

CONTRIBUTION OF BAMA LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL TO RURAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES IN BORNO STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This study assessed the Contribution of Bama local government council on rural water supply schemes in Borno State. The objectives are to identify the sources of rural water supply and determine the level of effectiveness of the local government council in rural water supply provision, determine the durations of the water facilities provided and determine the functionalities of the water supply facilities. To achieve these objectives, 4 districts were systematically selected out of the 9 districts identified for the study. The districts are Goniri, Kumshe, Walasa and Yabiri. Data were systematically collected from households through the use of 170 structured interview schedules while records on the types of water facilities provided by the council were obtained from the local government council. The data generated were analyzed using both the simple percentage and inferential statistics. The chi-square test of goodness-of-fit was used to determine the level of effectiveness of the local government council in rural water supply. In this light, the findings revealed that the local government council is not fit in terms of provision of rural water supply to the study area. Thus, the study therefore concluded that 98% of the water supply sources in the study area are not only below the World Health Organization (WHO) water quality standard but also identified that the area is faced with persistent domestic water problems for decades. In line with these facts therefore, the study recommended that there should be strong government political commitment to clean rural water supply schemes.

Keywords: *Rural water supply schemes, Bama*

INTRODUCTION

Despite the vested constitutional responsibilities of the local government councils and the huge 80% financial contributions from the federal government mainly to service rural needs as indicated by Federal Government of Nigeria (1999), there have been many reports on the non performance of most local government councils in Nigeria. In other words, reports indicated that problems of poor implementations of rural development projects and programmes persist, particularly clean rural water supply and sanitation (UNDP Report, 2010). However, in response to the current rural portable clean water problems in Nigeria, all the three tiers of the government

were said to have doubled their budget and spending in order to address rural water demands and supply, particularly the provisions of motorized boreholes, wash boreholes and protected cement screened dug wells with (Hand pumps) among others to the rural communities (World Bank Report, 2007).

But, in spite of these tripartite efforts of the governments, problems of clean rural water supply are highly on the increase in most rural communities of the study area. In fact, this problem is almost endemic in most rural communities of the state and this has resulted to seasonal migration in most rural communities including the study area particularly to the neighboring countries of Chad and the Cameroun republics (World Bank Report, 2007). In light of the above, therefore, this study has the following research objectives:

- i. To determine the level of involvement of Local government council in the provision of clean rural water supply.
- ii. To identify the types of rural water supply facilities in the study area.
- iii. To determine the durations of the water facilities provided.
- iv. To determine functionality of the water supply facilities provided

Most of the studies undertaken in rural water demand and supply are done either in the developed countries of the west or in Asia with little or non in sub-Saharan Africa particularly Nigeria (UNDP 2007). This study intends to reveal the sources of water supply and determine the level of effectiveness of the local government council in the provisions of rural water to the rural communities in Bama local government area of Borno State.

METHODOLOGY

Bama local government area is located between latitude 11° 30' North and longitude 13° 30' East with a total land mass of 1,176 square kilometers forming the North most tip of the North eastern part of Nigeria. Similarly, the local government area has an estimated population figure of about 269,986 inhabitants based on the national head count (NPC, 2006). Thus, the local government is one of the twenty seven (27) local government areas that make up Borno State and it is bordered to 4 local government areas namely: Kala Balge local government area to the east, Dikwa local government area to the north, Konduga local government area to the west and Gwoza local government area to the south. Apart from these; the local government is also bordered to two (2) West African countries namely; Chad and the Cameroon republic respectively. The local government area is currently divided into nine (9) districts with one hundred and eighty seven (187) villages with headquarter in Bama, some seventy five (75) kilometers away from Maiduguri, the Borno State capital. These districts are Bama, Darajamal, Goniri, Gulumba, Kumshe, Kote, Yabiri Walasa and Suwa district respectively (BOSG, 2010).

