

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

In the month of September, 2010, Concerns for the Girl Child Society continued with activities as planned. An office has also been established in Mombasa and this serves as the secretariat. More concentration was on committee meetings and community sensitization in Western Kenya. Below is a detailed report on activities carried out during the said month.

Planned Activities for Samia:

- Information to students, parents other community members about the project
- Community sensitization on use of clean water and their role in the implementation of the project.
- Formation of committees.
- Planning meetings for committee members and identification of kind of water projects e.g. rain water harvesting or boreholes.

Information about the project

Stakeholders who participated in the workshops carried out in August, 2010 organised for meetings in their respective areas and informed the students in the schools which were selected, the parents and other community members about the proposed project. This was done differently in the two different schools - Nabuganda and Malanga schools. The student were sensitised by the school health teachers on the importance of using clean water, their current situation and the health risks involved in use of unclean water and how it affects their education. They were informed about the proposed water project and their role discussed.

Formation of committees:

The proposed composition of committee members was constituted in meetings held as follows;

Nabuganda:

The school management committee met on 13th September. They discussed the composition of the committee members. A total of 13 members participated in the meeting and the following members were nominated to be in the water project management committee;

Name	-	Representation
1. Fredrick Ojwan'g	-	Parents teachers Association (PTA) Chairman
2. Sammy Omany	-	Assistant chief
3. Humphrey Odakulo	-	ACK Church (Sponsor)
4. Roseline A. Omany	-	Women Representative
5. Hesbon Ojiambo	-	Youth leader
6. Constance Haede	-	Women leader
7. Matilda Oola	-	Health teacher
8. Sebastian Babu	-	CBO representative
9. Janeclere Manyobe	-	Deputy Head teacher

- 10. Sylvester Ouma - Area Chief
- 11. Vincent Musungu - Head teacher
- 12. Public health Officer



Above are the students of Nabuganda primary School in Samia District (Busia) during break time



The water tank in the above photo is one of the tanks donated to the schools in Busia by the ministry of education. Small in size and cannot store enough water for use. Water is usually used by the teachers and cooking meals for the students. Rainfall is seasonal.



The brown area seen next to the trees is rain water which collects after heavy rainfall. The Nabuganda community uses the water for cooking, washing plates, clothing and drinking water for their animals.

Malanga:

In Malanga primary school, the school management committee invited other members of the community and a total of 30 people participated in the nomination of committee members. The following were nominated for the Malanga Water project management committee on 22nd September, 2010.

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|--------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. David Nahone | - | Head teacher |
| 2. Mary Ouma | - | Chair Lady – PTA |
| 3. Theodora Ojiambo | - | Sponsor (Representing Catholic Church) |
| 4. Julius Ochien’g | - | District Education Board |
| 5. Ursula Adala | - | Public health teacher |
| 6. Alice Odipo | - | Women representative |
| 7. Anna Ojiambo | - | CBO representative |
| 8. Isaac Oduor | - | Youth representative |
| 9. Michael Egesa | - | Opinion leader |
| 10. Area chief | | |
| 11. Area public health officer | | |

Community sensitization

In the two meetings, participants were sensitised on the use of clean water and the COGICHIS water project as discussed in the stakeholders meeting. Their role in the implementation of the project was discussed. They were very happy and promised to give their full support in the implementation of the project. It was agreed that more community members be mobilised for more sensitization in October.

Identification of kind of water project;

During the above meetings, participants identified the kind of water projects suitable in their areas. They discussed the three water types as follows;

Piped water: -

- Far from the source
- Not reliable
- May not work
- ***Given the last choice***

Rain harvesting:

- Rain is not reliable and hence seasonal.
- Rain water collected may not last for a long period of time.
- May only benefit the schools in a short period but not communities hence the girls may continue walking long distances for water.
- ***Given 2nd choice.***

Drilling boreholes:

- Water will be available all seasons.
- Will benefit both the community and schools.
- Can be relied on if drilled well.
- ***Given the first choice.***

Community participation:

In the two meetings, Malanga and Nabuganda, community participation was mentioned. They will discuss at length during community meetings planned for October.

Plans for October:

- Identification of water points within the school compounds/surrounding.
- Community sensitization on use of clean water in collaboration with the public health officers and school health education teachers.
- Costing for the selected water types in consultation with water technicians.
- Development of water project committee's by-laws in the two schools and drawing plans of action.

