



Life has changed dramatically for Gladys Leyian, secretary of the Noosidan Deep Well Committee..

“ I used to use a donkey to walk 10 km to get water every day. Sometimes after all that (and I would carry my children), I would miss getting water because the owners refused to give it to me. It was very hard and I worried a lot.

Now I get water close to home (100 meters). I am very happy. My family is now very clean and our eating habits have changed. Before we didn't have time to cook since we were walking the whole day.

”

Transforming over 50,000 lives every day

## WATER IS LIFE KENYA

# Staying CONNECTED

WINTER 2019

### Letter from the Director

#### Water for the body. Education for the brain.



How do I to tell you what I'm feeling?

I have been reading through interviews we did with our Livestock as a Business Program members.

Joyce Njeru of Oloirien Women's Group, says. "I never knew anything about business before, but now I learned that little profit plus little profit can add up to a big profit. I learned to reduce expenses so that profit can grow. Now I can do business on my own. In addition to livestock-keeping, I started raising crops and running a small grocery at home and am contributing to my family."

LAB training provided the education she needed, she implemented it on her terms, and it's rocking her world.

Each person has taken the knowledge and skills we've imparted, and run with it! Don't we have reason to be proud? Proud of Joyce, proud of what we have achieved together? Thinking of all the Joyces and Josephs who still need this training, this empowerment, this self-confidence. Please continue to support Water is Life Kenya generously.

THANK YOU,  
Joyce Tannian

### HOLIDAY SHOPPING

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in person.

We have you covered!

What better way to give, than to give a gift that gives back. Your purchase supports artisans.

You can find the perfect gift for that special someone from a variety of handmade items skillfully made by Kenyan artisans.

We have beaded and textile handicrafts galore — beaded jewelry, belts, dog collars, animals, bowls, Christmas ornaments, fabric handbags, gift bags, and more!

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

# Namelok — Congratulations — It's a well!



The Namelok community borehole was born on July 5, 2019 at 12:20 pm. We were blessed with our most productive well to date – the capacity is more than 50,000 liters / per hour. Water quality analysis confirmed that the water is perfect for human consumption - no salt, no fluoride or other chemicals.

Through the generosity of Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation (\$15,000), an anonymous donor (\$25,000) and, you, our faithful donors, we are in the process of completing the pump installation and construction part of the project. The community water point and 30,000 gallon water tank have been constructed. Now, we wait for the concrete to cure.

The community, the committee and WILK discussed the pros and cons of the power sources options.

Since a power line which operates reliably runs to the neighboring school, the decision was made to connect to that power source. The system designed for electric power is more robust than a solar system. The goal is to create and maintain a system that will be reliable and easy for the community to manage over time.

Already, the new well is a magnet for additional development. An organization called SACDEP-Kenya (Sustainable Agriculture Community Development Program) rehabilitated the cattle dip at the Namelok borehole site, which will enable good care of the community's cattle by providing a place for them to plunge into acaricide, the medicine that kills ticks. Ticks carry many diseases, as well as being parasites which weaken the cattle.



*The company we use hires locals to assist in building the tank, bringing additional revenue into the community.*



Yes, it takes time and attention to do good work, work that will serve the next four generations with clean water to support human health and livelihoods. Just imagine the mothers' relief – their children's chronic stomach problems from drinking dirty water will be a thing of the past!

Our dear friends from Colorado, Elizabeth Carroll Kaleugher, and her daughters, Alex and Camryn, witnessed the test pumping as all that water gushed out of the new well for 24 hours. This is the important work which shows the capacity of the new well.

Wouldn't you love to witness the excitement first hand? You could be next! We are organizing Kenyan safaris which include visits to our projects. To find out more please contact our US office.

*As the cattle have to walk through the treated water they are completely covered in the medicine resulting in better coverage for the animal and protection against ticks and parasites.*



**Please  
DONATE**

## LOAN Signing

October 30 was Livestock Loan Signing Day. Eleven of WILK's Livestock Groups signed loan agreements to receive a \$2000 loan to purchase livestock for fattening and selling. Groups also contributed their own cash as a down payment.

The loan ceremony signifies the conclusion of the intensive Livestock as a Business Year 1 training cycle for the 4 newest groups, and another chance for 7 advanced groups to receive the revolving livestock loan. New groups submitted their livestock buying budgets for the first time, anxious to manage their first loan well. This year we expect people will buy cattle and goats, and possibly chickens! Our farmers expressed interest in diversifying their livestock so they can "spread the risk".

