

Big Give Christmas Challenge 2017 Progress Report: “Transforming lives with water in rural Kenya” Prepared For: Chertsey Rotary Club

Overview

In December 2017 you gave a generous donation of £2000 to Excellent Development’s Christmas Challenge appeal on the Big Give. Thanks to you and other generous supporters, we raised a total of **£81,431** – enough to support three communities in the Ukambani region of southeast Kenya to build a sand dam each and learn improved farming techniques. These communities are now well on their way to having an improved source of water close to home as well as improved food security, meaning more food for families to eat, store and sell.

Your donation has supported Kithunthi Self-Help Group (SHG) to construct a sand dam and shallow well. As a result of your donation and their hard work, they now have access to safe water for domestic use and for irrigating their crops. Since constructing the sand dam, Kithunthi SHG have been able to dig 660 metres of terracing for farming, and have planted 1056 trees to use as food, timber and a source of income.



Focus on Kithunthi SHG

We recently spoke to members of Kithunthi SHG, to see how your support is helping to make a positive difference to people’s lives in rural southeast Kenya:



Immaculate Nduku Kioko, Vice Chair of Kithunthi SHG, is 45 years old, works on her family farm and has five children. She told us what life was like before the dam, and what has changed since: *“...due to the water which we were collecting, the kids were in different conditions, some were sick, complaining of stomach ache, but now it is different because we have clean water. We were trained about hygiene and sanitation, how to take care of our water, how we can take care of ourselves at home, how we can wash our hands before and after doing any duties... We have enough water for every member and we are proud of the water. We can irrigate*

our farms, our nurseries, and also the plants which we have planted and they need irrigation before the rain.”

We also spoke to the group’s Chairman, Justus Mulu Kalenge. Justus is 44 years old and has two children:

"Before we constructed the sand dam, the most difficult part of the day was travelling in search of water. You can imagine, you have woken up around 6am, there is no water for making tea, there is no water for the animals. Then you start your journey with a donkey, you go downstream, you find the queue is long.... Then a lot of hours will be wasted, you will have other duties at home, you need to prepare your farm, you need to weed... So after wasting those hours you find that because you can't work at night, most hours have been drained in search of water, the other duties are abandoned."



"I am very proud of the sand dam because it helped me to have greens on my farm, near my home. I don't need to get money from my pocket to buy greens. Every evening I used to spend about 50 bob [Kenyan Shillings] but today I am getting it just outside. The other thing is that I can irrigate my fruit trees. I can grow other trees confidently because I know they will not be affected by drought. I have water nearby. So I'm proud because my economic affairs are changing... I think my children will be living in a greener village, in a village where resources are not scarce. Water is life. So with water they'll be doing their farming easier than us, so they'll be living in a nicer world than me... I am also proud and happy because one of my ambitions was to bring water closer to the people and now my dream is coming a reality so I'm very happy and proud of Excellent Development and Africa Sand Dam Foundation – and ourselves too!"

Thank You

We would like to thank you for your invaluable contribution to this project, through the Big Give Christmas Challenge 2017. Your support has helped these communities make their own way towards water and food security, so that future generations will not face the same challenges. **Thank You.**