

# AACES

AUSTRALIA AFRICA COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SCHEME

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“The AACES program is a central part of Australia’s commitment to supporting Africa’s achievement of the Millenium Development Goals.”

Says Jamie Isbister

*Transforming Communities, Changing Lives*

# EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the Australia Africa Community Engagement Scheme (AACES) newsletter – a quarterly publication for partners in the 11 AACES countries. We at the Resource Facility hope that this publication will be useful in sharing information, program highlights and approaches, and lessons learnt.

We thank partners who submitted contributions to this edition of the newsletter. We also welcome comments or suggestions regarding topics dealt with in this issue, as well as on improving future editions. If you have stories or ideas you would like published, feel free to contact the editor, Douglas Waudo on: [d.waudo@acbf-pact.org](mailto:d.waudo@acbf-pact.org)

## Annual Partners Reflection Meeting

AACES held its 2nd annual reflection meeting on 24-25 June 2013 at the Double Tree Hotel in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. The two-day meeting brought together staff with responsibility for AACES in Australia and the 11 African countries where the program is being implemented. The purpose of the annual reflection meeting is to enable AACES partners take stock of progress in implementation and to discuss, learn and brainstorm on various program themes and issues.

The meeting was attended by over 60 participants. It provided AACES partners with a strong platform to network, strengthen relationships and collaborate to achieve greater impact through shared learning and synergies.

During the meeting, AACES partners showcased their work through a gallery exhibition that displayed photos, videos and stories of their activities and achievements on the ground.

For more information on issues discussed during the workshop, read the workshop report which will be posted soon on Yammer.



A group of AACES partners interacting during the exhibition gallery at the annual reflection meeting.

Photo by Douglas Waudo / Resource Facility

"The annual reflection meeting has given AACES partners a sense of shared identity. It feels like one big family despite the fact that there are 10 Australian NGOs and their Africa partners working in 11 different African countries."

- **David Mwamba, Program Manager WASH, Oxfam Zambia.**



Photo by Douglas Waudo / Resource Facility

**Members of the ActionAid Junior Farmer Field School from the Kamunyagia Primary School in Makima, Eastern Kenya in their school farm. The farm serves as a demonstration plot for learning modern agricultural practices.**



# AusAID Partnership Framework and Strategy for Africa

## Highlights of Remarks by Jamie Isbister

Jamie Isbister, AusAID Minister Counsellor for Africa addressed participants at the annual reflection meeting in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania on 25 June 2013. The following are highlights of the remarks he made on AACES in the context of AusAID strategy for Africa:

- The fundamental purpose of Australian aid is to help people overcome poverty. To this end, the Australian Government is very committed to ongoing engagement with Africa.
- The Australian aid program in Africa focusses on sectors where Australia has experience and expertise and is best able to make a difference. The focus is currently on food security and agriculture, water and sanitation, maternal and child health, and helping to strengthen Africa's human resource capacity.
- Working with non-government organisations (NGOs) is an integral part of Australia's approach to delivering aid. NGOs have strong engagement with marginalised communities and are effective in reaching disadvantaged groups.
- AACES is one of the major programs supported by the Australian Government in Africa. It is a practical program that seeks to tackle the day to day challenges of marginalised communities in Africa.
- Greater focus and more investments are needed in specific areas in Africa. AACES is well positioned to contribute to the delivery of AusAID's strategy for Africa. The program is more than an opportunity for funding NGOs. It identifies common areas to respond to challenges in such a way that the impact is greater than what would be obtained by the sum of the projects in the program.
- AACES has to be a mechanism that constantly understands the issues of marginalised people, looks at ways to intervene and adapts.
- Reporting on how AACES objectives are achieved is important. The AACES Annual Report is a strong document that in a simple way helps people understand the program.



- AusAID wants to make a link between what is done with NGOs and work being undertaken with bilateral and multilateral partners. Annual meetings like the AACES reflection meeting provide the space for this to happen.
- Value for money is a central feature of Australia's aid program. It is about taking a step back and thinking of how resources are being used in implementing programs. A value for money assessment of AACES will help us understand why working with NGOs in Africa is the most effective way of getting services to marginalised people. Consideration of value for money does not apply to NGOs alone, but also to international development partners and private contractors.

## New PSC Chair and Deputy Chair

Elly Barrett (WaterAid Australia) is the new Program Steering Committee (PSC) Chair, while Margy Dowling (World Vision Australia) is the new Deputy Chair. The two were elected during the PSC meeting that held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in June 2013. The PSC expressed their gratitude and thanks to the outgoing Chair and Deputy Chair, Philip Walker (Anglican Overseas Aid) and Sem Mabuwa (AFAP).

