

## **MRDASW SCHOOLS APPROACH AND KITUI UNICEF CSD**

UNICEF School Water Tank and VIP Latrine Programme.

UNICEF has selected 6 locations to concentrate its programme over and above its general support to Kitui District Health Management Team (DHMT). These areas are Mutomo in Southern Division, Mulango in Central Division, Kanyangi in Kwa Vonza Division, Endau in Mwingi Division, Nuu in Eastern Division and Tseikuru in Kyuso Division. Various meetings have been held between UNICEF and KIDP and the District Team. These have emphasised that UNICEF focus is on children and women.

The rationale for this project was to provide water to schools which were closing for its lack and to provide sanitation facilities. The programme was initially in the DDO's office. Given limitations on implementation capacity, UNICEF and the DDO asked for assistance from KIDP in implementation. Fundis are already trained and working. Certainly there can be expansion of this activity to cover all schools in the district for the payoffs in demonstration teaching and improved sanitation are apparent to all. Yatta, Katse and Nuu locations have each 40 completed tanks. In Katse 5 tanks were repaired. 8 were repaired in Nuu. Katse has 40 VIP toilets completed and none in Yatta.

Given that one of UNICEF's aims is to construct water facilities at schools and to use them for health education, the speed at which this programme is continuing is extremely slow. All primary schools could benefit from UNICEF's School Water Tank and VIP Latrine programme. Other facilities, mainly dispensaries, health centres, day care centres, and nursery schools could ultimately form the second phase of an expanded programme. This expansion can be realised by supporting the proposed MRDASW Schools Programme.

Considering that Kitui population is on the increase, a target of 2,000 water tanks and the same number of VIP toilets can be absorbed by the district. Such facilities provided at institutions catering for children would serve as entry points into child survival and development and would effectively have a dramatic effect on reducing child mortality and morbidity arising from poor sanitation, contaminated water supply, illiteracy (in matters related to health) and malnutrition.

KIDP Water Activities

KIDP developed a water implementation programme which apparently has not had a public health component for lack of competent manager in the sector. The following activities have been accomplished.

a. Water Pans:

There are 40 built by the Mutomo Soil and Water Conservation Programme. 15 have been built in 1990. Given the yearly target of 10 catchments, it is feasible that catchment area groups, who will be responsible for building and protecting them will from the second year be building between 10 and 20.

b. Water Tanks:

The previous Mutomo project constructed 338 water tanks. A further 72 water tanks were constructed in 1990 in Mutomo. 10 were rehabilitated. 2 water tanks were constructed for Pentecostal Church of Canada in 1990 in Kyuso. The target for 1991 was to construct 84 more water tanks in the division.

c. Rock Catchments;

During 1990, 4 rock catchments were completed and 6 were repaired in Mutomo. It is estimated that in the 10 catchments, a third of the water points will be rock catchments. Therefore an annual target of about 3 is reasonable.

d. Sand Dams:

KIDP has not stressed this system of providing water in the first year. The strategy was to get fundis initially familiar with the Water tank component of water provision. 1 sand dam was constructed in Mutomo.

e. Earth Dams

These are relatively large facilities. The major need is desilting and it is expected that about 20 will be rehabilitated.

f. Spring Protection

Whereas none were constructed in 1990, the limited opportunities will be exploited in the future. These are not part of current KIDP thinking.

g. Shallow Wells

No shallow wells were built in 1990 or 1991 but given the need to have mixed technologies for supplying the catchments, it can safely be projected that about 10 will be dug every year.

In summary then there are a total of 1018 waterpoints built between 1980 and 1991. It is estimated that at least another 2,000 water points exist on the ground. These are from community initiatives mainly and some NGOs in from the earlier period. Thus a total of not less than 3,000 waterpoints exist on the ground. There is no public health input on their utilisation.

## The UNICEF Focus and Future Strategy

At various meetings held between UNICEF and KIDP, the former have emphasized that their focus is on women and children, with the objective of monitoring their nutrition and health status and with a view to improving it, and to support activities which in the long run would lead to their improved health and economic standards. The pathway to these objectives is through training and limited financial support. It should be noted that KIDP has slowed down the planned expansion in water construction and is only handling what UNICEF funds. It is in this context that the MRDASW proposed schools Programme could be of interest to UNICEF for it will expand the rate of water provision among other activities.

The UNICEF strategy for the future in Kitui ought to be to use the schools water tank, VIP toilets, immunisation, health and nutrition (including growth monitoring) and general DHMT public health activities to expand the knowledge base of the students for sustainable agriculture and health. Disturbing is the fact that it is now estimated that the immunisation has fallen from 61% to around 48%. Given the current drought, the possibility of increased drop out, the rate may well drop further this year. In this context then the following may be elements which UNICEF can support through SASOL on a pilot basis. It is an adaptation of the MRDASW project document.

The first element is SCHOOLS' WATER TANK EXPANSION. The objective will be to ensure that there are at least 5 water tanks per school. This will support the feeding programmes and the sustainable agriculture activities. The subobjectives are to enable the school catchment populations to monitor their children's nutrition and health with a view to improving it and to undertake activities which in the long term will lead to improved nutrition and incomes.

The second element is SCHOOLS' NUTRITION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME. There is evidence that the crops will fail this year in Kitui. It is expected that a widespread failure will lead to GOK intervention in the supply of grains or flour. However, there is need for planning the supply of DSM, vitamins and mineral supplements. UNICEF has already been approached on this and various meetings have been held in Kitui with the District Team. It may well be necessary to provide for maintenance feeding for many schools in the

more arid locations. This can be by provision of lunches, with oil, mineral and vitamin supplements.

The third element is INTRODUCTION OF ORGANIC FARMING in schools. The objective is first to introduce the school children to organic farming. This is in the wider development context is extremely critical for it intervenes at the major income generating activity of the district, farming, which is mainly undertaken by women. Composting, zero grazing unit, provision of a school livestock, improved female and male goat and a vegetable garden, introduction of agro-forestry activities on the school farm and reforestation of school compounds are the major activities planned.

The fourth element is the PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION of **Sustainable Agriculture in Arid and Semi Arid Lands** (SAP IN ASAL) for the Schools Programme. This manual, developed initially for KIDP, is Kitui specific. The objective is make it available to all the schools so as to create a sustainable agriculture knowledge base for the district. It is envisaged that each class in the district will get at least two copies of this important source. All possible technical agriculture production for Kitui is covered under this publication.

The fifth element of the strategy is TEACHER TRAINING. Within this the first activity ought to be to give Public Health personnel access to the schools to first undertake immunisation of not just the school children but the children in the school catchment and to train significant numbers of teachers on matters related to public health. The second activity is to train school teachers in sustainable agriculture.

The sixth element is PARENTS TRAINING IN ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTION. As all the other elements of the programme get developed, parents, mainly women, will be involved in the sense that they will have to participate in the activities in the schools. There are several reasons for this. First it is important to train the parents in water harvesting, including construction of the appropriate water structures. This will address the problem of school children having good water in school and poor water at home. These will be mainly shallow wells or another variety of water structure, within 20 minutes of each homestead. This will release labour tied to water collection. Women will be taught sustainable agriculture including improving subsistence crops, introduction of new drought resistant crops to balance family nutrition, introduction of viable (drought escaping - simsim for which a market is already identified )cash crops for generation of incomes and finally limited village processing to stretch the food.

#### Pilot Activity Costs

Preliminary discussions with SASOL suggest that a budget of US\$ 100,000 and 200 pumps maybe what is needed for a pilot activity.