



Maisha Bora April - July 2011 report:

Summary:

Maisha Bora community has made great progress towards realization of its desired development goal during the quarter. CDP program successfully collaborated with different stakeholders in doing development interventions in the area.

We worked with Ministry of public health and Sanitation Kenya in rolling out the most recent approach to address sanitation issues in Kenya. The approach is known as community lead total sanitation. This approach triggers community members to practically appreciate and acknowledge the importance of latrines then empowers and motivates them to construct the latrines on their own rather than being pushed by external forces. It is encouraging to note that some families have adopted the approach and to motivate them further, the program improved their developed structures through provision of slabs with supporting poles to make it more durable.

The collaboration with Kenya government's department of children affairs enabled the program to bring together 350 children from different institutions in the community to celebrate the Day of the African Child in June. It was observed to be a successful day as many children were able to participate in singing, dancing and performance of skits to entertain the guests for the day.

The Bible and health lessons at Maisha Bora nursery have continued to equip young pupils with life skills that are very necessary in their growth processes. Children were able to appreciate the Word of God through Bible study and practice simple hygiene at home as actions agreed on during the health lessons.

Guidance and counseling has been a major source of inspiration for 17 high school scholarship beneficiaries. Children were helped by CDP staff and teachers in counseling sessions. As a result they were able to make decisions to choose the right career and appreciate the importance of education to their life.

Health development of a child is a major objective in CDP. During this reporting period, 18 children were able to access medication through the children beneficiaries' medical scheme at Christian community Services (CCS) health centre in Maisha Bora, Isiolo.

Stake holders committee meetings held twice in the quarter has brought many key leaders with the aim of discussing the way forward on how to improve the learning environment for Maisha Bora nursery pupils. During the meetings, open forum was adopted to allow people give their views on how they would want education for their children to be conducted in Maisha Bora.

Two major income generating activities (IGAs) groups received support materials that are geared towards improving and expanding their activities. Moreover, 40 community members were trained on basic hygiene practices.

Description of key activities undertaken:

(i) Bible study:

Three Bible lessons for 55 nursery school pupils in Maisha Bora community were successfully accomplished. Pupils were taught about good family relationship, how to draw their family tree and how to relate to different members of their family.

(ii) Home visit:

The home visits which were conducted in the course of the quarter were all done in collaboration with ministry of Public health personnel. The main emphasis of the meetings was to encourage families to improve on their hygiene practices and access latrine usage in the community. In addition, the team noted that 63 households do have latrines and 30 homes did not have latrines in their compounds.

(iii) Guidance and counseling:

17 high school beneficiaries received guidance and counseling sessions through CDP staff. They were mainly advised on how to improve on their academic performances and make good career choices after their four year course in high school.

(iv) Health lessons:



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Three health lessons for 55 Maisha Bora nursery school pupils were done in the quarter. Pupils were taught how to take care of their different body parts mainly eyes, ears and nose. They were happy with the lesson and are practicing what they have learnt both at home and school.

(v) Provision of IGAs materials:

Two active and major income generating groups were facilitated with provision of agricultural tools and other IGAs support materials to improve and expand their activities. The beneficiary groups are; Maisha Bora bringing hope youth group and Muungano group. Agricultural tools supplied included pangas (machete), jembes (hoes), wheel barrow, mattock, spade and watering cans. Other support materials are poultry feeders and 30 broilers.



Members of bringing hope youth group receiving IGAs support materials

(vi) Provision of school learning material:

CDP has continued to support learning at Maisha Bora nursery school. The children learning in this institution come from very needy backgrounds. Their families are usually unable to purchase the necessary learning materials. It took the intervention of CDP program to provide some materials like crayons, reading text books and exercise books to at least 55 pupils in the institution in order to boost their morale in learning. Some of the materials (pencils and crayons) were obtained through donations.



Some beneficiaries of learning materials at Maisha Bora Nursery school display the materials.

(vii) Community trainings and training follow ups:

Empowerment training for 40 Maisha Bora community members was done through the Ministry of Public Health & Sanitation. They were mainly taught about environmental hygiene and importance of latrines at homes. The team headed by District Public Health officers, assessed the Latrine establishment in the community and encouraged them to do more latrines in order to improve their hygiene practices. Training follow ups for Maisha Bora youth group and Muungano group on organizational development was also done.

