

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Primary Schools Construction Programme

In November 1999, GITEC initiated its consultancy services to the Ministry of Education (SEE) in Santo Domingo in support of the Primary Schools Construction Programme. The purpose of the Programme was to contribute to the improvement of school infrastructure in the educational regions of Azua and Barahona in the South West of the country – an area affected by widespread poverty, subsistence agriculture, high emigration rates and with a large population of children of primary school age – through the construction of new classrooms, the rehabilitation of existing classrooms, and the establishment of participatory maintenance practices at the local level. As far as possible structures should be to hurricane proof specifications, in order to offer shelter during the hurricane season.

The information available with regard to the number of schools and schoolchildren present in the target area was not reliable, nor as to the physical state of the infrastructure. The great majority of schools were scattered in rural areas often difficult to get to, and had one to four classrooms. Moreover, there was a dearth of local building skills, and the operational capacity of small contractors proved to be very uneven. As a consequence, while it engaged in initiating the projects requested by SEE, the Programme undertook a detailed survey, with the participation of the representatives of 495 primary schools, that revealed that very few schools were in a fit state to benefit from mere maintenance, that the deterioration of existing infrastructure was very widespread and needed often complex rehabilitation to be properly functional. Furthermore, the demand for additional classrooms exceeded by far the requirements originally estimated.

Towards the end of the year 2001, it was considered that, given the real demands of Azua and Barahona, the results the Programme was aiming at could only be seen as the first phase of a larger effort. Therefore, the implementation of a second phase was agreed upon in order to benefit a greater number of schools and thus, with the addition of the interventions of other agencies present in the target area, satisfy most, if not all, of the school infrastructure

requirements of the area. The first construction phase ended in June 2003 and exceeded the original targets with the construction and extension of 45 schools (196 classrooms), rehabilitation of 93 schools (535 classrooms), electrical, water and sanitation services installed or upgrad-

ed in all of the schools attended, and establishment of a participative maintenance system in 216 schools (982 classrooms). Moreover, the SEE adopted the maintenance practices validated by the Programme and undertook the first nationwide maintenance campaign.



In January 2003, GITEC was entrusted with the continuous support of the implementation of the second construction phase (2003 – 2005), with Mr. N. Houghton (Architect) again as team leader.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:
Newly constructed Primary School in Villarpando

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC: Regional TBC Conference

In May 2003, GITEC together with its Kyrgyz partner firm organised a regional TBC conference at Issyk-Kul Lake within the framework of the second programme to combat tuberculosis in the Kyrgyz Republic, funded through the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW). Participants were invited from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Kyrgyz Republic. Unfortunately representatives from Turkmenistan could not attend the conference. However, representatives of the WHO/GDF from Geneva (A. Vindineeva and R. Matiru) and from Kazakhstan (Dr. Tsogt), and of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Mr. Fischer) and of KfW (Mr. Dorf, Mrs. Hefe, Ms. Hilt, Dr. Reff) joined the conference which was inaugurated by His Excellency the Minister of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic, Mitalip M. Mamytov.

The conference dealt at first with the epidemiological situation in the participating countries and their respective progress and level of implementing the DOTS-strategy (direct observed therapy short-course) which was recommended by WHO. Further topics of discussion were the emerging resistance against common anti-tuberculosis drugs and the status of procuring drugs through the GDF (Global Drug Facility) of the WHO.

Representing GITEC, Prof. Dr. M. Leichsenring and Dr. med. Dipl.-Chem. Th. Wolff held lectures on special issues: Diagnostics of Tuberculosis in Children, and Tuberculosis in Prisons. Working groups then elaborated concepts to ensure an improved implementation of the DOTS-strategy for the population and for improved diagnosis and treatment of the TBC in prisons.

