

CANADA FUND PROJECT BRIEF

1. Project Title : Safe and Clean Water for All through Biosand Filters in the ARMM Provinces
2. Location : Maguindanao, Shariff Kabunsuan and Lanao del Sur
3. Project Sector : Water supply and sanitation - small systems
Education and training in water supply and sanitation
4. Budget : Php 1,996,625.00
5. Implementing Organization : A Single Drop for Safe Water, Inc. (ASDSWI)

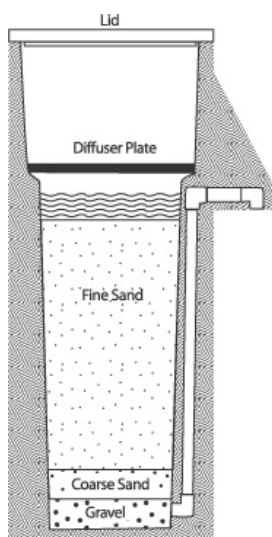
Mr. Kevin Lee
Executive Director
Manalo Ext. cor Jacana Road, Brgy. Banca-Bancao,
Puerto Princesa, Palawan
Tel: (048) 434-1101
Email: Lostkiwi111@yahoo.com

6. Duration : May 01, 2007 - May 30, 2008

7. Project Description :

This project is about promoting the production, distribution and actual utilization of the biosand filters in LGSPA-selected villages in five municipalities in Maguindanao, Shariff Kabunsuan and Lanao del Sur provinces in the ARMM where water, though readily available, is unsafe.

The BioSand filter is a household water treatment that uses sand to filter out between 95 to 100% of all biological contaminants. It consists of a concrete container with a discharge tube, layers of gravel and sand inside the box. This sand layer is the filtering media. Over time a biological layer builds up in the top of the sand layer, which improves the filtering efficiency. The advantages of this system are:



- the filter is made from locally available materials
- Construction is easy to repeat
- Capital cost for users will be in the range of P 1,000 to P 1,600. Can be cheaper depending on the availability of materials in the locality
- Requires no operating costs
- Very simple to use, just pour water on top and it discharges filtered water
- Maintenance is simple, cleaning of spout and occasional stirring of top layer of sand (every 3 to 6 months)
- Can filter 200 liters of water a day which is sufficient for drinking, food prep and bathing

This is an existing technology that has been used and tested in the field in 36 different countries but is new to the Philippines. This technology and transfer model is designed to be replicated at the barangay or municipal level. The technology is new to the area but has been proven in developing countries through out the world. It is very appropriate for the area with the only difficulty being the selection of sand for the filtering media.

The project intends to organize, where there is no existing interested groups, municipal-level cooperatives that will function as the pilot implementers, adoptors and replicators of the technology. These cooperatives will receive the technical training and material support for the production of the prototypes which they will later sell to the target beneficiaries in selected villages. Payments for the biosand filters will come in various socially-acceptable ways: in cash, in kind, installment, through labor equity, etc.

On or before the end of the project cycle, the ASDSW expects the project to become micro-enterprises in each municipality that produces and sells biosand filters in a sustainable way.

The following are the phases that this project will undergo:

PHASE 1: Project and Training design

- The five women that were trained in BSF technology will meet with ASDSW to redesign training module so that it is appropriate for target communities
- Preparation of training manuals, modules
- Strengthening of five existing organizations or forming of new ones when there is none. These organizations will be micro business units, or cooperatives, producing and installing filters as well as working with government and community leaders to implement the project.

PHASE 2: Technical Training

- Preparation for Workshop Training
- Workshop training of filter technicians and community stewards (1 week)

PHASE 3: Community Development Training

- Working with cooperatives to organize filter production and working out technical difficulties.
- Approximately 50 filters will be built and installed in prime communal areas in each municipality as a community service project (schools, health clinics, religious and public buildings as well as the houses of community leaders)
- Working with cooperatives in developing strategies for implementation so that production will be sustainable. This could include affordable costing, payment plans or labor exchange for filter. These skills can be used on other projects that the cooperatives want to develop in the future
- Development of IEC materials and working with LGU health workers and other community stewards to integrate BSF education to complement proper hygiene practices.
- Setting up of testing program for installed filters

PHASE 4: Full Scale Production

- Done by community cooperatives as a micro-business, creating livelihood by selling the filters. As developed in Phase 3, this will be self-sustaining with up to 750 filters being produced by the end of the year in this phase. Combined with the training phases, the total number of filters shall be 1000 or a little more.
- Will continue as required to produce filters for each municipality and over the years expand to other parts of the provinces or even other provinces either in ongoing filter production or additional trainings.

The Local Government Units have a vital role in this project as it supports their Water Action Plans. Local Government role includes but is not limited to:

- Mobilizing locals to support and patronize the project
- Health Departments will lead the community stewardship role in promoting the technology throughout the communities.
- LGU counterparts such as facilities for trainings and construction of facilities.
- LGU Engineering and Planning department as a resource for locating suitable materials.

