

OK CLEAN WATER PROJECT

ANNUAL REPORT 2013 – April 2014

INTRODUCTION

“Pipe dreams become dream pipes.” This refrain of the OK Clean Water Project reverberated in Bui Division, Northwest Region throughout the year 2013. The words were sung, danced and dramatized as fourteen villages celebrated the 10th anniversary of the OK project. The refrain rang out again as more than three hundred people from thirty-eight villages gathered in Kumbo to celebrate the 10th anniversary together. The celebrations offered many opportunities for looking back to give thanks for the accomplishments of the OK project as well as for the many people who have helped to achieve OK’s success. In addition, looking ahead to identify concrete ways to encourage and support “education for sustainability” held an important place.

LOOKING BACK

When giving thanks to and for the thousands of people who have been part of the OK project from the beginning, it is important to remember that the OK project is a partnership in a variety of ways. First, the partnership is critical on the various levels of participation in the village water scheme. To name just two partners first, the students of Engineers without Borders from Cambridge University in England who contributed time and labor and second, the Rural Transformation Center of nearby Wvem which nursed the trees needed for catchment protection. The growth from the first fourteen standpipes to assistance in thirty-seven villages could not have happened without the major fundraising done by the OK Committee in Ottawa, the many contributors and generous benefactors. There is a wide range in the amount of financial assistance provided depending on the nature and the size of the project, e.g. initiation of a village pipe-borne water system, extension of an existing system, rehabilitation, etc. The total amount spent in FCFA is Fifty Four million Seven Hundred and Seventy thousand and fifty francs (54,770,050 FCFA) the amount in Canadian funds is approximately **\$121,711**

LOOKING AHEAD

When looking to the future of the project, a major development is the initiation of the Advisory Committee. The Committee is composed of a representative from each of the four main subdivisions where the OK projects are located. The members of the Committee will meet twice a year to review projects and needs in light of available finances. They will also exercise a key role in both the on-going water management training sessions and the follow-up to the sessions which are critical to our goal of education for sustainability. In addition, they will oversee the use of the three sets of the OK teaching charts. The use of these charts is needed to provide the necessary education for the entire village. Another sign of growth and solidarity is seen in the efforts of the OK partner villages to raise funds for a village that still has no access to pipe-borne water. This project is called by its traditional name, “**NTOM FO’ AMO-OH.**”

A follow-up of the celebrations was a series of five water management training sessions, one in each of the main subdivisions (two in Kumbo because of the large number of OK villages) to focus on the efforts needed for on-going “Education for Sustainability.” A total of one hundred twenty-seven people from forty-one villages participated in these sessions. There continues to be an increase in the number of Associate Partner villages, villages that have not received financial assistance from the OK project but have asked to participate in the training sessions.

CHALLENGES

Some challenges facing the OK project are:

Transportation by car to distant villages,
Appropriate compensation and needed tools for the caretakers,
Turnover of membership and leadership of the Water Management Committees,
Planning of the annual action plan and budget,
Payment of annual levy for maintenance and needed extension,

Summary of Projects January 2013 to April 2014

No	Rise of pipe-borne water system	Name of village	Amount Allocated
1	Initiation	Mboshong	14,774,000
2	Completion of project	Taa-Lah	7,035,500
3	Completion of project	Sakir	2,505,000
4	Completion of project	Romndzev	5,650,000
5	Completion of project	Kidzem	2,196,000
6	Completion of project	Romajaay	2,523,500
7	Completion of project	Catholic primary school Ngoonjo	45,050
8	Extension of project	Cooperative quarter Mbontsem	2,220,000
9	Rectification of project	Tanyar	281,000
11	On-going projects	Ntonghei	8,170,000
12	On-going projects	Mbokov (phase 1)	9,250,000
13	Assistance with pipes	Rural Transformation Center Wvem	50,000
14	Special need (Kingomen)	Mme. Caroline Nangsenla	70,000
	GRAND Total		54,770,050

Requests for financial assistance*

No	Name of project	Amount Requested
1	Lum/Chiangka water project	23,534,250
2	Kurt water project	18,520,000
3	Tsenla water project	8,035,970
4	Mbokov water project (phase II)	8,530,600
5	Kiyan spring catchment rectifications (2)	4,500,000
6	Mbontseni catchment rectification (1)	2,150,000
7	Mantum water project	23,631,000
8	Tankiy water project	19,936,345
	Grand total	108,837,195

*These projects have not yet been reviewed or accepted.

CONCLUSION

“Water is life” continues to be a strong motivation for commitment to a working partnership between villages and the OK Clean Water project. An essential element must be “Education for Sustainability.” This education must be on-going and on all levels. The water management training sessions must include the development of leadership on the local level. Empowering the members of the Advisory Committee to be effective agents of change in their subdivision is a positive starting point. By working together, may the seeds that have been planted bear much fruit in helping to continue to bring potable water to more people.