poorest households using participatory rural assessment and participatory wealth ranking. This guarantees the interventions’ pro-poor orientation, non-discrimination, affordability, as well as ownership of the decisions by the respective community.

The continued involvement of the community in decision-making is promoted by community-led planning that is done by the WSUGs in cooperation with the Village Chiefs. Another critical element of the project is targeting advocacy efforts on water and sanitation rights towards the Commune Councils, Village Chiefs and representatives of WSUGs who participate in the regular Commune Council meetings. Accountability within the private sector is also addressed through the training of Community Based Organisations on how to monitor private constructors involved in the drilling of wells.

The programme is recognized by the Provincial government and it is the only project in the area which is implemented in cooperation with the Provincial Department of Rural Development (PDRD).

3) “From drops to mighty river”

Strengthening and mobilising community and civil society to assert their right to water

India, Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA)

A member of the Ecumenical Water Network and the ACT Alliance, the Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA) in India strengthens and coordinates community and civil society campaigning for the right to water. A dam was constructed on the Mahi River of Banswara region of Rajasthan in the 1970's as part of the *Mahi Bajaj Sagar Multipurpose Hydro Project*. Consequently, the water of Mahi Dam is being taken all the way to Gujarat, the neighbouring state, while the villages of Banswara remain dry due to lack of water supply. The local community have been trying for a long time to influence the government to extend the water of Mahi River to their dry lands, before diverting the water to another state.

In the past, much of the villagers' efforts were in vain as their endeavours were splintered and uncoordinated. Seeing their struggle, CASA decided to guide and facilitate this movement more systematically. It was possible to bring together all voluntary organizations in one platform which later formed a formal body named Mahi Jal Failao Manch – Mahi Water Expansion Forum (MJFM). The Forum's members now jointly organize meetings with the concerned people, send delegates to the political and government officials in regular intervals, and implement other activities that capacitate and support the affected communities.

While the campaign is still on-going and the goal is not yet achieved, the Forum is hopeful that it will succeed in its efforts. There has been slow and steady progress and the steps taken have united groups, elicited common messaging and ensured stronger community positioning following a Rights Based Approach to water. The steps taken constitute ‘good’ practice in that they have promoted and led to improved participation, increased community empowerment and mobilization, greater human rights awareness as well as more effective civil society coordination and dialogue with responsible public authorities and decision-makers.

4) “Rooted advocacy for pro-poor water governance”

Enhancing environmental health by mobilizing communities

Bangladesh, Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS)

The purpose of the project (EEHCO) is to empower Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in poor rural communities and to strengthen them to achieve sustainable improvements in their hygiene behaviour and a reduced exposure to risks related to water and environmental sanitation.

RDRS recognizes that the creation of sustainable and safe access to water and sanitation has to go beyond just the installation of tube wells and latrines. The practice therefore reflects the crucial importance of ensuring lasting behaviour change and the continued maintenance and use of newly installed water and sanitation facilities through community participation and empowerment.

Besides engaging in service delivery, RDRS also highlights the importance of stimulating advocacy initiatives for improved water and sanitation services. RDRS therefore puts a strong emphasis on capacity-building of CBOs, e.g. by trainings on

rooted advocacy, as well as training of Local Government Institutions (LGIs). Training to community based organizations (CBOs) on different issue like leadership, advocacy, management and negotiation skills enhance their capacity to identify, manage and mobilize resources effectively by their own. LGIs are oriented on how to better perform their roles and receive policy orientation and support for promoting best practices. Increased investment for water and environmental sanitation for the poor is promoted by building effective coordination among LGIs and Citizens Committees.

5) "Drinking water - an essential need"

Rehabilitating water supply in rural Armenia

Armenia, Armenia Inter-Church Charitable Round Table Foundation (ART)

The Armenia Inter-Church Charitable Round Table Foundation (ART), a member of the ACT Alliance, focuses on the rehabilitation of drinking water infrastructure (pipelines) in order to ensure access to safe drinking water. The project also demonstrates the benefits of a strong working relationship with the private sector.

Drinking water is available only for a few hours a day in towns and cities. In rural areas problems are more serious, as there are communities where drinking water is brought in trucks and sold in canisters. One key challenge in many areas is that politically, economically and socially privileged people and clans take the main amount of water, be it for irrigation or drinking. These groups can install pipes with a bigger diameter and take the most of the water while few dares to speak up against out against such a practice. In other cases those living in the higher locations can easily take as much water as they like, even irrigating their orchards with drinking water.

A number of techniques are utilized by ART-ACT to ensure fair access. To ensure fair distribution of water to all and equal quantities, the project constructs daily distribution basins so that each household has a separate outlet. In this case it is not possible for one household to use all or a disproportionately large amount of water. Several reservoirs are installed down the slope servicing four to five houses. Each of these houses is connected using separate outlets and pipes. This idea is a local initiative and was first utilised in the village of Dzoravank.

