

**INTERNATIONAL EXPO SARAGOZA 2008**  
**THEMATIC WEEK : WATER FOR LIFE**  
**SECTION 3: VIEW FROM THE FIELD**  
**WATER AND HEALTH IN AFRICA**

**EXPERIENCES FROM AMREF:**

**BY: Gerald K. Rukunga**  
**African Medical And Research Foundation**  
**Nairobi, Kenya**  
**Date: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008**  
**Time: 15:10**

**Gerald K. Rukunga**

---

**30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2008**



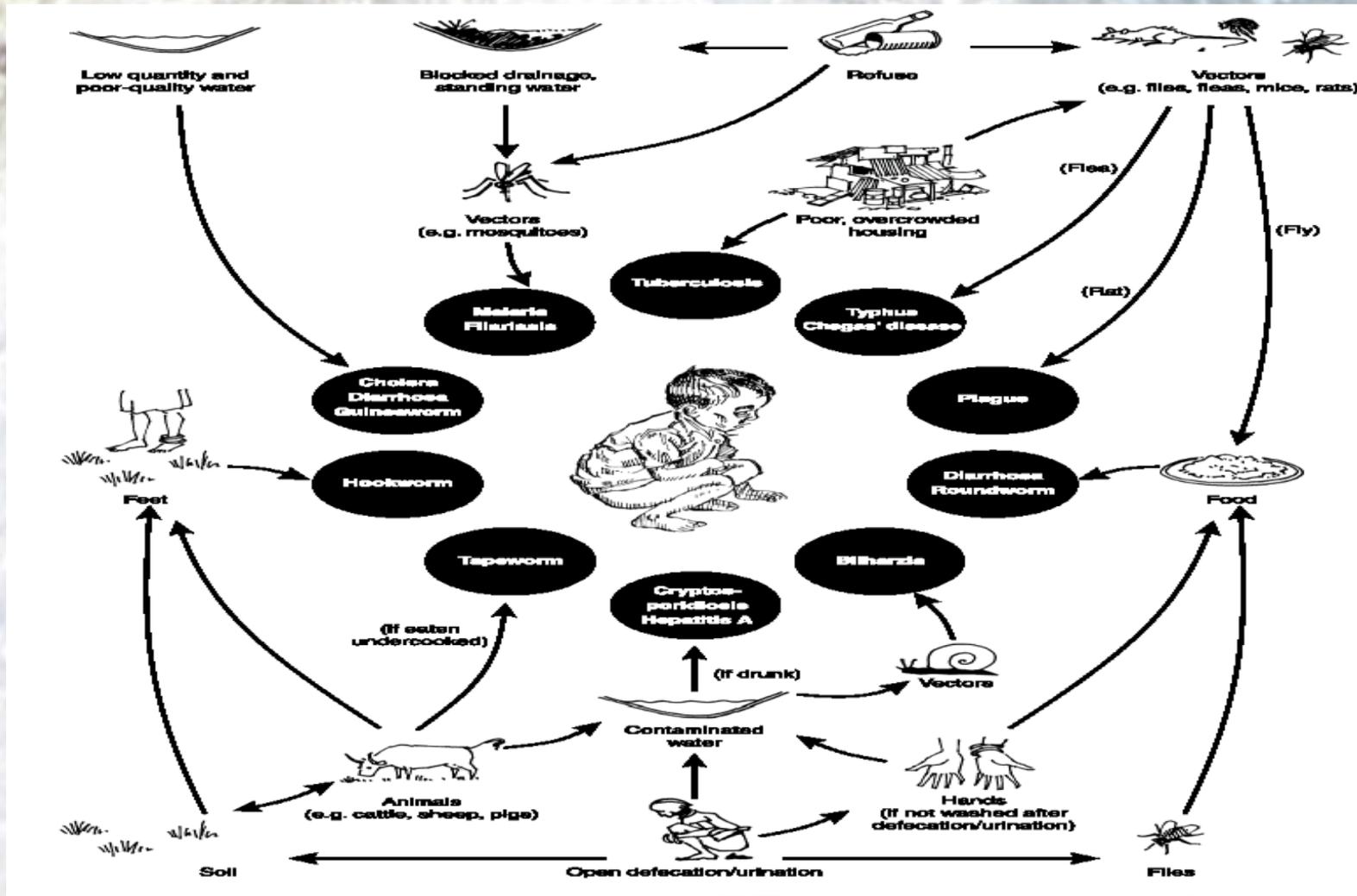
## ***ABOUT AMREF:***

- Founded in 1957 as an International African Health Development Organization
- **Vision:**  
Better Health for the people of Africa
- **Mission:**  
AMREF is committed to improving health and health care in Africa. We aim to ensure that every African can enjoy the right to good health, by helping to create vibrant networks of informed communities that work with empowered health care providers in strong health systems.
- **AMREF PROGRAMME THEMES:**
  - Partnership with communities
  - Community Capacity Building
  - Health Systems Research for Policy and Practice

---

***30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2008***

# WHY FOCUS ON WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE



30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2008

## **WATER AND SANITATION : CURRENT STATUS**

- Globally 2.4 billion and 1.1 billion have no access to sanitation and water respectively
- Population of Sub Saharan Africa is 770 M, growth rate is 2.3%
- Sub Saharan Africa has the lowest access
- Overall access to water is 58%, sanitation – 36% excluding slums
- 70% of the morbidity (particularly for under 5) related to unsafe water and inadequate sanitation.
- Diarrhoea, third highest cause of mortality after malaria and pneumonia (kills 700,000 children annually).



