

Transcripts of interviews with participants of the Regional Workshop on CLTS in South East Asia and Pacific

Peter Dwan, WaterAid Australia

So my name is Peter Dwan, I am Head of International Programmes for WaterAid Australia and we currently operate programmes in PNG and Timor Leste and just starting programme operations with Plan in Laos. So, I guess, WaterAid's normal mode of operation is an integrated Water, Sanitation and Hygiene component, I guess that's our core business... and where WaterAid is coming from we are very comfortable with our work in water supply, there's still issues of sustainability to work through. but basically water is fairly straight forward... we know that internationally, across the world water is one of the top four things that people want... however when you start to talk about sanitation, you are in a totally different situation, so we recognise and the evidence shows how important that is in terms of people's health.. but the reality is when you go into a village, people are generally not all that keen on sanitation. So in a sense WaterAid like many other organisations has been searching for some methodology that actually show some degree of success. So the CLTS model, really is in my opinion and in WaterAid's opinion the main methodology that looks like it can give us some success. So I suppose in terms of WaterAid our excitement is that finally we seem to have got something that's gonna get us there, we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. That's why we are sort of signed up and passionate about CLTS and that's why we are trying to roll it out into our programmes, and I guess that's why we are here at this conference and this workshops is we say we wanna learn more, it's early days, we need to learn what everybody else's experience is, we need to learn and I guess share what our successes and our problems are and we wanna share that in the region and we wanna share that internationally.

In Timor we've got big problems with government buy in and also supply side is... we've certainly been fairly successful in getting people excited about building toilets but the quality of the toilets is not what government has been happy with and also they are questions whether the communities themselves are happy with the standard of the toilet that they can get right after we do these triggering right up in the mountains down then the ridge. You get people excited about building the toilets and they look around and all they have got is sticks and rocks, so they do make toilets... but our concern is that we know their aspirations are actually higher than that. So the supply side is a real problem for us. If we can get that supply side linked into our triggering then we can overcome both those problems about people's aspirations and the government will see that we are not bad people but that we are actually trying to help people. So I think some of the success stories in Indonesia and Cambodia have been very exciting for us, if you can see success then that encourages you so I think that's good.

Jesse Shapiro, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Program (RWSSP), Ministry of Health, Timor Leste

My name is Jesse Shapiro, I'm coming from Timor Leste, I work for the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Program ... an initiative of AusAid, I sit in the Ministry of Health as part of this program which works in two ministries, the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Ministry of Health... A couple of different aspects,..one is, like some other countries we have some scepticism amongst the government, so we have brought along a couple of government colleagues, actually one wasn't able to make it, but we do have one here, from the Ministry of Infrastructure which is the more sceptical body which is good, so hopefully this workshop impresses him and increases his knowledge which it seems to have already begun doing and that will be the first barrier in changing some of that

scepticism of CLTS.[The scepticism] has to do with, the Ministry of Infrastructure, dept of Water and sanitation is concerned with levels of quality of latrines, they are interested in standards, and some of the CLTS implementations from Timor have produced lots of latrines just made out of rocks, sticks, mud stuff like this, so they don't believe they are hygienic. It's a valid concern and many members of the communities share that concern so it's something we need to change in the future with supply side hopefully, and that will also change the scepticism of the government The supply side is very far from the community, most people have to come all the way to the capital just to get anything and even there the supplies are quite limited. There's very often even concrete isn't available in the country. So that's once barrier...I think one of the other aspects of this workshop that's important to us, is connecting what we are doing, which is done a lot in isolation because we are a small island country, or half of an island...and we don't have much cross sharing,. We have done some visits to Indonesia last year and we have brought in some trainers in from Indonesia to start training in Timor. But other than that there hasn't been too much sharing;...and so this is an important time and already I can see amongst the other participants that came from Timor there is a lot of learning going on, how we can change that scepticism in government, how we can improve the programme, ...A lot of learning happening.

Fany Wedahuditama, WES-UNICEF, Indonesia

My name is Fany. I am from the UNICEF joint WES Secretariat from Indonesia. First impressions, for me I just say it's lessons learned. First after so many years that we've been trying to implement CLTS approach, from the round robin of the country presentations, one thing that has to be done in the field is government involvement, it's a must, otherwise it's not going to be sustainable. So I hope that the other countries where the government is still not taking the lead we need to find a way... that's the first. Also there is the need to find a group or an institution that is responsible for rural sanitation if not we cannot pinpoint who is responsible. If someone, or an organisation is responsible, at least there will be some action, some concrete action, because if not we can always blame some other people for not being able to progress.

At community level we have learned so much. But at the government level we have not gained so much how to involve and then how to make sure that the government internalise the CLTS programme, because so far, even in Indonesia there is also several government districts where they implement with their own budget, with the support of the NGOs or other international organisations. It shows that it can be done,. But as a programme the concept of the CLTS has to be improved, it has to have the element of the capacity building on both levels, at the community and the government level... and in the guidance, in the tools now we have to start to compile and make it a more comprehensive toolkit because we have learned from so many countries that have been implementing this.

