



Oboch, Kenya

PRJ-064282

Residents of the Oboch community battled a severe water crisis. They relied entirely on unsafe sources, such as untreated and unprotected rainwater collection tanks. This contaminated water carried harmful bacteria, fueling the widespread transmission of waterborne diseases. Still, women and children devoted hours each day to collect this water for cooking, cleaning, bathing, washing, and drinking.

While every household was affected by illness and scarcity, conditions were especially dire at the local health care facility. Lydia Odhiambo, a 28-year-old nurse, shared: “We relied on rain harvesting, which is not reliable—especially during the dry season. During COVID-19, we faced great challenges. I remember a time in May 2020 when a large number of patients came for treatment, and we had no water for them to wash their hands, as required by the government. That meant we couldn’t allow them in due to the risk of infection. We had to partially open the facility for only four hours a day. As a result, we weren’t able to attend to everyone in the community who needed treatment.”

Community leaders were determined to find a sustainable solution for the health center and the wider community. As soon as they heard about Living Water International's work in the region, they reached out for help. Living Water Kenya responded by drilling a borehole and installing a solar-powered submersible pump connected to a safe water point with three taps.

“Safe water will improve the sanitation situation at the health center and throughout the entire community,” Lydia added. “It will also make it easier to communicate our programs, like vaccinations, because people will visit the facility more often to collect water.”



After drilling until reaching a safe underground aquifer, Living Water staff tests the water's safety and installs over 1,000 meters of PVC piping and a solar submersible pump. Finally, they will build a stand with three taps.



Lydia [left] shares her community's experience living through the water crisis with a Living Water team member.