Drinking water throughout Armenia is managed by a private company which has its branches in all regions and they are ultimately responsible for maintenance of the system. In this project, the private company willingly supports ART's work and provides all the needed special equipment free of charge as well as consultancy by a hydro engineer.

All ART water and sanitation projects use integrated community development (ICD) approaches, addressing the spiritual needs of the community, the promotion of human rights, and capacity building as a cross cutting issue. The most important element is community empowerment through participation, meaning that community groups take part in all stages of the project, from the development of the idea to the project's monitoring and evaluation.

**6) “Safety in troubled waters”
Water for disaster-affected communities**

Pakistan, Church World Service Pakistan / Afghanistan

Church World Service Pakistan/Afghanistan, a member of the Ecumenical Water Network and the ACT Alliance, works to ensure that communities have safe minimum access to water and sanitation in the time immediately after a disaster. The main focus of their projects is the provision of safe water through the installation of hand pumps. This initiative is always complemented by hygiene education (hand washing, household water treatment) and the provision of hygiene materials such as soap, towels, and water containers.

CWS adheres to the SPHERE Standards which provide minimum standards for disaster response. Adhering to these standards ensures that core obligations of the human rights to water and sanitation are fulfilled. In the longer-term, more needs to be done to ensure the progressive realization of the right to water in the immediate response to a disaster. While water is initially provided for free in crisis situations, CWS works closely with the respective national and local government to ensure that they can assume responsibility for the services upon project completion. To date, this has gone some way towards ensuring long-term sustainability and affordability of the water supply.

**7) “Working together for water”
Empowering communities to access safe water and improving their environmental health**

Bangladesh, Lutheran Health Care Bangladesh

Lutheran Health Care Bangladesh, a member of the ACT Alliance, engages in the provision of safe water and sanitation facilities such as tube wells and sanitary latrines. In doing so, LHCB gives priority to the vulnerable groups and every effort is taken to avoid any discrimination in its use.

LHCB first enables communities to establish groups from which a management team is drawn. This team is responsible for issues concerning the overall maintenance and repair of the water supply. The total community is involved in site selection, planning, designing, installation and monitoring of sanitation and water services. Beneficiaries are provided with adequate training and know-how to ensure sustainability of the project. LHCB also provides follow-up services to ensure that people continue to properly utilize the services.

The training of the community groups also includes information on the responsibilities and obligations of local authorities in order to promote accountability. At the same time, LHCB seeks to improve the cooperation with the local authorities, using education, motivation and rapport building tools. Local leaders and civil society are encouraged to take initiative on behalf of the poor in order to ensure the realization of their rights in water and sanitation services

8) “Making water flow” Community-based resource mobilization

Indonesia, CD Bethesda

Since 2007 Community Development Bethesda (CD Bethesda), a member of the ACT Alliance, has been facilitating the provision of primary health care services and activities in the community of Batu Mekar village, Lombok Barat, in Indonesia. One of the primary health care problems faced by this community is accessing safe water and sanitation. Past decentralization processes that were supposed to lead to better governance and poverty reduction had largely failed and pro-poor budgeting and service provision by local government were far from adequate.

CD Bethesda applied a participative rights based approach, involving the community and using a strategy that included mobilising, educating, advocating, creating linkages and networking with other government and NGO actors. An initial needs assessment served to promote awareness in the community of the importance of organizing themselves in order to be able to speak out in a common voice for the rights of the community members.

The Community-Based Organization (CBO) that was created as part of the project successfully lobbied the local government and other relevant government institutions based on the needs identified in the assessment and by making the local authorities aware of the willingness and potential of the community to contribute to the improvement of their water and sanitation services.

9) “Springs of life” Constructing Spring Boxes for Village Water Supplies

Central African Republic, L'Église Évangélique Luthérienne de la République Centrafricaine

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic (CAR) works together with villagers in western CAR to identify water sources, construct spring boxes, chambers designed to make optimum use of a natural spring, and maintain them after they are constructed. The project, known as “Projet d'Aménagement des Sources d'Eau (PASE)”, ensures that safe physical access to the water is guaranteed in the design and construction of the water points and connecting walkways. Careful consideration is also given to the safe use of the spring for other domestic purposes such as washing clothes.

The project encourages villagers to form a committee to keep the spring box area clean and to make any minor repairs needed after construction. The spring boxes are built to a high standard and well maintained to ensure that they last for several decades.

The participation and joint work of different ethnic groups in the planning, construction and maintenance of the spring are a project prerequisite.

10) “Sunny times for water”

A solar-powered gravity water supply scheme

Malawi, Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD)

CARD Malawi, a member of ACT Alliance, addresses both water for food security and safe drinking water in their project, using a solar-powered gravity water supply scheme. Deep boreholes are drilled and water is pumped from them into raised tanks using solar power. This practice draws attention to the fact that water is a crucial prerequisite not only for the realization of the human right to water and sanitation but also for the human right to food. The project demonstrates a successful attempt at addressing both concerns at the same time, while having the added benefit of using a renewable source of energy.

