**COMMUNITY member who attended the committee women FGD; a follow-up**

Miss Ann: The group we had yesterday was the committee, right?

Respondent: yes

Miss Ann: And you witnessed what we talked about?

Respondent: yes

Miss Ann: We were talking about…..

Respondent: equality

Miss Ann: about equality. And we were inquiring from each other who is supposed to make decisions

Respondent: yes

Miss Ann: and other related things.

Respondent: yes

Miss Ann: can you explain to me the things that you noted we were to discuss them yesterday but we were not able to?

Respondent: when we started?

Miss an: yes

Respondent: about equality?

Miss Ann: yes, concerning equality in relation to how this thing is carried out

Respondent: I have noted that we have started asking each other concerning this project…

Miss Ann: yes

Respondent: who has brought up the project, who has started it, the process the project has undergone from its inception to where it is now

Miss Ann: that’s true but I would like you to tell me, there are those things we highlighted most yesterday but maybe there are other things that were not clear but you being the residents of this place you feel like they need to be changed

Respondent: on the side of accounts or just the way it is

Miss Ann: the way it is, how it works, how it is governed, its relationship with the people in the village…. Something like that

Respondent: as for me generally, the way it is ok. But what I can add to that is that if it could cover the issue of the mangroves; prevent the cutting down of trees, cutting of….

Miss Anne: firewood

Respondent: firewood. The other challenge is, at least they could have made it as a department like the way we say that in the ocean there are swampy areas where we decide that on certain areas there are these things, do like this and then we plant again, after a period of about two years we close that area because we have planted others

Miss Ann: yes

Respondent: when it’s mature you can harvest

Miss Ann: yes

Respondent: not all of them but those that have matured and then after two years you close that area and focus on the other area. And on that new area, you first harvest the mature one because, like another elderly man in our village had a business of selling mangroves but after the business was closed, the elderly man has been negatively affected.

Miss Anne: ok?

Respondent: yes, so much. I also have another child who is my aunts, who said that the business was good but since the mangroves were closed down, they have been affected.

Miss Anne: so when the mangroves were closed, you know there was a way in which they were prevented from accessing the mangroves……

Respondent: denied access like now…..

Miss Anne: it’s not cut down at all?

Respondent: yes, it’s not harvested at all

Miss Anne: so they were saying it would have been better if an area is….

Respondent: set apart so that the mature ones can be harvested, sold as a business as the rest matures

Miss Ann: ok?

Respondent: yes. If it’s possible

Miss Anne: and what about those who depend on firewood?

Respondent: those who depend on firewood?

Miss Anne: yes

Respondent: those who depend on firewood are already used to the change, why? Because we requested even those near the waters but it wasn’t possible just the same way the member said yesterday that we are given an area to collect but when done there is an urge to go deeper in the mangroves to collect. So that truly destroys the environment. Personally I didn’t feel bad about it

Miss Anne: ok?

Respondent: because it destroys the environment, but here where there are big trees, we have businesses, there are others like us with businesses who will buy from those who have also bought

Miss Anne: ok. In your opinion, not what we talked about yesterday, who do you think runs this project?

Respondent: the one who runs the project?

Miss Anne: yes

Correspondent: the project, although it has its owner, it’s us who will run it, the villagers. Why? Because the owner comes up with the project then we, the villagers, plant the mangroves tress.

Miss Anne: So who’s the owner?

Respondent: His name is Mark. He came up with the project. So we the villagers we were made aware and taught about the project and what it consisted until we understood and now the villagers are reaping benefits. Because in it if they choose today who would plant the mangroves, they would pick around four chiefs and villagers from our side and the other side and they go, from there they are paid and benefit.

Miss Anne: ok?

Respondent: yes and they will have benefitted. So we are the ones….

Miss Anne: the villagers?

Respondent: yes, we are the ones who plant the mangroves and we are paid.

