



“New Dawn: Nascent Start”

From Stakeholders to Shareholders

*Enlightening water and sanitation services in
Nairobi's Peoples' Settlements*

A Joint Concept by Umande Trust, the Economic and Social Rights
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1.0. The Setting

The epic film 'The Constant Gardener' has generated an explosion of interest in the insalubrious conditions of thousands of individuals and groups living and working in the so-called slums in Nairobi. Nowadays, a visit to Nairobi is not complete without a first-hand experience of Kibera, the film location and one of Africa's most overcrowded informal settlements.

Journalists, development agencies, human rights activists and policy makers and planners are now increasingly profiling and gaining first-hand experience of the challenges and aspirations of the heroes and heroines of urban lives – the children, the youth, women and men who continue to organize, coalesce and make their living in these peoples' settlements.

Unbeknown to many is the reality of the growing levels of exclusion, inequality, urban poverty and the monumental growth of informal settlements in Nairobi. Currently, in the midst of plenty, the city has over 120 peoples' settlements. As it were, the city of Nairobi registers one of the shortest distances between affluence and squalor, between heaven and hell (Fr. Alex Zanotelli).

With an annual growth rate of 7% over the last two decades, Nairobi remains one the fastest growing cities in Africa. 60% of the city's population (estimated at 3million) lives in informal settlements characterised by inadequate access to information, infrastructure and basic services¹. This increasing population has put a lot of pressure on available water resources and services. Consequently and arising from restrictive legislative and policy frameworks, the price of water from water kiosks is 4-5 times higher per litre than the tariffs charged by the Nairobi Water and Sewerages Company.

Among communities living in informal settlements, there is a growing demand for coordinated processes. Development organizations are challenged to work together to implement processes that engage communities in processes that mobilize local resources and sustenance of their own development processes. This concept paper is designed to enable communities in the informal settlements contribute significantly in the efforts geared towards improvement of basic services in the settlements. This will be done through a concerted programme encompassing three key components:

- a) community-led design, planning and construction of improved water and sanitation services
- b) resource mobilization through enabling individuals and groups to become shareholders of water and sanitation enterprises and services

¹ Currently, in the midst of plenty, the city has over 120 people's settlements

c) right to water advocacy,

To a large extent, the proposal benefits from and is informed by the expressed demands by groups and coalitions of slumdweller, the recently unveiled water sector reforms in Kenya and the search for successful models in community-led water and sanitation

1.1. Project Summary

This project aims at a new approach which focus on a product (improved water and sanitation services) and the necessary conditions for the respect and protection of these services (focus on the rights-based approaches).

Key Result Areas

This project seeks to contribute to the realization of the following significant results:

Community led advocacy: The communities will be supported to directly implement strategies aimed at improving their situation, participate in the local and central government budgeting processes, develop alternatives for the provision of water and sanitation, Throughout this process the facilitating organizations will support the communities with legal services and monitor the implementation of identified strategies.

Shareholding in water and sanitation enterprises: Through an extensive process of consultation with the community groups in the pilot settlements, a proportion of the daily savings shall be converted into equity contributions for the ***water and sanitation enterprises and services***

Community-managed Sanitation Development Fund (SANDEF) – *This shall be provide credit* community investments in water and sanitation services.. This will be sourced from the community daily savings, private sector, local authority, water services trust fund and local government trust funds

Community designed eco-friendly sanitation blocks – In each of the project areas, shareholders will design, plan and construct demonstration ablution blocks in order to show-case alternative options for improved access to water and sanitation. Emphasis shall be placed on the promotion of bio-latrines which will generate energy for lighting and cooking with the waste residue supporting urban agro forestry. These improved facilities should also act as resource centers for community-action planning and exchanges

Information sharing: In its efforts to enhance the implementation of the right to water, the two organizations will document the processes and impacts for informing the development of urban water and sanitation interventions within Nairobi and other cities in Africa.

Community empowerment: Working in coalitions, community representatives will continuously identify needs and opportunities and disseminate information on alternative approaches to water and sanitation. Applying the knowledge and information assets, the coalitions will negotiate with local authorities and private water companies to claim their rights and entitlements. Sharing experiences will help mobilize other communities to fight for the recognition and fulfilment of the right to water and sanitation.

