

Ownership of groundwater

Many groundwater projects worldwide do not carefully consider the needs and abilities of the community. For example, when boreholes are drilled and pumps are installed, it is important to plan for routine maintenance and repair. Sometimes the final system of pumps and pipe work may be unsuitable for the needs of the community, and at other times these things might not be what the community expected to get.

This is why a **Demand Responsive Approach** (DRA) is chosen as a strategy for planning and implementing groundwater programs. This approach consults communities and helps to make sure that their needs are met. The DRA helps to ensure that groundwater systems continue to work for many years once they have been installed. Communities are involved in all stages of the planned development, and when it is finished they know how it works.

It is equally important for communities to know what they might need when they are considering groundwater schemes. This is why discussions and workshops might take place before any drilling or construction, to give communities the knowledge they need to make decisions.

Remember, many communities have the responsibility for servicing and repairing their groundwater system once it has been installed. It may not be possible for them to get help easily in the future.

Source: J Davies et al (2002) Development of a curriculum and training of supervision teams in borehole construction in Malawi. British Geological Survey Internal Report CR/02/219N