

**ENHANCING ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER AND ADEQUATE SANITATION IN TESO
NORTH SCHOOLS, KENYA**



FINAL REPORT

PROJECT PERIOD OCTOBER 2016 TO AUGUST, 2017

Introduction:

The overall objective of the COGICHIS project is “Improved learning environment and quality of life due to access to clean water and adequate sanitation schools”. The long term goal of the project is improved quality of life due to access to clean water and adequate sanitation in selected school/s in Teso North district in Busia County. Below are the sub- objectives of the project;-

- a) Facilitate access to clean water at Matumbai Primary School in Teso North, Busia County by supporting the construction of a rain water recovery system.
- b) Enhance access to adequate sanitation in Matumbai Primary School in Teso North Sub County, Busia County by supporting construction of 2 toilets, 1 wash room and 1 urinal for girls.
- c) Empower Matumbai community in Teso North, Busia County on sustainable livelihood and capacity building.

Beneficiaries

The primary beneficiaries of the project are pupils and teachers of Matumbai Primary School and the secondary beneficiaries are the parents and community members.

Summary of achievements:

Objective 1: Facilitate access to clean water at Matumbai Primary School in Teso North, Busia County by supporting the construction of a rain water recovery system.

The stakeholders were sensitized on the project details at the beginning of the project and they signed a contract committing themselves to the implementation of the project. Together with the stakeholders, a decision for constructing a rain water recovery system at Matumbai Primary School was reached. A total of 4 tanks were installed at Matumbai Primary School each with a capacity of 10,000 litres. The tanks can therefore provide the school and the community with 40,000 litres of water when full. The committee members discussed and agreed with the community and the school that the any person who draws water is to pay Kshs 5 for 20 litres buckets. The money collected will be used for maintenance of the tanks. The school will use 3 tanks while the community will use 1 tank. The community members will only be allowed 2 buckets per day.

Objective 2: Enhance access to adequate sanitation Matumbai Primary School in Teso North , Busia County by supporting construction of 2 toilets, 1 wash room and 1 urinal for girls.

In order to enhance access to adequate sanitation, 2 toilets, 1 bathroom and 1 urinal were constructed at Matumbai Primary School as planned. A pit latrine was dug, constructed from down inside the hole/pit to avoid sinking of the walls after construction. With the completion of the sanitary block for the girls, hygiene has been enhanced because they are able to wash their hands after visiting the toilet, no more wasting time for lessons during break time while lining up for the toilets because two more toilets and a urinal will serve more girls. Girls who have been missing classes or being absent will now attend all lessons because of the availability of the bathroom and water for washing while in their menses etc. The girls can now concentrate in class and participate fully in games without worrying too much for hygiene. Apart from the construction of the sanitary block, the girls also have access to sanitary towels. A total of 385 sanitary towels were supplied to Matumbai Primary School for needy girls in the school. This comes with a lot of relief for the girls and they gain confidence in themselves even when in menses.

Objective 3: Empower Kosenyi community in Teso North, Busia County on sustainable livelihood and capacity building.

Consultations were carried out with the stakeholders at the beginning of the project. Matumbai Primary School management committee members were sensitized on the project and their role in the

implementation of the project. A total of 63 people participated. COGICHIS got to know more about the school and the area due to the discussions and sharing by the stakeholders about the school and the community. The issues discussed included among others;- history of the school, water and sanitation issues in Matumbai village and the school, what has been done in the past, the current situation in the community and the school as concerns access to water and adequate sanitation.

For the project to run successfully, 12 people were nominated as Water and sanitation committee members during the stakeholders meeting which was attended by 64 participants. The participants were drawn from various sectors thus; the church or sponsor of the school, provincial administration, the school management committee, 2 girls, CBO/NGOs working in the area, youth representative etc. The committee members formed a committee which was charged with a responsibility of planning and daily monitoring of the project. The members held more than 3 meetings in the school in order to accomplish their responsibilities.

Challenges encountered during implementations:

1. Accessing the school is not easy. The road entering the school has not been built so it is easy to get lost.
2. There was no fence in the school at the beginning of implementation and COGICHIS was worried at the beginning of the project if will be able to fence the school as signed in the contract. The management was able to fence the school in good time.

Main recommendations:

- It is always good to give a benefit of doubt and continue with the project. Sometimes the worries are not fulfilled as in the case of Matumbai fencing the school. COGICHIS is happy.

Important lessons learned:

- Girl's urinal can serve 2 or more girls at once and therefore reduce number of girls waiting to ease themselves and also complements use of toilets.
- Once a community owns a project at the beginning, they work hard to ensure it is implemented as planned. Fencing was a condition given to the school. The head teacher and his team ensured the school is fenced as planned by soliciting for funds from the Constituency Development Funds.

Conclusion:

The Matumbai water and sanitation project was a success. The community owns the project and supported its implementation. They say a BIG THANK YOU to Good Water Foundation, Solwodi Germany and COGICHIS.



Just completed Sanitary block at Matumbai primary school



A view of Matumbai primary school. Just constructed fence



Just completed Urinal for girls at Matumbai primary school



Meeting of the water committee