

**Environmental Impact Assessment of the laboratory construction at the
Machakos District Hospital by the World Bank funded EAPHLNP**

May 2 2015

Minutes of the public consultation on the environmental and social impacts of the
laboratory

Introduction

As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment, the public health team at Machakos District Hospital embarked on public consultations with key beneficiaries and stakeholders around the hospital and in Machakos town.

The Ministry of Health has undertaken the construction of a laboratory, through funding from the World Bank under the East Africa Public Health Laboratory Networking (EAPHLN) Project, to be located within the compound of Machakos District Hospital.

The laboratory is expected to improve the diagnostic services by increasing the test menu, as compared to what is being offered currently. This will translate to better health services for the population of Machakos and neighboring areas.

According to the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA 1999), a project of such nature should be subjected to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and a project report prepared for review by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). EIA is an assessment of the possible impacts—positive or negative—that a proposed project may have on the environment, considering natural, social and economic aspects. The purpose of the assessment is

to ensure that decision makers consider the ensuing environmental impacts to decide whether to proceed with the project or not. An EIA was prepared for this facility in 2012. A certificate was issued by NEMA on 29 May 2013 authorizing the construction of the facility (see annex).

During the current consultations, the public health team sought to get views/opinions on the Machakos District Hospital laboratory, and explained to participants that their information would be treated with high regard and great confidentiality, thus urged them to be frank and objective in their responses.

The team further explained to the stakeholders that the construction involves a bio safety level two building with a ground and first floor plan which has been designed to address the movement related to patients, personnel and specimens as well as other high standard laboratory design provisions. The team also highlighted the possible negative effects during the construction process and during operation. The team informed the participants on the proposed mitigation measures. These measures included: scaffolding/fencing off the site during the construction period, provision of protective gear for all workers, provision of sanitation facilities for the workforce during the construction period, provision of first aid kits on site, erection of the appropriate signage to direct the public and provision of fire and emergency exits have been proposed.

The following sections provide a summary of the main feedback from the consultations with respect to the topics discussed.

Q.1...Positive Impacts: In view of the project's magnitude and proposed activities, it was noted that the project has led to some positive impacts, such as the creation of job opportunities (both directly and indirectly), and provision of the much-needed hospital laboratory services for the people of Machakos and its surroundings. The stakeholders were asked if they supported the project and almost all agreed that it is a welcome venture. The stakeholders said that the availability of more tests at the Machakos District Hospital will mean that the referrals to Nairobi will be reduced and that some unemployed youth benefited from jobs.

Q.2... Safeguard Provisions during Construction: Roughly two-thirds of participants were "quite satisfied" with the proposed provisions. This is because the law will be followed to the letter, as the proposed provisions will minimize a lot of health hazards which may arise and the contractor will comply with the Workman's Compensation Act. However, some felt there was need for an extra incinerator to cater for the voluminous hazardous waste, which will be generated by the laboratory. It was also suggested that full training of the operator and personnel handling waste should be done.

Q.3.....Mitigation Measures to minimize environmental health hazards posed by the project implementation and operation process. Facilitator explained that a number of measures were planned, including watering the site to keep dust down, utilization of electric machines in place of diesel run machines or manual labor, disposing waste materials in a designated dumpsite and properly tuning all diesel run machines to ensure efficient combustion: 60% supported the proposed mitigation measures as explained by the facilitator. The participants stated that the mitigation measures may possibly increase the costs of running the whole project. But they hoped that the cost will be minimized to ensure maximum efficiency and effectiveness in the proposed project to be achieved.

Q.4.....Historical or Cultural Importance: Most people did not notice any features which are historical or cultural which needed protection at the construction site.

Q.5.....Suggestions: 90% felt that frequent conversations and discussions with the public who frequent the hospital could be conducted for them to air their views on the best ways to carry out the project. The frequent discussions with the members of the public will achieve the concept of being socially friendly. An environmental audit should be carried out as well. Officers from the National Environment and Management Authority can frequent the place from time to time to assess how friendly the project is and if there are any measures which need to be carried out, they would then be addressed.

Q.6...**Overall Support:** 90% of the participants said that they support the project. In general, the laboratory will help the public at large and will improve the medical institution through effective and efficient service delivery; only about 10% had fears that if the waste was not well managed it may be a health hazard to the neighboring community.

Report by: Felistus Kimeu.....*Felistus Kimeu 2/5/2015*.....

Public Health Officer Machakos County May 2 2015.

