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Sauri Millennium Villages Newsletter



Millennium Villages

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The Millennium Development Goals: A chance to move the world

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are the world's time-bound and quantified targets for addressing extreme poverty in its many dimensions-income poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter, and exclusion-while promoting gender equality, education, and environmental sustainability. They are also basic human rights-the rights of each person on the planet to health, education, shelter and security.



Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Hunger and Poverty



Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education



Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women



Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality



Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health



Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases



Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability



Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

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Team leader's message: Sauri MVP cluster makes major strides

The Sauri Millennium Villages Project aims at empowering and working with impoverished communities in rural Africa to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Millennium Village communities are partnering with local governments, The Earth Institute at Columbia University, The Millennium Promise Alliance, UNDP, and other development partners as a proof-of-concept project with interventions in agriculture, nutrition, health, education, energy, water, communications, enterprise and environment. It covers an area of 132 square kilometers with a population of 65,000 people; annually receives 1,600 - 1,800 millimeters of rainfall and an elevation of 1,400 to 1,500 meters above sea level with average temperatures of 24°C.

In the last five years Sauri MVP has continued to provide lessons from which various development players have drawn. Key consumers have been the Government of Kenya (Ministry of Planning and National Development and other ministries), and other NGO's who on various occasions through visits and discussions have interacted with MVP. These lessons have guided up-scaling of MDGs in other districts as well as informing policy guidelines for some ministries.

The project works with an estimated 14,000 farming households. One of the most remarkable undertakings is the promotion of agricultural enterprise diversification which has offered farmers more opportunities to generate income thereby reducing over dependence on maize for food security. Rapid expansion has been observed in fish farming. Similar growth has been witnessed in bee keeping and drip irrigation. In the second phase the emphasis is on business. Deliberate focus is on the formation of legal entities e.g. cooperatives to improve their marketing.

Positive results continue to be realized under health where the project is working with 9 health facilities and one referral center. The focus has been on promoting health seeking behavior through the already established community health worker strategy, while the facilities concentrate on curative services. So far, 9,500 children's growth is monitored quarterly, with



major interventions in Malaria and HIV/AIDS. Significant infrastructural achievements have been realized not only in roads rehabilitation but also in improved accessibility to electricity, improved water sources, constructions in schools and community public places. While the schools have fully embraced the school meals programs, learning has even been enhanced through the connection to electricity and provision of computers. The current school attendance stands at 98%.

Major partners of the project are the Government of Kenya through line ministries mainly Agriculture, Environment, Water, Health, Education, Roads and Cooperatives. Gem Constituency Development Fund and a number of other organizations such as Centre for Disease Control, CARE Kenya and also collaborate with the project on health issues.

The project emphasizes sustainability through creation of business opportunities, the community participation and continuous capacity building. Besides this continued engagement with the Government, local authorities and development of legal institutions is envisaged to provide a long lasting framework which is expected to take a lead role, for instance in the running of health facilities.

*Jessica Masira,
Team Leader and Cluster Manager,
Sauri Millennium Villages Project*

Farmer turns hobby into business venture

Engineer Luke Kuundu started breeding fingerlings as a hobby in late 2007, but it has become an economic venture for him. He breeds fingerlings in two seasons every year, with each season producing 20,000 tiny young fish. Kuundu who comes from Kiima area, in Emuhaya District bought one and half acre land at Ksh 15,000 in 1999 for crop farming in Uranga Millennium Village. Due to poor harvests, he decided to venture into fish farming, but not with a serious thought at that time.

He says Sauri Millennium Villages Project supported fish farmers in capacity-building and provision of equipment such as aeration pumps. Kuundu is one of the five farmers in Sauri MVP engaged in fingerling production, which are sold to 240 fish farmers, within the cluster.

Kuundu 59, has a modest hatchery where he breeds fries-young ones of catfish- for two weeks in basins, before moving them into one of his three ponds, where they take ten days to be ready for sale. He supplies the fingerlings to parts of Nyanza and Western Provinces, with the Ministry of Fisheries being one of his major clients. Apart from aquaculture, he has paw paws, maize and rears a cow on the farm, situated about 15 kilometres from his home with three farm workers.

A Sauri MVP Enterprise Sector facilitator Charles Opanga says they have trained farmers on management of fish ponds. He says the project also supports fish farmers with technical knowledge and skills of fitting drainage pipes in the ponds. Kuundu has dug two fish ponds, which will have PVC material on the floor as measure to overcome the loss of fingerlings sticking onto mud floor and walls of the pond. "The PVC will ensure minimum fingerlings are lost. The mud floor has led to loss of almost half of the fingerlings," says Kuundu, adding that his first pond cost him Sh70,000 to construct. He recouped his investment within three years.

The project started training farmers on aquaculture as an enterprise in late 2007, but



Luke Kuundu shows a sample of a female Nile Tilapia he uses for breeding fingerlings at his farm in Uranga Millennium Village.

the venture faces a number of challenges such as predation, where birds and monitor lizards gain access to the ponds, and eat fish.

The agriculture coordinator Willy Diru sums up the good progress in fish farming thus: Rapid expansion has been observed in fish farming from 12 farmers, 18 fish ponds in 2008 to 453 ponds, 246 farmers. The ponds occupy surface area of 30.6 acres (12.24 hectares); earned the pond farmers KES 7.6 million (\$90,000) by end of 2010.

Farmers embrace greenhouses for growing tomatoes

There are 42 farmers engaged in greenhouse cultivation of various crops including vegetables and tomatoes in Sauri cluster villages an initiative that started in September 2009. Pastor Raphael Radondi, 45, is one of the farmers who is growing tomatoes in a greenhouse. Radondi says he started the green house in January 2011, by investing Sh97,000.

The seedlings take two weeks on the nursery seedbed, before being transplanted into the growing beds inside the greenhouse and seedlings take two and half months to mature. Harvesting ordinarily takes place twice a week for the next fourteen weeks. Raphael says that he sells most of the tomatoes on the farm and any surplus at the nearby shopping centre.



Geoffrey Wekesa waters tomatoes grown in green house at Raphael Radondi's farm in Nyaminia Millennium Village.

He says the sales are good, but there are many expenses such as need for a farmhand who has to be present for watering and harvesting of the tomatoes. "The tomato plants also require a lot of water, and as result, I have to fetch water from a nearby river," says Radondi, who lives in Kisumu with his family. He says erratic supply of piped water to his home forces his worker to get the commodity from a nearby river. He adds that this type of farming requires a lot of supervision, and at the moment he has a full time worker.

Furthermore, the fruits may get attacked pests and diseases if not properly managed through routine check and control measures that may require application of pesticides and fungicides. From the knowledge gained so far, Raphael says that "on the overall, he does not regret that he invested in the system because tomatoes are not eaten by birds or affected by hailstorm common in the area".