Miss Anne: it’s everyone who is involved in planting the mangroves?

Respondent: involved?

Miss Anne: yes or there are those specific people who go every time.

Respondent: it’s not always like that but every time we hear that KEFRI is calling people, it’s not everyone who goes but they call different people

Miss Anne: how are they selected?

Respondent: they are just called like the way yesterday I was informed that I have been called for a meeting.

Miss Anne: just like the way you’ve come is the way you are called/

Respondent: yes

Miss Anne: there is a way that…….

Respondent: because there is a way that you may call people and require you to employ everyone and it’s not possible. He is the one to choose who he wants

Miss Anne: let me ask something? Is there a possibility that those that are called are the ones who have always been called…?

Respondent: more often?

Miss Anne: more often

Respondent: many times, those who have been planting often are those who are called. For me I don’t know how to plant mangroves so I have never gone.

Miss Anne: you’ve never gone?

Respondent: I have never. I only meet with those people going to plant the mangroves and I am not interested in it

Miss Anne: do you prefer that they should be choosing different people?

Respondent: the way they are doing it, it’s supposed to be if today they have chosen a certain group of people, the next time they should work with a different group, because the mangroves are for everyone, and everyone should also participate.

Miss Anne: that’s very true

Respondent: I don’t agree with how they do it

Miss Anne: so it’s like…..

Respondent: there is no equality

Miss Anne: so it’s like it depends with how they know each other

Respondents: yes. Because if I have a colleague here and I have a friend whom I know who is either my brother, wife, I will always meet them there.

Miss Anne: ok!!!

You as a member of this community, what are your responsibilities? Because you are not involved in planting of the mangroves, if as a community you are not involved in planting, what are your responsibilities in this project?

Respondent: in mangroves

Miss Anne: yes

Respondent: in that, I benefit in getting water in good supply, so that’s how I benefit from the mangroves. On the issue of planting, I don’t get opportunities and maybe there are other things that come up in KEFRI like seminars, like the one that was yesterday, that’s rare to get the opportunities. Therefore, the mangroves are ours but they belong to certain people.

Miss Anne; so there are those who own?

Respondent: yes

Miss Anne: I would like you to tell me one thing, those people who come for those meetings, those called to plant; do you think that they have a certain level of wealth, or those that are poor or those who are very wealthy?

Respondent: to be honest those who plant the mangroves trees are those that are not well off, they are poor just like me. Doing that work is not bad, as some have to take the risk since some have children without a husband.

Miss Anne: so they choose both women and men

Respondent: yes

Miss Anne: ok

Respondent: Yes, they take both men and women

Miss Anne: does religion matter?

Respondent: religion?

Miss Anne: like Muslims are the ones going to plant or Christians?

Respondent: no, they are mixed up

Miss Anne: so there is no discrimination?

Respondent: yes, like in my area, the largest number is Muslim but in Bonding they are mixed up and all of them go to plant

Miss Anne: ok?

Respondent: yes

Miss Anne: ok, so you don’t see any form of discrimination because maybe there are those who are known to have a certain amount of money, or a certain family has money are the ones called.

Respondent: no, those who have money rarely go for planting. It’s mostly the youths, women and those who are well able that go for planting, because there was a project of fishponds and they could go there to dig holes and they are paid. So those people are used to that not like here. People here love themselves

Miss Anne: they love themselves?

Respondent: yes. This town and the other one is different.

Miss Anne: ok?

Respondent; yes, so this is my area and the other town is also my home

Miss Anne: oh yes!! I was told that you come from there to this place

Respondent: yes

Miss Anne: ok. So there is no discrimination there

Respondent: yes but here there is a bit of consideration on social status

Miss Anne: social status in terms of what

Respondent: even though there is choosing, the one to be chosen should just go but in the other place these with no work are identified and given equal opportunities.

Miss Anne: so here it all depends with your influence

Respondent; yes

Miss Anne: what do they consider?