As part of business skills training we have been teaching "risk down, expenses down, profit up"! So they are planning to control the risk of unreliable grass supply by buying goats, which don't need grass to thrive, since they are browsers and can flourish eating leaves from bushes.

# Farmers on the Road to Knowledge

We travelled 280 miles with our advanced livestock keeper groups to the Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) Farm in Naivasha, Kenya. Many farmers, like Meoshi, the chairlady of Singo Women's Livestock Keeper Group, had never been farther than 50 miles from home. It was a great learning experience and adventure!



We saw nutritious grass varieties and beautiful Sahiwal cattle. They learned that grass farming can be profitable. The KALRO grass expert showed us large acreage devoted to the cultivation of alfalfa as a feed for cows. And then, there was the unanimous favorite, seeing Artificial Insemination being done practically!



As part of the "Improved Breeds" topic of our Livestock as a Business training, we teach about Artificial Insemination (A.I.) as a way of upgrading cattle, without the expense or risk of buying a bull. Some thought that A.I. was just a story. How can you impregnate a cow without a bull? We saw the "female bull", Dr. Njeri, a woman, practicing A.I. on a cow in front of our eyes! Susan Mingati, aka Mama Moses, said that she is planning to try A.I. on her cows.



*Imirishi Group member admires the Sahiwal bull.*

## SEEDS OF SUCCESS: Livestock as a Business Program Impact

Mama Moses, a widow, is the treasurer of Enyuata Ang Livestock Keepers Group. She is responsible for everything for her family since she lost her husband years ago. Before she received training through WILK's Livestock as a Business program, she thought it was normal for cows to die at the drought season. She didn't know you can preserve grass for drought use. She understands now that you can preserve grass early to avoid cows starving during drought time. She didn't know anything about spraying her cows or disease control. Now she knows to properly measure drugs for her cattle and about livestock diseases.

Before, she had only one child who completed school. Now, through better management of her cows and selling at the right time for maximum profit, she has money to provide college level courses for two children. She is also helping another child who is studying to be a veterinary doctor.

## Donation Corner



Your donations have made an impact. Here is an overview of how your support has made a difference this year.

### **Namelok Borehole:**

Budget \$60,000; \$25,000 anonymous donor to date and \$15,000 Grant

**Risa Community Borehole upgrade:** Budget \$10,000; Grant: \$10,000

**Esukuta Phase II:** Budget \$10,000; Grant: \$10,000

**Livestock As a Business Program:** 12 Groups (4— 1st year, 2— 2nd year, 4— 3rd year, 2— 4th year) Budget \$63,000; Grants: \$40,000 and \$23,000

Your continued generosity through annual, endowed, and planned gifts is vital to making a difference in the lives of the people we serve. Below is a brief list of ways you can make a tax-deductible gift.



*Please*  
**DONATE**



**ways to donate today**

### **Check**

Checks made out to:  
Water is Life Kenya

### **Online**

waterislifekenya.com

### **Text—to—Give**

(302)449-7349

### **Stocks**

Contact us for steps  
(302)894-7335

### **Digital Assets — XRP**

**Make WILK a beneficiary of your will**



**You can make a difference.**

**Become a sustaining donor today!**

**Join our Sustaining Donor Group.**

The need is real, and every little bit helps. Becoming a sustaining donor has two-fold benefits: a revenue stream we can count on and lower fundraising costs. A Sustaining Donor makes automatic monthly donations through our website using a credit card. You choose the amount you want to give each month. You can increase, decrease, or stop your gift at any time. Visit our website, [waterislifekenya.com](http://waterislifekenya.com), click on Donate and follow the steps. It's simple and fast.

Please  
**DONATE**



## WILK Beaded Handicrafts

**Water is Life Kenya** was motivated in two ways to develop its handicrafts program: 1) the constant need for reliable income for people and 2) the outstanding talent we observed in the making of beaded handicrafts.

We target 2 main artisan groups:

- ◆ **Paper Bead and Textile artisans in Kitengela town.** In towns, competition for jobs is high. Those with low levels of education face even more challenges. Hard-working, creative people thrive in our workshop.

**Products:** Paper bead jewelry and textile products

- ◆ **Maasai Women artisans in rural areas.** Especially now that their time has been freed by having clean water close by, women have time and energy for beadwork. Many Maasai women are illiterate and have few employment opportunities.

**Products:** Glass beaded jewelry and handicrafts (e.g. beaded animals, bowls, leather, and fabric)



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