

General Needs Assessment Of
Odede Village
Ochienga Sub location
East Uyoma Location
Madiany Division
Rarida District
Nyanza Province
Kenya

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Background Information:

Uyoma is a Peninsula on the Lake Victoria. It lies directly opposite Kisumu town across the same Lake. It is inhabited by the Luo, one of the more than 42 ethnic tribes of Kenya.

Odede Village is one of the 11 villages within Ochienga sub location. It has a total population of 10,000 and covers an area of about 52 square Kilometres.

Climatic Conditions:

Receives an average of 1100 mm per year. This rain is in two seasons. The long rains fall in the months of March to June with the peak in April. Short rains come in the months of September and October. The long dry seasons set in November through to February.

It's a convectional rainfall being under the direct influence of the lake. The rains however are accompanied by strong winds, thunder and lightning and usually occur in the afternoon hours even though at times it comes in the early hours of the evening. Occasionally accompanied by hailstones, the rains are heavy down pour and fall for a short time lasting about 10-15 minutes.

The rain distribution is however very erratic, predicting the rains have become rather difficult. Either it comes early and ends early or comes late and ends sooner too. When this happens, a long period of dryness happens. The farmers thus are left with very poor harvest.

Economic Activities:

1. Peasant farming:

Peasant farming is practiced in this village. The farmers grow maize, peas, beans millet and a bit cassava; these are basically for family consumption. The harvests are usually very poor due low soil fertility and poor farming methods. Because the short rains are too short and little, the farmers rely on the long rains for their agricultural productions so therefore the community has only one crop every year.

2. Fishing:

Very small scale fishing happens in the area. The fisher men use hooks and lines, fishing nets and fish traps. The fish caught are for the family consumption and the little surplus is sold out to buy other basic needs of the family.

3. Trade:

The local community engage in the local trade with the main trading items being basically food items, farm implements and agricultural products.

The Life Line Systems

- The main road which is about an average of 3 km away from the village is a very good road recently completed. The access roads that criss cross the village are used by bicycles mainly and not by vehicles.
- Electricity is not yet stepped down for use by the population but is still running on high voltage along the main road. There are plans by the government under the rural electrification to bring electricity to the villagers especially those who are able to pay for the bill.
- Clean Water: The main source of water for the village is the lake and the pipe which is along the main road. The piped water remains with dry taps. The population is using generally unsafe water both for domestic use as well as the use for their animals.

The techniques used in the Needs Assessment:

The report is a product of a combination various approaches:

1. **Existing data approach:** relevant data was especially on school enrolment was got from the local education offices in the district. Chief's office, National Poverty Reduction strategy report etc
2. **Focus Group Interview:** I selected group of people to interview; the group comprised community opinion leaders, skilled community members in various fields eg agriculturalist, nurses and others.
3. **Community Forum:** I used Chief's Baraza where the attendants were asked questions regarding their livelihood and what they would see as a priority in their lives.

Swot Analysis:

The Strengths:

- The population is big with about 65% being youth. The majority of population is between 15 and 40 years
- There is plenty of land which the community owns. Then land tenure is individual ownership.
- Close family units enhance the social capital as in this network, the families support each other, striving to make things better.

Weaknesses

- The lack of education facilities to cater for the educational needs of the community.
- Poor health care. Health facilities are lacking.

Opportunities

- The lack of opportunity for the community in most areas.
- Water for irrigation and for personal use.
- Land that can be used to build both clinics and learning facilities.
- Rainfall: 1100 mm a year is a lot of rain for a region and can sufficiently be used with good timing for gainful agricultural practices, rain water harvesting
- Presence and activities of WYI in the area which has seen a few students sponsored for school and currently an Odede Nursery school is under construction by the Wyi OA program.
- On-going long term development projects for WYI volunteers
- Sunny days to provider solar energy for lighting and heating water.
- Very good tarmac road from Kisumu to Luanda Kotieno.
- Electricity lines are running nearby market centre

