


# The Jamaica WSP Project: Successes & Challenges

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# Overview

- Introductory comments
  - Revisit of the Jamaica's WSP experience
    - Pre-developmental
    - Developmental
    - Post developmental
  - Challenges
  - Lessons learnt
  - Recommendations
  - Conclusion
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# The Process

## ➤ Predevelopment Stage

- Completion of 43-item questionnaire; plus 8-point addendum
- Selection by PAHO (2005)
- Obtained endorsement from Board of Central Health Committee (CHC)
- CHC assigns oversight to its Sub-Committee on Water Quality Management
- Sensitization & Training by PAHO/CDC/USEPA Partnership Team
- Site (Water supply) selection


# The Process

## ➤ Development Stage


- Established multi-agency WSP-Task Force (with key stakeholders)
- Appointed co-chairs
- Convened Partnership Training Workshop
- Developed Implementation Plan
- Obtained Partnership support for STC
- Developed workplan with deliverables
- Benefited from ongoing Partnership guidance

# The Process

## Post Development

- Partnership support to showcase WSP at 2007 Regional LAC Workshop
  - Implementation Plan for ST Water Supply
  - Include WSP concept in Drinking Water Regulations
  - LAC Network to promote the development of WSPs
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# Challenges

- Interest executive management
  - Identify WSP strategic partners at the beginning of the process and initiate work meetings with all of them
  - Get the “Right” nominee appointed to Task Force
  - Scheduling of meeting to obtain full stakeholder participation
  - Maintaining interest among stakeholders
  - Identify financial support for the activity
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# Lessons Learnt

- Convene a **Steering Committee** comprising executive management group of the Ministry of Health and Environment, the Ministry of Water and Housing and the service provider, in this case the NWC
- Meetings should be scheduled at strategic points throughout the development of the WSP and these meetings should be included in the workplan
  - This would avoid the problem of trying to engage the executives officials at the end of the process when it is likely to be difficult and would ensure that they are fully aware of and buy-into the WSP

# Lessons Learnt

- Ensure that all relevant agencies are represented on the Task Force and add to the membership as it becomes necessary
- Ensure commitment from these organizations, particularly the water utility for the subsequent implementation of the WSP
- Integrate the health assessment component into the development of the WSP as this establishes a baseline that can be used to assess the effectiveness of the WSP during its implementation. Ideally the persons conducting the health assessment should attend Task Force meetings regularly
- While these lessons learnt are likely to extend the duration of the development of the WSP, it is expected that they will bring valuable improvement to the implementation of the plans

# Recommendations

- Where possible, identify a Coordinator for the Task Force with technical skills and expertise in the water, environmental health or sanitation fields
- It may be useful to expose the Coordinator to a brief training course on the development of WSPs depending on the experience and expertise of the person
- It may be useful to prepare a short WSP course for training purposes and to reproduce more WSP tools such as Practical Manuals and share more experiences
- Early in the process identify the person or entity that will oversee the implementation of the WSP as well as the entity that will monitor the progress and report out to the relevant institutions. This activity should be included in the workplan

# Recommendations

- Utilize a GIS where available to map the hazards and critical control points associated with the water supply system. Include also vulnerable areas such as red zones where there is a high incidence of illegal connections or low level or absence of residual chlorine and health data such as areas where gastrointestinal illnesses are prevalent
- Develop mechanisms to include other stakeholders in the development of the WSP which does not necessarily require them to become members of the Task Force. This could include special meetings with these groups to get their perspective on the hazards and risks associated with the water supply system. Include the strategies for engaging the other stakeholders in the workplan

Based on the experiences with developing the WSP for the STWSS, the process flow shown at Figure 1 is proposed for the development of other WSPs.

# Conclusion

It is hoped that others developing WSP's locally in Jamaica and within the Latin American and Caribbean Region may benefit from the information provided in this paper on the experiences and lessons learnt while developing the WSP for the STWSS in Jamaica

**THANK YOU!**

