

# Business Solution to Social Problem

Sustainable Sanitation Transformation in peri-urban and urban Project (SSTPU)

SNV Ethiopia

Issue one



## Message from the Country Director

Already during my first days in office at SNV Ethiopia, I learned about the SSTPU project that, with funding from the EU as well as with an own contribution by SNV, is assisting the communities in peri-urban and urban areas of Ethiopia to construct disability-sensitive and multiple-purpose market centre and school WASH facilities. I was curious to visit the facilities and learn more about their effects on the community's hygiene and sanitation.

Fortunately, I recently got a chance to visit the market centre and school WASH facilities in Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regional State at Tula. The market centre WASH facility provides toilet, urinal, hand-washing, shower and shop services to increase community access to WASH facilities as well as cafeteria services to make the service sustainable; whereas the school facility provides toilet, urinal, handwashing and menstrual hygiene management facilities.

The innovative idea of linking these facilities with biogas digesters is most interesting, as well the employment provided making people having a sustained interest in maintaining the facilities as this in fact serves their own interest as well. The youth, responsible to run the facility, told me that they are using the gas produced as a source of energy for the cafeteria. Since they are in the middle of a market centre, they definitely will benefit from the abundant input for the digester and contribute to the market place sanitation. These organised youth have a very interesting ambition to use the bio slurry or compost for their garden or sell it to the neighbouring farmers. The other interesting component of this initiative is the school WASH facility. The facilities at schools are linked with biogas digesters to use the energy produced as a source of energy, fuel and light for the school laboratory and cafeteria. I hope all these exercises will have great impact on the school communities, market attendants and the neighbouring communities' hygiene and sanitation, and the agriculture sector.



Rens Versappen: SNV country director Ethiopia office

In such kinds of initiatives sustainability of services and facilities is an issue. To ensure sustainability of the service and facility, the Sustainable Sanitation Transformation in Peri-urban and Urban Areas of Ethiopia (SST-PU) project from the beginning has engaged municipalities. However, we have learnt that availing the facilities may not guarantee use of the facilities. Promoting the facilities as well as the services is a key activity. Further, promotion is a key element for replication. I am sure the Government of Ethiopia will take the structure of these facilities as a minimum standard for peri-urban and urban market centre and school based WASH facilities construction and replicate it.

## Sustainable Sanitation Transformation in peri-urban and urban Project (SSTPU) in Brief

The Sustainable Sanitation Transformation in Urban and Peri-urban areas (SSTPU) project is a three year project running from 2012 to 2015. The aim is to contribute to the achievements of MDG-7 through the provision of safe sanitation coverage for about 146,744 people in 12 poor peri-urban towns in Ethiopia by 2015.

Specifically the project was aimed at improving sanitation related behaviour through the promotion of hygiene knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) in schools, market centres and

SNV and its governmental and NGO partners facilitated the building of 12 disability-sensitive market centres and 16 school WASH facilities across the country. The facilities began to contribute by increasing access to improved sanitation and hygiene coverage among school community, market attendants and the neighbouring community.

These facilities have been linked with biogas digesters. The gas produced in targeted areas is used as a source of energy and fuel for the

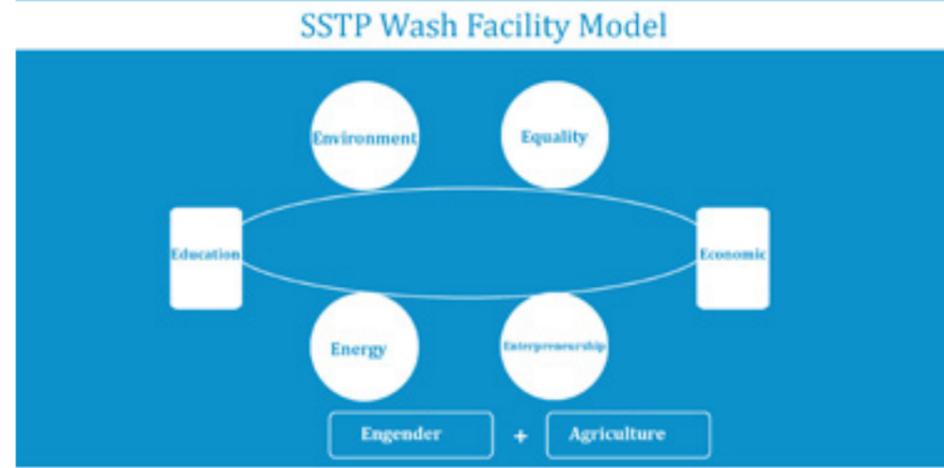
embedded services such as the cafeteria.

