

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (Mark Balla)

The Rotary Club of Sembe North proposes to **improve access to basic sanitation and safely managed water** in South Busino National, in partnership with South Busino National staff and PTA, the Sembe District Education Office (SDEO), UNICEF Kenya, and opinion leaders of the neighboring communities.

A mechanized borehole will be drilled on the school premise and the 10,000 L concrete elevated water tank will be renovated. A hydro-geo-survey has confirmed that a **borehole drilled at 200 meters** will produce a sustainable yield of 23 m³/h, thus meeting the growing demands of the school and nearby communities.

An iron-removal plant will be constructed at the point of extraction and a **chlorinator** will be added to the storage tank, pending on results from water quality testing.

The **8-seater toilet block** and handwashing stations on-site will be renovated, with **sanitary napkin disposal chambers added to female toilets for privacy**. Fecal sludge will be removed where chambers are full due to improper use. In addition, a new **10-seater, gender-segregated toilet block** (VIP with dual chambers) will be constructed on the south end of the school property, where there is evidence of open defecation. **A two-seater micro flush toilet and handwashing stations** will be constructed for staff. All construction will be monitored and assessed against national construction standards by a **licensed construction engineer** contracted through the project.

Teachers will receive **in-service training on hygiene education and curriculum integration** by the District Education Office and UNICEF Kenya. **Refresher training will be given bi-annually** and to **new teachers during on-boarding**. A **School Management Committee** will be established according to national policy and guidelines, made-up of a headmaster, school health coordinators, PTA members and student representatives (50% men:50% women).

The committee will receive **training in leadership, management, financing, WASH in School national policies**, and monitoring by the SDEO, supported by UNICEF and Rotarians from RC Sembe North.

On a quarterly basis, **monitoring visits** will be conducted to support the performance and leadership of the committee and to provide refresher training when needed. **Community members** with basic technical skills and influence will be identified in the community alongside opinion **leaders to receive technical training and practical experience** to operate, maintain and repair the borehole, elevated water tank, latrines, and handwashing stations.

In addition, all 5 **neighboring communities** will be sensitized to the importance of WASH services in schools and **receive hygiene promotion monthly for 2 years** via community health workers from the District Health Office. Sembe District Education Office (SDEO) has requested **training in leadership, conflict resolution, WASH in Schools national guidelines, and life-cycle costing**. RC Sembe North and UNICEF has agreed to lead these trainings and facilitate dialogue between the School Management Committee, PTA, and SDEO regarding WASH services on a quarterly basis.

ENVIRONMENT (Tony Stokes)

According to a recent community assessment, the problems reported by the Pingtung Forest Management Office and the Rotary Club of Pingtung are as follows:

Leucaena is a powerful invasive species. **5,491 hectares of Leucaena pure forest** has spread in the Pingtung area of southern Taiwan, which isolates the shallow mountain corridors and coastline corridors of the Hengchun Peninsula, causing serious effects on the **local biodiversity**. A legume originally introduced as **fodder for livestock and fuelwood**, the economic value of the plant disappeared when the Taiwanese economy changed. Because of the sunny and open environment in much of southern Taiwan, it grows quickly. Plants can grow up to **10 meters**. Other plants below it are **blocked from the sun**.

The **mimosin** secreted by the invasive plant's roots prevents the surrounding grass from growing, leaving no space for local native plants. It also **obstructs wildlife activities**. The **original tree species** needs to be fostered to restore the original ecological web. The government budget alone only has capacity to remove about **40 hectares for rehabilitation** each year.

In order to solve this problem, this project will start the **consumption cycle of Leucaena** through the removal of **10 hectares of Leucaena** in Hengchun area on a demonstration area for **removal and the restoration of native species**. According to the current restoration plans for the Hengchun Peninsula, **25,000 native trees** will be planted over three years to restore part of the connection between the **shallow mountain corridor and the coastline corridor**. The results of this project will be used to inform an improved plan for future activity. Through the power of Rotary, a **digital market-based platform** will be developed to encourage **pre-ordering** of Leucaena products derived from removal of the plant.

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BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY (David Alexander)

Given the evidence that teaching children to first read in the language spoken at home leads to improved literacy outcomes, a Rotary club in Les Cayes, Haiti, decided to support an early grade literacy program for school age children in the first cycle (grade 1- 3) of primary school.

The program will work with the Haitian Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training (MENFP) to revise the textbooks and workbooks for those grade levels to be in Haitian Creole and to be more culturally relevant to the Haitian context.

The grade 1 -3 textbooks had previously been in French. Grade 1 – 3 teachers in 65 public schools will be trained during the summer months on the newly revised curriculum, and the early grade literacy approach.

The Rotary-supported program will provide five in-service training days throughout the schoolyear to support the trained teachers. In addition, the program will support 9 (1 per month of the school year) meetings with parents/caretakers of students in grade 1 - 3 and their teachers. Parents expect their children to read and speak French at school, not Creole, so they are skeptical of this new approach to teaching in Creole first.

The meetings will give the teachers an opportunity to (a) share the reasoning why Creole is taught first and share the students' progress; and (b) provide ideas of how parents/caretakers/older siblings can reinforce reading at home.

Rotary is partnering with a community-based organization that specializes in literacy – this organization will support the curriculum development as well as teacher trainings. The program will run for three years. Over that time, Rotary clubs expect to see primary students' literacy scores improve using the Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) tool.

Rotary members will use their influence in Les Cayes to (a) promote the idea of teaching children in Haitian Creole first, and (b) support an external evaluation, and if the results are positive – use the results from this program to advocate to Haitian Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training (MENFP) to expand this program beyond Les Cayes to other departments in Haiti.

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COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Andrew Brownlie)

A group of Rotarians from RC Armenia International partnered with International Rotarians from the RC Miramar-Pines and set out to create a project called “women Coffee Producers” to:

- recover and/or increase coffee production in the farms of the beneficiaries.
- motivate the generational union of the farmers so that the young person is more inclined to continue in the coffee business.
- continue the idea of the mother’s legacy to her sons.
- search for alternative income for small coffee farmers with alternative crops to sell and eat. Provide housing stability in the countryside and thus contribute to slowing the migration from the countryside.
- revitalize the coffee plantation by growing different crops such as maize and beans.

For the more than 1,530 women registered with the Federation of Coffee Growers, the project is designed to provide trainings, seedlings, fertilizer and other agricultural tools and technologies to the farmers. With an expectation for between 100 and 400 of those women to enhance their knowledge while receiving new tools and equipment.

After two years the beneficiaries are expected to increase their households’ incomes from coffee and other crops production, while improving their leadership at Federation of Coffee Growers and enhancing their social and economic wellbeing in their communities.

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