Planned Activities in Sirisia:

- 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.

Sirisia mal primary school

Nomination of committee members

Participants of the August 2010 stakeholders workshop met on 14th of September and discussed further the proposed offices for nomination to water project committee for the school. The following were nominated;

1. Juma Nalianya - School management Committee
2. Phillip Sivito - Village elder
3. Wanyama Sitati - Community leader
4. David Watwati - Head teacher (secretary)
5. Martin - PTA Chairman
6. Wilson Wasike - Youth representative
7. Henry - opinion leader
8. Albert Mukholi - religious leader
9. Eunice Wakholi - health education teacher
10. Natember Kasuti - community development assistant (retired)
11. Margaret wakholi - Women representative
12. Phoebe naliaka - NGO representative
13. District education board – representative.
14. Hamisia mtala - Sirisia public health officer

Officials:

Members of the committee will elect their officials on 14th October. They prefer the treasurer to be a lady. The secretary will be the school head teacher.

Water type;

Members present discussed and agreed on sinking of boreholes as the best option.

Other issues discussed in the meeting;

- Water is a problem in the community. Women and girls wake up at 6 am to fetch water and come back at mid day. This has really affected the girl child education. Boys/ men take advantage of the situation to sexually abuse the girls. Many girls have been pregnant because of the situation.
- Community members have witnessed incidences of married women being lured into odd behaviours and even breaking away from the families.
- The school caters for children with special needs who are not able to go and fetch water. Some of the children are orphans and hence suffer more because their guardians may not allow them to come to school when there is no water at home. There are also situations of the child headed families. They have to get water at all costs.

Planned activities for October:

- i. Community sensitization on use of clean water and the proposed water project.
- ii. Identification of water points
- iii. Committee planning meetings.
- iv. Development of committee by-laws.



. The above photo shows a committee meeting at Sirisia Mal Primary School. Seated on the right hand side on the far end is Elizabeth Akinyi followed by the School head teacher and other committee members



The area Education Officer Ms. Naomi (standing) talking to the nominated committee members at Sirisia mal primary school.

Namwesi ACK School

16 The school management committee members met after the workshop. The main agenda was to sensitize them on the proposed water project and nomination of committee members as per the resolutions of the stakeholder's sensitization meeting.

Members were informed about Concerns for the Girl Child Society objectives, the proposed water project and resolutions made in the stakeholder's workshop. They agreed to hold three meetings as follows;

1. 1st meeting - Sensitize the school management committee on 17.9.2010
2. 2nd meeting - To formalise the committee and come up with a working constitution and action plan
3. 3rd meeting – 15th October 2010 to draw an action plan.

Water project management Committee

The following members were nominated;

1. Redmas Soita - Read teacher (Secretary)
2. Protus Kutore - Area Chief
3. Patista Wanyonyi- Deputy Head Teacher
4. Martin Kiliswa - School management Committee Chairman
5. Edwin kandawalla - parent representative
6. Lenah wamalwa - Women representative

7. Joseph biketi - Opinion leader (male)
8. Sarah Chonge - Opinion leader(female)
9. Mark Lukorito - Opinion leader (Youth)
10. Rev. Benard Muliro - Sponsor (ACK Church)
11. Public Health officer
12. Ministry of water
13. NGO representative.

2nd meeting

- The second meeting was held on 24th September.
- They came up with by-laws
- Discussed the officials
- Agreed on registration of the water committee and opening of bank account signatories. The bank account is very important because the money they will be collecting from the community members who will benefit from the project will have to be banked.
- Sinking of a borehole was their choice.

Planned activities for October:

- Community sensitization
- Identification of water points
- Committee planning meetings.



Committee meeting at Namwesi ACK primary school in Sirisia. On the background are big rocks surrounding the school.

Mombasa:

The stakeholders meeting which was planned for September will take place in October. The change was due to other key activities that were taking place in the area by other key stakeholders.

General Comments:

1. The communities which were chosen have shown a lot of interest and commitment to the project. They are very receptive.
2. In all the project sites people have suffered for a long time. When they had about the project, they thought the water would be available in one week's time.
3. For the project to succeed, community sensitization and training of management committees need to be done well before water installation.
4. Lot of ground work should be done by end of December, 2010.