



Project: Pastoral Women Cry for clean water in Turkana.

Lomokamar is a village in the southern part of Turkana County, Northern Kenya, home to 600 people. The residents are mostly pastoralists who rely on herding livestock for their livelihood. Recently, the village has been facing a severe water crisis due to contamination from a nearby hazardous waste transfer station operated by Tullow Oil, a British oil company that discovered oil in the Lokichar Oil Basin in 2012.

Over the past decade, oil activities have led to the disposal of hazardous wastes, which have polluted the traditional water sources of Lomokamar and nearby villages like Kangingolemongin. This contamination is particularly severe during the rainy season when pollutants are carried downstream, making the water unsafe for both human consumption and livestock. In April 2023, 90 shoats (goats and sheep) died after consuming contaminated water following heavy rains. The community, puzzled by the incident, sought help to understand the cause of their livestock's deaths. Water samples were taken for analysis in Nairobi with the support of a non-governmental organization called IMPACT Kenya. Asegis, with support from Zero Tolerance Initiative (Forest People Program), obtained and disseminated the water analysis report to the community. However, the community, based on their extensive experience with local water sources, rejected the findings of the government chemist's analysis, believing it did not accurately reflect the water's safety.

Currently, the only alternative water supply for the villagers is a rationed provision from Tullow Oil. However, this supply is often insufficient, leaving the community without water for periods ranging from five to seven days. The most affected people are pastoral women and school children (103 pupils), with the primary school in the area forced to close down due to a lack of water for drinking and cooking. This situation poses significant health risks to the villagers and their livestock, threatening their overall well-being and

livelihood. To address this crisis, Asegis Community Network proposes to drill a borehole in Lomokamar. This project aims to provide a reliable and clean water source for the community, ensuring they have consistent access to safe water. The initiative will involve community engagement and education on water safety and conservation practices, as well as collaboration with local authorities and environmental experts to secure additional resources and support for long-term solutions.

By drilling a borehole, the project seeks to establish safe water access in Lomokamar, addressing the water scarcity issues for the pastoralists and ensuring a sustainable and reliable water supply for the future. This will not only improve the health and quality of life for the villagers but also support their livestock and overall livelihood, helping the community to thrive despite the challenges posed by the oil activities in the region.

Link: [Toxic Water Threat in Pastoral Community in Kenya \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

[The Cry of Pastoral Women for Water \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Proposed Solution

The project aims to address the severe water crisis in Lomokamar village by drilling a borehole to provide a reliable and clean water source. Lomokamar, located in the southern part of Turkana County, Northern Kenya, is home to 600 people, primarily pastoralists who depend on herding livestock for their livelihood. The village has been facing significant challenges due to contamination from a nearby hazardous waste transfer station operated by Tullow Oil, which has polluted traditional water sources, making them unsafe for both human consumption and livestock.

The borehole will ensure consistent access to safe water, which is crucial for reducing health risks associated with contaminated water. By providing a clean water source, the project will help prevent waterborne diseases and improve the overall health of the villagers. Additionally, the project will support the community's livestock by establishing animal water troughs and drinking points, ensuring that the animals have access to safe water, which is vital for their health and productivity.

The project Sustainability Plan

The Project Sustainability Plan aims to ensure the long-term success of water management initiatives in Lomokamar village, Turkana. It will be incorporated into the existing Turkana Water Project, managed by the Diocese of Lodwar, to maintain consistency with current efforts. The plan includes training community members, certified by the Water Resource Management Authority, to effectively manage and maintain water systems. A water committee will be formed to handle daily operations, establishing local governance. Maintenance and repairs will be integrated into the TRP, with the community contributing to costs, fostering ownership. This comprehensive approach encourages community involvement, reducing reliance on external aid and promoting sustainable resource management.



ABOUT US

Asegis is a grassroots entity founded in 2014 in Turkana County, Kenya, focusing on environmental health and the empowerment of pastoral local communities. It stands for societal advancement through sustainable environmental practices and upholds the environmental rights of pastoral and marginalized groups. The name Asegis epitomizes cleanliness and is a testament to its dedication to our work for Turkana pastoralists. The organization is actively involved in advocating for environmental challenges in pastoral lands, including advocating for proper management of hazardous waste in the Lokichar Oil Basin, while also championing the rights of the underrepresented. Asegis's commitment to community involvement and advocacy is a step towards a future where environmental and social well-being are closely connected.

