



Ladies from the Oloirien Livestock As a Business Group are celebrating after successfully selling their cows.

“We are very happy with the large profit that we made from selling our cattle bought with the WILK Livestock loan. We want to invest the profit in farming tomatoes to add to our profit. Tomatoes have a very good market. We are also planting grass (pasture) for the group so we can harvest it.”

Chairlady, Oloirien Livestock as a Business Group

Read about how the other livestock groups performed on page 4.

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WATER IS LIFE KENYA

Staying CONNECTED

SUMMER 2020

Letter from the Director

What we never imagined would happen, happened. Our plans all came crashing down with the arrival of the small, dangerous Coronavirus. LOCKDOWN. For myself, I barely got out of Kenya. Upon arrival back in the US, it meant no talks, no travel, no events. Water is Life Kenya's spring fundraising plans revolved around a visit from my co-founder Joseph Larasha to the US. He and I were to meet donors, give talks and build new relationships. With everything being cancelled, a quick pivot was called for. In this newsletter you'll read about what we did instead.

Meanwhile, new needs arose...how to help our communities weather the Covid-19 storm? It became clear that there was a crisis brewing in rural communities. WILK witnessed the lack of clear information about personal protection strategies, as well as the lack of water and handwashing facilities at key locations, like the public market where people do their daily / weekly food shopping.

Water is Life Kenya's effectiveness comes from having a finger on the pulse of what's happening. We see problems, brainstorm solutions, design and implement interventions quickly. We can only continue with your support. Thanks for supporting us through the bad and good times. We are so grateful!

*THANK YOU,
Joyce Tannian*



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Namelok — A project done well!



In major news, WILK'S Namelok Community Borehole Project came on line in mid-April. This is the first WILK project to install a solar powered pump, with a solar panel array. After debates about whether to connect to electricity or use solar, we settled on solar. Two major factors swayed the decision – the low running costs of solar and inordinately high connection fee for electricity.

So far, the installation is working well. Namelok community members are so happy drinking the clean water. Larasha and Nelson heard the women saying, “It is fresh, not salty, like the other water we were using. Our children don't have stomach aches now” and “We get the water quickly and easily and then we can get on with our other work”.

Solar power means lower operating costs as compared to a generator powered system. Fuel, oil, and filters are not needed, and there are no major repairs. There is no monthly electricity bill that you would have with an

electric powered borehole. The water management committee is setting water tariffs to pay the borehole operator, who is in charge of managing and protecting the system. Tariffs should also include a contribution to a sinking fund for future replacement or expansion costs of the borehole. This is new to the community, so education about these concepts is needed.

Namelok's clean water couldn't have come at a better time since people need sufficient water to do regular hand washing to protect themselves and their families against the Corona virus. Two major donors funded a large percentage of this Namelok Community Borehole. Look what your support has achieved! To you all, our generous donors, we can't thank you enough! May you be blessed for your kind generosity!



Namelok women using the community water point.

COVID-19 challenges

When the Corona Virus arrived in Kenya, the markets were immediately closed without notice. This left people in trouble, No one planned for this!

In Kimana, southern Kenya, Market Day on Tuesday is the highlight of the week. It attracts people from all over. They come to make money, buy food and supplies, get the news, and meet friends. It's a time for friends to walk around arm in arm, have lunch, eat roasted meat, drink tea, and share a soda. All the merchants, traders and transport people look forward to making big money. The line at the motorcycle mechanic shop is jammed and the car wash is packed. It all happens on market day.

When it was announced that the market would re-open, WILK leapt into action. We saw the scenario developing and were able to formulate a quick response plan and mobilize resources. With markets reopening, there needed to be a plan in place to control the transmission of the virus. Virus or not, people living in remote villages rely on the weekly market for their entire food supply.

WILK's small size and on the ground presence in southern Kenya over the past thirteen years enabled it to be flexible and responsive to immediate needs. In this case, WILK liaised with local leaders to explain the importance of handwashing and how WILK could help. WILK purchased 21 handwashing stations including soap, and secured a water supply so that when markets reopened, the handwashing stations were operational. Each station had a person to staff it to ensure everyone washed their hands properly before entering the market. Moreover, as people washed, they were instructed on additional personal protection measures, such as wearing a mask and keeping appropriate distance.

Initially, people had to be strongly urged to wash their hands. Now, people not only insist on washing their hands, they refuse to enter the market without doing so. WILK's personal protection program is working!



