



## Gul Maembe, Kenya

PRJ-064835

Residents of the Gul Maembe community faced a complex water crisis. Without a safe water source available, they had no choice but to rely on contaminated river water for all their daily needs—exposing them to waterborne diseases such as diarrhea, vomiting, and parasites with every sip. In addition to the water being unsafe, collecting it was a safety hazard. Residents risked injury daily, as the path to the river was long, rocky, and slippery. Most of all, the river itself posed a serious risk of drowning, particularly for young children.

Zacheus Omollo, a 43-year-old teacher, shared: “We used to fetch water from the seasonal Miriu River, which dries up during the dry season. The water we collected was very dirty and shared by both animals and people. Over the years, the number of students at the school kept dropping because of the lack of safe water. We required students to carry 10 liters of water with them each day, and most transferred to schools that already had water. Enrollment fell so low that the school was nearly closed.”

Local leaders were determined to find a solution. As soon as they heard about Living Water International’s work in the area, they reached out for help. Living Water Kenya responded by drilling a borehole and installing a hand pump on school grounds. At last, these 350 residents have reliable safe water access! The team also equipped residents, school staff, and students with the sanitation and hygiene skills they need to safeguard their health and promote the sustainability of their new water system.

“This will improve hygiene at the school and give students more time to learn and play. They will no longer have to go to the river,” said Zacheus. “We also expect academic performance to improve.”



Residents must walk long distances to collect contaminated water from the Miriu River, which exposes them to waterborne diseases.



Students rejoice knowing that this safe water source will keep them hydrated and safe throughout the school day and beyond!