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COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN  
WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS AS A  
STIMULUS TO PRIMARY HEALTH CARE:

LESSONS LEARNED FROM  
AID-SUPPORTED AND OTHER PROJECTS  
IN INDONESIA AND TOGO

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Overview

This report summarizes research on the influence of community participation in water supply projects on the subsequent participation of community members in other primary health care and child survival activities. Field research focused on four projects (AID-supported and other) in Indonesia and Togo, but the findings are important for all primary health care, child survival, and water supply policy-making and programming.

The full report of this research, which is only summarized here, is available from WASH as Working Paper No. 42.

### Background and Significance

Field experience strongly suggests that how a water supply project is implemented in a community may not only have a direct effect on the community during the life of the project, but also may affect future activities introduced to the community. Experience indicates that, where water supply and sanitation projects meet an important "felt need" of the community, they provide an effective entry point for primary health care activities in that community and thereby increase the impact of primary health care interventions. Improving a community's water supply may thus not only improve health through clean water but may also serve as a stimulus or catalyst for increasing participation in other primary health care activities. Previously, however, there has been little if any systematic research to describe and document the precise relationship between water supply projects and subsequent primary health care efforts.

### Purpose of the Study

The present study was thus designed to answer the following broadly stated question: What is the overall relationship between a community's participation in a water supply project and that community's subsequent participation in other primary health care activities? A second purpose was to develop a conceptual framework for understanding, operationalizing, and evaluating community participation.

### Methodology

The study was a field-based investigation that took place from September 1985 to November 1986. To answer the above question, researchers examined the involvement of communities in a water supply project and then in primary health care activities introduced after the project. Field research was conducted in Togo and Indonesia, and results were analyzed at the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Field data were collected from 60 villages--30 in each country. Of the four water