

CRSP,K helps farmers raise goats for meat. Helping farmers diversify their food source is important in securing food security.



Programme Development Partners

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
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The Aga Khan Foundation (AKF)

is a private, non-denominational, development agency established by His Highness the Aga Khan in Switzerland in 1967. The Foundation seeks sustainable solutions to long-term poverty through an integrated, community based participatory approach that reinforces civil society and respects local culture. In Kenya, AKF works in four thematic sectors: education, civil society, health, and rural development.

Front Photo: Farmers cassava bundling in Matsambo.

accomplish these improvements, is centered upon the Whole School Approach (WSA), a development model which believes quality education depends upon community engagement and ownership.

Developing Energy Enterprises Project (DEEP)

DEEP is an emerging CRSP,K sector targeting individuals and groups who have the potential to start up an energy project or improve an existing one. To support individuals and business groups, CRSP,K provides training on record keeping, financial management, creating business plans, and fosters forward and backward linkages with service providers.

Community Knowledge and Resource Centres

CRSP,K has set up four noticeboards or Community Resource Centres to disseminate information among the community. To further aggregate this information, CRSP,K is currently implementing a Community Knowledge Centre in Mariakani. The centre will have 15 computers to be used by farmers to access market prices and devolved funding, by youth for computer skills training and by community members to access CRSP,K documentation.

Crop Production

CRSP,K encourages the diversification

of drought tolerant crops. These are promoted at the household and group level. Through field farm schools, farmers are trained on how to prepare the land, plant the crops, carry out weeding, pest and diseases control and harvesting and storage. CRSP,K also assists in vegetable production through kitchen gardens located at the household level and at small farm reservoir water sites. The main aim is to produce food for household consumption with surplus vegetables sold in markets.

Outcomes and Achievements

- Village organisation and influence: One-third of households in 192 villages belong to Village Development Organisations and are employing interventions introduced by CRSP,K.
- Soil and water conservation: Three-quarters of households are now using soil and water conservation methods.
- Livestock production: Goat improvement has been successfully adopted by more than 40 per cent of respondents, raising the income for two-thirds of them.
- Water and sanitation: Increased access to safe water during the dry season through pipeline extension.
- Living standards: More than half of the respondent households say that their overall living standard has improved.

The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) is a group of private development agencies working to empower communities and individuals, often in disadvantaged circumstances, to improve living conditions and opportunities, especially in Africa and Asia. Its agencies work in over 30 countries for the common good of all citizens, regardless of their gender, origin or religion. Its underlying impulse is the ethic of compassion for the vulnerable in society.

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RURAL DEVELOPMENT



Coastal Rural Support Programme, Kenya (CRSP,K)

The Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) is committed to reducing rural poverty, particularly in resource-poor, degraded, or remote environments. It concentrates on a small number of programmes of significant scale. Programmes typically link elements such as natural resource management, productive infrastructure development, increased agricultural productivity and human skills development with a central concern for community-level participation and decision-making. The ultimate goal is to enable community members to make informed choices from a range of appropriate options for sustainable and equitable development.

Rationale

Many of the districts within the Coast Province of Kenya are amongst the poorest in the country. In three of the districts, Kinango, Kilifi, and Kaloleni, 70% to 80% of residents live below the poverty line. Within these rural districts poverty is linked to marginalisation from government services, which leaves families without

clean drinking water, weak village infrastructure and limited access to basic education and health care.

This marginalisation is compounded by geographical and climatic characteristics that have left residents coping with drought, and relying upon degraded natural resources for survival. This has created living conditions that are particularly detrimental as the majority of residents are small scale farmers who depend on agriculture as their sole source of food and income.

In 1997, as a response to the challenges that the residents of Coast Province faced, the Coastal Rural Support Programme, Kenya (CRSP,K) was established to complement an already existing project of the Aga Khan Health Service; the Mombasa Primary Health Care Programme (MPHC). To support MPHC, CRSP,K implemented interventions that, by stimulating economic and social development, contributed to sustainable and equitable improvements in the

livelihoods of poor households in Coast Province.

As a result of the support that CRSP,K offers, it is referred to by those with which it works as “sombeza”. Translated from Mijikenda language, it means to “push up or giving a helping hand to someone who is already doing something to improve their situation”. This is because communities see CRSP,K as providing a hand up, not a hand out, in the process of improving their livelihoods.

History

In 1997, CRSP,K began its work in the drought-prone areas of Kwale district of Coast Province. Initially, its operations covered four administrative locations within Kwale, where its predecessor, the Mombasa Primary Health Care programme had been operating.

In its second phase, beginning in June 2002, CRSP,K expanded its geographical coverage into Kilifi district.



CRSP,K helps farmers develop better farming techniques. Left: A facilitator teaches farmers about cassava bundling.



Objectives

CRSP,K works to empower rural communities and institutions to manage community development through approaches that offer opportunities for innovation, knowledge generation and dissemination of best practices, contributing to the overall aim of improving the livelihoods of poor households within Kinango, Kilifi, and Kaloleni districts of Coast Province.

CRSP,K's overall objective is to develop and demonstrate an effective approach to community based rural development, which is relevant in a variety of contexts, and which can be replicated widely in the Coastal region of Kenya and East Africa. CRSP,K works towards its overall objective and organisational purpose through the following five sub-objectives:

- To strengthen community level organisations/institutions to be effectively involved in and engaged in local/central government and non-public organisations in service delivery, democratisation and governance;
- To improve livelihoods through diversification of income sources and promotion of appropriate agricultural and natural resource management practices;
- To increase water availability and reliability for productive use, improved health status and livelihoods;
- To increase access to quality basic education for marginalised children;

- To enhance knowledge generation, management and dissemination resulting in wide adoption/replication of CRSP poverty alleviation approaches by other organisations.

