



CCAA 1st QUARTER 2011 REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

The Kilimanjaro Initiative (KI) was born in 2005 as a result of youth-related violence, with the hope of providing alternatives to those who may find themselves in similar situations as those who perpetrated the violence. Their situation resulted from poverty and a possible belief that crime is the only means of improving or changing their economic reality. The mission of KI is to demonstrate to young people that there are other avenues available to them and their economic and social conditions should not be seen as a hindrance. With effort, perseverance and self-determination, everything and anything is possible.

KI works with different partners to achieve the overall goal of providing greener, safer and better communities for all. KI is working with York University, in Canada, and the University of Nairobi on a research project aimed at “*Strengthening the role of civil society in water sector governance towards climate change adaptation in African cities -- Durban, Maputo, Nairobi*”. The study sites for the this research project are both in Nairobi, Kenya: in Silanga village (in Kibera); and Huruma.

Nairobi’s existing inadequate water supply is exasperated by poor servicing and flooding, especially in disenfranchised communities. To compensate such shortfalls, environmental awareness and education can lead to more equitable governance processes that can improve access and facility to water and overcome the issues of flooding and sanitation.

Climate change affects important sectors such as agriculture, tourism, biodiversity, water, health, security and others. It compromises the economic and development growth of nations and communities and increases poverty. The community should recognize that urgent action is needed to address these issues for the benefit of present and future generations.

Climate change has the possibility of escalating conflict, causing food insecurity, increasing diseases social breakdown and creating widespread poverty; these are affecting our communities especially in low income areas. Firstly, agriculturalist or pastoralists who have their crops or herds affected by climate change and must move to urban areas in search of income are likely to end up in slums.

Moreover, the slums end up overcrowded and the existing problems of sanitation and poor water supply are exasperated. These issues need to be counter checked, before future generation are greatly affected and lose even more of the few resources it already has. In the face of climate change, people from low settlement areas are even more vulnerable and thus there is need to prepare this generation to address climate change and help prevent the damage it may have on communities.

During the first quarter of 2011, KI organized a number of activities to raise awareness on the need to manage the environment in a sustainable way and to take action in combating climate change. This was done by organizing a community forum in Kibera; and a clear-up activity around the sports field in Silanga village.

ACTIVITIES

Silanga Community Forum – 12 February 2011

The first KI activity for the study site of Silanga, Kibera was a community forum to discuss climate change.

The objectives were:

- To introduce the community to the research project.
- To enable University of Nairobi interns, who are assisting on the research project to familiarize them with area of study.
- To provide environmental and water management education and to give a governance overview

The activity was attended by representatives of youth groups, community based organizations (CBO), community leaders and opinion leaders. Among the groups attended included the following;

1. Silanga Settlement Executive Committee
2. Kibera Silanga Usafi group (KISUG)
3. Silanga Umoja na Maendeleo (SUM)
4. Brotherhood youth group
5. Dam view youth group
6. Silanga youth group (SYG)
7. Ghetto prodigal
8. Kibera uprising
9. Chilling point
10. Community leaders and opinion leaders.

Also in attendance were provincial administration representative Chief Ali Guyo, Nairobi University lecturer Mr. Romanus and three intern students who will be working on the project, and representative from the Nairobi Water and Sewerage Company community service.

The activity started at 1000hrs and lasted for two hours until 1200 hours. One of the Silanga village elders, Mr. Okere, welcomed all participants to the forum. Sadique Bilal of KI introduced the Nairobi University delegation, followed by brief information on the research project, objectives and the importance of having community participation on the research project. Steve Kasoa of KI took participants through an open forum discussion on challenges and effects of climate change, water governance and possible solutions that can be gained locally.



Silanga community based organization members, KI representatives, University of Nairobi 's Mr Romanus and interns, Nairobi water and sewerage company representatives, provincial administration representatives , village elders participates in the community forum on 12th Feb 2011 at the silanga grace church hall

Participants highlighted the following as challenges in regards to climate change:

- Air Pollution
- Lack of access to clean and safe water
- Flooding during rain seasons
- Improper disposal of garbage
- Burning of the garbage
- Lack of government intervention/poor governance (Community exclusion in policy making).
- Insufficient information interchanges among the community members.



