

ENHANCING ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER IN WESTERN PROVINCE – KENYA

EVALUATION / FINAL REPORT



Bore hole at Malanga primary school - Busia

PROJECT PERIOD JULY 2010 TO JUNE 2011

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Introduction:

Human beings cannot survive without water. In Kenya, just like in other parts of Africa, water is scarce in some parts of the country forcing women and children to trek long distances to fetch water. The western part of Kenya is one of the areas where lack of clean water has led to the education of the girl child being compromised and the health of the community at stake due to water borne diseases. There is high mortality rate among children under five years old primarily due to water borne diseases such as gastroenteritis, diarrhea, malaria and amoebic dysentery to name just a few. Contamination from human livestock waste is also a major cause of water related diseases.

It is estimated that more than 60% of the Kenyan population do not have access to clean water despite the fact that much of the country have reliable water sources and adequate rainfall. In 2008, a research was carried out in the larger parts of Rift Valley, Central and some parts of Western provinces in Kenya. The report revealed that there is too much fluoride in the water and this causes fluorosis (Population Bureau, 2008). The university of Nairobi and Kenya Population Health Environment Task Force further found out in October 2006 and April 2007 that at least one in every 3 children aged 0 - 5years die each day due to drinking contaminated water. The daily chore of fetching water is no small task in rural Kenya, and young women often walk as far as ten miles/kilometers to collect water from polluted, dirty, hand dug wells full of parasites and bacteria. The wells are also structurally dangerous and often collapse when they get deep enough.

It is from the above background that COGICHIS, in collaboration with Solwodi e.V designed the “Enhancing access to clean water in western Kenya” Project to address water shortage in Western Kenya. COGICHIS was founded in 2010 and registered with the registrar of societies Kenya. The vision of COGICHIS is A Society where issues affecting the girl child are addresses at all levels starting from the family. COGICHIS believes that every family in a community has a dream to fulfill and the right to better life. The organization is therefore committed to empowering communities through education and skills building to enable them realize their full potential. COGICHIS works with the following objectives;

- a) Improve the learning environment and quality of life by facilitating access to clean water in rural schools.
- b) Enhance public awareness on negative cultural values, child rights issues and human trafficking.
- c) Empower selected communities for sustainable livelihood through collaborative dialogue and capacity building.

Enhancing access to clean water in western Kenya project was initiated and implemented in Busia (Samia) and Bungoma west (Sirisia) by COGICHIS in July, 2010. In the said project sites, most people are small scale and farmers and business people. The climate is favorable for farming and the soils are fertile. These are areas with long rains from April to July and short rains from October to December. Most people live below the poverty level (less than 1\$per day) .

Acknowledgement:

First and foremost we would like to thank Mr. Galliker and the entire Engelbert Foundation for supporting COGICHIS through Solwodi e.V. The project would not have been realized without the commitment they had by providing funds for the implementation of the project.

Secondly, Solwodi e.V gave a lot of support before and during the implementation of the project. Sr. lea Ackermann and her team made sure that there was always funds for the project.

The Ministry of Education supported the project fully. Most of the stakeholders were reached through their support. Working with schools would not have been possible without their commitment to the project.

Last but not least, the communities, the school head teachers and other key stakeholders in all the project sites showed a lot of commitment and hence the success of the project.

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List of abbreviation:

CBO	-	Community Based organization
NGO	-	Non Governmental organization
COGICHIS	-	Concerns for the Girl Child Society
SOLWODI	-	Solidarity with women in distress.
ACK	-	Anglican Church of Kenya

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Summary of the project purpose, logic and Structure

The overall development objective of the project was to contribute to improved learning environment and quality of life due to access to clean water in schools in western Kenya

Specific project strategies were defined as follows:

- Empower selected communities in western Kenya on sustainable livelihood through collaborative dialogue and capacity building.
- Facilitate access to clean water to selected 6 schools in western Kenya in areas with water borne diseases and children's education is compromised due to trekking long distances for water.

Purpose and scope and of the final report / evaluation

The purpose of this evaluation and end of project report is to:-

- 1) Determine whether the objectives of the project were achieved by comparing the intended outputs with the actual outputs;
- 2) Review and analyze factors contributing to or hindering the project's success
- 3) Assess the overall outcomes of the project.

The evaluation report also analyzes the strategies and of intervention used, documents lessons Learned and potential good practices, and provides recommendations on how to integrate these into Planning processes and implementation of future projects.