## ***REASONS FOR THE STATUS***

- Rapid desertification: Global warming, deforestation, soil degradation, siltation, eutrophication.
- Pollution of water sources (industrial/effluents, unsafe solid and liquid wastes disposal methods).
- Rapid rural to urban migration patterns.
- Inappropriate and or lack of legislation and policies.
- Poverty and affordability.
- Low capacity to sustain Water and Sanitation.
- Ignorance, lack of voice (poor governance).
- Misallocation of resources (sanitation vs water).
- Astronomical increase in water demand due to rapid population increase, competing water uses i.e. industrialization.



## ***WHAT AMREF IS DOING (1)***

### **PARTNERING**

- Facilitate communities to identify priority issues to be addressed.
- Partnership (MOU) signed: community, Govt, AMREF etc



---

**30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2008**

## ***WHAT AMREF IS DOING (2)***

### **CAPACITY BUILDING**

- CB needs assessment
- Development of necessary tools e.g. construction, O+M and management manuals for water facilities
- Building the necessary capacity for implementation and sustainable management of project.
- Technical and resources support by AMREF and with targeted cost sharing with beneficiaries.
- Monitoring and evaluation



---

**30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2008**



## ***WHAT AMREF IS DOING (3)***

### **HEALTH SYSTEMS RESEARCH**

- Identification of gap or issue for research.
- Develop the necessary research protocol.
- Conduct the operational Research and document findings.
- Share the OR results and advocate for policy changes or new practices to bridge the gap.
- Conduct Environmental Impact Assessment and or Environmental Audit and apply the recommendations as necessary.
- Monitoring and Evaluation.

---

***30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2008***

## **WHAT AMREF IS DOING (4)**

### **SUSTAINABILITY**

- Community ownership of project through their involvement in planning, donation of land for water point sites, cost sharing, operation and maintenance, overall management of the facilities.
- Community identifies two technicians per facility to be trained for O and M.
- Community democratically elects a gender balanced 13 member committee to manage the facility.
- The facility management committee charges “affordable” water user fees and accounts for it periodically as agreed.
- Water user fees used to do O & M, pay technicians and balance accumulated over a time to develop new water and sanitation facility.
- Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion interventions alongside water.



---

**30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2008**

## **WHAT AMREF IS DOING (5)**

### **SAMPLE RESULTS FROM PROJECTS IN AFRICA**

- Increase access to water facilities from 30 to 55% (average 10 km to 5 km to water points over five years).
  - Access and use of Sanitation and Hygiene facilities increased from 20% to 49%, excluding effects of slums.
  - Water and Sanitation related diseases reduced significantly from 75% to 42% percent.
  - Increased school attendance (Particularly by girl child) and performance and retention increased by 40%.
  - Women now involved in other economic activities such as making bricks using water conserving methods.
- 
- Reduced conflicts over water



**30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2008**

## **WHAT AMREF IS DOING (6)**

### **SAMPLE RESULTS FROM PROJECTS IN AFRICA**

- Increased afforestation, food production and conservation of water sources.
  - New policies roll out (Water Policy 2002) using AMREF support projects as models. AMREF participating in roll out.
  - New Environmental Sanitation Policy heavily borrowed lessons from AMREF and now being rolled out with our participation.
  - New innovative practices learnt at AMREF, documented and shared i.e. PHASE, various Capacity Building Materials, Innovative Construction, O&M and management of Water and Sanitation facilities.
  - New innovative approaches for Promoting Sanitation and Hygiene e.g. PHASE
- 
- Total compliance with NEMA laws i.e Environmental Impact Assessment, and Environmental Audits. (AMREF only compliant NGO so far).



## **CHALLENGES**

- Weak legislations and policies to check on pollution.
- Poverty and cost of Water and Sanitation.
- Poor Governance.
- Recurrent Droughts.
- “Development” effects (industrialization, irrigation etc).
- Limited allocation of resources in the sector, particularly on Sanitation and Hygiene.
- Effects of new emerging diseases such as HIV/AIDS and its relation to Water Access.
- Rural to Urban migration Syndrome.
- Water as an economic tool.
- Conflicts over access

---

**30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2008**