He says staff from the project have trained him on what is required to successfully raise crops in a greenhouse as well as monitoring progress in terms of expenditure versus income. Sammy Owino, an agriculture facilitator, says that when they started greenhouse farming, they trained 11 demonstration farmers, who in turn created the desire in other farmers to adopt the technology.

Owino says they did cost-sharing with the demonstration farmers through provision of polythene cover, drip irrigation system and water tanks, whereas the farmer constructed the house structure, provided labor and seeds. So far, 31 farmers in addition to the 11 demonstration farmers have embraced

greenhouse farming after observing others get handsome returns from their investment. Sammy is quick to point out that many other farmers wishing to take on greenhouse farming are greatly constrained by lack of quick access to capital.

Farmer with passion for poultry-rearing

Nicholas Omondi started a simple poultry enterprise with 15 birds, in 2003. But eight years later, he has 200 layers, which give him on average 180 eggs daily. The farmer, aged 30, is among 350 others in Sauri Millennium Villages Project (MVP) who have been facilitated to undertake poultry farming as a commercial venture. Omondi sells his eggs locally at the nearby Yala Trading Centre.

However, the high cost of feeds is a major challenge to his poultry venture. For instance, a bag of layers marsh cost Sh2670 in 2011, up from Sh1950, the previous year. Nicholas laments that he cannot suddenly increase prices without loosing buyers. But he still plans to enlarge his poultry house and double the number of layers.

Omondi says project facilitators have given him technical support, including Kalanyo Youth Development Group, which has 14 members. He is a member of the group, which was formed in 2003, and has several projects, including a poultry farm where they are rearing 600 layers.

Sebastian Okotsi, a government livestock extension officer doubling up as an agriculture facilitator with the project, says in early 2008, they started supporting farmers through capacity-building. Okotsi says poultry farmers were trained on how to construct poultry houses, feeding and disease control. Initially, the project trained 33 resource persons (RPs) - three per village who assist with transferring



Nicholas Omondi has 200 layers and plans to increase the number of birds he rears.

new knowledge and skills to other farmers. "Rps live closer to poultry farmers and more easily available to provide technical support and disease control through vaccination. The project provided the RPs with starter vaccines. The farmers are now able to run the vaccination programme on their own," he explains.

Besides, the project supplied high grade cocks for upgrading local birds for production of more eggs and meat. The guiding principle was for the farmers to share the cocks and pass on the upgraded progeny to others joining the scheme.

In 2010 the project sought to support vulnerable households through the provision of chick brooders and chick mash feeds that increased survival rate of the chicks to nearly 100 per cent. The registration of poultry cooperative society will provide an excellent opportunity to venture into locally manufactured feeds and organize a market for poultry and poultry products.

Revival of dairy facility stimulates milk production in villages

The dairy facility had been moribund for several years, but renovations started in 2010, and farmers have started delivery of milk. New Yala Dairy Co-operative Society had 262 members at the beginning of July 2011, when elections were held, new officials elected. Led by newly-elected Chairperson, Willis Juka, the officials have ambitious plans of injecting new life to the dairy society, and ensuring dairy farmers get value for milk delivered.

Sauri Millennium Villages Project (MVP) in collaboration with the Government provided Sh272, 000 for repair of the facility, in late 2010. "They have trained us on practices of good governance to ensure better management. Dairy farmers have also received demonstration on value-chain of handling milk," says Mr Juka.

There are 13 farmers, who deliver an average of 100 litres per day, while processing into yoghurt and lala takes place twice a week (on Mondays and Fridays).

One of the workers at the dairy, Joseph Otieno, says that they pay KES 37 per litre of the milk. Otieno says that by July 2011, they



Joseph Otieno packs bottles of yoghurt in a cooler.

were processing about 50 litres per week, while the rest is sold as fresh milk to local residents and institutions. He says the yoghurt is packed in 250 and 500 milliliter bottles, sold at KES 30 and KES 60 per bottle, respectively. The fresh milk is sold at Sh45 per litre.

The dairy has applied for a certificate from Kenya Bureau of Standards, and once they receive a standardization mark they will increase and be able to sell the processed milk to grocery shops, including supermarkets.

Juka says the dairy's society members have each bought the requisite 100 shares, each for Sh20, which will enable them earn dividends. He adds that according to agreed by-laws, members are forbidden from hawking fresh milk, but instead take it to the facility. Sauri MVP plans to assist the facility recruit more qualified staff such as a dairy technologist.

Farmers from outside the cluster such as Emuhaya, Siaya and Khwisero districts - also deliver milk to the dairy. Joyce Tom, a farmer from Ebuyangu area of Emuhaya District, is excited about the revival of the dairy and after inquiries, she would start delivering milk.

A livestock facilitator with Sauri MVP Jared Were says up to the year 2010, the society had only 22 active members, who delivered 40-60 litres of milk daily. This was down, from 600 litres it recorded, at its peak, some years back. Were says one of the key objectives of the society is to more than double the milk delivered to the dairy by the end of 2012.

Farmers turn bee - keeping into a commercial practice



Jael Ochogo has 21 hives, and is one of the leading bee-keepers in Sauri Millennium Village

In 2008, Sauri Millennium Villages Project trained 44 resource persons from 11 villages on bee-keeping as a commercial enterprise. They passed the knowledge to other farmers through demonstration hives at the RPs' farms. This provided more farmers an opportunity to practice and acquire the necessary skills and knowledge on bee-farming. Significant growth has been witnessed in bee-keeping from 16 farmers, 68 hives in 2010 to 262 farmers, 946 hives. Annual yield of honey increased to 2, 500 kg in July 2011 from 300 kg in 2008.

Among the RPs is Jael Ochogo who has 21 hives. Since the 64-year-old farmer started bee-keeping, she has harvested close to 80 kgs of processed honey. "I have gained a lot of knowledge on bee-keeping, and plan to expand it," says Mrs Ochogo, a mother of eight who hails from Nyaminia village. In addition to bee-keeping, she has planted maize and sun flowers on her two-acre piece of land.

Another farmer, Charles Oburu, from Jina village, has the highest number of hives in the entire cluster, 46. The least number of hives owned by one farmer is three. Oburu started the venture in January 2010, but one and half years later, he has already harvested 25 kg of the product. He expects a bumper harvest, as more of his hives produce mature honey. He has an apiary in his farm, and half of the hives have been provided by the project on what is popularly known as 'matching grant' programme. Fredrick Watako, an Enterprise Sector facilitator says part of the training of the bee-keepers is that they have to plant trees that are conducive to the stay of bees. Some of these trees are *Calliandra*, sunflowers, bananas and avocados.

