



The Year in Review

Someone asked me how I felt about the past year. I told them it felt like a roller coaster, ranging from the good, bad and ugly.

The very good was the 158 new wells drilled this year, a significant increase over the 111 drilled last year! Also, an additional 58 wells were rebuilt and 11 communal washrooms were constructed.

The bad was an overall shortage of sponsors resulted in 2 teams being shut down for two months, forcing people in 15 villages to keep drinking unsafe water. The ugly was that the compound in Haiti was attacked and the surge of violence in Nigeria.

But the bottom line is that I am deeply grateful to each one of you for helping bring health and hope to 80,000 people! In particular, you touched the lives of girls and women, since they bear the burden of hauling water and caring for the sick. Girls can now have the same educational opportunities as boys, and women can spend time planting gardens and starting small businesses to earn money to buy rice & fuel.

Thanks for helping bring health and hope to those in need!

Jim Gehrels, President

Haiti Update

The Haitian team drilled 2 wells and rebuilt 4 abandoned wells every month! They also repaired hundreds of pumps, helping stop the spread of cholera.



Susan Rakoczy, volunteer coordinator for Lifewater d'Haiti just sent the following update.

The lack of water here in Haiti is getting critical. Even dirty water is unavailable. Shallow wells have dried up, some streams are gone and cisterns are empty. People who normally get water from these sources now are searching for pumps farther from home. In turn, more pumps are breaking because they are overused.

One pump in Cap Haitien had over 200 buckets stacked up with people waiting in two long lines to fill 3 buckets each. Young girls who should be in school spend hours every day getting water.

Our repair phone is getting calls everyday from some areas, begging us to come out and fix their pump. It is really bad.

Kenya Update

Our team in Kenya is led by David Maina. He was trained as a Water Engineer and managing a government department when he stepped down to do Lifewater work full-time. His skills and vision have made him a leader in successfully completing unusual and interesting projects.

With your help, he has built outstanding multi-stall washroom & shower buildings for schools.



Many Kenya projects include 10,000 gallon storage tanks to store water from roof catchment systems or low yielding wells.



The drought here in East Africa continues as in Haiti. Please pray that rains will replenish water sources so people will not suffer so much.

Liberia Update

Liberia continues to be a key focus of our work in Africa. The team drilled a well every week for the entire year, providing safe water for thousands of people.



Since volunteers modified their air hammer rig, they have been able to drill wells in communities that were suffering because they could not reach the safe water found in the hard rock beneath their huts.

The last 4 housing units for drillers are being finished. Now their families will be safe and have good water while they go upcountry to help others.

A pilot project was initiated to survey all Lifewater wells drilled over the past 17 years. It was encouraging to find that nearly 100% of the pumps were working in villages where an annual maintenance fee is paid; this program will be expanded in the year ahead. It is clear that Afridev pumps, now used in all our projects, need less maintenance than pumps made in-country; communities will be given the option of upgrading to Afridev pumps. Interested villages are receiving workshops about the consequences of using unsafe water, giving them options on how to improve their health and break disease transmission pathways.

This program is on hold due to a serious vehicle breakdown and they need sponsors to replace it.

Nigeria News

Lifewater works with two drilling teams in Nigeria, one led by Silus Dauji and the other by Hosea Apeh. Together they drilled an amazing 76 wells this year! They also rebuilt 3 damaged wells and built 8 communal washrooms – an important part of bringing long-term health to communities.

The work here has continued despite the on-going violence. This includes civil unrest over skyrocketing fuel & rice prices, terrorist attacks on Christian churches and equally horrible retaliations against mosques.

Since last Christmas, churches of all the team members have been bombed and many have lost family members and friends. But they continue to drill, because not only is safe water needed for people to stay healthy, it also helps bring divided communities together and restore peace.



Volunteers

This past year, two groups of volunteers had life changing experiences working alongside the Liberian team. Two more teams are going to Liberia before Christmas, and a group from Manitoba is heading out in January. If you would like to go on a future trip, please contact us. In particular, we need mechanics and drillers available in Oct. 2013.

A Village Writes...

Here is an example of the letters of thanks that we receive when projects are completed. There are 128 subsidence farmers in this rural Nigerian village:

On behalf of the elders & people of Sarkin Noma village, there are hardly enough words to express our gratitude for the gift of life that was given to us by your group. The provision of this handpump eases our problems significantly and we are very grateful. May your needs be always met as you serve the needs of those in need. Our resolve is to take very good care of this well, so that it can benefit us for a very long time. God bless, Dan'azumi Aliyu Sarkin Noma Well Committee

Where Does Your \$ Go?

Here is a summary showing how your donations were used....

2011/2012 Total:	\$743,724
Well Construction	73%
Capital Expenses	7%
Training	7%
Handpump Repair	5%
Sanitation & Hygiene	4%
Overhead	4%

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