



WASH and Learn!

An Eastern Africa Community & School WASH Learning and Exchange Programme

By Simavi and A4A, funded through Wandelen voor Water 2016 - 2018

Summary

Programme title

WASH and Learn! An Eastern Africa Community & School WASH Learning and Exchange Programme

Contact

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Duration of programme

3 years, starting 1 January 2016

Total budget

€ 1,890,000/- (see Annex I for more details)

Programme location

- Kenya : Nambale and Teso South Sub-Counties, Busia County, Western Kenya
- Uganda : Kabarole District, Bunyangabu County, Kisomoro and Rwimi Sub Counties, Kibale District, Bugangaize West County, Rwenzori Region, Western Uganda
- Tanzania : Nzega, Uyui and Sikonge districts, Tabora Region and Kongwa district in Dodoma Region



Main Partner organisations

- Kenya : CABDA (NGO, partner of Simavi since 2006), Maji Milele (business partner, prepaid water services), Davis&Shirlif (private partner, pump supplier)
- Uganda : HEWASA, JESE and EMESCO (partners of Simavi since 2005, 2009 and 2002 respectively)
- Tanzania : Tabora Development Foundation Trust (TDFT) (partner of Simavi since 2004), UFUNDIKO (partner of Simavi since 2004)
- Netherlands : Witteveen and Bos for Capacity building on technical skills, IRC for WASH in Schools website learning and sharing platform.

Number of beneficiaries

Country	Direct improved access to water, sanitation and hygiene facilities		Other
	Pupils + teachers	Community members	
Kenya	1,800	6,600	200 small WASH business created, 100 jobs created
Uganda	11,580	8,870	Small WASH business created: water filters, pit emptiers, and more than 20,000 additional people on hygiene awareness
Tanzania	6,000	11,000	additional more that 20,000 people on hygiene awareness
Total	19,380	26,470	

Introduction

Simavi is an international non-profit organisation working towards a world in which basic health is accessible to all. Our goal is to structurally improve the basic health of 10 million people in marginalised communities in Africa and Asia by 2020. By doing so, we enable them to build a better existence and break the cycle of poverty.

Our experience over the past ninety years has shown us that investing in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) is vital for people to be able to lead a healthy life. Therefore we concentrate our efforts in these two areas.

Theory of Change

All our programmes are based on three integrated pillars: 1) Empower communities to demand quality services and to practice healthy behaviour; 2) Create a supportive, enabling environment in which all stakeholders are aware of their roles and responsibilities, work together and can be held accountable; 3) Ensure that people use affordable, suitable and sustainable WASH and SRHR services. This is the core of our Theory of Change – it's designed to ensure that everyone involved, from community to governmental level, works together towards realising sustainable improvement of basic health.

Context

Today, 2.5 billion people around the world lack access to adequate sanitation and 1.8 billion people use a drinking water source that is not safe. Without access to safe water and sanitation diseases spread fast: for example over 13,700 people die every day from diarrhoeal diseases alone.

Access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services aren't only important in the home: to successfully improve basic health, WASH services and education must be extended to schools and other public places. WASH services and education in schools lag far behind WASH at household level. Currently 31% of schools in developing countries have no access to an improved water source.

Without having proper access and use of WASH facilities at schools and at households the health situation of the community will not improve adequately, and either the school based or the community / household WASH facilities will be overused and overburdened resulting in a reduced lifespan of the facilities. By paying only attention to school WASH while children at home do not have access to for example a latrine or the other way around, having access at home but not at school, only part of the problem has been solved. Specific attention to schools has proven advantages; children- early adopters- learn more easily than adults and they are quicker in adjusting their behaviour. Once children have accepted certain positive behaviour like hand washing or using a hygienic latrine they easily maintain that behaviour when they are adults.

