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160 Route de Florissant
P.O. Box: 80
CH-1231 Conches
Switzerland

Tel: (41-22)789-1676
Fax: (41-22)789-3536
E-mail: cdp@unced

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**Ensuring Access to Clean Water
by Women and Children in Rural Kenya**
by Margaret Mwangola

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**KENYA WATER FOR HEALTH ORGANIZATION
(KWAHO)**



**ENSURING ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER BY WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN
RURAL KENYA;**

**A CASE STUDY OF A LOCAL NGO'S SUPPORT FOR THE KOCHOGO-
KAKOLA COMMUNITY WATER AND SANITATION PROJECT IN
WESTERN KENYA.**

**PRESENTED TO
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
SYMPOSIUM ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST**

**BY MARGARET MWANGOLA (Mrs)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
KWAHO
P.O. BOX 61470
NAIROBI.
KENYA.**

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ENSURING ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER BY WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN RURAL KENYA

1. INTRODUCTION

As we all know, WATER is life. there is no LIFE without WATER -be it for human beings, animals or plants. At the same time, the mere provision or availability of water for human consumption is far from complete if the SANITATION element is lacking. It is for this reason that the Kenya WATER for HEALTH Organization (KWAHO) exists; to seriously address the combined aspects of water, health and sanitation for the well being of all community - men, women, children, and families.

It is the Kenya Government's objective to supply clean and safe drinking water to all its citizens by the Year 2000 (pursuant to the International Water Decade goals). but attainment of this goal is by no means an easy task. According to a recent report by the Ministry of Health\Water Development\UNICEF, the water coverage of the population is only 10-20%. Obstacles in meeting the demand for clean water provision to the remaining 80% of the Kenya population include: unpredictability and harshness of climatic conditions in most parts of the country, and the consequent scarcity of water resources in these areas (about 2\3 of Kenya is semi-arid and arid). Furthermore, water development has of necessity to compete with other equally very pressing national priorities.

In Kenya, as it is in most other African Societies, water collecting for the family is mainly a woman's job. Women have for centuries drawn

water from the rivers or whatever source, carrying on their backs or heads, walking whatever distances they must - even upto 20 kms. and of course, this is in addition to the other "female chores" of collecting firewoods, rearing children, caring for the aged, attending to family sickness etc. It is therefore, not surprising that, when the health well being of a family is deficient, it is the women and their children who are normally the worst hit.

In addition to the government's efforts clean and safe water, Kenyan communities themselves have played a very significant role in improving the water situation through self-help projects. a number of NGO's, among them KWAHO, have equally supplemented the Government's and communities initiatives in this regard.

II. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WATER ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION AND THE HEALTH OF THE COMMUNITIES

The linkages between water, sanitation and health of the people is obvious. Numerous studies in Kenya have for example, repeatedly shown that educating people on better health where water is lacking is futile exercise. A community based health care program can only be effective if reinforced by improvements in the community water supply. without improved hygiene which depends on water, a reduction in diarrhoea, vomiting, skin infections, eye diseases and other water related infections, is nearly impossible. These diseases are also the common children's afflictions associated with poor sanitation.

A world Health Organization report cites that about 4 million children in the less developed countries die each year from infective diseases related to water. taking the Kenya situation, the report reveals that about 20% of child deaths can be traced to the problems associated with water and sanitation.

Obviously therefore, to enhance the well-being of children and women, particularly among the country's poor, well thought out and co-ordinated intervention programs need to be initiated by governmental and non governmental organizations. A holistic approach to the improvement of water quality, availability and environmental sanitation is a sine qua non (prerequisite) to the success of such a program. KWAHO has employed this approach in tis efforts towards the contribution to the achievement of the national objectives in this sector.

III **KWAHO'S APPROACH TO THE ENHANCEMENT OF COMMUNITIES ACCESS TO ADEQUATE WATER AND SANITATION**

KWAHO'S main thrust in its operations is to assist local communities to improve their general health situation by providing safe drinking water and adequate sanitation through their own efforts and at their own pace. Recognizing the fact that women and children are the most affected by lack of adequate water and sanitation, KWAHO lays the greatest emphasis and focus on this group in its intervention programs.

In pursuant of this focus, KWAHO employs the following approach in its operation:

- a). that women are the latent motive force for change in local communities, and their empowerment to participate is the prerequisite to the success of a community based project.
- b) That communities themselves know the solutions to their own problems.
- c) that with well co-ordinated and consistent support by agencies for financial, logical and local institutional capacity building, communities are capable of pulling themselves out of the fatalistic acceptance of hardship.
- d) That it is demoralizing exercise for communities to be taught ideal hygiene practices unless the water problem is first solved.
- e) That a healthy and productive workforce is a prerequisite to economic development of the nation.
- f). That local level grass-root organizational structures are crucial for sustainable development of local resources, including water provision.
- g) That through participatory training programs (learner-centred approach), communities are capable of developing their own educational materials on water and sanitation issues.

This approach is operationalized in all KWAHO programs through 5 main processes\activities:

a) **Conducting socio-Economic Baseline Surveys** - to determine the existing socio-economic situation, problems and prospects of a project area, and to form a basis for measuring and evaluation the impact of the project at some later time.

b) **Community Mobilization**

Carried out by the KWAHO community extension staff to create awareness among the beneficiaries (conscientization process) that the project is indeed theirs.

Through this process the communities are sensitized to make themselves available in the project implementation, including physical construction.

c) **Community Organization.**

Assisting the beneficiary communities to organize themselves in water point committees for effective operation, maintenance and management of their facilities.

Through this process water point committees are registered by the Ministry of Culture and Social Services as legal entities.

d) **Community Training**

Training leaders and rank-and-file member of community water points in operations, maintenance and proper management of their facilities to achieve long term

sustainability. the process has resulted in an elaborate training program perfected by the Organization.

e. Participatory Evaluation

The KWAHO Extension Staff continuously monitor the implementation of water and Sanitation projects and make reports, and together with the beneficiaries, evaluate the progress of the project components.