(continued on next page)

WILK Live

With the CORONA Virus lockdown, WILK co-founder Joseph Larasha's visit to the US and all planned spring events and talks were cancelled. So... in the time of "the great pivot", we migrated online to Facebook live to provide updates, entertainment and encouragement to our WILK community of donors and friends. We kicked off our fundraising efforts to "Turn the Water On" for our new water project, including a virtual Water Walk.



I enjoyed spreading my creative wings and trying out my "talk show host" chops every Friday at 7pm. I shared stories about Kenyan/ Maasai culture and life, taught Kiswahili and Maasai vocabulary, gave WILK Kenyan project updates and concluded with Wildlife Corner, where each week we learned about the fascinating wildlife found in Kenya.

All episodes of the entire show, as well as Wildlife Corner Segments, are available on our **Water is Life Kenya** YouTube channel. Stay tuned for Season 2!

Productive Partnerships:

Engineers without Borders, Delaware Professional Chapter



The Engineers without Borders Delaware Professional team came to Kenya in January to finish Phase 3B of the Imurtot Primary School rainwater harvesting project, which added 30,000 liters of water storage (7925 gal.), bringing total storage to 105,000 l (27,738 gal.). Upon arrival at the school, the engineers were happy to see that the system they installed had been capturing rain throughout the exceptionally productive rainy season. The EWB team consisted of 3 veterans and 2 first timers. Moses Tiya, a recent high school graduate and

sponsored student, also helped, enjoying the adventure, hard work and interaction with new people. WILK beads workshop manager, Stephen Musyoki, who also procures the supplies for all the EWB work, joined us for the first time. He was proud to see the results of his painstaking efforts. We have all learned so much through this partnership.

After the work we always enjoy fantastic times enjoying the magnificent scenery of Amboseli. One of the team did his first wilderness hike, climbing Lemomo Hill. Who will be our next visitors?

COVID-19 challenges (cont.)

Phase 2 included a permanent station with a tank and 6 taps.

Furthermore, the program received strong endorsement from local leaders – among them the government of Kenya's Assistant County Commissioner, the local chief, the Kimana Market chairman, and local elders.

Meanwhile, local press coverage and reports from public health representatives ensured that news of WILK's intensive handwashing program reached the county government. This simple, effective, high-impact program brings hope, imparts important lessons and enables individuals to protect themselves and their families. The ripple effects are already apparent.

Ruth Muli joined others doing a Water Walk in their own neighborhoods. To date we have raised \$37,427 towards our goal of \$40,000 for Phase I. It is not too late to join in on the fun and do your own water walk.

Visit our website, waterislifekenya.com to learn more and to donate today.



Donation Corner

Your support is appreciated! During this pandemic, life has come to a literal standstill but your donations have continued to flow in so we can continue to make a difference. Kenya does not have the infrastructure in place for constant hand washing, let alone clean water. As you can see in our Covid-19 article, with your help we have been able to help change that scenario in the market place.

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.



6 ways to donate today

Check

Checks made out to:
Water is Life Kenya

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waterislifekenya.com

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(302)449-7349

Stocks

Contact us for steps
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Digital Assets — XRP

Make WILK a beneficiary of your will





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info@waterislifekeny.com



www.waterislifekeny.com

You can make a difference.

Become a sustaining donor today!

We want to give a big shout out to our monthly donors. Over the past year, their generous giving totals over \$6,300. That provides 1/2 the cost of drilling for a new borehole. We invite you to join this team of donors by becoming a sustaining donor. It has a two-fold benefit: 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, waterislifekeny.com, click on Donate to follow the steps. It's simple and fast.



Livestock as a Business Program – Best year ever!

WILK'S 9 current Livestock Farmer groups did remarkably well in their cattle sales, in spite of uncertainty and market volatility. Ample rains provided sufficient pastures and cattle fattened quickly. Instead of selling in June, groups sold in April and May, reducing fattening expenses from 6 months to 4 or 5 months, increasing profit. Only 1 group hasn't sold their cattle yet. They will sell their cattle by the end of June.

So far, without having all the records on hand, it looks like people have made serious profit this time! Gross profit margin is averaging 51%. It will all be revealed in our loan review seminar in July when groups share their complete expenses. We will see then who wins the prize for highest net profit per cow and highest overall profit!

Will Naboishu win for the third year in a row, or will they be overtaken by another group? A women's group perhaps?? We have some very strong newcomers (2 women's groups and 2 men's groups) and some greatly improved veteran groups. Stay tuned!