

CONCEPT NOTE

Project title: Watamu Schools WASH Project

Part 1: Project Description

The project idea came up during the District Conference Assembly (DCA) that took place in April 2024 at Garoda Hotel – Watamu. When Rotarians were visiting the schools around the DCA venue as part of the community services – blackboard painting, members got concerned with the poor state of the public schools. The goal was to facilitate six high volume public schools be better learning institutions by working with the schools to improve in the following areas;

- Reliable water supply, storage and distribution or piping
- Adequate number of washrooms for both boys and girls
- Digital computer lab
- Renovation of classrooms
- School feeding program

The targeted schools were Gede, Jimba-Gede, Dabaso, Watamu, Dongokundu and Kanani Primary schools. All six schools are within the Watamu area.

A committee of representatives was formed which included members of the following clubs; eClub Safari Kenya/Satellite Ocean Breezes – Chairing the committee, Watamu – Secretariat of the committee, Malindi, Bamburi, Kilifi, Mombasa Downtown, Mwatate, Mombasa North Coast. The aim was to have a joint mega project with experts within the clubs and specialized interest corporates that are already working with Rotary in the district. While the expertise would be widely sourced the implementation would be by members specifically selected from the committee clubs with the two clubs based in Watamu (RC eClub and Watamu) anchoring the physical site visits in every step of implementation.

Part 2: Needs Assessment Findings

A needs assessment was conducted by representatives from three clubs of the committee in August 2023. The table below shows the main needs of the six primary schools targeted in this joint project;

		Gede	Dabaso	Jimba	Watamu	Dongokundu	Kanani
Population	Boys	950	509	281	320	270	245
	Girls	850	508	256	309	166	251
	Total	1,800	1,017	537	629	436	496
Current Toilet	Boys	6	20	4	6	4	8
	Girls	8	4	4	6	4	5
	Total	14	24	8	12	8	13

Note: Gede primary schools has 8 girl's toilet but only four are currently in use because the other 4 were blocked out for the stalled new pits digging.



Picture i: Filled up current boys toilet in Jimba Primary



Picture ii: the state of existing boys and girls toilets in Watamu primary school



Picture iii: stalled girls toilet pit project at Gede primary school



Picture iv: Stalled parents funded classrooms at Gede primary, despite the many existing rooms the school population is still high and pupils unaccommodated: for example grade 6 has three streams each with 95 pupils.



Picture v: Current Junior Secondary Schools (JSS) lab at Gede and Dabaso Primary, needing furnishing and equipping. Jimba and Watamu doesn't have a lab room yet despite having two streams of JSS each



Picture vi: All schools have such boreholes that have been converted to pump water to toilets for flushing and hand washing. However, some pumps need repair or re-plumbing. Dongokundu's borehole water is too salty to use.



Picture vii: A typical lower primary class room without desks in Watamu Primary School



Picture viii: Room full of desks in Dabaso Primary School needing repairs. This is also a typical dark classroom without paint



Picture ix: staffrooms are also dark even with white paint, needs 2 translucent/skylight sheet to let in natural light, the windows system do not let in enough light



Figure 1. Reassessment Meeting between Rotary members and school BoM representatives



Figure 2. Re-Assessment meeting in Watamu Primary

Conclusion

The needs assessment team discovered that as much as the schools might look okay from an outsider's point of view, they are in fact in poor condition and that a lot of stakeholders need to be engaged just to bring these schools to a basic national standard that is recommended by the ministry of education. That massive stakeholder engagement is needed and includes both governments (county and national) partners – where obvious neglect can be highlighted and brought to concerned department's attention for action, and private/non-governmental actors – to supplement and compliment the government efforts.

However, the committee discovered that the project magnitude was too large for one global grant and as a solution concluded that there is a need to prioritise the most pressing need of two schools and start with that as a global grant then in the future we might be able to build on the success of the implemented project to find other organisations to tackle other areas of the needs assessment findings. In order to decide the most highest priority a reassessment of the needs was conducted in 2024, that involved members from seven (7) Rotary Clubs (that is RC's; North Coast, Bamburi, Mtwapa, Kilifi, eClub Safari, Watamu, & Malindi) and two (2) Rotaract Clubs (Watamu and Malindi).

The conclusion was having an achievable global grant that can be implemented by the two clubs present in Watamu.