IV WOMENS INITIATIVE IN THE PROVISION OF CLEAN WATER
IN KOCHOGO KAKOLA

Since its inception KWAHO has been in the frontline to support communities to undertake projects to provide clean and safe water. It is estimated that through this support about 600,000 Kenyans (women, children and men) in various parts of the country have had access to clean water. This has mainly been in rural areas but the Organization is presently working out a program of intervention in peri-urban slum villages in the main towns of the country.

The Kochogo Kakola Community Water and Sanitation Project in Kisumu district, western Kenya, represents an ongoing successful women initiated and managed water and sanitation program in rural Kenya supported by Kenya Water for Health Organization (KWAHO). The project is located in a flood prone area, and its ability to environmental problems that go with such conditions marks one of its singular contribution to the health and well being of women and children in the area.

V. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

a) Location:

The Kochogo\Kakola community water and sanitation project is situated in SE Kano location of Nyando division in Kisumu District; Nyanza Province of Kenya. It lies approximately 22 km away from Kisumu town off the Kisumu-Nairobi road. It covers an area of about 60 square km. (see attached map).

The project lies in the Kano plains with Nandi Escarpment to the Northwest, Kericho Highlands and Nyabondo Plateau to the East and it is bordered by Lake victoria to the South West.

b) Climate

The area receives moderate annual rainfall. It has two distinct climatic patterns of dry and wet seasons. Often the dry season (July to March) is longer than the wet season (March to June) giving an annual rainfall of 1260 mm. However the area is often experiencing flood problems from river Nyando between April and May.

c) Vegetation

Due to the scarcity of rainfall, the area does not have good natural vegetation cover. It is covered by thorny shrubs and bushes intergrown by turf grasses. The natural vegetation in some areas have given way to farming lands. However with the concern of the environment, re-afforestation is being undertaken seriously by the community. This is done through community tree nurseries and growing them at individual homes.

d) Geology\Drainage

The geological formation of the area is characteristic of a plain. It is composed of alluvial deposits underlying Kavironsonian basement at greater depths. At some areas Lake deposits are encountered at shallow depths. The soils are mainly black cotton.

Kochogo\Kakola is traversed by river Nyando with its distributaries. Though the river carries massive quantities of water to Lake Victoria, it is unfit for human consumption. The river meanders from here into the Lake and this poses the flooding problem experienced every rainy season as a result of overflowing its banks. The rice irrigation scheme situated here discharges its excess irrigation water into a natural channel draining through Kochogo\Kakola. This creates another environmental hazard because of the contaminated water due to agro-practices. In the area are found seasonal ponds and water channels formed during the rainy season. All these used to form the natural sources of water to the Kochogo\Kakola community. However potential was there to exploit ground water and this has been done. Generally ground water is struck between 10 - 15 m in the area.

Population

The estimated population of Kochogo\Kakola project is between 20-25000 people. They belong to one ethnic group, the Luo tribe of Kenya. These people have their cultural values, but they have absorbed other cultures like Christianity. They are polygamous and sometimes a household consists of more than 20 persons majority of whom are children. They depend mainly on subsistence farming by growing maize, millet, rice, vegetables and sugar-cane. They also rear livestock and do fishing for their livelihood. Therefore the community's economic status is low. The average earning capacity is

limited by the frequent floods which destroy crops, animals and even homes. Due to the low income status in the community, people live in poor unsanitary houses.

2. Problems Addressed

- a) Frequent floods - coming from river Nyando. The floods cause serious epidemics e.g. cholera and diarrhoeal diseases.
- b) Poor infrastructure - non existence of good all weather roads
Lack of enough health facilities
- few schools both at primary and secondary levels.
- c) Problems of Environmental Sanitation and lack of proper sanitary facilities like toilets.
- d) High incidence of diseases: diseases like
 - Malaria, worms, Gastro-Enteritis, Amoebiasis
 - Bilharzia, scabies, UTI & URTI were prevalent.
- e) The socio-economic status of the community: it being low it has to be addressed.
- f) The pollution of water sources from sugar-cane factories' effluents, agro-chemical practices\agricultural activities in the adjacent areas. Also the contamination due to human wastes disposals adversely affect the environment.

3. Project Objectives

To address the above mentioned problems the following objectives were considered for Kochogo\Kakola Community water and sanitation project.

- a) To mobilize and supplement local resources both human and material in order to:
 - i) Provide safe drinking water through tube-wells to assist in the reduction in water-borne diseases among the entire population of the area.
 - Prior to the inception of the project people used to obtain their water from R. Nyando, unprotected shallow wells, seasonal ponds and channels. Women and children used to walk long distances upto 20 kms per day to collect the high contaminated water.
 - ii) Carry out health education concentrating on environmental health in order to reduce causes and levels of maternal and child malnutrition, morbidity and mortality rate in the area which stood at 20% in 1988.
 - iii) Introduce the most appropriate method of human and domestic wastes disposal in the area which could not interfere with the cultural norms of the community.

- b) To strengthen the capacity of local communities to sustain activities mentioned under (a) above through training of the local community in:
 - (i) leadership roles
 - (ii) organization and management
 - (iii) Hygiene and sanitation.

- c) To support and strengthen viable income generating activities especially those which are run by women in the area in order to improve the economic capacity of the community.

