

Empowering Pastoral Communities through Integrated Rural Water Supply



Water treatment and regulation tank in Kailer

Kenya Rainwater Association (KRA) with financial support from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under their Global Environmental Facility/Small Grants Programme (GEF/SGP) and German Development Service (DED) implemented two community water projects for Kailer Village Development Committee (KVDC) in Baringo district and Cheptolil Self Help Group in Koibatek district. The overall objective was to promote integrated rainwater harvesting & management (RHM) systems and complementary technologies by enhancing improved livelihood systems, socio-economic development and sustainable natural resources management for marginalized Kailer and Cheptolil communities in Baringo and Koibatek districts respectively. The projects implementation process adopted an integrated, participatory and multi-sectoral approach that promoted effective community involvement and contribution. To ensure project sustainability, community capacity building demonstration training, formal and informal sessions, exchange visits and focus group discussions, was an integral component and was carried out concurrently with other project activities.

Project Achievements

- Construction of 2 water pans and auxiliary structures (draw-off system, livestock trough & community water point) for water supply for livestock, domestic and micro-irrigation.
- Construction of 6 sanitary facilities; ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrines and bathrooms.
- Establishment of 2 tree/vegetable nurseries for agro forestry, afforestation & reforestation and vegetable production.
- Installation of 44 low-head drip irrigation kits for micro-irrigation for vegetable production.
- Introduction of Draught Animal Technology (DAT) – animal drawn plough, sub-soiler, tined harrow and dam scoop for rangeland rehabilitation and dam de-silting.
- Institutional strengthening through exposure visits and training in leadership & organisational skills, financial management & record keeping, alternative livelihoods, health, sanitation & hygiene, environmental conservation, IWRM, formulation of water user's by-laws, etc.



Kailer community water pan

Project Impacts

- Increased water supply & quality for domestic, livestock and micro-irrigation
- Improved health (human and livestock) and sanitation.
- Economic benefit of improved food and income security.
- Increased crop diversification, production and nutrition through introduction and adoption of micro-irrigation systems.
- Enhanced community capacity in leadership, project implementation, management and ownership and substantiality.
- Behavioural change through adoption of toilets (from 30-50 households & 2-12 households) in Kailer and Cheptolil communities respectively.
- Strengthened collaboration between the communities and the District Water Offices (DWOs) in Baringo and Koibatek districts and UNDP-SGP



Vegetable garden in Cheptolil community



Improving community sanitation

Conclusion

The two community projects demonstrated the socio-economic impacts of water supply, especially in semi-arid environments of Kenya. This was achieved through harnessing rainwater and demonstrating its potential in promoting development in rural areas. Capacity building enhanced the realization of communities' potential in managing their own resources sustainably. A small effort can truly contribute towards achievement of Millennium Development Goals at the community level.