

ENHANCING ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER IN WESTERN PROVINCE – KENYA**ACTIVITY REPORT FOR AUGUST, 2010****Introduction:**

In the month of August, Society Concerns for the Girl Child which was earlier registered with the ministry of social services as a community based organization was further registered as a society under the societies act in Kenya as CONCERNS FOR THE GIRL CHILD SOCIETY – [COGICHI]. The registration gives the organization the mandate of operating anywhere in Kenya. The headquarters of the organization is in Mombasa with a lot of activities in western Province.

August Activities:

- Consultations with key stakeholders in Busia and Bungoma regions continued.
- Meetings were held with key stakeholders in the two districts and plans for the next steps drawn.
- Composition of committee members was done and each project site will meet in September.

Samia:

The following came out of the stakeholders meeting in Samia;

Earlier projects;

- Kenya Finland Corporation – KEFINCO project
- ONANA water project
- Ageng’ a water project
- MUNANA water project
- Government of Kenya.

Achievements:

- Trained personnel on how to repair boreholes.

Challenges:

- The community did not own the project. This was as a result of not being sensitised when the projects were being initiated.
- Maintenance was poorly done.
- There was poor management.
- The spare parts were expensive and could only be bought from Kakamega or Nairobi
- Funds collected for maintenance were not well utilised.
- The committees formed had no bank accounts.
- Change in weather patterns affected rain harvesting.
- The tanks installed were too small to collect enough rain water for use.
- Some schools were supplied with tanks without gutters. Some of the schools were unable to buy the gutters hence the tanks were not installed.
- Lack of enough security at the water points.

The following schools were prioritised for the water project. *The schools in bold were selected.*

1. **Nabuganda Primary school**
2. **Malanga Primary School**
3. Mugasa Primary School
4. Ageng'a ‘ ‘
5. Kabwodo ‘ ‘
6. Namasali ‘ ‘
7. Buduta ‘ ‘

Reasons for selecting the above schools in order of priority

1. The distance from the main water source
2. Enrolment of school compared to supply of water available.
3. Availability of piped water near the school.
4. Nearness to the water stream.

Key stakeholders and their roles;

- Ministry of water – To provide technicians
- Provincial administration – Mobilization of community members
- Ministry of Education – Supervision
- Community members - Ownership/implementation
- School management committee - Management and sensitization.
- NGOs/CBOs - funding and monitoring
- County Councils - Registration

Proposed composition of committee members

Members agreed that the committees for the two schools will be composed of the following;

1. Ministry of Education – Ex Officio members
2. Provincial Administration - (Area chief) Ex – Officio member
3. Public Health and Sanitation officer
4. Head Teacher
5. Chairperson of the School management Committee
6. Women representative
7. Ministry of water official
8. 2 opinion leaders in the community - women
9. Constituency Development Fund – CDF official
10. Religious leader

Action Plan for September/October by stakeholders

The stakeholders came up with the below plan as the way forward.

1. Inform students, parents other community members about the project
2. Community sensitization on use of clean water and their role in the implementation of the project.
3. Formation of committees.

4. Planning meetings for committee members and identification of kind of water projects e.g. rain water harvesting or boreholes.
5. Committees to come up with guiding rules for the water projects and the appropriate number of users.

Committee meetings

The first committee meetings for September were set as follows;

- Nabuganda primary School - 17th September at 11.00 am
- Malanga primary School - 22nd September at 11.00 am

Others:

The teachers and area chiefs pointed out that Sanitary towels for the girls is another key issue to be looked into. Many girls miss classes during their menses because they do not have money to buy sanitary wear and it is not a priority for the parents given that other issues are key and they cannot meet the needs. It was also noted that lack of water in schools affect learning in schools very much.



Standing up is the district Education Officer in Samia district giving a keynote address to the participants. On his right is Mr. Nebere and on his left is Mr. Osore. Both are Education officers in the district who mobilised the participants.



The photo above shows a group work session in Samia - Funyula

Bungoma Sirisia:

The following came out of the stakeholders meeting in Sirisia;

Earlier projects;

The organizations that supported water projects before were;

1. TOGRA – Government of Kenya
2. Constituency Development Fund – CDF in Sibanga and Kasiamo.
3. Rain harvesting.

Challenges:

- Lack of community partnership in the implementation of the projects.
- Lack of maintenance of the boreholes
- Lack of adequate water from the sources.
- Population increased hence more people getting water from the same sources.
- Supervision of the projects was poor.
- There was political interference in the implementation of the projects.
- Security at the water sources was not adequate.
- Corruption by the committee members was experienced thus fund collected for repair was not well utilised.
- Deforestation made the boreholes dry up.
- Lack of adequate knowledge on how to manage the projects.