VI PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PHASES

1. INCEPTION OF THE PROJECT

The Kochogo\Kakola Community Water and Sanitation project was initiated in 1980 with the approval of the Government of Kenya through its administration. The whole idea was hatched by the community members after several years experiencing water problems. They had suffered a lot from water-borne diseases on consuming poor quality water. A project committee was then formed to draw up strategies for addressing the needs. After several consultations and meetings with government departments i.e MoH, MoWD MoCSS and NGO's, they resolved to tackle the issues through organized groups (sub-committees). During the same year, they approached KWAHO, and after ascertaining the need, KWAHO organized two workshops which were held merely to strengthen awareness. After four years, KWAHO approached UNICEF and Water Aid (London) who gave funds for four wells as a pilot project

through the National Council of Women of Kenya (NCWK). UNICEF sponsored two workshops through (NCWK). The workshop recommendations that the project proposed were in all aspects to be community based and with a focus on long term sustainability. These requirements of the project prompted ground work and strategies to be formulated ahead of any other physical developments. Several consultative meetings between the active parties ; being KWAHO, UNICEF, WaterAid - London and MoWD, were held and finally a community seminar was organized. The broad outlines recommended shallow well development as the most viable alternative for the area. At this juncture, heavy rains came and silted all the shallow wells except one (1984).

KWAHO did not despair and approached WaterAid (London) again and this time got funds for twenty (20) wells. Another workshop was held participated at all stages of of planning implementation and monitoring through the existing leadership structure that the women groups provided, little or nothing will be achieved in the effort to bring water to the people. Further consultation with the leadership of the area including the administration and water related departments revealed that negative appreciation of project objectives may have come about because of the non-involvement of the beneficiaries at all levels of project implementation and management.

Active work began in 1984. For a period of four years various methods of shallow well development were tried and it was realized that tube-well construction was the most suitable method for this area. KWAHO imported one drilling rig (Hand Auger) from Zimbabwe for use in Kochogo \Kakola and other projects where shallow wells exist.

With the same funds, a qualified technician was deployed to the project. The community appreciated the equipment for it was handy (could be transported manually) and easy to operate.

2. PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION

Like all parts of the third world countries, womenfolk are responsible for water, firewood, food and taking care of their families. While they understand the plight of fetching water more than anybody else, a need for a systemized analysis to build and formulate clearer goals for obtaining safe drinking water cannot be over-emphasized. The few women groups that were there, as well as new members, were advised to register with the Ministry of Culture and Social Services as development groups. There are now sixty one (61) women groups registered to the interests of the community and children in the area with special emphasis on shallow well development for the health of women, children, and their entire families. KWAHO with the help of WaterAid (London), earmarked the development of ninety (90) shallow wells for U.K £78,100. To date seventy two (72) wells have been completed.

Community participation is the key word throughout this project. After clear awareness and commitment have been registered through KWAHO, the organization uses the women group leadership to train them with basic issues of hand rig operation, the handpump construction and equipping the well with an "Afridev" hand pump (developed in KWALE-Kenya), as well as introducing skills of operating and maintenance of the pump. They must be involved in selecting sites for wells, to ensure control and ownership by them.

As a result of the direct involvement of the community right from the start of the project to the end, the people of Kochogo \Kakola are identifying themselves with the project and in the choice of technology to be used. They understand the purpose, hence the reason and commitment to maintain their water systems.

3. TRAINING

Village leadership having been identified at the inception of the project, analysing the training needs does not remain such a big affair. Through seminars and workshops the community members are classified for different levels and related types of training. Technical and management training needs are also graded before serious training sessions are undertaken. Lessons learnt have shown that no matter the background, communities in Kenya require basic training in the following areas :

- i) **Basic leadership skills**
 - Qualities of a leader
 - Teaching tools
 - Teaching guide-line
 - Understanding your community
- ii) **Management Skills**
 - Formation of water committees
 - Project record keeping
 - Project bank accounts
 - Minute taking etc...

iii) Operation and Maintenance

- Understanding the facilities developed and how to operate and maintain them at village level.

iv) Health Education

- Personal hygiene
- Environmental and water Sanitation
- Malnutrition
- Family Planning
- Health Education was conducted at water points and the individual homes. The exercise has proved effective because the records at the Ahero Family Life Centre show that the malnourished children from the location has gone down. Besides that, the homesteads have been improved from grass thatched to 'mabati' roofed and having cleaner compounds.

v) The Afridev Hand pump

- Each water point has had 2 - 4 caretakers trained on operation and maintenance skills. The trainees are carefully selected and given a well designed training manual with the pump parts clearly outlined and illustrated on separate drawings.

4. PARTICIPATORY MONITORING

familiarization that includes surprise home visits to individual homes and attending their meetings or joining them in their festivities continues to be a good strategy of keeping close to the community and ensuring their trust and confidence throughout the project life.

