

TITLE: Tweed Kenya Mentoring Program Annual Report 2020 - 2021

Submitted By: General Manager

LINKAGE TO INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK:

People, places and moving around

Who we are and how we live

3.1.2 Community and Cultural Development - To provide community and cultural development services to foster and improve social and cultural well-being.

ROLE:

LEADER - Council grows strong, transparent and visionary leadership promoting unity to make our Tweed community even better tomorrow than it is today.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is a summary of activities undertaken by the Tweed Kenya Mentoring Program over the 2020 - 2021 financial year. The report provides a financial statement, including the totals contributed to the program through voluntary staff wage deductions, and Councils support.

TKMP has provided clean drinking water to thousands of residents in the Siaya district free of charge over this twelve month period. Unfortunately the Covid 19 pandemic has caused significant additional hardship and health impacts for the communities within which TKMP operates.

TKMP has continued to achieve its primary objectives of maintaining and operating four community owned water treatments stations, assisted the community to operate and maintain the facilities, and serving as a model for increased access to safe water and sanitation in the locality.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. **Receives and notes this report; and**
2. **Continue to support the Tweed Kenya Mentoring Program through an allocation of funding that matches staff contributions at a rate of 1.25.**

ATTACHMENTS

1. TKMP Qtr report June to August 2020 ECM6557246
2. TKMP Qtr report September to November 2020 ECM6676103
3. TKMP Qtr report December 2020 to February 2021 ECM6800585
4. TKMP Qtr report March to May 2021 ECM6924408
5. TKMP Qtr report June to August 2021 ECM7085458
6. Treasurers report 2020-2021 ECM7138250

COUNCIL IMPLICATIONS:

a. Legislation/Policy/Existing Strategic Plans

The Tweed Kenya Mentoring Program is guided by an operational plan. The current operational plan is for the period 2018 - 2020 and is currently being reviewed and redrafted. This will be completed by the end of the first quarter of the 2022 calendar year.

b. Sustainability:

i. Financial (Budget/Long Term Financial Plan/Whole of Life Cost):

The program is currently funded through voluntary staff contributions and matched dollar for dollar from the Catchment Water Quality Budget, which is derived from the Water and Wastewater dividends. Funding is also received from external donors who have been integral to the programs continuance.

Estimated Council contribution for 2021/22 is \$24,000.

ii. Environmental:

The program seeks to raise the profile of environmental issues within its area of operation. It is also hoped that the program can raise awareness of environmental and water/sanitation access issues within the Tweed community. leading to greater appreciation of, and engagement with Councils work in water cycle and catchment management.

iii. Social:

TKMP provides multiple small scale social benefits within the communities in which it operates. These include a contribution to better health and capacity building within community organisations. The TKMP committee that operates within Council has a fifteen year history of volunteer participation across divisions, and from across the organisational heirachy. It is considered that TKMP has a strong cultural value within Council and the community.

c. Legal Considerations:

Not applicable.

d. Risk Considerations:

Not Applicable

e. Engagement/Communication:

Inform - Assisting the community to learn about Council services and programs.

Consult - Actively seeking the community's views and exchanging information.

REPORT:

The Tweed Kenya Mentoring Program (TKMP) is a voluntary humanitarian and environmental project that was initiated by Council staff in 2004, and which now operates four water filtration systems, known as Safewater (SW) Projects, in the Siaya district of western Kenya. The project runs as a charity under the governance of the International River Foundation, and uses funds raised in the Tweed Shire to work with Kenyan villages on critical water, environmental and community health activities. More detailed information on TKMP can be found by accessing the TKMP page of Council's webpage at <https://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/council/about-council/tweed-kenya-mentoring-program>

TKMP is managed in the Tweed by a volunteer committee comprised of staff from a number of Council divisions. TKMP have engaged a project partner in Kenya, Olita Ogonjo, who is responsible for both the strategic and logistical delivery of the project, as well as technical operation and repair of Safewater facilities. The project partner works closely with community water committees and local government politicians and agencies to ensure that projects are valued, used and maintained.

TKMP operates and maintains four water purification facilities at small dams, supporting community committees in the ongoing provision of safe water to residents relying on these supplies. Ownership of all infrastructure associated with the facilities has been transferred to the community water committees. A major focus of TKMP operations is building the technical and administrative capacity of communities relying on these facilities, and promoting increased local government responsibility for provision of safe water and sanitation.

Specific tasks undertaken on a regular basis through TKMP operations have include:

- Providing resource support to ensure the operation and maintenance of four water treatment facilities.
- Preparing quarterly reports in required format to the TKMP Committee.
- Preparing quarterly budget estimates for TKMP Committee.
- Identify and recommending improvements to facility operations and TKMP program.
- Training and supporting facility operators to improve their skills.
- Liaising with the operators and Water User Committees on a regular basis to ensure:
 - Safewater facilities are being maintained and operated at an acceptable standard,
 - All water produced is being recorded,
 - Income is being generated and recorded from the sale of water.

The following information is collated and summarised from quarterly reports provided to TKMP Tweed by our Program Coordinator Olita Ogonjo. Each quarterly report includes an overview of key climatic, social and political events affecting TKMP operations in Siaya, as well as a record of water volumes produced and distributed, and a summary of expenditure and budget request for the forthcoming quarter.

June – August 2020

To combat the spread of Covid19 the government continued to impose a countrywide night curfew (9pm to 4am), and schools/colleges, bars and restaurants also remained closed. Covid19 has now reached our communities and has caused serious livelihood losses, with experts estimating that nearly 2,000,000 Kenyans are likely to have directly lost jobs and/or businesses. Siaya and many other rural areas of Kenya saw reverse migration of people back to villages to escape the hardships in cities and towns occasioned as a result of the pandemic.