Achievements:

From the above water projects, the following were the achievements.

- Health of the community members who benefited from the water projects improved.
- Education of the girl child improved because of the reduced distance of water points.
- Time wasted when trekking long distances for water is used for economic purposes.
- Agricultural activities doing well.
- Availability of water has assisted in the construction of classrooms.

The following schools were prioritised for the water project. *The once in bold were selected.*

- 1. Malinda S.A**
- 2. Malinda FYM**
3. Bisunu
4. Lutaso
5. Lukala
6. Namutokholo
7. Sutabicha
8. Bukokholo
9. Namunyu
10. Kasiamo
11. Chwele Boys
12. Machakha
13. Kabukara
14. Kurosondeti /Tororo

Reasons for selecting the above schools in order of priority

1. The distance from the main water source is very far 5 to 10 kms.
2. Most of the areas are hilly and communication is a problem.
3. Water available is dirty e.g. river Malakisi, resulting into outbreak of diseases.
4. Kasiamo primary school had a water project but failed due to poor management.
5. Schools picked are in rocky areas where water is not available.
6. Chwele Boys is a school/centre for excellence and needs to be encouraged.
7. Buying water is expensive in the selected areas. Water is sold at 15 to 20 shillings per 20 litre jericans.

Stakeholders for the water project in Sirisia and their roles

1. Chiefs (Provincial Administration) – mobilization of people/resources
2. School management committees – sensitization/implementation
3. Teachers - budget for the project/maintenance/mobilization
4. Parents/community – Mobilization of resources /Consumers/caretakers/labour/M&E.
5. Politicians - Mobilization/Funding/Initiating projects
6. Religious leaders – Mobilization/caretakers
7. CDF – Funding
8. Development partners/NGO/CBOs – Funding/M&E/education.
9. Students - Consumers/ Caretakers/monitoring.

10. Public Health Officers - inspection/provision of health reports
11. Ministry of water – Guidance /Educating the community/technical work
12. Ministry of Education [MoE] -Supervision/M&E
13. Others – Moral support/ resource mobilization

Composition of committee members

1. Chief – Ex Officio member
2. MoE - “
3. Public Health Officer
4. 2 parents representatives from the school mgt. Committee
5. NGO/CBO representative.
6. Ministry of water
7. One teacher
8. 4 opinion leaders in the community – 1 youth, 1 man, 1 woman and 1 religious leader.

Plan of Action:

The stakeholders came up with the plan below as the way forward.

Week/Month	Activity	Who to involve	Indicators
1 st Month (week 1 to 4)	Mobilization and sensitization of community members	- Chiefs. - Ass. Chiefs. - Village elders - Schools Mgt Committees.	Attendance lists
2 nd Month (week 5 to 8)	Meeting of committee members	- Head teachers - Committee chairpersons	Attendance lists
9 th to 10 th week	Planning meetings	- Committee members	- Minutes - Plans
11 th to 12 th week	Reporting to Sponsors	- “ “	- Reports
13 th to 14 th week	Implementation	- Committee members. - Community members. - School committees.	- Activity and Financial reports - Minutes of meetings.
16 th to 24 th week	Monitoring and Evaluation	- Committee members. - Community members.	- Reports.



The Sirisia District Officer (In a green coat and holding a marker pen) is keenly listening to his group members during a group work session. The group was drawing a plan of action for the two selected schools for the water project in Sirisia District.



Standing up is Ms. Naomi Wanyonyi – Education Officer in Sirisia, in charge of NGOs activities.

Next steps;

- Participants of the workshop to meet in their respective areas [schools] the third week of September to discuss and nominate the committee members for the two project sites.
- Full committee meetings to be held the 2nd week of September in the two project sites.
- The head teachers will communicate to **COGICHI** and the MoEs office on the dates.

Note: Only two stakeholders meetings were done in Western instead of 4. There were consultations with the key stakeholders and it was agreed that one meeting per district was enough for schools identification then other meetings will be held at grass root level with the communities once the committees are formed and operational.

General overview of the project so far:

- The communities visited are very excited and very happy for being involved in the process right from the beginning of the implementation of the project.
- The government officials are very supportive. The district heads participated actively in the meetings.

Plans for September:

- Committee formation and planning meetings in Western Kenya.
- Stakeholders meeting in Mombasa.
- Development of website for the organization