

# WATER IS LIFE - KENYA

Olepolos women  
enjoying the gift of  
water!



Water  
is Life  
Kenya

Water aplenty in Olepolos for people .....

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

### **We don't drill and run.**

**Water is Life – Kenya (WILK) hopes to see new water and new life spring from Southern Kenya.**

*In Risa, three boreholes have been dug by aid groups, but the community is no better off. How could this happen? A half-finished borehole stands as a reminder that some organizations don't take time to ensure activities are completed with integrity.*

*In Enkong'u Narok, community members don't see a local solution to their water needs, despite it being the most urgent crisis they face. How could this happen? Years of working with outsiders who give 'things' but not knowledge has created a grinding dependency that strips people of their dignity and creativity.*

*How can you support water and life? WILK works with communities until water is found. It may take months, it may take years. WILK doesn't give up on a community. WILK also longs to see people free from the life-draining shackles of dependency. By training community leaders to manage their water source, and livestock groups to profit from that water, we look to a future with abundant water and abundant life.*

*In the next pages you'll learn more about the people of Risa and Enkong'u Narok. We ask you to join us to support water and life in Kenya.*

*Thanks, Joyce*



... and for livestock.



## CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

Water is Life Kenya's name includes both water and life. WILK continues to empower Maasai communities to have consistent, easily-accessible water. But ultimately we seek something more: life. Life for the Maasai people that explodes with hope and potential. Life for Americans looking to find fulfillment beyond possessions.

Surely water and income and education and health are vital to life. But in the end, we all know having things does not guarantee happiness. The Maasai people can teach us something about life: relationships. Life in Maasailand brims with rich relationships. Part of WILK's dream is to help build new relationships between people in the US and Kenya. More than writing a check, we challenge our friends to get to know the Maasai.

**What's on tap: WILK seeks to serve three new communities in 2013. Read more and imagine the acacia trees before you and the sun on your back.**

**Visit the official Water is Life Kenya Map on GoogleMaps and see all our project sites.**

<http://goo.gl/maps/6QaOm>

**Enkong'u Narok:** Search for "Enkongu Narok Primary School" in Google Maps

The community of Enkongu Narok lies south of the Amboseli National Park border. It has a primary school and newly opened health clinic. The school plans to construct a girl's dormitory. The need for sufficient clean water is pressing and sure to grow. Community leaders have asked us to help install a new, deeper water point. Once a geological survey ensures sufficient water is available, we'll be ready to dig.

**Risa:** Search for "Risa Primary School" on Google Maps

Risa lies just to the north of Amboseli National Park, near the



*Meet Mr. Momonyi and some of his Risa Primary School students*

Iremito gate. Despite proximity to the pipeline that serves the Park Headquarters and gate, the people do not have dependable access to water. Though a local church recently dug a borehole, the project stopped after drilling without installing a pump. WILK will talk to community leaders and decide whether to complete that borehole or find another water source.

Mr. Momonyi, a teacher at Risa Primary School, said, "the kids come to school, play outside in the very hot, dusty, windy environment. They go home, sleep dirty, and come to school dirty the next day due to lack of water. They have been trying to drink the water in the drums used for mixing the concrete to construct new classrooms. This water is extremely dirty, I have to punish them so they don't drink it because they get sick!"

**Lenkischem:** Search for "Lenkischem" in Google maps

Lenkischem village is about 10 miles north of Meshanani. Back in 2012 WILK kept hearing about Lenkischem and their water problems. They received no rain, the boreholes had broken down and people were moving away. When WILK made a preliminary visit to the town, the high school principal said they needed water storage tanks at the school to collect the rain water.

*Barrels at Risa Primary School construction site that students have been using for drinking water.*

## TO DONATE:

### WATER IS LIFE - KENYA

910 Baylor Drive  
Newark, Delaware 19711

Or online at  
[www.kenyawaterislife.com](http://www.kenyawaterislife.com)



- \$200 provides a cow for a livestock group
- \$100 provides meeting travel costs
- \$50 provides 110 feet of pipeline

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

## UPDATES

### Water - Quenching Thirst

#### **Olepolos:**

*Since the pump and generator were installed in December water is flowing in Olepolos!* Already easy access to water for Olepolos has brought huge changes. Ladies now have time to weed their own farms, so they save money by not having to hire others. In addition, they have time to earn money by working "Kibarua" - day laborers - for other farmers.

Unfortunately, Olepolos has faced management issues. Some of the money allocated by a government fund was not used effectively, creating a financial shortfall. WILK still hopes to construct latrines, livestock troughs and a water storage tank. We're going to meet with them to discuss how to improve their management, and discuss what they need to do to move forward.

#### **Ilmarba:**

WILK repaired the damage done by elephants to the community tap and pipes. The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) had agreed to do this work, but reneged. WILK is addressing this poor relationship between KWS and the community by mobilizing local leaders to put pressure on KWS to fulfill its promises. For now, the waterpoint established for wildlife requires diesel to operate. By involving stakeholders such as conservation organizations, WILK hopes to shift the burden of sustaining wildlife off the back of the community.

#### **Ngararampuni:**

A well was dug to provide water for this village and their closest neighbors, but it is too salty. Local leaders request that WILK help them by digging a shallow well. WILK is currently looking for donors interested in a investing in the Ngararampuni community. Total Cost: \$12,000.

### Livestock - Getting a Footing

2012 saw great growth in our livestock project. Each of the groups that received a loan paid it back and has again been loaned money for 2013. WILK has already added 2 new groups to this project and hopes to add 4 more for the 2013/2014 loan cycle.



*Jacob Ole Saiei, Olgulului Livestock Group Chairman, buying the groups' cows.*

### Beads - Making a Difference

WILK's jewelry business multiplies blessings. The ladies who make beads receive excellent wages, providing regular income for their families. In the U.S., beads act as an effective tool in sharing our story through art. A third blessing flows to Kenyan communities since all the profit from bead sales goes to water projects. In 2012, WILK earned enough to support one water project through jewelry sales. In 2013, we hope to fully fund two community projects.

***Would you like to help WILK multiply the blessings?*** WILK hopes to find 5 new volunteers to throw bead parties. We provide information, finished jewelry as well as everything you need to make your **own** WILK necklace. You provide friends and a place to meet. We'll come and share about our work while you make personalized WILK necklaces. 70% of all sales go to WILK, and the rest becomes a blessing to YOU. Interested? Call us, email us or fill out the card in the return envelope.



*Have fun and help WILK at a Beading Party! You can purchase ready-made jewelry or create your own designs.*

Interested in receiving electronic updates  
or have other questions? Contact us at  
[info@waterislifekenya.com](mailto:info@waterislifekenya.com)

## Exciting Developments in Noosidan

Together with support from the community, WILK was able to replace a hand pump with a generator-powered one, construct a protective wall, and provide a water tank.

Noosidan member Nanyukie, commenting on the improvements:

*“ My children no longer have skin or stomach problems. I haven’t taken my kids to the hospital in a long time. I have enough water to wash our clothes properly, like I learned to do when I lived in Mombasa and it works to keep us healthy. Since we have a water tank now we can get water at any time. We can do our chores easily and now we want to form a women’s group to do business.”.*



*Nanyukie, on the left, smiling.*

**To support Nanyukie and other women like her, go to [www.waterislifekenya.com/donate](http://www.waterislifekenya.com/donate) today!**



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**[www.kenyawaterislife.com](http://www.kenyawaterislife.com)**

[Water is Life Kenya is also on Facebook](#)

**TO:**