



Ripple Effect

Update for friends and supporters Vol. 1, No. 9

“Nurturing the human spirit through the gift of clean water.”



A message from Elena

I am pleased to share two important developments in our commitment to bring clean water and hope to children and their families in Kenya. As reported in the last *Ripple Effect* newsletter, our partnership with United Kenya Rising (UKR) is steadily and effectively expanding.

Earlier this year, 150 Sawyer filters were consigned to families participating in the Family Care Model of UKR's holistic approach to development needs of families living in the Kakamega community of Western Province. The social work staff of UKR provided thorough training to householders in the use of the Sawyer SP180 filter the filter W=L utilizes in our work.

For information about this technology, go to sawyer.com.

Read in this edition of *Ripple Effect* the report from John Chisholm, Executive Director for Friends of Kenya Rising, about this exciting collaboration. You'll gain an appreciation of UKR's values and administrative excellence, and why we are pleased to partner with them. Our goal in Phase 2 is to provide by year's end another 150 families with clean water access in their homes.

In addition to the budding success of our relationship with UKR, I want also to share this good news. W=L received this summer a gift from the **Ruth Huppuch Bequest Fund** to continue our effort **“to nurture the human spirit through the gift of clean water”**. With this financial and emotional support in hand, W=L confidently begins Phase 2 of our work with UKR.

The work of bringing the basic human right of access to clean water is on-going. And so your financial support must be on-going, too. Please join us. We have so much to be thankful for.

Rev. Elena Delgado, *President, Water = Life*





United Kenya Rising Newsletter, APRIL 2022

More families to receive water filters through partnership with Water=Life

- John Chisholm, Executive Director for Friends of Kenya Rising

In 2021 we piloted a new initiative to help families access clean water using high quality, low-cost water filters that last for many years with essentially no limit on the amount of water filtered.

The pilot was successful with most of the initial 27 families reporting they are very happy to have clean drinking water.

Now, with additional support from Water=Life, we are pursuing the goal of all students and families in our programs accessing safe drinking water in their homes. A new consignment of 150 water filters was delivered to Kakamega in late March, and families are already receiving them. The distribution and training starts with those families facing the biggest obstacles to accessing clean water, as identified by UKR's social work team. Every water filter is delivered by a staff member who trains the recipient family on how to use and maintain it.

Families, for their part, are required to provide the plastic containers that will store the clean, filtered water.

A large majority of households we support in western Kenya do not have access to potable, piped water. Many families drink water from UKR-provided tanks that collect rooftop rainfall, but this water could still be cleaner. Moreover, rainwater from tanks is not available during the dry season that lasts several months, forcing families to drink water they collect from streams, rivers, community boreholes, and springs. In some cases, especially streams and rivers, the water families drink is highly contaminated. Boiling helps, but wood for boiling water is expensive and not all families are able to boil all their drinking water, or they do not boil enough water to hydrate properly for good health.

Water is life, and clean drinking water is a major factor in living a healthy lifestyle. Contaminated water, meanwhile, leads to diarrheal diseases that range from uncomfortable to life-threatening. Clean drinking water prevents conditions like E. coli infections, giardiasis, typhoid, and cholera. We believe every human being has a right to clean and safe drinking water, and we are working hard to ensure all the students and families we serve enjoy that right.

By the end of this year we hope to have provided more than 300 water filters to families, students, and even our staff (so that their families, too, can drink clean and safe water each and every day).

Big thanks to Water=Life for supporting us in this endeavor, and appreciation to the UKR staff for training students and families on how to properly use, maintain, and fully benefit from these water filters.

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