

COMMUNITY WATER STORIES

Korowe chief's Camp



one of the project beneficiaries is Korowe Chiefs Camp Community.

The community is located in Korowe, Kobura ward, with the majority of its people being rice farmers and fishermen, commonly known as jaboya in the local language. The community is frequently affected by flooding due to Lake Victoria backflow and during the rainy season since it is considered to be the lower parts of Kisumu County.

Before the project establishment, the community used to fetch water at the river Miriu or sometimes use stagnant water by the roadside. The women and girls of the community used to walk a distance of around 2 kilometers just to get a 20-liter jerrican, which could not be enough for the whole household, so they're forced to make several trips. The long distances raised a lot of health issues, with the majority of the women complaining about backaches.

The water, on the other hand, was not clean, and they had frequent diarrhea and stomach issues. A few women complained of taking their children to the hospital frequently due to stomach issues. On education and performance, their girls would spend a lot of time after school helping their mother fetch water rather than reading their books and doing homework, and this contributed to poor performance among girls in the area. Teenage pregnancy was also on the rise, as young men would take advantage of the girls when they were on an errand to get water home.

Water scarcity is one of the most pressing development challenges of our time. Competition for this precious resource is on the rise as water scarcity increases a burden to humankind and animals. To worsen the situation, increased and recurring weather events, such as droughts and floods, are stressing our ecosystem.

STADA Kenya has, however, made tremendous efforts in Kisumu County, Kenya, to ensure the communities around Kisumu have access to clean and safe water. This is to promote the health and hygiene as well as the security of girls and women who are frequently given the burden to source for water and are forced to trek long distances, and this exposes them to issues such as SGBV.

STADA KENYA is watering hundreds of communities through its drilling project and pump repair and rehabilitation project, which are funded by Life Water Canada. And

Months after the implementation of the drilled project and health and hygiene workshops, the community had a lot of positive statements to say on how the project impacted their lives. The community has access to water, hygiene, and proper sanitation. Some community members provided these testimonials.

"Since this borehole was drilled, I don't walk long distances anymore; I get clean and safe water for use for me and my family, and because of that, our hygiene has improved because we have enough water," said Linet Ogola, one of the community members.

"This borehole has benefited more than 100 households, and all we can say is thank you, STADA KENYA and Life Water Canada, for these projects you are doing in our communities. The health of the people in the community has improved, and we are looking forward to partnering more in even other projects," said Alfred Ochieng, the area assistant chief.

The community enjoys safe and clean water courtesy of Life Water Canada and STADA Kenya.