Methodology of evaluation

The evaluator began by conducting a desk review of project outcomes and interviews with key stakeholders in the project sites in two schools. The evaluator prepared an evaluation instrument outlining the key questions for the evaluation. The evaluator then met with two head teachers in two different project sites thus Busia and Bungoma. For logistic and financial reasons, site visits were limited to Lukaala and Malanga primary schools.

MAIN FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION:

Relevance of design to socio-economic context

From the time of the project conception through the present, the basic design of the project Continues to be highly relevant in the western Kenya context. Project designers correctly acknowledge both the positive contribution to improvement in learning environment as well as improvement to quality of life.

Appropriateness of strategies

Drawing heavily on the experiences of the earlier water project implemented in the project sites by other organizations where stakeholders were not involved in planning and implementation, the communities in

the project sites acknowledged mechanisms for keeping higher-level stakeholders informed of the project, for participatory monitoring by the committees formed. The project design also recognized the need to partner with the relevant government departments and advocates within the influential mass organizations to strengthen its impact. To this end, the design therefore encompasses community participation and multi-sectoral approach.

Management implementation

Although the project encountered some initial difficulties when drilling and constructing shallow wells, the management was able to evaluate available options and problems addressed during implementation period. Such issues included among others; high charges for drilling services, contractors not being able to complete the work/abandon the work halfway, long rainy seasons affecting the work, geological formations etc. The management was able to request for more time in order to complete the work, areas where it was initially planned for shallow wells were changed for roof catchment for rain harvesting etc. In general, the planned work was accomplished.

Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting

The monitoring of the project was done regularly. Monthly reports both narrative and financial reports were provided. The project was being evaluated at each level. The monitoring was done by the project staff and the committees as well as the other key stakeholders regularly as per the plans.

Consultative meetings with key stakeholders

The first activity that was done was consultations with key stakeholders in all the project sites. The people consulted included government departments, Non Governmental organizations and other key stakeholders. This made it easy to reach and mobilize participants for stakeholder workshops.

Stakeholders sensitization meetings

Project sensitization meetings were held in Bungoma and Busia. The invitations to the said meetings were done by the district education officers in the two project sites. The participants were drawn from different sectors as planned they included among others; Education officers, chiefs, school management committees, ministry of water, public health department, women representatives, youth representatives, opinion leaders in the community etc

Planning meetings:

Planning meetings were held in all the project sites. The participants to these meetings were committee members drawn from different sectors. The members planned on the implementation of the project together assigning one another different roles in the implementation of the project. Some of the products of the planning meetings included plans of action, registration of the committee among others. This led to community ownership of the project.

Formation of committees:

A total of 6 water project committees were formed. The membership was derived from the stakeholder meetings held at the district levels at the beginning of the project. The numbers varied from nine to eleven members in some schools. The members were able to nominate officials such as the chairpersons, the secretaries and the treasurers.

Drilling of boreholes/construction of shallow wells/installation of water tanks

During the planning meetings, all the committees had narrowed down to boreholes as the best choice of water source to the community. They felt they are not seasonal and can serve more people in all seasons. In the beginning of the project all sites were looking forward for drilling of boreholes. Geological survey was done and recommendations given by the geologist for different schools.

At Malanga, Nabuganda boreholes were recommended while Lukaala and Sirisia Mal shallow wells were recommended. Roof catchment was recommended for Namwesi ACK. During implementation, in some areas it was not possible to construct shallow wells hence the following became the final outcome; 2 boreholes were drilled at Malanga and Nabuganda, 2 shallow wells at Lukaala and Sirisia mal and 2 roof catchment water tanks installed at Namwesi ACK and Kibindoi. A total of 6 water points installed. See some of the water points and photos taken during implementation below;



Group discussion at Funyula Samia district in Busia during stakeholders meeting



Committee meeting at Sirisia Mal primary school



Survey at Nabuganda primary school.



Bore hole at Malanga Primary school. Above are community members drawing water.



Shallow well at Sirisia Mal



Water tank at Kibindoi primary school



Nabuganda water project.



