

Tweed Kenya Mentoring Program  
Safe Water 6  
Final Report by Robert Hanby  
& Scott Green

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## 1.0 Project Background

Since the inception of the Tweed Kenya Mentoring Program (TKMP), Safe Water projects have been undertaken throughout the Siaya County:

- Safe Water 1 - Gona Dam Sky Hydrant Kiosk
- Safe Water 2 - Tinga Dam Sky Hydrant Kiosk
- Safe Water 3 - Ochillo Dam Sky Hydrant Kiosk
- Safe Water 4 - Gona Dam de-silting and filter upgrade
- Safe Water 5 - Manyasi Dam Sky Hydrant installation and Kubar Primary School amenities block
- Safe Water 6 - Manyasi Dam Sky Hydrant Kiosk commissioning and Tinga Dam filter upgrade



*KENYA, located on the east coast of Africa.*

## 2.0 Project Delivery

### 2.1 Scope of Works

When Safe Water 5 was undertaken in 2013, a backlog of imports at Kenya's major sea port, Mombasa, meant Safe Water kiosks destined for Manyasi Dam were detained by the Customs Services Department of Kenya.

However, a redesign of the footing and slab allowed works to begin using local materials. Excavations for the kiosk slab, edge beams and customer hard stand areas were undertaken by hand by the local community, as well as footings for the water tank stand. The construction of reinforcing, along with mixing and finishing concrete, was also a labour intensive activity undertaken by the local community.

The community had been anxious for TKMP representatives to return and complete the installation.

Its completion was followed by a formal opening by the Governor of the Siaya District, the Hon Cornel Rasanga.

Safe Water 6 provided the opportunity to complete the construction and commissioning of the Manyasi Dam Sky Hydrant Kiosk.



**Preparing for the official opening**

## 2.2 Documentation and Promotion

For the first time, two volunteers from Tweed Shire Council travelled together to Kenya to deliver the Safe Water 6 program.

Robert Hanby had returned to complete the construction and commissioning of the Manyasi Dam Safe Water Kiosk.

He was accompanied by Scott Green, who was brought in to use his expertise in media and journalism to produce a documentary on TKMP.

Using film and photography, Scott recorded the activities and achievements of Safe Water projects undertaken by TKMP.



The documentary and other footage captured by Scott will be used to document and promote the program, to help gain further sponsorship, help ensure TKMP's longevity and to further increase Siayan communities' access to clean water.



A special and spontaneous moment captured during filming at Manyasi Dam for the documentary.

## 2.3 GNet

The TKMP delegation's first day in Kenya for Safe Water 6 included a meeting in Nairobi with Gallamoro Network (GNet), the Kenyan-based Non Government Organisation (NGO) undertaking the receipt and accounting of funds on behalf of the International River Foundation (IRF).

The delegation was greeted by three GNet members, Mr Joseph Ogolla, Chairman, Father Lucas Udiemo, Secretary and Victor Odoor, Accountant.

Discussions were general and related to an increase in the level of service provided by GNet to better align with Australian reporting requirements.

In addition, Chairman Ogolla foreshadowed changes in Government regulations that could impose further costs on TKMP activities, through new taxes and fees directed at all NGOs operating in Kenya.

Chairman Ogolla thanked the TKMP delegates for taking the time to meeting the GNet representatives in person. He confirmed a statement and detail of compliance requirements for NGOs would be forwarded as soon as the information became available.



## 2.4 Kenya Health - Njoro and Manyasi Health Clinics

Following the meeting with GNet, the TKMP delegation travelled to Nakuru to meet with members of the Health Outreach Organisation of Kenya (HOOK), known as Kenya Health in Australia.

The following day included travelling to Njoro to help set up and conduct a free health clinic offered by HOOK. It was an excellent opportunity to witness the ongoing legacy HOOK founder Lyle Burgoyne had left, following his passing in late 2013.

More than 300 people walked, cycled or travelled by bus to the Njoro site to receive treatment for health issues. HOOK's activities also include raising funds and making arrangements for hospital treatment for people with more serious health conditions.

The next stage Safe Water 6 began early the next day, when the TKMP group travelled with HOOK staff to Kisumu to collect new filters from the DHL Worldwide Express office. The eight-hour trip was a great chance to discuss the activities of both HOOK and TKMP, the positive relationship that had been forged and potential for future joint community health initiatives.