These trees provide a suitable environment for the bees to live in the hives. "We have made farmers appreciate that thick foliage around the hives is essential," says Mr Watako. He says the project gives one hive to farmers for every one purchased by them, an incentive to the resource challenged farmers to increase their income generation opportunity. The project also supports bee keeper groups with harvesting kit that consists of a bee suit, hand gloves, veil, smokers, hive tool and a pair of gum boots.

The farmers have a facility that processes raw honey, situated at Nyawara Community Resource Centre. Henry Ogwel who oversees the processing unit says they process 100 kg of the product monthly. They pay farmers Sh120 per kg of the raw honey. Currently, the honey is sold locally, under the trade name Millennium Pure and Natural Honey. But they have applied for a standardization mark from the Kenya Bureau of Standards, in order to be able to sell the product at supermarkets and other stores. To improve marketing of the product, the farmers have formed a cooperative society, which already has 216 registered members. Watako says farmers purchase a maximum of 100 shares at Sh20 each.

Growth: Bee industry in Sauri cluster villages

Year	No. of bee hives	No Farmers	Apiary sites	Honey (kgs)
Baseline	68	16	3	140
2008	198	53	11	300
2009	300	121	7	650
2010	286	59	8	900
Aug-11	94	13	5	660
Grand total	946	262	34	2,510

Adult teacher mobilizes villagers to access loans

50-year-old man has for the last five years mobilised many villagers and in the process they have accessed loans as groups. He has trained close to 800 people, who are members of 38 groups-and as a result each of the group has been advanced Sh50, 000 loans from the Kenya Women Enterprise Fund. Some of these groups have either applied for or obtained second loans of Sh 200,000. His greatest joy is the fact that default in servicing the loans is very low and only 3 groups have defaulted.



Johannes Abong'o shows charts with names of groups and members that he has trained. Most of the groups have accessed loans.

The groups are drawn from Lihanda, Ramula and Uranga Millennium Villages. Abong'o started mobilizing women to raise funds from early 2010. He offers assistance in group formation. He has also been behind the groups' management and writing of proposals for seeking loans. Abong'o started his involvement with the community in 2005, after the Ministry of Education employed him as a part time adult educator.

He is teaching close to 200 elderly people in Lihanda and Uranga Millennium Villages. He has attended a number of trainings that have made him an accomplished mobiliser. Courses were sponsored by Sauri Millennium Villages Project in 2009 at Maseno Farmers School on proposal writing, and another for adult educators held in Kakamega, under the tutelage of the Government.

He says his joy is to see women groups formed through his support, get strong and acquire loans to support their small businesses, and subsequently become sustainable. He trains group members at a number of venues, twice a week, in the afternoons. Abong'o has an office at a building that also houses Bar-Kalare Chief's office, in Uranga Millennium Village.

So what has encouraged these groups to go for loans? Johannes Abong'o attributes this to his department's adult classes where a lot of emphasis is put on development issues especially common interest groups, record keeping and resource mobilization. MVP trainings on resource mobilization, enterprises and diversification over the years have also contributed in equal measure. When selected community leaders and members from Sauri were taken to Maseno ATC in late 2009 for training in resource mobilization, some of them thought of how difficult the exercise was, some thought MVP was either a potential donor or could link them to donors, while others remembered their failures with past efforts on some devolved funds. Fear of loans and preference for grants also featured. But the trainees left the training with renewed resolve.

Today the number of groups and individuals who have accessed or tried to access funds for development or business have tremendously increased. Many have realized the potential of some of the devolved funds they have been taking for granted. These include women enterprise fund, constituency development fund and others such as Kenya women trust fund.

So what benefits have they realized? An adult class learner and beneficiary of the credits Jane Onura listed the following:- Increased businesses, ease of purchase of basic needs, purchase of bee hives and paying of fees. Among the enterprises thriving are: Rope making, small scale businesses, cattle trade, carpentry, poultry keeping, dairy goat, table banking, catering, tents and chair hire, general farming, and motorcycle transport services.

Scholarship gives needy girl bright future

She comes from a poor family background, but her Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examinations results were remarkable. Irene Awino, 17, scored an A- (minus) for national assessment in 2010 at Rang'ala Girls High School. The school emerged the top girls' school in Nyanza Province.

Irene Awino is among 16 girls and 28 boys sponsored by the MVP who sat for their KCSE in 2010, and 69 students who benefitted from the Sauri MVP scholarship program. For her secondary education, Awino secured a full scholarship, offered by Sauri Millennium Villages Project. Besides, the project provided for her shopping and bus fare, for the four years she was in school. She sat for the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) in 2006, at Migosi Primary School, Gongo Millennium Village. She emerged third in her school, after garnering 345 marks out of a possible 500.

She plans to study statistics at university. Awino is a fourth born in a family of five siblings, and two of them would not complete their secondary education due to lack of fees. "Without the support of MVP, I would not have gone through my secondary education," says Awino who is a temporary teacher at her former primary school.

The institution's head teacher Morris Okinda says Awino is an encouragement to pupils at the school. "It is a clear indication from Awino's feat that bright children from poor families can perform well if they are



Irene Awino teaches pupils at her former school, Migosi Primary. She got a full scholarship for her secondary education from Sauri Millennium Villages Project.

supported financially," says Mr Okinda. He says another beneficiary of the scholarship from his school, a boy who sat his KCSE examinations at St Mary Yala, in 2010, scored an A (plain) and was ranked as the best candidate in Gem District.

The secondary school scholarship programme was initiated to increase transition of students to secondary school, particularly girls and the impact was quite appreciated. Although MVP secondary school scholarships programme ended in 2010. MVP is now in the process of developing a community initiated secondary school scholarship programme, as this would be the project sustainable beyond the lifespan of MVP. This is based on the realisation that some families can still not afford secondary education unless they get external support.



Paul Owiti, a Standard Five pupil at Muhanda Primary School, has benefitted from free uniform and a school bag.

Vulnerable learners supported through income-generating activities

The institution has diverse incoming-generating activities that have made it able to cater for a number of its expenses such as electricity bills. Nyangulu Primary School in Ramula Millennium Village has a vegetable garden, offers computer lessons to locals at a fee, has a barber shop and rears six goats, among other activities. The school's head teacher, Julius Omolo, says in 2010 they had 35 local hens, which they sold to purchase seven goats in December that year. However, they later slaughtered one when they had visitors.

Mr Omolo said the school received seven computers in early 2008 from Sauri Millennium Villages Project, soon after installation of electricity. In 2010, they started offering computer packages to Form Four leavers, at Sh1500. "In 2010, we trained three locals, while in 2011, we have the same number. One of the school leavers who was trained in our school is now one of our computer teachers," says the administrator.

Besides, the institution does printing of cards for several clients, including a local church. Omolo says the school grows *sukuma wiki* (kales) and maize. "The crops we harvest supplement the School Feeding Programme and provide food for teachers, while offering tuition during weekends," says Omolo, adding they also use the proceeds from the farming activities to support the institution's 46 vulnerable pupils in aspects such as buying them uniforms.

