

Improving Access to Clean Water for Loodokilani Rural Community

Country of implementation

Kenya is already one of the most water scarce countries of Africa because of desertification and the fact that Kenya's natural water resources also do not provide an equitable delivery of water to the various regions of the country and the country's water basins do not reach an equitable area of the country. Access to water will become further constrained due to population growth, increased food demand, economic expansion and changes in rainfall patterns (Parry et al., 2012)..

Water is a basic commodity for sustaining life and is however undelivered to a majority of Kenyans. It is estimated that 41% of the country's population (17% of the urban and 48% of the rural population) still does not have access to clean water. Lack of access to clean water and basic sanitation are undermining efforts to end extreme poverty and disease in the world's poorest countries. The greatest challenge in East Africa is to provide clean and adequate water for communities in rural areas especially those in semi-arid areas. This is a setback to effective implementation of economic development and food security programs.

Kajiado County is located in the Southern part of Kenya whose main economic activities are livestock rearing and crop growing. Most of the land is arid and semi-arid with only 16% of the total county land being arable. Water sources in the area are few and far between characterised with few seasonal rivers that are dry during most part of the year. This requires locals to walk tens of kilometres in search of water for their use and their animals.

Such is the case of locals of villages in Loodokilani in Kajiado County whose lives and their livestock's are unbearable. They are fully dependent on rainfall for all their water needs. The rains are erratic with dry spells experienced almost throughout the year hence acute water shortage. As a result, herders either walk long distances or dig dry riverbeds everyday to find water for animals. Women and girls also walk long distances to fetch water for domestic use. Some buy the commodity expensively from water brokers.

During these dry spells, it's hard to get food and water. Residents sell livestock like goats at poor market prices in order to buy water and food staples like maize and vegetables and sometimes, it's hard to get vegetables in local markets. Other residents survive on one meal a day.

There is only one borehole in Ol Tepesi which serves villages as far as 40 km away. Villagers from villages such as Nunkunji and Olpirkata hardly benefit from the borehole because it is far and always overwhelmed by long queues. Moreover residents pay Sh40 per cow and Sh10 per goat every month so their livestock can get water from the borehole.

The proposed project will therefore aim to drill a borehole to provide more water for locals in Loodokilani to improve clean water availability to people, livestock and small farms and ease pressure off the borehole in Ol tepesi. This will save time and money spent resources by community members and see to it that these resources are spent in other activities and needs of their homes thereby reducing the threat of acute food insecurity and threatened livelihoods.

Short project description

In order to increase water supply in Loodokilani, our initial intervention strategy will be to construct a bore-hole which will be installed with PVC pipe casings. Piping and water tanks will be installed to ease water storage and distribution. Water collection points, which will include schools, will be established to help beneficiaries to access water easily. In addition to that, there will be designated livestock watering troughs to eliminate water contamination.

The work will be done by drilling companies with both manual and mechanical/electrical drilling equipment at reasonable rates.

We intend for this project to be highly sustainable. As a result of this, we plan to establish a committee in through which community leaders of the villages in Loodokilani will take active part in the planning, execution and implementation of the bore-hole. Basic training on water management and maintenance of the borehole and other infrastructure will be offered to selected members of the community.

The project will be monitored monthly and quarterly with respective progress reports and performance reviews. This will ensure compliance with project targets and outputs are adhered to.

At the end of this project, we anticipate there will be access to clean water by the herders, women, and children and also in schools. There will be irrigation for small farms hence availability of food crops especially fresh vegetables throughout the year. Hence, agriculture as an alternative livelihood will be enhanced. This will reduce severity of hunger and encourage food security in the area. Residents will no longer have to sell livestock desperately at poor prices. The problem of water availability and food security solved, they can use their livestock as savings and only sale when there's need or seasonally at good market prices. Herders will earn more income thus improving their livelihoods significantly.

Objectives

Main objective

- Improving access to clean water for 250 households in Nunkunji and Olpirkata villages in Loodokilani location, Kajiado Central constituency.

Objectives

- To facilitate drilling of one well with a capacity to produce 2000 litres of water per hour
- To install 3 storage tanks, distribution channels and distribution points.
- Build capacities for 300 beneficiaries on water resource management, sanitation and small scale irrigation

Activities

- Capacity building for selected community leaders and experts
 - Staff training
 - Training on water resource management
 - Training on sanitation
 - Training on small scale subsistence farming

- Borehole drilling
 - Survey
 - Digging and drilling
 - Construction of well structure
 - Maintenance

- Water storage and distribution
 - Water tanks procurement
 - Installation water tanks and distribution channels
 - Building of kiosks/collection points
 - Water distribution
- Establishing and strengthening partnerships and linkages for beneficiaries
- Project activities monitoring and evaluation