



MIDZEMBA AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME SCHOOL SAFE WATER PROJECT

FINAL REPORT

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	2
1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	4
2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	3
3.0 LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....	5
4.0 SUMMARY SHEET OF RESULTS	6
5.0 INTRODUCTION.....	7
5.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND	7
5.2 OBJECTIVES	7
5.3 JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY	8
6.0 METHODOLOGY	8
6.1 STUDY POPULATION	8
6.2 SAMPLE SIZE	8
6.3 STUDY TOOLS	8
6.4 STUDY DESIGN	8
7.0 DATA ANALYSIS	9
8.0 RESULTS	9
8.1 ABSENTEEISM AND DIRRHOEA PREVALENCE.....	9
8.2 FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS.....	10
9.0 CONCLUSION	10
10.0. RECOMMENDATIONS	11



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2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Midzamba Area Development Programme (ADP) School Safe Water Project was initiated in October, 2007 to assist 5, 944 students in 11 primary schools and 27, 000 people in 31 surrounding villages. The project goal is to reduce diarrhoea prevalence and absenteeism in targeted schools through treatment of drinking water using Water Guard WA Ufa (WGWU) from October 2007 to September 2008.

Mid-Term Evaluation study had two objectives, to quantify the reduction in diarrhoea prevalence and to quantify reduction of absenteeism due to diarrhoea in the targeted schools.

The project conducted a baseline survey to get benchmarks for key indicators before the commencement of project implementation. Therefore it was ideal to conduct mid-term evaluation to assess project progress on the key indicators after some interventions. The outcome of mid-term evaluation will assist in re planning and aligning interventions to attain the project goal.

The study tools were questionnaire, observations and focus group discussions. Questionnaire was administered to head teachers, patrons and matrons at each school. Focus group discussions were done with village health committees, health surveillance assistants and community leaders in their respective villages. Observations on practising hand washing and using treated water were done in schools and communities that were visited during this exercise.

The current results of this study show that treating drinking water with Water Guard Wa Ufa can reduce diarrhoea prevalence in communities who are drawing water from unprotected sources. In addition it shows that interventions leading to reduction of diarrhoea prevalence consequently contribute towards reduction of absenteeism among learners.

3.0 LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADP	:	Area Development Programme
ENHANCE	:	Expanding Nutrition and Health Achievements through Necessary commodities and Education.
FGD	:	Focus Group Discussions
HSA	:	Health Surveillance Assistants
IEC	:	Information, Education and Communication
P&G	:	Procter and Gamble
PTA	:	Parents Teachers Association
PSI/M	:	Population Services International-Malawi
USA	:	United States of America
USD	:	United States Dollar
VHC	:	Village Health Committee
WGWU	:	Water Guard Wa Ufa
WVM	:	World Vision Malawi
WVUS	:	World Vision United States

4.0 SUMMARY SHEET OF RESULTS

INDICATOR	BASELINE	MID-TERM	REMARK
School enrolment	5944	5966	Slight increase of 0.4% increase
General absenteeism rate	14.9%	6.4%	A reduction of almost 57%
Diarrhoea prevalence in schools	13.2%	1.2%	Reduced by 90.9%
Absenteeism due to diarrhoea	8%	0.8%	Reduced by 90%
Diarrhoea prevalence in surrounding communities	30%	14%	Reduced by 53.3%
Average pit latrine coverage in schools	4	7	An increase of 75%
Coverage for making water “safe” for drinking in schools	0	11	Facilitated by the project
Coverage for hand washing facilities in schools	0	18	Facilitated by the project
Number of water and sanitation IEC materials in schools	1	195	Facilitated by the project
Number of water-Guard Clubs in schools	0	11	Facilitated by the project
Village revolving fund for Water Guard wa Ufa	0	31	Facilitated by the project

5.0 INTRODUCTION

This section provides the background information, objectives and justification for the project.

5.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Midzemba ADP Schools Safe Water Project number 185851 was initiated in October, 2007 to assist 5, 944 students in 11 primary schools and 27, 000 people in 31 surrounding villages. The project goal is to reduce diarrhoea prevalence and absenteeism in targeted schools through treatment of drinking water using WGWU from October 2007 to September 2008.

The project is supplying Water Guard Wa Ufa (WGWU) in schools, which students are using to treat drinking water at school. The project has also supplied buckets with taps for storage of treated drinking water and hand washing after visiting toilet. Small buckets for water collection from water sources and hand washing soap were also supplied.

The project has built capacity of key stakeholders (teachers, Health Surveillance Assistants, School Water Guard Clubs) through trainings, demonstrations on water treating processes and community sensitisation meetings.

This project was implemented because the findings from the Midzemba ENHANCE project baseline survey done in April 2007, which revealed that there are high levels of diarrhoea in the area. The study findings further indicated that people do not use borehole water for drinking because it is salty and they prefer to use Lisungwi or Shire River water. ENHANCE baseline survey also showed that pit latrine coverage was below average.

5.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE EVALUATION

The Mid-Term Evaluation had two objectives, which are to quantify the reduction in diarrhoea prevalence and to quantify reduction of absenteeism due to diarrhoea in the targeted schools.

5.3 JUSTIFICATION OF THE EVALUATION

The project conducted a baseline survey to get benchmarks for key indicators before the commencement of project implementation. Therefore it was ideal to conduct mid-term evaluation to assess project progress on the key indicators after some interventions. The outcome of mid-term evaluation will assist in re-planning and aligning interventions to attain the project goal.

