

CLTS in the post emergency context

Experience

Tearfund first began programming in CLTS in July 2008 in Afghanistan, following training by IRSP, Pakistan. Today, some 2 ½ years on, Tearfund's main success in CLTS remains through our Disaster Management Team in mid- and northern Afghanistan, working mainly with returnee villages, or host villages with significant proportions of returned refugees or IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons). CLTS campaigns were held in 12 villages during the first year of programming, and all 12 were eventually declared ODF, with universal coverage to safe sanitation. Since 2009, Tearfund has led CLTS campaigns in a further 40 communities in Afghanistan. In-country support has been forthcoming from the Unicef-led WASH Cluster, and has enabled other participating NGOs to learn of CLTS and its benefits in the Afghan context. Tearfund's Disaster Management Team typically works in the recovery and rehabilitation phases of emergencies, and we have not considered the use of CLTS in earlier / camp contexts - we have doubts that CLTS per se would be applicable in the camp situation.

During the last two years, Tearfund has supported CLTS programmes in other countries, including DRC, Liberia, North Sudan, Pakistan, and Myanmar, partly through partner agencies and partly through our own Disaster Management Teams, but in all of these countries the overarching context is one of recovery from a complex or natural disaster. In the case of Darfur (North Sudan), the context is a long-term, or chronic, emergency.

New Tearfund/WEDC research project

In January 2011, Tearfund, in collaboration with the Water, Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC), submitted a research proposal to USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) for funding of a project entitled: *Sustainable WASH Interventions as Populations Transition from Relief to Early Recovery in Natural Disaster / Conflict Emergency Response*. This is not expressly about CLTS, but it will incorporate consideration of CLTS as one of a number of tools to aid sustainable transition towards early recovery.

The early stages of emergency response require immediate water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions which normally use fully subsidised, 'supply-driven' methods, such as water distribution, latrine construction and hygiene kit distribution. However, when these methods are applied for a protracted period, they can result in dependency on the implementing agency, a lack of community ownership, and poor overall sustainability of interventions. During the recovery phase of an emergency response, and when working with returnee populations, Tearfund has found success using non-subsidised, 'demand-led' methods for WASH interventions, which also promote economic revitalization through development of sustainable livelihoods. Demand-led WASH interventions focus on facilitation, demonstration, and marketing techniques to create demand, and then on training artisans to produce products to meet the new demand. CLTS, which is clearly a demand-led sanitation approach, can easily lead to such socio-economic stimulation in a recovering community.

The research will adopt a case study approach and will review existing/ongoing humanitarian interventions in both the longer term chronic emergency context (e.g. Darfur) and the short term acute emergency context (e.g. Haiti). Amongst other sources, it will draw on our experiences in Afghanistan in particular, and the way in which demand-led, livelihood-based approaches have aided transition to sustainable access in water and sanitation.

Based on the findings of the research and analysis a framework for strategic analysis and planning of demand-led WASH interventions in the early stages of an emergency response will be developed. The framework could then contribute to the future development of tools to guide and optimise planning of demand-led WASH interventions which make the transition more effective and, where possible, more swift.

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