Exploring Water Management Arrangements

A central concern of the project is to explore and identify the water management arrangement operating at village level. We are deliberately using the term 'water management arrangement' (WMA) as opposed to 'water point committee' (WPC) because in real life it is often not only the WPC that plays a part in managing the water point but also other individuals and groups in the community.

When investigating the WMA with community members the **focus should therefore be on the water point itself.** Here you should be exploring the attributes that must exist in the community if it is to maintain the water point and to ensure equitable access, rather than focusing only on the WPC and the actions it is supposed to perform in theory.

Perhaps the most useful approach is to follow a line of questioning that asks <u>What? Who? How</u>? That is, to ask **WHAT** did/does the community do when XYZ happens? **WHO** is involved? And **HOW** they are involved/**HOW** is it done? You may also want to start the questioning with <u>WHERE</u>, as in **WHERE** do funds come from to repair the water point? Remember to use the illustrations as a prop to help engage community members.

For example, provide the group with one of the five scenario illustrations (e.g. the scene of a drought or an argument at the water point) and then promote discussion around this scenario, asking questions that relate to the 8 attributes of a functioning WMA. So, for example: **What** is going on in this picture? **What** did people do the last time it happened? **Who** was involved? **How** was it done? By taking this approach you can begin to probe more deeply into the water management arrangement in the community, moving through those aspects of the management arrangement that you feel are more relevant.

You may also want to start a line of questioning with a <u>Where</u> question, as in: **Where** do funds come from to repair the water point? And then, continue probing by asking, for example: **Who** collects the money? **How** is this done? Finally, don't forget you may also want to ask <u>Why</u> questions, such as: **Why** do you do it this way? And then continue probing as above: **Who** decided to do it this way? **How** did they decide? Etc…

Please see the next page for a list of the 8 attributes of a functioning water management arrangement that you will be exploring during your time in the field. It is a simplified list that captures the main terms of each attribute and, where relevant, a breakdown of these terms into their constituent parts. It would be useful for you to both memorise it and to have this list available to you during the focus groups to help you guide the discussion accordingly.

The 8 attributes of a functioning water management arrangement, to be referred to during focus group discussions using <u>What, Who, How, Where, and Why questions</u>:

1) **Funds**
    a. Collecting or sourcing funds
    b. Managing funds
    c. Accounting for funds
2) **Maintenance and repair**
3) **Leadership**
4) **Decision making and enforcement**
    a. Rule making
    b. Rule breaking
    c. Other decisions
5) **Equity**
    a. Fair access to the water point
    b. Fair payment system
6) **Legitimacy**
    a. In the eyes of the community
    b. In the eyes of other stakeholders
7) **Roles and responsibilities**
    a. Of the management arrangement
    b. Of other stakeholders
8) **Stakeholder linkages**
    a. Public/government
    b. NGOs
    c. Private sector