ERITREA: Rural Water Supply Gash Barka

The implementation of the Rural Water Supply Programme in the region of Gash Barka, originally started by GITEC in 1998 and then - after an interruption due to the border conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia - recommenced in June 2001, has now been extended up to the end of 2004. It follows the revised implementation concept which evolved from a detailed village survey executed in 2001 to assess the significantly changed situation in the project area (see our report in GITEC News Letter No. 46 of December 2001). This concept includes the following measures to be carried out under the programme: (i) construction of approx. 35 new water wells, to be equipped with hand pumps; (ii) construction of approx. 30 new water wells and 5 large diameter dug wells, to be equipped with solar powered electric submersible pumps; (iii) construction of approx. 35 small-scale piped water distribution systems including reservoirs and public fountains; and (iv) rehabilitation of 3 existing large diameter wells. These measures are accompanied by a Community Participation and Health Education (CPHE) campaign.

The consulting services are divided into two parts:

- Preparatory Works and Construction Supervision, comprising demographic survey, hydrogeological surveys and borehole siting, design of drilled water



ERITREA: Drilling of Wells in the Gash Barka Region

wells, hand-dug wells and small central solar powered water supply systems, preparation of tender documents and assistance in tendering and contracting, supply and installation of pumps, and supervision of drilling and construction works

- Accompanying Measures, comprising implementation of the CPHE campaign, attendance during pump installation, organization and training of water committees, and monitoring

Up to March 2003 the construction of 28 drilled water wells and the rehabilitation of two more wells has been completed. The success rate for drilling of water wells is 62%, and is above the average experienced by other organisations drilling for water in the Gash Barka Region. A database has been designed and all relevant data on water wells drilled under this Programme has been entered; a corresponding data base on test pumping results is being prepared.

The Programme, funded by means from the Financial Cooperation between the Government of Eritrea and the German Government through KfW, is still being directed by Mr. E. Grimm (Dipl.-Geol.). The CPHE component rests under the responsibility of Mrs. M. Duerto (Dipl.-Geogr., M.Sc. Env. Man.).

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Natural Resources Conservation in the River Yaque Basin

In the context of tripartite cooperation between KfW, GTZ and DED which seeks to combine environmental protection and poverty reduction, an effective and sustainable nature conservation system is to be established in the area of the Upper Yaque River in the interior of the Dominican Republic. The project will contribute to the conservation of natural resources and biodiversity in four protection zones covering altogether 2,450 km² in cooperation with the local population, and to the improvement of living conditions for the smallholder families in the adjacent areas, the majority of which lack a legal title for their land.

The project, complex in nature, constitutes an intensification and extension of the original project for conservation and management of the natural resource base in the River Yaque basin, sponsored by

GTZ and DED. These two institutions concentrate their activities on advisory services to the responsible institutions and the target population respectively, in the fields of agricultural land use, marketing, public relations, and ecotourism. The German Financial Cooperation / KfW, on the other hand, will focus their efforts on the financing and executing of operation plans and the provision of financial incentives for the sustainable management of private and communal lands. The measures are designed in such a way that the investments into forestry and agriculture will contribute to both resource conservation and generation of incomes. They will be prepared and implemented by the beneficiary population, assisted by local Consultants and NGOs. Further to this, investments will be financed for the selective improvement of infrastructure in the four protection zones, in respect of ecotourism

development, as well as for preparation and implementation of management plans.

Executing agency for the five-year programme is the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARN) in Santo Domingo, created in 2000. GITEC was entrusted in May 2003 by the Ministry to render advisory services to both the executing agency in the capital and the executing unit in the project area. These are related to all technical, organisational and administrative matters associated with project planning and implementation. Our team leader and long-term advisor, Dr. agr. L. Mairich (Agricultural Economist), has already assumed his duties in the Dominican Republic. He will be assisted in specific technical and conceptual matters by a high-level team of international and national short-term advisors.

PR OF CHINA: Smallholder Afforestation Project Hebei II

This second project in Hebei Province will be the eighteenth Sino-German Afforestation Project (SGAP) in China, thirteen of which have been implemented since 1992 with GITEC providing advisory services and training. The project is part of the Chinese "Three-North Shelterbelt Programme" and shall be model for improvements of small-scale mixed afforestations and their individual target-oriented management, to be replicated in other national and international programmes.