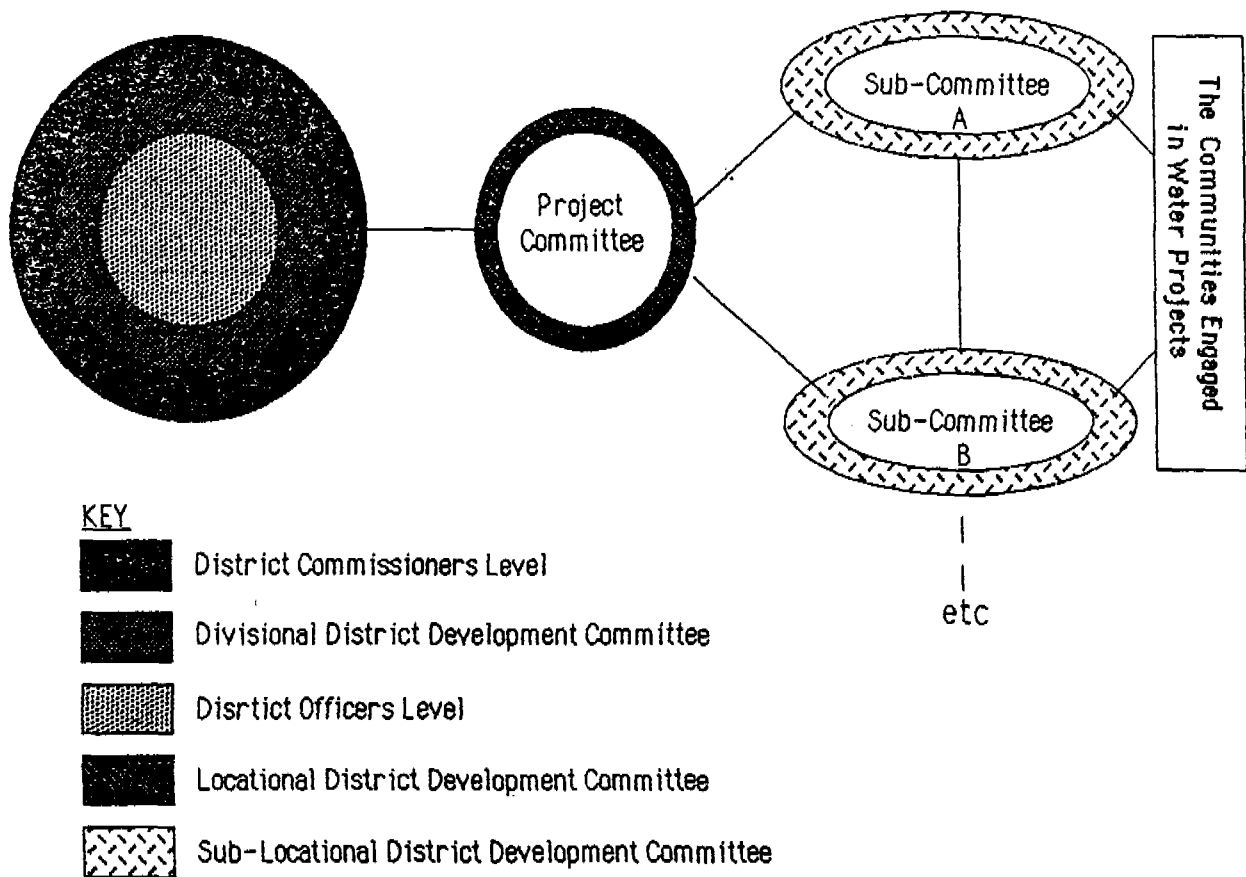
The project committee holds regular meetings and writes reports. The minutes of such meetings and reports are sent to the collaborating agencies for perusal and comments. They also kept records of project

expenditures; activities; highlighting on the constraints encountered and the proposed method of minimizing them. Field visits formed a good forum for participatory monitoring of the activities for it facilitated on the spot advise and evaluations of the progress.

VII PROJECT ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

1. Organization Structure within the Project

The Project has evolved around a number of community organizational structures in managing various project activities. In the process a strong leadership base capable of running the affairs of the project successfully and sustaining its operations and maintenance for a long time to come has been developed. The project has developed a well defined networking starting from the village level, through the governmental machinery (District Development Committee - DDC), to the Agencies and Donor level.



Inter-Relationships between actors in the Project.

The clear understanding which exists in the inter-relationship, helped a great deal in the success of the program. Each partner knows their roles, but main activities are centred at the sub-committee level, where membership has been selected by them.

The Kochogo\Kakola project committee was the organizational expression around which major decision policy and external relations issues revolved. It has a membership of 9 people, over 50% being women. The committees are well ran and managed laving KWAHO with the believe among many other reasons, that this is because of the high involvement of womenfolk.

As mentioned above the other main activities undertaken in the project are the responsibility of the sub-committee members. These included decisions at grassroot level on means of effective implementation and utilization of Project resources at water points. It also forms a mechanism for relaying messages discussed between the project committee and other agencies to the target groups, donors and the government machinery which are the different levels of the district development committees.

Structure of committee (both Project and Sub-committee)

- Chairman
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- At least 5 members [but they can number upto eleven (11)]

To open bank accounts the women must discuss in their committees, giving resolutions on who should draw the money before presenting themselves to any bank.

2. Management guidelines

Each sub-committee constitute their own guidelines and rules to assist them in running their affairs. This covers conditions for membership, handling of resources, revenue collection, meetings etc. Their bearers tenure, which in most cases is limited to a 2 year term, would also fall under such participatory implementing conditions.

3. Communication communication process

- a) The communication network between the sub-committee project committee and the agencies exists as illustrated in the inter-relationship pattern to minimize wrangles among the project leadership as well as the community members.
- b) In communicating with the implementing agency, donors or GoK, then a special project application form is used channelled through their committee management levels upto where the response is expected. ***(see sample form overleaf)**

Application Form For Assistance:

Kochogo\Kakola Community Water and Sanitation Project
Application Form

To Project Committee
Kochogo\Kakola
P.O. Box 76
AHERO.

I\We ----- request to be assisted in developing
our water supply\sanitary facilities. I\we oblige to meet the
required conditions. The proposal is herewith attached.

Signed Date

Chairman

Secretary

Treasurer

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Recommended\Not Recommended

Approved\Not Approved

Project committee

KWAHO\GOK

Date

Date

b) Acquisition of land for water facility.

The parcel of land where facilities were put up, except for schools, have to be donated and legalized, registered in the name of the group. The owner of the piece of land fills the land form and forwards it to the Land Adjudication department through the Chief and District Officer to release the parcel of land to the group. This way they are guaranteed access to the water point at any time. Other activities are also undertaken around the water points, e.g. construction of bathroom, development of kitchen garden and fish pond if so needed.

4. How The Community Manages Its Finances

The project committee who were actually co-ordinating the project activities kept records of all resources used in the Program. They open a bank account through which their money is kept and accounted for. Each member pays the amount agreed upon by the committee. They issue receipts and the cash records are maintained at their headquarters.

These records are audited from time to time to justify their validity by an external auditor. Usually the auditor would be appointed and paid for by the implementing agency.

The sub-committee kept their own records of:

- i) Membership register
- ii) Bank Account
- iii) Revenue collection register

In Kochogo\Kakola the membership fee varies from Shs.10 - 20. This fee is a must for anybody wishing to join a group. Hence from the constituted by laws a member could contribute 2/- to 5/- monthly for the use of water. The non-members would pay 20 cts per 20 litre container of water. The revenue collected is recorded in the register and it will be used for the repair of water facility or banked for later use. So all the women groups in Kochogo\Kakola project have been trained on basic book-keeping skills, which have so far been quite successful.

**TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF KOCHOGO\KAKOLA COMMUNITY
WATER & SANITATION PROJECT WOMEN GROUP.**

NAME OF THE PROJECT: Kanyathuondo Women Group

Kanyathuondo women group was started in 1989

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|---|---------------|
| 1. | Mrs. Benter Owiti | - | CHAIRPERSON |
| 2. | Mrs Mary Ayiecho | - | V\CHAIRMAN |
| 3. | Mrs Debora Okech | - | TREASURER |
| 4. | Mrs. Jane Juma | - | HON SECRETARY |
| 5. | Mrs. Monica Odongo | - | V\SECRETARY |
| 6. | Mrs. Carren J Agutu | - | MEMBER |
| 7. | Mrs. Magarita Mirenga | - | " |
| 8. | Mrs. Jane Nyarodi | - | " |
| 9. | Mrs Patrisiah Aros | - | " |
| 10. | Mrs Janet Ogwela | - | " |
| 11. | Mrs. Pamela Aton | - | " |
| 12. | Mrs Philista Ooko | - | " |
| 13. | Mrs. Stellan Nyakado | - | " |
| 14. | Mrs Feronica Ayieko | - | " |

CO-OPTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Henry J Abwao
2. Wilson Ogwela
3. Stephen Mbeke
4. Joseph Nyarodi

The number of members

Women 210 Men - 70 Total 280

The project has 280 active members. Note that men have only been co-opted, thus giving women monopoly to run this project.

1. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE GROUP

- i) To Mobilize members to start projects
- ii) To enroll more members
- iii) To help in aiding stranded students with school fees incase of a member's request.
- iv) To educate members and None members the value of starting a project like:
 - water project
 - Zero Grazing
 - To grow both indigenous and exotic trees
 - Or any useful trade.
- v) To organize 'harambee' work and even fund raising to raise the standard of the group.
- vi) To aid any member with a problem like
 - death problem
 - court problem
 - fire, flood or hunger problems
 - Pay hospital fee incase a member is sick and could not be able to meet the cost.

2. PROGRESS REPORT

a). Achievements alongside the water project

1988\90 The group decided to grow cotton which collect Shs.2,500
1990 the group decided to grow decided to grow Maize and
 that had fetched them KShs.1,500.
 Recently they organized Mini-fund Raising and collected
 KShs.3.200.

 They paid school fees for two students to continue with
 higher education

 the group has opened Bank Account with National Bank
 of Kenya. Account No.504 - 052-934

 Savings KShs.9,000

 Fixed Account KShs. 6,000

b) Water Project

 Since the group income will mainly depend on farming, they
 resolved to get a bore-hole and remain very thankful to
 KWAHO for having given them access to professional guidance
 including drilling of their water hole, as well as materials for
 constructing it .

3 PLAN FOR THE GROUP 1991-1992

The group under Minute 9\1991 has resolved to start a major project i.e "Zero GRAZING" For the group to succeed in this project the members request for any DONATION from Outside the Country or within the country to let them have the following:

1. At least four cows - Dairy Cattle
2. Build : i) Cowsheds - for resting
ii) Crush - For milking.spraying
iii) Stable - where they eat.

The estimated amount required to complete their projects is expected to be Kshs.150,000.

VIII PROJECT STATUS at KOCHOGONKAKOLA

1. Water Supply

a) Physical Implementation

From the joint efforts of the community and the agencies the following have been achieved. Development of 61 water points out of these 10 are situated at Primary Schools and the rest being run by women groups. The developed facilities are catering for 80% of the targeted population.

b) Community Involvement

As a result of the well organized structures discussed above, the Kochogo\Kakola were involved in the project activities in decision making and contributions. They contributed skilled and unskilled labour, materials, funds and land. If rated the community contributions into the project constituted 25% - 30% of the capital cost, they also provided accommodation for the artisans who worked with them in the project implementation.

2. Environmental Sanitation

A baseline survey conducted revealed that there was not enough proper sanitary facilities in the area. Therefore demonstration facilities - ie construction of Ventilated Improved Pit Latrines, child care programmes, health education for families and groups, development of health education charts and materials, community education seminars/workshops, were recommended for this area. These recommendations have been carried out by the Lake Basin Development Authority, UNICEF, and KWAHO. A number of pit latrines have now been built. The only outcry is that the facilities are destroyed by the floods which still remains a major environmental problem in the area. The GoK is looking into the flood problem and the community has high hopes that a solution will be found.

3. Income Generating Activities.

Income generating activities are now rife in Kochogo\Kakola. The women groups after getting water are now engaged in activities

geared towards improving the standard of living. There exists 37 active women groups engaged in handicrafts, fish keeping, vegetable growing, tree nurseries, poultry keeping, and zero grazing of cattle. They then sell the produce to generate some money for their upkeep and the rest for other social needs in the community. some groups in the spirit of 'harambee' pay school fees for the needy children.

4. Training & Health Education

- Two workshops have been conducted where 40 women benefited and have acquired basic skills on
 - . Leadership
 - . Management
 - . Operation and Maintenance of wells.
- A Health Education Manual has been developed to infuse health messages to the community. the manual is relevant to the area as it was developed and pre-tested here before final production. It is published in Dholuo language.

[Refer to manual: 'Dak Maber gi' (Healthy living with safe water)]

In order to achieve the above mentioned the following existed in the project.

i) Equipment

- . 3 vonder rigs (Hand Augers)
- . 1 motorbike YAMAHA 175 cc
- . 1 Hired Motor Vehicle

(- But UNICEF is committed to provide a project Pick-Up)

ii) Personnel

- 1 Program Officer (Water Engineer)
- 1 Assistant Program Officer (Public Health Technician)

- 2 Technicians
- 2 Extension Workers (Community mobilizers)
- Plus several volunteers

IX DIVERSIFIED ACTIVITIES

What began initially as a quest by the Kochogo \Kakola Community to solve their water problems have now given impetus to develop into an integrated community development program. The pioneer groups have now diverted their saved energies (they used to walk long distances in search of water and firewood) in income generating activities.

