

# WATER IS LIFE - KENYA



We walk for water...together



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

### *Walking Together*

**200,000,000.** According to the World Health Organization, that's how many hours are spent daily by women carrying water. In a world connected by ideas, trade, and technology, that time is a loss for us all. For humanity, it's a tragedy.

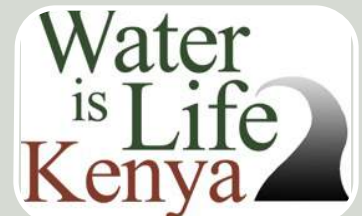
Water is Life Kenya is proud to walk together with Kenyan communities, with women who live out the reality of these terrible statistics. Our projects free women to spend more time with their families, at work, at peace.

On March 22nd, World Water Day, WILK and 150 of our friends walked out our commitment. WILK's Water Walk held at the Newark Reservoir raised \$6000 for the Olchorro community water project.

In this issue, we see how life is interconnected. WILK builds connections between communities in the US and Kenya. Within Kenyan communities, life is interconnected. Water connects to school, cows, wildlife, land use, freedom and vice versa. That is why WILK starts with water, but has begun to expand our work within communities to include cattle, and schooling.

Our goal is to see communities thrive. Water remains the critical element to community change in Southern Kenya. But after water is secured, other needs can be tackled. It is in this ever-evolving situation that WILK works to train people to identify problems and to own the process of developing solutions.

*Thanks, Joyce*



# CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

## WILK's Campaign for New Hope

Over the last seven years, Water is Life Kenya has touched over 20,000 lives in 10 communities with over a dozen projects. This significant impact was only possible because of families giving \$25, \$50, or \$100 at a time. As WILK moves toward its second decade of work, we aim to solidify our financial base so that our work can continue to expand and benefit others. To that end, WILK is launching a three year capital campaign we're calling "New Hope".

Our goal is to raise \$500,000 over the next three years. We estimate this money can support 12 new livestock groups, and 12 new community water projects, impacting at least another 20,000 people.



***Please consider joining the New Hope Campaign today***

***To support our campaign, send us a check with "New Hope" in the memo. Thank you. We hope to continue for years to come.***

## ***A life changed:***

*Mutiso and his mom were abandoned by his father when he was a child. He responded by focusing on doing well in school. Mutiso also joined the WILK beading team and works hard so he can attend technical college and become an engineer. He earns triple the wage of a day-laborer by beading and has now saved enough to go to school.*



## **What's On Tap**

The situation in the village of Enkong'u Narok typifies the interconnected nature of water. Water is needed for the school, the dispensary, and the growing town. The town proposed a borehole and a hydrogeological survey identified a good site. The Enkong'u Narok Water Project Committee has collected the documentation to apply for the drilling permit. This committee has made great strides in accepting the responsibility of managing this project. Stay tuned, by July water may be flowing.



*Looking down the shallow well used by villagers from Enkong'u Narok.*

## **TO DONATE:**

### **WATER IS LIFE - KENYA**

314 E Main St, Kelway Plaza, Ste. 2  
Newark, Delaware 19711

Or online at

[www.waterislifekenya.com](http://www.waterislifekenya.com)



## **Company Matching:**

Double your giving by asking your employer to match your gift. WILK's United Way number is: 12902

[Water is Life - Kenya](#) [Go to Facebook](#) or the [WILK website](#) to learn more

## UPDATES:

### Olepolos Ceremony:

The finishing touches have been completed at the Olepolos well. The last step was for community health workers and the doctor from the nearby clinic to teach a sanitation and hygiene seminar.

“If you don’t have a latrine in your compound then you’ll never be clean” challenged the doctor.

“Everyone, go home and dig a pit latrine at home instead of using the bush. If you do that, and use the new clean water to wash your hands and cooking utensils, you can avoid many diseases.” Many people will certainly take his advice!

Now there must be a celebration! June 28 is the date for the official opening and handover of the Olepolos borehole. Put on your best beaded outfit and come on over for singing, feasting and prayers to thank God and dedicate the well.

### Interconnectivity: Livestock

WILK’s Livestock as Business project continues to grow! This winter, WILK received a \$13,000 grant from the International Foundation providing training and loans for four new livestock groups.

As money flows in, new learning flows to the community. The Ilmarba group has decided to be “preachers for the livestock crush”. They plan to send their livestock group members to encourage the community to build a crush, a wooden pen which can hold livestock during treatment and vaccinations.

This type of project is critical to sustained community change. Currently, it is very difficult to hold larger animals for injections. This makes prevention and control of certain diseases like foot and mouth disease, difficult for everybody. If they can build a crush together, people will recognize their ability to improve as a community. *Real change occurs when good ideas meet local initiative.*

“What we have learned about improved breeds in the WILK livestock seminars we have been teaching to the community, and now you can hardly find a man that doesn’t have a good breed of bull, he-goat or ram in his herd.” Nelson Tinayo, Secretary Ilmarba Livestock Keepers

WILK’s microloan project is in its third year, with six livestock groups receiving loans. Joyce recently visited these groups to observe the condition of the cows purchased with the loans. Plentiful rains have led to large, healthy cows, which will be sold in July. Average group profits are expected to range between 30-40% once the loans are repaid.



*Group Cows ready to be fattened.*

Four groups will be selected from the new applicants to be trained in WILK’s program for the loans disbursed in November. Young warriors make up one of the four new groups, an important step for the next generation of leaders. Five more groups have asked to join us but have to wait because of limited finances.



**Could you and your friends adopt a Livestock Keepers Group for \$3,000 and change the lives of a dozen families?**

### Doing the right thing in Olchorro –

WILK’s successful Water Walk raised \$6,000 for the Olchorro Community Water Project. We are currently investigating the spring source for the Olchorro pipeline to confirm there is sufficient water to expand the pipeline. We are committed to long term solutions, and therefore are weighing benefits of the pipeline against digging a borehole instead. This information will then be presented to the community so they can decide upon the most appropriate intervention.

### WILK’s Summer/Fall Calendar:

July 4: Newark 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks (WILK table)

Sept 21: Newark Community Day (WILK table)

Fall 2014: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Thirst Reverse

# Want to go on Safari?

February 2015 come on Safari with WILK and experience the Insiders' Kenya:

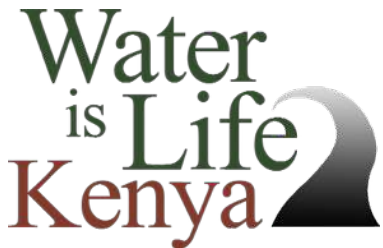
- o Unique insights into Maasai culture with lectures and interactive demonstrations of Maasai cultural trademarks like beadwork and more.
- o Exclusive conversations with some of Kenya's foremost conservationists.
- o Mt. Kilimanjaro, the Elephants of Amboseli, and some of the community water points your donations have made possible through WILK.



Interested? Space is limited, so call WILK at 302-894-7335 today. Or email us at [matt.kistler@waterislifekenya.com](mailto:matt.kistler@waterislifekenya.com)

Questions? Contact us at

[info@waterislifekenya.com](mailto:info@waterislifekenya.com)



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