



File form: 0593-2117 Interim Report for the Eagle Foundation – October 2021

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) project in five rural schools – Kenya

Funds received: 21/04/21

Amount of grant: GBP 35,580

Conversion rate: Exchange rate based on 1 GBP = 1.24 USD (01.04.20)

Total number of beneficiaries: 1,800 direct beneficiaries (1,750 children and 50 teachers & school support staff)

Expenditure: GBP 23,157 Balance remaining: GBP 12,423

Background: A generous grant from Fondation Eagle in April 2021 is being invested in IMPACT East Africa's programme of action to prevent and treat needless disability in Mwingi District, Kenya. The project area is one of the driest places in the country. We are pleased to report that thanks to your support, five rural school are benefiting from improved access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene. Your support could not have been timelier, as the Coronavirus pandemic has accentuated the importance of accessible water and good hygiene.

Mwingi is a semi-arid region facing serious water scarcity challenges. Low rainfall and recurring droughts account for chronic water shortages. IMPACT East Africa's baseline survey in 2017 found that 60% of people in the project area live more than one hour's walk from their nearest water point. Women and children (who are the traditional water bearers) travel long distances in search for this precious commodity. This interrupts daily life, and affects the education of children. *'It is against this challenging background that you have helped IMPACT East Africa come to the aid of school communities in Mwingi'* – **Theuri Wachira, IMPACT East Africa Programme Co-ordinator**

Report on activities: Action during this first phase of the project has been focused on installing pit latrines at five of the neediest schools in IEA's catchment: Kalimundu, Kamumwongo, Kwa Makaya, Kwa Mutisya and Ngengi Primary Schools. In a scoping exercise, a high incidence of ENT, skin and other health conditions was found amongst learners, all of which could be markedly addressed by improving children's access to clean water and hygiene facilities. The schools had dilapidated pit latrines, which were structurally unsound and unsafe during the rainy season due to risk of collapse. They required urgent replacement. Boys and girls were typically using the same toilets, and there was no privacy for girls during their periods, resulting in absenteeism throughout the month. Due to the lack of facilities, open defecation was commonly practiced.

Before agreeing to support the schools in install new pit latrines, IEA held meetings with all stakeholders, including teachers, parents and members of the surrounding community. Agreements were signed committing the community to contributing volunteer labour to excavate the pits, according to the local Ministry of Public Works specifications: *'We always take great care to work with schools who are not only needy but who are willing to mobilise their communities and work with us to ensure the effective and timely completion of projects, so that it becomes a joint initiative.'* – **IMPACT East Africa**
KALIMUNDU PRIMARY SCHOOL



Pit latrines like this one at another school in the area afford no privacy for girls and the deep pits become structurally unsound over time, posing a danger to children using them.

Kalimundu Primary School benefited from a rainwater tank and handwashing station earlier in 2021, thanks to another of IMPACT's generous donors. Now thanks to Fondation Eagle, their toilets have been radically improved too – bringing together a full package of measures to improve the water and sanitation situation at this very remote school. The school now has two toilets blocks – one each for girls and boys.



Learners pictured in front of their school's new pit latrines

'I take this opportunity to thank the IEA people for coming to our school at our time of need. When we were very much in need of a latrine, they appeared. Our school is very far from the town. They constructed for us latrines for boys and girls. Thank you for transforming the school' - **Headteacher of Kalimundu Primary School**

'I want to join my headteacher in thanking IMPACT. We had a big challenge with our latrines. The pupils only had one latrine and it was dirty with urine spreading on the floor. We asked the parents to assist but they they did not manage to afford it. So with IEA we have found a shoulder to lean on and now we are very thankful. Live long IEA!' - **Deputy Headteacher, Kalimundu Primary School**

IMPACT's School Nurse Mildred Omondi and ENT Clinical Officer, Samuel Muturi were in attendance at the official handover of the latrines and were encouraged to see the enthusiasm with which they were received by the pupils and wider community: *'A further benefit of the project is that it has also inspired parents from these school to see the value of having pit latrines in their homes. We believe the pit latrines will go a long way into serving many generations to come and the state of this institutions will be improved.'* – **IMPACT East Africa**

The school's new handwashing tank has been positioned near the latrine blocks and children have been schooled in the importance of washing their hands.



KAMUMWONGO PRIMARY SCHOOL

This school has a particularly engaged school community, who were keen to engage with IMPACT East Africa to improve conditions at the school. A special ceremony to officially handover the new latrines to the school was well attended by parents, teachers and pupils. IEA is now planning further activities to include training school health monitors, tree-planting and other health education activities.



KWA MAKAYA PRIMARY SCHOOL



'We really want to appreciate the pit latrines and thank IMPACT East Africa for having seen our dire need and coming into help us to make this important facility. Before we only had latrines with broken doors. Now we have one for each gender. This has gone a long way to improving things and now children do not have to queue to use the facilities. That is all history now. We are seeing better time management and this can only impact on the academic performance of the pupils thank you so much, God bless you.'

Headteacher Kwa Makaya Primary School



KWA MUTISYA PRIMARY SCHOOL (TOP) AND NGENGI PRIMARY SCHOOL (BELOW)



In this school, as with the others, parents volunteered their casual labour to help build the latrines. All institutions benefiting from this grant are under IMPACT's school health programme, and will receive ongoing health education sessions from IMPACT's school health team: *'Our aim is to put an end to the widespread practice of open defecation and ensure that children understand the importance of handwashing to control the spread of preventable illnesses and parasitic infections.'* – **IMPACT East Africa**



IEA's Environmental Officer Charles with local people who volunteered labour to help dig out the pits

The stark difference between the old and new latrines can be seen in this picture from Kalimundu Primary School. The former structure is located in the middle of the image. Each school benefiting now has two new toilet blocks – one each for girls and boys.

The former school toilet



Thank you

Clean water and improved sanitation can transform entire communities and we are so grateful for your partnership in supporting these five schools to provide dignity and improved hygiene facilities for their pupils. The average enrolment at these five schools is 350, which means that 1,750 children and their teachers have directly benefited from your grant so far.

We look forward to writing again in April with a full progress update and a report on the Rainwater Harvesting tanks and handwashing tanks that the balance of the grant will be used for.

'The Mwinigi area is rocky and the excavation process is an arduous task to achieve the specified depths. However, the school communities have all been motivated by the prospect of having hygienic and well-constructed pit latrines that will not collapse during the rainy season. Thank you for your generous support.' –

IMPACT East Africa

Expenditure:

Water and sanitation	Budget (£)	Expenditure
Rainwater harvesting system 5 schools (including tanks, labour, cement, guttering etc)	9,843	-
Pit Latrines (boys' and girls' blocks) 5 schools	22,310	22,310
Handwashing equipment (2 medium size tanks in each school + fitting costs) 5 schools	1,733	-
Subtotal	33,886	22,310
UK support costs (5%)	1,694	847
TOTAL	£ 35,580	23,157

The balance of £12,423 will fund five Rainwater Harvesting tanks and handwashing tanks as outlined in our original proposal and will be reported on in full in our final report.

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