Threats:

- These include massive school drop out amongst the youth.
- Poor girl child education: girls drop out more from school as the domestic chores given to them out weight their ability to learn. Most parents prefer boys to girls when it comes to educational opportunities.
- Retrogressive cultural practices like polygamy, Preference of boys over girls in education opportunities.
- HIV/Aids which is affecting the nutritional status of the community, their ability to do work and be productive, draining family resources to manage the cases.
- The number of orphans left behind that now have to rely on the relatives who struggle to cater for their immediate family needs
- Dependency Ration: the close large family units with very few members being able to produce income and therefore they rely on a few family members reducing significantly the income per capita.

Main Priority Areas of Need

The following areas have been identified as requiring immediate attention.

1. School:

There is only one secondary school Ochienga Secondary serving an area of 40 Km² radius. The classes are therefore big with a population of 80 pupils in a class room.

School dropout rate is very high. The main reasons for this being:

- Children especially boys drop out to go to the lake to fish and supplement the family food and income.
- The poor foundation based on lack of early childhood education.
- Drug abuse: most abused drugs being alcohol and bhang. This is due to idleness as they do not go school consistently.

There is no secondary school in the area to take in the products of the existing primary school. Those who qualify to join secondary school have had to walk a very long distance to go to the nearest secondary schools which are Chianda and Gagra which are an average of about 5-10 kms away.

Because of slim chances of these young people going through secondary school, building a Multi Education Training Centre will provide the best opportunity for these people to make a future for themselves to build this community for posterity.

1.1. Early Childhood Education,

Nursery schools are actually non existent. The only one existing is situated within Ochienga secondary school. This is actually too far for nursery school age children.

Now because of this situation education standards remain very low in the area. The whole region has only 15 University graduates, About 20 primary school teachers
Drop out rate of up to 45%.

The table below shows the number of facilities available a gains the number that is enrolled. The unmet needs refer to the number of school aged children who are currently not enrolled.

serial	Type of institution available	No	Distance away	Response/Population	Unmet Needs
1	Primary School	2	2 - 8km	700 pupils	2,000
2	Nursery	2	2 - 5 km	1200	1500
3	Secondary	1	2 - 20 km	50	2,500

2. Health Care.

This is one other area that is very acute. The nearest government health facility is about 16 km away. This is a very desperate situation as managing the outbreaks of highly contagious and infectious diseases like cholera, dysentery; malaria becomes almost impossible and thus as a result many people die of health conditions that would otherwise be very easy to manage if the health facilities were accessible.

2.1. Maternal and child Health:

Many expectant mothers end up delivering at home alone or with assistance of traditional Birth Attendance (TBA). Safe mother hood is therefore a matter of priority.

Child mortality is equally very high due to lack of antenatal care as the facility is simply to far a way for the mother. This means that even the mandatory immunization is never completed.

The table below shows the number of people that actually get access to the existing medical facilities for medical care.

Serial	Type of institution available	No	Distance away	Response/Population from Odede visiting the facility	Unmet Needs
1	Health Centre	1	16 km	100 pupils	2,500
2	Medical Clinic(private clinic)	2	8 km	50	3450
3	Hospital	1	20	Less	>3,500

None of these facilities exist in the area. So people have to walk a good distance to get the services in these facilities.

3. The Orphaned Children

HIV/Aids continue to be a great challenge in the community and a real threat to the future of that community. Aids Orphans constitute 90% of the orphans in the sub location. The existing facilities that are currently addressing these needs include

- Chianda Child Centre doing the home based care(Compassion International Sponsored)
- Double Joy Children Home in Ruma Uyoma.

They are not able to cope as the number involved here is so big. The number of such orphans continues to rise as the ability to look after them continues to dwindle.