Attendance List



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

ATTENDANCE LIST:

	Full names	Designation/profession/job	Email/telephone no.	Signature
1	Timothy nzau	County Public Health Officer	073372697	<i>[Signature]</i>
2	Richard Yotta	Health Administrative Officer	0721584037	<i>[Signature]</i>
3	Felistas Nthenya	Public health officer	Felistaskimeu@yahoo.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
4	Muasya philiph	Procurement Officer	Philip.muasya@kaa.go.ke	<i>[Signature]</i>
5	Johnston kimina	Neighbour	0727524549	<i>[Signature]</i>
6	Philip musya	Advocate	bobz.phil@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
7	Betina mutinda	Nutritionist	mutinda.betina7@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
8	There's a ngina	PHT	0723703689	<i>[Signature]</i>
9	Jonathan mutinda	PHO	0701789100	<i>[Signature]</i>
10	Stephen kioko	PHO	0714596992	<i>[Signature]</i>
11	Belita musau	Nursing officer	0722225136	<i>[Signature]</i>
12	Sabina mukula	Support staff	0716005625	<i>[Signature]</i>
13	David mwikya	Support staff	0731557950	<i>[Signature]</i>
14	Stella mutinda	Nutritionist	0722334953	<i>[Signature]</i>
15	Cosmus muthini	Incinerator Operator	0717098867	<i>[Signature]</i>
16	Emmaculate Mumbua	Clerical Officer	0721457793	<i>[Signature]</i>
17	Susan Mwikali	Patient	--	<i>[Signature]</i>
18	John Mulee	Casual labourer	--	<i>[Signature]</i>
19	Josphine Mumbua	Neighbour	0720612676	<i>[Signature]</i>
20	Clementina Dominic	Patient Attendant	0734927953	<i>[Signature]</i>
21	Samuel Kyalo	Security Officer	0718940357	<i>[Signature]</i>

COMMENTS.

Some people had the following comments:-

Q.1---Most people are happy because it will be cost effective i.e instead of taking specimens to Nairobi which involves costs in transportation of the specimens, building a laboratory in Machakos will cut down the costs as the specimens will be analyzed in Machakos.

Annex

Questionnaire for Consultations with Stakeholders on the Environmental Impact of the Public Health Laboratory constructed under the World Bank funded East Africa Public Health Laboratory Networking Project

Instructions to Facilitator:
Step 1: Explain the project – title, objective, components, coverage, financiers, beneficiaries, etc. Tell the participants about the project
Step 2: Explain the positive effects or benefits (social, economic, environmental, health and safety);
Step 3: Explain the potential risks (social, environmental, health and safety) likely to be associated with the project at all phases (Constructional and operational);
Step 4: Tell them about the ESIA/ESMP and Health (or Medical) Care Waste Management Plan that has been prepared to ensure better compliance with safeguards policy of the World Bank and the Government of Kenya. Explain measures put in place to enhance benefits but also to prevent and address any potential impacts;
Step 5: Seek participants’ opinion and perceptions about the project, using questions below to guide discussions. Allow questions from participants. Listen to them. Respond to their complaints. Record and document their questions, expressions of support and complaints;
Step 6: At the end play back to them what has transpired including their fears, support and the explanations the project has offered. Then close the meeting.

The Ministry of Health has undertaken the construction of a Laboratory, through funding from the World Bank under the East Africa Public Health Laboratory Networking (EAPHLN) Project to be located within the compound of Machakos District hospital, which is within your neighborhood.

The laboratory is expected to improve access the diagnostic services by increasing the test menu as compared to what is being offered currently, and to assist in dealing more efficiently with disease outbreaks. This will translate into better health services and improved public health for the population residing in this neighborhood and in region more broadly.

According to the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA 1999), a project of such nature should be subjected to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and a project report prepared for review by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). EIA is an assessment of the possible impacts—positive or negative—that a proposed project may have on the environment; considering natural, social and economic aspects. The purpose of the assessment is to ensure that decision makers consider the ensuing environmental impacts to decide whether to proceed with the project or not. An EIA was prepared for this facility in 2012.

As part of the EIA process stakeholder consultations are expected to take place. In that regard, we would like to get your views/opinions on this Busia District Hospital laboratory project, hence the following questions. Your information will be treated with high regard thus we urge you to be candid in your responses.

Indicative Questions for Discussion

The proposed two level building, ground and first floor plan is designed to expand access to high quality, reliable and timely laboratory services specimens as well as other high standard laboratory design provisions.

1. *In view of the project’s magnitude and envisaged activities, it is envisioned that the project is generating some positive impacts such as the creation of job opportunities (both directly and indirectly), and provision of the much needed hospital laboratory services for the people of Busia and its surroundings.*

Yes
No

Reason for the above answer

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2. *To minimize public health hazards posed by the project implementation and operation process, some measures including scaffolding/fencing off the site during the construction period, provision of protective gears for all workers, provision of sanitation facilities to the workforce during the construction period, provision of first aid kits on site, erection of the appropriate signage to direct the public and provision of fire and emergency exits have been proposed. Are you satisfied by the proposed provisions?*

Yes
No

Reason for the above answer

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What other suggestions could you give?

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3. *To minimize environmental health hazards posed by the project implementation and operation process, some measures including watering the site to keep dust down, utilization of electric machines in place of diesel run machines or manual labor, disposing waste materials in a designated dumpsite and properly tuning all diesel run machines to ensure efficient combustion, would be applied. Do you support the proposed mitigation measures?*

- Yes
- No

Reason for the above answer

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What other suggestions could you give?

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4. *Are there any areas or features of historic or cultural importance on or around the project site that need protection?*

- No.*
- Yes (if so, list them below)*

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5. *What suggestions would you give to assist the project to be more socially and environmentally friendly?*

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6. *Over all, do you support the proposed project?*

Yes

No

Reason for the above answer

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What other comments could you give?

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