

SWOT analysis of Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Kodumo East Location, Kabondo/Kasipul Sub County, HomaBay County, Kenya

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Abstract: It is evident that WASH (Water Sanitation and Hygiene) investments can have significant health, economic and development benefits and provide value for money. The study highlights the steps and stages taken during SWOT Analysis on water Sanitation and Hygiene at Kodumo East Location, Kabondo/Kasipul Sub-County, HomaBay County, Kenya. It has the details of entry process and situation analysis. It entailed penetrating various levels of the service system to reach the targeted individuals, groups and communities. Entry was made at the Community level where we met the community gate keepers and other key stakeholders. This process was initiated through the following methodologies: Key Informant Interviews. Transect walk, Look, Listen and Learn and Focus Group Discussion. During the situational analysis it was observed through a transect walk that there are no adequate water and sanitation facilities within the community, for homes with latrines they don't have hand washing facilities thus evidence that hand washing is not practiced, some of the homes don't have the rubbish pits and utensils and clothe drying facilities. From the interview it was realized that women are socially excluded from making decision on sanitation issues such as not digging the latrine. The latrines which are existing were poorly maintained and constructed. The aged, widows and single women are unable to construct the latrine despite locally available materials. It was noted that the community entirely depends on unprotected water springs, streams and a river and they don't household water treatment. Much of the households don't have bathing facilities within their households. In some areas the soil is either loose or hard rock making it difficult to construct the latrines. The situation analysis revealed that the community has resources and capacities to utilize at their own level. They also have the solutions to fill the gaps by enhancing the behavior change in water, sanitation and hygiene practices and in turn reduce the water and sanitation related infections. Out of the SWOT analysis, there would again be greater achievements both for stakeholders and the community if an effective feedback is done and proposed areas with significant impacts on water, sanitation and hygiene are implemented.

Keywords: diarrheal, water, sanitation, hygiene, partnership, community, household.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 THE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP CONCEPT

The community partnership concept is a way of empowering the community towards sustainable action. It is believed that the community has got their own capacity and resources to improve their own health and sustainable development. We used an initial assessment, thus situation analysis to assess life as lived by the communities. The process enabled the community members to identify their strengths, opportunity and capacities in terms of ability, skills and resources that they can use to improve their living standards. The researchers emphasized the involvement of different partners in the development process where the effort of organization and people combined have a greater and better out come.

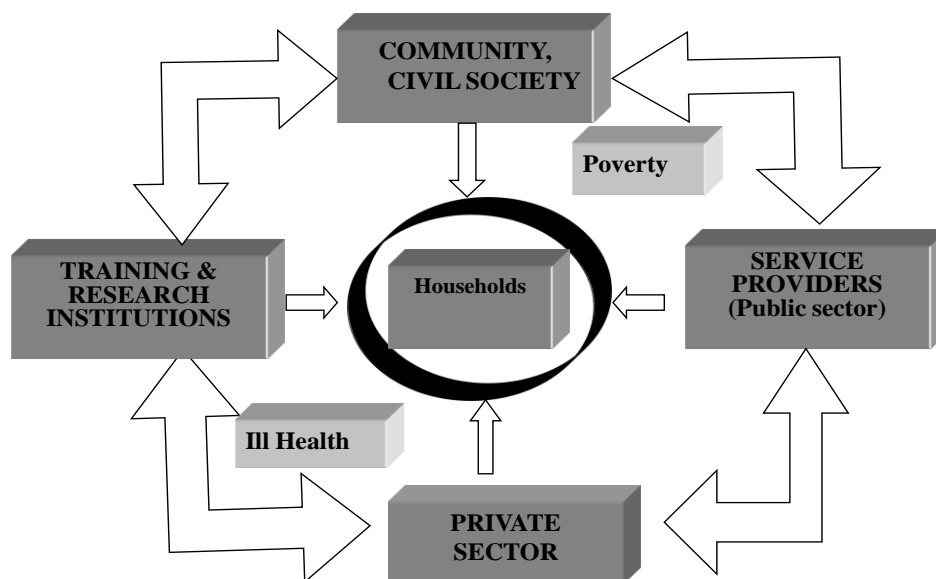


Figure 1: Community partnership Concept

1.2 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The situation analysis is purposed to assess the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) situation, identify community’s own resources, how they are being utilized, and gaps which present potential improvement. It is also aimed at establishing a healthy relationship with all relevant stakeholders. This will improve the participation of Kodumo East community in the partnership activities.