They have sounded also an alarm to be assisted with the persistent flooding problem which seriously affect this community every rainy season. KWAHO is supporting the move towards achieving the environmental sanitation aspects and excreta free environment.

Rural afforestation is another important aspect which is being viewed with great concern. At the moment 5 women groups are active in tree nurseries which apart from getting seedlings for afforestation at home,; they sell it as a source of income. Jointly with advice from Department of forestry and KWAHO, the community are raising more tree nurseries, which is a new development in the right direction since most of the indigenous trees are swept away by floods into Lake Victoria every year.

Hence it should be appreciated that the management of the environment has become a major concern for developing countries: and these women have not been left behind in striving to have clean

and safe water, better sanitation, enough firewood, proper resources utilization flood control etc.

The women groups in the area have also sought assistance to put up rice hullers and maize mills. These would save them a lot of their time which has been used at the mills while awaiting to be served by the existing mills. The time saved would be utilized in devoting more attention to the care of children. This has been demonstrated by one women group called **Achar**, who have raised KShs.38,000 towards a Maize Mill project. This is a clear sign of concern by the rural women for their social economic development and it could answer the common question "After Water What?" - Can time saved from fetching water from long distances be used to promote development that will add to the development of the family and the country at large?

X WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN THE KOCHOGO\KAKOLA COMMUNITY WATER & SANITATION PROJECT

Women participation in the decision making implementation and management of the projects operations are very high indeed. In fact it was the women who identified and initiated the entire process. The umbrella committee, which forms the project co-ordinating machinery is made up of representatives of the sub-committees the sub-committee's characteristic of Kochogo\Kakola is executive arm of the women groups.

The multiplier effect of the water project in the area is evidently attributable to the resourcefulness of the women themselves.

The emergence of the group activities especially the concern on the degradation of the environment, are all the function of the women's initiatives.

KWAHO in its supportive role had particularly focused on the women's involvement in the Kochogo\Kakola project affairs. Through its experience KWAHO has established that intensive training of selected women leaders from a community project is an excellent approach for diffusion purposes. Replication, that is , skill transfer and adoption of an appropriate technology, is easily achieved where women are involved in widespread scale. In Kochogo\Kakola women form the core in this diffusion scenario.

XI LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE KOCHOGO \KAKOLA EXPERIENCE ON LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF PROJECT WITH DIRECT IMPACT ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN

From the foregoing sections, Kochogo\Kakola community water and sanitation project has had a tremendous impact on the community, their economy and environment. The resounding success of the project has triggered the community's initiative and resourcefulness and given rise to the building of grassroot institutional capacity support systems. In the process a number of lessons have been learnt.

First, the success of the project is dependent upon the high degree of community participation in its conception, planning, implementation and decision making at all stages. Thus the women of Kochogo\Kakola were involved in executing what they had conceived, created in them a sense of satisfaction, ownership and strong identification with project. Community participation can secondly, be assured only when there are marked changes in attitude and members are sensitized to cultivate appropriate perceptions and relationships with project issues. In the case of Kochogo\Kakola, the community awareness of better water resources vis a vis the traditional ones created the right social and individual conditions that have unleashed their energies for full participation.

Thirdly, the Kochogo\Kakola case, demonstrates that proper leadership and well organized community could manage project affairs on their own and is a sign of long term sustainability of the projects operations and maintenance.

The fourth element that has stood out in the success of Kochogo\Kakola community project is the right mix of the community's inputs with those of the governmental and non-governmental agencies in supportive relationship. It should be noted that it was the community who in the first instance involved these agencies to assist technically and therefore these agencies did not initiate an interventionist program, where community involvement is induced. Hence community participation in Kochogo\Kakola as an instantaneous phenomenon which has triggered off all the activities in the area devoid of the supportive agencies.

The last lesson learnt from Kochogo\Kakola is that when the rural women are given ample time they are innovative, care much about their environment and not least think of socio-economic status of their communities. And that is why they have drawn the support of NGO's, multi-laterals and governments. As in the case of Kochogo\Kakola whereby UNICEF have indicated to fund an additional 140 wells besides a package on sanitation. These would go along way in improving the status of women and children for that is the aim of this symposium.