Respondent: your prominence, so they will take a relative from them,

Miss Anne: ok!!!!

Respondent: yes, so there are certain families that you will observe work

Miss Anne: specific families

Respondent: yes because they have been part of most of the things in the area hence able to take most opportunities

Miss Anne: ok, for their people?

Respondent: yes

Miss Anne: ok, so if you are not known in that area and you don’t have your own people, there is no time you’ll get….

Respondent: I have been telling you that I have been here but there is no single time I have been given such opportunities except those times when people are going around asking about mangroves, its true we will answer the questions because we’ve seen them for many years, we are getting water and our children are also benefitting from the school but other things that are cheap…

Miss Anne: (laughs) there is none?

Respondent: there’s none

Miss Anne: what would you suggest to be done for such problems to end?

Respondents: for those problems to end?

Miss Anne: yes

Respondent: for the problems to end it requires us to agree. In the case of a rising issue, a meeting should be held or the chairman should give work in groups so that the work may not be for specific people

Miss Anne: ok. Are there certain steps taken when together and you feel they are not right?

Respondent: steps….when we are together……are not right?

Miss Anne: yes

Respondent: everything is ok, the way its organized that’s how it’s done, because there are many people there like those women who were here yesterday who speak openly. It’s not like the previous committee who were silent but this one is active.

Miss Anne: ooh!!! The other committee was silencing people?

Respondent: it wasn’t that open!!

Miss Anne: ooh!! Why?

Respondent: I don’t know. it wasn’t that open.

Miss Anne: ok!!?

Respondent: I heard that it’s about three months ago when we had a meeting on the issue of mangroves after we received this money, we were asked which projects we have and so many issues were addressed to the point where the issue of water tanks was mentioned. We were told that these tanks were bought for the ‘Mikoko Pamoja’ but why are they in base and they are written mikoko pamoja’

Miss Anne: ooh!!!!

Respondent: yes

Miss Anne: you are told that they are brought by baseteniant

Respondent: base had brought the tanks and mikoko pamoja also needed tanks, so we wouldn’t know whether the tanks were brought by base because the tanks have been written mikoko pamoja (both laugh) that question was asked but the current secretary requested not to be asked that question because he has joined recently so the right person to be asked are those who have been there earlier. Someone came out who does not belong to ‘mikoko’ and currently vying for MCA and said that if we talk about those issues , it might result to so many problems, enmity so that topic should be left and focus on the money available, how its planned……

Miss Anne: so there was no equality at all?

Respondent: there was no equality at all, but the current committee which mainly consists of the youths are actively involved because they want to know what’s going on but the previous one consisted the elderly and it’s in their nature to always…

Miss Anne: concerning the tanks, when the ‘mikoko pamoja’ were planning to buy them, how many were supposed to be bought?

Respondent: we decided among us to buy tanks on the first round because the ones we had were few

Miss Anne: which year was that?

Respondent: I don’t know which year it was but it was around 2020 something. That topic was discussed around three months ago. Even there was a certain man who had said that the tank at the mosque belongs to base but its written mikoko pamoja and this was seconded by another man who stays at the mosque.

Miss Anne: so what’s the truth of the matter?

Respondent: the truth of the matter? For us we know that base brought the tanks and when base decide to bring the tanks they do and mikoko pamoja knows that when they have passed the decision for the tanks to be bought that’s what will happen as base is the leaders, so we don’t know whether mikoko pamoja has bought, in fact they have even bought a few

Miss Anne: so they want the community to see ….

Respondent: those things that have been bought

Miss Anne: they have been bought…

Respondent: with their own money.

Miss Anne: ok?

Respondent: yes

Miss Anne: therefore if they are not the ones who bought and they are saying that they bought…

Respondent: it’s like we have agreed

Miss Anne: ok, so where does the money go.

