

## Tweed Kenya Mentoring Program

### Safewater 3 – Project Update (January)

The Tweed Kenya Mentoring Program is currently in the midst of delivering it's third Safewater Project in the Siaya region of western Kenya. Sebastian Garcia-Cuenca, an employee of Tweed Shire Council and TKMP volunteer, is travelling to Kenya at the end of March to commission the Safewater Project.

TKMP's third Safewater installation will again consist of a drinking water purification facility based around Skyjuice Foundation membrane filters. The site of this year project is Ochilo Primary School.

The following photographs and descriptions, recently sent back by our program coordinator Olita Ogonjo, provide a snapshot of Ochilo and the progress of essential community engagement and construction works being undertaken prior to installation of the filters. There are also a couple of shots from Safewater 2.



*"The site is within Ochilo primary school. The projects primary aim is to supply clean potable water to 500 pupils at primary school using Yawo ochilo as water source. The project will not only reduce incidences of disease, but also reduce the distance and time pupils spend going to fetch water during break and lunch by half. The head teacher Mr. Saul indicated that pupils spend up to 30 minute each time they go to the dam to fetch water for drinking. The pupils make three trips to the dam (break time, lunch and 4pm close of class) and would consume up to 3litres per student."*



*"I have two of my children who attend this school...when schools close I was not at all taking them to hospital and I did not spend any money on medicine...but immediately the school opened in January, they started again to fall sick...one after the other...and it now costed me 400 Shillings to get them medicine...something tells me its because of this dam water...I really want to see this project."* Mr. James Omondi, village elder and representative of Ting Wangi area.



*"Weekly community meetings have been going on to include the school parent-teachers, chiefs barazas and local leaders where we have been promoting safe water as a way of life. One of Opondo's (TKMP Safewater Officer) jobs is to attend these meeting and speak about the project. At the meetings we have been able to elicit local support for the project and also negotiate with the community on their role and contribution."*





*"We have procured all the bulk materials needed, and have 2 fundis and 5 semi skilled fundis on site. Opondo is directly supervising the works. The construction involved discussion and agreeing on the design with TKMP and community. This time we also consulted the Ministry of water through its implementing agency the lake basin authority." TKMP Safewater Officer David Opondo and foundation stones of the Ochilo Safewater kiosk.*



*"As of 25<sup>th</sup> Jan the water kiosk construction walls had reached the lintel stage with Opondo preparing to start casting the roof slab. Metal door and two windows have been procured. The water stand wall is complete and the pupils are filling the pit with hardcore ready for casting and finishing starting Monday. Community trenching of the pipeline is under way. This time the site and supply of material has had no problem as the site is accessible from the road and we have had no problem with rain."*



*"The community support for the project has been amazing, especially school and the local leaders ....Already arrangements for Seb's accommodation are underway. Ochilo school is very needy. The children came from very poor rural home. One of the concerns we noted was that of toilet. We thought a urinal would make a whole difference. Also the school love sport – its is the sporting centre for the schools in the division where up to 2000 students meet for athletics, netball, volleyball and soccer divisional final. Safe water project will go a long way to provide water during this years sports meeting."*



## Safewater 2 Update



Tinga Safewater is working well and highly valued by the local community. Having Opondo available for regular inspections and technical support ensures project reliability and sustainability.



Some really wonderful news is that Victor has made a complete recovery. In November 2008 Tom Alletson met Victor while completing the Tinga project. He had a severe infection in the flesh and bone of his forearm which had been present for four years since a compound fracture. It seemed probable that Victor's arm would have to be amputated to arrest the infection, but against the odds and with a lot of hospital treatment funded by TKMP supporters, Victor has a second chance at a healthy future.