

3<sup>RD</sup> JULY, 2025

# NAMUSIMBI WATER PROJECT COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

**Describe the characteristics (such as geographic information, main sources of income, population size, and access to education and health services) of the specific community where this project will take place.**

Namusimbi village lies a few Kilometers from the base of Mt. Elgon. The village is within the Mt. Elgon bio-region that receives an annual rainfall range of between 1,740 mm to 1,940 mm. The village has 500 homesteads which translates to about 3,500 peoples. Namusimbi village is a triangular land mass that lies on the boundary of Sirisia and Kabuchai sub-counties within Bungoma County. The area is a forgotten lot as there has been minimal government investment in the area. The most scathing need is access to water. Residents have to walk for as long as 3 kilometers one way to get water.

## COLLECTING COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT DATA

**When you conducted the assessment, who in the community did you speak to? At least two different community representatives and beneficiaries who are not involved in Rotary (such as teachers, doctors, or community leaders) should be included in the discussions.**

We did an assessment of the needs of the community in March 2025. First of all, members of our club visited the local Chief and spent time with her. The Chief is an agent of the National government at the grass root. We also visited the Ward Administrator who is an officer of the County Government and a representative of the Governor.

Additionally, we have also visited the sub county Water Officer and consulted with him on the process of doing a water project and what documentations are required. We further engaged with the Chairman of Kabuchai Constituency Development Fund who committed support from the office of the area Member of Parliament to the project.

**When in the last year did the discussions occur?**

March 2025

**What methods did you use to collect information from community members (such as community meetings, interviews, or focus groups)?**

We conducted community forums that were attended by a wide cross-section of community members.

We also did consultations youth groups, women groups and local church leaders within Namusimbi village.

### **TARGET POPULATION**

**Who will benefit directly from the project? List the groups that will benefit (such as schools, hospitals, vocational training centers, cooperatives, or villages).**

The water will be used by local families, churches and a two schools – thus: Namusimbi and Sengeteti Primary Schools

**Describe the process of how the beneficiaries were identified.**

We realized that residents of Namusimbi walk long distances to fetch water. Those with income have to buy it from water vendors. We also found out that some water vendors/hawkers cannot assure the consumers about the safety of the water as some of it is untreated.

We zeroed in on Namusimbi area as it is a triangular part marked by two valleys and a seasonal stream.

During the community forum, the members of the community expressed the need of fresh and clean water as a priority. They went further to nominate a six member team that will work with the Rotary club of Bungoma Central in designing, implementing and monitoring the water project.

### **COMMUNITY STRENGTHS, NEEDS, PRIORITIES, AND PROJECT DESIGN**

Describe what members of the community said matters to them during the assessment.

The community members observed that their area has been neglected, relegated and ignored as it lies on the boundary between two administrative units, i.e. Chwele and Toloso locations (Kabuchai and Sirisia constituencies). They lack clean water for drinking and water for irrigation.

**Describe the community's strengths and resources.**

There is an access road that has been recently opened by the Kabuchai Constituency Fund office that makes entering Namusimbi possible. Community members are united in the need for access to safe and clean water. Community members are eager to offer themselves to serve on the project committee. They are also readily available to contribute in-kind to the project by offering unskilled labor, etc.

**Describe any challenges and gaps in the community's behaviors, skills, and knowledge.**

Namusimbi lies on the boundary between two different administrative units (Chwele and Toloso locations). While Chwele is in Kabuchai constituency, Toloso is in Sirisia constituency.

Given that Namusimbi village is not very far from the foot of Mt. Elgon, there has been an influx of internationally displaced families that moved from the Mt. Elgon to Namusimbi over the last 20 years. Sadly, some natives born here see these 'migrants' as "foreigners" who could not be trusted with responsibilities in the community. This played during the exercise of selecting persons to serve on the project community from among residents.

In response, Rotary club officials clarified that Rotary works with all persons without prejudices or discrimination.

It is worth noting that community members are eager to connect with the water project and care for the equipment. They are ready to form a cooperative that will oversee the running of the water and make monthly contributions to take care of wear and tear of the project equipment.

**What issues will the project address, and how does the community currently address those issues?**

The project will address the perennial handicap of access to safe and clean water for residents of Namusimbi village. It will reduce the amount of time spent on fetching water. This time will then be used meaningfully in socio-economic engagements that will improve the community members' conditions and better their lives. It will also provide water for irrigation.

As it is, women rise up early in the morning to go fetch water. Those with income have to buy the much-needed commodity from water hawkers. The tragedy is the safety of vended water whose source may not be established. Once families will have water close home, they will save money which they can use in putting their children

in school and college. This will ultimately improve the area's literacy levels and make residents of Namusimbi viable for opportunities in the rest of the country.

**Provide the specific details of the project design and how it will solve these issues.**

- 1) Hydrogeological survey of the project site
- 2) Acquisition of the Water Resources Management Authority (WARMA) and the National Environmental Impact Assessment (NEMA) permits.
- 3) Drilling a 150 meters deep borehole with finished internal diameter 8" to the required maximum depth.
- 4) Test Pumping for 24 hours, draw-down, yield recovery and data analysis.
- 5) Chemical analysis of the water sample at a Laboratory.
- 6) Installation of plain steel 6" (152mm) 10.0 10,000 100,000
- 7) Installation of slotted steel casings 6" (152mm)
- 8) Installation of gravel pack (2-4mm) (not laterite) to at least 3m above top screen.
- 9) Borehole development by airlifting and/or surging for minimum of 4hrs, with an estimate of discharge and static water level measurement
- 10) Installation of surface casing without retrieval
- 11) Solar structure civil works and welding
- 12) Erection and mounting a water tower
- 13) Training of the project committee
- 14) Project commissioning
- 15) Continuous reporting and assessment

**Describe the long-term plan for the project (such as oversight, financial responsibilities, and expected behavior change) after Rotary's involvement ends.**

We have set up a project committee involving seven members of the community that were picked through a participatory process involving the community members and local government officers at a public gathering. These committee members will go through trainings. The skills acquired through training will go a long way in helping the project beyond the funding phase.

The community members have resolved to form a community based organization where every family using the water will be required to subscribe and make monthly financial contributions.

The local government officers from the department of water have also been brought on board to help in guiding the project committee. They will offer continuous technical expertise advice.

The Rotary club of Bungoma Central has set up a project committee of six persons who will engage with the community committee. This committee will be responsible for programmatic and financial reports. It will also engage the committee from the international sister club in monthly zoom calls to monitor the project's progress.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (FOR ALL ENVIRONMENT AND WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE PROJECTS)**

**What are currently the greatest environmental threats to local land, air, water resources, and the ecosystem?**

Human settlement that is not coordinated

Demarcation of agricultural land into smaller units as families share out ancestral land for human habitation.

Agricultural activities around river reserves and riparian land occasioning erosion and land-slides.

Deforestation that has resulted in unpredictable unfavorable weather patterns.

Humans living with animals has resulted in respiratory diseases such as Covid-19

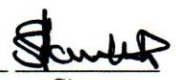
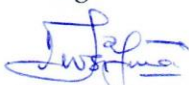

**List any cultural practices that are relevant to the project (such as agricultural techniques or traditions).**

Africans live a communal life. Lots of resources and items are shared; that include toilets, water sources, etc.

**What positive and negative environmental changes do you expect to result from the project?**

Irrigation will help to make the environment sustainable.

**CLUB APPROVAL OFFICERS APPROVAL**

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