

# **Water and Sanitation for all?**

Study on community based organizations and options for WATSAN credit scheme in Ticho

Briefing Note (WA Ethiopia)

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**Summary:** This briefing note gives an overview of the findings from a baseline survey conducted in Ticho (Oromia) before WAE formed a partnership with Local Government to implement a large scale gravity water supply, sanitation and hygiene scheme in Ticho Town. It is aimed that at the end of this project the Ticho area will benefit 100% water and sanitation coverage. In order to achieve this goal, WaterAid is planning to associate the project in to existing community based organizations and to encourage the application of credit scheme to put in private connection, provide improved latrine and hand washing or bath facilities and in particular to support the vulnerable and poor house holds.

**Key words:** CBO, micro credit scheme, water supply, sanitation

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**Introduction**

Ticho water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WSSHPP) project is located in the Oromia National Regional State 249 km away from the capital city. Just like many rural parts of the nation the community has no potable water and the latrine coverage is almost none.

The objective of this project is to improve this situation by supplying potable water through gravity scheme and promoting and introducing different latrine options. It is aimed that at the end of this project the Ticho area will benefit 100% water and sanitation coverage. In order to achieve this goal, WaterAid is planning to associate the project in to existing community based organizations and to encourage the application of credit scheme to put in private connection, provide improved latrine and hand washing or bath facilities and in particular to support the vulnerable and poor house holds.

This study assesses the different forms of community based organizations and possible options of micro credit scheme to WATSAN provision for the intended beneficiary community.



Photo: WaterAid/Mahider Tesfu

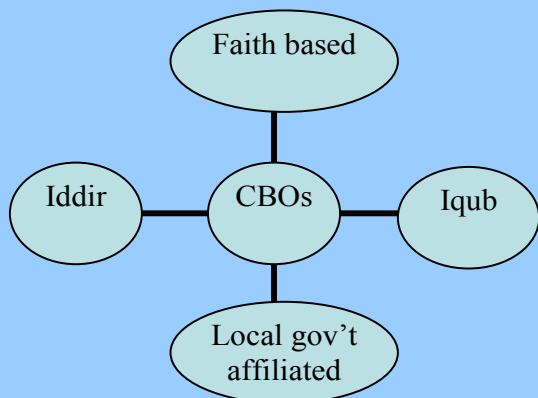
The community accesses water form rivers and unprotected springs. Welkessa River is the main water source of the community

**Background**

In Ticho, there is no potable water and inadequate latrine coverage. The main source of water of the community is from rivers and springs. Almost all house holds in the town practice open defecation. According to the information gathered from the Woreda Health Office there are a total of 100 traditional pit latrines in the town including those in the governmental offices and in some rich and average households.

So the main objective of this study is to explore possible ways of making the general Ticho WATSAN provision successful. In line with this main objective the study tried to analyze the different forms of CBOs and ways in which they would be involved in supporting people to put in private connection, provide improved latrines and hand washing or bathing facilities and particularly support to vulnerable and poor households. The study also aims to recommend options regarding the use of credit with in WATSAN.

Different forms of CBOs in Ticho





Traditional Pit Latrine visited during the study

### Methodology

Five percent of the total population were interviewed. In order to accommodate or represent the view of the whole community, the respondents were classified into five groups mainly based on their economic status as rich, middle wealthy, poor, destitute and female heads. Respondents were from different educational and occupational status.

The study team consisted of one external consultant, one research officer from WaterAid Ethiopia and a volunteer. After the study was completed a dissemination workshop was held for the community and feed back was obtained.

In order to conduct this study a qualitative research methodology was employed. Different data collection tools like secondary data collection, observation, interview, and focus group discussions (FGD) were used.

### Key findings

The Study report reveals the following findings.

#### 1. WATSAN facilities:

There is no potable water and the sanitation coverage is almost none in the area. As the result, water and sanitation related diseases are commonly reported in the area.

#### 2. Social impact:

Women and children are facing Problems while they are transporting water from rivers and springs. There are women who were abducted, raped and injure physical because of the topographic nature of the water source.

