
Action plan for delivery of WASH services in Suba and Homa Bay districts

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Short summary

In Homa Bay and Suba, access to safe water and improved sanitation remains elusive, which is strongly correlated to the outbreak of water borne diseases such as diarrhoea, typhoid and cholera. Both districts have recurrently been cholera prone. The investment in water and sanitation therefore appears as a key strategy to improve health.

In recognition of this fact, and to support the Districts of Homa Bay and Suba in its efforts to promote regional development and reduce poverty, this case study aims to prepare a strategic plan for the delivery of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services to the population. Such plan should contribute to a coordinated and focused implementation of WASH activities. In brief, the plan will achieve sustainable and equitable growth in the sector, being a comprehensive road map on how to increase sustained access to safe water and adequate sanitation as well as to improve hygiene behaviour. It includes:

1. A comprehensive baseline (data collection from waterpoints, households and schools)
2. Analysis of core sector indicators to describe WASH status at local level
3. Design of simple planning tools for prioritization and targeting support
4. Development of a WASH action / investment plan

Issues addressed:

WASH (inequalities, schools, health centers, refugee camps, women and girls)

Development of a wealth index to assess access to WASH services and its linkages with wealth. The index allows the analysis of WASH outcomes and their relation to poverty issues at the dwelling

Analysis of local disparities (between different administrative units) in terms of access to WASH

Water quality (pollution, dumping of toxic materials, wastewater management, recycling, reuse)

The data collection included water quality testing of all audited waterpoints. More than 400 water samples were analysed. In particular, the quality parameters of faecal coliforms, pH, nitrates, conductivity and turbidity.

Tools for implementation

Governance: Institutions / legal framework: The aim of the case study is to develop appropriate tools to support local decision-making. In terms of method, case study first integrates a comprehensive assessment of WASH issues at local level, mainly through an innovative method for primary data collection. On the basis of baseline data, a set of easy-to-use planning tools are developed to support local planning, i.e. prioritization and targeting.

Who is involved?:

- UNICEF – Kenya Country Office
- Homa Bay and Suba District Authorities (WASH, Education and Public Health)
- Local consultant for data collection
- UPC (overall implementation of the case study)

What were the objectives of the intervention?: Main objective was to support local authorities in their efforts to deliver WASH services in a sustainable and equitable way.

Implementation challenges:

- Data collection: To develop a simple data collection method that can be autonomously updated by local technicians remains elusive
- Engagement of local stakeholders: Despite considerable efforts to engage local technicians in data collection and development of planning tools, it was not easy ...

Main task/activities undertaken:

- A comprehensive baseline (data collection from waterpoints, households and schools)
- Analysis of core sector indicators to describe WASH status at local level
- Design of simple planning tools for prioritization and targeting support
- Development of a WASH action / investment plan
- Capacity building to improve implementation of the action / investment plan

Main outcomes / impacts (what has changed?):

- WASH Baseline (waterpoints, households, schools and health centres)
- Action / Investment Plan

Lessons learned

Triggers:

- Not sure what is meant by triggers ...
- Seasonal outbreaks of water borne diseases such as diarrhoea, typhoid and cholera

Barriers:

- Continued engagement of local technicians throughout the process was challenging
- Poor capacities of local technicians in relation to data analysis (Excel, GIS, etc.) somehow hinder the development of decision-making tools.

What has worked well?:

- Design of a data collection method that combines the waterpoint and the household and is applied at the local level
- Development of decision-making tools that are simple and help identify sector challenges in which to focus policy attention

What can be improved?:

- Development of data collection methodologies that include regular data update by local authorities with no external support
- Engagement of local stakeholders is crucial at various stages of the project
- Support during the implementation of the action / investment plan (after project completion)

The way forward:

- Include in the survey instruments a more human rights perspective
- Adapt the data collection methodology to urban areas

Links / References:

Giné Garriga, R., Jiménez, A., & Pérez Foguet, A. (2013). Water-sanitation-hygiene mapping: An improved approach for data collection at local level. *Science of the Total Environment*, 463-464, 700–711. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2013.06.005>

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