



Kalwande Community, Kenya

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The residents of the Kalwande community in Kenya suffered from an array of adverse effects brought on by the water crisis. The dry landscape was subject to frequent drought and made surface water collection a challenge. Often, without the financial means to purchase water from local vendors, many community members relied on the Sondu-Miriu River for their daily water needs. The river water was visibly contaminated by the elements, animal waste, insects, and dangerous bacteria, creating a dire water crisis for the people of Kalwande.

Without a viable water source in their community, women and girls had to make arduous journeys to and from the river while carrying heavy containers full of water. This caused physical strain and robbed women and girls of their time and energy. Lilian Atieno Otieno has experienced this hardship as a local pastor in Kalwande.

She shared, “I am the person who is in charge of welcoming visitors to our church. One Sunday, I woke up early and took three donkeys to gather water from the river. I came back to boil the water and used it to prepare tea and meals for our visitors. That evening, I was called by a church leader who informed me that several people were sick with severe diarrhea.”

The water crisis in Kalwande caused a cascade of problems, from health concerns and economic volatility to the inability to share the gospel. Community leaders like Lilian urgently sought a sustainable solution, so when they heard of Living Water International’s work in the region, they immediately reached out for help. Living Water Kenya responded by drilling a new borehole, installing a solar-powered submersible pump, and upgrading their piping system. The Living Water staff discovered that the borehole supplied an abundance of water, allowing them to construct an expansive water system that reached multiple kiosks throughout Kalwande!



This new borehole provides enough water to reach the entire community through an extensive piped water system.



Now, five churches and schools throughout Kalwande have kiosks like this where residents can quickly and easily gather water.