



# Rural Focus Ltd.

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## CAPACITY STATEMENT

**Rural Focus, Ltd.** has drawn together Kenyan and International expertise to provide professional services covering the planning, technical, institutional and management aspects of water supply and sanitation, water resource management and environmental services. Rural Focus provides appropriate and sustainable solutions to challenging problems *in partnership* with its clients. Rural Focus has adopted an efficient, adaptable, and business oriented approach which is consistent with the Rural Focus philosophy of **professional integrity, good governance, innovation and sustainable resource use**. Rural Focus is a private limited liability Kenyan company, established in 1995.

Rural Focus, Ltd. offers a range of **engineering, environmental, socio-economic and project management skills and experience**. The range of skills and experience within the staff is appropriate for traditional engineering and community based development projects that require a combination of technical, environmental, social, economic, institutional and managerial skills.

### Key Areas of Expertise

- **Survey, engineering design and construction supervision:**
  - Water Supply** projects include gravity and pumped pipelines, earth dams and pans, rainwater harvesting structures, boreholes, shallow wells, spring protection, river intakes, water treatment, water quality testing, mechanical and electrical pumps and generators for pumped systems.
  - Irrigation** projects include sprinkler and drip systems, for horti/floricultural enterprises
  - Wastewater** projects covered include storm and wastewater treatment and drainage systems
  - Building** projects covered include residential houses, offices, public utilities (schools, dispensaries) and commercial structures e.g. pack houses, garages, etc.
  - Mechanical and appropriate technology** projects covering for the water, transport and agricultural sector.
- **Water resource management & resource utilisation studies**, covering all aspects of water resource surveys, mapping, assessment, water demand analysis, water policies and law and the capacity of water resource management institutions.
- **Institutional development and capacity building community managed water supply systems and water resource user associations**, covering the design and implementation of programs, including stakeholder analysis, training needs assessments, and training of trainers, communities, water user associations and operators.
- **Project management & co-ordination** including community & donor liaison, project planning, scheduling, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation. Training on the use of project planning and management tools.
- **Environmental impact assessments** specifically related to small scale development projects.
- **Socio-economic surveys** using both formal and participatory methodologies (PRA) and application of a sustainable livelihood approach
- **Design and implementation of environmental health programmes**, covering water, hygiene and sanitation issues at individual, household, and community levels for rural and urban communities.
- **Geographical Information System (GIS)** projects include infrastructure, topography, and resource mapping and spatial analysis.

## Examples of Recent Projects undertaken by Rural Focus Ltd

### *Institutional Development & Capacity Building*

- **Output Based Aid (OBA) / Micro-finance Project in Kenya.** Acted as Support Organisation for 21 Community Managed Water Projects to develop loan applications including Registration, Service Provision Agreements, Engineering Designs, EIA, and Business Planning.
- **Operationalisation of the Water Act 2002 in Water Resources Management.** GOK/Sida. Prepared technical, human resource, institutional blue print for establishment of the Water Resource Management Authority.
- **Kenya Water and Sanitation Program.** GOK/SIDA/DANIDA Short Term and Long Term Assistance on WRM and RWSS.
- **Capacity Building in Water Resource Management in Upper Ewaso Ngiro North River Basin,** Designed and implemented capacity building program for 13 Water Resource User Associations aimed at building governance and developing sub-catchment management plans.
- **Capacity Building in Water Supply Management in Mandera & Garissa District,** USAID funded program to regenerate and rehabilitate boreholes and improve the sustainability of water supply management and co-ordination mechanisms in the district.
- **Technical Assistance to Partner CBOs in Samburu, Marsabit and Moyale Districts** on the ECHO Funded Drought Preparedness Project.
- **Strengthening Community Based Management on Kathita-Kiirua Water Project, Meru District,** comprehensive EU funded programme to support establishment of community based management for a large gravity water scheme.
- **Training of Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) Staff** on participatory methodologies and community operation and maintenance training for water supplies.