1.3 COMMUNITY ENTRY PROCESS FOR SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The researchers did an entry on January 2019 in Kodumo East Location through visiting the administration office where they met with the area Chief and introduced themselves and briefed him on the objectives of the study in the Location using the existing Community Health Unit. The researchers explained the contents of the concept comprehensively. Thereafter the researchers visited the community units link facility and the Community Health Volunteers accompanied them during the study till its conclusion.

2. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

To assess the existing water, sanitation and hygiene situation in Kodumo East Location, Kabondo/Kasipul Sub County, HomaBay County, Kenya.

3. METHODOLOGY

The data was collected through Literature review, Observation, Transect walk (Look, Listen, Learn) and Focus group discussions with community members, health workers and key informants.

4. FINDINGS OF SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

4.1 SWOT Analysis on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Activities.

STRENGTH	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is availability of water springs, streams and a river. • Some households have roof catchment system for water harvesting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some household members bath at the river and streams hence contaminating water sources. ▪ The domestic animals do contaminate the water sources during grazing near the sources and

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some households have shallow wells within their compound for domestic water. • There is availability of water storage containers at the household level. • The water sources within the sub-location are easily accessible. • Majority of the community members have pit latrines. • The community members have knowledge on latrine construction • There is availability of land/space to dig a pit latrine. • There is availability of pit latrine digging equipments. • There are locally available materials for latrine construction. • There is availability of land within the household to dig refuse pits. • There are availability equipments for digging refuse pits • Some community members practice burning as a method of waste disposal. • There are locally available materials for constructing utensils drying facilities. • Most of the community members have knowledge on how to construct the utensil. • Availability of locally available materials to put up clothe drying facilities • Availability of space to put up the clothe drying facilities 	<p>drinking water at the source.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not all the households have a shallow well within their compound. ▪ The knowledge of Community Health Workers on water treatment has not been utilized within the community. ▪ The water springs in the sub-location are not protected. ▪ Not all household members have a roof catchment system to harvest water during rainy season. ▪ Not all household members have water storage containers. ▪ The majority of household members don't practice household water treatment. ▪ Not all household members have knowledge on household water treatment. ▪ The majority of household members don't observe hygiene way of handling the water from the source, all the way to storage points. ▪ Some community members don't have pit latrines. ▪ The existing pit latrines are poorly maintained. ▪ Some community members practice open defecation. ▪ Majority of the community members don't have bathing facilities within the homesteads. ▪ Majority of the community members don't have a refuse pit. ▪ The households with the refuse pits are not hygienically maintain. ▪ Some community members don't store foods in a hygienic way. ▪ Not all community members have the clothe drying facility
<p>OPPORTUNITIES</p>	<p>THREATS</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are partners in the area who promote safe water system. • The water can be treated at household level using simple instructions. • The household water treatment chemicals such as water guard are available in the market. • Some household members have knowledge on household water treatment. • The community health workers have knowledge on household water treatment and safe storage • Availability of public health staff to advice on latrine sitting, digging and construction. • Some community health workers are actively involved in sanitation and hygiene promotion. • There are partners within the area who are promoting sanitation and hygiene. • Availability of local media to advocate for water, sanitation and hygiene promotion. • Men have potential to influence their wives to participate in latrine construction. • Availability of public health staff to advice on the refuse pit digging and maintenance. • Availability of public health staff that can advice on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some springs and streams dry up during dry spells. ▪ Soil erosion contaminates the water sources. ▪ Unstable or loose soil for latrine construction resulting to collapse of dug latrines. ▪ Too much rainy will hinder the digging and construction of the latrines. ▪ Hard rocks hindering the digging of the latrines. ▪ Availability of bushes encourages open defecation ▪ Chid headed families unable to participate in latrine construction. ▪ Fear that the utensils drying will be destroyed and converted to fire woods. ▪ The clothe drying facility are prone to theft.

hygiene food handling and storage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of public health staff that can advice on the development of the clothe drying facilities. • The community have the knowledge on the making of the clothe drying facility. 	
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5. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The County Government of Homabay, spearheaded by Health Department should enhance enabling environment (capacity building, institutional strengthening and Public Private Partnership) to achieve scores in WASH intervention outcomes.
2. The National Government under the ministry of water should ensure protection of all drinking water sources to improve water quality and subsequently prevent water related diarrheal infections.
3. The development partners should increase their community support on WASH interventions to reduce diarrhea cases in the community level.
4. The community members should ensure Point Of Use (POU) water treatment practices, so as to prevent diarrheal infections as a result of contaminated water.
5. The community members should embrace sanitation and hygiene practices at the household level and community level to prevent sanitation and hygiene related diarrheal conditions.

6. CONCLUSION

- If the recommendations above are implemented, the county will drastically reduce the cases of diarrheal infections, improve the water quality, and promote sanitation and hygiene

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