



Limited access to clean water for needy school in Gauteng

Thabo Tona Primary School in Katlehong has been identified as a needy school in the Gauteng area as part of the “Water for Schools” project of Coca-Cola’s Replenish Africa Initiative (RAIN) to bring clean water and improved sanitation to 100 schools.

At this school in an informal settlement south of Johannesburg, pupils who are taught in corrugated iron shacks have a newly built ablution block, but not enough water to use for this facility.

Apart from these problems, the children only have a single tap in the school yard for drinking water. Because the drainage is inadequate, they had to walk through stagnant water to get to the tap.

This project supports and complements the Department of Education’s (DOE) plans to eradicate the water and sanitation backlog in schools by 2014. The schools were chosen in partnership with the DOE.

RAIN is a \$30 million project to provide over two million people with access to clean water over a five year period. Water for Schools is a RAIN project and The Coca-Cola Company’s legacy project for the 2010 FIFA World Cup™.

While the RAIN Water for Schools project began in October 2009, The Coca-Cola Company has been involved in numerous water projects over the years. In Africa, through The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation (TCCAF), it has completed 34 projects in 19 countries between 2005 and 2009.

In South Africa, TCCAF has been implementing water projects since 2005. One such project, the Leak Repair project, was designed to improve the efficiency of the municipal water supply services in townships and schools while simultaneously improving cost-recovery of the municipalities for the provision of basic services.

In October 2009, Coca-Cola South Africa launched the Colosa Rural Water Supply project in the Eastern Cape and the Tzaneen Rural Water Supply project in Limpopo province through a partnership with the respective District Municipalities, Mvula Trust and USAID and Family Health International. About 16 400 people will benefit

from the water supply projects.

The Leak Repair project - completed at 4 725 households and in 33 schools - also helped to raise awareness of the importance of saving water and increased knowledge about what constitutes energy wastage. This led to a more than 30% reduction in the total amount of water wasted and up to R34 000 savings per school in water bills.

As beneficiaries of the RAIN Water for Schools project, Thabo Tona will get a new water tank, the existing (unused) one will be fixed and the toilets will be properly connected. They will also get a drinking fountain with a soak-away.

Said William Asiko, President of the Coca-Cola Africa Foundation: "Coca-Cola's commitment to the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ is all about bringing the celebratory aspect of the tournament to as many South Africans as possible and while we wanted to focus on that, we also wanted to leave a legacy behind that would bring a more lasting joy.

"Our business relies heavily on water – and we are therefore mindful of our responsibility towards a shared resource," says Asiko,

"We have invested half our Corporate Social Investment (CSI) budget on water-related programmes in Africa. We are also launching healthy watershed and sustainable community water access, sanitation and hygiene programs across Africa to contribute to the sustainability of water resources for communities across Africa.

"Across Africa and around the world, some schoolchildren are gaining access to clean drinking water for the first time. Access to water helps children grow up healthy - men and women can start small businesses, crops can flourish and communities can thrive," he says.

While RAIN Water for Schools has started with a pilot of nine schools, it will continue until 2012 during which time, a total of 100 schools will benefit.

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