

Massai Lengast Community Development Project

Project Summary:

Project Title: Massai Lengast Water and Sanitation Project.

Location: Lengast Village, Naisigui Ward, Simanjiro District, Manyara Region.

Number of Individual Beneficiaries: 13,750

Number of Household Beneficiaries: 712

Project Start Date: May 2009 (anticipated)

Project End Date: June, 2010

Project Budget: \$ 50,100

Implementing Organizations:

1. Orphans Foundation Fund (OFF)
2. Ndio Tunaweza Women Development Service Center

Current Situation of the project Area

Lengasti village is located in the northern part of Simanjiro district in Manyara region. It is located on a plateau over a range of hills about 40 kilometers from Kilimanjaro International Airport that lie to western side. According to local statistics, the population is estimated to be 13,750 of which 625 are men, 1,875 are women, and 11,250 are children. The area is comprised of Massai pastoralist and the estimate number of cows is 37,500 and 75,000goats. The community practice poultry on a small scale and of late engages in small fragmented farming.



(In-front are children and parents at the back who participated in the first public meeting in Lengast Village)

Currently, women and children spend hours each day collecting water for household use and drinking and for animals from a one water source whose water supply is not sustainable. To most households this source is miles away from their homes, some have to walk 5-7km to access this point and unfortunately, the water is frequently contaminated. Water-related diseases remain excessively high. The impact of unsafe water has had

devastating effects on the children in the communities. There is one ill-equipped community dispensary with 3 staff (1 clinical officer, 1 mid-wife and 1 medical attendant).

Incidences of child mortality and morbidity are on the rise and the children are often sick with diarrhea. Each episode hinders a child's growth by lowering their appetite and reducing their calorie and nutrient uptake. Repeated infections can lead to increased malnutrition, which in turn increases susceptibility to further infection (the diarrhea malnutrition cycle). Persistent diarrhea and severe diseases, such as cholera and dysentery, jeopardize children's healthy development. According to local statistics, more than 50% of the children are suffering from chronic malnutrition and more than 10% from acute malnutrition. Local sanitation customs further impede access to safe drinking water.

There is 1 local primary school with 275 pupils and 6 teachers. Unsanitary conditions and practices at the household level, such as the absence of sanitary latrines, unsafe waste disposal and unhygienic behavior in childcare and food preparation, create a dangerous environment with health risks to children. A lack of sanitation facilities and access to safe drinking water in the school helps transmit diseases and keeps majority of girls out of school.

Village Field assessment conducted by Orphans Foundation Fund in partnership with Ndio Tunaweza Women Development Service Center has indicated that a project intervention in this village could bring in a number of positive changes in the lives of the women and children in the village and help improve the living conditions of the community in general.

The Solution:

The members of this community are ready to end these problems. They are prepared to offer whatever they can towards the construction of a new water system, but they lack the financial resources to get started. Orphans Foundation Fund in Partnership with Ndio Tunaweza (Women Development Service Center of the area) is seeking support to work with them to develop and implement a sustainable community water supply and sanitation system.

The Massai Lengast Water Project has four major goals:

1. Community Management: to develop, implement & maintain a community-managed sustainable water supply system and community-managed sanitation system.
2. Community Ownership: to involve communities in the decisions, the construction and the maintenance of the water supply and sanitation system.
3. Community learning: to increase community knowledge and practice of proper hygiene and sanitation through participatory learning practices, training through local water/sanitation committees and community health workers.
4. Capacity Building: to strengthen the community's capacity to administer community development projects.

The Massai Lengast Water & Sanitation Project is a comprehensive project combining health/sanitation education with the construction of sanitation and water system. This combination is more successful at reducing water-related diseases than either alone.

Anticipated project impacts include:

1. Increase potable water supply coverage.
2. Decrease cases of water-related diseases.
3. Increase awareness of the role that hygiene and sanitation have in the disease cycle.
4. Decrease the amount of time women and girls spend collecting water, reducing their walking time from 1-2 hours to 15-20 minutes. By reducing their workload, women will have time to pursue other activities, such as farming and other income-earning activities, and allow them to spend more time with their children.

