



SUCCESS STORY

Project AXxes and UNICEF combine forces for WatSan



Photos: Project AXxes.

In September 2007 Project AXxes received an \$860,000 grant from UNICEF for Water and Sanitation (WatSan) interventions. With these additional resources AXxes was able to mount a campaign to increase community awareness for WatSan in 320 high-risk communities across 16 health zones.

The program embraced a multitude of activities, including training WatSan engineers and supervisors; promoting basic hygiene messages, e.g., unclean water as a vector of disease; creating hundreds of village-based WatSan committees; and recognizing the achievements of Clean Villages.

Among the many diverse achievements of this initiative were:

- 5,092 Latrines installed;
- 110 Water Sources constructed;
- 2,000 Community Relays trained;
- 16 WatSan supervisors and community mobilizers trained;
- 117 villages adopting the PHAST approach; and
- 11 "Village Assaini."

The addition of an expanded WatSan initiative to AXxes was due in part to the ability of Project AXxes to manage multiple and supplemental funding streams. Add-on funding to AXxes has included interventions for PMTCT (USAID), EPI (GAVI), and WatSan (UNICEF). This provides not only a time-effective and cost-efficient promotion of an important activity, but also increases and promotes the synergy of interventions at the community level.

Project AXxes has provided an ideal platform for UNICEF to finance WatSan interventions that are making an indelible and lasting contribution to health practices in rural communities; notably creating community awareness of the importance of clean water supplies and hygienic practices as well as implement practical modalities of disease prevention and health promotion.