Based on the above and the opportunity of the Walking for Water funds being collected through Simavi and the multiplier of funds opportunity A4A offers, Simavi would like to present to Aqua for All the 'WASH and Learn! An Eastern Africa Community & School WASH Learning and Exchange Programme. By integrating community and school WASH projects in three adjacent countries in East Africa, implemented by 6 local NGO partners which each have specific features and challenges, Simavi would like to ensure they learn from each other. Different approaches will be followed based on experience of each partner and the local context. By pooling three countries and 6 partners, Simavi can offer specific learning sessions and sharing for example on the results of pilots on small business development that will be assessed, improved and scaled out. One of the methods to share the learnings, also with a broader public, will be to add specific pages to the www.washinschools.info website. This website is being managed by the IRC since 2009 and the IRC can arrange to add pages / information on the WvW financed activities to facilitate the internal programme learning and sharing as well as the external sharing of information and experiences. Witteveen & Bos will provide specific technical training to the local NGOs to improve the technical component of the programme. Thereby increasing each their effectiveness at their respective local areas. In the meantime Simavi and A4A can present learning from this programme to improve the Community and School WASH projects of other stakeholders like Rotary Clubs.

Programme approach

The overall Simavi approach to WASH programmes will be used. The programme will use an intergrated WASH approach so work on water supply, sanitation and hygiene behaviour improvements. We will work on the demand side with communities, on a creating a positive enabling environment with all stakeholders (including private sector for supply) and ensure that people use the WASH services properly. The programme will work at schools and in the surrounding communities. We take the local context and the current capacities and experiences of our local partners as starting point from which specific country and partner approaches are developed to reach the overall objectives of the WASH and Learn! Programme. Approaches and activities can therefore vary between countries. In the detailed proposals per country the specific country approaches and activities are explained. Below the common, overall, approaches are presented.

Through local NGO partners

Simavi works through local NGO partners as a strategy to ensure sustainability of our programme activities as we expect our local NGOs to be embedded into the local culture and therefore better able to develop appropriate programme strategies to ensure improved basic health of the intended beneficiaries. To reach sustainable health impact through a WASH programme improved behaviour is essential. Providing access to WASH services is not sufficient, the people need to use it appropriately to reach the intended health impact. Local NGOs are expected to have good knowledge on the local people's knowledge, attitudes and practices related to WASH. Furthermore they remain working in the area also after the programme has ended so they feel accountable for sustainable results.

Our local NGO partners are selected on the basis of standard criteria like being registered, have proper organisational management structure including a supervisory board, are able to submit at least 2 annual financial audit reports and have proven experience. Furthermore we check if their mission and vision and approaches are compatible with those of Simavi. Their programme proposal is checked against our Simavi WASH policy, our gender policy, our FIETS sustainability principles and their knowledge on the culture and relevant social aspects of the proposed beneficiaries. If relevant a cross check with the mission, vision, approaches and requirements of the back donor is also done.

Simavi supports its local partners to improve their capacity so they become more effective and efficient in improving the basic health of the communities they work in. Simavi's approach towards capacity building of local NGO's is a gradual one, we facilitate, mainly through coaching by our programme officers, that local organisations step by step improve their programme implementation. We support that they increase their knowledge on WASH through actively informing them on (for them) new developments, create interaction between different partners and facilitate that they can experiment with adjusted approaches. We also facilitate that they gradually improve their organisation, and their capability to interact and work together with other relevant stakeholders. By doing so our local partner NGOs become and remain owner of their programme and the new developments and that they incorporate and continue their development on their own. We first of all establish their current capacities through a Organisational Capacity Assessment, after which they are stimulated to act on certain weaknesses themselves or through other donors contributions. If needed we do organise formal training but our main approach is that they take own actions and not depend on us to improve all their capacities.

Through this 'WASH and Learn! An Eastern Africa Community & School WASH Learning and Exchange programme we actively will add a component of peer to peer (NGO –NGO or south – south) learning to the capacity building of the local partners.

