

Lela, Kenya Water Supply Community



CHAPTER

Oregon State University Chapter

PROJECT TYPE(S)

Water Supply

PROJECT ADOPTION DATE

January 2008

PROJECT PHASE

Implementation

DIRECTLY AFFECTS

1000

INDIRECTLY AFFECTS

1000

FUNDS NEEDED

\$50,000

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THE NEED

Located in western Kenya, Lela is an agrarian community of approximately 2,000 people who lack access to a reliable source of potable water. As a result, women and children spend several hours per day fetching water, which is often contaminated and causes health problems in young children. For these reasons, the community formed the Lela Women's Water Committee to apply for assistance through EWB-USA. Their top priority is securing a safe water source that is available year-round, with strong preference for community wells.

About Engineers Without Borders USA

EWB-USA is a nonprofit humanitarian organization established to support community-driven development programs worldwide through partnerships that design and implement sustainable engineering projects. Over 12,000 EWB-USA members, comprised of professional and student engineers or other disciplines, work with local communities and NGOs in over 45 developing countries around the world on projects such as water, renewable energy, sanitation and more. EWB-USA has touched the lives of more than one million people. For more information visit www.ewb-usa.org

For more information about this particular project please, visit:
[HTTP://WWW.EWB-OSU.ORG](http://www.ewb-osu.org)
or call: 971.222.4600

PROJECT SCOPE

After three years of preparation which included a health survey, technical water source assessment, GPS mapping, and an alternatives analysis, EWB-OSU determined the best options for implementation were to drill a community water well within Lela fitted with an Afridev hand pump, and to build a rainwater catchment system at the Lela Primary School. In July 2012, a team of five students and one technical mentor traveled to Lela to oversee the construction of both systems. The trip was a success, and Lela now has improved access to potable water.

FUTURE INVOLVEMENT

Following the first implementation trip of the project, the Lela community requested a continued partnership with EWB-OSU to further improve access to safe water. Although a single well has been drilled within Lela, the dispersed nature of the community means that many people are still forced to walk long distances to fetch water. Future work may include drilling additional wells within Lela.