

agency news

ITDG & Africa Now

Results from an assessment survey conducted by the Integrated Urban Housing Project (IUHP), which focuses on three low income urban settlements based in the Nakuru district, Kenya indicate that:

- 90% of the water supply is piped but the supply is irregular and the pipes have water for an average of two days a week
- 96.7% of the toilets are communal among the households. Some toilets may be used to up to 300 households
- Households spend, on average, 37 minutes to transport the water in the entire project area
- Uncollected garbage coupled with indiscriminate water disposal provides good breeding grounds for mosquitoes
- Diarrhoea accounts for 23.6% of disease

Research undertaken by Africa Now and ITDG within schools in the three project locations, highlights the need for hygiene training in informal settlements particularly with the health risks associated with open sewers, stagnant water and poor sanitation facilities. All schools report high levels of sickness amongst children due to diarrhoea, typhoid, cholera and other illnesses as well as cases of mortality within the last 2 years.

ITDG and Africa Now have responded to the challenge by looking at areas of collaboration for bringing about improvements in the field of water and sanitation within the informal settlements of Nakuru town. Initially two possible interventions have been considered from which larger scale activities should develop. The two possibilities include:

Hygiene Training

Africa Now has been involved in the provision of safe water supplies in Nyanza and Western provinces since 1994. A key component of the water programme has been the provision of

Participatory Health and Sanitation Training (PHAST), both with community groups and schools. With schools, the programme has focussed on the formation and support of school health clubs and the sensitization and training of teachers and headmasters in how they should operate. The school health clubs make use of child to child (CTC) methodologies, where children pass on what they have learnt to other children and also their families. This is run in collaboration with the DANIDA funded CTC project in Nairobi.

Through the formation, training and support of school health clubs within Nakuru's informal settlements, the issue of health and sanitation training can be addressed in a proven and effective manner and help to alleviate chronic hygiene problems. Exchange visits between children from the new health clubs and others from established clubs in other parts of the country will increase learning. Attendance by the pupils at the annual Child to Child festival in Nairobi will further expose the children to popular hygiene messages which they can share with other pupils back in Nakuru.

Once closer links have been made with the school and the hygiene activities initiated, then ITDG and Africa Now can look at ways of improving water supply and sanitation systems in individual schools.

Privatised sanitation facilities

ITDG and Africa Now would like to pilot an idea of constructing sanitation blocks at informal markets in the urban settlements with co-operation from the municipal council of Nakuru. These sanitation blocks would then be run either by a local investor or a community based organization (CBO). The local investor or CBO would have to contribute a percentage of construction costs. They could then charge 1 or 2 shillings for people wishing to use the latrines. Any revenue made would allow for an employee to both guard and clean the facility. The idea could be piloted with maybe four sanitation blocks, two owned by a CBO,

and two owned by business people, and see how they perform with a view to replicating elsewhere in urban areas in Kenya.

In the near future ITDG and Africa Now would like to explore the possibility of combining such facilities with a community owned borehole where feasible, so that bathing facilities could also be provided and even a water kiosk.

www.oneworld.org/itdg/kenya

Robert Hale & Josiah Omotto

IRC

Researchers, students and information gatekeepers can now freely access a unique bibliographic database on water supply and sanitation in developing countries. IRCDOC can be found on the Internet at <http://www.irc.nl/ircdoc>.

IRCDOC includes nearly 13,000 references to documents collected by the Documentation Unit of the IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre since 1984, and a growing number of documents available on the Web. The majority of the collection consists of (unpublished) grey literature and includes 2,000 books, 5,400 reports, 2,750 journal articles and conference papers, 650 training manuals, 350 reference works and 170 videos and slide series. IRCDOC is updated monthly while about 1,000 new references are added to the database each year.

Information can be retrieved either by title, author, subject, series or publisher. The results can also be filtered by language, media type and year of publication. About 20 % of the database records have an abstract.

Photocopies of limited numbers of non-copyright documents, which are not available on the Internet, can be provided at a cost:

<http://www.irc.nl/products/documentation/delivery.html>

For more information see the IRCDOC web page or contact Cor Dievtorst at dietvorst@irc.nl.

www.irc.nl/ircdoc

Dick de Jong

agency news

WaterAid

WaterAid is the UK's only major charity dedicated to the provision of safe domestic water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion to the world's poorest people. Since its inception in 1981, WaterAid has grown into a respected international organization. Over the last 19 years the charity has gained valuable experience in its field. This knowledge has been incorporated into a strategy that sets out the future direction of the organization. The resulting strategic five-year plan has now been published.

WaterAid's vision of a world where everyone has access to safe water and sanitation remains unchanged. The new strategy places greater emphasis on WaterAid's commitment to maximising

the benefits for women from its work. The results of current gender analysis will permeate all aspects of project and programme design, and will be reflected in relationships with partners.

Initially, much of WaterAid's work was concentrated in rural areas of Africa and Asia. However, increasing levels of urbanization and deteriorating conditions of water provision, sanitation and hygiene of urban poor people, has resulted in urban work becoming a priority in the new strategy. Virginia Roaf has been appointed as WaterAid's urban initiatives coordinator.

WaterAid is also firmly committed to putting more resources into encouraging others, including governments, who can learn from WaterAid's successful models, and to publicising water and

sanitation issues among the general public. WaterAid will be promoting the right of access to affordable water and sanitation services, in particular encouraging governments to consider the needs of the poor in development policies.

It is hoped that WaterAid will continue to grow and develop in line with the new strategy to fulfil our vision of a world, where everyone has access to safe water and sanitation.

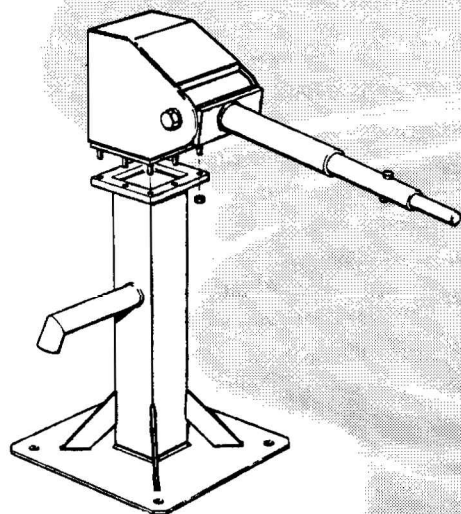
For a complete copy of the strategy document, please visit the WaterAid web site or contact WaterAid.

Email: wateraid@wateraid.org.uk or telephone 0207 793 4500.

<www.wateraid.org.uk/aboutus/>

Sally Warren

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