



Summer 2017

*Partnering with Communities,
Expanding Opportunities.*

Handling Water Insecurity in Kenya

Every day in rural communities and poor urban centers throughout Kenya, thousands of people suffer from lack of access to clean and safe water for consumption.

With a population of 46 million, 37 percent of Kenyans still rely on unimproved water sources, such as ponds, shallow wells and rivers, while 70 percent of Kenyans use unimproved sanitation solutions. These challenges are especially evident in the rural areas and urban slums. Women and girls bear the burden of walking long distances to fetch needed water which can house water-borne diseases such as cholera, dysentery and typhoid.



In handling water insecurity issues, Kenya Works funded a water security program that would ensure the most vulnerable can access clean and safe water for consumption.



The Magadi region, 150 kilometers from Nairobi, is the beneficiary of this innovative and lifesaving water security program. The area is arid with the dominant community being Maasai, famously known for holding tight to their culture and dressing code. They are nomadic pastoralists and move with their livestock from one area to another in search of pasture and water. In addition, wells are a non-viable option due to the water's high alkaline content.

Through the support of generous donors (Ray and Laverne, Bill and Barb and Andrew and Lyssa Schmidt), Kenya Works was able to fund the construction of three above ground concrete tanks in three locations in this region. Two have a storage capacity of 80,000 liters each serving a population of 600 children at two primary schools. The third is a 110,000 liter tank built at the VICODEC Birikani project which will serve a population of 200 community members and their livestock. It will also be essential for sustaining a future community center in the area. The tanks are customized to collect rain water during the rainy season and also store water during occasional community water distributions.

The teachers, pupils and the entire community of Magadi are deeply appreciative that the Kenya Works donors have provided the most vulnerable access to safe and clean water.

Kenya Works Welcomes a New Social Worker



**Caroline Wanjiru Gitau
visiting 2 of the Kenya
Works scholars**

My name is Caroline Wanjiru Gitau and in May 2017, I eagerly joined Kenya Works as a social worker. Kenya is a country with a wide diversity of landscape and people and my education and experience have helped me develop a thorough understanding of the many cultures as well as issues facing the Kenyan communities.

Kenya Works has a wide variety of initiatives where thousands of needy families and communities have been empowered. Supporting economic self sufficiency, community training, girl child education, school infrastructure and numerous other programs adds positive alternatives to many who have lost hope. Kenya Works also focuses on honoring culture and at the same time focusing on outdated cultural practices like Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) which can have mental and physical ramifications for the girls who are its victim.

I personally appreciate all the Kenya Works donors for their continued support to our programs as you are a key in our activities. We know that there are many more marginalized groups in Kenya where we would like to extend our positive impact. Spread the story of the strength, the needs, and the wonderful people of Kenya and the work that we at Kenya Works, and you our donors, believe in. Asante sana.

Did you know?

- ✓ This past February, the Kenyan government declared a national drought emergency with 23 of 47 counties affected, doubling the number of food insecure people in the country.
- ✓ Kenya Works supports nutritional programs to the most vulnerable, working to respond to the food shortage crisis through partnership with community centers and school feeding programs.
- ✓ In the past 12 years, Kenya has brought down the national Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) prevalence from 32% to 21%. While this shows progress, there are still communities where girls are circumcised, forced to leave school and enter early marriage.
- ✓ Kenya Works is supporting forums which encourage open dialogue on this harmful practice while promoting child rights. We know that education is arguably the best solution for ensuring women and girls gain equal access to an empowered future.
- ✓ While Kenya is on a path of economic growth, poverty alleviation remains a challenge. Nearly half of the country's 46 million live below the poverty line or are unable to meet their basic needs.
- ✓ Kenya Works is proud to employ 30 individuals in the production of our Makini Pad. The benefit of our eco-friendly sanitary pad is not only for the pad recipients but also the worker who is able to support their family with a living wage, earned as part of our production line. They are proud of their work and their product.
- ✓ Did you know that 40% of adolescent girls without an education in Kenya are either pregnant or have already become mothers; this is according to the latest Kenya Demographic Health Survey.
- ✓ Kenya Works is providing scholarships for the most vulnerable girls to both boarding and day schools throughout Kenya.
- ✓ At the beginning of formal education both genders are equally represented. As the years progress, girls representation decreases, with fewer completing primary school and enrolling in secondary school.
- ✓ While we recognize dropout incidence can be a result of socio-economic factors such as poverty or early marriages, we know giving girls opportunities to hear about their body and access to effectively and safely manage their menses, keeps them in school. The Kenya Works Makini Pad is supporting girls throughout Kenya to help them stay in school and support their quest for equal opportunity.

A New Rescue Center – Miale ya Tumaini

Ever since its inception three years ago, Miale ya Tumaini has lived up to its name and its mission; to help the children found on the streets of Kware slum. The name in English means “Ray of Hope” and it has been that and more for the children and adults who have come through its doors. The provision of meals, up to 600/day, led to psycho-social individual and family support and later, life skills and business training for parents and guardians. Miale ya Tumaini has evolved with each visitor and continues to look at ways to move the community forward in an empowering way. Nutrition for the body as well as food for the soul is at the heart of the center, Diana Wambui, its director, and the center’s volunteers and supporters.



Amerika welcomes children to Miale’s feeding program

Giving the children a safe place to be after school ensures their safety when at the center. Sadly, the children face many challenges as children raised in Kware slum. Abuse and neglect is common for children here, as is violence against women. As the center has always done, it knew it needed to again fill gaps of service in the community in order to support its most innocent and vulnerable. Its programs were outgrowing its structure as a safe place for children to land after school and adults to gain life skill training. The center also needed to expand to be a safe haven for people in crisis. With no other domestic abuse or rescue centers in the area, Miale ya Tumaini could not turn its back on the community and the great need. Thanks to our wonderful donors, Kenya Works was able to support the building of the new center along with its foundational programs.

Miale ya Tumaini’s new center encompasses its foundational programs and also includes rooms for children and women to stay while they await intervention and resolution. In the past, women and children would stay in the police station and then be turned out in the streets the next morning. Now they have security and are embraced with open arms by Miale ya Tumaini.

A woman who recently spent time at the center, after being thrown out of her home said, “I am tired and I need you to please continue holding my hand until I stop hearing noises in my head. I thank God I was brought to you and as I begin to think clearly, I also see hope.” The center, which has always been known for compassion and hope continues its work to heal and empower... and hold the hands of the Kware community.



While the new center is operational, they are in need of beds, mattresses, bedding, toys, clothing, personal hygiene items and the list continues. Please consider supporting items that will provide comfort, advance safety and support healing.



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*“FACES OF KENYA WORKS”
by Appleton artist Kathy Donatelle
on display October 12 – November 12 at
Avenue Art & Company
Mark your calendar for the
Artist reception October 12, 5:00 – 8:00 PM*



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