- Filters will be installed in public buildings to be used by public employees, students, among others. This will provide them safe water as well as illustrating to the community that it is viable technology.
- Working in the future with the community organizations to identify other projects that those organizations can implement to fulfill the Municipal Water Action Plans, as well as other social service issues.

8. Beneficiaries : 900 households, 6,300 women, men and children

9. Expected Results :

- Within 12 months 5 cooperatives in 5 municipalities are created and trained to build and install filters.
- 1,000 households and vital public places in five municipalities have access to very safe drinking water
- 4 to 5 people per organization will be employed full time building and installing filters.
- 1 to 2 people per organization trained as trainers to replicate project in other areas.

10. Midterm Results :

This assessment covers the first quarter of project implementation. Generally, this period covered the following:

- project organization which consisted of recruitment of project staff, contract review and completion of training design. The following are the accomplishments during this period;
- project and training review in Cotabato City which was participated in by officers from the CIDA-funded Local Government Support Project in the ARMM, ASDSW staff, project facilitators in Maguindanao province, speakers from the Bangsamoro Development Agency, the representatives from the Philippine Center for Water and Sanitation, and the ARMM's Department of Trade and Industry;
- Promotion of project awareness among concerned and partner communities and government agencies; and,
- Actual training in one community in Maguindanao.

Specifically, the project accomplished the following:

Needs assessments. The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) plans for participating communities in Lanao del Sur were completed along with the Water Resource Inventories in all target sites. Site visits were also conducted in participating communities in Maguindanao. Up to this period, all the target five municipalities were still valid.

Deployment of WWM Women to assigned posts. Five persons who were previously trained by the ASDSW on the production and maintenance of the biosand filters were assigned in two municipalities in Maguindanao and three towns in Lanao del Sur. Each person is assigned to one barangay in each town. With the deployment of these point persons, the readiness of the communities to participate in the project activities was assured.

Review of training program and modules. The training program and modules were reviewed and eventually modified to increase their appropriateness to the current situation and condition of the communities. The modified program and modules were finally accepted by the point persons in each community and the observers from the LGSPA.

Organizational development. The ASDSW strengthened the existing community-based people's organizations in Maguindanao sites. In the town of Datu Abdullah Sangki, the proponent is working closely with the Rural Workers Association which is composed of Muslim and Christian farmers. In Sultan Kudarat town, the ASDSW has selected a women's organization as partner to implement this project.

Meanwhile, evaluations are going on regarding the partner-organizations in Lanao del Sur. The groups that were selected will be given appropriate capability building training to enable them to meaningfully and productively participate in the project implementation.

Organization of training activities. The ASDSW was able to complete all the details needed to conduct the training on the production and marketing of biosand filters as well as on the management of its enterprise aspects. The filter modes and other materials were secured so that by August 2007, the first series of training activities, which lasted five weeks, were conducted in Datu Abdullah Sangki town.

Workshops for Women Waterkeepers Movement 1 (WWM1) and on-the-job training. A total of 16 persons were trained under a rigid five-week program. The participants were trained on visioning and commitment, technical training, planning, financial management, business planning, and monitoring and evaluation. Twelve biosand filters were produced during this training period.

Finance. The proponent has already utilized Php 385,952.02 or 39% of the first tranche of grant amounting to Php 998,312.50. On the other hand, its counterpart contribution reached Php 316,000.00 or 24% of the annual commitment amounting to Php 1,336,500.00. The grant and counterpart utilization appear to be appropriate and consistent to the purpose for which these are allocated.

Up to this period, only one community (Barangay Taliwasan in Datu Abdullah Sangki municipality) has actually conducted and completed the series of training. Per observation and interaction with the local participants on 15 August 2007, the Canada Fund observed that the project is enjoying high acceptance from the community. In fact, a few of the filters were already being used in the barangay hall and an elementary school. Orders from residents who had witnessed the effectivity of the filters started to come in, making the women assigned in the enterprise aspect of the project very busy. And to ensure that the benefit is democratically accessed, the community has formulated an easy installment payment scheme for households who could not procure a filter in cash.

The women were actively involved in almost all phases of production of the biosand filters (gathering of raw materials, mixing of sand and cement, stocking of sand layers to the filters, and finishing jobs). Their enthusiasm in participating in the project is also related to their roles as water keeper in their households.

While at this, though, there were some minor problems that were encountered along the project implementation. These are the following:

- Three of the five original point persons in the communities were not available during this period for various reasons. They were temporarily replaced by equally abled persons. During this period, four of the five point persons were women;
- Due to valid reasons, the ASDSW terminated the services of the project staff assigned in Cotabato City. The Executive Director temporarily stayed in Cotabato City to fill in the vacant post. The proponent has found a suitable replacement who will be on board in November 2007.
- Some of the activities had to be postponed due to the events related to the conduct of political elections and to the observance by the Muslim beneficiaries of the Holy Month of Ramadhan. The ASDSW has requested for an extension of project implementation.
- The project is a little bit delayed because of these postponements. The WWM1 should be at the enterprise level by August 2007 while the WWM2 should have had started its own training series. The request for extension of project implementation is being processed by the Canada Fund secretariat.