## Nicodemus Wambua -Small holder farmer from Makima, Kenya

### From a Struggling City Hawker to a Successful Farmer

In just under one year, Nicodemus Wambua (35) a smallholder farmer in Makima, a village in Mbeere South District in Eastern Kenya, has earned a total Ksh 170,000 [A\$2,119] from farming. Resilience and modern farming methods have catapulted this Form Two school drop out and a former hawker who sold roasted maize for six years in the streets of Nairobi into a successful model small holder farmer. Wambua is now using his agricultural knowledge and skills to transform his community.

But it has not been easy for Wambua and his community. The effects of climate change coupled with poor agronomic practices, and weak market linkages have all contributed to food insecurity in the area.

However, all this changed in 2011 when Wambua together with his wife, Regina and a group of 15 women and 10 other men joined the Kamuru Farmer Field School, supported by ActionAid and Australian Aid. After adopting the modern farming methods, Wambua has tripled his farm produce due to improved crop quality and yields. ActionAid has assisted Wambua and other farmers in Makima by training them in good agricultural practices and introducing them to various agricultural innovations such as irrigation, drought tolerant seeds, zai pit technology, and soil and water conservation.

From growing only maize, Wambua now plants a variety of crops all year round. The crops include pumpkin, cassava, Irish potato, paw paw, pigeon peas, cowpeas, sweet potato, beans, sorghum, millet, and mangoes. He has also increased his acreage of production from a quarter acre to six acres, and employs a casual worker. To diversify his farming, Wambua rears rabbits. And from an investment of one rabbit, he now owns 60 rabbits valued at Ksh 90,000 [A\$1,121].

Wambua's income has increased substantially and his children are now eating more nutritious food. In fact, he has comfortably taken his daughter to a boarding school, and has refurnished his house. Taking advantage of the increased production of food crops in Makima, he now buys sorghum and other crops from the community and sells to various traders, including the East Africa Breweries Ltd, which is the largest alcohol beverage company in the East Africa region.

"Thanks to the technical assistance from ActionAid we no longer depend on relief food. In fact, our members are now not only food secure but also have a reliable means of income", Wambua says confidently.

Buoyed by his success, Wambua is further diversifying into bee keeping and poultry farming. "The poultry farming is a special investment for my wife as gratitude for her support all these years. It will be her secret bank account," says a jovial Wambua who doesn't hide the fact that he truly loves his wife and their two children. The success of Wambua is evidently being felt within his community. Early this year a field day was held on his farm where 39 farmers attended and received practical training on various modern farming technologies.

ActionAid is funded by AusAID through the Australia Africa Community Engagement Scheme (AACES).



**"...our members are now not only food secure, but have also a reliable means of income".**

Photo by Douglas Waudo / Resource Facility



# AACES Transforming Communities, Changing Lives

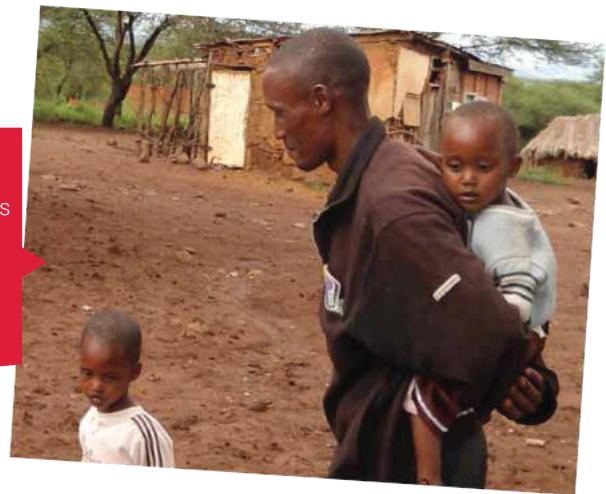


Children from the primary school of Moculungu enjoying the water from a rehabilitated borehole in Majune District, Mozambique. Prior to the rehabilitation, the 251 children attending the school as well as the whole community used to walk for more than 2 kilometers everyday to fetch water from the nearest river. Currently 15 boreholes in the district have been rehabilitated by AFAP partner, Concern Universal Mozambique, with some having been broken for over six years. Now with easy access to clean water, the children are concentrating more in their studies, while women are spending more time in profitable socio-economic ventures

- Photo by Helena Skember / AFAP Mozambique

Josephat Joseph taking his two daughters to the clinic in Endashang'wet Village in Ngorongoro District, Tanzania. Through trainings and awareness campaigns, men are challenging traditional norms and are increasingly participating in issues of maternal and child health for their families. "Through the trainings provided by Caritas, I feel it's my responsibility to help my wife take our children to the clinic". Says Josephat

- Photo by Joseph Masago / Caritas Tanzania



People living with disabilities during a training session to create awareness about their rights with CREATE at Woza Moya in South Africa. Woza Moya, in partnership with Oxfam are challenging myths and addressing stigma related to disabilities. One workshop participant, Mr Dlamini from Mashakeni shared how for the first time in his life, he has been able to express himself and felt heard, respected and taken seriously. He said, "It is not my disability that is a problem but people's attitudes towards me that make my life difficult". Ms Mtolo from Esigedleni says that she cannot wait to tell others that "we have rights as people living with disabilities."

