Existing[1] Good Practice Case 2:
Notice Boards to Display Information on Good Governance and Transparency

A case of Itula Sub-county

Itula Sub-county is found in Moyo district in West Nile region of Uganda. The sub-county has 18 villages. Itula Sub-county has 17 staff who run the daily activities at the Sub-county. It also has a functioning Water and Sanitation Coordination Committee, which performs the following roles:

- Planning and budgeting for Water and Sanitation activities (WASH)
- Monitoring WASH activities
- Coordinating SC-WSCC meetings
- Evaluating and reporting WASH activities

As a good practice in improving good governance and transparency, the Sub-county has set out to improve communication of WASH information by displaying all WASH information on notice boards. The displayed information relates to:

1. *Community contributions for Operation and Maintenance of Water points*

The Water User Committees collect monthly water user fee. They report these contributions to the Sub-county. The Sub-county staff then summaries this information and displays it on the notice board at the Sub-county, showing what each parish has contributed and also giving the grand total for the particular month.

2. *Hygiene and sanitation coverage*

The Health Assistant displays data collected from household surveys summarised as sanitation coverage and safe water coverage.

3. *Invitation for meetings*

Invitations for meetings are being announced on the notice board. This has also been the case in inviting the Sub-county staff, Water User Committee members and school representatives as participants for the dialogue session on good governance at the Sub-county level (in the context of this project).

4. *Time period of displayed information*

The displayed information remains at least one month on the notice board, sometimes longer until it can be replaced with new updated information.

5. *Location of display*

The information is displayed on the front wall of the Sub-county offices. This has been demarcated for display of information and is known by all citizens to be an information point.

6. *Responsibility of organising display*

The Sub-county administration is in charge of handling the notices and protection of the notice board.

Success factors

Notices are displayed in secure places e.g. at the Sub-county headquarters or at water points where the community members will pass all the time and will easily notice the new information.

Specific information like calling for community meetings is displayed at water points where a large community audience is reached.

Notice boards are accessible to all the community members without any restriction.

Lessons learnt

The notice boards are used for communication on a regular basis, which has contributed to an increase in community awareness on issues that affect them. There, citizens can find frequently new information, planning information, monthly records, announcements etc. Therefore, it is a channel for communication in a clear and open way to the citizens.

Challenges

At community level, there are no well-designated and protected notice boards; thus some information can be vandalized or may get lost.

There are not yet well established parish offices or centres in villages. This affects a consequent wide dissemination and accessibility of information.

There are no clear channels of feedback from the community members about the use of this notice boards and the relevance of the information.

Itula Sub-county has four dialects of languages spoken by the indigenous people making it hard to get the information through to all community members. The present information display is not yet in all local languages.

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[1] [1] Existing means that it was reported a good case in the first Dialogue by the participants