The health clinic at Njoro

## 2.5 Consultation

Soon after arriving in Manyasi, the delegation conducted an initial community consultation meeting with the Manyasi community in its church grounds. Each member of the community gave their own account of the hardships they endure in not having access to basic medical treatment and the effects drinking untreated dam water had on their everyday lives.

The community representatives were clearly pleased that TKMP delegates had returned to complete the Safe Water Kiosk. They also welcomed a commitment by HOOK to return in September 2015 to undertake two free health clinics.

As is the custom with community gatherings in Siaya, HOOK staff, TKMP members and community representatives shared a meal before we moved on to our host family for the remainder of our stay.

Arrangements were also made to meet with various government officials to plan an official opening of the Manyasi Dam Safe Water Kiosk.

Positive relationships developed during previous Safe Water projects helped provide access to many local officials, including the personal secretary of the Governor, who introduced us to various Ministers and heads of departments.

Discussions included to the ongoing activities of both HOOK and TKMP, the support government could provide and its influence in removing any obstructions that might prevent positive outcomes for the broader community.

Responses by the Health Advisor to the Office of the Governor for Siaya County, Dr Kevin Ndai Omamo, the Investments and Resources Advisor to the Office of the Governor, Jacko Oburu Odinga, and the County Executive Committee Chairperson - Health, Ms Sarah Salome, were particularly significant.

Each of these officials commended and were extremely grateful for the efforts of TKMP and encouraged the project to continue working for the people of Siaya County.

## 2.6 Completion of the Manyasi Dam Safe Water Kiosk

Safe Water 5 volunteer Robert Hanby returned to Australia after constructing the footings and concrete slab for the Safe Water kiosk at Manyasi Dam.

The container used to import the kiosk building, filter and water tank stand was released from the Mombassa docks by the Customs Services Department of Kenya a month later.

It was arranged to transport the container's contents to the East Africa Mission Orphanage so they could be sorted for the orphanage, HOOK and TKMP. The TKMP in field Project Manager, David Mango, collected the Safe Water kiosk from this location and started erecting the building and water stand.

Four new filters - two additional units for Manyasi Dam kiosk and two replacement filters for Tinga Dam - were purchased in Australia as part of Safe Water 6.

To avoid further delays in commissioning the Manyasi Kiosk, two filters were carried by volunteers as hand luggage while two were forwarded through DHL Worldwide Express. Fortunately both forms of transport succeeded in getting the filters to Siaya in time.

Following the initial consultation meeting with the local community, the TKMP delegation and members of the community immediately set to work completing the kiosk structure, filter installation and plumbing.



Testing the filtered water.

Modern construction techniques using 'flat pack' structures was a challenge for the community volunteers, so progress was slower than anticipated. That resulted in long days, often working after dusk, to ensure construction was completed and testing could occur.

The first fill of the initial water storage tank, to hold dirty water straight out of the dam, occurred late on the eve of the planned official opening and handover ceremony by the Governor.

An early start with the community had the system operating successfully the following morning, provided great relief and ensuring the first glass of clean water was ready for testing by the Chairman of the Manyasi Dam Skyjuice Committee.

## 2.7 Official Opening Ceremony of the Safe Water Kiosk

On the morning of the planned opening, more than 100 local community members erected shade shelters, placed chairs and made arrangements for the official party. The Governor's personal secretary arrived and provided details of Government officials attending, their input for the opening and protocol for such events.

The official party comprised H.E. The Governor of Siaya, Mr Cornel Rasanga, the Minister for Water, Jared Omondi Buoga and the Minister for Health, Sarah Ondego.

It proved to be a great event for the local community because visits by such senior officials are rare. The ceremony provided an opportunity for community members to speak directly to the Governor and Ministers on many issues effecting their lives and their gratitude in the support given to support organisations such as TKMP.

The final speech by the Governor highlighted the importance of cooperative alliances with TKMP and a sound future for further programs that support the health and wellbeing of the community.

The Governor formally opened the Manyasi Dam kiosk by cutting of the ribbon, followed by a handover of the kiosk keys and a bound operational manual to the Minister for Water and Manyasi Community Chairman.

The function concluded with a typical Kenyan feast provided by community members.



Officially opening the Manyasi Dam kiosk.

