

agency news



OXFAM

Oxfam has been very busy over the last few months with Emergency Operational Water and Sanitation projects all over the world. The key programmes have been: Mozambique floods, East and West Timor refugees and conflict, Sierra Leone IDPs, Ethiopia drought, Eritrea IDPs and Indonesia. Many of the long-term emergencies still have large programmes such as Angola, Great Lakes (Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi) Kosovo crisis and South Sudan.

On the proactive side we have completely revised the Oxfam Water Kit Manuals and they are now out in CD, ring-bound manual or very soon all together in a book form. The standard manuals are now: 1. *Water Pumping Equipment*; 2. *Water Storage Equipment*; 3. *Water Distribution Equipment*; 4. *Water Filtration Equipment*; 5. *Coagulation and Disinfection Equipment*; 6. *Hand Dug Well Equipment*.

A new Oxfam *Technical Manual* is now ready. Called 'Guidelines for Excreta Disposal in Emergencies', it will be out in a different format to the Kit Manuals. This includes not only guidelines but operational information, drawings and advice on dealing with excreta disposal. Still with publications, two additional new small manuals will ready in the next month: *Solid Waste Disposal in Emergencies* and *Water Test Kit Support Manual*.

On the hardware side the largest single new piece of equipment developed over the past two years and is now in stock has been the Up Flow Clarifier (Oxfam code FUC). This kit, which can be built inside of an Oxfam T11 tank incorporates water treatment technology that is used in more permanent plants, with some unique design features which have enabled it to be engineered to fit into a 'rapid response package'.

Other new developments are a plastic Latrine Slab with one or two

unique features that should make it more flexible than excising slabs and a simple new tap that fits in the Oxfam Bucket to give it more domestic uses.

< www.oxfam.org.uk >

Paul Sherlock

Public Health Engineering Team

CARE International UK

Most water projects focus on poor rural areas. However, many people crowded into city slums and shanty towns also lack access to clean, running water. In response to these needs, CARE International UK continues to develop urban-based water projects.

The PROSPECT project, funded by DFID, aims to supply clean water to several compounds (shanty towns) in Lusaka. CARE Zambia provides technical support to construct boreholes, pumping stations and water stands, and lays pipes. Local people decide the location of tapstands, how the scheme should operate and contribute labour for pipe-laying and the tapstand construction.

Chipata compound, with a population of around 20,000 people, now has a functioning water supply. To ensure sustainability, households pay a modest monthly fee which is invested in maintenance. The water supply is now in the first stages of passing into community control, to be managed by the Chipata Community Trust on a long lease.

Working through local CARE offices, CARE International UK continues to operate functioning water systems in cities devastated by long-term conflicts and international sanctions, notably in Baghdad and Kabul. In such situations, community empowerment is difficult. The emphasis remains on ensuring functional and practical maintenance and monitoring, using local materials and staff.

< www.careinternational.org.uk >

Kaye Stearman

RedR

Both the training and the recruitment and placement departments of RedR have been very busy over the past couple of months with a particular emphasis on overseas activities. In April, RedR was one of the major contributors in the organisation of the second Emergency Personnel Seminar, which was held in New York. Representatives from 41 agencies attended and many issues relating to the humanitarian sector were discussed. (The report from the seminar is available on our website.)

In May, RedR's focus was East Africa, where we are concentrating on local capacity building and hope to soon have established an office. Recently there has been a considerable rise in the number of applications to the register from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania and hence we held register interviews at the IFRC offices in Nairobi. Twelve candidates were interviewed, ten of whom were accepted onto the register. There are now about 35 RedR members who live or who are on long-term assignments in East Africa.

We also ran a Managing People and Projects training course – the first RedR course to be held in East Africa. Encouragingly, the course was over-subscribed well in advance and the candidates were of a very high standard.

Back in London, RedR's director, Bobby Lambert spoke at an evening lecture hosted by the ICE at which Clare Short was awarded an honorary fellowship of the ICE. The theme of the evening's presentations was 'Engineering the Way Out of Poverty'. Mr Lambert's speech emphasised the fact that RedR is based on the premise that addressing such poverty requires the professionalism and sense of purpose embodied in the engineering world.

< www.redr.org >

Camilla Vaux