The study used the interview method in order to generate information. In this regard, thirty (30) villages were covered and one hundred and seventy (170) heads of

households were interviewed. Thus, households here means both the compound and dwelling respectively. With regard to the secondary data however, information related to sources of rural water supply was sourced from the local government council. The main information sourced include list of types of functional and non functional rural water supply facilities provided to the study area were reviewed. The data generated for this study were analyzed using both the descriptive and inferential statistical methods. The descriptive method used is the mean and simple percentage and the results were presented in tabular formats.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As regards the results of this study, it was observed that most communities usually settle close to rivers, streams and ponds or improvise water supply sources such a motorized boreholes, cement screened dug wells and the manual borehole (Hand pumps) in order to meet their domestic water needs. In this line therefore, sources of water supply facilities like motorized boreholes, manual boreholes (Hand pumps), cement screened dug wells earth dams, dug wells and streams/ponds are considered by this study as types of community water supply sources. The results on table 1 show communities and their sources of water supply.

Table 1 shows that 56.2% of the respondents are dependent on streams and ponds as their sources of domestic water, 27.2% on not cement screened dug wells which is in their private homes, 8.6% depended on cement screened dug wells provide by the local government council, 6.8% on the earth dams which was provided by the native authority some 60 years or so but now occasionally being rehabilitated also by the local government councils to serve dual purpose of providing water for both human and the animals, while 1.2% of the respondents depend on motorize boreholes also provided by the local government council. The results therefore indicate that more than half of the Population of the study area is dependent on the streams and the ponds as the major sources of their water supply sources. This implies that Bama local government council provided 9.8% of the rural water supply in the area. This perhaps results to the persistent cases of water borne diseases in the study area.

Table 2 shows that majority of the respondents who need water for animals are pastoralist and therefore dependent on the streams and ponds as the major sources of water supply for the animals in the study area. However the study confirms that in Yabiri district there are 5 manual boreholes (Hand pumps) provided by the Federal Livestock Department which is located very close to the greasing reserve. Perhaps, the study observed that this facility serves dual purpose, that is, serving both the rural people close to the reserve area and as well as the animals while in the other remaining areas the communities share almost the same sources of water supply with their animals and this perhaps also leads to the contamination of the water supply sources hence not hygienically standard for human consumption (WHO, 2010).

Table 3 shows that 64% of the cement screened dug wells provided are

functional, 18% of the manual boreholes (Hand pumps) are functional, 4.5% of the motorize boreholes are functional and also 4.5% of the same motorize boreholes are not functional, 4.5% of the manual borehole (Hand pump) are also not functional, 4.5% of the cement screened dug wells are not functional. However, the study confirmed that there was no new earth dams provided since the ones provided about 60 years ago. In all therefore, 86.4% of the water facilities provided by the local government council to the study area are functional and 13.6% are not. Thus, functionality here means that water from the available motorize borehole is supplied only on alternate days for four (4) hours while the non functionality means the water facilities are absolutely not working or broken dawn completely for quite some period of time. In line with the above analysis therefore the study observed that the facilities provided vary in their length of time in the various communities. Thus, period of 10 years was chosen for the respondents to determine when these facilities were sited and commissioned by the responsible authority in the study area. Table 4 shows the water supply facilities, years of establishments and authorities concern.

The results on table 4 show that 40.9% of the Cement screened dug wells existed for about 10 years, 9.1% for about 8 years, and 18.3% for about 7 years. In the same line, 9.5% of the manual boreholes (Hand pump) provided existed for about 10 years and 2 years respectively while the motorize boreholes existed for about 10 and 6 years also respectively. However, the survey further reveals that there were existing earth dams in the study area provided by the native authority about 60 years ago, but occasionally it has been rehabilitated by the Federal Wildlife Department or the Chad Basin National Park. Furthermore, the study also confirmed that about 68.2% of the water supply facilities provided to the study area are Cement screened dug wells, 22.7% are manual boreholes (Hand pump) and only 9.1% are motorize boreholes. In fact, this is in contrast to the number of people resident in the rural communities of the study area. The study further confirmed that Walasa district happens to be the only district that is located at the extreme northern part of the local government area and the area is absolutely arid with deep aquifers thus difficult to sink the manual boreholes (Hand pumps) nor the cement screen dug wells. Thus, the water supply facilities provided by the local government council are not enough in order to meet the domestic water requirements of the rural communities who constitute the majority of the population in the study area.

