

# Assessment of Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Status at Karen C Primary School, Report by Rotary Club of Karen 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017

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## In Attendance

1. Headmaster, Francis M Warui
2. PE Dr. Eva Nderu
3. PP Richard Thande
4. AG Protus Lumiti
5. Rtn Madeline Muga

## Acknowledgement:

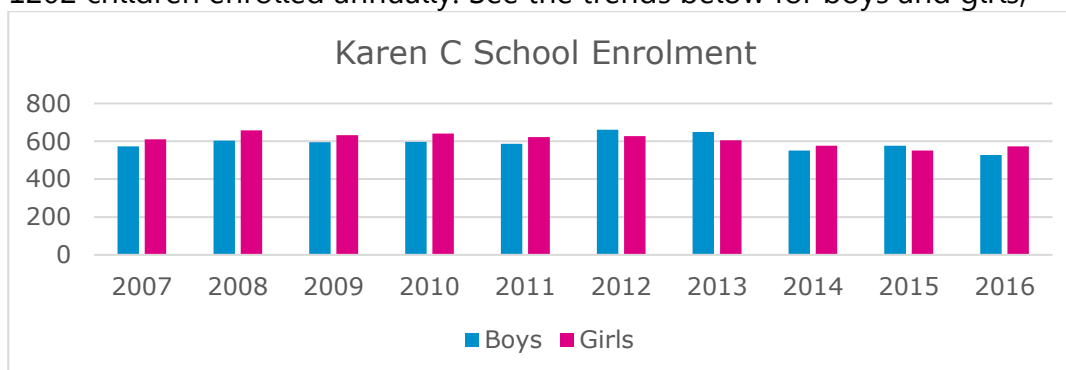
The Rotary Club of Karen team would like to thank Karen C Primary School headmaster Mr Francis Warui for the support during this exercise.

## Introduction

This is an initial assessment of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) needs at Karen C Primary School. In terms of methodology, the team held a semi-structured in-depth interview with the headmaster then carried out inspection visits to observe the status and collect the information.

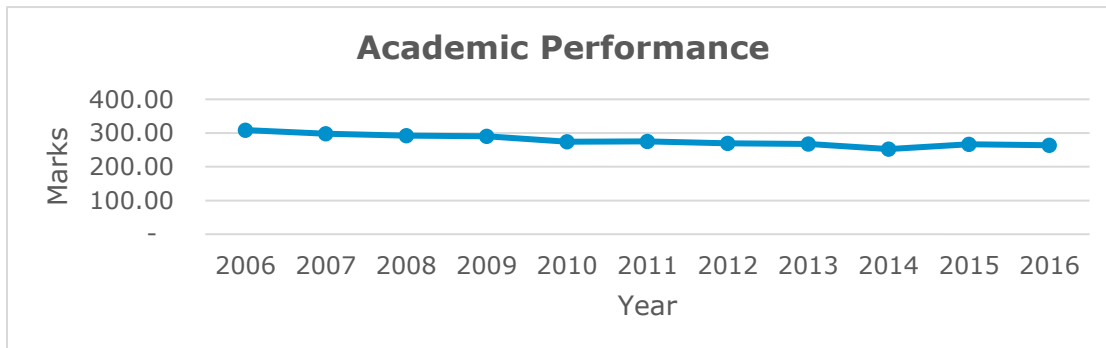
## Background of the School

- The school was started in 1958.
- Total population as at 2017 is 1140 boys and girls; The population of girls is slightly more @51% and boys 49%;
- The school has 28 teachers giving it a teacher to pupil ratio of 1;40;
- School enrolment has remained high for the past 10 years with an average of 1202 children enrolled annually. See the trends below for boys and girls;



- Pupils are mainly drawn from surrounding informal settlements of Kuwinda and as far as Ongata Rongai and Bulbul in Ngong and Children's Homes such as Nyumbani Children's Home. For the low income families it is a school of choice;

- The school has 2 committees that are operational; a Parent Teacher Association (PTA) with 22 members and a School Board of Management with 14 members;
- Academic performance in Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) exams is declining over the years and has remained below 300 marks. See below the average performance in the chart below;



- The headmaster says the school was able to independently from parents' contributions maintain its facilities until 2003; with the introduction of free primary school, middle income parents withdraw their children from the school while children from informal settlements flocked into the school.
- The vision of the Headmaster is to return Karen C to its former glory and for this reason he asks for support to develop a strategic plan for the school;

## **WASH Situation at Karen C Primary School**

### **Water**

- The school relies on piped water from the County Council of Nairobi. Water only comes on Sundays and the pressure is too low not a single drop gets into the school storage tanks;
- Situated in the school is a community borehole that was drilled in 2005:
  - o The pump was assessed (2 weeks ago by Davis and Shirtliff) and is working well;
  - o The borehole is shallow (200ft) and is therefore dry; this has been the situation for the past 3 years;
  - o Water from the borehole is pumped out to the main public water distribution line; water is then piped back to school and the surrounding households including Kuwinda village. Everyone has a meter;
  - o A steel water storage tower stands above the borehole; several water storage tanks dot the school compound;
- Rainwater is harvested only from the computer lab roof where guttering has just been completed;
- The school is able to buy only 1 water bowser of 10,000 litres per week. This water is used strictly for drinking and cooking. The school has a feeding program for those children who pay for lunch;
- The school lacks adequate access to safe water for drinking, handwashing, cooking and cleaning.

## **Sanitation**

- In use are 17 latrine cubicles for girls; 9 latrine cubicles for boys and 3 urinals. All are pit latrines; There are separate latrines for boys, girls and for teachers;
- The Constituency Development Fund (CDF) is constructing 6 cubicles, flash type toilets, now about 80% complete; a second set of 24 cubicle flash type toilets have stalled. This project was initiated by former Nairobi City Council-Local Authorities Service Delivery Action Plan LASDAP; About 60% complete;
- The toilets have no water; the two sets of toilets under construction by CDF and LASDAP are flash toilets and would need a septic tank and water connection;
- As expected the toilets are in a terrible condition- they are dirty and have a foul smell;
- We noted behind one of the classes near the playing field open defecation;

## **Hygiene**

- There is no running water in the school and children do not have hand washing facilities; the one that exists near the computer lab has no water and the taps are broken; in the school staffroom is a handwashing sink with a bucket. The tap is dry;
- Menstrual hygiene management has improved with the government now delivering sanitary pads for girls on a regular basis including emergency pads;
- The school has a kitchen where food is cooked for those that can pay for lunch. There is no running water and the kitchen relies on water that is bought weekly for this purpose only.

## **The Environment**

- Several rubbish pits were noted around the school compound. A lot of litter was also observed everywhere with rubbish overflowing from the pits; rubbish was also not burnt;

## **Other needs: Strategic Planning**

The headmaster expressed the need for support to develop a strategic plan that would drive partnerships that would restore the school to its former glory. A *Friends of Karen C* type of association could be set up that would bring together interested persons from its glorious past (former students, teachers, neighbours etc.) with the objective to drive this ambition. The goal being that every child has a right to quality education regardless of status.

## **Pictures**

See pictures below



Assessment Team; in the background the water storage tower



The only handwashing point in the school



Rainwater roof harvesting- the computer lab



4 cubicle toilet construction by CDF



Stalled 24 cubicle flash type toilet construction project by LASDAP



Girls' latrines



In the foreground the old latrines in the background the new CDF 4 cubicle construction for lower primary



Rubbish pit with overflowing garbage



Water Storage Tanks