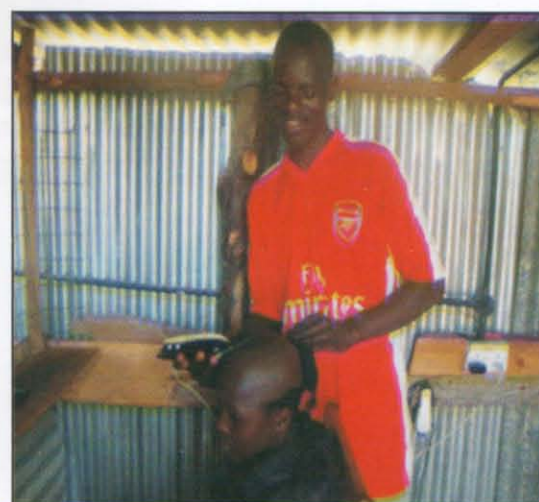
He says they plan to upgrade the local breed of goats they have using a buck, a grade he-goat. However, some parents are unsupportive of the income-generating activities due to suspicion that teachers and the school management committee would be beneficiaries of the venture. The committee's chairman Joshua Ober says the undertaking has offered employment to two barbers who are paid on commission for shaving pupils and community members' hair.

The school has 600 pupils-including 50 young learners in Early Childhood Development Education. An Education facilitator with Sauri MVP Joseph Ondaño says most of the schools in the cluster have income-generating activities. However, Ondaño says the activities are diverse and at different stages and scale.

However, the project desires to have as many schools as possible have viable Income Generating Activities as that is a sure way of sustaining School Feeding program. MVP is in the process of mobilizing and supporting schools to put up innovative practices including Green Houses in the schools to increase production of high value crops such as tomatoes in commercial scales.



Nyangulu Primary School rears goats as one of its income-generating activities.



Cutting of pupils' hair is one of the income-generating activities at the school.



Nyangulu Primary School Kitchen garden

Pictorial



There are 42 farmers growing tomatoes in green houses within Sauri MVP.



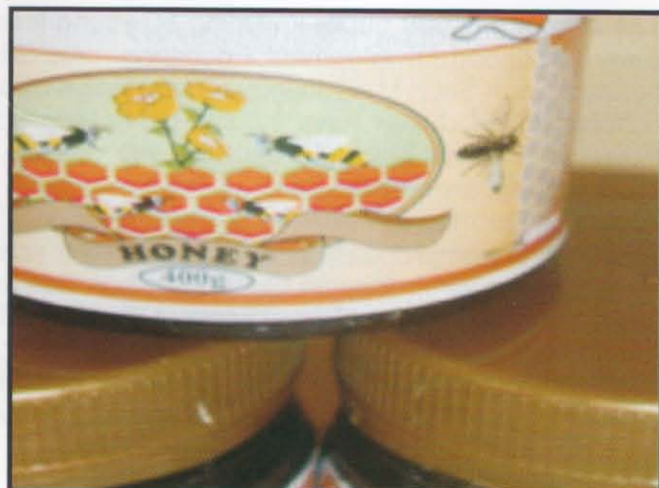
Cecilia Awuor is one of the indigents in Sauri MVP. She has three quarters an acre piece of land, which produced nine bags of maize in 2010.



Fredrick Watako (left), a facilitator with Sauri MVP explains a point .



Henry Otieno, a poultry farmer from Sauri Millennium Village with a kenbro cock. The bird is used for upgrading local breeds of layers.



Honey processed at Nyawara Resource Centre ready for sale. Bee-keeping is one of the enterprises in the cluster.



Jane Nyanjiga, has planted capsicum in Nyawara Millennium Village, on less than quarter an acre of land. The sale of the product gives her Sh2000 per week.



Jael Ochogo from Nyamninia Millennium Village weeds her sunflower farm. The crop is not only sold for production of oil, but also supports bee-keeping.



Polycarp Okoth, the chairperson of 'Male Champs' group demonstrates proper use of a male condom. The group, composed entirely of men, runs family planning campaign.



Sauri Millennium Villages Project has protected 270 natural springs, which have created easily available water for thousands of locals.



With revival of Yala New Dairy Co-operative Society facility, more locals have been encouraged to venture into dairy farming.

Teachers acquire computer skills

Over 140 teachers in Sauri Millennium Villages Project (MVP) were in 2010 trained in computer skills, the training is still on and being undertaken by four trainers. With the improved skills, teachers in respective schools engage pupils in computer training sessions. Among the teachers who were trained in 2011, are nine staff members at Ahono Primary School, in Marenyo Millennium Village. One of the teachers at the institution, Omondi Makawinga, says he is appreciative of the training.

"I am typing a manuscript of a book I have written. The computer skills I have received will enable me to come up with a typed form of the book and also teach pupils the skills," says Mr Makawinga, a languages teacher. His colleague Mercy Anyango says it is essential for her to be computer-literate, adding that the skills are essential in the modern world.



A trainer, Collins Odhiambo, gives computer instructions to a teacher at Ahono Primary school.

In 2011, all teachers in 12 schools are taught once per week, for a three-hour session. Infrastructure (ICT) facilitator, Mathews Onyango, says when Sauri MVP started provision of computers in the cluster, they trained one resource person per school. Mr Onyango says out of 33 primary schools in the cluster, only two have not been connected with electricity, in a programme that started, in early 2009.

The goal is to have all teachers in the primary schools be computer literate as a way of improving teacher quality while also improving the administrative efficiency in the schools.

It will now be easier for the school administrators to keep administrative records, write and remit timely reports using computers as opposed to pen and paper. It is also envisaged that once internet connectivity in the schools is accomplished, the teachers will be able to do research through the internet and prepare quality lessons for their learners.

Homes benefit from support for electricity connection

In the period 2006 to 2010, the Project has spent over Kshs 45 million in extension of grid electricity to schools and health facilities to facilitate use of ICT and improve lighting in schools. Agreements with the local utility, Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC), defined specific projects for which KPLC carried out technical work and the project paid extension costs.

Following this agreement, applications for extensions to institutions were submitted to KPLC, which sent engineers to conduct detailed site surveys, including generating designs and costs. For most projects, particularly schools, MVP paid grid extension costs, and KPLC extended power lines to the institutions. For other projects, primarily health centers, the utility undertook extensions with government funding. Electrical contractors were engaged by the project to do the internal wiring.

Two hundred households have benefited from a pilot programme to support grid electricity connections for households located within a 600-meter radius of a transformer. Under this arrangement, the Project contributes Sh15,000 for each of the household, while the beneficiaries provide Sh19,980.