Vision: Healthier Pastoral Communities

Mission: To Promote a healthy environment for all.

Our thematic Areas

We are dedicated to creating a sustainable and equitable future through our four core programs.

- ❖ **The Primary Health Care program:** An instrumental in enhancing community health by emphasizing preventive measures, improving water and sanitation, and combating HIV and TB.
- ❖ **The Environment program:** aims to educate on proper wastemanagement and hazardous materials, while also promoting conservation efforts and addressing the impacts of climate change.
- ❖ **The Human Rights program:** stands as a beacon of hope for marginalized and vulnerable groups, advocating for their rights and striving to uplift their quality of life. Collectively, these programs demonstrate our commitment to fostering a holistic approach to development and social welfare.
- ❖ **Education Program:** This program supports pastoral young children to go to school, ensuring they have access to education and opportunities for a brighter future.

What is the problem or need?

The main problem in Lomokamar village is a severe water crisis caused by contamination from a nearby hazardous waste transfer station operated by Tullow Oil.

This contamination has polluted traditional water sources, making the water unsafe for both human consumption and livestock. The only alternative water supply is a rationed provision from Tullow Oil, which is often insufficient, leaving the community without water for up to seven days. This situation poses significant health risks and threatens the villagers' livelihoods.

Additionally, there is a critical need to continuously advocate for the removal of all hazardous waste within the community and ensure it is taken to approved hazardous waste facilities in Nairobi. The presence of these hazardous materials not only contaminates water sources but also poses long-term environmental and health risks. Removing these wastes is essential to prevent further pollution and to protect the health and well-being of the villagers and their livestock. This advocacy will involve working with local authorities, environmental experts, and organizations to ensure that the hazardous waste is safely and effectively removed from the community.



Engaging Lomunyenkupurat Land Management Committee on the water analysis report at Lomunyenkupurat village

The expected impact

This project will make a lasting impact on the Lomokamar community by providing a reliable and clean water source. This will significantly improve health and reduce waterborne diseases, which are prevalent due to the current contamination of traditional water sources. Access to clean water will ensure that the villagers, especially children and the elderly, are less susceptible to illnesses caused by unsafe water.

Supporting livestock health is another critical aspect of this project. By establishing animal water troughs and drinking points, the project will ensure that livestock have access to safe water. This is vital for their health and productivity, as healthy animals are essential for the pastoralist community's livelihood. With fewer livestock deaths and improved animal health, the community can expect increased productivity in terms of milk and meat, which can be sold to earn extra income. This additional income can be used to buy other food items, supplementing the traditional meat-based diet of the pastoralists.

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Community engagement and education on water management are key components of this initiative. By involving the villagers in the planning and implementation process, the project ensures that their needs and concerns are addressed. Education on water safety and conservation practices will empower the community to manage their water resources sustainably. Training on maintaining the borehole and water troughs, as well as best practices for water usage, will help prevent wastage and ensure long-term sustainability.

Advocating for the removal of hazardous waste within the community is also crucial. The presence of these hazardous materials not only contaminates water sources but also poses long-term environmental and health risks. By working with local authorities, environmental experts, and organizations, the project aims to ensure that hazardous waste is safely and effectively removed from the community. This will protect the environment and prevent future contamination, ensuring the long-term well-being of the villagers and their livestock. The project will also have a significant impact on education in Lomokamar. With a stable water supply, the primary school in the area can remain open, allowing children to continue their education without interruptions caused by water shortages. This will enable them to pursue their dreams and aspirations, contributing to the overall development of the community.

Furthermore, the project will reduce the burden on women, who often have to travel long distances to fetch water during times of scarcity. With a reliable water source nearby, women will have more time to engage in other productive activities, improving their quality of life and contributing to the community's economic well-being.

In summary, the Lomokamar Borehole Project will provide a sustainable solution to the water crisis, improving health, supporting livestock, empowering the community, and protecting the environment. By addressing both immediate and long-term needs, the project will help the Lomokamar community thrive despite the challenges posed by nearby oil activities.

Partner with Us



+254-729-616-5896



info@asegisnetwork.org



<http://www.asegisnetwork.org>



@fisegisconet



@asegisNetwork



@fisegisCommunityNetwork



Mr. Ekeno, Community Elder Calling for removal of hazardous waste