Respondents: on that, it gets into the account and because its planned on we don’t know whether the tanks have been bought or not, so they will divide among themselves

Miss Anne: ok, so the committee…

Respondent: it’s no longer functional

Miss Anne: ok!!

Respondent: yes

Miss Anne: which period was that?

Respondent: the previous year of 2019 because this year we have a new committee

Miss Anne: that’s a challenge

Respondent: but inquiries were made

Miss Anne: But you people you just persevere and remain silent

Respondent: people inquired

Miss Anne: they inquired? What did they say?

Respondent: there was no answer because the one who was there was maybe alone and could not speak and that’s how we were silenced.

Miss Anne: ok, there was this issue in your place of water, what’s the progress

Respondent: that issue is going on well because in our area there is a stage in Chale River with a corner, there is a big tank near the borehole. That borehole was someone’s farm

Miss Anne: the one near the road?

Respondent: yes, that was some ones farm but the owner died and left his children. That farm was divided among themselves. The one whose portion of the land had the borehole is paid at the end of every month and a structure was built for him to watch over the tank. The tank supplied water to the whole of Makongeni which is large, from the upper Makongeni area until when the money was depleted. The following year when they received money, they were able to supply water to the city and the money was depleted. People were very happy because on the upper area they received fresh water while those at the lower area received salty water. The water reached on our area and others also wanted to get water, so currently the whole area receives water.

Miss Anne: ooh!! Till the end

Respondent: yes currently everyone gets water.

Miss Anne: ok, so there is this committee that’s concerned with this water, when they connect water to someone they collect money

Respondent: I don’t know about the issue of collecting money, but there are meters and also you are charged when collecting water.

Miss Anne: ooh!!!

Respondent: its ten shillings for two big buckets or three buckets for the same amount

Miss Anne: ok?

Respondent: and then at the end of every month the chairman collects the money, pays for the bill and the rest is saved. Sometimes after some months they summon us and give account of the money in the account

Miss Anne: ok?

Respondent: yes. They are doing well

Miss Anne: they are doing well!! That’s a project that has succeeded well

Respondent: yes

Miss Anne: what else has been a success?

Respondent: it’s only the project of water they have done; they have not added any other project. But in schools, they gave out books. They contributed money that bought books and desks because classrooms are many, it’s not like here

Miss Anne: ok. In your opinion, are there groups in this village, just like I asked yesterday that are not benefiting in this project and you feel they should?

Respondent: in this village?

Miss Anne: yes

Respondent: for now the greatest benefit is on water and as for schools, the children learn in different schools. For example the child was in primary and benefited, will he benefit in secondary school, no and many of them here study in private schools and do not benefit. On the money received from schools Five percent of the money goes to the teachers of “madrasa” schools. Those teachers receive money for madrasa but not all of them are Muslims as others are Christians. Has the Christian benefited?

Miss Anne: no

Respondent: he has not benefitted. I also heard about the five percent in that meeting

Miss Anne: ohh!!!!

Respondent: there is five percent for teachers and then other things but on the issue of schools, even there are other parents who said if all teachers because all children do not learn madrasa of that area but in a different area, why have they not received the money for their teachers. They were just speaking among themselves but not in the meeting.

Miss Anne: ok. In areas where there are madrasas, are there Christians?

Respondent: no, there are no Christians

Miss Anne: sure!!

Respondents: its only Muslims.

Miss Anne: ok? So those are the only ones given the money?

Respondents: yes

Miss Anne: who else would you suggest to be given?

Respondents: those madrasa classes are two. There is one at the road and the one that’s here. So the one that’s here is the one that’s given the five percent but the one at the road does not included.

Miss Anne: ok!!

Respondent: and there are other children from here that attend the madrasa at the road.

Miss Anne: why are they giving this one that’s here leaving the other? Why can’t they divide the money into two?

Respondents: that’s where the parents are asking why the madrasa on the road is not given but as per now are not sure whether they have been given.

