



Supporting the community's choice

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GERMAN AGRO ACTION (GAA) is the English version of Deutsche Welthungerhilfe a German international Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) working in relief and development. In Kenya the NGO is running an Integrated Food Security Programme in Makueni district (IFSP-M) which is the main focus of this presentation. Rural Water development- *Result 2 - "Improved availability of and accessibility to adequate water for domestic and livestock"* is the 2nd among the five other goal-results of the Program. Other IFSP-M results are; *Result 1: Agriculture promotion, Result 3: Livestock Improvement, Result 4: Natural Resource Management, and Result 5: Drought/agric-market Monitoring.*

The participatory identification of the water-points.

Step 1. Gathering of all proposals and requests for support

A list of all water projects in the area is developed from the information available. Main sources of information are;

- existing community groups e.g. basket weavers, Mwethya women, goat and poultry keeping groups;
- civil and provincial administration officials, i.e. Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs, village elders, school head/teachers, councilors & other local leaders;
- government water offices (shelf plans in the Divisional Water Office).

Step 2. Participatory reconnaissance survey and choosing of the type of service/project

The Survey

An extensive field visit to the proposed sites (existing water projects and proposed new sites in step 1 above) by a multi-disciplinary team to establish the following facts;

- the present nature of the site,
- expected number of beneficiaries (population),
- land ownership and accessibility,
- location and distance to the nearest perennial water source,

- technical feasibility (new sites suitability, water quality and quantity),
- magnitude and rough estimates of the project cost,
- social set-up and the community's livelihood (willingness to develop and sustain).

This reconnaissance team comprises of;

- GAA Programme Officers (water sector);
- Government of Kenya (GoK) technical staff – Water & Social Development;
- Administrative representatives – Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs and village elders,
- Representatives of interest group e.g. schools, wildlife conservation, churches etc.

Choice of service (type of project)

While on the reconnaissance survey, the water engineer/ technicians discusses with the community group the benefits, technical capacity and performance of the proposed system, to reach a consensus on the desired level of service and project type (i.e. whether a shallow well, rock catchment, pipeline extension or an earth-dam).

If the community's choice of service is not technically sound, they are advised to take the next best option based on technical suitability and performance (water quantity & quality). This however is on very rare occasions, as the group's proposed option is more often than not technically feasible, or requires only minimal adjustments.

The main focus of the IFSP-M is to support what the community needs, what they are ready & able to maintain and what is technically safe & sound. Therefore, the decision as to the specific type of water project is made more by the community than by the technical professionals.

Step 3. Priority ranking meeting

After the reconnaissance survey, a meeting is called for the key stakeholders (above listed in steps 1&2), to discuss, analyze and decide which specific projects get priority for support.

Each factor in step 2 is given some weight ranking 1-3, (1= the least desirable and 3= most desirable for project support and development) see below;

<u>Ranking factor</u>	<u>Consideration criteria</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Population	Total beneficiaries	
	(No. of Households)	Over 250
		100-250
		99 – 25
Land (Project site)	Registered Public utility	3
	Land Not allocated registered	2
	Private allocated	1
Technical aspects	Minimal or No extra investigations	3
	Simple site-survey and design to do	2
	Complex technical investigations & designs required	1
Cost implications	Less than Kshs 300,000 (US\$ 4,180)	3
	Kshs300,000 – 750,000 (US\$ 4,180-10,450)	2
	Over Kshs 750,000 (US\$ 10,450)	1
Distance to the nearest perennial water source		Over 10Km
		10Km-5Km
		4Km-1Km
Social set-up and livelihood	Active & cohesive water group/Low income	3
	Registered dormant group/Better income	2
	No formal groups/neglected water projects	1

The results for all the projects are tabulated for easy comparisons and ranking factor calculations (See Table 1).

Project name and type	Population	Land	Technical	Cost	Distance	Social	Special conditions	Total	Priority rank and position
Mumbuni S/Well	2	1	2	3	3	3		14	5 th
Wikililye S/Well	2	3	3	3	3	2		16	1 st
Katulani Roof/C	2	3	3	3	1	2	Primary School	14	4 th
Kyanda E/Dam	2	2	2	1	2	1		10	8 th
Mbole S/S/Dam	3	3	2	2	3	2	More than 300H/H	15	2 nd
Mitendeu Rock/C	2	2	2	2	3	3		15	3 rd
Muliliii Pipe ext.	3	1	2	1	2	1	More than 900H/H	10	7 th

Step 4. Projects Implementation

Community Sensitization Meetings

Having determined the projects to start with in the preceding steps, community sensitization meetings are planned for each site. Normally at least 3 meetings are held for each group project.

1st meeting - Introduction GAA/Group partnership forging, requirements & expectations,

2nd meeting - Sensitization meeting on;

- the water group legislative requirements (registration with the Ministry of Culture & Social Services MoC&SS),
- gender awareness in relation to the water project,
- election of the project management committee,
- project land acquisition, ownership agreements and documentation,
- opening of the project's bank account,
- GAA/Community contributions (roles & inputs) to the project,
- explanation of the Partnership Covenant = GAA and Community written agreement of commitment to develop the water project. In this covenant, the specific roles/contributions are clearly stipulated.

