

Project LC-LA 5/07 ECUADOR, Ministry of Health (MSP), Ministry of Infrastructure Development (MIDUVI), PLAN (project finished)

1 Executive Summary

Name of the project	Proyecto de Agua Segura e Higiene, Ecuador (PRASH)
Region	Project of safe water an hygiene, Ecuador 5 provinces (departments) on the coast
Name of the institution that implements the project	Ministry of Infrastructure Development (MIDUVI) in 2 provinces, Ministry of Health (MSP) in one province, PLAN (NGO) in 2 provinces
Date of signature of the agreement	Nov. 2007
Start of the project	February 2008
First extension until	May 2009
Project finished	October 2009

The project was an interesting cooperation between two Ministries and one NGO. In general it was successful, especially and in addition to its immediate results it had an overall impact in the government institutions which in Ecuador support very well SODIS projects. A further monitoring is being done by the SODIS coordinator and new projects financed by the government are in discussion.

2 Changes in the context

The project originally was planned to be implemented in the center of the country, in the Pichincha province, where also the capital Quito is located. However, in 2007 it was decided to re-locate this project to the coast in order to take advantage of a large-scale implementation project, which also was supported by other donors. (In the Pichincha Province another project is being implemented since 2008. see below) This new setup allowed the project to be implemented in the framework of a larger program at the coast. In this way, the use of existing structures can be optimized and synergies are being created (the project which originally was proposed to the Lions Clubs then later was taken up again and updated in July 2008).



Temperatures and general conditions in the project region are extremely tropical. In 2008 the region suffered very heavy rainfalls and flooding of most of the area. This provoked not only the loss of income from agriculture but also a very bad deterioration of the sanitary and water supply conditions.

3 Progress toward objectives

Significant progress was made in the training of staff (Ministries, PLAN, and Municipalities). In all the provinces the training of volunteers and of families was completed successfully. The impression was that there is an important demand for the training in the local population.

This project is a first experience in the formal coordinated implementation between two Ministries and one big NGO, to which other institutions like the Ministry of Education, some Municipalities, the Farmer Insurance and others are added. Cooperation between the institutions was successful; MIDUVI for example supported PLAN with its equipments for water analysis.

The project had been extended until May 2009 but finally needed a couple of months more to finish. It was necessary to give a good support to house to house promotion. One province stayed behind because of the director's passivity. Changes in the Ministry have resolved this problem but the province needed more time to finish activities. Finally there was an evaluation scheduled and done in October 2009.

4 Results

In these regions SODIS is already known to a certain degree (except for one province); so the project receives a very open acceptance and demand for training on behalf of the families. In these provinces there are no difficulties to access PET bottles since the consumption of bottled soft beverages is very high.

Indicator	programmed	results
		Oct 2008
Number of personnel of the partner trained by the FUNDACION SODIS-coordinator	500	300
Nº of families trained	25'000	22'000
Nº families who practice SODIS	18'750	15'000
Nº families who boil the water	5'000	4'100
Nº families who wash their hands	25'000	14'850
Nº families which chlorinate the water	1'250	1'080
Nº of participating schools	100	1'200
Nº of teachers trained	200	300
Nº of students trained	5'000	7'200

As can be seen in the table the immediate results are largely positive. Though the target number of families trained and practicing water disinfection was not reaches completely – due to the problems with the director in one province – the numbers of schools involved and teachers and students trained is higher than the target.

Some other aspects are remarkable: There exists a very strong demand in the population of the coastal provinces for training in water disinfection; young doctors were very well involved and interested in the project; house to house visits are very important and very appreciated by the people; a considerable number of promoters have been trained and form an important network for future projects, neighbor communities where the project did not work directly copied the practice of SODIS.

In Ecuador meanwhile almost all public and private institutions which are active in the public health sector are implementing SODIS, which means that in the future they will not need much more help of Fundación SODIS.

5 Lessons learned

Implementation with several big institutions participating resulted in a significant effect of scale although it creates significant bureaucratic difficulties.



The emergency which occurred in the coastal provinces shows that it would be a good idea to train SODIS-staff to this respect and take advantage of such opportunities. However, this also requires a more flexible handling of funds.

The visits to the families are very important and should be on a scale of at least one visit each month during 12 months. This important activity has a cost which should be taken into account.

This project has created great expectations, especially in the

Municipalities which are responsible by law to provide basic services to their people. The good results will open more doors to replicate, and indeed the project is seen as a first step to a second one with 35'000 families.

There exists the risk that the results get lost when the projects finishes as scheduled. It is very important to find a way of financing a follow up.

6 Financial Situation

The project received financial support of USD 84'896,50 from the Lions Clubs Switzerland and Fundación SODIS. USD 75'417.65 were transferred and/or invested in promotion materials, workshops, communication and logistics etc. The financial report of the last expenses (September -October 2009) is still pendent.

Authors: Diego González, Michael Schulte/ December 2009