

COVID-19 Response for WASH in Kenya

Sanivation Overview

Sanivation is a social enterprise which delivers clean, safe and efficient sanitation services to urbanizing communities in East Africa. Our mission is to improve the dignity, health and environments of these cities. We've been operating in Kenya since 2014, partnering with local governments to support the research, design, implementation, and monitoring of safely managed sanitation.

Risk Areas: WASH and COVID-19 in Low-Income African Cities

- Shared water and sanitation points, such as public toilets and water taps, have high potential to cause infection across communities.
- Most residents of informal settlements share toilets. In Naivasha, 75% of households share a toilet and up to 50 people share a single toilet. Quarantine is impossible under these circumstances.
- Communities lack training and basic supplies for proper hygiene.
- Essential service workers lack health and safety training. They don't know how to keep their operations sanitary for customers.

Proposal to Limit the Spread of COVID-19 in Naivasha

OVERVIEW

- Infrastructure: build and service mobile or permanent sanitation blocks (toilets, handwashing, mask disposal) in hotspot areas to reduce contamination
- Service shared sanitation and water points and handwashing stations: ensure safe operations, provide necessary supplies like disinfectant and soap, monitoring
- Training: community behavior change, education for essential service workers

SPECIFIC INTERVENTIONS

Install in-house toilets for high-risk areas. Sanivation will build and service individual toilets in the homes of high-risk residents (elderly people and people with respiratory illnesses) and people suspected to have COVID-19 both in and out of government run quarantine areas.

Make toilet-sharing safer. We'll train families on sanitary practices for toilet-sharing and give them soap and disinfectant. Dedicated personnel will visit plots weekly to reinforce proper behaviors.

Build toilets for hospitals. Hospitals need to ensure that COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients have divided sanitation facilities, but they can't afford the infrastructure. We can build and service new toilets so that patients are kept separate.

Establish sanitation blocks in public areas. Crowded public toilets are disease transmission hotspots. Sanitation will build additional toilets with handwashing stations and hire personnel to clean toilets after every use in areas such as bus terminals and markets.

Make water kiosks sanitary. Naivasha's residents get all their water from water shops with taps. We can prevent kiosks from becoming hotspots. We'll train staff on running a sanitary operation, provide soap and disinfectant, and monitor the kiosks.

Increase behavior change. Residents don't understand government directives. They may know they are supposed to take social distancing measures, but without understanding why, how, or what the impact is, behavior change is unlikely to take place. Sanitation will train essential workers and local residents on social distancing, proper use of PPE, and more.

Support capacity for local governments. Working with Public Health Office, Ministry of Water and Sanitation, and other government partners, we will assist in mapping vulnerable areas, collecting data, and creating WASH response plans. We will also help with monitoring these and other interventions and evaluate largest effects from different activities.

We will disseminate information, best practices, and lessons learned from our work on COVID-19 prevention and response to sanitation implementers throughout Africa. We have already connected with 40+ water and sanitation utilities in Kenya who said they are eager to learn from us.

Qualifications

Sanitation is uniquely positioned to address the WASH risk areas described above. Seven years of experience in this sector in Kenya have given us the expertise needed to create effective solutions for local contexts.

We have:

- Strong relationships with other sanitation actors and government entities
- Project leadership experience on all aspects of the project phase: research, design, implementation and monitoring
- A strong understanding of the protocols and policies needed to work with hazardous materials
- Experience conducting health and safety trainings. We've trained over 150 local staff. We have the skills to train local implementers anywhere on health and safety, behavior change mechanisms, and data collection.
- Practice in rigorous data collection and evaluation to ensure proper M&E and reporting
- Emergency response experience

Key Skills: Design, Operations, M&E

- Needs assessments
- Data collection
- Behavior change
- Operations and logistics management
- Project management
- Handling of hazardous waste
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Health and safety training
- Health and safety protocol development
- Community and stakeholder management

Projects to Date

Sanitation's approach addresses the entire sanitation chain, from containment to emptying, transporting, treatment and reuse. We have implemented service contracts with a range of international and local entities.

Project	Funder	Relevant Skills	Dates
Evaluating the Feasibility and Acceptability of Container-Based Sanitation Systems in Healthcare Settings	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	User evaluation, design, implementation, M&E	2019-2020
Waste-to-Energy. Designing and implementing 500 container-based toilets with waste collection, treatment and conversion to briquettes	UNHCR Kakuma, Kenya	Training 30 local refugee staff, H&S protocols	2017-2019
Fecal Sludge reuse options for Kampala	GIZ, KCCA	Multi stakeholder collaboration, data collection & evaluation	2018
Implementation of System wide process for collection, treatment and reprocessing of fecal waste	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Market assessment, design, impact evaluation	2017-2018
Transform: Evaluating the costs and benefits to soap provision at community scale in combination with Container-Based Toilets	Unilever	Market evaluation, behavior change, implementation, M&E	2016-2017
A micro-effectiveness study evaluating the efficacy of solar waste treatment and a scaled-up treatment plan for fecal waste.	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Waste characterization, inactivation analysis, sample collection waste characterization	2015-2016
Human-Centered Design for a New Approach to Sanitation in Kakuma Refugee Camp	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Human-centered design, qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis	2013-2014