

KALONGE WATER PROJECT

FINAL REPORT



KALONGE Water Committee members

Charity: Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

Project name: KALONGE WATER PROJECT

Reference: SG002.15



**Isle of Man
Government**

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A. Aims and Objectives

The project sought to improve health and wellbeing to over 7,000 people in Kalonge, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) through increasing access to clean, safe drinking water; improving sanitation in schools; and building knowledge around hygiene practices and water management.

Project achievements and impact, as identified by the community:

Using grant funding from the government of the Isle of Man, CAFOD and its local partner installed water stand posts and latrines in the primary school and health centre, and provided hygiene education in the local community. CAFOD's monitoring visit in December 2016 included in-depth conversations with community members and leaders, which found that the project has already begun to affect significant improvements in quality of life as well as influencing behaviour change pertaining to hygiene and sanitation. Key areas of improvement cited by community members include:

- Community members are reporting that since the installation of water pipes to Kalonge, water collection times have reduced from 3-4 hours to 10-15 minutes. This remarkable difference is life-changing to women and children in the community, who now have more time to attend school and engage in other activities.
- In addition, the Kalonge Health Centre is reporting fewer cases of water-borne and water-related illnesses compared to the months prior to the installation of water pipes to Kalonge. The Health Centre Manager told CAFOD's Programme Officer during the monitoring visit that the next semi-annual report, due in July 2017, is expected to reveal a significant statistical decrease in the number of new cases of illnesses such as diarrhoea.
- The Kalonge Primary School Headmaster has reported an improvement in attendance, time keeping and concentration levels of pupils as a result of the greater availability of water. With access to water and latrines on-site, children are spending more time in lessons, and have begun to practice handwashing. The Headmaster also spoke of changing hygiene practices within households, as pupils share their knowledge with family members.
- A local leader informed CAFOD's Programme Officer that there have been no reported cases of sexual violence or rape in Kalonge since October 2016 (compared to previous months in which at least one case of sexual violence was reported each month). This has also been confirmed by the Health Centre nurse in charge of women's health; and the local police officer who has confirmed that no accusations of sexual violence have been made in Kalonge in the past four months. The local leader attributes this reduction to the water pipes, as women and children no longer travel long distances in the dark through the deep bushy valley to find water.

B. Project Activities

Outcome 1: 7,000 people in Kalonge area have access to safe and sustainable water allowing a better quality of health.

The project has exceeded its target to provide safe drinking water to 7,000 people in the Kalonge community, through the installation of 11 water stand posts that can provide sufficient daily water requirements for 8,640 people. Specifically, under this outcome, CAFOD and its partner has completed the following activities:

- The Mikore spring, located in a ranch away from pollutants, was capped and protected as per the SPHERE standards. A deviating trench was dug, and grass was planted to protect the spring from erosion.
- A 30m³ water reservoir was constructed with reinforced concrete, and is fully operational. The reservoir helps to store water to increase availability during peak times, and refills at night.
- Over 10km of pipes were laid and buried in deep trenches to bring water from the spring to the water stand posts. PVC pipes of different diameters were used to withstand the pressure and minimise flow loss.

- 11 water stand posts, each with two taps have been constructed. Based on SPHERE standards of 350 people per tap, this means that 7,700 people can be accommodated through the 11 water stand posts. The pipes feed water from the spring in Mikore, which provides 172,800L per day (approximately 2L/second), which is sufficient to provide 11,520 people with 15L per day (SPHERE standard), or **8,640 people with 20L per day (CAFOD standard)**.
- Three of the 11 water stand posts are located within schools (EP Kalonge, Institut Bikenge, and Institut Muheto), serving over 600 students; and one in the Kalonge Health Centre. Although positioned in specific locations, these four water stand posts are not exclusively for use by the health centre and school communities, and can be accessed by neighbouring households. As the impact statements in Section A of this report cites, the water points by the school are helping to increase attendance and concentration levels of the pupils.

Outcome 2: Improved access to sanitation in schools to reach the VEA¹ national programme criteria

The project constructed a 6-door latrine at Kalonge primary school, which serves 350 pupils. Before the project began, pupils and teachers would often use the bush to avoid travelling the long distances to village household latrines which would cause them miss lessons. The newly constructed pit latrines have been enclosed by a timber frame with corrugated metal roofing, and have been lined to avoid collapse.

Outcome 3: Improved knowledge in hygiene practices and water management. At least 70% of the population will know the four most prevalent water-related diseases in the area and how to avoid them.

3a. Hygiene promotion

Two outreach workers were hired to conduct grassroots sensitisation campaigns on the need to access safe water, and practice good hygiene and sanitation. Hygiene practices were promoted using three key strategies:

- Door to door sensitisation, in which outreach workers demonstrated correct handwashing methods, safe storage of clean water, latrine upkeep and general hygiene;
- Grassroots sensitisation, using respected health officials such as the Health Centre Manager, who talked of real medical cases;
- Church messages, reminding parishioners of the importance of basic sanitation.

3b. Water management

A general water management committee (4 female; 4 male) was established and trained in management and maintenance of the water sources. The committee has a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and two advisors. Two plumbers are also part of the team as technicians and were trained on-site during every step of the construction process. The committee has been given a start-up tool kit, comprising of two wrenches, a saw frame, two saw blades, and plastic glue (2L).

A small committee of two people was established and trained for each of the 11 water stand points. Committee members were selected based on proximity to the water stand. Their role is specifically to monitor daily use and report misuse and malfunction to the general water management committee. The small committee is also the main focal point for monthly cash collection for the water maintenance.

The primary school has been provided with a maintenance kit for the 6-door latrine, which includes six brooms, a spade, two hoes, two buckets and two jerrycans.

