



The Samburu Project - FAQs

Water Facts

1. 4,500 children die each day worldwide due to the lack of clean, safe drinking water.
2. An American taking a five minute shower uses more water than a typical person in the developing world uses in a whole day.
3. 884 million people lack access to safe water supplies; approximately one in eight people.
4. Investment in drinking water and sanitation would result in 272 million more school attendance days a year.
5. The water and sanitation crisis claims more lives through disease than any water claims through guns.
6. Every minute, a child dies from a water-related disease. Diarrhea, not AIDS, malaria or measles, is the leading cause of death among children under the age of 5 in Samburu, Kenya.
7. Investment in safe drinking water and sanitation contributes to economic growth. The estimated return is between \$3 - \$34 for each \$1 invested.

Samburu Facts

1. The Samburu people are a pastoral tribe numbering 250,000 people, living 250 miles north of Nairobi, Kenya.
2. Samburu women walk up to 12 miles every day looking for water and often return home to their children with nothing. Every facet of women and girls lives are impacted because of this: women do not have time to generate income and care for themselves and their children, girls are uneducated and the entire community suffers from disease because the water they are drinking comes from gaping hand dug wells that are contaminated due to animal fecal matter.
3. If they are lucky enough to find water, it is most likely unclean, originating from gaping, hand-dug wells contaminated by wildlife and livestock.
4. Girls do not attend school because they are expected to join their mothers in this quest for water.
5. Since 2005, The Samburu Project provided a solution to this extraordinary problem:
 - a. Drilled 84 wells bringing clean, safe drinking water to over 80,000 people.
 - b. Watched the number of girls going to school in our communities triple.
 - c. Empowered women by giving them the opportunity to pursue micro-enterprise initiatives.
 - d. Supported communities in the development of agricultural initiatives to achieve self-sustenance and income generation.
 - e. Established strong leadership with a team of Samburu tribesmen responsible for our day to day operations in their community.
 - f. Provided hygiene & sanitation workshops directly effecting improved health
 - g. Put a big dent in the world water crisis.

6. With clean water, it becomes possible to impact other aspects of community life including education, food security, healthcare, income generation and women's empowerment.
7. TSP prides itself on being a community-based, grassroots project, working directly with the people who live in the communities we serve.
8. The Samburu Project offers a simple solution to an extraordinary problem.

Critical Issues Facing Citizens of Kenya (Samburu specifically):

1. **Why help people in Africa and not in the US?**
While there is need everywhere, the dollars to people served creates a big impact in Africa. Just because we are working in Africa doesn't mean we are helping here as well. Local is Global. If people's basic needs are not met, there will not be peace in the world.
--Wangari Mathai
2. **Why don't the Samburu leave the region since they are facing such a difficult challenge to a good quality of life?**
Leaving Samburu is not an option. They are living on their land similar to Native American Indians living on a reservation. This is their land.
3. **Are there plans for expansion outside of Samburu?**
Currently, we are focused on Samburu, with a narrow focus we can have a greater impact. However, long term, there are possibilities of expansion within Kenya.
4. **Why the Samburu region of Kenya and not other drought stricken areas?**
Samburu is an area of extreme poverty where the water issue is pervasive and the center of the inspiration for our founder.
5. **Why doesn't the Kenyan government drill wells for its people?**
They do but their system is flawed like all governments and these people need assistance. However, there is a new de-centralized government and we have been in discussion the new governor about collaborating with the government on future projects so as to receive funding and involvement.

TSP's Unique Approach

1. **How do you know the wells are actually being drilled?**
A number of ways. We work with a capable team on the ground headed by Lucas Lekwale who oversees the drilling team to insure that they are completing the work as contracted. We complete reports about each well accompanied by photographs. The US teams makes periodic site visits to the wells and TSP supporters and visitors also visit the wells. Each well is documented on our web site with a GPS coordinate and extensively documented on Peer Water Exchange (www.peerwater.org).
2. **How are the wells being maintained?**
After receiving maintenance training, the communities are responsible for maintenance, hygiene and sanitation. TSP is available to assist in maintenance if need be. Communities are responsible for paying for spare parts as well as time of our skilled well technician.
3. **What happens when a well breaks?**
Communities repair the well or if they need assistance, they contact TSP to help troubleshoot the problem.
4. **How much does it cost to drill a well?**
Drilling a well costs approximately \$20,000. The cost increases each year mostly due to the Kenyan inflation rate.
5. **What does the \$20,000 per well represent in operational costs?**
Nothing. As all of the costs are programmatic costs.

6. **Does the cost of drilling encompass monitoring, management and replacement if needed?**
No.
7. **Aren't there big organizations that would do a better job of drilling wells?**
Not necessarily so. We are a "specialty shop." Being a small organization we can concentrate our efforts in this specific region and have built strong relationships within the communities we serve. Our ongoing presence in the region gives us a reputation in the area over larger NGOs.
8. **What else are we working on?**
Though our main focus is drilling wells, occasionally we are involved in other projects like agricultural and educational initiatives, etc. Currently we are developing a program to provide further support and assistance to women and girls to pursue a life out of poverty.

Impact of TSP Work to All Stakeholders and Constituents

1. **How quickly do the people of Samburu see and benefit from the TSP wells?**
Once the well is drilled, the benefit is immediate. Overnight a community can go from having diarrhea and other water borne diseases to being healthy. In the longer term, communities can start to develop areas of their lives like education and food security.
2. **How long will the wells last?**
As long as they are maintained properly and without any unforeseen catastrophic events they can last indefinitely. Of the 84 wells drilled so far, we have only lost one to a flood.
3. **How are donors updated on how the money is allocated?**
TSP directly provided updates and photographs to donors about well drills. TSP's annual report shares that information. We have periodic newsletters that update all donors and supporters on well drills and the TSP website and Facebook page both provide current updates on all TSP activities.
4. **Do the people of Kenya appreciate the work we do?**
YES! Expression of their gratitude are shared on our website blog and in messages and videos through Lucas to our donors. Their gratitude is overwhelming.
5. **Are we inserting ourselves into a situation too far remote from the US?**
No. Our team is local and the communities seek assistance from us.

Well Drilling Questions

1. **How deep are our wells?**
Approximately 70 meters (230 feet).
2. **What kind of hand pump do we use?**
Afridev hand pumps.
3. **How do we identify where the water is located?**
We utilize the services of an experienced hydro-geologist. Since working with TSP, his success rate has been 94%.
4. **How many people benefit from each well?**
Approximately 1,000.