

Oloile Community Report



Project Details

Community: Oloile

County: Kajiado County

Country: Kenya

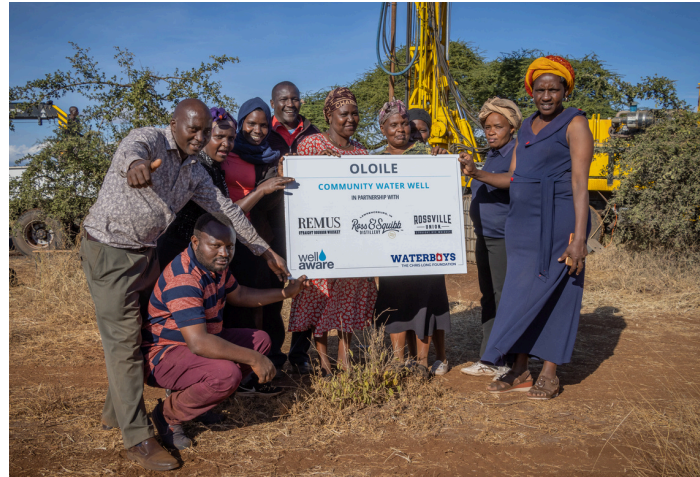
Project: Deep Borehole Well

Well Depth: 80 meters

Well Yield: 100,000 liters/day

Community Population: 1,600

Completion Date: November 2023



The Oloile community consists of more than 100 bomas (households) and one primary school, home to about 1,600 residents. The community is located in an arid region of Kajiado County in southern Kenya, near the town of Kimana.

For decades, the community has been experiencing a dangerous water crisis as the rainy season has become unreliable over time with the region experiencing droughts that would last up to two years. Due to the infrequent rain and droughts, the community had to rely on underground water from hand dug holes and seasonal rivers, which were located 5 kilometers away.



These sources were often contaminated with coliform and other water-borne diseases. As a result, members of the community experienced severe and sometimes debilitating illnesses. The amount of water sourced at these locations was also not enough for sustainable farming, livestock, or human consumption.



“We have been facing difficulties in providing meals to the kids and staff at the school due to a lack of water. Water is what holds our community together. Without water, our livestock dies, our school cannot function and generally it is unbearable.”

- Shadrack Semperia, community member and teacher

In June 2023, thanks to a partnership between Luxco and the Chris Long Foundation’s Waterboys, we drilled and completed a deep borehole well for the community of Oloile, which resulted in an 80-meter deep borehole well capable of producing 4,166 liters an hour. The Oloile well is the highest-yielding well our implementing partner has drilled in Kenya to date. After the drill was complete, the community gathered to celebrate.



Oloile is home to the Maasai people of Kenya, where it’s customary for them to generously host their guests, providing food, gifts, and entertainment. Feeling the excitement of the successful well drill in their community, the people of Oloile organized a surprise ceremony to celebrate and honor the groups that made this well possible. In the hot Oloile sun, the community and school gathered under a huge acacia tree that provided shade to a gathering of about 700 people. The ceremony included beautiful colors of traditional Maasai attire, chanting, ululations, and Maasai songs that emphasized the value of clean water. Local leaders spoke to how this new water system would impact the general outlook and lifestyle of the community, and the local students performed skits on how the lack of water had affected their studies.

In the months after the drill, the community engagement team traveled to Oloile to begin working on plans for the distribution points and storage tanks. All plans and decisions are made with, not for the community, to ensure they are included and have a vested interest in the well's success, maintenance, and sustainability. Engaging the community during this phase fosters a sense of ownership of the well as the community will be the ones primarily responsible for caring for and maintaining the water source.



“Water is stability. Now that we have clean water, our community will grow. We will stop visiting the clinic for our stomach problems, and the children can stay in class and learn peacefully.”

- Jane Koisenke, Community member and teacher

The storage tank, distribution points, and refillable water trough were completed in November 2023. The narrative for this community has now taken a monumental shift from “lacking” to “water-filled and fulfilled” thanks to the funding received from Luxco for the drilling of this new well. The new water system will catalyze unity in the community, bringing people together to maintain and protect this water source, all the while hygiene is improving and regular attendance in school becomes the norm. This water means happier, healthier individuals and brings together a hopeful, productive community.

