



## Karachuonyo Community, Kenya

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Jane Atieno and her family live in the heart of the Karachuonyo community in Kenya, nestled near the banks of Lake Victoria. The 51-year-old mother of eight has spent her entire life contending against water scarcity and poverty. However, Jane's resilience and entrepreneurial spirit have carried her through times of hardship.

Before the community received a safe and reliable water system, Jane, like many in her community, faced the arduous task of waking up at 3:00 in the morning to collect water before the workday began. Each day, she made the trek to a dilapidated and shallow well in Poche, a neighboring community nearly three kilometers away. Jane had no choice but to make the long walk in utter darkness, fearing attacks from wild animals and nefarious individuals.

When Living Water visited the community, they interviewed community members to hear about their experience with the water crisis. Each person detailed how intertwined their poverty was with the lack of safe water. One resident said, "Every time the hand pump broke down, it took several weeks to repair it. This was always the most difficult time for everyone in our community. When we couldn't walk to a neighboring community, we had no choice but to buy water from a roving tanker truck. It costs a lot of money to purchase a single jerrycan. This would leave us with little to no money for other important needs like food."

Living Water concluded that a water kiosk would transform the lives of the residents in Karachuonyo by providing safe water and kickstarting the local economy. When Jane heard about the water kiosk opening, she volunteered to manage the sale of water to her neighbors.



This old well is located three kilometers from Jane's home. It often breaks down and takes weeks to repair.



Jane, pictured here in an apron, helps two students gather water from the kiosk before school.

The introduction of the water kiosk not only alleviated the physical burden of gathering water from a faraway source but also unlocked new opportunities for Jane and her neighbors. Jane now manages the water kiosk alongside her thriving fish mongering business, making plenty of money to send her children to school and save for the future. Ample safe water has helped relieve Jane from a cycle of poverty, allowing her to feel self-sufficient and confident!

Jane's neighbor, Dorothy, shared: "Now, water is easily accessible at the water kiosk throughout the day and year-round, even during the dry season! Other women will be able to grow vegetables at home, saving even more money on what they would have spent on buying vegetables from the market."

Safe water protects health, frees up time, and helps release entire communities from a cycle of poverty!



Jane works to dry fish near the water kiosk. Now, she makes enough money to plan for her future!