Miss Anne: ok? Why do you think they have not been given?

Respondent: they favour this madrasa because the other one is in town

Miss Anne: ohh!!!

Respondent: it’s along the road and they don’t like town

Miss Anne: so the one in town is more important? The one at the road does not receive?

Respondent: I am not sure whether it receives

Miss Anne: ok

Respondent: and it’s not the first time, every time mikoko pamoja receives money, five percent is given for madrasa

Miss Anne: ok? But its only one madrasa that gets the money

Respondent: yes

Miss Anne: ok, and what about your other place in Makongeni?

Respondent: in Makongeni, like where my children learn, the teachers have sponsors who have been facilitating them even before I was born, but the other madrasas, parents facilitate because they have not been approved.

Miss Anne: ok

Respondent: yes but its just that there was a problem of water at the mosque as the tank had leakages and mikoko pamoja bought a tank for them because in a mosque there should not be lack of water.

Miss Anne: you are saying that madrasa teachers are paid while the Christian teachers are not

Respondent: yes

Miss Anne: Christians of which side and they are not teaching madrasa

Respondent: the Christian teachers don’t have madrasas because they go to church. So I am not sure whether the church there is where the owner of here goes but there is a lady here who has lived for many years and many other teachers, they have their own church and I am not sure whether they were included.

Miss nine: ok, so you are saying that those who teach Sunday school do you mean sundyschool?

Respondent: in madrasa there is a church

Miss Anne: there is a church?

Respondent: yes, there is

Miss Anne: there are teachers…

Respondent: those who are of that church are like the madam who is teaching in Gazi primary and the husband who have been living here…..Mr. Kinyua. They have been living for a long time. He also has a right to get because he is a member of Gazi

Miss Anne: yes, also because of the children going there

Respondent: yes, they should get something but I don’t know whether they are given a share.

Miss Anne: ok!!!!

Respondent: maybe it’s only benefitting the community

Miss Anne: it benefits the community

Respondent: or maybe it doesn’t benefit the outsiders

Miss nine: the people who are not members of the community don’t have a right

Respondent: that’s how it is

Miss Anne: ok, the next question. I don’t want to keep you because of your baby

Respondent: ok

Miss nine: which things have you observed that can bring equality moving forward with this project?

Respondent: concerning this project?

Miss Anne: yes

Respondent: and the response of people?

Miss Anne: yes. The way people are responding to it, working with it….

Respondent: keeping records, maintaining equality and moving in the same direction is by coming together and having unity. But if someone has a different mind and works on his own, it’s not possible, because if both of you decide to do something together it can work and if one of you aims at that thing for himself and gets it then his heart changes

Miss Anne: people have been like that?

Respondent: yes, you know nowadays people have really changed, for example, there is this residential plots near us that has families from Pemba

Miss Anne: Pembe?

Respondent: no, Pemba. Those who came earlier, others are married, have children and even have grandchildren but are still referred to us outsiders and have no rights to get anything

Miss Anne: ohh!!!! Even in other groups like Mikoko pamoja?

Respondent: yes!!! Even sometimes when they build their own houses they are told to evacuate.

Miss Anne: where should they go?

Respondent: I don’t know about that. They are told to demolish there houses and the way they have lived there for that long, where are they supposed to go and they don’t have anywhere else?

Miss Anne: where are they supposed to go? That’s true

Respondent: so we have that issue of self-centeredness here

Miss Anne: ohh!!!

Respondent: yes. So much

Miss Anne: are the Pemba people many?

Respondent: they don’t like it especially when visitor comes here; they take them as visitors despite them staying there for long time

Miss Anne: ok!!!

Respondent: so for everything to have equality, it’s for people to be together but if there is only one side, equality cannot be achieved.

Miss Anne: there will be no equality, that’s very true……. Is there any other thing that needs to be dealt with for successful continuation of the project?

Respondent: to be dealt with?