Steve Kasoa of KI leads in an open forum during the community meeting

The community came up with the following potential solutions and action the community may take in water governance and climate change:

- Encouraging more groups and individuals to help in garbage collection like the youth groups in the area who have been acting as positive role models.
- Recycling.
- Proper disposal of garbage.
- Encourage green plantation at the illegal dump sites.
- Local administration to hold more community sensitization forums through chief Baraza's (community meetings)

Nairobi Water and Sewerage Company (NWSC) highlighted on the problems facing water supply in Nairobi

- Illegal water connection
- Poor road networks

- Vandalism
- Blockages
- Climate change (low water levels at the main sources), thus making them having to ration water to its consumers

The NWSC said they are dedicated to provision of quality water although the individual water connection is not allowed. They recommend a registered community group application. They also requested the community members to pay bills in time and avoid water disconnection. They argued members must preserve water and encourage water recycling. Members of the community raised concern on some areas lacking water and lack of meter inspection whereby the vendors end up paying based on estimations which is very expensive to the poor communities. Sometimes vendors are forced to sell water at a higher price than normal. NWSC promised to follow up on this concern.

The area chief encouraged the community to join hands and work as a team to reduce these challenges and promised to inform the community on the same issues during monthly community forums.

Overall, the activity was well attended and the leaders promised to be committed in achieving the objectives of the project. This is fundamental for the development of any project in Kibera.

Based on the meeting deliberations, the community understands that we have changes in our weather patterns although they cannot clearly link this to climate change. Therefore more specific training and forums on climate change variables and adaptations need to be organized to sensitize the community on the most pressing challenges of climate change.

Garbage Collection, Silanga, Kibera – 15 & 16 February 2011

As urban environmental problems worsen in developing countries, non-conventional approaches to urban pressure points like waste management will have to be adopted. The recycling of solid and organic waste is one approach which has positive ramifications in creating informal employment and offering an environmentally sound solution to waste management problems. While there is considerable documentation on innovative community-level waste management schemes in Asian and Latin American cities, little research has been done on the importance of, and potential for, waste re-use in African cities. As a city with critical waste management problems and a burgeoning informal sector, Nairobi possesses both the need and potential for an innovative approach to its waste problems.

One alternative waste management technique is the urban poor's re-use of refuse. Waste recycling is often undertaken as a survival strategy when the urban poor are unable to obtain formal employment, and when non-waste resources are scarce or unaffordable. Waste re-use also plays a role in improving the urban physical environment. By reducing the total amount of solid waste headed for the landfill (or left lying to rot in the streets), recycling and composting are land-saving and pollution-reducing strategies. Waste re-use also plays a valuable resource conserving role: by recycling materials, further exploitation of scarce natural resources is minimized, thus containing the spreading ecological footprint of the city. Despite these environmentally and socially beneficial aspects of waste recycling, it is not without its negative impacts, which include exploitation by waste buyers and poor health and living conditions for the urban poor who deal in waste picking

Several community groups in Nairobi's low-income areas (Kibera) are working with the environment as a main focus of their activities. They use garbage-collection and recycling as forms of income generation.

KI organized a two day community clean up with some of these groups, as part of the environmental education and orientation program, with emphasis on sustainable environmental. We mobilized 200 hundred youths from various community organizations for two days to do clean up around the sports field upgraded by KI, Ngong River and Nairobi dam.

We donated some garbage collection equipment including gloves, refuse bags, dust masks to three youth groups, to help them carry out their activities effectively.



