

Photo story: Water and sanitation improvements at Atono school in Kenya

Mr Daniel Odhiambo is headmaster of the Atono School in Nyanza – one of only four schools in Kenya with urinals for girls. Netwas Kenya and IRC visited his school recently as part of a UNICEF Kenya study of 43 schools in four districts: Coast (Mombasa); Nyanza (Rachuonyo & Kisumu); Rift Valley (Kajiado); and North Eastern (Garissa). The aim of the study was to find out if the national Kenyan Ministry of Health standard ratio of 1 latrine to 25 girls and 1 toilet to 30 boys can be downgraded if the pupils also have access to urinals, and if so, what would be the new ratio.

This was a follow-up of 2004-2005 research on the enhancement of sanitation and hygiene for Kenya's school children, carried out by IRC together with seven partner organisations in Kenya. That study showed that school toilet standards were not being met.



The Atono School: Some pupils live by the gate, others come from far

Prize for school performance

Atono School was rated among the best schools for maintaining their facilities. The school won a trophy for its sterling performance, which was presented to headmaster Mr. Daniel Odhiambo.

Eight teachers for 441 pupils

This is a public mixed primary school, in Nyanza province, Rachuonyo South District, Kasipul Division, Koderia Location, Kadel Kamidigo Sub Location. The school roll is currently 441 children (210 girls, 231 boys), up from 387 in 2007. The extra students have come as a result of facilities that have been installed since 2008. The school provides education for children from Early Childhood Education to class eight in the Kenyan education system. With the inception of Free Primary Education (FPE) in 2003 many Kenyan schools have admitted over-aged pupils and Atono is no exception. There are eight teachers paid by the government and three supported by the community, a total of 11 teachers responsible for these young Kenyans – an average of 40 children per teacher.



One of the toilet facilities

Highlights

- Photo story: Water and sanitation improvements at Atono school in Kenya
- Understanding the service levels that people choose, p. 3
- Can an environment project address school water and sanitation crisis in Cali, Colombia?, p.4
- Helping women to adapt to climate change in Moroccan villages, p. 5

News from WSSCC, p. 6-7

- Madagascar: Scouts prove to be influential hygiene promoters
- Nigeria: Sensitising local and regional governments about sanitation and hygiene
- News from the WSSCC Secretariat

News from IRC, p. 8-11

- A project that changed my life
- Opinion: don't let disputes over data get in the way of sanitation and safe water for billions
- SWAp in the WASH sub-sector: Ugandan experience "scares" new entrants
- How can we finance the costs of decentralised WASH Services?
- Northern Uganda: District committees take ownership of learning to improve sanitation performance
- Your feedback helps improve Source
- Towards strategic WASH sector development planning in Southern Sudan



Inside of the urinal for girls

Sanitation and hygiene facilities at the school include:

- Two VIP toilets and a bathroom for teachers.
- Three toilets and a urinal for girls, and three toilets and a urinal for boys.
- Three handwashing vessels, one for each group, with soap.
- Three drinking vessels, one for each group.
- Soap for washing/cleaning the facilities.

Toilet blocks have elegant drawings and text illustrating how to use the facilities and how to wash your hands after visiting them. Cleaning the facilities with water and soap is a daily routine irrespective of sex. The teacher on duty carries out a routine check of the cleaning to ensure that cleanliness is maintained. This is called by Monitoring by Walking around (MBWA). Wednesday is health day where pupils and



Teachers' latrine

teachers gather to learn from one another through poems, songs and drama/demonstration or debate on hygiene-related themes. Some of the learning activities involve debate.

Girls' urinals attract visitors

The facilities, especially girls' urinal, have attracted visitors from within Kenya and from Tanzania, Saudi Arabia, the USA and other countries. This has been a blessing for the school. The children have instilled a sense of responsibility and self discipline through training, use and maintenance of the facilities

Implementation was not easy. The community had to be persuaded to support this by contributing some money. This delayed the sanitation and hygiene programme, but after several training sessions, a few stakeholders came to understand the benefits and the programme started almost a year late. The school management committee now ensures that some money from the Free Primary Education Fund is set aside to repair any breakages and buy soap. The community contribution covers the cost of paying labourers involved in repairs.

Contact: Daniël Odhiambo, e-mail: antonoschool@yahoo.com

Pictures: Ingeborg Krukkert, IRC



Outside of the urinal for girls

Atono School has a voluntary health club whose members meet regularly to practice poems, songs and drama. They are guided by two trained patrons, supported by the club chairperson, secretary and treasurer.

Toilet blocks have elegant drawings and text illustrating how to use the facilities and how to wash hands after visiting them.



Handwashing looks simple but requires several steps; wetting hands, applying and lathering soap, cleaning fingers and finger nails, cleaning between the fingers, rinsing and air-drying. Clean hands should not be dried with a cloth; which may spread germs to the hands. Regular demonstrations by teachers helps to instil good handwashing practices in pupils.