The bio slurry, on the other hand, is used by the school garden and envisaged to be sold for the neighbouring farmers.

The market centre WASH facility provides toilet, urinal, hand

washing, shower and shop services to increase community access to WASH facilities as well as cafeteria services to ensure the sustainability of the sanitation service.

About 250 organised youths took full responsibility for managing the day-to-day activities of the WASH facilities, while the responsibility of managing the school facilities rests with the school community.



households. The project also sought to increase access to improved sanitation and hygiene by combining sanitation facilities with bio-digesters, whereby human excreta is converted into bio-slurry and biogas. Finally the project looked to promote public-private partnerships for enterprise development and employment opportunities for youths and women in the hygiene and sanitation chain.

SSTPU is implemented in Tigray, SN-NPR and the Oromia region using matching funds secured from the EU and SNV with its local partners, including Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Inter Church Aid Commission (EOC\_DICAC), Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EE-MCY), Relief Society of Tigray (REST) and KMG Ethiopia.

# Business solution to a social Problem

Over the past 50 years, through good times and bad, SNV has not wavered from its initial commitment to empower communities and disadvantaged individuals who otherwise struggle to find employment.

With its Sustainable Sanitation Transformation for peri-urban and urban Project (SSTPU), SNV seeks to assist unemployed youth across Ethiopia by helping them become the small business operators. It provides them with the means of participating in the workforce in a way that is adaptable to their circumstances and offers a dignified way of earning a living.

The youth organized under this project see an opportunity to positively change their lives and seize it with both hands.

Gadissa Hailu, SSTPU manager, said "I am proud to see this project blossom into a viable and successful business solution to a social problem."

"More than 250 young people in 12 towns of Ethiopia are using SSTPU as a means of pulling themselves up," added Rens Verstappen, country director of SNV Ethiopia.

Almost all young people we interviewed have found a new direction and a sense of purpose, and in turn they have made the community aware of their sanitation situations.

"If it was not for SNV project, I would be back to small family farming, I am grateful to SNV for starting me off at this project," said Messer Sahilu, an Adilo youth.



Sustainable Sanitation Transformation in Peri-Urban and Urban Areas  
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12 small towns project  
Abi Adi Town Project  
Abi Adi market, Abi Adi and  
Adi Gidi Primary schools and  
surrounding communities



## Moments with Rens Verstappen, SNV Country Director

What are SNV doing across Ethiopia?

We have a very big programme here. In fact Ethiopia is one of the biggest programmes for SNV – it is a very important country. We work here in three sectors: renewable energy, agriculture and (WASH) Water Hygiene and Sanitation.

Tell me more about your WASH project particularly about your urban project?

We have projects like Menstrual Hygiene Managements and Sustainable Sanitation Transformation for peri-urban and urban Project (SSTPU) I feel both of them are really sustainable and innovative. SSTPU focuses on urban areas; specifically market places. The project builds facilities at market places, combined with a shop(caf ) so people can buy things in the shop and at the same time make use of showers and toilets, with a little payment.

The shop sells coffee, tea, and soft drinks. For making coffee and tea you need gas as well as lighting. The nice thing is if people use the facilities, the faeces can be used to produce energy through biogas. Basically recycling the human waste creates energy which goes into the shop – and in fact that energy is free for the shop. At the same time the slurry from the biogas production can be sold to farmers: it is very good fertilizer.

The second thing is employing people who have interest in maintaining the facilities. The staff employed there generate their own income because if people like it, they use the facilities. So if the facilities are well maintained people will keep coming and they keep their job. Other facilities provided by this project are WASH facilities at schools. This is especially interesting for girls because they can have a shower whenever they need throughout the month. WASH groups have been established and I have visited some of them. The facilities are maintained by WASH groups at school. I spoke to some of the groups and they are really enthusiastic. They saw that it was in their own interest to maintain the facilities.

What are the major achievement so far?

There has been a lot of awareness raising. And we estimate around 100,000 people were really be aware of the need for good facilities for hygiene and sanitation. Twelve facilities built at market places and they will provide continuous employment for youth and women so that is a big achievement I think. At schools we have established 16 WASH facilities and they are going to be maintained as part of the schools.

Who is taking over once the project is completed?

