

Abstract

This thesis aims to address factors affecting the sustainability of development projects focusing on water supply in Ethiopia. The thesis identifies main dimensions of sustainability and examines factors within them and their impact on long-term functionality of the studied interventions. The research focuses on the (un)sustainability of the selected water supply projects in Sidama and Alaba, Ethiopia. Ten water supply systems constructed under three projects supported from the Czech development cooperation were examined. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews and direct observations of analyzed water systems. The interviews were conducted with experts, representatives of the implementing organization, representatives of water institutions in Ethiopia (Woreda Water Offices and WASH Committees) and recipients of the interventions, i.e. users of the water supply systems. This was supplemented by the analysis of project documentation. Field research in Ethiopia was conducted in November 2020 and lasted four weeks. The results showed ongoing long-term functionality with only minor problems in the majority of studied systems. One system was nonfunctional at the time of visit and two systems were facing serious problems. The sustainability of studied systems was affected mainly by contextual factors and challenges in governance, decreasing the perceived reliability of the service by its users.