

## Dignity Restored

*Balich Village is located 35 kilometers from Garissa town. It has a population of 563 households (3,376 beneficiaries.) With funding from USAID and international public- and private-sector donors, in this region MWP-K has implemented a program of water and sanitation infrastructure development and hygiene promotion activities. During a recent field visit, program team members spoke with the officer in charge of a local health center.*

Balich village is a relatively small community, but since the beginning of MWP-K water, sanitation and hygiene activities, Balich has become the envy of other villages in the area. According to a local health official, there has been a transformation of community members who now boast of being in a millennium village. Initially, the health center had sanitation facilities that were in deplorable condition and were later decommissioned by the District Public Health Officers because of their poor hygiene status. However, after the MWP-K partner organization provided support for the construction of latrines adjacent to the facility, the situation has improved dramatically.

According to the official:

“I cannot emphasize how grateful we are to the project. We have actually been motivated, since we now have regular supply of water and new sanitation facilities at the health center. Our patients also have access to the facilities and we ensure that they are comfortable and well taken care of. Due to the availability of water and sanitation facilities in all the institutions and at the household level, the health Centre no longer has many cases of community members reporting water-borne or water related diseases. Sometimes the facility does not receive any patient for a period up to two days, unlike in the past when we had to deal with many cases of diarrheal infections. I am now proud to say that our dignity has been restored; we are now confident enough and together with project staff we have held several community sessions on hand washing with soap, proper use of latrines and treatment of water using water guard. On behalf of the community, I would like to thank the Millennium Water Alliance Project and the implementing partner for transforming our lives. We are very grateful and humbled that our small village is now known all over the world! Thanks to the Balich Water and Sanitation Project.”



*Students in Balich Village listen to a lesson on healthy hygiene*