## Integrated WASH and MNCH Kitui, Kenya





### African Medical & Research Foundation AMREF



- According to the UNDP, 50-100 liters of water per person per day is needed to ensure the most basic human needs are met
  - Drinking, personal sanitation, clothes washing, food preparation, and personal and household hygiene
- One person in the US uses 575 liters a day
- One family in Africa uses 20 liters a day





#### **Global WASH Context**

- 884 million lack access to safe drinking water
- 2.5 billion lack access to basic sanitation
- Sub-Saharan Africa will not meet its MDGs on water and sanitation by 2015
  - 39% do not have access to safe drinking water
  - 70% do not have access to improved sanitation





# Why Women, Children and WASH?

- Women and young children are the people who collect water and thus the most affected
- In Sub-Saharan Africa, women spend 40 billion hours fetching and carrying water a year
- Lack of access to WASH perpetuates already existing gender inequalities and prevents personal development of women and girls
  - → Women have no time to generate own income through entrepreneurial activities
  - → Girls often miss half or full days of school to fetch water, eventually dropping out entirely
  - → If there are no separate latrines in schools, this is also a barrier for girls who reach menstruation
- Despite the amount of work put into fetching water, it is often untreated and unsafe for use



## Targeted Areas: Kitui West District and Mutito District



- Semi arid; hot and dry climate, low and erratic rainfall
- Total Population: **1,660,709** 
  - Women of child bearing age (15-49): 254,517
  - Children under 5 years:175,529
- Target Population in Kitui West and Mutito: 191,645
- Poverty level: 57%
- Illiteracy level: 43%



# WASH Coverage in Kitui West and Mutito prior to program



- 28% have access to a water source
- 37% have access to sanitation
- On average, women and girls travel more than 5km to fetch water. Most must walk 2 hours to the source.
- 54% say they have to wait over one hour in line to use the water source



#### MNCH Coverage in Kitui West and Mutito

- 85% of births are conducted at home
  - Long distances to health facilities, high illiteracy levels, rigid cultural views and traditions
  - Only 11% of health facilities have access to an improved water source
- Only 40% of births are conducted in the presence of a skilled health worker or attendant
- Only 28% of mothers attend the recommended amount of 4 Antenatal Care visits
- Low WASH coverage in schools
  - 46% of schools are more than 2km away from the nearest water source
  - Toilets in poor condition; no separation for boys and girls
  - 21% and 15% of girls and boys respectively drop out



#### **Key I-WASH Activities**



 Develop water sources and transfer technology skills to community



- 1,141 Conventional wells
- 21 Giant Wells
- 14 Boreholes
- 6 Sub surface dams
- 144 km water pipeline extensions
- 40 Rain water harvesting tanks



## 2. Increase access to improved sanitation facilities & promote hygiene in schools & households

- 33 standard classrooms to be built
- 152 VIP latrines in schools & households
- 20 Ecosan toilets
- 260 Refuse pits, Dish racks & HWFs installed in schools and at HH levels



A CLTS village triggering session



Community mobilizer teaching school children to properly wash hands with soap









## 3. Increase demand and utilization of MNCH services at community & facility level







Water tank

**Hand Washing Station** 

Sanitation facility - latrine

#### Improved WASH services for 5 Health Facilities

- Training of HFCs
- •Train CHVs
- •Training & Supporting CHEWs
- •Follow up & Monitoring of CHWs





Increased utilization of health services

- •Improved latrines— Separate for both sexes
- Construction of incinerators, placenta pits & hand washing stations
- •Improved maternity services
- •Improved patients waiting area



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#### Results So Far

- Access to safe water in the total population increased from 28% to 82%
- Latrine coverage increased from 37% to 78%
- Hygiene Practices Hand Washing with soap at 87%
- Walking distance to primary water source reduced from 10km to 2km
- Skilled deliveries increased from 40% to 65%
- 88.5% of children under 1 year fully immunized at the health clinics
- Mothers who attend at least 4 Antenatal Care Visits before delivery increased from 28% to 68%
- Improvement of nutrition status among children with a reduction of severe acute malnutrition from 5% to 1%





#### Challenges

- Frequent droughts dried up some water sources
- Small number of health facilities scattered throughout the county deterred health seeking behaviors
- Weak referral system, poor infrastructure & lack of transport
- Low-male involvement in WASH & RH issues



#### **Way Forward**

- Strengthen integration of WASH and MNCH and further integrate nutrition
- Invest more in innovative water conservation technologies such as Sub Surface Dams to recharge underground water
- Advocate for more male participation in WASH & MNCH services.





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