Part 3: Proposed GG Project

eClub Safari/Satelite Ocean Breezes will take the lead in the project. Being an eclub, the club has four members living around the targeted schools, therefore will be able to reach to the schools whenever needed. The international Clubs already committed in the project are led by The District 1080 (United Kingdom), Rotary Club of Houston-USA, Rotary Club of Aylsham-UK and Rotary Club of Sudbury-UK. All clubs and district combined have a total funds pledge of \$29,000.

The prioritized area is WASH, specifically construction of a block of girls' toilet in Gede primary and a boys' and girls' toilet in Jimba-Gede Primary school. Considering that the potential deceases and lack of dignity will lead to avoidable students' absenteeism, toilets construction has been prioritized. Toilets that includes a hand washing facility were prioritised as it clearly came out during the visits and committee discussions that no matter what else we do, the school cannot teach sick students. And, sanitation and hygiene practices such as proper toilet use, washing hands regularly and proper disposal of sanitary pads for girls are proven disease prevention in high population areas such as schools. Gede was selected due to there being only four working toilets for 850 girls. Jimba-Gede was also prioritised because all the toilets pits have filled up and are no longer usable. Watamu primary schools' toilet was priority number three, fortunately the committee through RC Watamu was able to secure a donation by a local hotel to do a renovation of the toilet block's roof and water supply. Therefore, this was successfully done!

The GG will be implemented and monitored as follows;

- 1) **Construction of toilets.** The students to toilet ratio in the target schools is completely inadequate as observed in the purple section of the needs assessment findings table above. This is mainly due a combination of two major factors that were observed during needs assessment; one, the school population has greatly increased since the introduction of free, mandatory primary education back in 2002 and the school facilities were never improved to meet the new demand and secondly most of the toilets were constructed more than 25 years ago and have little to no repairs done to them. In Gede primary, there was an effort to construct a new girls 20 cubicles that stalled for two years by the time of needs assessment. This left a halfway dug open pit that rendered four of the eight existing girls toilet inaccessible and making the toilet ratio even worse. The plan is to complete this pit, using the same already approved plan that is recommended by the ministries of education and public health. In Jimba-Gede primary both boys' and girls' two pit latrines have filled-up. Additionally, the toilets superstructure itself are too old and damaged.
- 2) **Hand washing facility;** is also prioritized as it goes hand in hand with toilets construction as part of the WASH ecosystem and a lack of it can lead to the same diseases that toilet construction will try to avoid. Therefore, a hand washing facility in Gede and two in Jimba will be constructed in this GG. Both schools have borehole water and will need a modern hand washing system that draws water from the school borehole.
- 3) **Train students on WASH;** This will be done as a sustainability measure. A trining manual implemented by one of the club member's work will be used that train students in a fun and involving way on proper use of toilet facilities, washing hands and the direct relation to disease prevention. This shall be implemented by the member's work team by training the school's Hygiene club members who can then train the school students in bits during assemblies.

Part 4: Budget

Below table is the budget of the GG project;

GG WASH Budget		
	KES	USD
Gede Pri. Girls toilet (1 block of 20 cubicles)	1,873,160	14,408.92
Gede Pri. Girls hand washing	234,680	1,805.23
Jimba Pri. Girls & Boys Toilet (2 blocks of 10 cubicles)	1,775,540	13,658.00
Jimba Pri. Hand washing	575,400	4,426.15
Train students on WASH skills & toilet maintenance	100,000	769.23
Hand over & Signage	70,000	538.46
Miscellaneous	51,220	394.00
TOTAL	4,680,000	36,000.00

Part 5: Sustainability and Scalability

For sustainability, the project will take the following measures;

- The board on management (BOM) of all the targeted 2 schools, will be involved from the beginning of the project. They are the ones required to select the site of the toilets according to their schools' plan. The BOM will also organize unskilled labour for the masonry skilled workers during construction, especially pit digging. As per our experience from other similar projects, this can be organized as a payment scheme to parents who have a high school levies owed to the school.
- Student's health clubs will be reactivated in all schools that will be trained by Rotarian trainers on toilet use, personal hygiene and hand-washing (WASH training). This will ensure students maintain good health practices cleanliness of the toilets. The health clubs will be in charge of continuous planned regular training of students on the same.
- Before any activity is conducted in a school, parents will be consulted in a parents meeting in each school to ensure their input is included as much as possible in the project where applicable. This will include being offered priority of skilled services such as masonry and carpentry services, and, unskilled services such as pit digging and day labour, as long as they meet the procurement criteria set by the project committee. This will ensure ownership of the project by the parents and sustainably help the school manage the facilities and equipment that will be provided by the project.