

Kisumu city partnerships for IMPROVED SANITATION IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

SUMMARY

Our KisumuSan project promotes the delivery of safer, healthier and better futures, by enhancing the voice of marginalised people living in the slum settlements of Obunga and Nyalenda.

Location:	Nyalenda A, Nyalenda B and Obunga in Kisumu City
Beneficiaries:	<p>73, 257 men and women with improved access to water</p> <p>21,746 people with improved sanitation (On plot toilets, demo toilets and ablution blocks)</p> <p>35,768 School children benefitting from hygiene / hand washing improvement</p>
Timeframe:	1 st February 2016 to 31 st January 2021
Implementing Partner:	Kisumu Urban Apostolate Programme (KUAP)
Donor:	Comic Relief
Funding:	£998,861

BACKGROUND



Kisumu is Kenya's third largest city. 70% of its residents are tenants living in informal settlements with limited access to clean water and inadequate toilets shared by up to seven families. Over 50 % of Kisumu's 501,818 residents live in deprivation and 80 % are tenant householders. In 2014, fewer than 30 % of the population in the informal settlements had adequate toilets and open defecation was widespread (Practical Action, 2014). Water borne diseases such as dysentery, diarrhoea, cholera, hepatitis A and typhoid were common due to the widely practised open defecation, inadequate toilets and unsafe pit emptying practices. In addition, Kisumu's high water table and frequent flooding created an additional health hazards such as faecal waste that seep into drinking water sources and spills into flood water which flow through slums when it rains. Children under 5 years, women of reproductive age, people living with disabilities and those living with HIV/AIDS are most affected.

APPROACH

Practical Action and KUAP carried out various activities to improve access to WASH by working with and through existing stakeholders. Our approaches included:

- **Delegated management** model to increase last mile water connections in the informal settlements with KIWASCO, including supporting water operators contracted by KIWASCO
- **Urban Community Led Total Sanitation (UCLTS)** encouraging the community to construct and use improved sanitation facilities
- **Fecal sludge management** supporting informal pit emptiers in safe pit emptying technologies including development and implementation of by-laws that legalized their operations
- **Behaviour change communication** on hygiene targeting both in and out of school going children including distribution of child friendly handwashing vessels
- **Support to the County government** in development and implementation of policies and guidelines on WASH

PROJECT IMPACT

Improved sanitation facilities

Seven units have been verified, certified and declared as ‘hygienically safe urban neighbourhoods’, an urban equivalent of an enhanced ‘open defecation free’ verification. These units, four in Nyalenda A and three in Obunga, are home to 22,000 people. There was no presence of faeces in the open in at least 95% of the plots.

“

...Before, only 30%-45% of the population in the three informal settlements had toilets and now around 90%-95% have toilets...”

Excerpt from NPA FGD

55%

of households
have piped water
to their home

Improved water access

Improved access to water befitting over 73, 257 men and women (17,316 Obunga, Nyalenda A 24,417, Nyalenda B 31,524). In Nyalenda and Obunga informal settlements, household connections have increased from 33% at baseline to 55% by the end of the project attributed to the Delegated Management Model implemented by the project. There is notable increase in the population accessing safe water in Kisumu city resulting from improved coverage from 60% to 89% (KIWASCO Impact report, 2019).



70%

increase in income



Safer jobs and improved incomes

73 Manual pit emptiers (64 males, 9 female) supported on safe pit emptying using the gulper technology. Influenced the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for pit emptiers which have helped in regulating fecal sludge management within the communities by outlawing poor disposal of fecal sludge and restricting all disposals to be done at the designated KIWASCO sludge treatment lagoons. This has led to the recognition of their work as well as exposed them to more modern and safer ways of working, and has given them more confidence leading to increased income from Kshs 1,500 at baseline to Kshs. 5,000 at the end of the project.

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“... You know in Kenya, there are limited employment opportunities. Pit emptying has given me a job and enabled me to fend for my family and kept me away from criminal activities”

75%

households improved hygiene practice



Improved hygiene practice

Over 35,768 school children benefitting from health education including improved WASH situation in 21 schools through provision of handwashing stations, liquid soap as well as health education. Improved hygiene practices for 75% of the households who have set up handwashing facilities and continue to practice improved hygiene behaviour at critical times.

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“Before the project, many people did not know how to wash their hands. They all washed in one basin with no running water. Now people are using leaky tins with running water”.

Excerpt from FGD

Supportive policy change

Supported the development of Kisumu County Environmental Sanitation and Hygiene Policy and Bill, which is awaiting County Assembly approvals. The policy will seek to support streamlining of WASH investment for Kisumu, including the informal settlements, and ensure availability and sustainable management of fecal sludge, as well as inclusion of community WASH needs in the CIDPs.

Shared protocols

Development of UCLTS protocols and tools that can be emulated by other WASH programmes targeting ODF in urban setups. Institutionalizing of UCLTS through training of public health officers in Kisumu and Homa bay counties.

Stronger community representation




Improved capacity for 70 NPA leaders (men and women) and engagement with County Government of Kisumu and other non-state actors on WASH issues in Kisumu. The NPAs have been able to actively take part in public participation and influence county budget on WASH issues through advocacy at grassroots level, social audits and planning of development projects. Revision of Strategic Ward Action Plans (SWAPS) feeding into County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) and Annual Development Plan (ADPs).

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