SGAP Hebei I commenced in mid-1996 in four counties of Baoding Prefecture in the southern part of the Province, and ended in 2002. It has successfully established structures and procedures and improved silvicultural techniques. Hebei I shall also serve as long-term observation and training area for the beneficiaries, in that way creating ground for a more complex approach of the second upcoming project. Hebei II intends to develop the forestry sector in parts of Chengde Municipality northwest of Beijing. The project aims to afforest about 27,000 ha of protection and production forests, including a substantial part of Economic Trees, mainly covering fruit

trees and shrubs. Due to the limited production potential following low precipitation and shallow soils, subsidies for the ecological services are necessary to make tree management a suitable option for the rural population.

It is general SGAP practice that subsidies are paid to private households in exchange for the creation of erosion protection and windbreak forests as well as for the limited access to regenerating forest areas. They shall compensate the initial phase of forest management, where no substantial income is expected. In the long run, however, the economic value and the positive effects for the farming systems of the forests guarantee the sustainable management of the private forest compartments. A new concept of backyard fruit tree growing will add to this low regulation management.

It is indispensable for this ambitious goal that a new project philosophy focussing on the process more than on the underlying plan is adopted. The beneficiaries will have to be enabled to make their own decisions and bear the consequences as well as earn the profits of these decisions. The key for this change of mind is a well elaborated set

of training courses and modules for the different project stakeholders starting from the farmers on the ground and including also the State Forest Administration in Beijing as well as the Provincial and Municipal Forest Departments. To make these training effects workable, an organisational improvement of extension services and farmers' voluntary organisation will be crucial. New market based models of incentive and encouragement systems will be incorporated in the project structures and shall be adopted by the regional institutions for other purposes. This is expected to be the key to establish institutional and economic sustainability in the harsh environment of arid North East China.

Just as well as the feasibility study for Hebei II in 2001, the consultancy for the project's implementation financed through KfW is rendered by GITEC as lead firm of an association. Our experts, R. Stevens (M.A., B.Sc. Forestry) as Team Leader and W. Süß (M.Sc. Forestry) as Participation and Extension Specialist, have commenced their work in July 2003.

EU Framework Contract: Rural Development and Food Security

In 2000, GITEC pre-qualified for the EU Framework Contract assignments under Lot 1: Rural Development and Food Security. The purpose of this Contract is to quickly provide competent technical assistance services for EU appraisals, feasibility studies, and evaluations in the fields of agriculture, livestock, forestry, fisheries, and aqua-culture. In the past three years following the registration for Framework Contract assignments, GITEC has carried out short- and medium-term missions with diverse specializations in countries worldwide: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, PR China, Ethiopia, Georgia, Honduras, DPR Korea, Kosovo, Lao PDR, Malawi, Peru, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam.

The following two missions are presented as typical examples for services provided:

Cambodia: The first phase of a Support Programme for the Agricultural Sector in



LAO PDR: Improved Dairy Husbandry

Cambodia (PRASAC I; 1995 - 1999) started as an emergency rehabilitation with the initial aim of meeting food security needs and poverty alleviation in rural communities, whilst the second phase (PRASAC II; 1999 - 2003) is taken as a key platform for a medium-term development strategy for rural Cambodia. GITEC's consulting services included the provision of short-term

technical assistance for a Mid-term Evaluation in June and July 2002 to review the progress and impact of the PRASAC II Programme to date in the context of the current rural, social and economic development status in Cambodia.

Lao PDR: Rural poverty is the most serious development challenge in Lao PDR. The poverty rate in the uplands is far greater than in the Mekong plains. Rural livelihoods depend to a large extent on livestock, which represents not only a main element of food security but also a source of cash income and income security. The Government of Lao PDR and the European Commission, already funding the livestock programme Strengthening of Livestock Services and Extension Activities since 1998, agreed to continue EC support to the livestock sector and proposed to earmark the amount of € 5 million for a Strengthening of Livestock Services II Project, subject to be formulated by a feasibility study, which was carried out by GITEC in February and March 2003.