Sustainability

Based on the FIETS sustainability principles to which all our partners are sensitised, each partner will use context specific approaches to achieve sustainable, durable and scalable results. Below the common approaches are mentioned (and where relevant specific country approaches):

Financial: Local finance for investments (future and current) and for O&M will be mobilized through:

Community contributions (in Uganda up to 40% of the investments costs for each school facility, other countries varies; payment of service fee)

Linking of community (business) groups / PTA's / local entrepreneurs to MFIs and Revolving Fund

L&A to local government authorities on budget allocation for WASH facilities and services at schools and for the communities. A cost recovery planning tool will be applied throughout the programme. In Kenya through the pre-paid water facility the non-revenue water will decrease leading to increased funds available for O&M of the water system.

Business components will be included not only to guarantee quality of the intervention but also to generate revenue to cater for the service costs. For the bottom of the pyramid full financial independence might be difficult to reach and public financing cannot be ruled out. Simavi's implementing partners will be strengthened in their lobby and advocacy efforts to local government (and private sector) to allocate and timely release WASH budget.

Institutional: Local NGOs and Simavi will facilitate a multi-stakeholder process between the local public sector, local private sector, local civil society and consumers / beneficiaries to enhance cooperation and increase efficiency in local WASH sector developments. School institutional structures will be established or strengthened (school health clubs, school management committees and parents teacher associations, registered water committees). Local by-laws for the management of WASH facilities and for the maintenance of good hygiene and sanitation practices will be developed (which is already common practice in Uganda for example). Local government will be mobilised to ensure follow up and ownership after the project period.

Given the rural context of the intervention areas specific attention will be paid to the role of the local government in e.g. financing WASH in schools. School and community based social accountability tools will be used to encourage linking hardware with lobby and advocacy towards governments.

Environmental: Rain Water Harvesting will be considered as possible water supply option to avoid ground water abstractions. If other water sources will be used the ground water situation will be assessed as well as the use of the same source by others in relation to the quantity. Local water quality standards will be followed. The sanitation facilities will prevent faecal contamination of the environment. In Kenya EIA will be carried out (as per government regulation) before implementation and in the other countries this will depend on the local context.

Technological: Technologies will be locally appropriate, affordable and demand driven. Design of pit-latrines will be so that these can be easily emptied if needed. Local entrepreneurs, including pit-emptiers (if relevant), will be trained and/or contracted. Technical capacity of local NGOs will be improved through a technical training trajectory by the Dutch engineering firm Witteveen & Bos.

Social: Participatory methodologies will be used for planning, design, implementation and monitoring of project activities and to ensure inclusiveness of minorities and disadvantaged. All social (community and school based) activities will be geared towards empowering of the community or school management. Gender needs will be taken into account: separate sanitation facilities for boys and girls, including washing rooms for girls. In Uganda Menstrual Hygiene Management (with production of so called Re-Usable Menstrual Pads (RUMPS)) is included.

Development of strong local leadership, either by formal or natural leaders will be supported. These local leaders are willing to take specific efforts to organize the community, to organize operation and maintenance of facilities and to hold the community and the local governments accountable for their roles and responsibilities. At schools, our partners take the opportunity to work on creating leaders as from a young age while in the communities active natural and formal leaders are supported to take a leading role in improving the WASH situation.

Overall Programme Description

Expected overall results

1. Improved access and use of WASH facilities for 19,380 pupils at school thereby structurally improving:
 - a. Health;
 - b. School attendance and learning;
 - c. Enrolment (especially for girls);
 - d. Working conditions for teachers.
2. Improved sustainable access and use of WASH facilities for 26,470 people from the communities surrounding the schools thereby structurally improving:
 - a. Health;
 - b. Empowerment of communities so they can continue to improve their own situation.
3. Improved capacity of local NGOs on:
 - a. Implementing WASH programmes in schools and community by sharing knowledge regionally
 - b. Business skills to be able to assess projects or interventions on financial sustainability and to assess quality and skills of local entrepreneurs
 - c. Technical skills on:
 - Choosing the appropriate WASH technology
 - Working with local building contractors
 - Monitoring and assessing the quality of work by contractors
4. Improved capacity and involvement of local entrepreneurs to provide WASH services to schools and households/communities