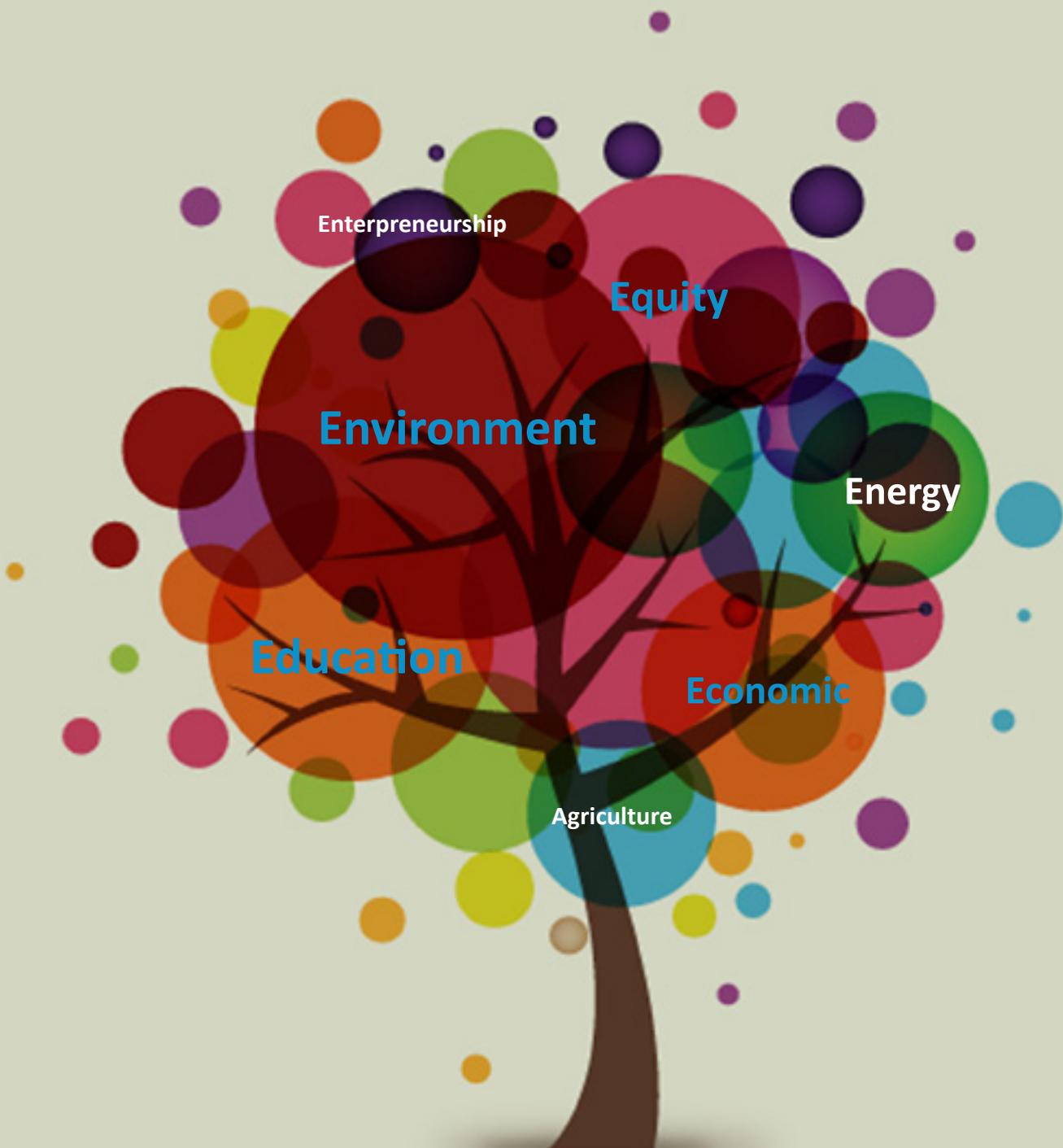
The facilities will be taken over by the municipalities. The municipalities are giving over their responsibilities to the groups managing those facilities. So I think that is a good choice because if they are responsible and make profit out of it and they are the one maintaining it. I think the government is quite happy with it I think it is an innovative approach happening for the first time in Ethiopia and could be an interesting example for other countries as well.

What does the future hold for urban sanitation?

A lot I think. Of course it is a challenge to find funding but we know urbanization is a global phenomenon and happening in Ethiopia as well. So there is a big challenge in providing urban facilities. For SNV we have made urban WASH a new focus area in addition to Rural WASH. I think world wide the new SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) has just been accepted and it clearly specified in SDG 6 access and availability of WASH for all that means including rural and urban areas. I think it is going to be an exciting new area for SNV and also for Ethiopian authorities to work in the future.

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## SSTPU WASH Model