

WATER IS LIFE - KENYA



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Relationships matter here...

In today's NY Times I read despondent readers comments about the "loss of American greatness". I reminded myself what's good about America – an important exercise in a rather discouraging election season. I see the good in our people: our compassion, skills, can-do attitude. Do we want to "be the change you want to see in the world"? YES! And you don't have to look far to find like-minded / hearted people willing to join their strength to yours to be that change. Here in Kenya, folks know it too. I have often heard comments like "Americans are the most helpful people".

As I prepared to welcome our new partners from Engineers without Borders Newark Professional Chapter last month I was filled with gratitude knowing that we have found a wonderful partner organization, willing to add their valuable technical know-how and heart to WILK's strong relationships and experience working with Kenyan communities to solve their water problems. Proud of our great American partnership! More about our work in these pages.

Thanks, Joyce



... and in Kenya.



Esukuta Ceremony

On July 31st WILK's Esukuta borehole was officially opened and blessed. People celebrated in grand style, while taking seriously the call to care for the well and use it to better the lives of their families to honor the memory of John Fields, to whom it was dedicated, through the generous donation of John's mother and brother. Now the clean water is transforming Esukutans' lives, improving the health of people and livestock – no more stomach aches or cholera from drinking the salty, dirty water they used to scoop from the dry riverbed. The body condition of livestock has improved since they are no longer plagued by the stomach parasites from the dirty water they used to drink.

Education at every level

Since there are no other boreholes for at least 50 square miles near Esukuta, and no experienced committees closeby, WILK transported the Esukuta water management committee to Amboseli, inviting them to be trained by the experienced leaders of Ilmarba Borehole and visit their well. A few months later, we returned to train them again in Esukuta where the practical experience of managing their borehole revealed the wisdom of what Ilmarba leaders had taught them.



Livestock as a Business: A Remarkable and Innovative Group

Ilmarba Livestock Keepers joined WILK's Livestock as a Business (LAB) program in 2011. They are currently our most senior group. Their group was supposed to “graduate” this year, but they have proven themselves to be leaders whose successful livestock keeping has attracted 4 other groups to join: Olningo Women's Group, Iltuati Youth Group, Olepolos Group and Oshumu Group.

We want to share an innovative practice they've developed. Each LAB program cycle they have been loaned \$2000 which they use to purchase cattle for fattening over 6 months. The clever thing they do is to start marketing as soon as they leave the market.



Ilmarba Group member Nelson Tinayo buys an automatic syringe so he can inject his animals quickly and effectively.

Now for the best part: They choose beautiful, healthy animals which, as they walk by, cause their neighbors to say, “Wow, I really need that cow” and thus the business begins. Ilmarba Group offers a monthly payment plan so people can “book” the cow of their choice, paying it off over time, with full payment due no later than June 1, before the WILK loan is due. This means that people with little cash can become cow owners, increasing their assets. The customers are often young men building their herds, widows, or those who suffered a recent family emergency. Since 2012, 8 people have benefited from this payment plan buying 48 cows, often as repeat customers.

Your continued support makes these dreams happen! Thank you!
www.waterislifekenya.com/donate

Livestock loan cycle 2015-2016 A fine cattle keeping season!

Overall it was a great season, with average net profit of 40%, thanks to Livestock as Business Groups managing their animals well, monitoring both the availability of



Chairlady and treasurer of Loolakir Esinyati Anna admire beautiful cows on their field trip to the Nairobi Show.

pasture and the incursion of foot and mouth disease. Groups observed the disease's approach and sold before the disease struck while their livestock were still fat and healthy. A great example of timely selling. Most

members' individual herds, which is, after all, the main objective of this program.

Success stories abounded among our new groups, which included 2 women's groups: Loolakir Esinyati Anna Women's Group and Lenkischem Enkishaiki Women's Group. Both made very good choices in the livestock market, took good care of their animals, despite being scorned by the men in their area, who didn't believe that women could do profitable livestock keeping. Did they ever prove them wrong! Loolakir made net profit of \$1260 on \$2000 and Lenkischem earned \$816 on \$2000, even after one cow died. Amazingly, Loolakir ladies had no idea how much profit they had made since their illiteracy prevented them from doing the calculations. Part of their strategy was to squeeze the expenses as much as possible! For example, when they went to the market they used only 50 cents each for 3 people for food compared with some groups who spent \$5 each. They're proud of their success!

To sponsor a group for a season of trainings and microloans donate on www.waterislifekenya.com/donate.



Mr. Mulei demonstrates proper dosage and technique for administering deworming medicine to livestock keepers groups.



Inaugural Water is Life Kenya's UWALK! It's Virtual!

As you know, girls and women like Soila, walk 6 or more hours everyday with a jerry can to find water to survive. It's hard to believe, but while

students are going to school to prepare for a career, these girls and women walk as much as 3.8 million steps just to collect water! Having easy access to clean water opens doors for these girls and women they didn't have before so they can learn reading, writing and math for managing their livestock or jewelry business.

Thus, this Fall we launched our inaugural UWALK fundraising campaign to raise money for a well project in Isinet, Kenya to help these girls and

women. This UWALK comes with a twist. It's a virtual walk. This time, stay at home! And from the comfort of your living room, make a difference! Just by making a donation, buying Water is Life Kenya Beaded Handicrafts or a t-shirt, you are virtually walking. Every \$1.00 raised equals 100 steps less they will have to walk to haul water. And these beautiful items make great holiday gifts. You can give someone a gift that gives a hundredfold!





Water is Life Kenya's

UWALK



Soila Join me in virtually walking for Soila

4 Ways to Virtually Walk!

- 1 - Donate.
- 2 - Raise money individually or as a team.
- 3 - Buy beautiful Water is Life Kenya Beaded Handicrafts, online, in a store or at an pop-up sale event.
- 4 - Buy a really cool t-shirt.

To participate: <https://waterislifekenya.com/UWALK>

Lenkiloriti Well Update

Thank you everyone!
Because of your generous donations, **Lenkiloriti** will have clean water for years to come!



Go to www.waterislifekeny.com/donate today to help us with our next well project!

What we've all been waiting for!

Be sure to join us for the upcoming

Thirst Reverse in January 2017!

www.waterislifebeads.com



We're turning beads into **WATER** and making them available everywhere through our new ecommerce website. Now you don't have to wait until we are near you to pickup your favorite items.

Our items are also available at:

The Well Coffee House - Lancaster Pike, Hockessin - always on sale.

Pepco Holdings Holiday Vendor Fair - 11/26 - Delmarva Conference Center, 4100 S. Wakefield Drive, Newark, DE.

Aldersgate United Methodist Church Cookie Swap - 12/10 - 2313 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE.

Water
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