Miss Anne: yes

Respondent: so that?

Miss Anne: is there any other thing that needs to be worked on so that this project my continue well and have benefits all through even in future.

Respondent: in this project, like this responsibility that we have here, there are leaders. In my view if these leaders take up different responsibilities and work together, like Makongeni and here, the group is the same, they should imitate what has been done there and I know we will expand well.

Miss Anne: because there are things done there that are not done here

Respondent: yes, like there, water is already in plenty therefore if that project is progressing well but here the water project is not yet ours let’s say this project here has expanded well and on the other area it has not because there is high bill and the money cannot pay for it, will the project expand?

Miss Anne: oh!!! So the bill is high

Respondent: yes, you know many people are complaining that they are not getting water but the truth is that they get water but they fail to pay for it at the end of the month. Does the bill show that they have not been getting water?

Miss Anne: no

Respondent: the meter is still reading and a few people cannot pay for the whole community

Miss Anne: yes, everyone is given an amount to pay

Respondent: yes, and we pay ten shillings a day

Miss Anne: ohh!!

Respondent: we use the water in the day and pay ten shillings so in a month is three hundred shillings

Miss Anne: ohh!!!!

Respondent: yes. So in these three hundred shillings, houses that receive water are said to be three hundred, at the end of the month we expect ninety thousand shillings

Miss Anne: ok!!!

Respondent: after going round in collecting the bills, you receive ten thousand shillings

Miss Anne: you get?

Respondent: ten thousand shillings

Miss Anne: ok!!!

Respondent: others are complaining that they are not getting water so the bill is high and the meter is still reading in the next month. In the previous month only half of the money has been paid and there is still an increase in the bill for the current month

Miss Anne: the arrears of the money increases

Respondent: until it comes to the point that the water is disconnected and we don’t have the electricity power so we just have to go to the Kenya power?

Miss Anne: yes

Respondent: so it has been disconnected and for example mikoko pamoja has received some funds

Miss Anne: yes

Respondent: so there is a discussion of what should be done with the money and due to the problem of water, the community comes up with the solution that the money is theirs because they belong to Gazi and the mangroves are theirs, the money should be used to pay for the arrears

Miss Anne :( laughs) so the money was to be used to do something else but it’s used to pay the electricity bill?

Respondent: yes, that’s what happens oftenly

Miss Anne: ohh!!!

Respondent: yes, even in the meetings there is not much discussion of other things other than the use of that money when it came

Miss Anne: ohh!!

Respondent: yes. We were told that it’s not possible because…..

Miss Anne: when was the money received? In the sixth month?

Respondent: yes on the sixth month, so it was decided that water is more important because people cannot go to the boreholes as they are only three borehole points and other are in bad state. There is a high bill that requires to be reduced. For example the funds received is four hundred and fifty thousand and it remains three hundred thousand, in it there is sports, the five percent of the teachers and many other things that were planned for, will it be enough?

Miss Anne: no, it won’t be enough

Respondent: so the issue is with the leaders paying for these. They should deal with the issue of people refusing to pay. If they pay then we will move on but paying for them we will just remain there

Miss Anne: and maybe others are refusing to pay because they know when that money comes ….

Respondent: yes, that’s it

Miss Anne: they would be paid for

Respondent: they will be paid for and that’s why the youths complained so much of them paying the money at the end of every month while others are not and decided if others are waiting for mikoko pamoja, then they also won’t pay

Miss Anne: that’s a big challenge

Respondent: that’s a big challenge

Miss Anne: that will interfere with the projects of mikoko pamoja?

Respondent: that’s what they were told; if they continue like that they will eliminate the project because there would be no progress

Miss Anne: there would be no progress

Respondent: like in our place, everyone has a meter and if you fail to pay then you are the only one affected

Miss Anne: yes, you’ll be the only one affected. Unlike here where everyone shares the same meter

Respondent: an easier example is that there is one meter here and there

Miss Anne: so here…..