The programme employs a right based approach and emphasizes the inclusion of marginalised groups. For example, mechanisms are put in place involving the communities to come up with written bye-laws on how they will enable the elderly, orphans, chronically ill and people with disabilities to access to free water.

The project itself stands as proof of how communities can hold their own local government institutions accountable for improving water and sanitation services. The community now has four functioning and safe water system each with 25–30 water points. This has reduced time spent by women and children collecting water, reduced congestion at water points, providing more than 36 litres per person per day, and increasing access for all in the area. The taps are designed so that they can be used and accessible to children, older people and people with disabilities. The water is being tested periodically by experts from the Government Water Department.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) for all!



Preventable diseases caused by dirty water and poor sanitation kill more than 4,000 children under the age of five every day – one child killed every 20 seconds. For every child killed by HIV/AIDS, dirty water, lack of toilets and poor hygiene kill ten. In Sub-Saharan Africa, more than 40% of the population rely on unsafe drinking water and almost 70% lack access to improved sanitation, leaving the region at the frontline of this crisis.



WASH United is an innovative new initiative based on the common vision of WAtER, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) for all, the vision of every man, woman and child enjoying their fundamental human right to water and sanitation. To turn this into reality, **WASH United** tackles taboos and helps to create demand for sanitation, promotes handwashing with soap, and advocates for water and sanitation as a human right.

WASH United uses the power of football to promote water, sanitation and hygiene for all!

There is hardly a societal activity that reaches more people than football. In Sub-Saharan Africa in particular, national teams are the pride of nations and their star players national celebrities and role models for millions, above all for children and adolescents. In 2010, with the first World Cup in Africa, football stars will be more in the spotlight and stronger role models than ever. **WASH United** works with African and international football stars to promote safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for all. The stars join our club and become Champions for WASH. Football-based tool-kits and games will harness the power of the game to facilitate life-saving behaviour change.



Bastian Schweinsteiger, FC Bayern München

WASH United is a club!

WASH United is much more than just a project or a campaign. **WASH United** is a club. Anyone in the world can join our social club and support **WASH United** – shoulder to shoulder with the football stars. This is what makes **WASH United** so special. Every new member that joins our club – whether ordinary people, political decision makers, organizations and institutions or of course YOU – brings us one step closer to turning our shared vision into reality.

WASH United – the partners.

WASH United is hosted by the German NGO Brot für die Welt and at present has the following international partners: ANEW, Deutsche Afrika Stiftung, Ecumenical Water Network, End Water Poverty, FC Bayern Munich, GTZ on behalf of BMZ, Michael Essien Foundation (MEF), Real Madrid Foundation, Stephen Appiah Foundation (StepApp), UNDP, UNESCO Etxea, the UN Independent Expert on Water and Sanitation, WaterAid, WSSCC, and the World Toilet Organization.

WASH United is supported by the German Federal Foreign Office, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).

Target groups and target countries.

WASH United's activities in Sub-Saharan Africa aim to reach children, adolescents and families, political decision makers and relevant government bodies, civil society organisations, schools, football clubs (particularly school and junior teams), and the media. Activities in the North are aimed at political decision makers, the general public and the media. The main target countries are Ghana, Mali, South Africa, Kenya, Lesotho, Uganda, Tanzania and Burkina Faso, but **WASH United** materials will also be made available for activities in other countries.

WASH United activities.

WASH United is developing a comprehensive mix of communication measures to attract additional club members and create maximum attention for the issues **WASH United** promotes. This includes posters, audio and video clips featuring football stars, briefing materials for political decision makers, public screening events, and innovative tool kits to promote WASH in schools and football clubs, such as the "World Toilet Cup"-game. A full club collection (**WASH United** Team Shirts, stickers) and give-aways completes the mix. The website will play a crucial role for our communication in the North. Cooperation with media provides additional coverage. The main roll-out phase of the campaign leading up to the 2010 World Cup will be April to mid July 2010. **WASH United** will work with and through project partners' country offices, networks, and national and local partner organizations and institutions (non-governmental as well as governmental) to implement activities in the target countries – and beyond.

WASH United will not end with the final whistle of the 2010 World Cup.

WASH United materials will continue to be used by partners after the event and will also be made available to other organisations. Follow up activities, including with other sports, are currently being developed.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
www.wash-united.org

CONTACT:
Thorsten Kiefer,
International Coordinator,
thorsten.kiefer@wash-united.org
Virginia Roaf,
Senior Researcher,
virginia.roaf@wash-united.org

Facts

Vision

Idea

Implementation

Future

Ms. Bujwana Sontjaka, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, South Africa