1.2. Legislative and Policy Reforms

Kenya's water sector reforms (2002) provide for a new institutional set-up for planning, supporting and monitoring improvements in water sector performance in Kenya. The reforms have the net effect of promoting commercialisation and 'ring-fencing' water revenues from respective local government accounts.

In major urban centres in Kenya, the government has set up a number of water companies hived off from city/municipal water and sewerages departments. Notable examples include those currently operating in Nairobi, Nyeri, Kisumu, Mombasa, Nakuru and Eldoret.

Fundamentally, the Water Act (2002) and the concomitant reforms strategy spell out measures designed to achieve the following results:-

- separate policy formulation, regulation and service provision.
- separate water supply and services from water resource management.
- devolve, deconcentrate and decentralise responsibilities.

By divesting out of the water and sewerages services, the government seeks to create an environment for community and private sector participation in the management, supply and conservation of water. The catchwords in the reforms process are '*allocation efficiency*,' '*fairness*,' '*productive efficiency*' and '*sustainability*' of water supply and services. Some of the issues specific to the right to water, such as affordability, equity and attention to vulnerable and marginalised groups are muted.

1.3. Global Dimension

Access to safe, adequate and affordable water and sanitation is a fundamental human right. It is vital to satisfying basic right to life with dignity that includes health to all people.

The Millennium Development Goals (Target 10) is dedicated to halving the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015. The right to water is now recognized as one of the key requirements to the attainment of an adequate standard of living. The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

in its General Comment Number 15 has identified the following as constituting the core elements of the right to water:

- Availability
- Quality
- Physical Accessibility
- Economic Accessibility
- Non-discrimination
- Access to information

These are some of the benchmarks and points of reference that are expected to guide Government actions in the water and sanitation sector.

2.0. Process Objectives

This project seeks to achieve the following key objectives:-

1. Mobilize community, local and international resources for the development of sustainable community-managed water and sanitation resources and services.
2. Advocate for the mainstreaming of the right to water and sanitation in the policy and legislative agenda at the national and local levels.
3. Develop the capacity of the grass root organizations to effectively define and claim their human rights with specific focus on water and sanitation.
4. Strengthen the capacity of community based organization to design, plan, implement and market, water environment and sanitation interventions.

3.0. Summary of Approaches, Methods and Interventions

Access to water and sanitation is not simply a technical issue; it is a fundamental human rights issue and a crucial component towards sustainable social and economic development.

In principal, this project will implement four interlinked interventions:

Component 1: Mobilizing Resources *Promotion of Daily Savings Groups*. Daily savings also create assets which can be leveraged to undertake community-based investments for improved water and sanitation infrastructure².

² Daily savings are a powerful tool to draw together disparate groups of people who live within informal settlements. Such resources provide an accessible mechanism through which people from diverse backgrounds can work together to address their shared interests, such as improving water and sanitation services for the benefit of the broader community

- Promoting a culture of community-based shareholding in water and sanitation enterprises and services
- Establishing a sanitation development fund Enabling

Component 2: Rights-based advocacy

- Coalitions of slum dwellers' - building the capacity of communities to negotiate with local authorities, central government and the private sector to claim their rights and entitlements.
- Project teams will participate in the current processes at the national and local levels relating to the governance of water and sanitation in Kenya. In addition to the multi-stakeholder dialogues that will allow sharing with the various actors, the project will aim to i). Advocate directly with government officials, including by intervening in official discussions organised by the government, on water policies, the design of a new model of water and sanitation provision, and ii) Carry out public awareness raising, including media work.

Component 3: Capacity Building

- Water and Sanitation Services Associations to ensure the equitable delivery of sufficient, affordable and quality water and adequate sanitation services to citizens living within the settlements. Amongst others, the WASSAs will be responsible for monitoring the provision of water and sanitation services – water supply, sewerage disposal, and garbage collection – in their community, holding bulk water service providers to account when there are problems with their service provision; encouraging Savings Groups to invest in water and sanitation infrastructure; and negotiation with local government and the water company for improved services
- Hygiene Promotion – adapting a range of interactive methods to promote awareness and behaviour change at group, school and household levels

Component 4: Community-led designs for improved water services

- Construction of Water and Sanitation Assets to provide quality, affordable and sufficient water and adequate sanitation services to people living in people's settlements.

