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GG1414888 Safe Water, Clean Hands for Ethiopian Kids

Thanks to Dawit Alemishet of our cooperating organization and our partner Rotarians for contributing to this report

1. What are the major activities to date?

1. Project Preparation period

1.1. Project Launching and Orientation program day

The Rotary Clubs of Addis Ababa West (RCAAW) and South Lake Union (RCLU) partnered with Splash International (Splash) and the Addis Ababa Education Bureau - Curriculum Development & Implementation Core Process team (AAEB) to implement this project.

We prepared an official project launching and orientation program day in one of the existing selected primary government school site. There were about 80 participants from AAEB, sub cities education office, Wereda education offices, principals from selected school sites and Addis Ababa Bureau of finance and economy development (BoFED). The Objective of the launching and orientation day was to give an introduction to Rotary objectives and guidelines and Splash programs with government stakeholder organizations for the successful implementation of the project.

1.2. Importing of Water Filtration Systems and Equipment

Following guidance from members of RCAAW, Splash requested for duty free privilege papers from EFDRE Charities and Societies agency and Revenues and Customs Authority we were able to import and stock 13 water filtration systems and equipment along with required number of spare parts that serve for 10 year as replacement and maintenance duty free saving approximately \$8,600 in project costs for use in other areas.



Water filtration systems inventory in Addis Ababa awaiting installation

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1.3. Health & Hygiene Training Manuals Development and Validation

Project partners prepared two translated work books and activity books supporting teaching-training materials for the Health and Hygiene education programs. The Amharic translated materials were submitted to the AAEB team for further comments, evaluation and validation.

The team gave constructive inputs in the context and culture of the Ethiopian education curriculum system that enabled the two materials to serve as support to teaching-training books. Accordingly, the materials have been fully validated and accepted for use this project's Health and Hygiene Education program.



AAEB Experts Editing and Validating H&H Manuals

1.4. Progress update to RCAAW

During the conception of the project jointly between Splash, RCLU and RCAAW we have been regularly updating and reporting our donor-partners by attending meetings, email correspondence and phone calls for all the actions taken during the project preparation period. Members of RCAAW and RCLU have participated on vetting and visiting select sites. The president of RCAAW has also visited the offices where inventory was received, confirming receipt of the parts and supplies listed in the Global Grant application.

2. Three New School Sites Installed

A site installation includes installing a water filtration system; building up of designed water stations for drinking and hand washing purposes that achieve a recommended tap to students ratio; and

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installation of water tanks, using electric booster pumps and building appropriate drainage, as needed, from water stations.

So far we have completed installations in three (3) new school sites including the delivery of the Health and Hygiene education.

2.1. Miazia 23 Primary School and Kindergarten

Miazia 23 primary school was in a very critical and urgent need of Rotary intervention for radical changes. The taps to student ratio has been reduced from 1:727 almost to 1:31.

We have installed and brought online eight (8) water stations that have proper drainage facility with a total of 52 water taps. Three water filtration systems were separately installed for KG, Primary (1-4) and grade 5-8, in another compound, overcoming at some additional cost the school's large scale and difficult landscaping.

Five hand washing facilities were built and installed near the toilet site, and near eating areas. We added a 10,000 ltr fiberglass water reservoir to mitigate frequent shortages on the Municipal water line. One platform was constructed for tank seating alongside a used 1 horse power electric pump to boost the pressure.

Along with the provision of the water filtration system we shared general information about the use and minor maintenance with school staff.



Before: Miazia 23 Primary School Water Station

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After: Miazia 23 Primary School Drinking Station



Before: Miazia 23 Primary School Water Station

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After: Miazia 23 Primary: Hand washing Facility for Girls and Boys

2.2. Salayesh Primary School and Kindergarten

Salayesh Primary school had the worst water scenario with a tap to student ratio of about 1:3,456 and with our intervention this is now 1:78.5. This is still less than optimal, but at least provides access to safe water to all the students. Further improvements may be the subject of a future project.

Eight (8) water stations with a total of 44 water taps were installed alongside one water filtration system to be shared by the compounds of Kindergarten and grade 1-8 students.

Three hand washing facilities were built and installed near the toilet site to be convenient for hand washing after use. In addition to this, there is now a 10,000 ltr fiberglass water reservoir installed to serve as a backup during water shortages on the municipal water line. One platform was constructed for tank seating as well as a used 1.5 horse power electric pump to boost the pressure.

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Before: Salayesh Primary School Water Station



After: Salayesh Primary hand washing station

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After: Salayesh KG Drinking Station



After: Salayesh Primary drinking station for KG. Note signage thanking donors including Rotary International.