### 3. Forms of CBOs and their functions

The project area population has different community based organizations like iddir, iqub, faith based CBOs and other organization that are affiliated with the local government. CBOs in the community are established to meet different goals, “Iddir” for funeral purpose and “Iqub” for rotational credit. There are also faith based CBOs that are established by Orthodox religion followers; among which ‘senbet’ is the main one. Senbete operates just like iddir except in that it gives support to members for problems other than death. The Kebele women association is one CBO that has local government involvement. The main purpose of the association is to empower women on different issues. Among the above mentioned CBOs the most common one is iddir. All the iddirs have their own bylaws and set different criteria for accepting new members. This doesn’t mean that every member of the community has an iddir. In the area there are four well-known iddirs established in different periods

### 4. Micro finance experience of the area:

No microfinance institution is found in Ticho. It is also true that there is no community based WATSAN micro credit and micro finance institution in the area. The only available institutes operating in Arsi zone are Oromia Credit and saving Share Company and Makilit. This fact hampered potential coping mechanism of the people:

### 5. Options for WATSAN micro credit schemes:

There are four options for provision of WATSAN micro credit.

#### 5.1 Commissioning Micro finance institution:

##### Advantages

- The loan is managed and run on a sound and sustainable financial line.
- Micro-credit institutions have relatively better skill and capacities to run a micro-credit scheme.
- A micro financial institution has egitmacy form national laws governing financial institution.

##### Disadvantages

- Most micro-finance institution provides credit for productive activities.
- Guarantee requirement, high interest rate and down payments, all of which are major constrains for disadvantaged and poorer section of the community.

## 5.2 Iqub

### Advantages

- The intended beneficiaries already have the skill and experience of managing funds.
- House connection Iqub promotes self reliance and curtails dependency.

### Disadvantages

- All community members can not afford to belong and not all are willing to be members of Iqub.
- Apprehension for price increases as the past trend indicates that the cost of water related equipment increases over time.

## 5.3 Iddir

### Advantages

- Less bureaucratic procedure during loan appraisal and customer selection.
- Community based micro-credit scheme can deliver loan without any down payment.

### Disadvantages

- Little or no attention of credit repayment because of absence of follow-up.
- Absence of necessary knowledge and skills of credit management,

## 5.4 WATSAN Committee

### Advantages

1. They will have close contact with the organization that will facilitate the operation of micro-credit
2. They are duly accountable to the target beneficiaries

### Disadvantage

2. They don't have the legal provision to manage the micro finance activity
3. They are volunteers with other responsibilities.

## Recommendation

- Encourage the community to organize WATSAN Iqub that enables the target beneficiary to have their own tap water without external input.
- All members of target beneficiary can not afford and are not willing to be members of Iqubs. Thus, commissioning micro-finance institution that shows interest to operate at Ticho town can facilitate ways for better management of the revolving fund.
- Provision of cash credit could result in misuse of the money. The provision of credit in kind minimizes the risk and possibilities and encouraging the private out on to sell the required hardware needs to be looked in to
- Down payment affects eligibility of the poor to WATSAN micro-credit. Therefore, due attention should be paid during the agreement on the modality of operation to ensure inability for the poor.
- Household members living in Kebele houses are reluctant to receive WATSAN micro-credit. Therefore consultation with municipality and household heads residing in Kebele houses may solve the problem related with ownership of WATSAN facilities that will be constructed with credit.
- Every household will not be able to afford to receive WATSAN micro-credit and repay the debt. Thus, social tariff should favour these groups' in terms of the public taps, communal latrines and shower rooms to be constructed.
- Most of the existing pit latrines are of poor quality. Therefore, to upgrade the existing pit latrines requires san plats and other in puts.
- The destitute have major priorities other than getting safe water supply and sanitation facilities. Thus, devising a mechanism for how to support them can pave way for the smooth operation of micro credit facility.
- For example exchange of labour during construction for loan could largely benefits the poorest.

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### WaterAid-water for life

The international NGO dedicated exclusively to the provision of safe domestic water, sanitation and hygiene education to the world's poorest people

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