Dinesh Bajracharya, WaterAid, Timor Leste

So I am Dinesh Bajracharya, I work with WaterAid Timor Leste and I am country representative in the Timor Leste programme. We are finding that the other countries are also going through the same process of like you know ... Some of the things that came out strongly is important to bring in the local government in the process to really scale up and to really back up the CLTS programme, that is one thing we really learned here. And we also found that there are a lot of challenges and you have to have some success stories to convince the government, and then among them some of those things like bringing those government staff in the places where there's been something happening

so if they see it's easy to change their mindset,. So that's one part, until now that's one part that we have learned and we found it useful in that perspective.

We are struggling first to convince the government. Without bringing the government in on the process we alone in NGOs cannot make any breakthrough. We have all these building blocks ready...we have some success stories in the field and there are people trained to do the CLTS, there is some sanitation marketing, and there are now NGOs who are now gradually accepting the approach but bringing the government into this will be an important step and we are working on this in the future and that will be the first step for CLTS scaling up.

Philippine delegation

Good afternoon I am Dr Ma Socorro Flores the Municipal Health Officer of Guian, East Samar province... we are one of the pilot sites of the associate programme sponsored by WSP, World Bank. What I learned from the today's workshop. Actually from the workshop... I should say that our municipality is on the right track of doing CLTS but this workshop has really bridged our gaps as we are going through our implementation process. So I have learned so much and through the help of our sponsoring agency and Department of Health by the next regional workshop it would be a better report that we will be having.

I am Rolando Santiago from Department of Health and National Office and I am the National Coordinator for CLTS. And the learning just I have learned from this workshop is of course the ownership of the programme, because as I heard from Indonesia, ownership is very important because for example when you have the plan to institutionalise or to scale up the programme, in my country there is really a need that the government should intervene or should be the head of all these activities. To really have an ownership is to start with development of guidelines.

I am Edgar Viterbo, the Country Advisor for the Water and Sanitation programme of Plan International in the Philippines. This really is a privilege, a great one for me, because I am with the Philippine delegation, and this makes us more determined, more comfortable and confident that our CLTS programme that we started two years ago will be more viable and doable.

Good afternoon, I'm Dr Jaime Lagahid, I am the Director of the National Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, specifically on infectious diseases, also with environmental health in our unit. So I learned about the CLTS because I am not familiar initially because I am with the other programme, but looking at all the participants, the last time I heard about sanitation is when I was still in the rural health position, twenty years ago. Then looking back now and then looking ahead, we should really work hard so that people will be sanitised and one thing more is that I believe is that this will also improve the health status in the community. And as for what the Indonesian said, 'seeing is believing', I have not seen Indonesia, but I have seen Cambodia so I think looking back into our country there is really a need to have this kind of system in the country. And I am glad I am here so that in terms of policy and support of the budget, we will put in the budget for that [CLTS].

Anupama Verma, Knowledge Links, India

My name is Anupama, I am from India, from Knowledge Links. Actually yesterday we visited two villages and in the first village we were told it's not an ODF village. Earlier it became ODF but now it's not because people have reverted back to former practice of

OD, But when we visited the village we found that the village was ODF and all the toilets had been rebuilt and the villagers have done very good work. What really I learned from the people, very creatively they had built these toilets, very clean... especially these temporary toilets, without the vent pipe, in India we are putting a vent pipe when we build a toilet but here they are not putting it, but still they are not smelling bad, that was really a different thing for me. I used one toilet and that was really wonderful, nicely built, In India these toilets are not very strong and people are using these toilets for two three months and then they are upgrading them, but here people have been using them for one and a half years, so that was really interesting that they have made it a sturdy one... second thing is what I learned is that people due to lack of follow up activities, people are not interested, people are not able to move ahead., and villages became ODF one year ago, and still they are there.. so when we do follow up activities and when the facilitators are going there, they put these other issues also, like the solid waste management and the hygiene practices. These people make them do the analysis of these things, like, you have made your village ODF but what about this cow dung, what about this stagnant water...so they are not, they have stopped there only... this is very important that we should go back to them, that they should address other things also, so this is my learning from yesterday's visit... and then when we went to triggering, it was really a great experience, huge gathering was there, lots of noise and what I found there, is that the facilitator was really connecting to these people, he has a great connection with people... he was making them laugh and then he involved everyone into the process,... so that is the skill of the facilitator, that he is making them laugh and making the whole process enjoyable, and involving them, that's really important on the part of the facilitator,. Then secondly what he did, he put bushes... and one more thing I want to say he used all local materials there for the mapping,. In India we are not doing that, we use yellow powder, cards, this and that but here he used stones and sand, and like grasses and bushes just to depict green bushes for there, he made the whole process very natural, that's very important. And then he asked people to place these bushes and then he asked them you are going to these bushes and then put this soil, put this mud there,... so this was really very good, and in the end one thing which we are not doing is, he made people to calculate the shit they are producing in one household, like in one day, in one week, in one month, and then in one year, so family wise so how much they are producing in one year and then he put huge heap of mud there just to show that this much of shit you are producing it in one year... so he asked do you feel should your village name be changed? Because there is a lot of shit, so should your name of your village be changed, to shit village? So that was really new thing for me. It should be a shit village, we have never done this in India. He, just to do this flow diagram, he used many cards and then he asked people to arrange them according to the sequence and then in the end he asked people to put the barrier, like how can you stop this eating shit So put it there, so people got involved into the whole process, so that was the best part, so people could internalise how they are eating shit and how they could stop it..though they were speaking, it was like going verbal to visual and doing it themselves so that really helped people to understand what they are doing and how they can stop it. I think that's it.