XII CONCLUSION

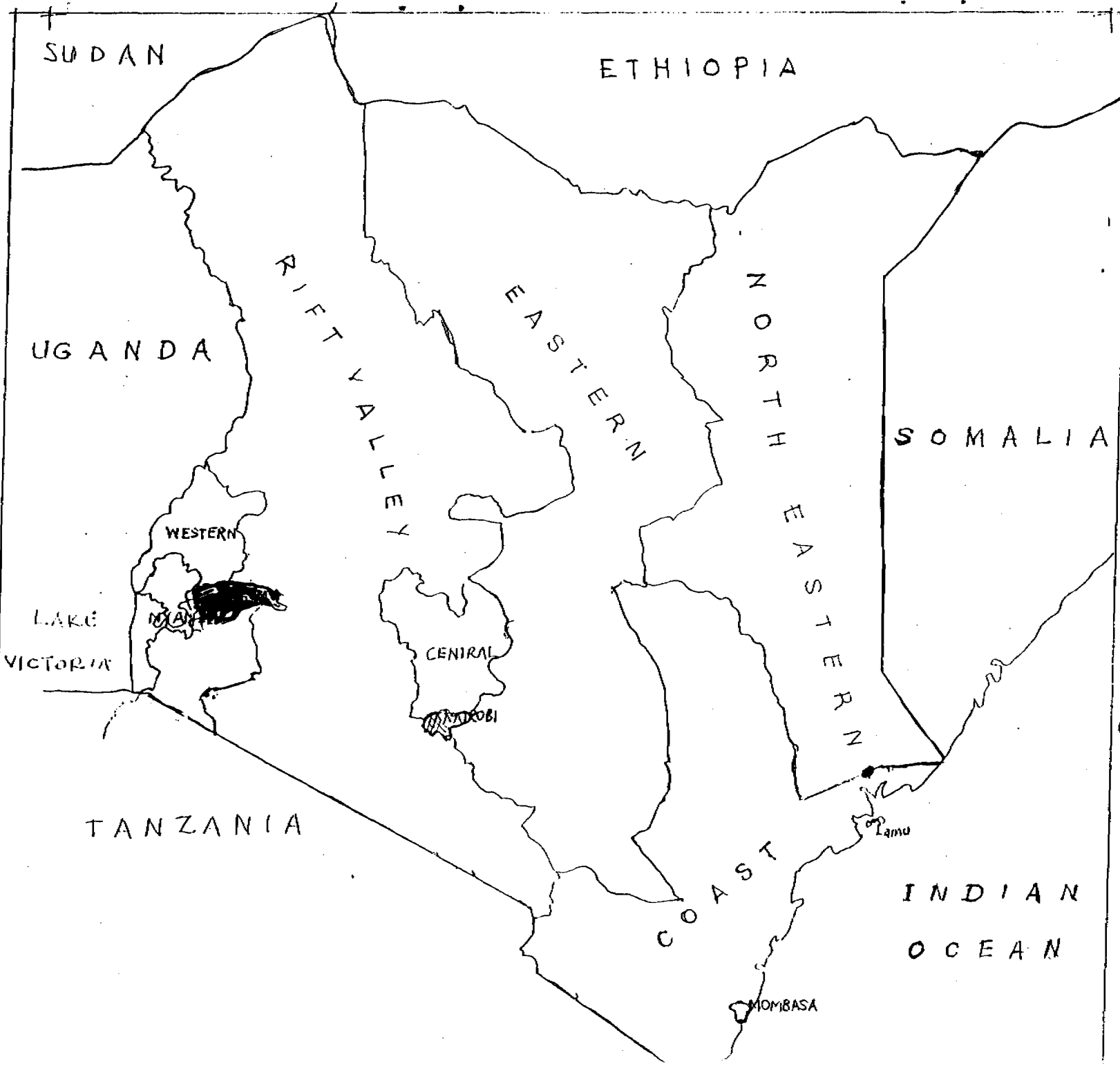
From the foregoing sections, it is apparent that, whereas the focus of the Kochogo-Kakola project is on the entire community, women members stand out distinctly in the decision making process of the project affairs. through this process, the women as the main carriers of water for domestic needs and the principal moulders of the family's hygienic habits, the well being of the children is effectively assured in KWAHO's support for community water and sanitation projects.

One significant outcome of water provision in most of KWAHO's support of Community Water and Sanitation projects, Kenyawide, has been that sanitation has taken a natural course. It has been noted that when people have attained their primary goal of water supply, demand for improved pit latrines, refuse disposal compost pits, children's clinic services and the general hygiene improvement, has sharply risen among the communities. KWAHO has consciously built in health education materials, simple books, pictures, posters and slides.

More significantly as far as children are directly concerned, KWAHO has constructed demonstration VIP latrines at schools in the program areas. This has had a great impact in the communities, as children involved tend to carry the hygiene education messages learnt to their family members, and later in life adopt the usage of such technologies themselves.

The Kochogo Kakola community Water and Sanitation Project represents a successful women initiated, developed and managed rural development project within the KWAHO operational context. This has had a profound impact both on the physical environment of the area as well as on the development of new social relations which have emerged as a result of the empowerment of women through the project process.

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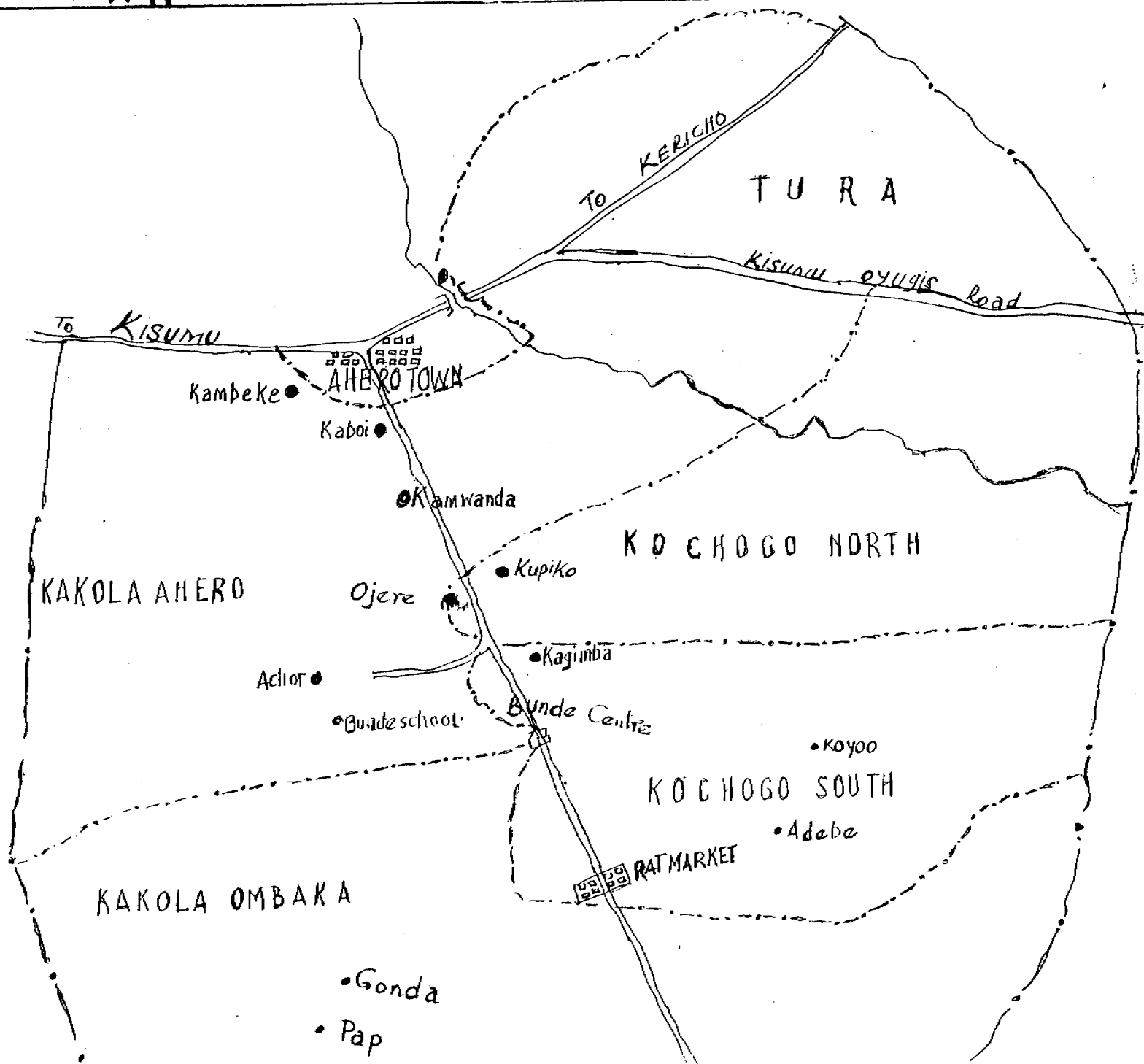


