



The Kibiko Project, WellBoring



The community plan for providing a borehole began in 2003. Many times this Kenyan community committee, 25 miles west of Nairobi, applied for a licence and prayed for the finance. By 2010 the community had all but given up hope of ever getting a borehole. When WellBoring came into the picture, the committee's joy was not about money, but just the sense that someone else cared and was supportive and encouraging. WellBoring, through Bristol Rotary, contributed 35% of the capital cost, but the real value to the community was in the encouragement and partnership to keep the dream alive. WellBoring's arrival transformed the committee's spirits and strengthened their resolve. They needed vision and courage as they asked the banks for a loan for 30% of the cost.



The three men in the picture, Henry, Richard and Benjamin held on to their dream for over ten years. They are men of high integrity with a strong determination to strengthen the

community. The water is just the first large step to transforming this community, improving health and welfare and bringing clean water to schools, families and business. This will lead to growing crops for the schools, rainwater harvesting and irrigation systems, planting trees and improving the environment. Greatly improved sanitation will dramatically enhance educational opportunities, particularly for girls. New businesses will grow and thrive as crops are improved, people buy goats, chickens, cows, fish, rabbits to rear and sell.



This project has been well planned, well executed and well worth it. The 182 m deep borehole can yield 6545 litres/hour which is a very good flow. A more expensive borehole built by an American charity east of Nairobi was pleased to be getting 2500 litres/hour. The fact that the project was so successful was due to our excellent engineer/project manager in Nairobi, Lucy Njoroge. She worked diligently over two years and became an honorary member of the Kibiko community and much loved by staff and committee.



Isaac is the manager of water sales





There are plenty of stories of boreholes that fail and are not built as specified. Lucy's diligence meant that every casing was counted and she didn't rest or leave the rig until 182 metres had been seen to be sunk and recovered. The committee have well-developed plans for the establishment of a water distribution network.

They will be connecting to the secondary school which will be paid for by the school. They presently have 50 applications for connection to a future distribution network. They will request a large deposit for the connection and meter as a means of financing the network. They plan to lay pipework along the Kimuka Road and areas around the Tunza children's home. Future plans take the network to a proposed reservoir at Maragara road and to all the residents there.

A Future Financial Model

Naturally there is a great deal of excitement and demand could be overwhelming. We discussed the development strategy and how the expansion of a network can be planned and financed. Good management procedures needed to be in place and a balance of income and expenditure. The foundation of financial planning needs to be the repayment of the bank loan and starting to build a reserve fund for maintenance. Networks need to be virtually self-financing with up-front payment by future customers. The community plan a 100 day target, at the end of which they will present the long-term strategy and vision for the transformation of the community due to benefits of clean running water.



The Primary School

Josephine is the head teacher who has 1,000 infants in her care. She is an inspiration and overjoyed at the arrival clean running water. We discussed the benefits to the school and agreed to put in place a process of monitoring the improvement to health, sanitation and school attendance. The one thing it is difficult to measure is the high level of happiness that the water is presently bringing to the school, the children, the parents and the staff.

How do we measure excitement and joy? It is obvious that children love their new school experience and sanitation is dramatically improved. Now food can be cooked on the premises and this alone will improve the health and well-being to the young children. One immediate benefit for the parents is that they do not need to bring water to school to clean the classrooms. The children now clean their own classrooms, between lessons!

Josephine is a passionate advocate of good sanitation and hygiene and is thrilled that she can now impose her standards on the school. From now on the wrath of Josephine will descend on any pupil who walks into class with dirty hands.



Community Development

This is a strong community with leaders who have vision and courage. It is community that will build many ideas and projects on the foundation of clean running water. Planting crops to feed the primary school students, harvesting water, caring for the environment, reaching out to the wider community with help for the poor, a vocational training centre for young people. This community has a bright future with clean water and wise management.

Chris Doran, 20th November 2014