(viii) Medical referrals:

17 children with cases like chest pain, coughing and fever were referred for treatment at CCS Health centre. They were treated and given medication for use at home. CDP paid their medical bills.

(ix) Stakeholders committee Meetings:

Maisha Bora nursery stake holders held 2 meetings to brain storm on the way forward on how to improve the learning activities at the institution. The meeting was facilitated by CDP program. The main agenda was to encourage all stake holders to fully undertake their responsibilities accordingly. After lengthy discussions on the history of Maisha Bora nursery the stake holders agreed to focus their strength and effort towards developing permanent structures on a land bought by international Pentecostal holiness church for the community.

(x) African child day celebration:

CDP program in collaboration with government's children department organized and conducted The Day of the African Child (DAC) celebrations. This event is celebrated every 16th June and highlights the plight of children in Africa by calling upon all the actors to work towards addressing the challenges. This year's theme was "All Together for Urgent Action in favour of Street Children". In Isiolo, the event brought together 350 children from different institutions in the community. The children had fun interacting with each other. They had an opportunity of honing their talents in drama, singing, reciting poetry and dancing during the occasion. Various stakeholders in the children's sector re-committed their resolve to work together to address the challenges confronted by children in the various communities that form Isiolo District. For Maisha Bora children, this was also their child social day where they celebrated their value and worth as bona fide members of their community.



Isiolo district commissioner flagging off the DAC celebration

(xi) Construction of latrines:

Construction and fixing of 6 latrine slabs with poles was done in the course of the quarter. These were done to improve on the existing latrine structures in the community to make them more durable. The latrines are now easy to clean and use.

Successes:

- Provision of school learning materials to 55 Maisha Bora nursery school pupils.
- Life skills trainings for 55 Maisha Bora nursery school pupils through 6 bible and health lessons.
- Provision of agricultural tools and other IGAs support materials to 2 IGA groups in Maisha Bora.
- Successful guidance and counseling sessions for 17 scholarship beneficiaries.
- Home visits for 30 families in Maisha Bora.
- Successful DAC celebrations with participant of 350 children.
- Completion of 6 latrines in the community
- Convening 2 stakeholders' committee meetings.
- Successful community training.

Concerns:

- Maisha Bora is still not a homogeneous community. Because majority of the community members do not own property there, it is difficult to get them to commit to certain development activities such as improvement of the nursery school infrastructure.
- Community members do not take an active role in demanding resources intended for development from the appropriate government departments. This follows from the above concern.



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Indicators	Quantity
Number of home visit completed	30
Number of children who received guidance and counseling	17
Number of children who received life skills trainings	55
Number of income generating activities groups who received IGAs support materials	2
Number of children who received school learning materials	55
Number of community training sessions done	2
Number of stakeholders committee meetings held	2
Number of children who participated in DAC celebrations	350
Number of latrines completed and in use	6
Number of children who received medical referrals	18

Planned activities for the next 6 months.

- ✓ Strengthening of the IGAs groups by holding meetings, training sessions and provision of materials.
- ✓ Conduct a spiritual rally for youth.
- ✓ Support the community in establishing at least 6 more latrines in their homes.
- ✓ Referral of sick children to CCS health centre.
- ✓ Do one major medical camp in the community.
- ✓ Conduct Bible and health lessons for Maisha Bora nursery pupils.
- ✓ Conduct children guidance and counseling.
- ✓ Organize community work where high school beneficiaries will be involved in environmental clean up sessions.
- ✓ Meeting with Maisha Bora stakeholders to review their community development plans.

Good hygiene for better life:

Proper hygiene and good sanitation are very critical to human health. People who live in clean environments have lesser risks of contracting diseases related to poor hygiene practices. These diseases include cholera, dysentery and many others that can endanger someone's life upon infection. The major causes of these diseases are poor human waste disposal due to lack of latrine facilities in the community.

CDP program worked tirelessly with ministry of Public Health officials in order to improve hygiene practices in the Maisha Bora community. Joint training sessions were held on environmental hygiene and home visits to access latrine coverage in the entire community. During the training and home visits community led total sanitation approach was introduced hence encouraging families to construct latrines that are affordable to them. A good number of the families in the community adopted the approach and were able to come up with latrines in the community. Moreover CDP enhanced their efforts by providing materials to strengthen the built structures to make them more durable and easy to clean.



A complete improved latrine in Maisha Bora Community