Appendix I
 Map of Kenya

**MAP OF
 KENYA
 SHOWING
 THE LOCATION
 OF
 KOCHOG/
 KAKOLA.**

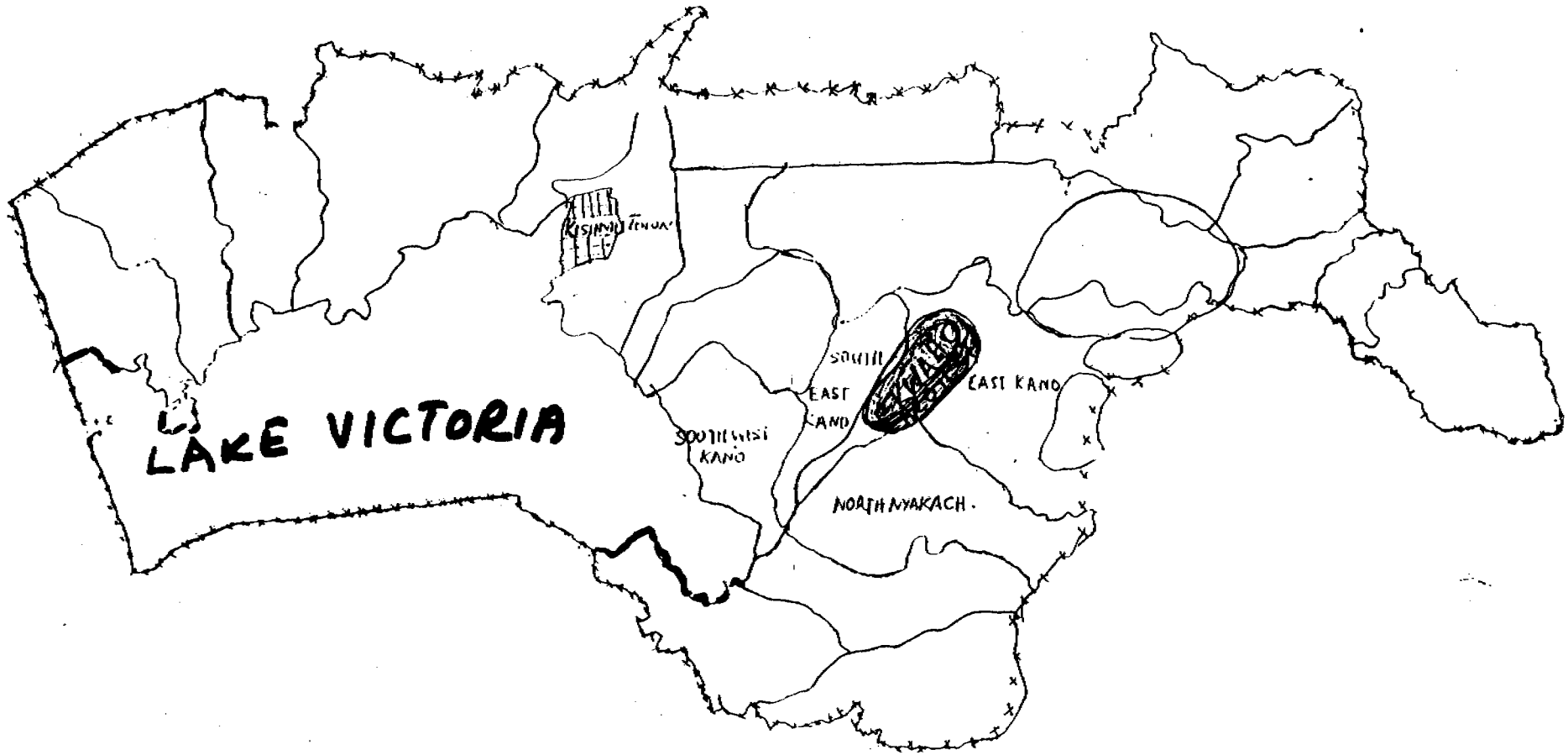
MAP OF KOCHOGO KAKOLA AREA.

Appendix III
Maps Kochogo
Kakola area.



04

MAP OF KISUMU DISTRICT SHOWING KOCHOGO KAKOLA.



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