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Baseline Survey Factsheet on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene in Bule Town, SNNPR, Ethiopia

SUMMARY

- This Factsheet presents Bule town summary of the baseline survey conducted by IRC WASH as part of the independent monitoring and evaluation of the KfW funded “Durable WASH Solutions to Drought in Southern Ethiopia - Planning for the Future” programme implemented by UNICEF Ethiopia between 2020-2015 (referred to as “Three Town Project” in this report). This town factsheet presents the status of WASH services by the end of 2020 and before implementing the project. It covers water and sanitation services in the town and in selected satellite villages, as well as WASH services in schools and health care facilities.
- Bule town water supply systems have not been maintained since construction and are inadequate for serving the increasing population. Investments in water supply infrastructure and capacity development of town water management are expected to address these challenges. Pro-poor measures need to be taken to ensure affordability of piped water. In rural communities open defecation needs to be eradicated. Market-based sanitation activities are to move urban dwellers up the sanitation ladder. In schools and health care facilities access to reliable water is a major challenge, they should be connected to the town water supply system. Once that has happened handwashing facilities should be installed.

Introduction

Bule town water supply was constructed during the mid-1990 EC or early 2000 GC and has never been maintained since then. It was constructed for a total population of 3000-5000, but now the population of the town has increased five to sixfold and the time it takes to fill the major town reservoir is getting longer and longer. Initially, at

the time of construction, it took less than six hours to fill the 100-cubic-meter reservoir, but now they have to wait more than 14 hours. The pipelines are also not maintained and most of the public taps are not operational. Out of eight public taps, only three were functional during the baseline study.

Figure 1: Map showing the location of Bule



The community members primarily collect water for drinking from water pipes connected to a few households, water kiosks and public taps. Water for household consumption other than drinking is mainly collected from hand dug wells, springs, and open sources. The duration of the water supply from the utility is quite limited and often lasts less than four hours. Even though the majority of the community members are not satisfied with the amount of water supplied, they are happy with the predictability of it as they know the schedule.

Getting new connections for the urban dwellers from the town utility is almost impossible these days and there are times the urban dwellers collect water from open sources, and unprotected springs. Especially, those who have constructed houses recently as part of the government's land lease program are digging their own water sources within their compound as an alternative source for water use other than drinking purposes. During household interviews and transect walks, it became clear that some households use their own dug well for drinking

water within their compound, especially on the outskirts of the town.

The majority of community members have their own toilets in the town which were constructed as part of the CLTS campaign. They seem very proud of the fact that their community members are using toilets instead of practicing open defecation.

Business facilities also complain about the scarce water supply in the town. A hotel manager in Bule town reported that *"If there is a market day tomorrow, getting water today is really challenging in Bule town. We need to fill the barrel and all the other water containers for our customers, but it is not easy to do that given the limited water supply time in the town. Sometimes we rely on delivery, and we must incur additional costs for that. Water is a big problem in this town."*

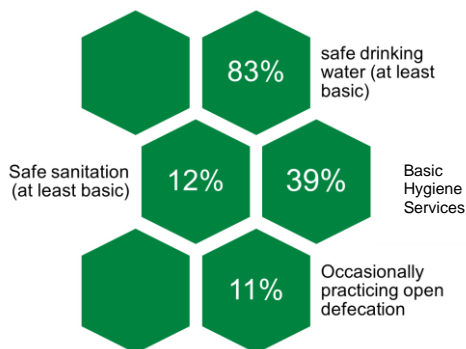
Figure 2: Collecting drinking water



Key Information

Bule is the capital town of Bule woreda in Gedeo Zone, SNNPR. The projected population for 2020 was 25,596. There are three satellite villages with a total population of 6,517 for the same period (2020) which need to be connected to the town water supply system: Okolo 1, Osole Majo, Suko and Sika. This comes down to a combined population of 32,113

Figure 3: Projected WASH status in Bule



Overall, access to drinking water is difficult to score as systems became non-functional over the year in the town during the year. Household data depicts the service level and time spent fetching water when the scheme was functional.

