



## Supporting the community's choice

S. M. Mwangi, Kenya

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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).

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

#### 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.

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

2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

3<sup>rd</sup> 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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>48</b>

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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>34</b>

## 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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S. M. MWANGI, German Agro Action (GAA), PO Box 38829, Nairobi, Kenya.

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