

Equipping of Kamurio borehole

Geographical coverage

Tirioko Ward, Akoret Division of East Pokot Sub-county in Baringo County.



Gender

The project committee comprises both men and women and is co-chaired by a woman, allowing for consideration of concerns of women.

Target group

Approx. 1,664 persons spread across 8 villages, 5 early childhood learning centres, 1 primary school with about 200 pupils, dispensary, church, shopping centre, and sometimes displaced pupils from 3 neighbouring primary schools.

PROJECT COST

Ksh 4,420,269



Mrs Cheposopon Tumoruk draws water at Kamurio borehole in East Pokot Sub-county, Baringo County.

Problem Statement

The local community had persistent water scarcity for decades due to lack of a permanent water source. This was further exacerbated by rapid loss of water from the few water sources (i.e. surface runoff and seasonal streams) resulting from excessive evaporation due to high temperatures and poor recharge of the only seasonal spring in the area. In addition;

- Only sources of water serving the shopping centre, local primary school, dispensary and a church were Merkeu spring and Embossos seasonal stream, which are 7km away.
- Water discharge volumes from the spring during drought peaks was established at 120 litres per hour.
- A household had to spend more than 4 to 5 hours queuing to scoop water for domestic use.
- Incidences of human-animal conflict at watering points had been reported, mainly snake bites as well as wild and stray dogs.
- Cases of waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea and dysentery were predominant.
- Women and school-going children trekked about 12kms to Merkeu and Embossos water points.

Kamurio and other areas in Akoret Division had to be put under water trucking during dry spells. However, the area was hard to access for water trucks/bowsers due to remoteness and treacherous access roads from the nearest accessible borehole in Chemolingot, 44 km away.

It was on this basis that the Baringo County Steering Group identified the borehole, which had been sank and its equipping stalled for several years, for support in terms of licencing and equipping.



Camera inspection at Kamurio borehole

Implementation

The intervention included borehole status assessment, which started in October 2014, equipping and test pumping, which was concluded in March 2015 as follows;

Borehole performance assessment

- Establishment of licensing and Environmental Impact Assessment status.
- Camera inspection of borehole to ascertain presence of permanent casing and screens.
- Test pumping for 24 hours, establishing a yield of approximately 3.6m³.
- Quality analysis of water, with results showing acceptable chemical and biological quality.

Equipping

- Construction of pump house.
- 45kVA solar powered genset.
- Control panel and cabling.
- Construction of community water kiosk with a roof reservoir tank.



I was the happiest person when I saw water coming out of this tap even with no electricity here. I used to have sleepless nights during drought periods because I had nowhere to water my 100 cows. Livestock is my whole life and this water project is a godsend

– *Mr Lokopimoi Nasuron*
Kamurio resident

Impact

The following immediate outcomes were recorded;

- A new, alternative, permanent and reliable water source created, improving availability to the community from **120 litres/hour to 3,600litres/hour**.
- Access to clean drinking water for people and animals. i.e.
 - Kamurio community - **165 households** spread across 8 villages.
 - **59 camels, 5,280 goats and 3,630 cattle** during drought peaks.
 - Institutions -Kamurio Primary School with an enrolment of **163 pupils** as at March 2015, **dispensary** and **Mamlaka church**.
 - Kamurio Shopping Centre.
- Reduced trekking distance **from 7km to 1km**.
- Reduced waiting time at water point and the turnaround time, allowing school children, especially girls, to concentrate on their studies and women to engage in domestic chores and socio-economic activities.
- Reduced cases of waterborne diseases.
- Improved livestock health due to closer and timely availability of water.
- Improved human nutrition due to availability of milk as small herds are left behind due to access to water.
- Borehole management was handed over to a women's group;
 - prioritising household water needs during drought stress.
 - empowering them to leverage the human traffic to start economic activities around the borehole.
- Eliminated the need for water trucking to the village during drought episodes, which is both an expensive and unsustainable option.



A woman scoops water from Merkeu water spring during the March 2015 dry spell.