

Challenges and Opportunities of Implementing WASH programmes in Karamoja

**DISSEMINATION IN UNICEF OFFICE BOARD ROOM
ORGANISED BY UNICEF WASH CLUSTER**

**PRESENTATION
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Brief Background of MADEFO

- MADEFO- Matheniko Development Forum
- Local NGO operating in Moroto District
- Partner with VSF-Belgium
- Thematic Areas: Water, Livestock and Access to food
- Water: explore local knowledge and technologies: Sand Dams, Subsurface dams and water pans development
- Rehabilitation of boreholes and construction of Cattle troughs
- Major Target groups are Pastoralists of Rupa, Nadunget and Katikekile S/Cs

WATER AVAILABILITY AND SOURCES

Water Sources

- Springs
- Surface water/Run off during rainy seasons
- Rivers during the Rainy seasons
- Boreholes/Hand Pumps
- Open well/spring
- Rivers/Valleys

CHALLENGES FACED IN ACCESSING WATER

Challenges in Accessing water sources

- Long distance 2.4km (dry), 1.7km (rainy) in Rupa and Katikekile
- Overcrowding esp sharing with animals at the water sources
- Inadequate number of water sources to meet the demand
- Drying up & breaking down of sources
- Contamination with worms, dirt
- People bathing at water source
- Women complain - animals given priority at source
- Bad smell
- Bad terrain or weather eg climbing hills, thick bush etc
- Insecurity as a result of cordon and search operations by UPDF
- Lack of skills for management by communities
- Sources are not well maintained (fencing, and general Hygiene)
- All sources serve both livestock & humans

Storage of drinking water

- Pots, Jerry cans, Guard
- A mug – container for drawing drinking water
- No guarantee for keeping drinking water safe. (Boiling, Covering the container e.t.c)

CHALLENGES FACED IN ACCESS TO HYGIENE

Solid Waste

- Rubbish in form of solid material produced and disposed of in HHs, and over the fence
- Children stool is regarded as not Hazardous unlike for the big people
- Latrines only found in institutions (schools & HC)

Comment

- General hygiene level on the whole is low
- Communities are aware of the poor sanitation
- Cultural beliefs and Taboos associated with pit latrines e.g. lead to abortion, blindness in children, e.t.c
- Children's faeces are not regarded as harmful

Personal Observation on Hygiene

Willingness to Wash Hands

- The communities only wash hands when going to eating
- Washing hands depends on the mood and where (Distance) the communities collect water
- Wash hands after defecating is a luxury
- Washing hands is handling food a very rear practice

Hand washing materials

- Use water only and sand/ashes/stones
- Water and soap only when available
- Cows urine & water
- Cows urine also used for washing calabashes, gourds

HOW MADEFO TRIES TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM

- Conduct a community dialogue to come up with CAPs of the water related issues to be addressed
- Technical assessment of the potentially viable community Identified site
- Production of BOQs/Drawings/manuals for the proposal
- Conducting and Community Dialogue (CD) – share costs and responb
- Construction of the structures and repair of the sources
- Training and sensitization of water user committees on maintenance and management of the water sources
- Communities take control of water source e.g. fence, maintenance,
- MADEFO provides Non Local materials e.g. Cement, Iron bars e.t.c.
- MADEFO provides technical support in the development of the structure
- Facilitates the commissioning successful projects with the help of the Local authorities

CONCLUSIONS

- Majority HHs no disposal facilities – burn
- Solid waste disposal at HH level – done by women
- Greater need of more water in the pastoral communities who are far from the administrative structure
- Very Longer distances covered esp dry season
- No H/H treats water before drinking from any source
- Poor community participation in management of water sources
- Many hard to reach and minority communities are not attended

Recommendations

- Urgent need to provide more safe water for the pastoralist communities
- More equitable distribution system of sources
- Women included in committees for management
- Continue to Separate water sources for animals & people
- Adopt other local technologies to supply the animals
- Rainwater harvesting should be explored especially for the surface run off
- Solid waste disposal be part of hygiene promotion & education
- Men be encouraged to participate directly in solid waste disposal e.g. clearing bush, digging compost pits etc
- District visit & sensitize community on disposal