

Project title
LITERALLY LITTER



Organization

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Final Project Report

Start date of the project

July 2012

End date of the project

July 2013

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PROJECT GOAL: To improve the sanitation standards of Gilgil town while creating employment opportunities for the youths who will undertake eco-friendly methods of solid waste management and therefore impacting positively on the environment.

1.0 ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

Activity 1: Stakeholders meeting

We held a stakeholders meeting as a preliminary to implementation of our project. The following individuals were invited to the stakeholders meeting: The Divisional County Council head, District development officer, District public health officer, head teachers of the 4 schools whom we will work with, various youth group associations and non-governmental organisations.

Key outcomes

- The stakeholders endorsed the project as one that would assist in enhancing a cleaner town and was highly welcomed.
- The county council pledged to support and approve the installation of small communal bins within the town which would act as receptacles to waste. They also pledged to take care of emptying the bins and disposing the same to their refuse site as these bins would encourage generation of more waste.
- TRACE members also vowed to work hand in hand with the council in managing the waste. As they would attain new skills through training in recycling of waste, they pledged to add value to the waste by making useful products such as briquettes and compost and this would prevent the trash from going back to the environment.
- The school heads pledged to engage their pupils through their environmental clubs to create awareness of the impacts of indiscriminate littering and also invited TRACE KENYA members to give lectures and talks of sound waste management practices to them once they reopened school for their final term.

Activity 2: Youths training in solid waste management

Twenty youths were identified from various youth groups in Gilgil town and were taken through a thorough training in solid waste management for a week. Topics covered included the following: Waste separation, recycling and reuse, production and use of organic fertilizer, farm management and practices, recycling of non-biodegradable waste, briquette making and plastic waste management.

The youths were awarded certificates of participation on the last day and the event was graced by the head of divisional county council office who pledged to support all initiatives that were geared in enhancing cleanliness of the town. She also challenged the youths to go back and put into practice what they had gained from the training.

Key outcomes / Anticipated results

- The youths acquired new skills in waste reduction, reuse and recycling and were ready to go back to their various organizations to teach the rest of their fellow members on sound waste

management. The youth groups would hence also assist in creating awareness to the community and promote more environmentally conscious waste management practices.

- Value addition to waste would mean that ultimately the town's landfill capacity would be increased as more waste will be diverted from the mainstream landfill.
- Improved socio economic status of youths will be enhanced as they will be able to create employment opportunities for themselves by reusing and recycling waste and making products such as briquettes and compost.

Challenges

- Start up loans to start small enterprises that recycled waste would pose a challenge.

Action plans

- It was identified that there was importance of forming a network of potential youthful recyclers so that they could get access to start up loans to start small recycling enterprises from the youth enterprise fund.
- There was importance of organizing an exchange visit to recycling plants in Nairobi so that the youths would have practical learning points of how waste would be converted to cash from recycled products.

Activity 3: Setting up of communal bins

TRACE finally got permission from the County of Nakuru Department of Environment to set up communal bins within the town outside commercial enterprises.

Key outcomes

- Six communal bins were set up outside commercial enterprises including local banks premises such as Barclays bank, Kenya commercial bank, Equity bank, Cooperative bank and Vision Africa Sacco.
- TRACE identified using the bins to offer advertisement space for businesses and the funds raised is assisting the organisation in regularly emptying the bins while at the same time offering an income stream for for its members.
- The bins have attracted a lot of attention especially from the commercial enterprises who request to advertise on the bins. TRACE is in the process of erecting more bins within the town which will increase the organisation's income and also waste receptacles for the residents. The bins have been well received by the residents who use them to throw in garbage which would have otherwise been thrown out straight in the street indiscriminately.

Activity 4: World Environment day celebration and partnership with local schools

TRACE partnered with four local schools with the project and engaged them through their environmental clubs. In celebrating this year's World Environment Day two schools Gilgil high school and Gilgil primary schools participated.

Key outcomes

- Two schools participated in celebrating the World Environment's Day.
- The students from the schools participated jointly with other invited stakeholders and planted trees at the newly rehabilitated Gilgil Park.

- The students have shown interest in undertaking environment conservation activities and have come up with proposals for the upcoming environment congress competition.
- TRACE showcased their briquettes to the public and was able to secure a contract to supply a local children's home with the same. This was a big achievement for the organisation on that day.

LESSONS LEARNT

Our project '*Literally Litter*' which was sponsored by RSSAF has been very beneficial to TRACE. We have been able to attract other youth community based organisations, stakeholders and the general community in Gilgil in making the project a success. Some of the achievements stated above were attained after undergoing several challenges. But as a summary the lessons we have learnt include the following:

- i. It is very important to widely network with all the relevant government authorities, like minded community organisations and community members. This triggers ownership of the project by the people in all fronts.
- ii. Implementing a project is always useful if the target individuals are able to draw socio - economic benefits from it and this naturally enhances sustainability even as funding from the donor ends.

CONCLUSIONS

We are very grateful to RSSAF for the grant they have provided us. Though small, we have been able to get training in solid waste management which has facilitated us make briquettes out of waste paper. We have identified a new income stream through selling advertisement space on the communal bins which we have set up in the town. We have engaged more stakeholders in our project and we are nurturing these relationships for possible support in the future. We have trained school children in eco clubs in environment conservation and we are following up in assisting them come up with innovative ideas to present in next year's Kenya school science congress competition. Lastly but not least we are continuing in educating the residents of Gilgil in handling waste by avoiding indiscriminate dumping and contracting TRACE in collecting the waste on their behalf.

We are hopeful that our partnership with RSSAF will not end here and we will continue to network going forward. We hope to participate in their future funding opportunities so as to be able to scale up our project further and increase the beneficiaries of our project in our community.