Jane Nyanjiga checks her meter at her home in Nyawara Millennium Village. She is one of the residents who have received financial support from Sauri MVP for power supply.

In Nyawara Millennium Village, 80 households have benefitted. Among these beneficiaries is Shadrack Awuoche. "Most of us would not be able to raise the full connection fee.

The amount of subsidy is substantial," says Awuoche's wife, Monica, 72, adding that she was spending over Sh500 on kerosene monthly, but stopped purchasing the fuel as soon as Kenya Power connected their home with electricity in May 2011.

"Her husband says the initiative would spur development in the villages as some youth would easily start ventures, such as wielding."

Another beneficiary, Jane Nyanjiga, says she had been spending over Sh1000 on kerosene on a monthly basis, but now will only pay electricity bills. Besides, Nyanjiga says she would now be able to preserve her milk. "My cows produce about 20 litres per day. With the connection of electricity, I will buy a cooler, which will ensure my milk stays fresh for a longer period before customers collect it," explains the mother of three.

They are able to watch TV, and also cut on the inconvenience of having to travel to the nearby Nyawara Trading Centre to charge her mobile phone.

Men champion family planning methods

Thirty men sensitise their fellow men about family planning and reproductive health. After a two-day training session in Yala Township, sponsored by UNAIDS and hosted by Sauri Millennium Villages Project (MVP) in May 2011, the champions have become ambassadors of a subject that is often taken as a taboo. K-Met, a reproductive health organisation, offered the training.

Polycarp Okoth is chairperson of 'Male Champs', consisting of educators, drawn from all the 11 millennium villages of Sauri MVP. They have been moving from one area to another, educating men on various family planning methods that includes condom use and vasectomy. "We set out to campaign on family planning and held demonstrations on proper usage of condoms," says Mr Okoth.



Polycarp Okoth, the chairperson of 'Male Champs' group illustrates proper usage of a male condom. The group members are leading a campaign on family planning in Sauri MVP.

He says that they use a bottom-up approach in their campaigns, whereby the members start by reaching out to their wives, the village elders, and the Provincial Administration - starting with assistant chief to the district commissioner.

At a meeting held for vulnerable people within Sauri MVP, in July 2011 - the group carried out a campaign to hundreds of participants. They also advise women and men on where to access family planning services. For instance, women can get pills and long term family planning commodities at the 10 health facilities within the cluster including Yala Sub-district hospital. They educate men on vasectomy and inform them that they can get the service at the Nyanza Provincial Hospital, situated in Kisumu.

Male Champs had reached about 400 men by end of July 2011 in their campaign, and supplied about 600 condoms, within two months. Okoth says he is also a peer educator and HIV/AIDS counsellor at Nyawara Health Centre. "I have decided to volunteer and serve the community," he says, adding that all the members are farmers, and undertake the campaigns after farm work.

The group faces a number of challenges. For example, women ask for female condoms, which are not readily available. Initially, they faced some resistance from their fellow men, who were unwilling to discuss family planning issues but with time they open up.

Zero discrimination, zero stigma

Persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) sometimes have to surmount discrimination and stigmatization. This compels a number of them to come together to offer support to each other. This form of intolerance led to the formation of Uranga PLWHA, in October 2010.



Some members of Uranga PLWHA in a meeting. They give each encouragement and support.

The group has 17 members - eleven men and six women - all of them living with HIV/AIDS, in Uranga village. The members are at an advanced stage of starting a Savings and Loans Scheme. "Right now we concentrate on loaning to each other. We are peasant farmers with diverse crops," says Helen Odhiambo, a mother of three, whose husband passed away six years ago.

Odhiambo is the secretary of the group and farms on her one-acre piece of land to support her children.

Another member of the group, Alfred Ooko, 45, says he tested HIV positive four years ago. He says the assistance and encouragement from the members has been immense. He adds that Sauri Millennium Village Project Health Facilitators often provide them training on how people living with the virus should take care of themselves.

The members have also received training on running Savings and Loans Schemes facilitated by MVP Enterprise Development Sector.

Opening of facility gives locals access to basic healthcare

The health facility was opened in April 2010 in Uranga Millennium Village. It serves an average of 20 patients on a daily basis.



A patient, Monica Ogendo (right) talks to Susan Owidi, the nurse in charge at Onding Dispensary.

It has most of the basic drugs for treatment of ailments such as typhoid, amoeba and malaria. The dispensary is one of the 10 health facilities supported by Sauri MVP.

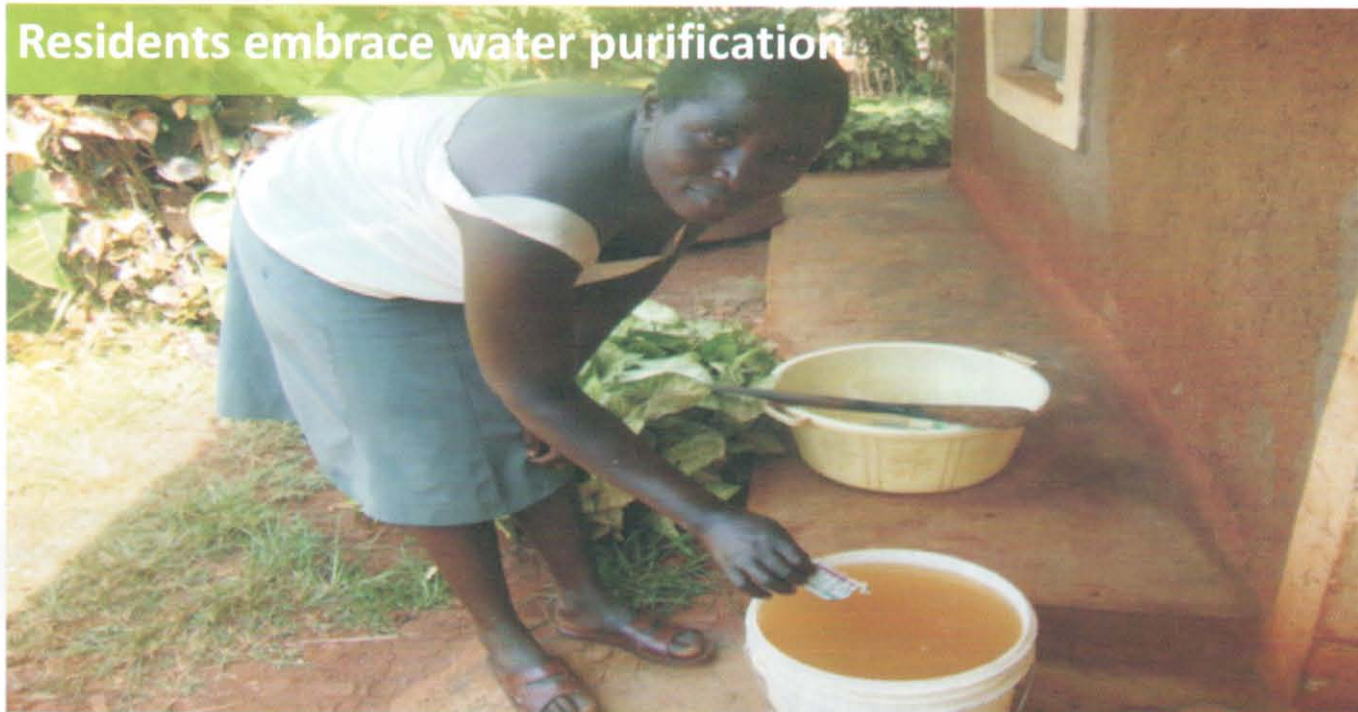
Susan Owidi, the nurse in-charge at Onding Dispensary says by July 2011, the facility handled more than ten deliveries of children. She says many of their patients used to be served by Lihanda, Ramula and Mindhine Health Centres. Locals are glad that they no longer have to travel long distances, as they can seek medical attention at Onding.

