

Clean Water Provision - Masai Mara, Kenya

1 in 8
PEOPLE
drink water
that could kill



Bringing a clean water supply to local communities can transform lives in the poorest parts of Africa.

Across much of the developing world, unclean, contaminated water is an immensely greater threat to human survival than violent conflict. Sadly, the vulnerability of children puts them at the greatest risk. Each year 2.2 million children die from diarrhea and 443 million school days are lost to water-related illnesses as drinking water is collected from muddy, contaminated streams, rivers and dambos.

In rural settings in Africa, it is the women and young girls who have responsibility for collecting their family's water supply. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 68% of the rural population spends more than 1 hour on each water run – carrying containers on their heads weighing up to 20kg. That means valuable time, sometimes upwards of 3 hours a day, is lost collecting insufficient, contaminated water. Sadly, a female's opportunity for education or small business venture is thwarted by this strenuous, time-consuming activity.

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In wildlife areas this activity is dangerous too – the women and young girls often encountering predators like lion and leopard, along with elephants, on their daily trips to streams and rivers that are also used by wildlife to collect water.

In Kenya's wildlife-rich Masai Mara, High Five Club founders Cheryl and Manny Mvula have had a long and fruitful relationship with the Maasai tribe living there. From 2006 onwards they worked in Maasai villages to end the Maasai's exploitation by Kenya's tourism industry, overturning the deep-seated corruption that had plagued the Maasai's self-development and life prospects since the 1970s. Theirs is a deep relationship built on mutual trust and respect, so it was with great joy when the Maasai living in the Sekanani area bordering the Masai Mara National Reserve reached out to the High Five Club to propose that we join with them to bring safe, clean water to their community.

High Five Club Support:

We are happy to have joined hands with our long-standing partner in the Sekanani area of the Masai Mara, a local Maasai-owned and run community self-help group called **SEMADEP** (Sekanani Maasai Development Project), to pipe safe, clean water to villages in their area. Reverend James Ole Lesaloi, the Maasai elder who set up SEMADEP, was one of the team working with Cheryl and



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Manny to overthrow the exploitation of the Maasai, and has a beating heart to see his community lift themselves out of poverty.

Our collective support of £917 has helped to fund an existing, defunct well to be refurbished and upgraded to serve the wider community. The community via SEMADEP, in line with our self-help approach (i.e. a 'hand up' as opposed to a demeaning 'hand out'), also contributed £917 out of funds raised from their now 'non-exploited' village tourism enterprise – a truly empowering 50/50 partnership to deliver this project. Community members also contributed labour by volunteering to hand dig and back-fill the trenches needed to sink the pipework below ground.

The existing water source was capped off with concrete and pipes sunk deep within it to extract the water using a newly purchased electronic water pump. The water was then pumped into a water storage tank. 500m of piping was laid in back-filled trenches from the tank to taps installed adjacent to Ewangan Village – strategically chosen as the central point of this community. **As a result 300 people are now fully serviced by this water point from both Ewangan and surrounding villages. Safe, clean water within a short 5 minute walk for all!!** For more information contact Cheryl@highfiveclub.co.uk

Villagers queuing at the water point on opening day



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Rev. James Ole Lesaloi holding the new water pump with the water well being capped off in the background / The new water tank



The new water point under a tree close to all villages

