

Nyaruenya Community Water & Sanitation Project

Bondo District, Western Kenya



**The WaterCan@Universities Challenge
2005-2006**

Basic Facts About Kenya

	KENYA	CANADA
Capital	Nairobi	Ottawa
Population (million)	31.5	31.3
Child mortality (under 5 years of age) Per 1,000 live births	122	7
Average life expectancy (years)	45.2	79.3
Water supply coverage (%)	57	100
Sanitation coverage (%)	87	100
Physicians (per 100,000 people)	14	187
GDP per capita (US\$)	393	22,777
UN human development index rank (out of 177 countries)	148 th	4 th

Source: UNDP Human Development Report (2004)

Straddling the equator, Kenya possesses an incredibly diverse geography. The country's western zone encompasses the humid and undulating plateau that lies adjacent to Lake Victoria, Africa's largest lake, the Great Rift Valley, and the more temperate central highlands that include the snow-covered slopes of Mount Kenya (5,199 metres). The northern and eastern zones are dominated by semi-arid bush lands and deserts, while the eastern coastal zone is usually hot and humid throughout the year. Kenya's population is equally diverse with more than 70 ethnic groups present in the country. The main rivers in Kenya are the Tana, the Galana, and the Kerio. Notable water bodies within the country include Lake Turkana, Lake Baringo, Victoria and Lake Amboseli.

Map of Kenya and Project Location



■ **Project location: Bondo District**

WATERCAN PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Title:	Nyaruenya Community Water & Sanitation Project
Location:	Bondo District, Nyanza Province, Western Kenya
Project Cost:	CDN \$40,000
Project Reach:	3,800 people
Key Activities:	Water supply, hygiene and sanitation promotion, capacity building

The Need

Bondo District in Nyanza Province is an isolated rural area that is located approximately 350 kilometers east of Nairobi, Kenya's national capital. For most families here, drinking water comes from polluted seasonal streams and unprotected springs. During the dry season the only available water is obtained from distant water pans (natural low-lying areas) or from Lake Victoria. Water collectors – usually women and children – can easily spend two or more hours just to fetch a single container of water. This tedious yet vital daily chore takes time and energy away from efforts to pursue more productive activities such as child care, attending school, and farming.

The poor water situation in Bondo District is made worse by the general lack of sanitation facilities and basic information on good hygiene practices. Most households do not have access to any kind of sanitation facility. During the rainy season, the surface runoff causes tremendous soil erosion and further exacerbates the health problems associated with the common practice of open field defecation. Not surprisingly, water and sanitation related diseases such as diarrhea, intestinal parasites, and skin and eye infections, are common health problems affecting villagers.

The challenges facing Nyaruenya Village are common to many rural communities in Bondo District. Local streams are seasonal and the potential of groundwater resources is extremely poor. The only feasible water supply solution for the community is the development of a nearby pan that is silted up. This involves expanding the pan, compacting the ground to reduce infiltration rates, constructing embankments, and planting stabilizing vegetation to protect the surrounding catchment area.

Recently, the Kenyan government adopted a policy of free Universal Primary Education (UPE) in recognition of the importance of an educated population to support local poverty reduction efforts. While this has allowed more children than ever to get an education, it has resulted in dramatic increases in student enrollment. As a consequence, water and sanitation conditions at local schools in the Nyaruenya area are particularly grim and need to be urgently addressed.

Project Goal

The overall goal of the project is to improve the quality of life of people living in Nyaruenya Village through the development of water supplies, basic sanitation facilities, and the carrying out of hygiene education. The project is expected to benefit at least 3,800 villagers.

Key Project Activities

- Development of a 5,000 m³ capacity water pan; construction of an adjacent well fitted with a hand-pump for domestic water supply, and a drinking trough for livestock.
- Construction of rooftop rainwater tanks at three local primary schools (each with a 20,000-litre capacity)
- Establishment and training of a Water Management Committees made up of community members/school staff to manage each developed water-point.
- Construction of ten household-level improved pit latrines for demonstration purposes in the general community.
- Construction of institutional toilet blocks at three local primary schools
- Carrying out of sanitation and hygiene education activities at local schools and in the general community.

Expected Project Impact

- At least 3,800 people in the Nyaruenya area gain improved access to safe and sustainable water supplies.
- The construction and use of basic sanitation facilities will help to improve local environmental sanitation conditions at three local primary schools and in the general community.
- Community members, including students and teachers at local schools, will adopt improved hygiene and sanitation practices thereby reducing their vulnerability to related diseases.

Operation, Maintenance & Financial Sustainability

At each water-point site, community members and school officials will be organized to form a Water Management Committee. These committees will be responsible for the routine operation and maintenance of the constructed water systems, and to support sanitation and hygiene education outreach activities in their schools and communities.

Monitoring and Evaluation

WaterCan's local partner, SANA, will be responsible for the on-the-ground management of the project. WaterCan will review progress of the project against expected results, and will identify and provide technical assistance to SANA as needed. This will include periodic field visits to the project site by WaterCan personnel.

PROJECTED REVENUE SOURCES	AMOUNT
WaterCan@Universities student chapters	\$25,000
WaterCan general fundraising	\$15,000
TOTAL	\$40,000

About WaterCan

WaterCan is a Canadian registered charity dedicated to providing clean water, basic sanitation, and hygiene education to the world's poorest people. Since 1987, WaterCan has helped more than one million people to live healthier, more productive lives. WaterCan currently works with local partners in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. To learn more please contact us or visit our website www.watercan.com