Supporting Improved Sanitation, Hygiene and Health in Rural Communities

Awareness of the importance of sanitation and hygiene is improving across Tanzania through the National Sanitation Campaign. In collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development’s (USAID) Water Resources Integration Development Initiative (WARIDI) activity, 14 Local Government Authorities (LGAs) are implementing district-wide sanitation and hygiene activities focused on behavior change communication and monitoring. WARIDI helps Tanzania improve the management of its water resources, meet sanitation goals, and promote resilient communities in the face of a changing climate. LGAs receiving support include Ulanga, Morogoro Rural, Gairo, Kilombero, Kilosa, Mvomero, Malinyi, Wanging’ombe, Iringa Rural, Mufindi, Kilolo, Bagamoyo, Chalinze, and Mbarali.

Local government officials are responsible for carrying out sanitation promotion and monitoring activities in their LGAs but often have limited budgets to complete these activities. WARIDI supports LGAs to reach all wards and villages where support is requested unless another development partner is already working there. Community Health Workers conduct house to house sanitation and hygiene verification using the National Guidelines for Verification and Certification of Open Defecation Free (ODF) Communities. The tool is used by local governments to verify if a village is ODF, which means that all houses and public institutions in that village have access to a latrine and there is no public defecation. To track and report progress, WARIDI prints and distributes sanitation registers for use by villages and sub-villages to regularly record sanitation status.

Sanitation and hygiene messages like “Nyumba ni Choo”, “Wash your hands at all critical times” and “Tumia Choo Bora” from the National Sanitation Campaign, demonstrate the importance of handwashing and are more important than ever at this time in Tanzania and worldwide. These messages are delivered by data collectors and Community Health Workers to support behavioral change in their villages. As of December 2019, WARIDI has supported the National Sanitation Campaign to verify that nearly 1.3 million people in the activity’s focus areas have access to improved sanitation facilities, and over 900,000 have access to a dedicated hand-washing station and soap in their household.

Furthermore, WARIDI confirms that 615 villages now have universal sanitation coverage, which means every household has access to a latrine. “The knowledge we got regarding toilet use and handwashing with soap helps protect us against diseases”, says Kidabaga resident in Kibolo District, Tulidika Mwenzaegule.

In addition, construction of improved sanitation facilities is taking place. Just recently 25 latrine blocks have been built by WARIDI for public schools in 25 villages. These modern improved latrines will provide over 14,000 children with access to a high-quality sanitation service. Teachers and school committees are using the National Guideline for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) for Tanzania Schools to implement best practices. Each school has formed a School WASH club where students educate each other and their

A community triggering meeting at Mbalinyi Village in Malinyi District.
communities on sanitation and hygiene practices. What is being learned at school is also expected to strengthen sanitation and hygiene practices at home, supporting community-wide behavioral change.

The national sanitation status is improving due to the efforts of these LGAs and others like them. Statistics presented by the National Sanitation Campaign Coordinator, Anyitike Mwakitalima, during the National Sanitation Week in Dodoma last December, indicate that the number of households with improved latrines has increased from 35% in 2015 to 62% in 2019 and the number of households with no latrines decreased from 8% to 2% in the same period.

Mr. Titho Haule, the Environmental Health Officer at Kidabaga believes messaging on sanitation and hygiene and monitoring have significantly improved sanitation in the area. “The state of hygiene in general is good because all people are using standard toilets, and there is even a decrease of disease outbreaks brought by a lack of hygiene. Now the situation is good.” Such observations are echoed by Omar Hamisi Lijola, Chairperson of Village Health Committee (VHC) for Mtimbira village in Malinyi. He says, “Currently, all households have latrines. This shows that people have high responsiveness in values of good hygiene practice including latrine construction and usage regardless of their living standard.”

Everyone is Involved in the Successful Implementation of WASH Activities

Hussein Seif joined the WARIDI activity as a driver in November 2016 with 20 years’ experience. Mr. Seif has seen a lot of WARIDI’s work from fitting water pipes to implementation of ODF campaigns and beekeeping. Mr. Seif regularly pitches in to support WARIDI’s Sanitation Team on community education related to hygiene practices such as handwashing and construction and use of improved toilets. He is particularly interested in WARIDI’s integrated approach on WASH, gender, and livelihoods. He likes how households are using improved agricultural production techniques to generate income which helps cover water bills, improves sanitation and keeps water flowing. Pascal Kinyage, WARIDI Livelihoods and Partnership Coordinator remarks: “Seif is always eager to learn from technical teams.” How does he manage to do it despite being an excellent driver? Seif remarked; “I had to learn the right terminology based on the subject before talking to the communities.”
Empowering Farmers to Improve Productivity in Home Gardens, Beekeeping and Animal Husbandry

Mathew Kamwagila (34) is among 62 men and 109 women at Lulanzi Village, Kilolo District, who are profitably engaging in livelihood activities to increase their family incomes. These farmers have been trained by the Water Resources Integration Development Initiative (WARIDI) on technologies and management practices that support food security and agricultural livelihoods.