- Photo by Woza Moya / Oxfam South Africa

A woman fetches water from an open spring in Naibor in Laikipia County, Kenya. A recent survey by the Anglican Overseas Aid (AOA) found that 77 percent of women in Naibor walk two or more hours per day to fetch water for household use. AOA is currently working in partnership with the local community to build a rock catchment nearby to ease water burden.

- Photo by Greg Armstrong



## Understanding Value for Money Workshop

A one day Value for Money (VfM) workshop was held on 26 June 2013 at the Double Tree Hotel in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Over 50 people including Australian and African NGO representatives and AusAID staff participated. The workshop presented an opportunity for AACES partners to learn about value for money and how it can be applied at various levels of the AACES program.

The workshop began with an introduction by Emma Stone, AusAID Program Manager, Ethiopia & NGO Programs, Africa Branch. The introduction provided the context on why VfM is important to AusAID. Emma told participants that VfM is a fundamental operating principle of Australia's aid program. As a result, AusAID has worked on incorporating VfM at a variety of levels of the aid program, articulated in the agency's performance framework, known as the ComprehensiveAid Policy Framework.

Emma pointed out that AACES is one of the first AusAID-funded programs to commit to undertake value for money assessments at the project and program level. The assessments will be guided by the AACES VfM framework which has been developed in partnership with AACES NGOs. There are five core concepts that are important to understand in this framework. These are: Economy, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Equity and Ethics.

During the workshop, NGOs presented the approaches they intend to use in assessing the VfM of AACES activities. The discussions that followed provided opportunities for NGOs to not only share their practical knowledge and experience about VfM, but also assess the strengths and limitations of their approaches.

For more information on concepts and approaches discussed at this workshop, please read the workshop report which will be posted soon on Yammer.



## AACES Partners Field Visit in Tanzania

WaterAid and World Vision in Tanzania conducted a field visit aimed at learning and sharing of experiences. The field visit was organised to coincide with the annual reflection meeting in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. This allowed partners who participated in the visits to share with others their experiences and impressions.

The WaterAid Tanzania trip gave opportunity to AACES partners to visit schools with completed WASH facilities and schools undergoing Sanitation and Hygiene training in Singida, Nzega and Iramba districts. They also observed the implementation of a rural sanitation project using the Mtumba Sanitation and Hygiene Participatory Approach, named after the Mtumba village in Dodoma.

Partners who participated in the World Vision Tanzania trip visited field activities in Kilindi district. They observed a Village Health Worker undertake a home visit, interacted with community members who shared their experiences and outcomes of the Citizen Voice and Action activities, and watched nutrition groups demonstrate cooking of nutrient dense local foods.



**Above: The WaterAid group bonding and interacting during the road trip. Below Left: The World Vision group being entertained by Masaai morans.**

"This trip has been very informative and educative for everyone. We have been able to share information, and learn from each other's challenges, experiences and opportunities as far as WASH is concerned."

**Chaka Uzundu, Policy Manager / WaterAid Ghana**

**Photos by Douglas Waudo / Resource Facility**



## AACES Resource Facility Relocates to Nairobi, Kenya

The AACES Resource Facility (RF) has relocated from Harare to Nairobi.

Ernest Etti, the RF Coordinator says the relocation to Nairobi will improve communication with AusAID and AACES partners in the region.

Currently, the RF is being hosted by African Capacity Building Foundation partner, The Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis, but expects to move to its own offices by the end of September 2013

Email contacts for all RF staff remain unchanged. The new phone numbers are as follows:

Ernest Etti, RF Coordinator:

+254 786 401 901

Christine Atieno, Program Assistant:

+254 718 881 458

Douglas Waudo, Communications Officer:

+254 718 881 458

## EVENTS

16 October

World Food Day – The theme for this year is “Sustainable Food Systems For Food Security and Nutrition”.

20 November

Gender and Development Workshop

Venue: Nairobi, Kenya.

21-22 November

Program Steering Committee

Venue: Nairobi, Kenya.

26 November – 10 December

16 Days of Activism Against

Gender Based Violence.

3 December

International Day of People Living with Disability

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## PROVERB FROM TANZANIA

*A boat cannot go forward if  
each rows his own way.*