The Intervention Plan:

My ideal intervention plan here comprises setting up a Multi Education Training Centre comprising of three basic areas of need within the community

1. A Multi Educational Training Centre

This section will impart in young people sustainable skills that will enable them to participate fully in the further development of the community. It will comprise the following educational/training centres:-

1.1. Vocational Training Centre. This centre will provide training for the youth in life skills like carpentry and building, tailoring, dressmaking, agriculture, health care, hairstyling, beauty, computer training. This centre will provide opportunity to the young who would not be lucky enough to go to secondary school as well as those who will not be able to go beyond secondary school.

1.2. A nursery or Early Childhood Development Centre: Will provide care for the babies and the young children and prepare them for nursery and primary school which they will then attend elsewhere. It will take care of the education needs of children in the very early years. This will admit children who are three years and prepare them for entry into primary school when they are about six years. The building structure will comprise:

1. Well ventilated classrooms,
2. Stimulating visual teaching and learning aids
3. Furniture i.e. tables and chairs cap board for the children.
4. Play ground

2. Health facility:

The health facility will take care of the health care needs of the community; provide basic maternal and Child health care as well as providing reproductive health services. The health facility structure will include:

- a. Consultation room.
- b. Pharmacy room.
- c. Treatment room.
- d. Observation room.
- e. Laboratory unit.

3. Child Rescue Unit

The child rescue centre will supplement the efforts of the two organisations already working in the area. The target children will be very young children, abandoned or complete orphaned from 6 months to two years. The other needy children will receive help from their relatives' home. Hopefully feeding programs for lunch to ensure such children have at least one meal a day. The home based support will be to strengthen family ties and avoid institutionalisation of children.

The structure will include:

1. A dormitory for children which can also be used for volunteer accommodation
2. Caretaker room.
3. A dining hall to serve as recreation hall.
4. Play ground.

4. The Community Centre:

The community Centre would be used by community members to conduct the community affairs. The building would host community activities like the Community Dialogue days, community public forums e.g. barazas (community meeting points), agricultural product exhibition and community library.

The Administration block

To be constructed to house the main administrative functions of the centre. This block will be the headquarters of WYI Kenya and will comprise the following:

- Offices
- Conference hall// for meetings.
- Stores.

Financial Implication

A lot of funds will be required in order to bring this dream into reality but it can be done in stages and over a long period of time and can become a centre for WYI where all the volunteers come to work on projects. Funds to put up the following;

- Funds to purchase a piece of land to start the project of creating an education and health centre
- A Nursery school
- A simple Health facility and equipment
- Funds to pay for the administration cost until the centre becomes self sustaining
- Funds to put up sanitation facilities
- Funds to invest on rain water harvesting
- Funds to install solar lighting facilities
- Furnishing of the buildings
- Purchase training facilities like computers, sewing machines, etc
- Put electricity in the home

What is in progress / available.

Five acres of land ready to be used for the project. The land actually belongs to a community elder who is willing to donate it for the program free of charge. However an estimated total amount of up to **ksh. 90,000/=** would be required to cater for the accumulated cost of transfer of ownership of the land to the project name. This money would pay for the following:

1. Transport costs of the parties (several trips), 12,000
2. Survey fees 30,000,
3. Land search fee, 3,000
4. Transfer levies, 5,000
5. Lawyers' fees 35,000
6. Miscellaneous 5,000

1000 KES = \$14.87 AUS

Available and enthusiastic young and old members of the community to form the work force, during and after the construction of the facilities

Odede Nursery school is already taking care of 60 nursery school children.

Occasional Mobile clinic sponsored by past Wyi volunteers and the House of Healing foundation.

Future WYI volunteers who will be hosted by the community and reside in the centre to participate in the development of the community.

Implementation Strategy:

Given the amount of money involved, the project can only be implemented in stages as finances would allow.

It would be a centre for placements for WYI volunteers both Overseas Action (OA) and Overseas Service Projects (OSP) where they would help in putting up structures as well as teaching, health, social work and public education or awareness services. Given the ongoing support that a school requires, it's not in the intention here to start one. The program therefore would not go beyond a nursery school.