Strategies

Social Organising

CRSP,K's programming is deeply rooted in the idea that the community is the central unit from which equitable and sustainable development takes place. As a result, all of CRSP,K's work in each of its four sectors, begins with the establishment of relationships and partnerships at the community level, with community based organisations called Village Development Organisations (VDOs). VDOs provide community members with a forum and tools to discuss, chart, and implement a plan for the future of their village. Although most villages have their own existing structures for making decisions, they are often not recognised by outsiders as formal organisations with the ability to interact with government. This lack of voice, coupled with the structure of government decision making, which gives priority to interests at the divisional level and not community level, means that individual villages are often unable to voice their concerns about their own development.

As part of its Social Organising sector, CRSP,K provides VDOs with training on governance, organisational development, participatory monitoring and evaluation, and record keeping. Prepared with these skills, VDOs are then assisted to register as formal organisations with the government. Since 1997, CRSP,K has facilitated the

establishment of 192 VDOs.

CRSP,K also links together VDOs from the same districts, to form Supra Organisations, which collaborate and interact with government officials beyond the divisional level. These Supra Organisations are able to demonstrate competency in management, group leadership and project organisation.

A key result of the Social Organising process is the institutionalisation of a community based planning process in which, villages prepare community development plans (CDPs) which they are then able to forward to government departments or other organisations for planning and funding support.

Enterprise

The enterprise activities of CRSP,K has four main developments: bee keeping; poultry; goat rearing; and vocational training. Each component engages poor households in small-scale enterprises that will generate income and therefore improve livelihoods. The process begins with communities identifying through their Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRA) what resources they feel they possess, the start up investment that would be required for the small enterprise and the hours of labour required to run the enterprise. They then determine which, if any, enterprise they would want to engage with.

Bee Keeping

In some of the villages in CRSP,K's programme area, there is good potential for beekeeping. CRSP,K supports bee keeping enterprises by training para-professionals

who train community members on bee keeping and honey production, and assist with the management and harvesting of hives. CRSP,K also carries out market assessments and has brokered contracts that have guaranteed villages a competitive market for their honey for a number of years.

Poultry and Goat Meat

CRSP,K promotes the rearing of indigenous free-range poultry as an income generating activity. As a result, 60 VDOs have identified their communities as good candidates for poultry enterprises.

To ensure the success of these enterprises, CRSP,K trains Community Animal First Aiders (CAFAs) to support communities in the care of their poultry. CAFAs teach community members how to control diseases common to poultry, how to build pens and how to create an environment that promotes reproduction.

CAFAs also work with communities who have identified goat rearing as a profitable enterprise. They encourage the use of Galla goats, a breed that is bigger and survives better in the dry climate of the districts.

Vocational Training

To diversify enterprise activities and increase employment opportunities, CRSP, K supports vocational training for youth. Youth have been trained in areas such as shoe making, automobile mechanics, barber, carpentry, dress making, electronics, food production, hair dressing, mobile phone repair, patient care and first aid, screen printing and tailoring. CRSP,K encourages youth who

have received training to start up their own enterprises and links them with micro-finance institutions and mentors for support.

Sombeza Water and Sanitation Improvement Project (SWASIP)

The Sombeza Water and Sanitation Improvement Project (SWASIP) is a three-year project implemented under CRSP,K.

The goal of SWASIP is to improve the health status and living conditions of rural populations, especially women, children and the poor in the arid and semi-arid areas of Kinango, Kaloleni and Kilifi Districts in Coast Province, Kenya.

SWASIP expands upon CRSP (K)'s interventions in the water sector by focusing on water for domestic and productive use as well as the introduction of a sanitation component, both in terms of infrastructure for improved sanitation and health and hygiene promotion. The environmental health component of SWASIP was introduced in collaboration with the Community Health Department (CHD), a project of the Aga Khan Health Services which builds the capacity of health systems in Kenya.

SWASIP's goals include designing, installing and ensuring appropriate use of sustainable infrastructure for domestic water use and sanitation, including Small Farm Reservoirs (SFRs), rock catchment, roof water harvesting tanks, and construction of Ventilated Improved Pit Latrines (VIP). SWASIP also enhances community capacity to manage and utilise

water resources and assists with the mobilisation, training and enabling of local organisations in 83 villages to administer, operate and maintain water supply and sanitation infrastructure.

Through the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) initiative, SWASIP is encouraging positive changes in hygiene behaviour in communities and schools. CLTS is an approach that involves facilitating communities to identify and change unhealthy sanitation and hygiene behaviours, specifically open defecation, through "triggering" feelings of shame and disgust. This leads to hygiene action plans which resolve to stop open defecation and construct and use latrines from locally available materials.

Early Childhood Development

In 2007, CRSP,K identified that in order to improve peoples' overall livelihoods, in a sustainable and continuous manner, early childhood education and development could not be left out of its programming. As a result, it has partnered with another Aga Khan Foundation project, Educational for Marginalised Children in Kenya (EMACK), which was already working in the same districts.

Together with EMACK, CRSP,K supports early childhood development (ECD) projects which focus on improving the infrastructure, quality of curriculum, teaching methodologies, learning environments, access to nutrition and basic health care, as well as community's management of pre-primary schools.

The support and guidance that CRSP,K and EMACK offer local pre-schools to



Sanitation is an important component in empowering communities. Left: Community mapping in Gandini during CRSP,K's sanitation campaigns.