Hidden Crisis Project

Understanding Why Rural Water Points Fail
Participant Information Sheet

Invitation to participate

You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take some time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. It is up to you to decide whether to take part or not. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

Background and project aim

Despite much investment, a high percentage of waterpoints fail soon after construction. This research is investigating why rural waterpoints fail with the aim of reducing waste and improving water services to people in communities.

The causes of failure may be complex and so this project is researching a number of different aspects including the water flows in the ground and the borehole, the performance of the hand pump and borehole and ways in which operation and maintenance are managed. The research will be conducted over a four-year period, in rural areas across Ethiopia, Malawi, and Uganda.

Your involvement

As someone who is involved in the supply, management, or use of water, you have been chosen to participate in this study. If you decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep. Please note that you are free to withdraw from the study at any time and there are no negative consequences for you if you do so. You do not have to give a reason.

Whilst there are no immediate benefits to you of participating in the project, it is hoped that in developing a sound understanding of the various reasons why water points fail, that the work will contribute to the improved performance of water points over time.

You are being asked to take part in this research though involvement in an individual interview, a group discussion, or a participatory exercise. You may be asked to share with us some information about yourself, such as your age and occupation, as well as discussing issues concerning the supply, management, or use of water as they relate to you.

Please note that all the information that we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential. Your name, and other identifying information will not be used in reports or publications of the project.

The results of this project will be presented in manuals, reports, and academic journal articles on the subject of rural water supply in Africa. Due to the nature of this research, it is likely that other researchers may find the data collected to be useful in answering future research questions. We will ensure that the data collected about you is not traceable back to you before allowing others to use it.

Any audio and/or video recordings of your activities made during this research will be used only for analysis. No other use will be made of them without your written permission, and no one outside the project will be allowed access to the original recordings.

This is a DFID/NERC/ ESRC funded research project, and has been approved via the Sheffield Geography Department's ethics review.

If you are not satisfied with the way you have been treated as a participant in this study, please feel free to contact the Principal Investigator on this project (details below). Beyond this, if you feel that your complaint has not been sufficiently addressed then the issue can be escalated to the head of the Geography Department at Sheffield University.

For any additional questions or to make a complaint, please contact:

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