Monica Ogendo, 63, lives in Onding and used to walk all the way to Ramula Health Centre, a distance of about ten km, which used to take her more than an hour. The elderly woman, who is a mother of six grown up children, is glad that she currently takes less than ten minutes to get to Onding Dispensary. Ms Owidi says among the services they offer include antenatal care, Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI), HIV/AIDS Counseling and Testing and maternity.

The facility has two nurses and one laboratory technician. Due to availability of drugs at the facility, some of the patients it serves come from the parts of Western Province, in particular Emuhaya District.

Delivery services and treatment of children are offered for free, while adults pay Sh20. The facility is yet to start offering immunization services. They recently acquired a refrigerator for maintaining the cold chain to keep the vaccines potent. To make the fridge functional, the facility applied for supply of electricity from Kenya Power Company and they will also be connected to solar energy.

Residents embrace water purification



Lillian Anyango puts PUR in water to purify it, at Nyamninia Millennium Village.

Reported cases of water-borne diseases in some areas within Sauri Millennium Villages Project in 2010, motivated Community Health Workers (CHWs), work with locals to address the problem. CHWs did surveys on the number of households affected and as a result Sauri MVP started training residents on safe water. Francis Wasonga, a CHW, says water-borne diseases were reported in July - August 2010.

Wasonga says to reduce the cases of infections they had introduced a safe water system. After training locals, they started to distribute PUR- a water treatment chemical to homesteads. Lillian Anyango, a 32year old mother of three, who hails from Nyamninia Millennium Village, says her children suffered bouts of water-related diseases such as diarrhoea, but after she started using Water guard and later PUR, the incidences drastically dropped. Flen Abonyo, MVP Health Facilitator says they supplied Water guard to thousands of households in 2010 for free, but in 2011, the residents started purchasing PUR. A four gram sachet used to purify ten litres of water costs Sh10. Anyango says she uses at least four sachets per week for purification of her family's water needs.

"I use purified water for cooking and drinking," says Anyango, whose husband, Jared Odhiambo, is a teacher. She mixes the PUR with water then stirs with a cooking stick for at least five minutes. She then lets impurities settle, in a process referred to as flocculation, before sieving the water with a clean white sheet of cloth. Wasonga says they have trained locals on how to use the chemical and proper disposal after usage. The used PUR sachet can affect animals, hence users have been taught to dispose it in their dumpsites, and not where animals graze.

The PUR Programme was supported by Proctor and Gamble (P&G) and was initiated in late 2008 with the aim of improving household water quality. PUR is a powdered mixture that not only removes pathogenic micro-organisms, but also suspends matter from water meant for drinking. It is packed in a sachet of 4.0 gm Net content and contains 0.542 per cent of chlorine (Calcium Hypochlorite) developed by P&G in collaboration with the US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The MVP – P&G collaboration was to promote use of PUR in improving water quality and monitor its effectiveness in reducing water borne-diseases. The expected result was reduction of diarrhea, which is a common water-borne disease in the villages, among children below five years.

Farmers adopt soil conservation to stop soil loss and destruction of crops

A few years ago, a 45-year-old farmer's maize plants used to be washed away by runoff rainwater. But after taking up soil conservation measures, his crops are no longer being destroyed. He has constructed two cut-off drains on contour, measuring 86 metres each. Along the excavated edge of the contours, John Omole, of Jina Millennium Village, has planted 140 stools of banana; papaya fruit trees and cow peas. He says the roots of the bananas and paw paws hold the soil, further reduce erosion. The contours slow down rainwater runoff, and drain it in the dugout water way.

Omole has a three quarter acre piece of land, and proceeds from sale of maize and bananas have enabled him to pay secondary school fees for his first born. Willis Okeno, an Environmental Facilitator with the MVP says since they launched the soil conservation programme in 2007, over 8,000 farmers have adopted excavating contour terraces. From September 2010 to March 2011, farmers dug contours measuring 40 km; excavated six km of grass strip; 16 km trash lines and stone lines of three km.

He says the excavated contours are for very steep slopes, the less steep utilize leftovers of farm crops such as maize stalks to make trash lines laid out on contour, and grass strips to slow down runoff rainwater thereby trapping the soil from being washed away. We targeted 1415 farmers to adopt soil conservation measures in 2011. More and more farmers have observed how the contours arrest soil erosion and now voluntarily build them, he says.

Over ten land owners in the hilly area of Nyandiwa used to uncontrollably cut down trees for charcoal, firewood and other domestic uses. However, the farmers seriously embraced re-forestation in April 2010, and as a result Got Kombiro hill is regaining its tree cover. Samuel Mudhune and his neighbours planted different species of trees on their section of the hill with the support of the MVP.

In addition to providing the seedlings, the Project facilitated lay out, other technical knowhow, and mobilized the community to undertake planting and maintenance. Hundreds of tree-species such as Eucalyptus, Gravelia Robusta and Cypress were planted. Mudhune, 50 years and a father of 5, acknowledges that before the intervention by the Project, farmers planted only a few trees haphazardly.

He further appreciates on behalf of his neighbors the knowledge acquired from the training by the Project on the long term value of trees. Mudhune, resolved to establish trees on two acres of his three acre plot following the training. Apart from tree-planting, Mudhune by way of enterprise diversification, has two fish ponds, that he



Excavated contours have ensured that John Omole control soil erosion on his farm.

started in 2010 with the assistance of the Project in the technical design, training and acquisition of fingerlings and feeds as well as construction using locally available materials.

He says to make tree-planting sustainable, more farmers need to be enlightened on the adverse effects of deforestation.

The Gem District Forest Officer, Peter Ngoizi, says that the Government and the Project will strengthen collaboration to ensure all residents appreciate the value of tree-planting. He welcomed the government-project venture of supporting farmers to establish tree nurseries on commercial lines.