KI staff donating garbage collection equipments to youth groups in Silanga village

The following youths groups from Silanga village, Kibera, participated in the two days clean up exercise:

- Silanga youth group
- Brotherhood youth group
- Ghetto prodigals self help group
- Chilling point youth group
- Morefire football club
- Undugu youths football club
- Undugu Beckman girls football team



SadiqueBilal of KI Talking to community groups giving tips on environmental upgrading before a community clean up exercise, youth groups and other community based organization in joint clean up exercise in February 2011

The clean up was a big success as the youths demonstrated how important it is for the community to join hands and address environmental challenges. They unblocked drainage, cleaned-up around the sports field, Ngong River and part of the choked Nairobi dam



Picture of garbage near Nairobi dam caused by floods from Ngong river.

Challenges

- We lacked clean up tools as youth turned up in higher numbers than we expected. Therefore they were forced to share the few tools we had.
- Transporting non recyclable garbage contents to the dumping site was a problem as the City Council of Nairobi does not offer services to informal settlements. We had to rely on private companies which is expensive.

OTHER KI ENVIRONMENT-BASED ACTIVITIES IN FEBRUARY 2011 .

KI in conjunction with globalbike kicked off a three weeks campaign on 18th February 2011 to bring to light the transformative power of bikes and the important role sports can play in promoting sustainable development, health, environmental upgrading and consequently safer communities.

The campaign began with a tree planting event in two schools of Nairobi, in the Banana area, where more than 560 seedlings were planted jointly by Nairobi youth, UNEP representatives, KI officials, globalbike members, China Kenya Tours and Travel Company, with students from Thimbigua Primary School and Karuri primary school.

This was followed by a giveaway of 78 bicycles to Kenyan youths and youth mentors at the Nairobi Intercontinental hotel. 13 KI and globalbike representatives then cycled 400kms from Nairobi, Kenya, to Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, ending with an ascent to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro.

Tree Planting in Nairobi and Marangu (19 and 26 February)

KI in partnership with the United Nations Environment Program planted 600 trees in Karuri and Nthimbigua primary schools in Nairobi Kenya and over 40 trees Sembeti Primary School in Marangu Tanzania at the foot of Mt Kilimanjaro.



Youths from various youths groups in Nairobi, pupil from primary schools UNEP and KI officials planting trees at Thimbigua and Karuri primary schools.



Sadique, Steve, Tim of KI, CEO UNFCU Mike Connery and CEO Global bike Curt Mcphail Plant trees at Marangu primary School at the foot of Mt Kilimanjaro on 27th Feb 2011

Bike Ride from Nairobi to Kilimanjaro – 21 to 26 February

On 21 February 2011, Edward Norton, UN Goodwill Ambassador and actor flagged off 13 cyclists from the UNEP in Nairobi, Kenya. The riders were embarking on a transformative journey to Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania that highlighted the role of youth in sustainable development. Mr. Norton presented two locally sourced bicycles to members of local community groups

In addition to handing bikes out along the way, KI and globalbike organized substantive activities and workshops throughout the trip in partnership with private and public partners, at the international and local level.



KI officials and globalbike team with young girls of box girls at a bike donation ceremony. All cyclist and youth leaders from both sides Kenya and Tanzania at Namanga border after the bike hand over. Cyclists rest and take refreshment in between Maasai Village and Arusha.



Cyclist struggling with motorists in Tanzania where motorists don't care about other road users, and on the Tanzanian side giving away bikes to youth groups.



Clean up exercise in Arusha by cyclists and community members KI and global bike, Arusha cycling club, pupils and teachers of Arusha International school, and City council of Arusha

Mount Kilimanjaro Climb – 28 February to 4 March

In February, Kilimanjaro Initiative organized a climb including youth, sport and representatives of the private and public sectors. The climb showcased how different sectors of the community can come together and demonstrate action towards the protection of the environment, whilst sending out a constructive and peaceful message to all communities.

The climb started on the 28 February 2011 and lasted five days. This entailed three days to make it to the summit and 2 days coming down. There were a total of 35 climbers accompanied by 16 guides, 2 cooks and up to 55 porters.



Different days on the climb with different set of weather conditions