Internal Ex-Post Evaluation for Grant Aid Project

conducted by Cameroon Office: December 2018

Country Name	The Project for Rural Water Supply (Phase V)
Republic of Cameroon	

I. Project Outline

Background	The safe water access rate of Cameroon as a whole was 74% in 2008, which exceeded the average of Sub-Saharan Africa. On the other hand, with regard to rural water supply, the access rate remained at 51% in average and particularly the access rate was low at 20% plus in Northern Region and Far North Region. That was due to failure of pumps and drying up of wells because many of the wells were old or were not maintained well. Therefore, the people in those regions depended on contaminated surface water from rivers and ponds and waterborne diseases such as diarrhea were widely spread.			
Objectives of the Project	To secure safe and stable water supply by constructing water supply facilities in North Region and Far North Region, and thereby contributing to improvement in hygiene.			
Contents of the Project	1. Project Site: 57 localities in 6 communes in Benoue Department, North Region *Originally, 132 localities in Far North Region were also included in the scope, they were cancelled due to the security situation. 2. Japanese side (1) Construction of foot-operated pump wells (2) Technical assistance (soft-component) for the operation and maintenance of the facilities, establishment of water user committees 3. Cameroon side: Improvement of access roads, if necessary.			
Project Period	E/N Date	September 7, 2012	Completion Date	Middle of May, 2015 (Completion of the soft-component) (No record for the exact date)
	G/A Date	September 7, 2012		
Project Cost	E/N Grant Limit / G/A Grant Limit: : 768 million yen			Actual Grant Amount: 392 million yen
Executing Agency	MINISTERE DE L' EAU ET DE L' ENERGIE (MINEE, Ministry of Water Resources and Energy)			
Contracted Agencies	Main Contractor(s): TONE ENGINEERING CORPORATION Main Consultant(s): Eight-Japan Engineering Consultants Inc.			

II. Result of the Evaluation

<Constraints on Evaluation>

- Due to security concern in the Northern Region, the field survey was not conducted. Instead, information was collected from 38 sites through questionnaires collected by DREE (Regional Delegation of Energy and Water Resources) and DD (Departmental Delegation) (Out of 57 sites, 38 responded to the questionnaires)

1 Relevance

<Consistency with the Development Policy of Cameroon at the Time of Ex-Ante and Ex-Post Evaluation>

The project has been consistent with the development policy of Cameroon. The "Growth and Employment Strategy Paper" (2010-2020) aims at achieving 75% of rural water supply rate in 2020. In addition, at the time of ex-post evaluation, "National Policy of Water in Rural Areas" (2010-2020) require various actors to participate in the objective that assure the sustainable access of drinking water and adequate sanitation. The components of the project contribute to the policy objective.

<Consistency with the Development Needs of Cameroon at the Time of Ex-Ante and Ex-Post Evaluation >

The project has also been consistent with the development of policy of Cameroon for rural water supply. At the time of ex-ante evaluation, the access rates for rural water supply remained at 51% due to failure of pumps and drying up of wells because many of the wells were old or were not maintained well. Especially in the access rate was low in Northern Region and the Far North Region. At the time of ex-post evaluation, while the national average access water rate was 60%, the rate in the rural area was 54.2% (2016). Compared to the national coverage, the rate was still low in rural area, though the gap has been reduced.

<Consistency with Japan's ODA Policy at the Time of Ex-Ante Evaluation>

The project was also consistent with Japan's ODA policy to Cameroon. Improvement of basic living conditions in the rural area and poverty reduction at community level through supplying safe water was one of the priority areas for assistance[1].

<Evaluation Result>

In light of the above, the relevance of the project is high.

2 Effectiveness/Impact

<Effectiveness>

The project achieved its objective, "to secure safe and stable water supply by constructing water supply facilities", as the targets of indicators set at the time of ex-ante evaluation were achieved. Although the recent population census was not available, the project was deemed achieved the target of "the population who has access to safe and stable water" and "water supply rate" as the water supply facilities were constructed at 57 water points as planned. The target of an indicator "the number of water users committees (WUCs) which are functioning" was also achieved as all water users committee, which was formed under the soft-component of the project have been functioning, according to the response from the sampled sites as well as information from MINEE. As a result of the soft-component, WUCs have held regular meetings, though, frequency of the meeting has varied from once a week to once a month. There have been a sensitization campaigns on the use of water facilities and the importance of the water facilities maintenance. Therefore, the target population has been well

[1] Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "ODA Country Databook 2010"

engaged and they understand the importance of the safe and stable drinking water. They have their willingness to sustain the facilities.

According to the questionnaire survey with the sites and interviews with person in charge of MINEE, most of the facilities (55/57) have been properly utilized while the rest of the facilities did not operate and need some small repair. A follow-up of the situation for the repair was undergoing at the time of ex-post evaluation.

People are satisfied with the quality and quantity of water, and the quality of water satisfies the WHO standards, according to the officials of MINEE. People have changed their behavior on using safe drinking water and the hygiene status has been improved, according to the questionnaire survey and interviews with MINEE.

