

Practitioner Input Form
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Input Record Number	003
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Organisation(s) Involved	CREPA (Centre Régional pour l'Eau Potable et l'Assainissement à faible Coût) (WWW.reseaucrepa.org). Regional Centre in West Africa working in water and sanitation in 17 countries in West and Central Africa
Geographic Area	West Africa, Côte d'Ivoire, Abidjan
Dates	2001 - 2004
Communities Involved	Livelihood de Vridi and Abobo Sagbé
Duties and Responsibilities/ Purpose of Project	Organization of the Study, Protocol of the research and Implementation of the research. The purpose is to connect poor people living in peri-urban areas to the pipe water network. Access to water supply for the poor through micro-credit systems.
Context of Intervention	Drinking water in urban areas.

Practitioner Reflective Case Study

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<p>Communication:</p> <p>Mechanism of Access of the Poor to Basic Urban Services: Case of Water Supply of Poor Livelihoods of Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) Research done by CREPA-CI By Eva Kouassi-Komlan</p>	
<p>Context</p> <p>In Côte d'Ivoire there are nowadays 267 water service centres with 11,000 km of network. This allowed to supply water to 548 cities and villages leading to the access of 73 millions with 130 millions m³ of water used per year.</p> <p>So far, in order to give access to all the population, there is a need to develop strategies giving facilities of payment to the poorest to be connected to water pipe networks with adaptation of billing systems linked to the revenues of the poor populations. This has been tried in the strategy of connection set up by CREPA-CI. This paper is the synthesis of the results of the research done in three livelihoods of Adjamé-Kennedy, Vridi III and Abobo-Sagbé on 300 households with 100 households per livelihood.</p> <p>Objectives</p> <p>The purpose of the study is to facilitate the connection to the pipe network of the poor households paying water from vendors three to five times more than what is connected households.</p> <p>In fact the main problems facing households in the livelihoods is not the cost of the connection periodicity of payment.</p> <p>The research projects consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Connecting 300 households- Creating a guarantee fund with reimbursement of connection fee which is 20,000 fcfa (26 \$ US)- Set up an efficient management option- Set up a Household Committee <p>Methodology</p> <p>The methodology has followed a participatory approach, starting from the identification, the design, planification, implementation and the monitoring of the process. Post project strategy has been also set up. This allowed to go through information sensitisation, selection of households and surveys within these households.</p>	

Typology of the Households and Households Connection

In total for this research, 244 households (2500 inhabitants) have been selected and represented 81,33% of the households which accepted the project.

In the study of livelihoods, (66,67%) of households get fresh water from the water vendor (SODECI Standpipe) 22% from the well, and 11,33% directly from a stand post. The revenues of the chiefs of the households vary in average between 35,000 to 60,000 CFA (70 to 120 \$US).

The Strategy

How to convert the 66,7% of the households buying water from the vendors to regular connected to the water pipe of households?

Savings, Payment of the Bills and Reimbursement of the Connection Fees

- CREPA CI set up micro-credit and connect the 244 households
- Tire-lire was used to save the amount of money used daily to buy water

Un general, the amount of money mobilised in three months is more than the amount of the three months bills. In 17 months, 87,8% reimbursed the connection fees and are still paying the bills in Abobo-Sagbé, 70,77% in Adjamé-Kennedy and 45,36% á Vridi III.

Households are trained to manage the water they are consuming. In the SODECI blocks tariff scheme 55% of the households are between 0 – 18 m³, 25% between 19 – 30 m³ and 20% more than 31 m³ avec.

Lessons Learnt

- Only 3,69% for the 244 have been disconnected, due to unpaid bills
- But the study shows that HH with low revenues can be connected sustainable to piped water in the same way as the households with high revenues, in this way they must be supported and well informed.
- It is a win win situation, households get connected, SODECI improved the rate of billing and collection and jobs in the local area were created.

Practitioner Input – Part II

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<p>9)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CREPA is on the way to scale up the process. Agreement has been made with national water companies in Abidjan, (Côte d’Ivoire) and in Burkina Faso to implement the experience at city level. - SODECI in Côte d’Ivoire is implementing the process at city level; - The case has been published in French and made available to many actors in the sector. The experience also has been shared with a Ugandan water company. <p>10)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In each country in West Africa there are WHO guidelines used for access. Also national regulations. (distance, volume of water daily consumed;) - Most of the time the rate of illness can be used and; - Financial issues for the poor must be taken into account (revenue generation activities to support income) <p>It allows poor people to have an income, so they can pay their bills, or use water for other activities which can generate revenue. So consumption needs to be monitored to avoid high water consumption.</p> <p>11)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovative financial mechanism to address pro-poor access to water - Sustainable technical mechanisms to address pro-poor access to water - How poor enter the pipe network? <p>12)</p> <p>Financial mechanisms are very important. In most of the poor areas in Africa the national revenue is not well distributed. So this leads to inequity in the access of water resources. The reason to focus on financial mechanism is from our experience, if the poor are connected, they continue to pay for their bills. So there must be a way to think the financial issues coupled with affordable technology to address the poor access.</p> <p>13)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Micro finance for water and sanitation in West Africa (CREPA). - Cost recovery for water and sanitation (IRC, 2002) - Operation and maintenance (WHO, 2000) 	