UPGRADING ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER AT THE CENTRE OF LOVE

It has been a journey that we have walked together; a good journey, a journey of mostly of lives saving. In the Beginning, The Centre of Love did not have access to water. There was no water connection as it was 900m away to connect the Nairobi water line through the densely and congested pathways of Kibera. The volunteers carried water into the Centre of Love in containers to wash the children’s hands prior to eating. Today we have two 10,000L water tanks and, with the support of Rotary Club of Evergreen in Colorado, have a Ultra-Water Filtration System (UV) that has created a clean water program for over five thousand community members, plus schools, and organizations nearby.

The Centre of Love wants to sustain the gains already made. Water connection has become a solace of hope to the community we serve. The community has become receptive and taken full responsibility of the project that we believe we can now completely sustain. Our water ambassadors have been educating the community on the importance of safeguarding our water pipes and the fruits of their labor are being realized. This feature becomes critical when the main water supply is being rationed or when the water pipes of other water vendors become damaged.

Clean water in Kibera is not only scarce, but it is also costly, inconsistent and contaminated; since Kibera is classified as a slum, public services aren’t provided on a compulsory basis. Water, one of the most precious and basic resources, is commodified by the private cartels. Kibera’s impoverished residents are charged more for water than wealthier surrounding neighborhoods. The Centre of Love water pipes are plastic and most of it run above the ground for nearly 500 meters, making it susceptible to structural exploitation. Oftentimes, the pipe crack – either from accidental foot traffic or intentional tampering from a competing distributor – and sewage readily seeps in, tainting the water supply. We are seeking for help to build an aerial water network with a piping system. The suspended nature of the network leaves it less vulnerable to vandalism and contamination.