In 2010 Mathew, a father of two, started his own small nursery to raise avocado, apple, and timber tree seedlings. He integrated his tree planting activities with beekeeping and local breeds of poultry. Like many in his community, Mathew learned most of what he knew about farming from what he saw practiced in his community. More than once, he lost much of his poultry flock due to disease and was not familiar with modern apiary management.

In May 2018, WARIDI held a one-week training for Lulanzi and Luhindo communities on improved beekeeping, poultry management, and other topics such as home garden techniques that support nutritional security and water use efficiency. WARIDI is working with the local government authorities to construct a water supply scheme for these communities’ 5,105 residents. Mathew attended the training together with 85 other young farmers. He participated in the beekeeping class, learning about improved beekeeping practices such as construction and stocking techniques for beehives, bee products markets, and honey value-addition.

After the training, Mathew joined a 15-member beekeeping group where he started sharing his new knowledge. He helped train the beekeeping group on how to construct 13 additional improved clay beehives. The group has plans to construct 40 more hives by September 2020.

Mathew recognized the benefits of practicing beekeeping as an income generation activity and understood how beekeeping could integrate directly into his tree nursery and orchard operations. His fruit orchard needs pollinators and at the same time provides fruit harvests for home consumption and local sales. Mathew’s fruit trees and stocked apiaries are in the buffer zone of a stream that flows through his orchard. He believes his integrated agroforestry operations are helping conserve and protect the water which serves people downstream.

Sharing What He Learned

In August 2018, Mathew and five other farmers from Kilolo District were awarded scholarships by WARIDI to take part in Zonal Nanenane agricultural exhibitions in Mbeya to showcase their beekeeping and other production practices. Mathew demonstrated samples of four improved wooden beehives and four cost effective and environmentally friendly clay beehives made by his beekeeping group. He visited other exhibitors to learn about Good Agricultural Practice, including water efficient drip irrigation systems. A year later in 2019, Mathew again attended the Nanenane Mbeya event where he and other members of his beekeeping group showcased and sold value-added bee products made of beeswax and processed honey.

During Nanenane, WARIDI linked Mathew with the USAID Mboga na Matunda project to learn about improved avocado nursery management practices, avocado value chains, and annual and biennial vegetable varieties that improve yield. Mathew later shared the avocado management skills he learned during the training with another 25 farmers from Lulanzi and Luhindo villages. He has been offering fruit tree nursery consultations to his clients who come to buy grafted seedlings raised in his nursery. He frequently visits his clients in Lulanzi and Luhindo to provide technical assistance and help to solve some of their production challenges. Watson Matamwa, the District Crop Officer for Kilolo, says “Mathew is a young farmer who can work as a Village Extension Officer. He is very practical in his support and this is what farmers need…to visually see how things are done. He is helping us to deliver extension services to the community. We will use him in disseminating these diversified farming skills to other locations”.

Mathew is a great example of how WARIDI has identified and trained committed farmers through the Training of Trainers (ToT) approach. Farmers like Mathew are applying new technologies and management practices and sharing these with other farmers. Over 4,300 ToT farmers and entrepreneurs have shared their skills and knowledge with other farmers who are applying these practices.
Land Use Planning Helps Protect Natural Resources and Prevent Land Conflicts in Communities

In Tanzania, conflicts between pastoralists and crop farmers frequently occur, although most go unreported. Land-related conflicts often lead to unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, destruction of farms, crops, and houses, theft of livestock, and even loss of life. One of the worst conflicts between pastoralists and farmers occurred in December 2000 in Morogoro Region when 38 people were killed. Women and children often suffer most when conflicts occur. Tanzania’s ability to attain sustainable development goals like poverty reduction, gender equality, and climate action are compromised when conflicts develop over land resources. Furthermore, in communities with land conflicts, households dependent on subsistence agriculture are pushed towards more unsustainable activities such as charcoal production and short-cycle crop practices which can degrade soil and water resources. Worsening stresses brought on by floods, droughts, and population growth further reduces the resilience of communities and households.

In addressing this challenge, USAID’s Water Resources Integration Development Initiative (WARIDI), with support from the USAID Land Tenure Assistance (LTA) activity, is supporting Local Government Authorities in prioritized villages in Morogoro Region to develop Village Land Use Plans (VLUP), strengthen community and household resilience and protect water resources. Led by the District Land Offices and communities, WARIDI supports the process of preparing VLUPs in Magana, Msufini and Nguyami villages. These villages cover almost 21,000 hectares which has now been clearly demarcated to show various land uses such as crop farming, livestock routes, pastoral grazing lands, forest reserves, residential areas, and other uses to improve land use management and protect water resources. Effective land use planning enables communities to protect important water sources that are tapped for community water supplies and improve water quality and availability in downstream communities.