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Salayesh Primary School: Hand washing facility for boys and girls toilets

2.3. Meskerem Primary School and Kindergarten

Meskerem Primary and Kindergarten school initially had a 1:224 tap to student ratio and after our intervention this number is now 1:24, successfully meeting our desired objective.

One water filtration system has been installed and intended to be shared by both the Kindergarten and grade 1-8 student compounds.

Two drinking water stations and one hand washing station providing a total of 42 taps were constructed with proper drainage facility and standing platform. One platform was constructed for water tank seating and a 5,000 ltr fiberglass tank installed to provide water during times of water shortage from the Municipal water supply..

Along with the provision of the water filtration system, we provided comprehensive training on the use and minor maintenance of the systems, along with Health and Hygiene demonstrations.

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Before: Meskerem Primary School's Drinking Station



After: Meskerem Primary School Drinking Station

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After: Meskerem Primary School Hand Washing Station

3. Health and Hygiene Education

3.1. Overview of Hygiene Program Highlights in Past Year

A) Number of recipients of the hygiene trainings:

- Through Hygiene Club Training: 16 sites with 461 children and 32 focal teachers
 - -Through child-to-child and assemblies: 11,813 beneficiaries (some adults but mostly children)
 - -There was also an average improvement of hygiene knowledge from 72% at pretest to over 90% at the post-test.
- Through Event Days (see attached supplemental report)
 - -Global HW Day: 10 sites with 6712 students
 - -Menstrual Hygiene Day: 1627 students at Miazia 23

B) Number of sites with access to water barrels outside of each toilet block: 9 (2 barrels per site)

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3.2. Baseline assessment Survey:

There was a baseline survey conducted earlier on randomly selected 171 students of seven (4 governmental and 3 private) schools. We have also recently conducted another hygiene baseline survey in all the newly selected 13 schools. About 394 students participated in the survey.

An earlier survey assessed knowledge, attitude, practice and ability factors towards hygiene among students of those listed above school sites.

The result showed that there is a huge hygiene gap: For example;

- Almost all Students (99%) never wash their hands with soap and water after toilet use in schools.
- Most of the students (70%) do not understand the importance of hand washing.
- It was found out that there is low awareness about WASH related diseases.
- The finding showed low awareness about menstrual hygiene management. Among the students, girls' awareness is understandably far more than the boys.
- The result showed most students have a history of diarrhea in the prior one month period.

Based on those findings the hygiene program was customized to the need.

3.3. Vetting and Water quality test

Splash and paired Rotaract members have visited each of the new 13 candidate schools and met with all school principals. Splash's team have done the preliminary startup work with a Water Quality test (Microbiology & Physico-Chemical) from water reservoir and water taps sources in 5 new school sites namely: Gofa Primary, Repi Primary, EdgetBesira, TesfaKokeb and Addis Fana primary schools. From these tests, we have learned that samples collected from Repi primary school drinking taps and water tank shows existing of E-coli at; 2 CFU/100ml and 1 CFU.100ml respectively.

TesfaKokeb Primary school has also shows 1 CFU/100ml sample collected from water taps and four out of six sites had below acceptable standards for free residual chlorine.

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3.4. Health and Hygiene Trainings

- A total of 476 students were trained from seventeen partner sites (2 new sites, and 15 existing sites - 5 government schools; 5-Charity schools; and 5-orphanages, feeding and day carecenters). The result based on the pre / post test knowledge assessment during the training show that there is significant change on participant's level of knowledge and practical soap hand washing. Example: Most of the trained students in the existing sites started using hand washing soap when washing before lunch.
- A total of 34 focal teachers, care givers and janitors participated in the 2 day student's health and hygiene training session and this helped foster soap collection mechanisms.
- Twelve hygiene clubs were organized under the environmental protection club in school sites.



Trained students are demonstrating Health and Hygiene to others.

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3.5. Celebrating Global Days:

3.5.1. Global Hand Washing Day

Splash and Rotaract members jointly celebrated the global hand washing day on *October 15, 2014* at 10 different school sites and more than 6,000 students and staff members participated. The team organized guidelines, soap, posters, and t-shirts that have messages from the global hand washing day and distributed to all partner schools to celebrate the global hand washing day colorfully. Rotaract Clubs collected about 500 packages of soap for donation.



TinsaeBirhan: Students Participating in the Global Hand Washing Day Event

3.5.2. Global Menstrual hygiene day

The International Menstrual Hygiene Day was commemorated with colorful school based activities at Miazia23 Primary School in Addis Ababa on 27 May 2015, with the attendance of more than 1,000 students, staff and representatives from the school community and development organizations. This event was organized by Rotary in collaboration with Splash, the school administration and the other development partners.

On this occasion, a variety of activities were carried out including hygiene songs, question and answer competition, drama and music which entertained the students and passed on the relevant messages regarding menstrual hygiene management.

