Raising professionalism in water well drilling: 15 years of learning & where next?

Dr Kerstin Danert,
Topic Lead - Professional Drilling for the Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN)
Skat Foundation, Switzerland
kerstin.danert @ skat.ch

https://tinyurl.com/waterdrilling
Reasons for water point failure include:

- poor quality of the borehole construction in the first place, which can be caused by:
  - gaps in the skills and knowledge of drillers and those siting and supervising construction
  - inadequate project management
  - challenges in the enabling environment, including corruption.
The Curse of the VERY SHORT Drilling Season

Planning, budgeting and preparing for tender

Siting, drilling & supervision

Reporting (& payment)

Tendering

Contract award

Rainy season limited accessibility to drill

Source: Danert et al (2019)
Knowing what a borehole camera is & what it can do.

Practical Drilling Supervision Training, Sierra Leone, 2014
Insufficient opportunities and incentives for training and practical, on-job mentoring

- A drilling supervisor may not know how to design a borehole.
- A programme manager may not know why some boreholes are dry.
- This can result in unnecessary conflict.
- Those who benefitted from structured, often government-funded training to the late 90’s age & retire.
- Insufficient opportunities for training and mentoring on drilling and its management.

Practical experience often learned on the job, with limited or no professional oversight.
A mix of methods and tools

- **Sharing**: RWSN Professional Drilling Website, newsletter, webinars & online community (dgroups)
- **Understanding**: in-country studies
- **Materials**: Documents & Films providing technical Guidance
- **Training**: Face-to-face syllabus – 3 courses
- **Training & inspiring**: Online course (2018 & 2019)
- **Sharing**: what others are doing, e.g. Uganda’s training experiences, drillers associations.....

Figure (above) Location and type of organisation of successful participants of 2018 Online Course on Professional Drilling Management (Danert, and Theis (2018))
Online Course

Methods
5 written assignments
Participation in Forum
Quizzes

Participant Material
• Guidance Note
• Compulsory & additional materials
• Course Report 2018

Duration (time)
8 – 12 weeks (40-60 hours)

Module 1
Introduction and Groundwater Information and Siting

Module 2
Costing and Pricing, and the Procurement and Contract Management

Module 3
Borehole Drilling and Supervision

Module 4
Institutional Frameworks for Borehole Drilling Professionalism

Module 5
Dialogue and Actions to Raise Drilling Professionalism
A bricolage of funding over 15 years
Partners in 2018 and 2019

skat_foundation

WaterAid

unicef

British Geological Survey

Expert | Impartial | Innovative

UPGro
Unlocking the Potential of Groundwater for the poor
upgro.org

RWSN

AGW-NET

UNHCR
Four steps to better drilling contracts

A short animated film

https://vimeo.com/171751215
Bobliography


• RWSN (nd). Why are some boreholes better than others? [Online], available at https://rwsn.org/2019/02/20/2/95

More information

https://tinyurl.com/waterdrilling

https://www.rural-water-supply.net/en/sustainable-groundwater-management/professional-water-well-drilling

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What can you do?

Join UNICEF, WaterAid, Skat Foundation and others to strive for professional WATER WELL drilling and a supportive enabling environment

https://tinyurl.com/waterdrilling

Join: https://dgroups.org/rwsn/groundwater_rwsn

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