¹ Village et Ecole Assainis (VEA): Clean school and village programme, funded by DFID.

C. Beneficiaries and Community Involvement

The community in Kalonge has shown remarkable commitment and active involvement in all stages of the project, which will help with the sustainability and longevity of the project. Beginning with highlighting the need to project staff, and co-designing the activities, the local community has played an integral role in providing labour and local resources, including:

- Sand and stone for construction work;
- Transportation of material for the 10km pipeline during the rainy season when roads were impassable. This included moving large quantities of cement, pipes, and reinforcing iron;
- Overnight accommodation for CAFOD and partner field staff;
- Maintenance of the road to Goma, to enable trucks to reach close to the village.
- Beneficiaries, particularly local chiefs and committee members were involved in daily monitoring to ensure planned activities were conducted per the agreed workplan.

D. Sustainability and Replication

To ensure that project outputs and outcomes are sustainable, the general management committee has opened a monthly cash collection amounting to 200CDF (£0.12) per household for water point maintenance. This arrangement was discussed with community members, who mutually determined the amount based on what they considered to be affordable, to ensure that no one would be left behind due to poverty. Yet, the community recognised that some households (particularly those with disabilities and/or extreme poverty) would still be unable to afford this, and thus has created an exemption list for such households. Currently, 60% of households regularly pay the maintenance fees, but this is expected to increase to 80% by April 2017 with greater sensitisation to encourage all households to adhere to the community-wide decision.

As the local community has been at the forefront of design and implementation, and have contributed significant resources and labour to the construction, the community has taken a high level of local ownership of the project, which will promote its longer-term success and sustainability. The general water management committee has been established and fully trained in the management and maintenance of the water points. By training two plumbers during the construction phase and providing a start-up maintenance toolkit, the community now has the knowledge locally to repair any faults as they arise. Given the tangible improvements to quality of life, the Health Centre has committed to providing oversight with the committee to support the maintenance of the water system. Local Chiefs have also informed CAFOD staff during the monitoring visit that they are happy with the work of the Committee and are engaging and cooperating fully with their work.

In terms of construction, the Mikore spring feeding the reservoir is on stable soil. Rain runs are diverted by a canal to a natural stream. The next phase will be for the community to plant trees to reinforce the stability of the spring, which will require further financial resources and external knowledge. CAFOD is currently implementing a DFID-funded project which includes some tree planting activities in the area, which will potentially be located around the Mikore spring area.

Based on these above, CAFOD and its partner believes that the project impacts will continue to be felt for a long time after the project ends; and furthermore, that the activities completed by this project will act as a springboard for future improvements (for example additional latrines and planting of trees to protect the water sources).

E. Lessons Learned

This truly collaborative project has successfully brought water to Kalonge, reducing the dangerous and time consuming trek to unsecured water sources, and decreasing water-borne illnesses (statistics to be confirmed in July 2017). Improvements in hygiene and sanitation are helping to

improve the general living conditions and health of the community. In reaching these gains, CAFOD, its partner, and the community have learned many lessons and overcome some challenges in the delivery of this project, including:

- Water was such a desperate need for the community in Kalonge that the entire village wanted to support the effort to bring safe, clean water to the area. The community gave freely and willingly of their time, but in doing so ended up closing the secondary school for 3 days. Community members insisted on the necessity of this, to accelerate the positive impacts of clean water in the community. In future, CAFOD and its partner will learn from this lesson by reinforcing sensitisation in child protection.
- Kitchen gardens amongst households are increasing with the greater availability of water, potentially improving household food security in the longer term.
- The community had recently built a section of road to link Kalonge to the main road network. The last 10km of the newly-constructed road became very slippery in the rainy season as it did not have sufficient time to harden before the rains came. As a result, community members physically carried heavy construction resources (including cement, pipes and reinforcing iron) to the water point construction sites. If the project team had to wait for the road to become passable again, the project would have been delayed by months, but the community effort meant that there was only a one week delay in implementation.

CAFOD takes learning from programmes seriously. Globally, CAFOD uses a web-based platform and regular 'Community of Practice' meetings (via skype) to document and share lessons learned as well as exchange ideas. Additionally, every CAFOD country office works with a network of partners to share lessons, which shapes future programming. The lessons learned through this project will therefore help CAFOD and its partners to implement similar projects elsewhere, to build on our knowledge and avoid negative impacts.

F. Development Education

Information from this project will be disseminated to and through the Churches Together in Man group for development education purposes. Specifically, this report and the details of the project impact will be shared within Catholic congregations at the upcoming CAFOD Fast Day (5 March 2017) as well as within Church Committee events. We are also considering the option of placing the project achievements on a One World Centre pop-up poster to participate in the concerted effort of other agencies to educate the public in Man on the importance of international development work. We will send an e-version of the poster to the IDC should this be a feasible option to progress with.

G. Financial Report

As per our email to Charlie Shimmins (23 February 2017), CAFOD is still awaiting the final expenditure report from its local partner. It was agreed that CAFOD will submit the financial report separately to this narrative, when the information has been received. We apologise for the inconvenience this may cause you in evaluating the project success, but thank you for your patience.

ANNEX 1: PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



The committee at the village entrance



The 30m³ water reservoir built by the project in Kalonge



One of 11 stand posts with 2 taps in Kalonge



The Committee Vice-President showing neighbouring villages in acute need how to use Kalonge's water stand



Water points are accessible for people with disabilities



The Kalonge Health Centre water point



A positive impact on food security: a watered kitchen garden.

On behalf of the community in Kalonge, we would like to thank the Isle of Man for your support of this project.