Miazia23 Primary School has a total student population of 1,496 among which 869 are female students.

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Miazia 23: Students Celebration Menstrual Hygiene Day

3.6. Distribution of Health and hygiene Materials and Equipments:

- A total of 18 plastic barrels with a 200 liter volume were distributed to all seven schools for toilet flushing, where H&H training has been conducted.
- The availability of these barrels has enhanced the creativity and effectiveness of the hygiene clubs.
- A total of 480 training booklets (Work and Activity books) were distributed to all seven schools where H&H training has been conducted.
- A total of 43 hygiene messaging banners (Hand washing & Drinking) have been provided to the above mentioned schools.

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3.7. H&H Orientation for School Principals and PTA members

A one day Health and Hygiene orientation workshop has been developed and presented to school principals and PTA members from 25 schools (13 new and 12 existing). 37 participants attend the workshop.

One representative from AAEB has also attended the orientation work shop. The orientation workshop focused on Health and Hygiene training aspects and enhancing the usage of soap in all schools. The workshop provided solutions of how to overcome the hurdles of collecting enough soap for use in the schools.



Orientation workshop based on H&H for School Principals and PTA representatives

2. *What are the major milestones to date?*

- Equipment and Supplies have been brought in country duty free, or acquired in country.
- Three full installations are complete!
- Regular reporting and cooperation has been successfully implemented between RCAAW, RCLU and Splash.
- Significant and repeated Rotaract involvement has been a great asset.
- The implementation of H&H education program is going smoothly on the revised time table and budget.

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- Children are practicing proper hand washing steps just by observing the hygiene message banners. For example: Two girls from Abebechobena orphanage and Safe haven day care were able to perfectly perform the hand washing steps before H&H trainings just by following the information on the posted banners.
- The orientation workshop for school principals and PTA members enabled soap collection. School principals and PTA representatives shared the training with parents and students during the school end year ceremony in each school and respectively they passed agreed decisions to collect two soap packages from each student during registration time in the New Year. This will sustain the soap availability in schools, so our next focus can be on soap management issues themselves.
- Celebrating menstrual hygiene day by partnering other organizations for the first time in the history of Addis Ababa schools is a milestone to use the opportunity.

3. How have Rotarians and Rotaract been involved?

- Members of the RCAAW water committee, RCLU and Rotarians from other international clubs, and local Rotaracts have visited all of the new Splash-Rotary partner.
- The President of RCAAW physically confirm receipt of parts and supplies listed in the global grant.
- RCAAW participated in the new site inauguration at Meskerem Primary school.
- About 30 Rotaract members, two members from RCAAW, and two members from RCLU participated in the one day M&E training session on how to conduct joint M&E for the project. Two Rotaracts are paired with Splash health and hygiene coordinators for each of the 13 new schools for subsequent M&E activities.
- A baseline assessment has been conducted in each of the 13 new schools with the participation of the two Rotaract members and their paired Splash coordinator.
- Rotaracts helped celebrate the global hand washing day. The impact of Rotaracts has been enormously positive. They have collected about 500 packages of soap for donation to
- the TinsaeBirahan School.
- With connections created by Rotaracts, the Rotary Club of Mella has also engaged in the project and 500 packages of soap were donated to one of the existing sites – the Hope Feeding Center.

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4. What are the challenges we are facing?

- Significant cost increases in concrete for drinking and handwashing stations, and expanded staff for hygiene training may exceed the savings we have seen in reduced customs fees.
- While the engagement with AAEB is clearly a positive element for our project, the initial goal of one water filtration system for every school cannot be met with the 13 water filtration systems provided by this grant. The 13 selected sites contain campuses with multiple schools per campus. Where Primary & kindergarten students are in different compounds with difficult landscaping, we may have to use two filtration systems for one school site. Complete coverage for these 13 sites will require a follow-up project/grant to provide the desired coverage.
- We anticipate a lack of commitment, sense of ownership and accountability in a few school principals and management and are formulating plans to address this.
- Theft of taps and fittings, breaking taps, breaking fitting parts, lack of awareness how to use properly filtered water from the drinking station has been a problem in earlier sites, and improved training as well as additional replacement parts are required.
- Unavailability of a Project vehicle: Not having a dedicated project vehicle for site visits, monitoring and follow-ups, maintenance, quick responses upon the request of partner sites has increased expenses for rental vehicles, and made it more challenging to provide prompt and high quality support to our widely scattered beneficiary sites.
- Shortage/Absence of toilets at some schools, frequent interruption of Municipal water supply, and loss of Electric power has increased project costs by requiring additional water storage tanks and equipment.
- Difficulty in obtaining soap for consistent hand washing and soap management.