Figure 5: Time spent collecting water in Bule

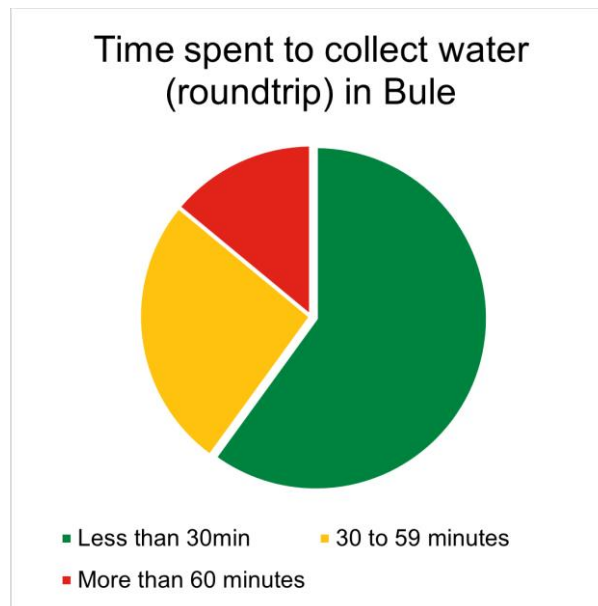


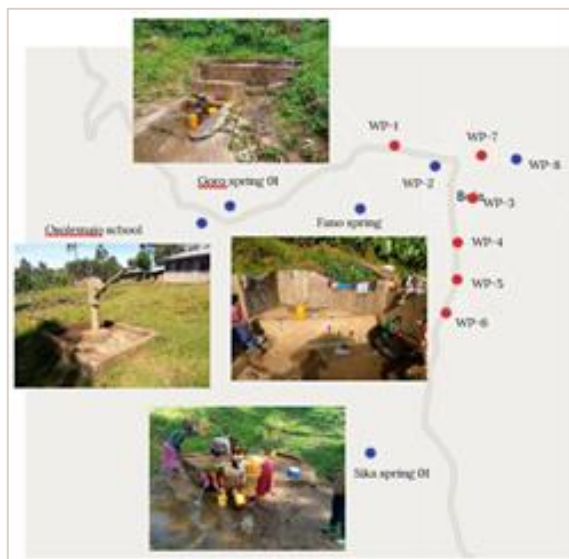
Figure 4: Sampling blocks (top left), visited households (top right), selected satellite villages (bottom left), surveyed schools and health facilities



Conclusions

Reliable access to sufficient drinking water is a major challenge in the intervention town of Bule. Investments in the water supply infrastructure and the capacity of the town water management are expected to effectively address these challenges. Currently, poor households are less likely to have access to at least basic water services and they are more likely to use surface water. This indicates that special attention needs to be given to reducing these disparities during project implementation. Project activities should include pro-poor measures to ensure affordability of piped water for everyone.

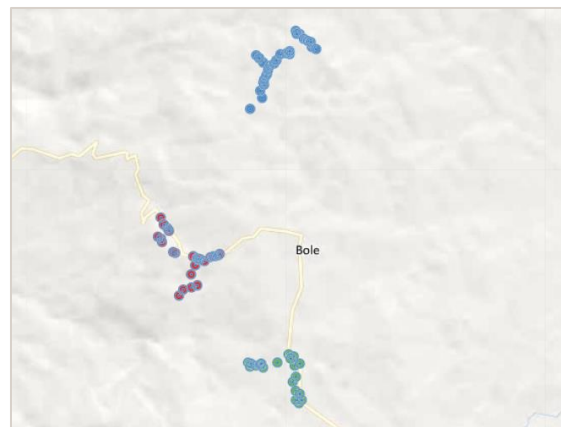
Figure 6: Surveyed waterpoints: functional (blue) and non-functional (red)



Town water management needs to be strengthened so that service providers can reliably track the amount of water produced and supplied, prepare audited financial records, and establish a comprehensive asset management system. Sanitation coverage varies between the urban and rural areas. In the satellite villages, the focus needs to be on sustainably eradicating open defecation, while in the urban areas focus needs to be on market-based sanitation activities.

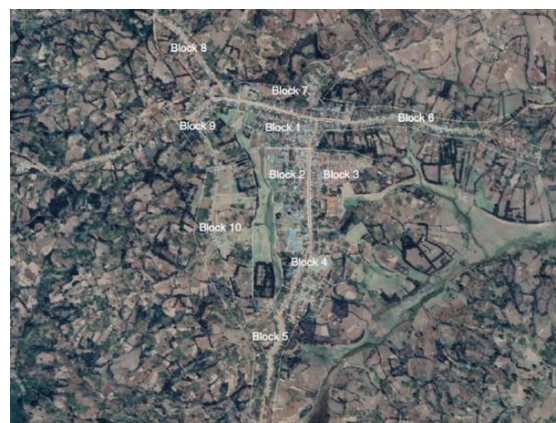
Overall, the quality of existing sanitation and handwashing facilities is relatively poor and an active private sector that offers attractive and affordable products and services is essential for households to move up the sanitation service ladder.

Figure 7: Effectively visited households



In addition to setting up sanitation marketing centers, it is essential to establish effective promotion strategies for improved sanitation and handwashing products, and to address affordability issues of the poorest.

Figure 8: Sampling blocks of Bule town



In schools and health facilities access to reliable water supply is a major challenge and all schools and health facilities should be connected to the town water supply systems. Once water is available, the installation of proper handwashing stations should be addressed especially near toilets and at the point of care in health facilities. In most schools and health facilities there is no need for the construction of new sanitation facilities (except for some health posts).

References

3T project baseline report

Photo Credits

Maps from Google Earth, 2021

Photos taken by enumerators during the baseline data collection

About Durable WASH in Southern Ethiopia Programme

Further information on baseline study findings from Bule and two other towns are discussed in the main baseline report. This report is available from UNICEF.

This factsheet was produced by the IRC WASH providing independent monitoring and knowledge management services to the Durable WASH in Southern Ethiopia Programme. The Durable WASH Plus programme is jointly implemented by the Government of Ethiopia and UNICEF to support the One WASH National Programme (OWNP). Funding is provided by Federal Government of Germany through BMZ/KfW.

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