Respondent: we have two boreholes

Miss Anne: ohh!! The boreholes are two, one here…

Respondent: at the mosque and here

Miss Anne: so you go to fetch water there at…..

Respondent: so there at the borehole is a generator with pipes connected to…

Miss Anne: everyone

Respondent: yes to everyone

Miss Anne: ohh!!!

Respondent: yes and in the whole village…

Miss Anne: that’s the biggest challenge because everyone has water but they don’t have the meter, right? And when the bill comes, you are required to contribute depending on…

Respondent: but if everyone pays the three hundred shillings, it will cater for the bill and even some left

Miss Anne: ohh!!! Ok

Respondent: and then there are those leaders, on that day it was asked, there is only one leader that has been going around alone collecting the money every month and paying electricity bill and the rest is kept and even when he is going away from the village, he summons the elders and hands over to them the remaining money which was sixty thousand.

Miss Anne: ohh!!! That’s a lot

Respondent: yes. He gave it out, but now another group of the youth came in and started collecting the money but there is nothing much received. When asked, like that day they were asked how many houses are there, three hundred and in a month how much money do they receive? If we say that in a month hundred or two hundred houses did not pay, how much is that? There was no answer

Miss Anne: they know but they don’t want to say it

Respondent: yes, because there must be some money they have taken for themselves. So that committee has been dissolved and now we have a new one

Miss Anne: a new one

Respondent: yes, after these three months. After our last meeting we were told there is a new committee now and it has few people because I have only seen three people that are involved in this, as per now everyone is receiving water well because I haven’t heard of any complains about it

Miss Anne: ok!! Let me ask you a question, how were the three hundred houses selected to be given water?

Respondent: if I wanted water at my place, I had to buy pipe, although there are the large ones for supplying so you only buy the one to connect to your place, pay a deposit of five hundred for labour and a tap is also connected. Your name is registered as among those with water

Miss Anne: ohh!! So the ones who were not able to buy a pipe are the ones who water was not connected to them

Respondent: that was before mikoko pamoja but after it; many pipes were bought and kept. If there is any damage or someone needs water to be connected to their place, there are already pipes. You only pay for the cost of connecting water and labour

Miss Anne: ok. So the ones who didn’t have are the ones who didn’t pay for that?

Respondent: yes

Miss Anne: ok

Respondent: so from that the issue of pipe was solved and you remember there was no water

Miss Anne: yes

Respondent: when there is no water they complain that they are not getting water but the issue is that they refuse to pay for it

Miss Anne: they will mess up

Respondent: they have already been given help, if someone says that they are not getting water now, they will just disconnect the tap, so he has to buy a big pipe for them to connect for him

Miss Anne: ohh!!!

Respondent: you are complaining you are not getting water, but when the water is disconnected they take buckets to fetch water at the borehole but when theirs water, you can’t see them go. So the issue is in payment

Miss Anne: so how do you think the issue can be solved? The problem of payment,

Respondent: the issue on lack of payment?

Miss Anne: yes

Respondent: currently they are handling the issue of playbill; we will be using the phones. If you have not paid after two months, the water will be disconnected

Miss Anne: ohh!! Ok?

Respondent: if you want to use meter, either you choose the option of paying ten shillings or the use of meter in relation to your ability. So for me, the idea that was passed of paying three hundred shillings has been easy for us who are incapable

Miss Anne: ok

Respondent: because in a day, the meter doesn’t read ten shillings but more. If you have children, they’ll play with water.

Miss Anne: yes…ok

Respondent: you know for now they have reduced the time of distributing water.

Miss Anne: what did they reduce?

Respondent: the time of distributing water. In the past the water was distributed for twelve hours but now it’s in the morning from six to nine thirty and in the evening from five to nine.

Miss Anne: why is it done that way?

