

# **TRAINING REPORT ON RAIN WATER HARVESTING IN ENOOSAEN, TRANSAMARA DISTRICT ON.**

## **BACKGROUND**

Transmara district is found in the rift valley province of Kenya. It has a population of 170,591 in its four divisions namely Keiyan, Kilgoris, Lolgorian, Pirrar, Kirindoni and three headquarters Enosaen, Kilgoris and Lolgorien.

The environmental stability of this district indicates that the amount of rainfall is 98.6mm which shows that the record trend has been steady, leading to constant supply of water sources that are mainly in use by both livestock and people that is Rivers and streams. Seasonal rivers and catchments pools have also been in use. Household access to water is determined by the current average distance (in km) from households to main water sources ranged between 4.5 and 5 in the district. However with the current widespread climatic changes Transmara District is not spared either, several changes in the rain patterns have been reported. This intensifies the need to harvest water for use during the dry spells.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The training of rainwater harvesting, was held in Enosaen location, whose human population is 25,885. This was attended by the community members, among them were, elders, men, women, youth and the area chiefs all members totaled to 65 persons each representing a homestead. The training started on a high note where everyone present introduced themselves. The programme of the training was then handed over to the members present, explaining the following:

- **The Objective of the Training**
  - ❖ *Rainwater harvesting*
- **Facilitator**
  - ❖ *Indigenous Information Network*
- **Group discussions**
  - ❖ *Identify group problems*

- ❖ *Identify community problems*
- ❖ *Recommendations*
- ❖ *Group presentations*
- Training by local water technician (Mr. Joshua Naleke) on rainwater harvesting techniques
- Recap



(PARTICIPANTS TAKING NOTES)



The training was then moderated by Lucy Mulenkei and also facilitated by Teckla Mungushi a women's leader from Kilgoris Division. The participants through the programme explaining what each discussion of the training entailed and who was to facilitate. She encouraged the participants to say what challenges they face, she pointed out that Transmara District is blessed with adequate rainfall yet the women still go to the river to fetch water. This should not be the case as they could harvest rain water by installing gutters on their roofs and store the water harvested in tanks.

The training included women's rights issues to create awareness on the basic rights in the community. After a one hour presentation and discussions on basic rights with a main focus on women's rights, it was very clear that even though men in the area acknowledge the need to accord these rights to the women, there was a lot of weakness among the women. The women did not respect those rights. The women did acknowledge that and promised to take action. There was also an big outcry of the role played by the youth. Despite the fact that we encourage education and especially for girl child, unemployment is of great concern and has caused the youth to misbehave in the area, to an extend of not giving respect to elders which is a taboo. Alcoholism and crime has increased and this is of create concern to the community. It was greed that the community leaders have to be more proactive and venture together with the you to check what can be done and that dialogue was crucial among all in the community to address the problem. Other problems discussed are HIV/AIDs and other health problems facing the communities An it was agreed that there was need for follow up and continuous trainings in the community to create more awareness and visibility for the community.

The participants were then divided into groups so that they can discuss and identify more issues that affect them in the community.

*(Women listening keenly  
As the training proceeds)*



### **GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

Following the introduction the community members were then grouped by the facilitator, to identify the areas where they face challenges. Each group had 12 individuals, which

was categorized as follows; women (2 groups), youth (1 group) and the elders (1 group) and all the discussions lasted an hour. In the entire group each and every person was allowed to express what they felt was a problem in relation to water. After the group discussions the points raised were summarized as follows:

- Deforestation
- Soil erosion
- Lack of pit latrines
- Distance to the stream being too far
- Lack of seeds and tubers for planting
- They need bathrooms now that the water project is there they can no longer bath at the river
- Sharing water together with animals





*(The group discussions)*

### **Group presentations**

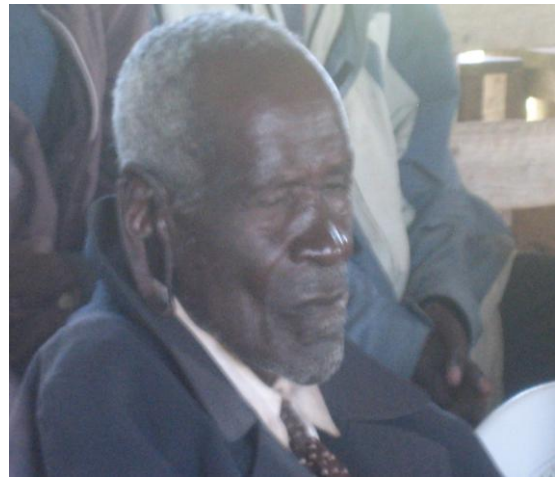
Most of the points raised were shocking to hear such as the most of the homesteads in the area have no sanitation facilities. With the issues raised the community proposed the following:

- Dig pit latrines within each homesteads
- Boil drinking water
- Cleaning food well before cooking
- Assistance for the youth to get employment
- Educating people on soil erosion and how to prevent
- Sensitize the community on the importance of having latrines
- Those who cut trees, should plant two for every one they cut
- Dig latrines to improve sanitation levels and reduce spread of diseases
- Plant more trees to reduce the rate of deforestation
- Dig terraces in farm to control soil erosion
- Install gutters on the roofs to harvest rain water

- Educating and mobilizing the community towards development on health issues including water and sanitation
- Training people on water harvesting techniques
- Afforestation



*(the area chiefs)*



*(An elder listening to the presentations)*





(Different group presentations)



### TRAINING OF RAIN WATER HARVESTING TECHNIQUES

Then Mr. Joshua Naleke (pictured left) who is the water technician of Enosaen Location, taught the community about various methods of water harvesting. He told them that water is life. He made the community aware of the responsibility to safe guard the water in the area. If protected and utilized well, the water, they have will benefit them for a long time to come. He said they will be guided on where to dig the latrines so that ground water is not contaminated.

Mr. Naleka trained on the various methods of having and installing water tanks in the community. He talked of the plastic tanks and the different sizes available, he also mentioned the cemented tank that can be built by the community and used as a whole if situated in one place then piped down to various homesteads. He also talked of the small tanks that can be used as home tanks and are not expensive to be owned by an individual. To maintain the **tank cleanliness**, the water tank needs to be washed and treated every two weeks to prevent water borne diseases such as cholera, dysentery and typhoid. Mr. Naleka said that the Ministry of health provides chlorine for free which they can use to treat the water after cleaning the tanks. He requested the community to form a committee which in turn should assign one person the responsibility of cleaning

the tanks and treating the water using the standardized requirements. On this note the community members agreed to try and put up these tanks. At least one in each homestead. Mr. Naleka requested the facilitator to ask the community if they were going to put up the tank. This was replied and proved by the show of hands by most of the members who were sitting in the room.

He also talked to the communities of **fixing gutters** in their rooftops and its uses as a method of harvesting the rain water, to one designated point of the homestead. He explained this further by saying that in order for one to use gutters they need to have iron sheet type of roof. Though it might be difficult for the community members to install this he urged them to try as much as possible and change the current rooftops they have, which is grass thatched and which does not support any form of rain water harvesting.

He concluded by saying that it is important for the community to take note and install tanks and take care of water collection facilities as walking a long distance to the river is time-consuming and tiring to the women.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

What was discussed was then tabled by the facilitator for the whole community to agree or disagree on the issues that arose during the meeting and no negative issue was addressed. All members present agreed to build tanks and install iron sheet rooftops in their homesteads and this should be monitored by Indigenous Information Network in collaboration with the area chief in all homesteads after three months.

The other issue that was to be checked was the construction of the latrines in the communal areas. Since the discussion raised earlier mentioned that the community lacked crucial sanitation facilities (toilets) and the only way to avoid water borne diseases was to construct latrines in each home. All members present agreed to put up the latrines and to the women who represented their homesteads were asked to talk to their husbands and fathers to persuade them to construct the toilets in the homesteads. Since they as women have no will to set up anything in the homesteads, this is according to the cultural norm of the community.

**Pictures and results of the rainwater harvesting training for community initiative after the training held 3rd September, 2009.**

It was encouraging that after IIN team visited the community again after two weeks; there were good initiatives and outcomes to show the impacts of the training.



(INSTALLED WATER GUTTERS FOR RAIN WATER HARVESTING)



(PLASTIC TANK AND A CEMENTED TANK IN DIFFERENT HOMESTEADS)



(A BOEHOLE AND PIT LATRINES UNDER CONSTRUCTION)

You can imagine that population without any toilets and with frequent rains what dangers these communities face. It is a challenge that no other community health workers , leaders or the educated community would find this as a health hazard. We are glad that this project brought light and now there is action at the community level even though a lot has yet to be done.