We recorded over 500,000 tree seedlings from 98 farm operated tree nurseries in 2010 compared to 200,000 seedlings raised from two central tree nurseries at River Yala and at Kenya Broadcasting Corporation compound in Yala," says Ngoizi. One of the challenges small-scale farmers face in raising planted trees is attack by termites.

We have trained farmers on control measures which include digging up the an hill to remove the *queen ant* as well as applying gladiator insecticide," says Kipkemboi Kandie, an MVP environment Facilitator.

Residents come out to maintain road constructed by project

At Project inception, about 75 per cent of Sauri's more than 300 km of local roads were in poor condition, and less than one third of the population lived within two kms of an all-weather road. The Project transport strategy focused on upgrading existing roads to all-weather standards and constructing new roads to bring at least 50 per cent of Sauri's villagers within two km of an all-weather road.

Between 2007 and 2010, the Project focused on the rehabilitation of unclassified village roads to improve accessibility to major trading centres, schools, health facilities and community centres. Since the village roads were narrow (average of 6m), beneficiary communities contributed land – 2.5 metres on both sides of the road – to make the road corridor 11m. The project engaged contractors to reshape and gravel more than 90 km of village roads at a cost of over Sh103 million to upgrade their classifications to all-weather roads. In addition, over 1,200 metres of ring concrete culverts were installed to improve drainage and allow the passage of small streams during rainy seasons.

In order to sustain these road works, a number of people living along Lihanda-Omino Road have decided to take part in its maintenance, to ensure the infrastructure's sustainability. The road was constructed by the Project and the community in 2009. Sylvanus Odera, the chairman of Lihanda Village Roads Committee says there are about 20 locals who take part in weekly road maintenance

He says since the work is voluntary, locals who understand the value of the road, come out to unblock culverts and clear bushes that grow near the road without coercion. "We do not force anyone to come and do the work. But we have about ten people (both men and women) who voluntarily undertake the maintenance with their own equipment, frequently. This is made easier through the support of the provincial administration as well as the government initiative of Kazi Kwa Vijani where the youth are paid to execute some of these works .

For this particular village, the 7.4 km road has opened the area to markets such as Yala and Luanda, and also linked institutions such as schools and health facilities. For example, it is easier to access Lihanda Health Centre both by use of ambulance and on foot. As a way of sustaining the roads , the Project in liaison with Kenya Roads Rural Authority (Siaya Branch) has been training village roads committee members on basic labour based road maintenance techniques. Over 400 road committee members have undergone training in culvert cleaning, weed removal and limited spot-gravel.

To ensure a sustainable maintenance plan, an inventory of most of the rural roads rehabilitated by the Project was done by the then Kenya Roads Board in 2008. The purpose was to include them in the inventory of roads entitled to annual maintenance funds from the Government. The Project is working with the Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KERRA) towards completing the process to ensure the availability of national funds for maintenance and rehabilitation of roads.



Residents of Lihanda Millennium Village take part in road maintenance.

Borehole brings smiles to thirsty villagers

A borehole drilled in Ramula Millennium Village started providing water in May 2010 ensuring local access the commodity for domestic use and drinking for animals. Sauri Millennium Villages Project drilled borehole in collaboration with the community, who also provided the Land.

The drilling and equipping of the borehole with 'afripump' at a cost of Sh 0.8 million. A hundred people have become members of Obwanda Village Borehole Self Help Group by paying Sh100, and 24 of them freely use the resource after payment of Sh30, monthly fee. Non-members pay Sh2 per 20-litre jerrican, for instance, Ebusyubi Primary School.

The chairman of the group, Johannes Abong'o, says there are about 200 households from both the MVP cluster and outside benefitting from the borehole. He says the small fee they charge for drawing water is for maintenance. "For example, we need grease to apply to the manual pump, otherwise it will wear out," says Abong'o.

The borehole has restricted hours of operation, in the morning up to 10am, and closed up to 4pm, when it is re-opened for three hours. And to ensure that the pump is not tampered with, persons aged below 14 years are prohibited from operating it.

Phellister Adhiambo is one of the beneficiaries of the borehole. She used to fetch water for her domestic use from a river, more than a km from her homestead. "It is at the bottom of a hill and I used to spend many hours per day fetching water. But with the borehole, I do not have to strain, as it provides clean water and it is only 300 metres from my home," says Adhiambo.

One of the challenges facing the efficient management of the borehole is, residents seek to fetch water for free. However, Abong'o argues that the resource has to be sustainable, hence users should support it through paying fees.

The Project has drilled eight other boreholes in various locations in the villages including one drilled to supply water to Yala Sub District Hospital.

Through trainings of borehole management teams, it is envisaged that what is happening at Obwanda borehole will be replicated to ensure sustainability of improved water sources.



In Africa, accessibility of water is still a major challenge. Women fetch water at Obwanda Borehole in Ramula Millennium Village.

Resource centres to support villagers' businesses

Nyawara community resource centre CRC has been built jointly by MVP and the community along with four others provided locally available resources such as hardcore, murrum, water, poles, and unskilled labour and the Project provided the rest.

Each CRC has been purposed to provide a unique environment where the community interacts, plans and showcases its development achievements, aspirations and addresses own challenges.

The CRC will be a hallmark for spurring development in the community through effective initiation and functioning of components such as (a cereal bank, a community bank/financial service provider, a library, a community hall, advisory class, computer rooms, radio room(Marenyo), and a room for provincial administration or a proposed devolve government representative.



There are four community resource centres in the cluster. The facilities will improve local businesses

All these components of the CRC will function to fulfill the following objectives:

- Attain global partnership and linkage with the outside world through internet connectivity.
- Provide a hall where the development processes, such as community action planning, plans for implementation and feedback processes will be enhanced.
- Spur development in the community through enterprises or cereal banks/ cooperatives, which will to promote production, processing and marketing of various products both agricultural and non- agricultural.
- Improve service delivery by the local administrators who will be housed within the facility.
- Promote community engagement, net working, self employment, and community cohesion including the youth, girls, women and men through acquisition of various skills such as computer, life skills and creative arts etc.
- Enhance the availability of different types of information or learning processes especially through the library or advisory room. Locally produced information materials and those from without will be available in equal measure.
- Provide advocacy on various topical issues affecting the community including HIV/AIDS, life skills, cultural practices, agriculture, environment and entrepreneurial skills new technology and civic education among others.
- Through the use of radio and other communication channels, the CRCs will function to improve community-based information systems thus improving coordination and information sharing in the community and beyond.

Marenyo and Gongo are the two other CRCs and a fourth one is under construction in Sauri. A number of business people have registered good returns as a result of the CRC. Andrew Otieno, a charcoal seller in Nyawara Trading Centre, says since the facility became operational his sales have increased. "I used to sell about two debes of charcoal per day, but now I sell up to two sacks per day. This is because some of the people who hire the CRC to hold meetings purchase my charcoal.