Water tank installation at Namwesi ACK primary school



Shallow well at Lukaala Primary school

Summary of achievements vs. planned

Goal:	Planned	Achieved	Comments.
Improved learning environment and quality of life due to access to clean water in schools	Students attending school regularly	Partially achieved	The period of implementation was short hence the impact was yet to be felt. The real impact of the project will be realized after the end of the project.
Objective No. 1: Enhance community knowledge on the situation of water in western Kenya, how it affects education and facilitate their participation in improving the situation.	*6 consultative meetings/workshops with relevant government bodies, CBO, NGOs and community leaders. *Intensive field research conducted in 2 districts in western Kenya (1 in Busia and 1 Bungoma). *4 schools in western Kenya and 2 in coast province identified for support	* The consultative meetings were done and key stakeholders participated. *The research was done in form of focused group discussions during the stakeholder meetings. *6 schools were identified in western Kenya and none was identified in coast province.	*The project was meant for western Kenya hence coast was not included in the implementation. * Information collected during meetings was included in the monthly reports.
Outputs:	*A report on consultative meetings on findings on water situation. * 6 communities are aware of the importance of clean water and their role in the project	Done	The identified schools were: *Nabuganda *Malanga *Namwesi ACK *Kibindoi *Lukaala *Sirisia Mal
Activities	*6 Consultative meetings held in the project sites. *6 community sensitization meetings.	Done	*The meetings were well attended. *Participants identified committee members and schools. *Committee members planned for the project implementation.
Objective 2:	6 schools supported to access water	Done	
Outputs: Boreholes drilled/installation of water tanks in the	*6 schools supported to access clean water. *Communities around the supported schools	*6 schools supported * Communities do not trek long distances for water in 4 schools.	The communities are happy with the project. In Malanga area, the project supports 2 other

project sites.	do not trek long distances for water. *Community members maintain the water projects around them.	*The schools currently maintain the water projects through the committees.	communities around.
Activities	*6 committees formed. *At least 2 planning meetings held with committees. *6 boreholes/water tanks installed. *Reports on activity implementation available. *Monitoring and evaluation of the project.	*The committees were formed in the six schools. *2 boreholes drilled 2 shallow wells constructed and 2 water tanks installed. * Monthly reports on activity implementation are available. * Monitoring and evaluation was done regularly.	The work was completed but a bit late than expected due to vegetation, climatic conditions as well as commitment of contractors.

Challenges encountered during implementations:

- In the past years, such projects had been initiated in the project sites but never worked. This made some community members to be reluctant to participate in the project.
- In the budget, there was no budget for geological survey, this had to be fixed and hence reduction in the amount planned for drilling boreholes.
- The prevailing drilling costs are high and the amount budgeted for was too low hence it was not easy to get a company to do the drilling work accordingly. The project ended up with brokers who at the end of the day cannot be compared to the reputable companies involved in drilling work.
- The duration for the project was affected due to the weather changes that were experienced during the year hence delay in completion of the work.
- Inconsistency by contractors and abandoning the work due to geological problems encountered during construction of shallow wells delayed the work

Main recommendations.

Project period

Future projects require at not less than one and a half years so that this can give way to sensitization and construction work in good time. This may also go well with the weather changes that occur unplanned.

Geological survey

Funds for geological survey should always be included in the budget as this is a very important component in the drilling of boreholes /shallow wells.

Drilling of boreholes:

They are very expensive to drill and the amounts can therefore serve very few communities. The evaluator therefore recommends shallow wells and roof catchment for future projects if one needs to

reach more people. However, boreholes can also be drilled but if there is enough funding. Currently the prevailing market rates for drilling by companies is not less than one million Kenya Shillings.

Stakeholder meetings/consultative meeting and committees

The consultative/stakeholder meetings and committees are very important for water project. Such meetings create community ownership of the project so they should be part of any water project planned for the community. It was noted that the communities can identify with the project.

Important lessons learned

- During implementation, it was realized that when communities are approached for a new project, they raise their hopes high and even mistake the new organization for solving all their problems. Other needs are brought forward and may override the objectives of the project if one is not focused.
- Water problems in Bungoma (Sirisia) has over the years contributed to divorce in families, sexual exploitation and other social ills)

Emerging good practices

• **Open approach:** The project used an open approach to promote involvement of project stakeholders from grassroots to district levels in developing project ideas and activities into action programs. This approach promoted a fit between activities and local situations and “ownership” of these activities in the community.

• **Stakeholder meetings**

This successfully contributed to the promotion of the project core messages. Although an important intervention in itself, it also played a key role in informing communities their role in the implementation of the project.