



A New Life for Judith

Ofunyu Village Community, Kenya

“The water we depended on was never safe,” said Judith Akoth, a 65-year-old farmer who has lived in Ofunyu, Kenya, for 40 years. “We used to fall sick almost every year.” For Judith, unsafe water was once part of everyday life.

One year in particular left a painful memory she will never forget. It was 2016 during the dry season. The nearby river, the residents’ primary water source, dried up. That day, like many others, Judith walked to the sandy riverbed to gather water. She dug through the sand until a small pool of water appeared. The water was cloudy and had an unpleasant odor, but there were no other options—her family needed water. She carried the water home and used it to cook. The next morning, she was filled with horror. “My husband and my children all became very sick with diarrhea,” she recounted. “It was so serious they stayed in the hospital for eight days.”

Contaminated water and waterborne diseases affected everyone in the community. Judith, her husband, and their neighbors belonged to a farmers group, and they began searching for a permanent solution to access safe water. The group reached out to organizations, and Living Water Kenya heard their cries.

In 2018, staff from Living Water Kenya drilled a borehole, installed a pump and storage tank, and built a community water point in Ofunyu. Residents were overjoyed.

To steward this life-changing gift well, community members also formed a water management committee. Judith was chosen to serve as the secretary and treasurer of the committee. Having lived through the pain of unsafe water, Judith encouraged the committee to allow households to connect piped water directly to their homes so that during floods, families would still have access to safe water without struggling to reach the water kiosk. Today, many homes in Ofunyu receive water through piped household connections.

For Judith, safe water is deeply personal. After the water project was completed, the sicknesses that once visited her family year after year have never returned, and the river that once brought fear and illnesses no longer controls her life. Safe water now flows close to her home, and with it health, leadership, and dignity.



Community members in Ofunyu no longer have to gather water from the distant river.



Living Water Staff celebrate as they hit an underground aquifer in Ofunyu!