A looming doctors/nurses strike over poor pay and a lack of Covid19 PPE, and reported Covid19 corruption (misuse of Covid19 funds/or theft of funds) within the Ministry of Health threatens to stifle the national fight against the pandemic.

The TKMP team in Siaya continued to provide support that ensured communities at Manyasi, Tinga and Gona had uninterrupted access to clean water through proper maintenance of Safewater stations (filters, tanks, water pumps and pipes) and production and distribution of clean water. These Safewater kiosks continued to supply free clean treated water as part of our Covid19 action in the period. The team also messaged Covid19 hygiene practice standards at the stations. Kiosk repairs and painting was completed at Gona, Tinga and Manyasi. Also water pump suction/discharge hosepipes (including couplers, clips and strainers) were replaced.

Ochilo School remained closed during the lockdown and thus no repairs and maintenance could be carried at this site. A HDPE pipe roll was procured for the Ochilo water line repair when the school reopens. Ochilo School's raw water tanker was blown off the SW kiosk roof and got damaged during a storm that happened the afternoon of 16th Aug 2020.

September to November 2020

The team kept the SW kiosks at Gona, Tinga and Manyasi operating albeit with a low water demand due to the period's heavy rains. The rains filled up the dams with water, and silt. The SW equipment especially the filters and water tanks were cleaned and disinfected, and the kiosk area, water pump and pipes well maintained. The SW kiosks continued to provide free clean water, and messaged Covid19 hygiene

practice circa hand wash using soap, wearing of mask and the observation physical distancing.

We managed to conduct weekly site visits, and engage with SW water committee members, community and operators. No meetings were conducted in the period. Ochilo School reopened in October following the government order to partially reopen primary and secondary schools. Ochilo SW will need the main delivery line repaired, and the header tank replaced. The anticipated government Covid19 support for schools may not happen.

COVID 19 infections continued to rise in the country. On 23/11/20 our Ministry of Health reported rising national tally of 77,372 Covid19 cases, some 1380 deaths and 51507 total recoveries since the pandemic was announced in March 2020. It is believed that there could be more Covid19 cases than ones being captured by official government reports.

December 2020 to February 2021

This period highlight included the Ochilo School SW repairs, and routine SW maintenance works at Gona, Tinga and Manyasi. In the period we managed to reconnect the Ochilo school's waterline by replacing and laying new 2" water pipe line, install a new 5000L tank, service the water pumps and clean/disinfect the filters and water tanks.

Covid19 continued to impact on TKMP activities in Siaya, people's daily lives and economy. The night curfew (10pm to 4am) remained. Restaurants and hotels, schools/colleges, places of worship and key government offices including courts were reopened. It remained mandatory to wash hands and wear a facemask whilst in public. The SW stations continued to provide clean water to residents, and message Covid19 info to the communities.

March – May 2021

Our long rains period started late, continuing through April to May. We completed routine maintenance and minor repairs at the Gona, Tinga, Ochilo and Manyasi SW sites. Also during the period Ochilo School closed for holidays and national exams.

Covid19 continued to impact on lives of people and thus TKMP activities in Siaya. In May the Kenya government eased on 2nd lockdown that it had imposed for a month and a half due to spiralling Covid19 infections. This reopening came following the Ministry of Health's stepping up the vaccination program and concomitant decline in Covid19 infections. The night curfew 10pm to 4am remained. There is now improved public hand wash/sanitizing, and wearing facemasks, whilst social distancing in public in populated areas like Nairobi is still a big challenge.

June – Aug 2021

There were routine maintenance of the water filters, water pumps, and little repairs involving supply line, and tank repairs at the four SW sites. The SWs continued to provide free clean water to communities as part of Covid19 community action.

Covid19 has continued to hit the country hard. The government started country wide mass vaccination in the period, where also TKMP staff and people in the SW areas got their 1st vaccine shots. It was made compulsory for teachers, police and public servants to be vaccinated. The Covid19 containment measures continued with more people now wearing masks and hand washing, and police conducting arrests/fining of people not wearing masks, and crowding. The night curfew 10pm to 4am remains. Even with these restrictions, people would still crowd public transport, places of worship, funerals and markets.

Water Production

The table below shows the water volumes produced at each of the Safewater facilities. Typically the kiosk situated at Ochillo Dam produces less water than others because it only serves the school.

Under typical circumstances a nominal fee is charged for filtered water as a means of raising revenue to cover the cost of production. It is also considered beneficial in attaching a value to clean water that reflects its enhanced quality, as opposed to untreated dam water. In the early stages of the Covid 19 response measures, a decision was made to waive water fees as a means of avoiding handling of cash. As such, over the past 12 month period TKMP has not charged for the water that has been produced at the treatment facilities and provided to the community. Reintroduction of water fees is currently being reviewed.

Water production in litres for safe water facilities				
Safewater location	August to November 2020	November 2020 – Feb 2021	March to May 2021	June to August 2021
Gona	420,000	413,070	41,100	205,870
Tinga	21,000	4,800	38,100	95,530
Manyasi	7,000	18,300	26,250	13,120
Ochilo	0	8,010	17,010	16,090
Totals	448,000	444,180	122,460	330,610

OPTIONS:

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the report and attachments.
2. Reaffirms its staff contribution rate of 1.25 or amends.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS:

At the Council meeting of 18 June 2020 Council resolved that Council notes the report and continues funding the Tweed Kenya Mentoring Program at an equivalent rate to 1.25 to 1.00 that is raised by voluntary staff contribution.