Respondent: to ease electricity bill because people don’t want to pay

Miss Anne: they fail to pay and then the bill is sorted with the money for…

Respondent: because if the water is used the whole day, meter is still reading so in that we are reducing the money for the ….

Miss Anne: and that one that has a structure built around there?

Respondent: that one?

Miss Anne: yes

Respondent: I am not sure whether mikoko pamoja wants to add more tanks

Miss Anne: ok

Respondent: yes. I am just seeing it being constructed but what they are doing I don’t know.

Miss Anne: oh!!! Ok!!!............ Do you think there is…..? I think I will not ask you that question. Just tell me about the people who used to cut mangroves and collect firewood. So when money for mangroves is received and allocated, do you think its ok?

Respondent: on both sides

Miss Anne: no

Respondent: or to the community?

Miss Anne: no, let’s say the way the money is allocated to books etc., do you think its ok like that?

Respondent: the way it was agreed on by the community like in schools where there is need and contributions are required, some money will be taken for that. It’s already decided by the community

Miss Anne: ok….. Is there any other thing that has an issue in this project of mikoko pamoja and you would like it to be rectified?

Respondent: I have not noted any problem, everything is going on well. In my opinion, if there will be increase of funds in future, a meeting should be held to inform us that’s there is money for the youths, women, elderly so that these groups may start their own project to build themselves

Miss Anne: in their lives

Respondent: because there are financial institutions that lend money for business, so that would be our own money that we lend to ourselves

Miss Anne: so the money used in schools, water is enough?

Respondent: that of school and water is done unless there are raising issues but where we are heading now we should focus on projects that would build us.

Miss Anne: ok. Ill ends my questions there and gives you something that you’ll buy milk for the baby

Respondent: ok….. And where are you from? Nairobi?

Miss Anne: I am from Embu. Have you heard of Embu?

Respondent: I have heard of Thika

Miss Anne: I come from Embu and am a lecturer in University of Embu

Respondent: I will reach there one day

Miss Anne: but I have been here many times

Respondent: you’ve been here?

Miss Anne; yes

Respondent: you know I have a daughter who is currently studying, but you know in certain situations, I am the father and the mother

Miss Anne: ohh!!! Ok

Respondent: because I separated with the father

Miss Anne: ok!!!

Respondents: we separated because…

Miss Anne: that’s how it happens…… which class is she now?

Respondent: she’s in form three

Miss Anne: she’s in form three? Keep up and tell her not to get married early

Respondent: she hasn’t even thought of that, she’s still young

Miss Anne: ok

Respondent: she’s getting to seventeen

Miss Anne: ok!!! I don’t know where I will get change? Could you be having five hundred?

Respondent: maybe t home or at the shop

Miss Anne; ok…. I would like someone to help me get receipts of the soda we took yesterday and I went to this one and he said he doesn’t have receipts

Respondents: he doesn’t have?

Miss Anne; yes, is he a Somali?

Respondent: no, here is a Pemba

Miss Anne: ohh!!! He is saying he doesn’t have receipt

Respondent: maybe we should go to the chemist and borrow receipts

Miss Anne: it won’t have the name of the chemist?

Respondent: I will check on it

Miss Anne: ok. You’ll also look for change?

Respondent: ok

Miss Anne: I will wait for you here

Respondent: ok I am grateful

Miss Anne: welcome

SO KEY ISSUES ARE DISTRIBUTIONAL DECISIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE. NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT INTERNATIONAL OR NATIAONL LEVELS OF GOVERNANCE. BUT YOUTHS VS ELDERS AND RELIGIOUS DIVIDES ARE HIGHLIGHTED, ALONG WITH DETAILED PROBLEMS IN FAIRNESS OF DISTRIBUTION OF WATER.

KEY THEMES

LOCAL DISTIRBUTION

SECULAR VS RELIGIOUS

YOUTHS VS ELDERS

INCOMERS VS LONG TERM RESIDENTS