

# JWF Fund 2019 Result of the Follow-up observation

## 3. Kenya

- Organization: Eco-friendly Self Help Group (#239)
- Project period: October 2019 to February 2020
- Country/Area: Kenya/ Siaya county
- Cost: \$1,139 (\$1,000: JWF funds, \$86: beneficiaries, \$20: Local MCA, and \$33: Eco-friendly Self Help Group)
- Number of beneficiaries: 1,096
- Background: The village of Ligoma is a densely populated area, with the majority of its residents living below the poverty line. Therefore, piped water has been no more than a dream for the community. Prior to the project, many residents suffered from poor health, malnutrition and poor sanitation, and there was a low standard of public and environmental hygiene management. Another problem was poor management of resources such as water sources and land, as well as animal and human waste. Human and livestock waste were getting into the open water of Kagoma Spring because children were defecating within the spring environment and people were doing their washing at the spring. Therefore, 90% of the population living in Ligoma had no access to safe water. Each villager strove to fetch water for domestic use very early in the morning before the water changed colour, because residents (including Ligoma primary school pupils) fetched water using all sorts of containers; some containing washing detergents, oils and other dirt which contaminated Kagoma Spring. This resulted in a high prevalence of water and sanitation-related ailments like amoebic dysentery diarrhea, typhoid, cholera and bilharzia. Approximately 80% of hospital attendance at the nearby Mutumbu Dispensary was related to water, sanitation and hygiene.
- Main activities: Completed and fenced Kogoma Spring, Four Meetings to create awareness, Water quality test, Management committee



Kogoma Spring before construction



Skilled personnel constructing Kogoma Spring

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### 【Current situation】

- **Constructed spring well:** The well is functioning properly without any damage. Water test results indicate the presence of coliform bacteria, so the users of Kogoma well boil and disinfect the water before consuming it.
- **Operation and maintenance:** The management committee and youth volunteers are involved in routine monitoring and maintenance of the well. Money is collected by the management committee whenever there is a scheduled activity, such as clearing of the drain or repairs, for the purchase of necessary supplies as well as refreshments for those involved in the activities.

### 【Changes】

- **Cohesion:** The members of the management committee have candidly discussed both among themselves and with the villagers the merits of community and togetherness and have established a cooperative structure.
- **Practicing good hygiene:** Boiling drinking water, increasing chlorine disinfection, regular hand washing and observing cleanliness around the well are all in evidence.
- **Footbridge:** A simple footbridge was constructed on the initiative of the management committee after they realized that some users of the well were having a hard time crossing the stream.
- **Fish farming:** A fish pond has been constructed 50 meters downstream from the well as a startup project.
- **Utilization of the water:** The community school thoroughly disinfects water from the well with chlorine before using it for hand washing.

### 【Others】

The beneficiaries have faced no problems, such as disputes or conflicts over the well.

Employing Eco-friendly practices, Kogoma well users have benefited from soap and sanitizer through a donation by an international organization based in the United States.



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### Voices from the beneficiaries (Excerpts)



Mr. Otieno Wajewa,  
72 years old,  
a Senior Village Elder

Since completion of the project, people in the village have access to plenty of water, even during the hot, dry season. Plenty of free water can now easily be accessed by women, children and men within the village, thus giving them time to engage in other activities related to their development.

The local youths have seen the need to take responsibility for maintaining community resources and fostering togetherness.



Mr. Alungo, 51 years old,  
a management committee member

We have candidly discussed with each other and the villagers the merits of community and togetherness. We have managed to keep the environment clean and tidy and to mobilize community resources whenever when need arises. The committee ensures that every household benefiting from the well contributes Ksh.50 towards routine maintenance. Youth volunteers participate in routine maintenance under the supervision of the management committee.



Anonymous, 50 years old,  
a user of the spring well

I usually use the well. The experience is always pleasant and uplifting. After completion of the project, several positive changes have been evident: the environment is always clean and free from vandalism.