2. Indicative Budget

Description			Total			
Component	1: Resource	Unit cost	Quantity	(Ksh)	SEK	
Mobilization						
Setting up daily savings		100	1000	100000	11111.11111	
Promoting community shareholding		60000	6	360000	40000	
Sanitation Development Fund		300,000	3	900000	100000	
Component 2: Policy advocacy						
Training sessions		40000	12	480000	53333.33333	
Multi-stakeholder dialogues		80000	3	240000	26666.66667	
Policy advocacy campaigns		120,000	3	360000	40000	
Media relations		50000	3	150000	16666.66667	
Policy briefs and papers		70000	3	210000	23333.33333	
Component 3: Capacity Building						
Water Association training		20000	80	1600000	177777.7778	
Design and Planning sessions		30000	80	2400000	266666.6667	
Hygiene promotion		20000	60	1200000	133333.3333	
Component 4: Pilot project						
Construction of ablution blocks		1200000	3	3600000	400000	
Training on Facility management		15000	60	900000	100000	
Sub-total				12500000	1388888.889	
Administrative and personnel costs				30%	3750000	416666.6667
Total estimates				16250000	1805555.556	

3. Profile of Partner Agencies

The partner organizations possess the synergies to build partnerships with community groups that will demand greater accountability for effective and efficient delivery of basic services and citizen participation in water and sanitation.

3.1. *Umande Trust* is a nascent rights-based agency which believes that modest resources can significantly improve access to water and sanitation services if financial resources are strategically invested in support of community-led strategies, designs and budgets. Umande facilitates community organizing for independent action but also to demand fairness, accountability and competent service for improved water and sanitation services.

Amongst others, Umande's menu of programmes place emphasis on: -

- i) Supporting community groups and/or coalitions in order to enable them effectively negotiate, manage and sustain water and sanitation resources and services;
- ii) Design, planning, construction, operation and maintenance of community-based water supply and sanitation systems;
- iii) Policy research and advocacy on key issues related to water, sanitation and the environment
- iv) Effective information and communication in order to support local communities in pursuit of the above objects;

Umande maintains excellent rapport with community groups and coalitions in over 30 people's settlements in Nairobi. There are plans to reach out and engage communities in Mavoko, Kisumu and Nakuru. The organization nurtures excellent rapport with the following organizations:-

- Center on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE)
- Haki Jamii
- Pamoja Trust
- Kenya Water for Health Organization (KWAHO)
- Carolina for Kibera
- Shelter Forum
- Nairobi Central Business Development Association
- Kenya Alliance of Residential Association (KARA)
- Planning Systems – a private sector architectural and planning agency
- UNEP/UNDP's Nairobi River Basin Programme
- The Athi/Nairobi Water Services Board

3.2. Hakijamii

Registered in early 2004, the Center for Economic and Social Rights (hereinafter referred to as Hakijamii) is an emergent civil society organization, and the first to

comprehensively focus on economic and social rights' advocacy in Kenya. The creation of the organisation was motivated by the recognition that the future of positive advocacy lies with grass root peoples' organized actions supported by local and international networks of civil society organizations.

Hakijamii has excellent contacts with the *International Network on Economic and Social Rights* and *Dignity International*, an international economic and social rights organization specializing in human rights education and training. Equally significant, the organization has an on going partnership with the Geneva-based Center on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE). The two organizations are currently implementing a community-based economic and social rights awareness and advocacy in two cities: Nairobi and Kisumu.

Currently, with the support of the Geneva -based *Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions* (COHRE) *Dignity International* and *Kios Foundation (Finland)*, the organization has embarked on facilitating economic and social rights education to NGOs and community based organizations, developing indicators and benchmarks for monitoring economic and social rights, developing draft national guidelines on evictions and training community based organization on advocacy skills and assisting them to plan and undertake grassroots' advocacy campaigns.