The Project Activities

1. Water well construction for easy access to safe drinking water
2. Construction of private latrines for improving health condition and the village environment
3. Training classes and workshops on hygiene and sanitation for improving community and personal health situations
4. Support to the village school and community health center for improving drinking water and sanitation facilities.

Project Implementation Procedure

Pre-Implementation Stage:

- a) In response to the requests received from the community representative and the 4 local CBOs, OFF in partnership with Ndio Tunaweza Women Development Service Center, have assessed their needs by initial field assessment.
- b) OFF and Ndio Tunaweza has also organized a public meeting, attended by the Village leaders, Boma heads and the general public to discuss about the needs of Lengast and project mission. The OFF and Ndio Tunaweza officials informed all the details about the Water and Sanitation project and also explained its implementation procedures, including the roles and the obligations of the project participants.



Left-Dr. James Lace of Childhood Health Associates & OFF E.D during the first public meeting, Right-Lengast Women at the meeting

- c) The community leaders have prepared a list of those households who are interested in constructing their private latrines. This list has already been submitted to OFF.
- d) A second meeting was organized in February 20th 2009, in presence of Lengast Chairperson, Council Committee members, Women representatives, school and health center representation, and this meeting confirmed the finding of the first meeting.



Lengast Community leaders during 2nd meeting

- e) OFF has obtained permission from the concerned Village Development Committee, District Development Committee and the Department of Water Supply and Sanitation for implementing the Lengast Water and Sanitation project.
- f) Geological Survey has been made and paid for by OFF with support from Dr. James Lacey (Yatima Group Fund, Oregon, USA) and the report is submitted to OFF office indicating 4 water points with sustainable water.

During Project Implementation:

The project will be done in two phases and take approximately one year to complete. In Phase 1, A water committee will be formed to oversee the other stages of the project and to head the community development program. This will be a committee of at least 8 members, having two representatives from each of the 4 village CBOs. The commitment and participation of the community in identifying, preparing, constructing and evaluating the project is crucial in ensuring the sustainability of the project. Further, the role of women in the Lengast Water & Sanitation Project is critical. Because women are traditionally responsible for collecting the household's daily water, female membership on the water committee will be highly encouraged by our partner organization through gender and leadership training courses.

A crucial part of this stage is education about safe hygiene practices and their importance to an individual's health. Once people understand the link between hygienic practices and disease, they are much more likely to maintain the water supply system and to build household latrines. The community health workers, with the help of hygiene educators, will provide community hygiene education through village meetings and trainings.

In Phase 2 of the project, each participating household will build a sanitary latrine for their own personal use. The wide range of types and prices of latrines will enable families of any economic level to construct one for their household.

Additionally, the water committee will develop a local maintenance and repair system. The project will train local technicians elected by the community to operate and maintain the water system the local technicians will mostly be women.

All the project activities will be implemented in consultation with and cooperation of the local community. Any conflicts, if it occurs, will be resolved at the community level itself through amicable discussions. OFF will submit project progress reports at quarterly intervals, and will provide additional reports, when requested by the donor.

Post Project Implementation:

- a) OFF and Ndio Tunaweza, will monitor the status and condition of the entire project supported infrastructures and programs even after the project is concluded.
- b) For the sustainability of the community drinking water wells, a maintenance and repair fund will be established with nominal cash contribution from the tube well members on a regular basis. Adequate rules and procedures will be developed among the user group members.

Estimated Total Project Budget (in USD)

1	Construction Costs (includes materials & contractors)	24,000
2	Community Education/Training	8,000
3	Other Personnel Costs (includes hydrologists, technicians, etc.)	5,200
4	Monitoring & Evaluation	5,500
5	Project Management	7,400
Total Project Costs		50,100