<Impact>

According to the questionnaire survey with the sites and interviews with MINEE, incidents of water borne diseases have decreased thanks to the water supply facilities constructed by the project. There are fewer cases of diarrhea and amebic dysentery. Also, decreases in burden of fetching water of women and children have been observed in 33 sites out of 38 sites which responded to the questionnaires. Before the project, it took 3 to 11 hours for women and children to fetch water, however, after the project, the time for fetching water reduced to 30 minutes to 1 hour at a maximum. Women and children have been able to spend time for other activities such as retail business for women and school for children.

No negative impact on the natural environment by this project has been observed and land acquisition and resettlement have not occurred either.

<Evaluation Result>

Therefore, the effectiveness/impact of the project is high.

Quantitative Effects

	Baseline (2012-Estimated) Baseline Year	Target (2017) 3 Years after Completion	Actual (2015) Year of Completion	Actual (2018) 3 Years after Completion
Indicator 1-1The population who has access to safe and stable water	-	Increase by 17,100*	17,100	17,100
Indicator 1-2 Water supply rate	-	14.3%*	14.3%	14.3%
Indicator 2: The number of water users committees which are functioning	0	57	57	57

Source：JICA documents, questionnaires and interviews with MINEE

*The population of "17,100" at 57 water points at the time of ex-ante evaluation was set as the target, and the design criteria did not include the population increasing ratio. Unfortunately, we could not have actual proper censes data in the target quarters/villages of Benoue at the time of ex-post evaluation, so we indicate the number at the time of the project completion.

3 Efficiency

Although the project cost was within the plan (ratio against the plan: 51%), the decrease in the project cost did not match the decrease in the the actual output (the ratio against the plan: 30%) despite of excluding the increase in the project cost due to the security reason. Although there was no exact date for the completion of the project (Soft-component was completed May 2015), the actual period deemed exceeded the plan after excluding the delay by the security reason (estimated ratio against the plan: 124%).

Therefore, the efficiency of the project is fair.

4 Sustainability

<Institutional Aspect>

WUCs have been mainly responsible for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of the facilities constructed under the project while coordinating with communes and pump menders (one pump mender at each commune). Main tasks of WUCs have been cleaning and water tariff collection, while pump menders have been carrying out maintenance works, and communes have been monitoring the O&M practices. Among 38 WUCs surveyed under the ex-post evaluation, 36 WUCs[2] have committee members as planned, including President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Although it was expected that all WUCs hire pump operators, 28 WUCs have had pump operators. All WUCs have held regular meetings: 27 have held regular meetings every week or two weeks, while 8 WUCs have held meetings every month. All WUCs have collected contributions[3] from the users instead of water tariff. Monitoring activities at some communes have been somewhat limited due to the lack of budget.

<Technical Aspect>

WUC has necessary skills for operation of the committee activities. Every household in WUCs have been required to make contribution to WUCs (900-1,500 XAF per year), and this money has served to acquire repair equipment and to pay transport cost for the pump menders. WUCs have sensitized the water users on the operation and importance of the pumps every month. As to the skills of communes and pump operators, each commune has had sufficient skills to supervise WUCs and pump menders at each commune have acquired and maintained technics to repair the pump. The commune has trained reparatory in each quarter/village and they have assisted WUCs to maintain water facilities whenever there has been a need. At the time of ex-post evaluation, MINEE did not have a policy/plan to keep the system functioning in case of serious damages of the water facilities.

<Financial Aspect>

No information has been obtained on the financial situation of WUCs and communes. According to MINEE, almost none of commune has sufficient budget in order to get down to the community (at the water point) WUC And WUC has not have sufficient budget, WUC has been collecting contribution from each household annually, which can be used for required O&M at minimum level, though it is not sufficient. Information on the amount of water tariff/distribution and the collection rate was not obtained.

[2] Among 38 respondents, two respondents did not answer questions on the organizational structure. However, according to MINEE, they were also functional.

[3] Members do not pay water tariff for use of a certain quantity water, instead, they contribute the amount that depends on each household's willingness and availability on annual basis.

<Current Status of Operation and Maintenance>

The pump operators if hired (28 WUCs) have properly maintained the facilities. Most of the facilities have been cleaned on a regular basis. In 29 sites (out of 38 surveyed), communes regularly monitor the facilities, while communes do not regularly monitor the facilities in seven sites because of lack of funds (No answer from 2 sites).

<Evaluation Result>

Therefore, the sustainability of the project effect is fair.

5 Summary of the Evaluation

The project achieved its objective, "to secure safe and stable water supply by constructing water supply facilities", as the targets of indicators set at the time of ex-ante evaluation such as "the population who has access to safe and stable water", "water supply rate" as well as "the number of water user committees which are functioning" were achieved. Positive impacts such as the decrease in the incidents of waterborne diseases and the decrease in the burden of fetching water have been observed. As to the sustainability, problems have been observed in the institutional, technical and financial aspects, though no problem has been observed in policy aspect. As to efficiency, both of the project cost and project period are deemed to slightly exceed the plan.

Considering all of the above points, this project is evaluated to be satisfactory.

III. Recommendations & Lessons Learned

Recommendations to Executing Agency:

- It is necessary to reinforce the follow-up of water facilities and improve the communication between Communes and the Ministry of Water Resources and Energy. Communes are recommended to formulate and implement a periodic (annual, monthly) financial plan for the regular operation and maintenance of water facilities.

Fetching water from water supply system (1)

Fetching water from water supply system (2)