Table 1: Sources of water for domestic use in the study area

Sources of Domestic Water	Goniri	Kumshe	Walasa	Yabiri	Total	%
Motorize Boreholes	-	-	2	-	2	1.2
Cement screened dug Wells	10	-	-	4	14	8.6
dug wells	12	6	18	8	44	27.2
Earth dams	-	4	5	2	11	6.8
Streams/Ponds	10	20	40	21	91	56.2
Total	32	30	65	35	162	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2009

Table 2: Sources of water for animals in the study area

Water for Animals	Goniri	Kumshe	Walasa	Yabiri	Total	%
Manual borehole (Hand pumps)	-	-	-	5	5	3.1
Cement Wells	2	3	-	-	5	3.1
Earth Dams	-	4	-	-	4	2.5
Streams/Ponds	-	23	48	15	88	54.3
No idea	30	-	17	13	60	37
Total	32	30	65	35	162	100

Source: Fieldwork 2009

Table 3: Functional and non functional supply water facilities in the study area

Facilities	Goniri		Kumshe		Walasa		Yabiri		Total		%	
	F	NF	F	NF	F	NF	F	NF	F	NF	F	NF
Motorize boreholes	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	4.5	4.5
Cement screened dug Wells	10	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	14	1	64	4.5
Manual boreholes (Hand pumps)	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	4	1	18	4.5
Total	10	10	4	1	1	1	4	1	19	3	86.4	13.6
			20	5	2	5	22				100	

Source: Bama LGA 2009 F=Functional NF=Non Functional

Table 4: Water facilities and their years of establishment in the study area

Duration	Goniri	Kumshe	Walasa	Yabiri	Total	%
1998	Cw-6	Cw-3	Bh-1	Hp-2	Bh-1	Bh-4.5
					Hp-2	Hp-9.1
					Cw-9	Cw-40.9
2002	Cw-2	-	-	-	Cw-2	Cw-9.1
2003	Cw-2	Cw-2	Bh-1	Hp-1	Bh-1	Bh-4.5
					Hp-1	Hp-4.5
					Cw-4	Cw-18.3
2007	-	-	-	Hp-2	Hp-2	Hp-9.1
Total	10	5	2	5	Bh-2	Bh-9.1
					Hp-5	Hp-22.7
					Cw-15	Cw-68.2
					22	100

Source: Bama LGA 2009 CW=cement well, Bh=Boreholes Hp=Handpump

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Considering the given backdrops and the results presented, the study concludes that despite the constitutional provisions that the local government council is the government closer to the people at the grassroot and that has huge financial resources in order to cater for the needs of the rural majority. Furthermore, there is gross scarcity of quality water supply for domestic and of course animals needs in the rural communities of the study area. Perhaps, this might be the factor responsible in aggravating the activities of seasonal and permanent migration of rural communities to the neighboring countries of Chad and the Republic of Cameroon. In line with the above therefore, the study remarks that the local government council over the years has not achieved its stated roles particularly of providing clean water to the rural communities of the study area. With regard to the findings, the study recommends that the government at the both state and the federal levels should persuade the local

government councils to meet up their constitutional obligations of providing public utilities such as clean and sufficient water supply to rural people. There is also the need for strong government financial commitment to clean and sufficient rural water supply schemes and projects at all levels of governance. The Non governmental agencies and the community leaderships should ensure effective supervision of rural water supply projects and schemes in their rural communities of the study area and perhaps the entire rural areas in Nigeria should be focused in the regards.

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