Participative approach
An integrated project: Experience of Douar Ben Abid

Majida Zahraoui- ALMAE
What is unacceptable today?

- Shantytowns are not recognized: populations there have no access to basic infrastructures like water.
- Even though drinking water is a priority in the water policy in urban areas in Morocco.
LACK OF HYGIENE

PRECARIOUSNESS

IGNORANCE

INSALUBRITY

PROMISCUITY

POVERTY

STRONG CONCENTRATION OF THE POPULATION

INEQUAL ACCESS TO WATER

ILLITERACY

LACK OF HYGIENE

CONCENTRATION OF THE POPULATION

POVERTY

LACK OF HYGIENE

INSALUBRITY

PROMISCUITY

IGNORANCE

PRECAIRIOUSNESS
Access to a healthy water

- Important effects on development and public health
- Human rights to guarantee health and human dignity

**Waste water treatment and sewage allows:**

- Protection of individuals from the risks of diseases
- Protection of underground, surface water and littoral water resources
- Preservation of the environment quality (soil, water flows and lakes)
Target is to change the situation by giving priority to:

- Development of knowledge in access to water and sanitation
- Intervention strategy with participative and transversal approach
- Participation of all actors: public, private, NGOs and local population
Target is to change the situation by giving priority to:

- Financing
- Capitalization of experiences
- Duplicate the project in similar sites
- Information and awareness
ALMAE contributes to the national programs with an action in Douar Ben Abid

- A social, economical and medical study in order to:
  - Draw up a summary of the problems
  - Identify the population’s needs
  - Set up an integrated project intended to improve the living conditions in this slum.
The site of the action: **Douar Ben Abid** (Inhabitants: 4090, households: 877)

The site shows the importance of accessibility to safe water for populations and its impact on health.
Douar Ben Abid
The habitat
Evacuation of solid waste

Contamination of ground water
Mosquitos affect the well-being of the inhabitants
Pollution

- Sound Pollution
- Bad smells
- Release of fume
- Pollutants (dust)
Directives of this project: water and its quality impact on health

- Habitat, education, social mobilization, capacity building and income activities, particularly for women.
- First results: strong demand of the population of the slum in water and sanitation.
- Medical and laboratory exams showed the poor conditions of water supplying and sanitation.
Problems to be solved

- To reduce water related to health risks to a minimum
- To enhance women’s capacities in the field of hygiene and management of water resources
- To rise awareness on the role active women play in their immediate environment related to sanitary education and prevention
- To minimize the negative impact of polluted water on environment
Problems to be solved

- To focus on the partnership utility value in the subject matter;
- To confirm that access to cheap sanitation along with hygiene awareness are of great importance in the human rights;
- To consider the improvement of programs in water sanitation and hygiene as the key issue to human development and the education system.
Methodology

- A sample of 248 households: 25% of the population of the *douar Ben Abid*, live in the slum.
- **Inquiry**: demographic characteristics, habitat, social services, living conditions and socio-economic signs of precariousness (slum).
- Questionnary on knowledge and attitudes related to water pollution (acute diarrheas, deshydration, infections …)
Methodology

- **Survey on women’s conditions**: (After a first contact with women and their families)
- **Clinical examination (check-up)**
- **Diagnosis and distribution of medicines in the site**
- **Establishment of a representing the precarious situation of the inhabitants of the slum**
Stools analysis (viral, bacterial and parasitologic)

- Giardias
- Entamoeba Coli
- Entamoeba Histolytica
Bacteriological analysis of the well water

- Identification of « coliformes » in the water of the well indicates a possible fecal contamination in water.
Stages carried out on the transversal approach

- Institutional level in order to validate the project with the local community
- Synergy and partnerships in order to act on various aspects of the situation
- Medical phase: investigations, tracking, in order to evaluate the medical priorities, distribution of medicine etc…
- Social mobilization
Definition of a methodology of intervention and integrated project

- National Initiative of Human Development (INDH) is today a good instrument which makes it possible to overcome legal and institutional obstacles.
- Ben Abid slum is among the precarious districts that profit from the INDH.
- Priorities are
  - To meet the needs identified with the participation of the populations
  - To make a partnership with the local association (Association Ben Abid) who shows us the problems and the needs of the populations of the slum.
Perspectives

- **Educate women** to recognize symptoms of the current hydric diseases and react consequently.
- **Carry out a direct evaluation:**
- **Re-evaluate the survey** through a second similar questionnary to know the impact of our action in this slum.
Perspectives

- Establish a cartography of hydric diseases (choice of sites to be defined)
- Sensibilise through relevant information, supports: guides, posters, spots and experience sharing.
- Evaluate another stage of this project in other sites...
Who works?

Group Health       ALMAE Academia
Health sector
Public sector
Local authorities
Private sector
Elected bodies
Health and « sustainable development "

- Health: significant aspect of the sustainable development
- « Sustainable Health » means:
  - Drinking water supply
  - sanitation
  - Medical education