PERU: Water Supply and Sewerage Huancavelica

The region around the town of Huancavelica, the capital of the province of the same name in southern Peru, is among the poorest areas of the country. According to the Census of 1993, some 90 % of the population live under low income conditions and 51 % in extreme poverty. This situation comes also true for the capital which faces an estimated population of some 62,000 inhabitants by the year 2015.

The project to be implemented in the town of Huancavelica aims at the sufficient and permanent supply of the town with hygienically safe drinking water and the im-

provement of its sewerage system. These measures will contribute to mitigating the spreading of water-borne diseases and improving the general state of health of the population. They will also have positive effects on the environmental situation. The executing agency of the project, the Huancavelica Municipal Enterprise for Water Supply and Sewerage (EMAPA), is being supported by the German Government through KfW for the improvement of its water supply and sewerage infrastructure.

In January 2003, GITEC was awarded by EMAPA (in association with a Peruvian consulting firm) the contract to render consulting services for the 3-phased implementation of the project: (i) revision and update of the existing design study, final design, and preparation of tender documents; (ii) assistance to EMAPA in tendering and awarding of construction works and supplies; (iii) supervision of construction. The association's team under the direction of Dipl.-Ing. F. Lantzberg has commenced work in June 2003; the envisaged project period sums up to 33 months.

MALAWI: Secondary Centres Development Programme, Phase VI

Caused by continuous population growth, by persisting poverty and an increasing scarcity of arable land, Malawi is faced with a growing rural-urban migration, predominantly into the larger cities and secondary towns. This has the effect that, without planned development, the affected centres are not in the position to offer adequate urban services to their growing populations. The Secondary Centres Development Programme (SCDP) has been addressing the needs for such planned development since the mid-1980s. To date, 8 centres have benefited from SCDP in its various phases: Karonga, Mzuzu (Northern Region), Kasungu, Salima (Central Region), Mangochi, Balaka, Liwonde and Luchenza (Southern Region). The Programme is funded by the German Government through KfW and has been implemented with the assistance of GITEC. The objective of SCDP is the support of Secondary Centres (i.e. urban centres ranked below the two National Centres Lilongwe and Blantyre) in delivering their designated central place functions for their hinterland and in absorbing the growing number of migrants from the rural areas. The Programme is thus directly contributing to Malawi Government's efforts in creating a spatially balanced growth and economic development.

With the award of SCDP's Phase VI by the Department of District and Local Govern-



MALAWI: Training of Bricklayers in Salima

ment Administration in Lilongwe in late 2002, the management of the Programme Implementation Unit (PIU) was transferred to GITEC. The PIU advises urban administrations in assembling adequate packages of improvement measures and oversees the entire implementation cycle, from aerial photography to planning and design, construction supervision, and the hand-over of completed improvements.

The packages of improvements are identified after thorough demand analysis. They contain infrastructural improvements aimed at ameliorating the towns' revenue base through the collection of fees and user charges, and by generating opportunities for employment as well as for the marketing of

hinterland products. This group typically includes produce markets, slaughter facilities, crafts centres and industrial areas, as well as bus terminals. A second line of improvements is directed at the reduction of poverty. It comprises the upgrading of unplanned urban and peri-urban settlements through the provision of basic infrastructure such as roads and paths, surface water drainage, communal water taps, and through the survey, cadastral registration and tenure allocation of housing plots to their occupants.

As an important accompanying measure, SCDP is rendering urban management advisory services to the Programme Centres. These services are aimed at enabling the urban administrations to improve their financial planning and income generation, to prepare their own urban development plans, to establish and manage land registers, and – last but not least – to operate and maintain the facilities provided under SCDP.

GITEC's project team for SCDP VI consists of 15 German and Malawian experts under the joint direction of the Programme Advisor, Dipl.-Ing. (arch.) A. Kiene and the Programme Manager, M. Moyo, M.Sc.. Phase VI started in October 2002 and is planned to be concluded in December 2004

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