Main activities

Under Overall result 1,2 and 4:

- Construction of WASH facilities at 40 schools (boreholes in Kenya, rain water harvesting in Uganda, wells and a borehole in Tanzania, hand washing facilities, sanitation blocks with emptying possibilities)
- Construction of water points / kiosks in the villages: 22 in Uganda, 9 in Kenya with 45 household connections, and in 13 communities in Tanzania.
- CLTS in villages: 44 in Uganda, 9 in Kenya, 30 in Tanzania
- Capacity building on hygiene issues (including Menstrual Hygiene Management), on O&M including cost recovery, on business management, on lobby and advocacy, on monitoring:
 - at school level: School Management, PTA's, Health Teachers, School Health Clubs
 - at community level: Water Management Committees / Water User Groups, CSOs / community groups, leaders, Community Health Workers
- Training of local entrepreneurs for WASH facility construction, service provision, operation and maintenance and business management.
- Training on small business development/IGAs (Income Generating Activities) and establishment of local revolving funds groups

Under Overall result 3:

Organised by the regional level: for the NGOs and counterparts such as local government departments, local entrepreneurs, CSOs:

- Lobby and advocacy training, training on use of social accountability tools such as community scoring cards, budget tracking
- Knowledge sharing / cross – learning on WASH in schools and community challenges and successes, new approaches
- Technical training and support on choice of technology, contracting local entrepreneurs / contractors, monitoring contractors, reading technical designs, monitoring and evaluating quality of work.

- Programme Monitoring and Evaluation for internal programme steering, for the schools and communities to plan their own developments, for learning, for the NGOs to improve their impact and also for advocacy purposes

Special features per country

As the proposed programme will have a regional outreach, the experiences and learnings of country specific activities will be shared within the three countries to enhance cross learning:

Kenya: In Kenyan Simavi and CABDA will install pre-paid water supply systems, serving schools and households (both through water kiosks and household connections), through collaboration with Maji Milele. Maji Milele is the first subsidiary company of Water Forever (based in Nairobi) and will install the pre-paid system, as well as provide the service contract. Furthermore CABDA has positive experiences with establishing local “business groups” which enhance the availability of O&M funds through revolving fund mechanisms and cost recovery tools. Besides this they are well linked and engaged with local government in mobilizing local WASH budget.

Uganda: In Uganda our partners HEWASA and JESE (and eventually EMESCO) will use local building contractors based on tender procedures to select the appropriate contractor for the construction of WASH facilities. Furthermore all will include Menstrual Hygiene Management in the WASH in Schools approach, which will be based on the business concept of producing and selling, by local women groups, of re-usable menstrual pads (RUMPS). Parents will be trained on Village Savings Loans Association (VSLA) approaches and saving groups will be established, which aims to contribute to parents ability to contribute to O&M of the school WASH facilities. In the communities pilots will be established with ‘pay as you fetch’ business models for water supply. Ceramic household filters and SODIS will be promoted to ensure safe water at point of use. Whereby the sales of ceramic household filters will be taken up by local entrepreneurs.

Tanzania: Our Tanzania partner TDFT will bring positive experiences related to L&A to the group as together with the private sector and government authorities, TDFT has set up a call centre service that monitors the development progress in the region and to improve the services of the government authorities. UFUNDIKO will bring in positive experiences with community savings revolving funds and they are keen to pilot a distance monitoring system on a borehole related water supply, Vice versa they will gain a wealth of knowledge from the others as these partners are operating in very remote areas of Tanzania and have for example not yet been exposed to the experiences gained through Football For Water.

In summary, each country will have its specific area of expertise which will be shared with the other countries, for linking and learning processes. The exchange is aimed towards enhancing knowledge and gauging the potential to implement similar activities in the other countries in the field of :

- Pre-paid water supply
- Cost recovery tools
- Menstrual hygiene management tools
- Tendering approach
- Lobby and Advocacy on WASH budgets