

A Water Well in the Arid North

The Samburu Project

In search of water, Nisalo Leshakwei left her home at 7am. It is now noon and she is on the return trip back to her home. Despite the 6 hour journey, she is one of the fortunate women of Samburu East who has access to a well.

She loads jerry cans full of clean water onto her donkeys and returns home with enough water for two days. On her return journey, she sees Lucas Lekwale in his silver truck and flags him down. Lucas is Project Manager for The Samburu Project and a respected Samburu in this area. Nisalo makes an urgent plea for a new well to be put closer to her village.

Lack of clean water is the major issue for the Samburu people. They are a nomadic, pastoralist community of about 250,000 people who share this beautiful, dry, arid, homeland with elephants, Grevy's zebra and other wildlife. Women and girls are tasked with procuring water for their families through this sometimes dangerous landscape. Without access to a Samburu Project well, women and girls rely on brown water from hand-dug holes in the ground for drinking water. Ingesting water from these sources brings a variety of water-borne diseases. Diarrhea is the number one killer of children

under five in this area. That is more than malaria, AIDS or war. With 84 wells and counting, The Samburu Project has been providing a simple solution to this extraordinary problem since 2005.

A grassroots organization with an office in Wamba and headquarters in Santa Monica, California, The Samburu Project works with villages



The water project



Empowering the women



Kid at the well



Dirty water

throughout Samburu East to drill ten new wells each year. With each well, communities are educated on well maintenance and participate in hygiene and sanitation workshops. With new found time, girls are now able to go to school. Education for girls in TSP well communities has tripled. Women now have time to engage in micro-businesses, participate in community gardens and spend more time with their children.

With the advent of a well near the Sere Olipi Primary School, the entire community is thriving. Through a partnership with the World Food Program, The Samburu Project well was turned into a water access

point. A system of piping now feeds water directly to the school, in addition to a health clinic, and a community water kiosk. Children at this school participate in two kitchen gardens, enjoy clean latrines, and campus hand-washing stations. The health clinic sees an average of 50 patients a day and delivers 10 babies a month.

Every year, The Samburu Project collects applications from villages for water support and every summer, they conduct hydrogeological surveys to determine the locations that most likely will provide water. After the sites are identified, drilling begins in late September and with any luck, this year Nisalo will have a well closer to her village. Without that long walk for water, her life, the lives of her children and everyone in her village will be changed forever.

The Samburu Project is a charitable organization in the United States and an officially recognized NGO in Kenya. Providing the organization much needed transportation services, Airkenya is a proud sponsor of The Samburu Project.



Long Walk for Water

For more information please visit www.thesamburuproject.org