Farmers embrace tree-growing as an enterprise



Benson Nyagare got seedlings from Sauri MVP. He has 250 trees, and has plans to plant more.



Charleas Oburu has a two-acre woodlot that has 2000 trees.

Charles Oburu 68, left his job eight years ago, and apart from bee-keeping he has a woodlot of 2000 Eucalyptus trees, in Jina Millennium Village. He is one of hundreds of farmers in Sauri Millennium Villages Project who has taken planting trees as a commercial enterprise.

Oburu planted trees on two acres land, two and half years ago, and they will be ready for sale in 2013. "I will sell the trees to Kenya Power Company, as the firm utilises them to make electricity poles. I hope to sell about 1000," he says. Oburu, however, says if he does not get a buyer by then, he will leave the trees to grow for another five years, and then they will be ready for making timber.

The father of four has plans of planting an additional one acre with trees. The former Mombasa-based businessman says he used to witness KPLC purchasing poles from South Africa. "I realised that I would plant trees and sell them to Kenya Power Company," he says. Currently, the power supply company pays about Sh3000 per pole. Oburu says he bought seedlings at Sh10 each, but had to replace them due to theft. This has led to different tree sizes. Still, Oburu also has 46 beehives- says he does not regret the venture on a piece of land that he initially grew Buyoga bananas.

Another farmer, Benson Nyagare, 76, has 250 indigenous trees-200 Eucalyptus and 50 Gravellia. He started creation of a woodlot in 2009, and has plans to plant additional trees. A Sauri MVP Environment Facilitator, Wills Okeno, says they started woodlots in 2008. Through demonstration, farmers were provided with free seedlings by the MVP. Okeno says, there are over 1000 farmers in Sauri with woodlots, and they have realised that tree growing can be an investment.

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Douglas Busolo	Data Management Assistant



Mr. Peter Koinei,
Infrastructure Coordinator

Sector Coordinators Comments

Infrastructure

Significant infrastructural achievements have been realized not only in road rehabilitation but also in improved accessibility to electricity, improved water sources and sanitation.

Electricity:

At baseline, Sauri already had an extensive electricity grid, with 38 kilometers of medium voltage line reaching all but one of its 14 trading centers. With the good pre-existing grid access in markets, MVP prioritized grid extensions to clinics and schools as well as household connections. These projects targeted 25 schools, 8 health facilities, and 3 community resource centers. Approximately Kshs 55 Million, a mix of MVP funding (72 percent or Kshs 45 M) and Kenyan Government support (the remaining 28 percent or Ksh 10 Million) has gone towards these projects resulting in 89% electrification of schools from the initial 16%.

Road rehabilitation:

Before the Project inception less than 30% of the population lived within 2km of an all-weather road. With road rehabilitation works, the Project achieved greater than 50% access to an improved all weather road -over 90 kilometers of road improvements, over 1,200 meters of culverts installed along village roads at a cost of over 100 million Kshs.

Improved cook stoves:

MVP, with support from the community, constructed school kitchens in 31 primary schools and installed 88 rocket stoves, which use large pots (ranging from 50 litres to 300 litres). The use of improved stoves in schools, free mid day meals program resulted in a total fuel wood saving of 250 tons per year in all participating primary schools.

Health

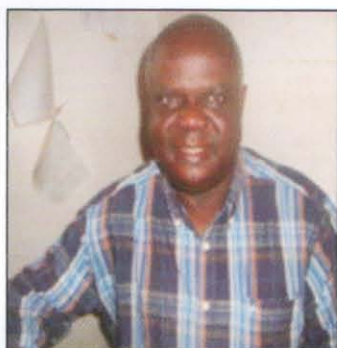
The project registered a number of changes in the health sector. The sector coordinator, Dr. Thomas K'Ouma says child measles immunization has increased from 67 to 92 % while in maternal health, institutional deliveries improved from 51-68%. These are deliveries conducted by skilled birth attendants. Malaria incidences have declined from 49 to 7% mid-term. The under 5 mortality rate fell from 114 deaths per 100 live births to 79 per 100 live births. Dr. K'Ouma says contraceptive prevalence has improved from 29% to 40%. A functional referral system comprising community health workers, health facilitators, health facility staff and three ambulances is in place.



Dr. K'Ouma,
Health Coordinator



Mr. Richard Ogeda, Education Coordinator



Mr. Willy Diru, Agriculture & Environment Coordinator



Mr. Tabu Anginya, Enterprise Coordinator



Mr. James Ng'inja, Community Development Coordinator

Education

Improved classrooms: Prior to the start of the MVP Sauri's 31 primary schools were in a deplorable state, with classrooms that were temporary mud structures with earthen floors and teachers frequently conducting lessons under trees. The education sector goal of increased access to quality primary education for all children was supported through:

- ✘ Construction and rehabilitation of schools to improve access for underserved areas, A total of 51 new classrooms were built.
- Construction of 31 improved kitchens and installation of improved stoves to strengthen the school meals program.
- Provision of electricity and ICT services to primary schools and administration blocks. MVP provided 265 computers, allowing Sauri to affordably create a computer lab in each of the 26 primary schools and offer computer training for teachers and students.
- ✘ Construction of more gender-separate latrines to improve retention of girls.
- ✘ To ensure sustainability, the MVP conducted interactive sessions with school administrators and management committees on best practices to maintain the newly constructed structures.

Agriculture and environment

Willy Diru, the Agriculture and Environment Sector Coordinator, says the project has reduced the periods vulnerable people used to be on maize stress from three to one month. He says out of 4,000 vulnerable farmers, those on food stress are 1000. He says one of the remarkable undertakings is adaptation of greenhouses from September 2009, and by July 2011, forty two farmers had been engaged in this type of farming. He adds that the number of fish ponds have increased from 50 in 2007 to 440 by July 2011. In addition, there are 217 fish farmers, up from 50 in 2007. Cross-breeding of dairy cows is taking root with 13-15 Artificial Insemination cases, monthly.

Enterprise development

Tabu Anginyah, the Enterprise Development Sector Coordinator, says in the second phase the emphasis is on business. Anginyah adds that they are assisting farmers in forming legal entities-cooperatives- in order to improve their marketing. They have already formed eight cooperatives.

Community development

James Ng'inja, the Community Development Coordinator, says as a sector, community development has been supportive and takes credit in the overall project achievement. This is through formation, strengthening and capacity building of social institutions (formed in accordance with the MDGs, community PPM&E teams, sub-location development committees among others. The Sauri community says the sector has taken a centre stage in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and sharing feedback with the Project. This has enhanced participation, ownership and sustainability.



Sauri Millennium Village



Millennium Villages