## 2.8 Tinga filter upgrade

Two additional filters had been purchased for the Tinga Dam kiosk, to replace early-model systems installed during Safe Water 2. The original filters may ultimately be reconditioned and used during future upgrades.

During the Safe Water 6 visit, discussions with kiosk operators highlighted a number of maintenance issues that required attention. Of greater concern was an algae problem within Tinga Dam, exacerbated by siltation and the dam's shallow depth of water. These concerns were discussed with the Governor, who confirmed his commitment to provided funds for de-silting the dam, in association with a future kiosk upgrade by TKMP.

The TKMP Project Manager made arrangements to install the filters and other maintenance activities, before setting off to visit other Safe Water project sites.

## 2.9 Kubar Primary School - Amenities Block

An amenities block constructed at Kubar Primary School as part of Safe Water 5 is now fully operational. The building is being well looked after and enjoyed by the school's students, allowing for demolition of the former dilapidated facilities.

The school principal took the opportunity to again thank TKMP for its support in providing better hygiene for the children.



## 2.10 Gona Dam Safe Water Kiosk

The area had experienced low rainfall prior to Safe Water 6, so a separate water source at a cattle storage area had run dry. As a result, local farmers had cut fences to allow cattle access to water.

Ongoing repairs to the fence are being undertaken and locals are being encouraged to use the main gate and water their cattle by hand using buckets and large plastic dishes.

During the Safe Water 6 visit, some locals were seen bypassing the Safe Water kiosk and sourcing water directly from the dam. Discussion with locals confirmed that this was because some people had a lack of money to pay for filtered water. While TKMP does not wish to enforce payment for clean water, the kiosks' operations are governed by community-appointed committees.

The TKMP Project Manager has been asked to provide further education to the community about the benefits of clean water. He was also asked to discuss with the committee alternatives for access to the kiosk to be provided to community members without the financial ability to pay for clean water.



Discussing issues about Gona Dam

## 2.11 Ochillo Dam Safe Water Kiosk

The Safe Water Kiosk for Ochillo Dam is located within the adjacent school grounds and operated by the school. The Safe Water 6 visit coincided with school holidays, so there wasn't an opportunity to talk with any of the children who operate the system. However, the Deputy Headmaster met the TKMP delegation at the school and provided a tour of the dam and the filtration kiosk. He also showed the delegation the seedlings planted by students as part of the project.



Inspecting Tinga Dam kiosk

## 2.12 TKMP Siaya Office

A busy day of inspections ended with a visit to the TKMP Siaya Office, to view seedling stocks and leftover materials stored from previous projects.

It was important to assess the value of maintaining the asset in its current form. The site is a valuable asset for TKMP operations to propagate seedlings, store tools and materials and provide a shop front for the community to communicate with TKMP volunteers, in addition to community members seeking support.

When reviewing the TKMP operational plan, any change in the scope of activities would have an impact on the need to maintain the facility. These altered activities would also provide an opportunity to consider alternative options for office and storage space to provide direct contact with the Siaya communities assisted by TKMP.

### 3.0 Project Costs

TKMP's total investment in Safe Water 6 was approximately AU \$18,850.

As with previous TKMP projects, labour was provided by the community and materials were pre-purchased from local suppliers whenever possible.

Personal contributions to the program by Scott and Bob comprised two weeks of leave entitlement and approximately 120 hours of voluntary time in preparation and reporting.

Scott's contribution after returning to Australia included many hours of interviewing and editing to prepare the documentary depicting the role of TKMP, the input and gratitude of the Siaya communities. It will be a valuable tool for maintaining support for such a worthy cause.

As with all TKMP Safe Water Projects, the outcomes achieved in improving everyday lives, reducing disease and gaining the support of several Government authorities for the people of Siaya County ensured the time, cost and effort invested into Safe Water 6 was well worth it.



Installing the pipeline to Manyasi Dam kiosk

## 4.0 Farewell Siaya

As always it was difficult to say farewell to the communities we had worked for and those who had made our stay enjoyable.

Scott and I had purchased gifts for our host family, presenting them at an emotional final gathering before departing on the final leg of our journey home.

We shall always remain a part of the TKMP program and continue to encourage anyone, within Tweed Shire Council or the Tweed Community to take part in future programs to help improve the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves.



The Siaya town centre.



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