3rd meeting - The signing of the Partnership Covenant (GAA & Group Committee) in presence of all the members.

Detailed technical survey, designs and construction work can only start after signing the Partnership Covenant.

Construction Works and Contributions.

Project implementation and major contribution is by the community, GAA and advisory service by the GoK technical departments (Water, Culture & Social Services).

- The community provides all the locally available construction materials (bricks, sand, gravel, stones, water for concrete-mixing, hardware materials storage on site and security) and the unskilled labour.
- GAA provides the required hardware (cement, steel reinforcements, tools and special equipment) and pays for the skilled labour.
- The GoK technical personnel (Divisional Water Office) supervise the construction works.

Training Water group members

While still progressing with the construction works, GAA organizes and conducts community (the specific water group members) training on;

- Group organization and leadership skills,
- Gender disparity sensitization (work-site labour vis-a-vis management committee representation),
- Conflict management especially within the water group members,

- Committee procedures – group management and administration,
- Water group finances – accounts books & records, water tariff setting and revenue collection,
- The specific project (Hand pump or Rock/Catch system) operation and maintenance procedures,
- Special basic-skills (repairs fixing & periodic system servicing) for the water point Attendants.

Inputs and Roles of Key-Stakeholders

Technical professionals

- Assists the community to understand and choose the optimum technical and financial water system.
- Sensitizes the water groups on their water legal rights - *Water Act*, - *Water abstraction and apportionment*, - *The National Water Policy*.
- Helps in setting the minimum water tariffs (water production and maintenance costs).
- Training of the water project Attendants in repairs, servicing and the general system maintenance.
- Advises and clarifies on negative/injurious myths, rumours and cultural beliefs (e.g. saline water from old open & unprotected wells is medicinal and does not require boiling. Also a popular notion that continuous use of boiled water adversely affects the administration of intravenous fluid if hospitalized).

Civil & Provincial Administration.

- Assists in the group formalization and in the registration process.
- Enhancing government service delivery to the water groups and marginal rural communities.
- Inter-links the water groups with the GoK service departments, NGOs and other support Agencies.
- Helps in the right targeting of water groups, also identifies and dissolves groups formed on selfish ambitions e.g. Single Clan members a Church sect etc.
- Strengthens the community's legal entitlement - Freedom to hold meetings, - Right to open and operate a bank account, - Group project-land acquisition and compensation, - Obtaining Way-leaves for pipelines & Channels, - Government recognition and advice.

Community Members

- They know best about the area, land, people and local/cultural beliefs regarding the proposed project.

Hence;

- Will give most reliable information (motive & reason for the project, shrines/haunted grounds),
- Better understand and have solutions to the possible sources of conflicts relating to the water project especially the wildlife/human and livestock/subsistence peasants' conflicts.
- They shall have the full control, ownership and mandate of the water project.

Table 2. Water projects to be supported (Jan 2000 - Sep 2001)

DIVISION	Sch Roof/C	Shallow Wells	Village Rock/C	Sand/S/ Dams	Earth Dams	Earth Pans	Pipeline Extension	Total
NGUU	5	-	3	1	1	-	-	10
MAKINDU	5	5	1	-	2	5	1	19
KIBWEZI	4	2	-	-	1	1	1	9
MTITO ANDEI	2	1	-	3	2	2	-	10
TOTAL	16	8	4	4	6	8	2	48

Table 3. Completed projects (March 2001)

DIVISION	Sch Roof/C	Shallow Wells	Village Rock/C	Sand/S/ Dams	Earth Dams	Earth Pans	Pipeline Extension	Total
NGUU	5	-	3	1	-	-	-	9
MAKINDU	4	2	1	-	1	3	1	12
KIBWEZI	2	1	-	-	1	-	1	5
MTITO ANDEI	2	-	-	2	1	2	-	7
TOTAL	13	3	4	3	4	5	2	34

Achievements

With the application of this project identification approach and (steps 1 to 4) a total of 127 water points/projects were proposed for development but due to limitation of resources the Programme (GAA) made a commitment to support the first 48-Priority ranked community projects (table 2).

The implementation progress has been very impressive (Table 3) except for some (3 projects) which were abandoned due to;

- i) A shallow well did not yield any water at the expected depth, plus very hard rock.
- ii) A rock-catchment was found to be supported by another Agency.
- iii) Community for a school roof catchment disintegrated and estranged relation with the school Head-teacher.

However the projects have now been replaced with others (Nos. 49-51 on the Priority- ranking list)

This tremendous success in a semi-arid area where people have low income (average family income @ Kshs 2,500 =US \$ 32 per month) is attributed to the high motivation of the group members to work and contribute to the project by;

- ✓ Very clear understanding of the entire project process (inception, expected result & input requirements)

- ✓ Good and clear communication within the group (No suspicion among members because all were involved in decision making – tariff setting, money collection and clear financial reports.)
- ✓ Recognition of, and regular visits to, the project by the GAA, government officials and support agencies.
- ✓ Food for Work Provision (Registered community groups having a labour-intensive activity were assisted with relief food during the severe food shortage – 2 year drought 1999/2000.)

Conclusion

Each community group has a distinctive goal and/or a very determinate reason why they willingly select and heartily support their choice water project and site.

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