



WELL CLEANING AND CHLORINATION PROGRAM

14th June 2016 - 18th June 2016

“Helping the flood affected communities to resettle and
safer Access drinking water”



**SRI LANKA RED CROSS SOCIETY
GAMPAHA BRANCH**



Main PARTNER

Contents

Introduction.....	2
Main purpose	3
Objectives	3
Implementation	3
Beneficiaries	3
Partners	4
Outcome.....	4

Introduction

After flooding, water from private wells may not be safe to drink. Domestic wells should be purified and ensured to contain usable water in order for the communities to resettle in their houses.



When a water supply well has been flooded, the water in the well may be contaminated with foreign particles such as physical, chemical, Biological germs (waterborne pathogens) that can cause serious illness in humans and pets. A flood will leave warning signs that water well may be unsafe. Flood water carries large pieces of debris that can dislodge parts of the well and distort or crack the well casing. Flood water may also deposit mud or sediment in the well. Changes in the water's appearance, taste, or odor may indicate contamination.

Besides ensuring safe water source is a must in the process of resettling communities after flood situation. Otherwise people will subsequently face with serious illnesses and health problems due to consumption of contaminated water after flood.

After the prevailed flood situation in Gampaha district, it was apparent that special steps should have been taken to clean the contaminated wells before resettlement of communities. Accordingly SLRCS Gampaha Branch identified Biyagama, Wattala, Kelaniya, Dompe, Gampaha, Katana, Negombo and Ja-Ela divisions as such support needed areas.

Out of above identified areas Biyagama division were supported with a well cleaning program implemented by SLRCS – Gampaha Branch. The financial support for the program was given by Coco-Cola Beverages Sri Lanka Limited while coordination and monitoring of the program were carried out by Government Public Health Inspectors in relevant MOH areas.

Main purpose

The well cleaning program was implemented to help the communities resettle in their houses by ensuring safe domestic water sources for their use.

Objectives

- To clean wells contaminated due to flood
- To help flood affected communities to resettle and revert to usual water consumption
- To minimize the use of bottled water and avoid environmental impact due to plastic containers

Implementation

Relevant & valid information on the number of wells to be cleaned were obtained from Grama Niladhari officers in biyagama division. The well cleaning activity was carried out by professional well cleaners hired for the program in all divisions above. Well cleaning process was observed by the Public Health Inspectors (PHIs)and appointed Red Cross Volunteers in every MOH area of each division. Cleaned wells were recommended for use only after the government PHIs certified that the water was then fit for human consumption.

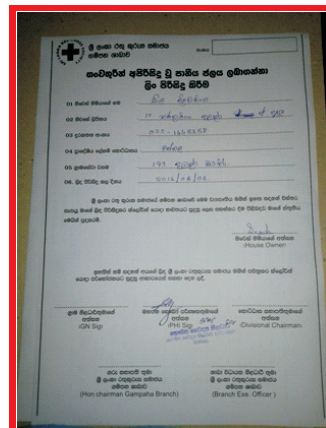
Beneficiaries

No	Division DS and MOH	GN Areas	PHI areas	Wells clean and chlorinated
02	Biyagama	Biyagama east Siyambalape south Biyagama south Pattiwila south Biyagama north Heyanthuduwa east Biyagama west Mabima east	Biyagama	219

Total wells clean and Chlorinated - 219

After cleaning wells a data form was administered to collect details of each and every beneficiary in all 08 GN divisions. The PHI and/or GramaNiladhari(GN) of the relevant area certified the validity of information collected by the beneficiary data form.

A special sticker to identify cleaned wells was stuck on every well cleaned under the program. SLRCS – Gampaha Branch carried out a coordination role within the implementation of the program.



Partners

Coca-Cola Beverages Sri Lanka Ltd provided the program with financial support to cover the operational cost of hiring professional water pump operators, provision of cleaning agents, water pumps for cleaning wells and monitoring of the program. The MOH office and PHIs of the relevant division supported with their technical guidance and certification for use of wells after cleaning.



Outcome

The communities were able to revert to their usual water sources making their resettlement efforts more positive.

Report prepared and submitted by:

Ruwan Abeywardena
Branch Executive Officer
SLRCS – Gampaha Branch
Mob: +94 77 3228985
Tel: +94 31 4933881
Fax: +94 31 2225089
Email: gampahabeo@redcross.lk

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