6.0 METHODOLOGY

This section describes the study population, sample size, study tools, data analysis and study limitations

6.1 STUDY POPULATION

The selected participants for this study were Head teachers; Water Guard Club patrons and matrons; Health Surveillance Assistants; Village Health Committee members and community leaders.

6.2 SAMPLING AND SAMPLE SIZE

The study sample sizes were 11 head teachers, 11 patrons, 11 matrons, 4 health surveillance assistants, 40 VHC members and 4 community leaders.

6.3 STUDY TOOLS

The study tools used were questionnaire, observations and focus group discussions.

6.3.1 Questionnaire

Questionnaires were administered to head teachers, patrons and matrons at each school.

6.3.2 Focus Group Discussions

Focus group discussions were done with village health committees, health surveillance assistants and community leaders in their respective villages.

6.3.3 Observations

The team was observing hand washing practice, water treatment procedures and water storage including practicing of other project interventions.

6.4 STUDY DESIGN

This study compares the current prevalence of diarrhoea and absenteeism rate due to diarrhoea in the targeted schools with the benchmarks.

7.0 DATA ANALYSIS

The analysis was done manually as it only required results presentation in percentages. The absenteeism rate was expressed as a percentage by dividing total number of learners being absent from school by school enrolment over the period of study. The diarrhoea prevalence was expressed as a percentage by dividing the total number of learners reported to have suffered from diarrhoea by school enrolment over the period under study.

8.0 RESULTS

8.1 Questionnaires

8.1.1 Absenteeism and Diarrhoea Prevalence

The study through the questionnaires has revealed that there has been a reduction in absenteeism by 57% from 14.9% during baseline to 6.4% during mid-term evaluation while absenteeism due to diarrhoea reduced by 90% from 8% baseline to 0.8% during mid-term evaluation.

It also revealed that diarrhoea prevalence in schools has reduced by 90.9% from 13.2% during baseline to 1.2% during mid-term while diarrhoea prevalence in surrounding communities reduced by 53.3% from 30% to 14%.

The results suggest that the reduction in diarrhoea prevalence has contributed to reduction in absenteeism among learners. Reduction in diarrhoea prevalence has been achieved due to the following factors drinking Water Guard Wa Ufa treated water, hand washing with soap after visiting the toilet, and increased number and use of pit latrines in the targeted schools.

In the surrounding communities reduction of diarrhoea prevalence has been achieved by use of treated drinking water using Water Guard Wa Ufa. There is increased access to water guard wa ufa as a result of the introduced revolving water guard wa ufa committees in all the 31 villages. The committees are selling Water Guard Wa Ufa sachets at MK10 each to the community members for sustainability purposes.

The school club activities i.e. dramas, songs, poems and sensitisation meetings have created awareness among learners and communities on the importance of drinking treated water and washing hands after visiting the toilet. These practices have resulted to the reduction of diarrhoea prevalence in schools and surrounding communities.

8.2 FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

The study conducted focus group discussions with 4 health surveillance assistants, 40 VHC members and 4 community leaders. During the discussions the study revealed that there was no cholera case within the community from October to March than the same period last year when two cases were reported. This was attributed to easy access to and use of Water Guard Wa Ufa. Has commended the project for Water Guard Wa Ufa that benefited the communities because the project provided the only preventive measure as health centre stocks of chlorine had run out. The reduction of diarrhoea cases was a blessing to HSAs who had enough time to attend to other health and sanitation activities.

Committee members raised complaints that the process of treating water using Water Guard Wa Ufa takes long as compared to using Water Guard Liquid. Much as there is this concern, sensitisation meetings are addressing this as some community members are realising that Water Guard Wa Ufa has two functions of killing germs and clearing contaminants in the water compared to Water Guard Liquid, which only kills germs.

The committees also complained that the selling price of Water Guard Wa Ufa sachet (\$0.07) is high. However, they agreed to maintain the same price for sustainability of the project.

8.3 OBSERVATION

During this study exercise in schools and communities, it was observed that hand washing after visiting toilet was being practiced by both learners and parents. Learners at school also knew quite well the entire process of using Water Guard Wa Ufa. This is a clear indication that they are more knowledgeable than before in water treatment and this has even reached their homes.

Through the study it was learnt that some communities (PTA and School committee members) contributed positively towards the current achievements by constructing pit latrines and buying of buckets for collection of water and drinking cups. This is a clear indication that the communities have realised the importance of Safe Water Project towards the reduction of diarrhoea diseases at school.

9.0 CONCLUSION

In evaluating the results of this study, it can be concluded that treating drinking water with Water Guard Wa Ufa can reduce diarrhoea prevalence in communities that are drawing water from unprotected sources. In addition, it can be concluded that interventions leading to reduction of diarrhoea prevalence will contribute towards reduction of absenteeism among learners. The healthier the learner the better the class performance leading to well educated communities who can contribute towards development

10.0. RECOMMENDATIONS

The evaluation came up with the following recommendations which if implemented could contribute to the achievement of the project goal.

1. Increase the number of toilets in the targeted schools from an average of 7 to 10.
2. Construct permanent slabs/stands for drinking water buckets to replace the temporary racks, which are usually attacked by termites.
3. Train each and every teacher in safe water project interventions in the targeted schools to ensure that every teacher is involved even in the times of patron's absence.
4. Continue with sensitisation meetings on the use of Water Guard Wa Ufa to the community so that more households are encouraged to use.
5. Strengthen the collaboration between teachers and parents through PTA and school committee meetings once every school term to encourage PTA and school committee participation in the project as well as making sure that WGWU is used in schools and in the learners' households.
6. Water Guard Wa Ufa revolving scheme should open an account and committee members be trained in financial management for sustainability purposes.