

SODNET Verification Report on Kibera Primary School: Misuse of Donor Funds

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This is a report of the status on ground as regards sanitation facilities in Kibera Primary School.

In 2010, the Australian High Commission donated funds for Kibera primary school to rehabilitate a block of toilets that existed in the school. The rehabilitation process involved acquiring a storage water tank, put up water cistern, installing a water pipe system and construction of an efficient drainage system.

The rehabilitation process was substandard. A water storage tank was put in place; however the installation of the water pipes and cisterns that would facilitate the functioning of the facility was not completed. In addition the finishing of the facility walls and roof was never done. The facility remained locked, after this for a year in an incomplete state and no communication was sent to school administration. This is when the school administration, based on the critical need of the school to access the facility, decided to open up the facility for the access of the pupils and embarked on spending Ksh. 5,000 a week on water for the upkeep of the facility.

This block bears the logo of the Australian High Commission and that of Focus for African Development (FOAD). FOAD, a non-profit organization working in many countries in Africa, sourced for the contractors of the construction.

In 2011, UNICEF donated more funds to build a new block of toilets in order that the existing one is set aside for the boys in the primary school while the new block is constructed for girls-meeting their special sanitation needs. However this again was left incomplete, locked and totally out of use.

Handicap International also has an existing project for the physically challenged pupils. This particular facility is complete and in use.

Right across the school field, about 500m from these three facilities is another upcoming pit-latrine funded by Constituency Development Fund (CDF). This has been built on the fence of the school in order to share the facility with the neighbouring community. The school's administration revealed that the Prime Minister while visiting the school had been informed

that members of the community break the stone wall of the school to access sanitary services. Hence the Prime Minister has authorized this construction. However, the school administrations strongly feel that the invitation to share the facility is geared by a need to access the sewer system of the school which is to the school's disadvantage.

SODNET's review of the situation is that:

- ❖ There was a lack of a participatory approach in implementing these projects. The school administration were not consulted or involved in these projects.
- ❖ There was no needs assessment conducted by either of the donors hence duplication of projects in the school. In spite of the fact that the school has lacked water for more than eight years, the donors each time failed to plan for a constant water supply for these projects.
- ❖ The sanitation and hygiene of these facilities jeopardise the health of the pupils accessing them. Firstly, there is no water; secondly, the boys and girls have to share the one block of toilets.
- ❖ The situation on ground as per our assessment was pathetic and embarrassing. We feel that all stakeholders involved in these projects did not carry out project reviews to ensure the projects they funded were successful or if they achieved the required purpose and standards.