

## **STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP ON SOLAR WATER DISINFECTION IN NAIROBI**

Kenya Water for Health Organization (KWAHO) held a one stakeholders' workshop on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2007 which generated the following insights that can be shared with other stakeholders through the news letter:

1. **Advocacy:** Participants acknowledged that it is critical to carry out elaborate advocacy on SODIS since the method is still not widely known. The role of Eawag in developing and giving relevant information materials on SODIS to institutions in Kenya is crucial at this stage. This has already been done by Martin Wegelin in response to the participants' request.
2. **Research –** There is a need for continued research to support the technology by simplifying the materials for popular use.
3. **Integration:** - Integration of SODIS into Kenya's health programmes will enhance the integrity and acceptance of the intervention.
4. **Networking:** Expand the networking - KWAHO will undertake this activity under the coordination of United Nation Children Funds (UNICEF).
5. **Core group -** A core group consisting of Ministry of Health, and Water and Irrigation, UNICEF and KWAHO was formed for the purpose of pushing forward issues on the co-ordinating group for SODIS.

## **2. SODIS UPSCALING PROGRAMS**

KWAHO has embarked on an aggressive plan to promote SODIS on a large scale in order to meet the demand of safe water and also to contribute towards achieving of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Below are some of the steps taken towards the realization of the goal:

- Setting up of SODIS Reference Centre for East African region. KWAHO has been chosen to be the reference for this region owing to its successful implementation of SODIS project since March, 2004. KWAHO plan to implement this active by funding from Lions Club through SANDEC/Eawag.
- Needs Assessment in Nyalenda slum in Kisumu district: The activity was done to assess the needs of the community in relation to water supply and quality, hygiene and sanitation situation so as to respond by implementing SODIS. The data collected indicated that there is a need for safe drinking water and in response to this KWAHO has submitted a proposal to Lion Cub through SANDEC/Eawag for possible funding.
- Marketing and Up scaling-The group to plan for a marketing strategy, where UNICEF offered to help in the up scaling of SODIS to five districts for the start of the activity. So far through UNICEF request KWAHO has submitted two proposals for Wajir and Mandera North Eastern districts of Kenya, to be funded by UNICEF.

## **3. SODIS IN SCHOOLS**

KWAHO has been working with the community schools in the project areas in an attempt to reach children who are the most vulnerable group and so far the following success has been realized:

- Five community primary schools are practicing SODIS
- The reduction of diarrhea cases in schools practicing SODIS.
- Formation of Health Clubs in schools to enhance SODIS and proper hygiene promotion.

#### **4. HEALTH IMPACT STUDY (SURVEY)**

To assess the impact of SODIS on the user families, KWAHO carried out an impact study in collaboration with SANDEC which showed the following impact that has been realized by user families.

- There was a reduction on diarrhea cases on children less than 5 years amongst consistent SODIS user households by 42%.

#### **5. VOICE FOR THE COMMUNITY**

From the networking workshop for SODIS user families, the participants were able to say the following as regards SODIS:

- i. SODIS taste nice and natural compared to other treatment methods like boiling, chlorination among others.
- ii. Save some money on fuel and medication which use to buy more food and fruits.
- iii. Reduced diarrhea cases among children less than five years old compared to before the intervention.
- iv. We generate some income through sales of SODIS bottles.
- v. We appreciate KWAHO for introducing the technology to us.

#### **6. REGULAR WATER QUALITY TESTS**

KWAHO has been conducting single and pair wise water tests to establish micro-biological quality of both raw and SODIS treated water in the project areas to establish the following:

- i. To establish the efficacy of SODIS
- ii. If water sources are contaminated
- iii. To establish secondary contamination through unhygienic water handling practices at the point of use.
- iv. To determine the safety of water at the point of use.