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Wells for Schools: Kenya - Project Details

In cooperation with our partners in the field, we're working with **you** to build wells at primary and secondary (K-12) schools in Western Kenya.

We have identified 40 initial fresh-water well sites and are working with our partners to raise over \$200,000 to complete these projects in 2009.

Each well will directly benefit an average of 500-1,000 students and the surrounding communities of over 1,000. That's less than \$5 per person to supply water for more than 10 years!

You can help by making a donation today. As funds are made available, we dig.

Then, you can track project updates as they come in.

Project Expenses:

Total Cost Per School: about \$4,500

What donations pay for: Fuel, mobilization, amortized equipment maintenance, well casing, pump, concrete for pad, labor, hygiene training, in the field reporting expenses (fuel,etc.)

What donations do NOT pay for: U.S Operations or admin overhead – these costs are paid by other donors.



Wells for Schools: Why it Matters

Every day, thousands of students head for class with no clean water. It simply can't be found.

Without access to water, education is almost impossible. Dirty water leads to a cycle of disease, missed school days, and high drop-out rates - especially for girls.

By helping build wells at schools, all of that changes. A simple investment in these wells can unlock the potential of every student by helping them stay healthy and freeing them to remain in class.

Some of the many benefits of access to clean water...

- It dramatically improves health, keeping students in class
- Eliminates time wasted fetching dirty water
- Enables proper sanitation - particularly important for girls
- Improves school facilities through construction - concrete requires lots of water
- Removes huge financial burdens on schools who often buy water for basic needs

How can I be sure a well was built?

Proving wells is hard work, but we believe essential to building trust through transparency.

We ask our drillers to send pictures of the actual drilling process when possible. In many cases we're provided with before and after photos.

In addition to pictures, we insist that every well be documented with Govt. drilling permits and GPS coordinates. We have folks on our team visit random wells, using these coordinates, to keep everyone honest.

Finally, we ask for itemized expense reports and copies of deposit/withdrawal forms from the banks to which we wire funds for wells. We trust our team, but also try to remove any opportunity for others to question their integrity.



It's Worked Before - Clean Water for A School in Kenya



The Problem

In March of 2009, our local water project partner - The Bridge Water Project - visited the Eshienga School near Kakamega, Kenya.

What they found was an all too common sight. Hundreds of students, water cans in tow, were headed down the road to collect water for the day.

They walked for a couple miles until they came to their usual source of water, a small seasonal stream - full of dirty, diseased water. How do we know it's diseased? Let's put it this way...remember the E.Coli scare in the U.S. about a year ago?



If a little manure spread over a spinach field, not completely rinsed, could sicken hundreds in the U.S. ...imagine what that same cow manure will do to these students, who drink this water every day!

Our team reported back to us about the need at Eshienga and the community's own preparations for the project (see below). So we added this school to our ever growing list of schools in need of clean water.

People Get Involved

That's when our donors, just like you, got involved.

Twenty-five individuals, a sorority, and two schools got together and did something extraordinary. They gave water...and changed everything.

At Queensland School in Alberta, Canada and Park Springs Elementary in Coral Springs, FL (seen here), students organized "A Water Challenge" and raised thousands. All told, nearly \$4,000 was needed to build this well.



A New Well is Installed

Just a few months after the money was raised, in June 2009, the freshwater well at Eshienga School was completed.

Today, clean safe drinking water is right outside the doors of the school. Hundreds of students and the surrounding community all benefit from this new source of water. Hours lost hiking back and forth to the dirty stream are a thing of the past. Sickness from foul water and the resulting lost school days are a fading memory.

Potential has been unleashed in Eshienga. Clean water brings hope for a growing community. The cycle of poverty may finally be breaking.

...all because a few people got inspired, got together, and did something!

How the Eshienga School (and others) Found Us



The word is getting out among teachers and community leaders in the Kakamega area that a group of generous folks are drilling wells for schools.

But these communities have also found out that it's no hand-out. Instead, each must prove their need and also demonstrate that they are committed to the project's success. At every site a "water committee" of local leaders must be formed to mobilize the rest of the community and ensure everyone is committed.

They do that by first raising money themselves. The cost for geological surveys and well drilling permits is high and must be paid before we'll commit money to drill. So each community must raise those funds themselves. It demonstrates ownership. It creates a partnership. Everyone has a stake in the well and its long-term success. That matters.

About Us

The Water Project, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that's bringing relief to communities around the world who suffer needlessly from a lack of access to clean water.

We help raise both awareness and the funds needed to provide the most basic and life-sustaining need of people...water.

We believe that providing clean water restores hope by enabling our partners to make a life-changing impact through their broader development activity.

We work closely with partners around the world who identify, implement, report on and follow up on each project. We share this information with our supporters through innovative tools online that inspire confidence in the work being done and the impact it has.

For more information contact us at: info@thewaterproject.org