

IN BRIEF...

Support to Water and Sanitation

Sida cooperates with the Ministry of Water in the development of comprehensive policies and regulations for water and sanitation in Kenya. Sida would like to see a change in the role of the State, from implementation to regulation. Another important component in Swedish-Kenyan cooperation is support for small-scale water projects.

The overall objective of Swedish development cooperation is to contribute to improve the living conditions of the poor. Kenya's water resources are scarce and unevenly distributed. During the last decade, the situation has deteriorated, due to rapid population growth, weak economic development, inadequate governance and HIV/AIDS, among other things. Kenya suffers from chronic water stress—80 per cent of the land is arid or semi-arid. Approximately 31 per cent of the rural population have access to safe, or improved, drinking water sources. The standard of the sanitation facilities is generally poor. The Government of Kenya has the ambitious objective of increasing the proportion from 31 per cent to 70 per cent by 2010.

Women suffer most from the difficult water situation since, by tradition, they have the main responsibility for water and sanitation facilities at the household level.

Support for a long time

The Swedish Government has supported various projects in the Kenyan

water sector since the early 1970s.

Over the years, the character of the projects receiving support has changed, from large piped-water schemes in densely populated areas to rural water supplies based on appropriate technologies and community participation. More attention has been given to sanitation issues. The Kenyan Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, PRSP, is well in line with Sida's policies and strategies. The aspects of democratisation and human rights are an active ingredient in the programme.

New programme

A new agreement, the Kenya/Sweden Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme, was signed on July 1, 2000. It expires on December 31, 2003. Kenya has been responsible for, and fully involved in, the development of this agreement from the very outset. In addition to providing financial support, Sida has also been an active partner in the dialogue.

The new programme has two main components and a total budget of 535.5 million KES (63 million SEK) for the three years.

- Cooperation with the Department of Water Development in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and providing support for the gradually changing role of the Department, from direct implementation of water projects to regulation, policy direction, formulation and enforcement of technical standards and supervision.
- Direct support, or support through NGOs, to self-help projects and community management of water supply projects. Small-scale technical solutions and a strong element of local engagement are prominent features of the projects. The consumers are the initiators and owners of their own water and sanitation facilities.

The programme will attempt to contribute to poverty reduction directly and indirectly:

- directly by providing an initial target of 380 000 persons with improved access to safe water and sanitation facilities and enhanced hygiene awareness,
- indirectly through activities that have the aim of raising awareness and building capacity, transferring knowledge and skills.

Further population growth will have the effect that the pressure on, and competition for, the already limited water resources will continue to grow. This, in turn, means that appropriate and effective legislation will be even more important in the future. Sida's

support has contributed to the development and implementation of a national water policy and the review of the Water Act. Sida also supports the civil service reform programme and water resources management.

A Swedish expert is working at the ministry as an adviser and also as the co-ordinator of the Self-Help NGO projects. Kenyans implement the programme in all other respects.

A leading concept

Many other donors are engaged in the Kenyan water and sanitation sector, for example Japan, Germany, France, the African Development Bank, Belgium, Egypt, England, EU, Finland, UNICEF, the World Bank and WHO. The Swedish support is fairly small compared to that of other donors but it is very strategic and thus plays a catalytic role.

The Kenya-Sweden Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme has become a model for other parties in Kenya as well as in other countries.

A historic change

The water project in Sempeweti community is an illustrative example of direct support to water projects.

The village lies near the border with Tanzania. Here the Maasai, with the support of Sida, have implemented a project that has given them permanent access to water for the first time ever. The water is led from a source in the mountains, through a pipe, down to the valley and the village. It is collected in a large tank and then distributed to different places, to troughs where the cattle can drink and to a communal water point where the

women can fetch water. The water has been tested and is of good quality.

Access to water changes life. Now it is not necessary for the women to go so far to fetch water and the men do not have to take the cattle up into the mountains. It is estimated that 10 200 persons and 3 600 head of cattle will benefit from the new source of water.

Sida's support has been channelled via COWAPA, a local NGO. The Swedish adviser stationed at the ministry has supervised the project in cooperation with the programme management in the Ministry and the responsible officer at the embassy.

The project was initially estimated to take a year, but it was completed in just six months. This is an indication of the high demand for water services in the area.

The Maasai have contributed their labour. They have dug the trenches, and carried water pipes, sacks of cement and other construction materials up the mountain. They have also contributed approximately 25 per cent of the total project cost, both in terms of material, labour, and cash. The users can therefore feel that they "own the project". They also have the responsibility for taking care of the installations in the future. The project is self-supporting. A small fee for the water is enough to pay for maintenance and the four employees who shall ensure that everything functions properly.

Several positive effects

Previous projects within the framework of earlier agreements between the Governments of Kenya and Sweden for the period July 1995 until June

2000 have resulted in some notable positive impacts on the lives of the target beneficiaries; for example:

- A reduction in cases of water-borne diseases (malaria, diarrhoea, intestinal worms and cholera)
- Less time spent by women fetching water
- Closer proximity to water sources (In some projects distances varied from 500 metres to over 3 000 metres)
- Gender-sensitive communities in which women take an active part in the operation and maintenance of facilities.
- Increased access to potable water. Over 500 000 people have benefited directly from the programme: approximately 150 000 in Tharaka district, 196 000 in Kwale district, 200 000 from Self-Help NGO-projects, 30 000 from direct support to Self-Help projects, and 15 000 people in Community Management of Water Supplies' projects.
- The communities have been empowered to own, run and manage their water facilities.
- Increases in income
- Changes in health and sanitation at community level.

Sources

Kenya-Sweden Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme 1 July 2000-31 December 2004

Kenya-Sweden Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme Result Analysis 1995-2000

Post Project Evaluation of Kwale Water & Sanitation Project

Halving poverty by 2015 is one of the greatest challenges of our time, requiring cooperation and sustainability. The partner countries are responsible for their own development. Sida provides resources and develops knowledge and expertise, making the world a richer place.

BASIC FACTS

Agreement period

July 1 2000 – 31 December 2003

Total budget

63 million SEK

535.5 million KES

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