### *Socio-economic Studies*

- **Sustainable Livelihoods Study, Embu district,** for the International Livestock Research Institute, using DFID's sustainable livelihoods framework to examine the dimensions and consequences of poverty, natural capital dependence and vulnerability in two rural communities

### *Monitoring & Evaluation*

- **Management of Water Supplies in NE Kenya.** Unicef. Looking into the future for the management practices for community managed water supplies, primarily boreholes in the context of the water sector reforms and drought prone conditions.
- **Programme evaluation DFID/OXFAM drought mitigation and recovery programmes,** evaluation of two Oxfam implemented programmes, including production and dissemination of lessons learnt documentation
- **Framework Monitoring & Mutual Learning programme,** to support Misereor funded diocesan community water projects throughout Kenya
- **Project Evaluation of three gravity-fed water projects in Mt Kenya and Aberdare Region,** EU funded water projects, including assessment of technical, socio-economic and environmental issues
- **Project Monitoring.** Annual Supervision missions for IFAD/GOK funded projects (EPHTFC, CKDAP).

### *Water Resource Management*

- **Water Allocation Plan for Naivasha Basin,** LNGG. Mobilised stakeholders to prepare a WAP for mitigating water use conflicts and sustaining environment in the context of competing commercial and social demands for water.
- **Water Resource Assessment and Mapping, Samburu, Turkana, Garissa, Mandera, Wajir & Marsabit Districts** Unicef & ECHO funded. Field mapping and assessment of water sources, development of local GIS capacity, integration of database as a decision support tool.
- **Integrated Water Resource Management Plan, Kotido District, Uganda.** Oxfam-GB
- **Lake Naivasha Water Resource Management Programme, 2001 Status Report.** Prepared for the Lake Naivasha Growers Group. Included developing a water balance model for the lake.
- **Establishment of River Water User Associations (RWUA),** community based river water resource management on Burguret and Ngare Nything rivers.

### **Engineering**

- **Feasibility, design and construction supervision** of dams and pans to support horticultural enterprises in Mount Kenya region and pastoralist communities in northern Kenya.
- **Feasibility, design and construction supervision** of residential and commercial structures – e.g. pack-houses, canteens, latrine blocks, offices blocks.
- **Framework Technical Support & Training Services** for the EU-funded Community Development Trust Fund (CDTF). Assessed the Kitale Solid Waste Management Project, Nguuru Gakirwe Water Project, Songa Irrigation Scheme, Menengai/Lake Nakuru EIA, Kowow Irrigation Project.
- **Rainwater Harvesting**, technical supervision of CDTF funded construction of 1000 ferro-cement rainwater tanks by women groups in Laikipia
- **Redesign and construction supervision of large gravity pipeline water supply system**, for EU funded Mutitu Water Project, near Gatarakwa
- **Rehabilitation of water treatment plant for Chogoria Hospital** (200 bed)

### **Environmental Engineering and Environmental Impact Assessments**

- **Design of urban slum water supply and sullage system**, for Kibera Water Project, Kibera Sullage System. Financed by SIDA
- **Design and construction supervision of constructed wetland**. William Holden, Nanyuki
- **Hydrological consultant for the Environmental Impact Assessment** of the Grandfalls/Mutonga Tana hydro-power dam for Tana and Athi Rivers Development Authority.
- **EIAs – development of Project Reports for start-up projects**. Projects include horticultural farms, infrastructure developments, water projects and industries.
- **Annual Environmental Audits** undertaken for variety of projects including horticultural farms, community water projects, cottage industries, and hotels.

### **Agriculture & Livestock**

- **Draught Animal Power Project Assessment**, Draught Animal Power Technology Promotion and Adoption Programme, Design & Construction of Community Fishing Rafts, & Flood Utilisation Study for ASAL-Laikipia.
- **Emergency Seed Distribution** in Laikipia for SARDEP

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

**Rural Focus, Ltd.** maintains a core staff of professionals including qualified engineers, GIS specialists, surveyors, environmentalists and community development specialists. It also draws on the resources of a wide range of associated professionals and organisations to meet the needs of each project.

### **Company Facilities**

- Report production - Computers, colour printers and state of the art software.
- Survey Equipment - GPS, total station, theodolites, levels, etc, for site surveys
- Engineering design – CAD workstation with A0 plotter
- Water Quality Testing – Field and Laboratory (physical, chemical & bacteriological tests)
- Mapping – GIS workstation with A1 digitiser, scanner and A1 plotter
- Transport - 6 x 4WD

### **Contact Details**

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