Disputes over pastoralist land access and damages to agriculture crops have led to conflict in Kilolo and Mvomero Districts. “Before the implementation of WARIDI and establishment of the Land Use Plan, there were several filed land conflict cases related to land use between individuals and between villages...people were reluctant to participate in development activities. This project helps ascertain village boundaries, reduces land conflicts among villages and enhances land management at the village level,” says Nenkondo Kiama, the Village Executive Officer for Magana. District Land Officer for Kilolo, James Mkuyu, recalls that “lack of livestock routes was a big driver for land use related conflicts between farmers and livestock keepers. Through the land use planning process, clear livestock routes have been established, recognized by the community and are being respected.”

As part of the effort to secure land ownership long-term planning, WARIDI assisted the District Land Offices to print and issue almost 2,000 Certificates of Customary Rights of Occupancy (CCROs) to community members (half of whom were) in all three villages for their individual plots of land. Having VLUPs and CCROs in place is a critical step to empowering village governments and landholders to address threats to sustainable land management, forests, and water resources as well as reduce land conflict.

Honorable District Commissioner Mohamed Musa Utao; the District Executive Director Mr. Florent Laurent Kyombo and WARIDI Deputy Chief of Party Leif Kindberg hand over CCROs to members of the pastoralist community in Mvomero District. March 5, 2020.

Participatory Rural Appraisal and boundary verification (left); village meeting to review and approve the VLUP and accompanying bi-laws before submission to the village assembly (right).
Strategies for Ensuring an Inclusive and Participatory Approach

Several important processes enable the District Land Offices to complete the VLUPs and issue CCROs in areas that had existing land use conflicts. These include intensive awareness raising campaigns among community members on the importance of land use plans; inclusive approaches that involve women, men and youth, as well as the full involvement of district and village leaders. Using a Participatory Rural Appraisal approach ensures inputs from key community members such as women, the elderly, and the disabled are all included. The participatory process instills a sense of responsibility and unity among community members to understand and plan for the future, placing value on conservation of the environment and natural resources. “This process helps us identify the vanishing Mtsandika Wildlife Corridor at Magana village, and safeguards wildlife,” says Shela Ngailo, Councillor for Mahenge Ward in Kilolo DC. The corridor connects two major national parks in the Southern Circuit between Ruaha and Udzungwa National Parks. The Tanzania Forest Service in collaboration with the National Land Use Planning Commissioner also supports the development of these village land use plans to help safeguard land and forest resources across Tanzania.

Addressing Social Barriers to Sustainable Land Management

The development of Land Use Plans and provision of CCROs improves equity and awareness of gender discrepancies in land ownership and the associated benefits. Women who have titles to their land can take out a loan on their CCRO to finance their small enterprises and engage in other productive activities that feed their families more independently. “Historically, women, especially in the pastoralist community, have had limited rights to land ownership. However due to the intensive awareness raising conducted through this activity, women are now able to access land and we have CCROs. It has given us power because we can confidently claim those areas as our own and participate in decision making on how to use them,” says Katarina Kochocho from a pastoral community at Magana Village.

The passing of land rights from deceased husbands to their wives has often failed to secure those women with any rights at all. The Village Executive Officer for Nguyami Village, Feni Stephano says “in our communities we have often witnessed that when a husband dies, land use related conflicts emerge, especially with polygamist families due to lack of records and guidance on how land parcels were to be distributed among wives and children. Through this work, polygamist families are dividing lands among wives, which has helped these women access their CCRO, thus reducing the chances for conflicts to occur later.”

Sustainability Plans and Challenges

As is the case across Tanzania, District Land Offices often lack the staffing and financial resources to develop land use plans for other communities and conduct regular monitoring in the villages to ensure the developed plans are followed. However, there are assurances that the structures implemented by WARIDI will be sustained and expanded. “We have included preparation of VLUPs in our district work plan, the District has recently received support from the Tanzania Forest Service to develop VLUPs in four more villages found adjacent to the forest reserve. Furthermore, the Land Institute in Morogoro is supporting us to develop a VLUP in another village,” says Salivius B. Sarapon, Land Officer for Gaibo DC.

Fortunately, the inclusion of VLUPs is catching on as a sustainable model and being expanded. Bernard Kajembe, District Town Planner for Kilolo says the district is planning to increase the number of villages with land use plans from the current 46 to all 94 villages in Kilolo District. Alistidy Manjonda, District Land Surveyor for Mvomero, says the District has identified two more villages this year where they will develop VLUPs. “So far we have reached 99 out of 136 villages in the district.”

Dr. Charles Cosmas Mkawala of the National Land Use Planning Commission (NLUPC) is welcoming more collaboration and partnership to ensure that more villages in Tanzania complete their VLUPs. “We have witnessed decreased land conflicts in all areas that have VLUPs in place which ultimately helps communities engage in more productive activities and increases their resilience to challenges brought by climate change. The Commission invites partners to work on this area for the benefit of the communities and the surrounding environment.”

About WARIDI

The Water Resources Integration Development Initiative (WARIDI) is a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) funded five-year activity which aims to improve health, water resources management, agriculture practices and climate change adaptation in the Wami/Ruvu and Rufiji river basins of Tanzania. Photos from WARIDI are available for download. Please provide credit to USAID/WARIDI.
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