

October 2023

SEEDS OF HOPE BLOSSOM IN KENYA

INTRODUCTION

Thanks to ImpactHope, Vision Ministries Canada and Vision Ministries Kenya, a water well was drilled at the Olkesumet Prayer Centre, bringing hope to 2500 to 3000 people! In 2019, ImpactHope committed to drilling a well with the aim of providing the Maasai community with access to clean and safe drinking water and a reliable source of irrigation for agriculture. This update highlights the remarkable progress made during Phase 3 of the project, focusing on long-term agricultural solutions.

OBSERVATIONS: A WATER WELL THAT NURTURES MORE THAN CROPS

Chris Atkinson's (VMC) recent visit to Kajiado and the Prayer Mountain provided us with encouraging insights into the impact of the well and agricultural initiatives:

- 1. Well Usage and Livestock Health:** Livestock in the community, including goats, sheep, cows, and donkeys, are benefitting from the well's clean water source. Notably, these animals were observed to be in good body condition, dispelling concerns of malnutrition and dehydration.
- 2. Community Watering Hole:** They noticed numerous community members using the well as a watering hole. This demonstrates the critical role the well plays in meeting the community's daily water needs.
- 3. Intensive Farming Progress:** They had the pleasure of meeting Joshua, who oversees the farm garden at the Olkesumet Prayer Center. With a degree in farming and business management, Joshua has taken significant steps in implementing intensive farming practices. They have already planted 2.7 acres of onions and are anticipating a harvest around November 15, with an expected profit of \$300,000 KNS.

Support the Project



<https://impacthope.ca/water/>

WATER WELL - OLKESUMET PRAYER CENTRE, KENYA



4. Improved Irrigation: The addition of an agronomist to assist with irrigation has made a substantial difference in crop production. While 0.3 acres are still irrigated using traditional methods, it is evident that the new irrigation system is more efficient and less wasteful. The community is coming to purchase vegetables from the 0.3 acres, which is a testament to the success of this approach.

5. Expansion Plans: There are plans to expand the intensive irrigation system to cover all 6 acres of the farm garden within the next year. Furthermore, the integration of fertilizer application into the irrigation system is not only increasing productivity but also saving time and labour.

6. Crop Diversity: Currently, the farm primarily focuses on onion cultivation due to its profitability. With the ability to grow three crops in 12 months on just 2.7 acres, they are estimated to generate \$900,000 KNS in profit over the course of a year.

7. Community Impact: The success of the agricultural initiatives, including intensive farming, irrigation, and fertilization, has created a sense of optimism and curiosity in the community. Approximately 650 households are coming to witness these innovations, transforming the region into an oasis in the desert.

8. Table Banking Group: A group of women initiated a table banking group during our visit, thanks to the Training of Trainers (TOT)* program. This group has only been active for four months and is actively working towards purchasing goats and a cow for milk production. There has never been anything like this before in their community! They have had some challenges getting going but are hopeful because of what they see happening with the well and farming. The community's increasing faith in the well and farming developments is fostering hope and collaboration.

FUTURE NEEDS: TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE.

People from the local church and the community participated in the table banking group. In less than 12 months, their first TOT curriculum has impacted the community. And it all started with a water well. These 650 households thinking of leaving the area do not want to now because they see hope and a future.

The progress witnessed during this visit is a testament to the positive impact of the water well and the community's dedication to sustainable agriculture. As these initiatives continue to flourish, it is essential to address future needs, such as the **procurement of seeds and the construction of a chain link fence around the perimeter of the land to protect the crops**. The fencing is estimated to **cost CAD 6,000** and will help safeguard the achievements made so far.

Here's where we can make an even more significant difference together. If you'd like to be a part of this amazing journey and help us continue to bring hope and sustainability to the Maasai community, please consider donating to the water well project. Your support, no matter how big or small, will go a long way in ensuring the success of this initiative.

*TOT: Training of Trainers who will go back to the regions to teach.

Donate Online: www.impacthope.ca/water - OR - Mail A Cheque: 201B - 727 Woolwich Street Guelph, ON N1H 3Z2

*Please designate your donation to: WATER

Spending of funds is confined to approved programs and projects. If any given need has been met or cannot be completed, the understanding is that the gift will then be used where it is most needed or where another opportunity of similar nature exists. (ImpactHope is operating under Missionary Ventures Canada)

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